



VSFA's

Green Mountain Responder *E-Newsletter*

A Quarterly Newsletter for those who give of themselves to protect others
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VSFA Budget Requests Due

All VSFA Committee Chairs and Members are reminded that your 2011 budget requests must be sent to Treasurer Roger Young no later than November 19, 2011 for consideration.

Send requests to:
Roger Young, Treasurer
77 North Orwell Road
Orwell, VT 05760

e-mail: youngspirit@shoreham.net

North Country International Fire Training School Celebrates 40 Years

The North Country International Fire Training School announces it's 40th anniversary of providing fire training to the North Country and beyond.

The school will be held on June 4th & 5th, 2011. For more information, visit their website at <http://www.ncifts.org/>

President's Message

Once again it is time for the 2011 membership renewal. I know that budgets are tight. However, the membership did vote for a dues increase at the 2010 Annual meeting. Your membership dues will be \$16.00 per member.

Listed below is a breakdown of how your dues are used:

- \$1.25 for the Cadet Academy
- \$1.50 for the Benefits Fund (voted on at annual meeting)
- \$13.25 for the General Fund

The General Fund money pays for our participation in the Coalition of Fire and Rescue, our membership and support of the National Volunteer Fire Council, our liability insurance, and the Annual Conference. These are just a few of the VSFA initiatives that come out of the General Fund.

Another major change voted on at the 2010 Annual meeting was the unfortunate cut back in the Death Benefit pay out. In order to honor all of the claims that we receive, we had to cut the benefit payment from \$2000.00 to \$1000.00. This will take effect January 1, 2011. It is our hope to be able to return to the \$2000.00 payment in the near future.

We, like all others around the Country are moving forward with technological advances. Therefore; we are asking for member's e-mail addresses which you will now find on your membership renewal form. We also understand that there are areas around Vermont that do not have internet access, so please indicate this on your renewal form.

All this information is necessary in order to keep you the members of VSFA informed. With that being said, we have a website, www.vtfirefighters.org. This website has taken the place of the printed Responder. We ask that you visit the website and register for the electronic newsletter.

Please feel free to contact me or any of the Officers with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,
Tim Girard, VSFA President

Dale Young, VSFA Membership Chair

2010 Conference Judging Results

Submitted by Mike Taylor

The VSFA Judging was held on July 25, 2010 at the Annual Conference in St. Albans.

Apparatus Judging:

Best Appearing Antique Motorized Apparatus, In-State: **St. Albans City**

Best Appearing Tanker, Factory-Built: **Shrewsbury**

Best Appearing Pumper:

- 1st **Shaftsbury**
- 2nd **Franklin**
- 3rd **Bennington Rural**

Parade Judging

Best Appearing Marching Unit with Apparatus:

- 1st **Vergennes**
- 2nd **Shrewsbury**
- 3rd **Georgia**

Best Appearing Apparatus, In-State :

- 1st **Franklin**
- 2nd **Hyde Park**
- 3rd **Bennington Rural**

Best Appearing Marching Unit, In-State (maximum 10 persons): **Addison**

Furthest Distance Travelled, In-State: **Bennington Rural**

Furthest Distance Travelled, Out of State: **Bedford, Quebec**

For more information on VSFA Sports, including the complete rules and team applications, go to our website at www.vtfirefighters.org and click on "conference".

Upcoming Vermont Fire Academy Courses and Programs

Fire Fighter II Courses Starting

Registration applications are now being accepted for the upcoming Fire Fighter II Courses. Course orientation sessions will be held on the following dates if the minimum number of students pre-register:

Springfield Fire Department: December 16, 2010, 6:00 p.m.

Stowe Fire Department: January 19, 2011, 6:00 p.m.

General Admission Applications must be received by the Fire Academy 2 weeks before the orientation dates. [Click here to obtain a General Admission Application.](#)

National Fire Academy Courses

Leadership I: Strategies for Company Success - January 15 & 16, 2011 at the VFA in Pittsford

Leadership II: Strategies for Personal Success - February 5 & 6, 2011 at the VFA in Pittsford

Leadership III: Strategies for Supervisory Success - February 26 & 27, 2011 at the VFA in Pittsford

Note: The Leadership Series Courses do not need to be taken sequentially.

All NFA classes must have a minimum of 20 students and we have not reached that number yet for any of them, so they may be cancelled. Registration deadline: 45 days prior to class date. Register by submitting a National Fire Academy Admission Application to the Vermont Fire Academy. [Click here for a NFA Admission Application.](#)

Send completed applications to:
Vermont Fire Academy
672 Academy Road
Pittsford, VT 05763
FAX: 802-483-2464

VCOMM Update *Submitted by Al Barber*

Life Line System

After more than 4 1/2 years and hundreds of hours that I have spent working on the project there is finally a "Life Line" contract with Harris Communications, many are not familiar with the Harris name. They are best know for their Mastr III repeater & base stations. This contract was signed about a month ago and the equipment will start arriving at a warehouse in Williston by the end of November with installation to start soon after that.

The goal of this system is to ensure that everyone has the ability to talk to a PSAP wherever they go within the state. This is important when lending aid in an area that you're not familiar with and need directions or when in need of more aid. A part of this contract is also the option for any department to take advantage of the Harris contract pricing. Please contact Lt.Mike Manning at mmanning@dps.state.vt.us for more information or visit the VCOMM website at <http://vcomm.vermont.gov/> .

Grants

I hope that everyone has also heard about the enhancement grants which are available through VCOMM. The purpose of this grant is to replace wideband base stations and to help resolve local coverage issues. This grant period closed on November 1. There will be another grant period so don't think you've missed your chance. Please check the VCOMM website frequently because it is update often. Remember the pager, portable and mobile grants are still available also.

Narrowbanding

It is extremely important that Departments switch to their narrowband operations as soon as possible. It is well known now that narrowband coverage is less than wideband. Because of this the sooner you can switch the sooner departments can apply for enhancement grant to fill in the coverage gaps which will be discovered.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me at VT1320@AOL.COM

Executive Board Meeting Schedule

The executive board meetings for the up coming year are listed below -

October 3, 2010 10:00 AM
January 16, 2011 10:00 AM
March 27, 2011 10:00 AM
June 5, 2011 10:00 AM

All meetings will be held in Pittsford at the Police Academy, which is the same location as in previous years. Lunch will be provided.

Demonstrate the Value of Your Department to the Community *Source: National Volunteer Fire Council*

As the end of the year approaches, many fire and EMS departments are working to secure funding for their department for their 2011 needs. Whether your efforts include promoting your department to city government, the community, or even applying for grants, one important factor for gaining support is to demonstrate the value of your department. There are tools available to help your volunteer or combination department measure the contributions of your volunteers.

According to Independent Sector, the national estimated dollar value of volunteer time is \$20.85 per hour. This means that, on average, for every hour each of your volunteers puts in, you are saving the community \$20.85. A state-by-state breakdown of volunteer time value estimates is available at http://www.independentsector.org/volunteer_time. You can use this information to let your community know how much the time contributed by volunteer first responders is saving the taxpayers.

The National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) also offers a cost savings calculator to help members determine the

specific cost savings their volunteer fire and emergency service department provides to the local community. Simply enter factors such as population and area served, apparatus, and equivalent salary figures to determine how much your department saves your local community. In addition to the calculator, the NVFC provides a PowerPoint template to help departments present the information to the municipalities who fund the department. Learn more about the Cost Savings at www.nvfc.org/csc.

Use these tools to help make the case for increased community and governmental support of your department. In addition to demonstrating the importance of your volunteer department in terms of protecting your community and keeping your neighbors safe, putting a dollar amount to the department's contribution may help community members and government officials loosen their purse strings a bit more to help the department thrive and continue to provide life-savings and cost-savings services to the community.

