

THE SMOKE EATER

The Old Fire Farts of York County, PA

The Old Fire Farts are Organizing

Efforts have begun to make the Old Fire Farts an official organization with a non-profit status. This required a lot of work by creating bylaws, a mission statement, business forms, government filings, establishing financial practices and lots more. It has been recommended by our legal counsel that we do this at the beginning of the year in January 2015. We are on the path to make this move.

We have done the paperwork and must now establish our membership. The bylaws call for two types of membership at this time. An Active Member would pay a \$25.00 annual fee which would go into the general fund for the operation of the organization. An Active Member can serve on the Board of Directors, serve on Committees and Chair events, and have voting rights. The other type of membership is the Social Member. Social Members are those accepted to the group on our Face Book page. These members have no voting rights, cannot hold offices or serve on committees, chair events, and will have to pay to attend certain events.

Active Member applications will be posted on the Face Book page for downloading and sent out to those without computer access. Dues will be due from January 1 to March 31. Checks will be sent to the new Secretary.

The following Officers will make up the Board of Directors; President, President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and 2 Members-At-Large. Standing Committees are the Financial Committee, Public Relations/Social Media Committee, Educational Grants Committee and any other committees the Board see fit.

There will be 4 quarterly meetings each year with the January meeting being the official annual meeting. Meeting locations will be determined by the President.

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Special points of interest:

1. A committee of members, who own apparatus or collect memorabilia, will be available to help those interested in restoration or preservation of fire items.
2. An Educational Grant Fund committee will be established to provide Grants to those first responders needing help to future their education opportunities.
3. If you would like to submit a article of interest please do so by contacting any officer of the organization.

Proceeds from Fire Muster given to Fire Museums

The proceeds from the first Old Fire Farts Muster were distributed to the York Heritage Trust, Fire Museum and the Hanover Fire Museum during the December meeting of the Old fire Farts held on December 13th at the Reliance Fire Co., Sta. # 1 West York. The checks were presented in the amount of \$600 each to the museums for the preservation of their existing equipment.

The Fire Muster was a success with 44 apparatus, 15 fire vendors, and about 800 spectators attending. Plans are in the making to have a 2nd Fire Muster on October 4, 2015. There will be a featured apparatus in 2015 and that will be the **Ahrens-Fox**. Efforts are underway to get as many Ahrens-Fox to the Muster as possible.



**The 2014 Best in Show Award
Winner owned by Tommy Herman
Chesterfield, VA**

Christmas Party Held

*"Santa must have
connections with the
Fireman."*

After the December meeting the group held a Christmas Party for the children and grand children of the members. We also provided some assistance by means of gift cards to three families in need who volunteer in their communities to help the fire service.

The Christmas movie "The Elf" was shown followed by the arrival of Santa on a Fire Truck. Santa must have connections with the Fireman. There were oranges, candy, coloring books, and wish list taken from all the children. The party concluded with lunch for all and wishes for a Very Merry Christmas to all and to all a good day.

**Station of the Month – Station #23, Union Fire Co.
Manchester, PA for their Mr. & Mrs. Santa Claus run.**



Educational Grant Funds

The Old Fire Farts of York County, PA has added to its Mission Statement that it will provide financial support for emergency response personnel with grants for advancing their education. The goal is to raise funds to support the financial needs of firefighters, EMTs, emergency managers, and other first responders who are or have entered into an institution where they will be advancing their education within their response role.

Some examples would be a firefighter taking a certified course in the Fire Safety field, an EMT taking courses to advance on to Paramedic status, an Emergency Manager taking courses to become a Certified Emergency Manager or CEM, a emergency responder taking a course in Critical Incident Stress Management or CISM .

An Educational Grant Committee would have two fundamental functions. The first would be to raise money through donations and foundation grants. They would establish a goal so that at least two grants could be awarded each year. Their second function would be to accept the grant application and review them with recommendations to the Board on the awards.