

Vermont State Firefighters' Association
Executive Board Minutes
Pittsford, Vermont
April 11, 2010

Meeting called to order by President Kristy Oxholm at 10:00 AM.
All in attendance stood for Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
A moment of silence for all deceased members was observed.
Roll call was taken by the Secretary.

Members Present: Kristy Oxholm, Timothy Girard, Fran Buck, Kevin Goodhue, Roger Young, Robert Arnebold, Charles Becker, Jim Breur, Tim Burgess, Brad Carriere, Damien Diette, Bernard Dubois, Norm Flanders, James Ford, Dean Gilmore, Dick Harrison, Robert Kilpeck, Richard King, Ed Paige, Allen Pike, Keith Ploof, Henry Prehemo, Al Ridlon, Sr., John Savage, Robert Schlachter, Ray St. Onge, Michael Taylor, Charles Thompson and Carey White.

Members Excused: Ray Bushey, Matt Callaghan, William Elwell, Terry Farr, Ted Hopkins, Don Howard, Walter Reed, Steve Revell and Michael Skaza.

Introduction of Guest: No guest present at this time.

Correspondence: The winner of the 2009 George S. Gibby Scholarship Award Jesse R. Dambrackas wrote a very nice thank you letter thanking the VSFA for the award (Money).

Minutes: M/M by Jim Ford and seconded by Robert Schlachter to accept the minutes of the January 10, 2010 meeting. *Motion passed by voice vote.*

Officer's Report:

President- Oxholm reported that the Green Mountain Responder will not be mailed. Matt Callaghan can not do it. It is like pulling teeth for articles. In the future may do it electronically providing articles are submitted. There would be no cost and it doesn't matter how lengthy the articles are. If the department or member doesn't have e-mail then it could go to another family member or friend.

-The Vermont State Fire Academy is over seeing the \$100,000.00 grant from Senator Bernie Sanders. A large portion of it will go towards our own cadet academy. Smaller amounts will go towards other departments junior programs. She will appoint a member to sit on this committee.

-She stated that she did attend a summit at VTC on March 20, 2010. EMS fees were discussed as well as training.

-She reported that all committees have been very busy this year.

First Vice-President- Thanked everyone who supported him and Kathy during his time of need.

Second Vice President- She attached.

Motion made and seconded to accept the Officers reports. *Motion passed by voice vote.*

Financial Report: M/M by Dean Gilmore and seconded by John Savage. *Motion passed by a voice vote.*

County Reports: Bennington is hosting the Southern Vermont Regional Fire School with Rutland County again this year on May 1 and 2. Both reps attended Dorthea Haddad's funeral.

-Franklin County requested their \$3,000.00 for this year's convention.

-Lamoille County is working on their regional fire school to be held September 18 and 19 in Cambridge.

-Rutland is hosting the Southern Vermont Regional Fire School with Bennington County again this year on May 1 and 2.

Windham County is doing county joint training. Will soon be hosting a swift water rescue training course. Dummerston is hosting a Firefighter one class. A Task Force Tip demo will take place next month. They have already completed train the trainer course. No other county reports were received.

Standing Committees:

Awards: Carey White discussed how the awards are awarded. Once all applicants are in, a copy of each applicant is given to each member of the committee to score in private (At home). Once this is done the committee meets as a whole. Committee members do not score a member of their own department. In the last few years the numbers of applicants have been down. If you need more information please ask and you will receive the information by mail or e-mail.

A list of all applicants will be read at the convention. The position will not be read.

-The committee is working on a new category. (Award) Support Staff Member of the Year. Examples of this could be fire police, public information officer, photographer etc. This award will be for a person who does not fit into the existing categories that we have. The committee will try to do this award this year if at all possible.

Dean Gilmore asked if this would have to be a by-law change. Parliamentarian Becker said he does not require a by-law change. M/M by Ford and seconded by Savage to add the category, title to be determined by the committee. *Motion passed by a voice vote.*

-Bernie Dubois stated that the Senior Firefighter Award should not go to a senior chief. It should go to a person who is of senior age and has done a lot for their department.

Benefits: Bernie Dubois stated that the committee has been working with an insurance company to add more benefits to our members. One insurance company is working on a proposal. However, it will cost us money. Will have more information at the next meeting.

-It was reported that the money that supports the \$2000.00 death benefit is almost gone. B. Dubois would like to do away with it for now. Dick Harrison suggested to only give \$1000.00. Treasurer Young said we need to fund it. VSFA can only pay out 15 more death benefits before the fund is empty of money. Bob Schlachter stated that we cannot raise our dues high enough considering the age of our members. We do have the American Life Benefit. However, this is only an accident benefit policy.

NVFC does offer a \$10,000.00 death benefit, but you have to be a member at a cost of \$10.00 per year. Some Vermont Departments do this already for their members. Norm Flanders asked how much our dues can absorb to continue this benefit at the going rate. \$1.25 per member brings in around \$5000.00. We already do this-it is unspent monies. That money could go there at the end of the year. It was decided to wait to hear what the insurance company proposal is before any decision is made. Would also like to hear what our membership thinks about this.

Budget and Finance: All set.

By-Laws: Tim Girard had the handbook printed.

Conference: Kevin Goodhue read the letter from Addison County to host the 2011 convention without the parade. Much discussion followed. Parades are costly with bands and police/highway department costs. Stationary parades were discussed where people move and the equipment stays put. Talked about how New Jersey and Maine does their state conventions. Charlie Becker stated that parade rules are in the by-laws but nothing is spelled out in the by-laws about the parade. It does say an annual meeting is required. Keith Ploof said it should be up to the host to decide. The convention committee will review it and report back.

George S. Gibby Scholarship: Dick Harrison stated that he does have four applicants. The deadline if June 1, 2010. The paperwork and the web page still states that the deadline is March 31. The committee will work on correcting this.

Judges Committee: Mike Taylor said that a meeting is scheduled today after lunch.

Membership: As of 4/6/10 we have 4,214 members, 72 more members than last year at this time.

Newsletter: No volunteers.

Nominating Committee: No report.

Public Fire Safety Education Committee: No report.

Sports Committee: No report.

Yearbook Committee: Kevin said that the 2009 yearbook has been printed. Please pick up copies to distribute them to your county departments.

Temporary/Special/Active Projects Committees:

George S. Gibby Resource Library: No report.

Government Affairs: Dean Gilmore said that we have received a narrow banding waiver. The licensing will be free. No coordinator will be involved; all this is because of his group. The secretary will mail a thank you letter to Senator Leahy. All departments must replace their equipment that is not narrow band capable. Grant money is available.

Technology: The web site is www.vtfirefighters.org. Each department must fill out the membership forms in its entirety with addresses and e-mail addresses.

Training Committee: No report.

VSFA Vermont Fire Cadet Fire Academy: See attached second vice president report. The 2010 academy is July 11-18, 2010.

VSFA Chaplains: Working on expanding the Chaplain Corp.

VSFA Historians: No report.

VSFA VT Fire Service R & R project: No report.

Reports of Representatives, Delegates or Department Reports:

Coalition of Fire & Rescue Services: No report given to the secretary.

Division of Fire Safety: No report.

E-911: Bob Schlachter said that the new interim director for six months is Charles Smith.

Homeland Security Grant Advisory Committee: No report.

Memorial Advisory: All pavers will be placed by 9/11/10.

National Volunteer Fire Council: See attached. Bob Kilpeck said that firefighter arson in Pennsylvania and Vermont are right up there in the statistics.

State VCOMM: Grant request for radios and pagers is opened until June 1. Meeting in Williston this week to discuss life line.

Vermont Fire Service Training Council: No report.

Unfinished/Open Business: None.

New Business: Treasurer Roger Young read a letter stating that the VSFA decals should go on the inside. Asking for a show of hands- 12 in favor for the decal to go on the inside and two in favor of the decal go on the outside.

-Kevin Goodhue attended the meeting in Berlin at the Division of Fire Safety regarding the size of egress window. He reported that the current window requirement is still in effect.

Other Business: Roger Young thanked the group for dedicating the 2009 yearbook to himself and Dale.

M/M by Norm Flanders and seconded by Tim Burgess to adjourn at 11:56 AM. *Motion carried by a voice vote.*

Respectfully submitted



Kevin J. Goodhue
Secretary

Hope to see you at the 121st. VSFA Convention hosted by Franklin County in the City of St. Albans and St. Albans Town.

The Next Executive Board Meeting is Friday July 23, 2010 at 6:00 PM at One Federal Restaurant on 1 Federal Street in St. Albans.

Annual Meeting July 24, 2010 at 9:00 AM in the Indoor Tennis Court at the Collins-Perley Sports Complex in St. Albans.

Annual Banquet is at the American Legion on Parah Drive in St. Albans Town at 6:30 PM Saturday evening July 24, 2010.

Parade starts at noon Sunday July 25, 2010, downtown St. Albans. Reviewing stand will be at Taylor Park.

Vice Presidents Report

April 11,2010

Good Morning,

We are well on our way in planning the 2010 Cadet Academy. The Academy will be held the week of July 11th-17th. As of today we have received 40 applications.

At the next committee meeting in May, we will approve these applications and send out the acceptance letters.

Again this year we have an excellent program planned. We also will be hosted by Chief Schlachter in Rutland for our field trip.

Respectfully Submitted
Fran Buck

Jesse R. Dambrackas
9627 Cold River Road
Shrewsbury, VT 05738

February 22, 2010

Vermont State Firefighters Association
PO Box 321
Pittsford, VT 05763

Dear VSFA,

Thank you for honoring me with the George S. Gibby Scholarship Award. I will be using the funds to purchase books for my next semester in college. I am proud to be a member of your organization.

Sincerely,



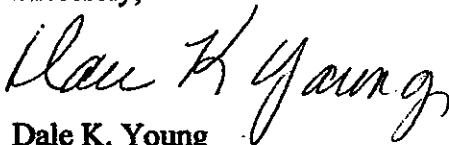
Jesse Dambrackas

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

APRIL 9, 2010

The membership of the VSFA is 4214 members as of April 6, 2010. This is an increase of 72 members from the same time last year. This represents an amount deposited into the general fund of \$55,848.75 in the membership category. We have sold 2886 decals and 98 patches. At the end of April 2009 our membership was 4142, and the total for 2009 was 4463. I received, after this report was written, two more department memberships. It was interesting this year because I didn't have to send as many reminder letters as I have in the past.

Sincerely,



Dale K. Young
Membership Chair

dean gilmore

From: "Ron Kumetz" <rkumetz@falconcomms.com>
To: "dean gilmore" <deano@gmavt.net>
Cc: "Jean Paul Duquette" <jduquett@dps.state.vt.us>
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2010 5:57 PM
Subject: We Win

Hi Dean,

I just got a "congratulations, I think" email from Sen. Leahy's office because the commission has just released this document detailing changes to the the rules pertaining to frequency coordination among other things:

http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-10-36A1.doc

This paragraph in particular is the one that we have been beating them up over for just shy of 3 years.

- ↓
1. We agree that a simple reduction in authorized bandwidth cannot adversely impact co-channel or adjacent channel licensees. We therefore find no need for a coordinator to review the proposal in advance. Removing the frequency coordination requirement for applications that modify existing licenses by reducing authorized bandwidth will not undermine the purpose of the frequency coordination process, *i.e.*, to ensure the quality of frequency selections, expedite licensing, and improve spectrum efficiency to the benefit of private land mobile users. It therefore is in the public interest and is consistent with the Commission's goal of reducing unnecessary regulatory burdens on licensees. In addition, we note that most PLMR licensees below 512 MHz will be required to migrate from 25 kHz operation to 12.5 kHz or narrower operation on their existing frequencies and we find that removing the frequency coordination requirement for such applications will further the upcoming narrowbanding transition without disturbing the integrity of the frequency coordination process or the Commission's overall spectrum management objectives. As a result, we amend our rules to provide an exemption from the frequency coordination requirement for modification applications that only reduce authorized bandwidth while remaining on the original center frequencies, and do not seek any other changes in technical parameters.
- ↑

Since the applications used to be filed through the coordinator, I need to determine how a narrow banding only application will now be filed to avoid the coordinator. Once I get that information we can put together a document to get out to all of the departments in the state. The advice that VSFA gives should still be to do nothing until we get details on the new and free way to do this.

Ron

--
Ron Kumetz

Falcon Communications
 67 Border Road

3/11/2010

Robert J. Kilpeck
NVFC State Director
29 Walnut Street
Brandon, VT 05733-1140
802-247-3646



N · V · F · C
hearthealthy
FIREFIGHTER



FIRE
CORPS



NVFC
EMS

7852 Walker Drive, Suite 450, Greenbelt, MD 20770

TO: VSFA Executive Board

FROM: Robert Kilpeck, NVFC Director

DATE: April 11, 2010

I will be attending the NVFC Spring meeting April 27 – May 1 in Alexandria, VA. I have been invited to attend the Congressional Fire Service Institute Dinner in Washington, DC April 29. I will be there representing the VSFA.

I will be attending a Memorial, Tribute and Remembrance Conference hosted by the National Fallen Firefighter Foundation April 15-17, 2010 in Tampa, FL. I was asked by NVFC Chairman Phil Stittleburg to represent the NVFC at this meeting.

Along with this report I have included four pages on the legislative issues that the NVFC is working on and tracking their progress. The handout gives an overview of each of the following.

- U. S. Fire Administration**
- Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program**
- Volunteer Responders Incentive Protection Reauthorization Act**
- Volunteer Emergency Services Recruitment and Retention Act**
- Volunteer Firefighter and EMS Personnel Job Protection Act**
- Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act**
- Supporting Emergency Responders Volunteer Efforts Act.**

The NVFC has received a Fire Prevention and Safety Grant from the Department of Homeland Security to support the Heart-Health Firefighter Program. The grant will enable the NVFC to continue many important components of the program, including the Health Fair, Health and Wellness Advocate Workshops, and National Firefighter Health Week, as well as introduce new initiatives in the area of behavioral health.

The Heart-Healthy Firefighter Program is now in its seventh year and has grown tremendously. The resources and tools from the program have made a real impact on helping first responders get and stay healthy.

The NVFC has been named a recipient of the Fire Service Safety Leadership Award. The Congressional Fire Services Institute and the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation have selected the NVFC as one of three recipients of the 2010 Paul S. Sarbanes Fire Service Safety Leadership Award. The NVFC is being honored for establishing and promoting the Volunteer Firefighter Health and Safety Priorities.

The NFPA Project Technical Panel that I have been on for the past 14 months is about to complete its work. We held our last two hour conference call March 24. We have a final report to review and sign off on and that should complete the project. The project dealt with Fire and EMS Mobilization Times.

Mobilization Time, starts when a call for aid is received and ends when assigned response units are physically leaving their stations. There are two different NFPA Standards that currently have benchmarks in the standard; NFPA 1221, calls it Call Processing, and NFPA 1710, calls it Turnout Time. NFPA 1710 states; EMS calls; 60 seconds at least 90% of the time, Fire calls; 80 seconds at least 90% of the time.

One of the questions has been are these benchmarks realistic?

NFPA 1720, the Organization and Deployment Standard for Volunteer Fire and EMS does not address this issue at all.

I attended the Northeastern Regional Fire Code Development Committee meeting January 28, 2010 in Baltimore, MD. There are four of these regional committees across the country. The northeastern group consist of representatives from; MA, RI, NY, MD, NH, WV, DE, NJ, ME, CT, PA, and VT. There is no Vermont representative on the group. I was invited to join the group to represent the NVFC.

The committee will be meeting next on August 31, 2010 in Manchester, NH. There are 110 NFPA standards that are up for comment and review in 2010. The NVFC has a representative on all four Regional Committees.

Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFG and SAFER)

The NVFC strongly supports full funding of the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program and the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant program. AFG is a competitive program that awards one-year grants directly to fire departments nationwide in an effort to give every department the basic tools needed to respond to all hazards. Fire departments can apply for federal assistance for training, equipment, firefighting vehicles, communications equipment, health and safety programs and fire prevention and education programs.

The SAFER Grant program provides grants to fire departments for the hiring of personnel and/or to fire departments or regional and state fire associations to implement retention and recruitment programs. Ten percent of SAFER funding is statutorily required to be set aside for volunteer recruitment and retention. In addition, the program includes NVFC-backed provisions that ensure at least ten percent of the funds for hiring firefighters go to volunteer and majority volunteer departments and that any firefighter hired under this program cannot be discriminated against for or prohibited from engaging in volunteer activities in another jurisdiction during off-duty hours.

The NVFC participates regularly in stakeholder meetings hosted by DHS to discuss AFG and SAFER program priorities. Every year, three NVFC board members will participate in criteria development for AFG and SAFER at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, MD. The criteria development meeting has been held annually since the inception of AFG nearly a decade ago and the NVFC has always participated. NVFC board members also participate in periodic strategic planning meetings for AFG and SAFER held at different times throughout the year.

AFG was funded at \$390 million in FY 2010, a reduction of \$175 million from FY 2009. President Obama proposed reducing funding to \$170 million in his FY 2010 budget request. The President proposed doubling funding for SAFER from \$210 million in FY 2009 to \$420 million in FY 2010, a recommendation that was adopted by Congressional appropriators.

For FY 2011, the President has proposed funding AFG and SAFER at \$305 million each. The NVFC signed onto a letter with a number of other fire service organizations asking for AFG and SAFER to be funded at \$420 million and subsequently met with House and Senate Appropriations Committee staff to explain the request in detail.

AFG and SAFER are also due to be reauthorized this year. In November 2009, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 3791, the Fire Grants Reauthorization Act, which extends AFG and SAFER for five years and makes a number of changes to both programs. The NVFC is supportive of H.R. 3791, which includes several important reforms that the NVFC pushed for, including: eliminating the local match for fire departments applying for Fire Prevention and Safety (FP&S) funding through AFG; allowing national organizations to apply for SAFER recruitment and retention funding, which state and regional organizations are already allowed to do; and making state fire training academies eligible to apply for AFG funds to purchase equipment and apparatus.

U.S. Fire Administration

The United States Fire Administration (USFA) provides training and education for emergency services personnel and the public. USFA also performs research and collects data specific to the fire service and fire service activities. The long-term health of USFA and its National Fire Academy are critical to the fire service.

USFA was reauthorized by Congress in September of 2008. The NVFC worked closely with the House and Senate sponsors to help develop and ensure final passage of the reauthorization, which runs through 2012 and contains several important provisions, including: an increase in authorized funding for USFA; establishes that activities in wildland fire, emergency medical services, urban search and rescue and hazardous materials are core elements of USFA's mission; and updates the National Fire Incident Reporting System.

USFA received \$44.98 million in FY 2009, much lower than the \$70 million authorized but more than the \$40.9 million the President had requested and a \$1.6 million increase from FY 2008. For FY 2010, the President requested \$45.59 million for USFA, the funding level adopted in the House and Senate versions of the Homeland Security Appropriations Act. The President has requested \$45.93 million for USFA in FY 2011.

While we have seen enormous increases in overall homeland security spending in recent years, USFA's funding level has actually been slightly reduced over the same period, causing the agency to struggle in executing its core mission. The NVFC is pleased to see the recent upward trend in funding for USFA, although we continue to support full funding.

Volunteer Responder Incentive Protection Reauthorization Act (H.R. 3666/S. 3136)

The Volunteer Responder Incentive Protection Act (VRIPA) was signed into law on December 20, 2007, amending the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude tax benefits and up to \$360 per year in other benefits provided to volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel from employment taxes and wage withholding. Passage of VRIPA was a top legislative priority for the NVFC in the 110th Congress.

The IRS determined in April of 2008 that it would continue to withhold Social Security, FICA, etc. taxes from all benefits received by volunteers, including those exempted from taxation by VRIPA. Congress passed legislation in July of 2008 to clarify that the IRS should not withhold any money from the tax-exempt benefits of volunteer first responders.

VRIPA is slated to expire at the end of 2010. On September 29, 2009, Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), along with original co-sponsor Dave Reichert (R-WA) introduced the Volunteer Responder Incentive Protection Reauthorization Act (H.R. 3666), which would extend VRIPA through 2013 and increase the amount of non-property tax-related benefits that volunteers can receive tax-free from \$360 to \$600 per year. Senator Chris Dodd (D-CT) and original co-sponsor Senator Susan Collins (R-ME) introduced the Senate companion bill (S. 3136) on March 18, 2010.

Volunteer Emergency Services Recruitment and Retention Act (H.R. 1792)

Length of Service Award Programs (“service award programs”) providing benefits in the form of deferred payments to volunteers in firefighting and prevention services, emergency medical services and ambulance services have been authorized and established under State law for many years. Approximately 20 percent of the 800,000 volunteer firefighters in the United States today participate in service award programs.

While service award programs are similar to traditional pension plans, they are treated differently for tax purposes. For instance, taxation cannot be deferred in a service award program unlike in a traditional pension plan where employers can set aside funds each year until the employee retires and begins drawing payment. As a result, service award programs are “unfunded” which leads to insecurity as to whether there will be adequate resources available to pay benefits when due. Another consequence is that volunteer first responders who leave their department for any reason must begin drawing payment immediately or lose their benefit.

The NVFC has developed legislation that would simplify the requirements for service award programs and reduce the administrative burden of both governmental agencies and potential sponsors by using existing statutory and regulatory schemes. Under the new legislation, a service award program could be treated as an “eligible deferred compensation plan” if the program sponsor meets certain requirements and elects to do so. The legislation would not create any new service award programs or require changes to existing service award programs, but simply provide increased flexibility for program sponsors. While the legislation would allow for deferred taxation of service award programs in some cases, in the long-term the legislation would be revenue neutral.

Congressman Peter King (R-NY) introduced H.R. 1792 on March 30, 2009, along with original cosponsors Bill Pascrell (D-NJ), Heath Schuler (D-NC) and Joseph Crowley (D-NY). There is currently no companion legislation in the Senate.

Volunteer Firefighter and EMS Personnel Job Protection Act (S. 1025)

The NVFC strongly supports the passage of the Volunteer Firefighter and EMS Personnel Job Protection Act, which would protect the jobs of volunteer emergency services personnel responding to a Presidentially-declared national disaster for up to 14 days. Currently, volunteer firefighters and emergency medical services personnel are not protected from termination or demotion by their employers should they miss work when asked to respond to a national emergency. This protection is similar to that provided to members of the National Guard.

On May 12, 2009, Senator Thomas Carper (D-DE) along with Senator Susan Collins (R-ME) introduced S. 1025. There is currently no companion legislation in the House.

Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act (H.R. 1194, S. 2947)

The National Volunteer Fire Council strongly supports the passage of the Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act, which would provide tax incentives for the voluntary installation and retrofitting of automatic sprinklers in buildings. This bill would reduce the tax depreciation time on non-residential real property from 39 years to only 5. While this tax incentive may appear sizeable, benefits of passage include lower local fire department costs, increased loan activity, reduced insurance claims and premium costs, larger numbers of retrofitting and installation jobs, and the generation of payroll tax revenue.

The importance of automatic fire sprinkler systems was tragically demonstrated in February 2003 when 99 people were killed in a pyrotechnic fire at a nightclub in Rhode Island. Three days earlier, there was another pyrotechnic fire in a nightclub in Minnesota. That establishment had an automatic fire sprinkler system and the fire did not cause a single injury.

The benefits of fire sprinkler systems have long been known. In fact, the National Fire Protection Association has *no record* of a fire killing more than two people in a public assembly, educational, institutional or residential building with a complete and fully operational automatic fire sprinkler system. The effectiveness of sprinkler systems in extinguishing fires or extending the time available for firefighters to respond is indisputable. Unfortunately, due to the costs of implementation, there has been little movement amongst property owners to install these systems.

Congressman Jim Langevin (D-RI) re-introduced the Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act on February 25, 2009, along with 55 original co-sponsors. The bill number is H.R. 1194. On January 22, 2010, Senator Thomas Carper introduced the Senate companion bill, S. 2947.

Supporting Emergency Responders Volunteer Efforts Act (H.R. 2601/S. 857)

The NVFC strongly supports the passage of the Supporting Emergency Responders Volunteer Efforts (SERVE) Act, which would provide a \$1,000 annual tax credit for active members of volunteer fire and EMS organizations.

A \$1,000 tax credit for volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel can serve as an important recruitment and retention tool for local volunteer fire departments who are struggling to meet increased the demands placed on them. With the ranks of the volunteer fire service decreasing over ten percent in the last 20 years, the Federal government should provide a small incentive to these brave men and women who risk their lives for little or no compensation to help reverse this trend. In fact, the cost of this tax incentive to the Federal government would be quite small compared to the estimated \$37.2 billion annual cost savings provided by the volunteer emergency services.

Senator Charles Schumer (D-NY) introduced S. 857 on April 22, 2009. Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) introduced companion legislation (H.R. 2601) on May 21, 2009, along with 12 original cosponsors.