Greetings! What a busy time for all of us in the fire service. The spring weather has been beautiful, and we have been receiving rain. Maybe too much.

I want to take this time to say, “Thank you,” to everyone that attended my retirement celebration on March 16. To say the least, I was very humbled by the over 400 friends that came and celebrated with me.

My wife and daughter did an outstanding job coordinating every last detail. All of the dignitaries and organization representatives presented special gifts that were very appreciated. It took many people to pull this together and I thank each of you.

I still hold a position with Little Dixie but not as their chief. Mainly consulting.

As far as the weather goes, everyone at the FFAM Annual Convention in Sedalia, Missouri, told me it was one of the best that they can remember in many years. I want to thank Gail Hagans for all of the photographs. She did an outstanding job of recording the history of the 2019 FFAM Convention. I have yet to go through all of the photographs. History is so important, please never forget that.

The opening ceremony on Friday night went well and I appreciate everyone that attended. The contests were also well attended and a crowd of around 250 attended the Saturday night banquet. All of these things I mentioned did not just happen by chance but were because of a well planned and executed effort by the FFAM Board, headed by 1st Vice-President and Chief Larry Jennings.

Congratulations also to all the award winners and contest winners. I will let the Committee Chairs write about this in their articles. Senator Jeanie Riddle, speaker at the banquet did an excellent job.

It was a great convention and I thank everyone that had a part in its presentation. There is no way I could even begin to name everyone that helped. Again, awesome job.

Sandy Karsten, Director, Missouri Department of Public Safety will be our Sunday morning speaker at our annual Fallen Fire Fighters Memorial on May 19, 2019, at 10:30 a.m., in Kingdom City, Missouri. I am sure Chairman Keith Smith will write more about that event.

Our Candlelight Service will be May 18, 2019, at 9:00 p.m., and Dan Smith, retired firefighter will be the speaker. Dan will encourage each of us as we remember those that have gone before us. Dan ministers with the Farber Christian Church.

The Honor Guard Commander this year will be Lieutenant Tracy Gray with the Columbia Fire Department. We invite all Honor Guards and Pipes and Drums to come and participate on Sunday morning and you may contact Commander Gray.

As you are reading this, our Memorial Museum is under construction. We hope to be under roof by the time the Annual Memorial Services are held.

We also had an election of officers at convention and that brings me to congratulate everyone that was re-elected. I appreciate all of the officers, directors, and assistant directors. They invest many hours serving FFAM in many ways, attending meetings, promoting FFAM in their districts, serving on various committees, and having a can-do attitude when I ask for a special task to be accepted.

As president, I could not ask for a better group of individuals to serve with.
Greetings from the thirteenth floor. April showers brings May flowers, pollen, allergy, leaves, and some areas of our state flooding. I appreciate this time of year because it is a time of change. Something old becomes new again.

Judy and I enjoyed our time with many of you during the annual FFAM convention recently held in Sedalia. The convention committee knocked it out of the park. They showed team work, works! We are looking forward to attending next year’s convention in Kearney.

The 100th General Assembly session will end May 17th, so the next two weeks will be very busy within the capitol. We have been busy working on our budget and other bills. One item we are watching again is the funding for the Volunteer Fire Protection Association Workers Comp grant legislation. If funded this will be very beneficial to our Volunteer Associations across the state. We will cross are fingers and anticipate a favorable outcome.

Please get to know your legislator on a first name basis, invite them to your events! It helps all of the Missouri Fire Service!

We are proud to announce that 80% of you registered your fire department with the Division. This is the highest ever, and we appreciate you doing so. Hopefully we have done our part to make this experience as painless as possible.

We need your help. Mutual Aid Coordinator Matt Luetkemeyer mentioned this to me, that department information, and NFIRS reporting needs improved. We depend heavily on what you enter into the systems. We get calls from insurance companies, legislators, other fire departments inquires frequently about what information in enter. What we have discovered the fire service is its own worst enemy, we do not do a good job entering good solid information. We challenge you going forward to try and put good quality information into the system.

I came across this article and maybe it will shed some light on why we are, are own worst enemy.

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**MY HOME SAFETY PLAN**

*By John Rybski*

With another round of budgetary cuts (Federal) on the horizon I can’t help but wonder what can be done to show the real value of a fire department.

As I continue to train on fire damage assessment it is apparent that fire loss value data continues to be poorly reported around the country. This contributes significantly to the ability to properly fund departments. While many departments and agencies are concerned about the perceived “Fire Problem” if they report accurate loss values, inaccurate information has contributed to a different type of problem, a budgetary problem.

The real “Fire Problem” that is troubling local, state and national agencies is inaccurate data used to make important financial decisions. Based on data released by NFPA and NFIRS the average fire loss in 2015 was approximately $9,000.00, yet the insurance industry is reporting a significant increase in property damage. According to LexisNexis Solutions, an insurance industry reporting service. For comparison sake, restoration industry statistics reflect the average fire loss to be closer to $69,000.00. That’s seven times higher than the fire service average. While it’s no secret that determining fire loss values can be difficult, time consuming and inconsistent at best, it often goes unreported. This inconsistent and unreported fire loss data is “the real fire problem” facing departments today.

Imagine the affect inconsistent data would have on the sports industry if goals, home-runs, or win/losses were inconsistent or unreported. I would guess that professional athletes would not be earning as much without accurate statistics. Nearly every industry relies on consistent, reliable, track-able, data. Why not the fire service?

A department I recently spoke with reported 30 structure fires last year. While some of the incident reports indicated loss value as unreported, the national average would indicate a cumulative fire loss value of $270,000.00 for that department.

Using the same example as above, if this department reported 30 fires using the restoration industry average they would have reported over 2 million dollars in property damage. While this may be perceived as a “Fire Problem” it’s really a reporting problem...... Same number of fires.... just not accurate data. No wonder they have trouble increasing

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OPENING SESSION

President Kenneth Hoover opened the 65th Annual FFAM Convention by ringing the bell on Friday, April 12, 2019, at the Missouri State Fairgrounds in Sedalia, Missouri.

The Honor Guard, represented by members of several departments, posted the colors. President Hoover led the Pledge of Allegiance. David Hedrick gave the invocation.

Missouri State Fire Marshal Tim Bean welcomed attendees to the convention. Representatives from the Sedalia Convention and Visitors Bureau welcomed attendees to the convention.

President Hoover welcomed all attendees to the convention and recognized the FFAM officers and directors.

Past President Keith Smith presented the Nominating Committee slate for the 2019 FFAM officer elections. Positions for election are District 2 Director, District 6 Director, District 8 Director and District 12 Director. Also, the 1st Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer and Sergeant at Arms.

The following individuals are seeking election for those respective positions: Greg Wright, District 2; Gary Berendzen, District 6; Larry Jennings, 1st VP; Jaime Miller, Secretary/Treasurer; Rex Reynolds, Sergeant at Arms. There are no nominations for District 8 and District 12 Directors.

President Hoover made final announcements.

President Hoover closed the opening session at 6:20 p.m.

AWARDS BANQUET

Welcome to all in attendance to the 65th Annual FFAM Convention by President Ken Hoover.

David Hedrick gave the invocation followed by the meal.

Guest Speaker Missouri State Senator Jeanie Riddle presented a program.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Scholarship Committee Chairman Larry Eggen along with members Terry Plumb and Ed Daugherty presented the 2019 scholarship recipients. High School: Ethan Ralls, Hale FPD; Travis Young, Wellington Napoleon FPD; Hannah Cole, Fredericktown FD; Sarah Bethurem, Fair Grove FPD. Continuing Education: Maddison Breid, Madison West Monroe FPD; Christian VanDyke, Johnson County FPD #2.

CONTEST COMMITTEE

Contest Committee Chair Gary Berendzen announced the 2019 convention contest winners.

JUNIOR DIVISION CHALLENGE

2 Person Hose Coupling: 1st Southern Stone #1; 2nd Washington #1; 3rd Cole County #2. Extending a Line: 1st Southern Stone #1; 2nd Cole County #1; 3rd Eureka. Water Barrel Fight: 1st Cole County #1; 2nd Southern Stone #1; 3rd Galt #1. Overall: Southern Stone #1

FEMALE DIVISION CHALLENGE

2 Person Hose Coupling: 1st Southern Stone #1; 2nd Southern Stone #2; 3rd Little Dixie #1. Extending a Line: 1st Southern Stone #2; 2nd Little Dixie #2; 3rd Southern Stone #1. Replace a Section of Hose: 1st Little Dixie #1; 2nd Little Dixie #2; 3rd Southern Stone #2. Water Barrel Fight: 1st Southern Stone #1; 2nd Little Dixie #1; 3rd Little Dixie #2. Bucket Brigade: 1st Little Dixie #1; 2nd Southern Stone #1. Overall: Little Dixie #1

FIREFIGHTER DIVISION CHALLENGE

2 Person Hose Coupling: 1st Little Dixie #1; 2nd Washington #1; 3rd Madison #1. Replace a Section of Hose: 1st Madison #1; 2nd Little Dixie #1; 3rd West Plains #2. Extending a Line: 1st Little Dixie #1; 2nd West Plains #1; 3rd Madison #1. Water Barrel Fight: 1st Little Dixie #2; 2nd Little Dixie #1; 3rd Madison #2.

Bucket Brigade: 1st Little Dixie #2; 2nd Madison #1; 3rd Southern Stone #1. Overall: Little Dixie #1.

2018 award winner Diane Hanes and auxiliary members Christina Lloyd and Jessica Miller presented Shelia Nichols with the 2019 Auxiliary Member of the Year award.

FIRE PREVENTION COMMITTEE

Fire Prevention Committee Chair RB Brown announced the 2019 poster contest award winners.

Special Needs Division: 1st Place, Blake Templeton, South Central Buchanan County FPD; 2nd Place, Remi Muller, South Central Buchanan County FPD; 3rd Place, Molly Wheeler, South Central Buchanan County FPD. 1st and 2nd Grade Division: 1st Place, Luke Diener, Washington FD; 2nd Place, Kiefer Wiensstroer, Union FPD; 3rd Place, Phoenix Ensor, Paris Rural FPD. 3rd and 4th Grade Division: 1st Place, Madison Diener, Washington FD; 2nd Place, Reese Roesch, Union FPD; 3rd Place, Anniston Foss, Washington FD.

5th and 6th Grade Division: 1st Place, Claire Davenport, North Central Carroll FPD; 2nd Place, Alexandra Fortner, New Haven Berger FD; 3rd Place, Tanner Patterson, Iberia RFPD.
Award Committee Chair Joe Jennings along with committee members Joe Vaughn and Shelby Honea presented several awards as follows:

**Life Saving Award:** Jared Wilt, Shelbina FPD. **Life Saving Award:** Keil Borchers, Kente Boldridge, Gary Goetz, Miles Crow, Jeff Drury, Grant Oetting, Ashley Page, Higginsville FPD. **Life Saving Award:** Justin Braun, Jason Hammann, Matt Long, Cole County FPD. **Life Saving Award:** Joe Auffert, Chris Wilbanks, Joey Smith, Christel Cantrell, Howell County Rural FD #1. **Life Saving Award:** Kendra Matthews, Alex Matthews, Brayden Miller, Norborne FPD. **Life Saving Award:** Miles Crow, Jeff Drury, Adam Mallory, Higginsville FPD. **Fire Fighter of the Year:** Jason Whitley, Sikeston Department of Public Safety. **Chief Officer of the Year:** Assistant Chief Gary Berendzen, Cole County FPD. **Phil Sayer Lifetime Achievement Award:** retired Chief Willard “Bill” Halmich, Washington FD.

President Hoover gave closing remarks. The banquet was followed by the dance.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

President Kenneth Hoover called the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Fire Fighters Association of Missouri to order at 9:00 a.m., Sunday, April 14, 2019, at the Missouri State Fairgrounds in Sedalia, Missouri.

**ROLL CALL OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OTHER OFFICIALS**

**OFFICERS**
Kenneth Hoover, Little Dixie FPD; First Vice President Larry Jennings, Johnson County FPD; Second Vice President Grant Oetting, Higginsville FPD; Secretary Treasurer Jaime Miller, Johnson County FPD2; Sergeant-at-Arms Rex Reynolds, Southern FPD of Holt Co.

**DIRECTORS**
District 1, Terry Wynne, Galt FPD; District 2, Greg Wright, Shelbina FPD; District 3, Larry Jones; District 4, Joe Vaughn, Pleasant Hill FPD; District 5, Terry Plumb, Southern Stone FPD; District 6, Gary Berendzen, Cole County FPD; District 7, RB Brown, Eureka FPD; District 9, Roy Sims, West Plains FPD; District 10, Greg Brown, Eureka FPD; District 14, Rick Dozier, Southern FPD of Holt Co.

**ASSISTANT DIRECTORS**
District 1, Janet Cain, Braymer FR; District 3, Rob Erdel, Little Dixie FPD; District 3, Steve Gentry, Little Dixie FPD; District 4, Jonathan Evans, Lincoln FPD; District 5, Shelby Honea, Southern Stone FPD; District 6, Alan Braun, Cole County FPD; District 7, Andrew Caldwell, Boles FPD; District 10, Harriett Vaucher, Eureka FPD; District 11, Ryan Miller, Norborne FPD; District 11, Josh Koepke, Kansas City FDF; District 14, Glenn Dittmar, South Central Buchanan County FDF.

**OTHERS**
Past President Keith Smith, Warrenton FPD.

**GUESTS**
Tim Bean, Missouri Division of Fire Safety; Kevin Zumwalt, Gail Hagans, MU FRTI; Joe Jennings, Dee Bennett. Larry Eggen, Johnson County FPD; David Miller, Johnson County FPD2; Donald Vaucher, Eureka FPD; Brian Zinanni, Clayton FDF; Jeff Misel, Emily Misel, Cowgill FD; Richard Voss, Beaufort Leslie FPD; Scott Nichols, Josh Atkinson, Brandon Reams, Korey Smith, Jodi Jennings, Josh Loyd, Dustin Null, Rachel Buck, Todd DeOrnellis, Scott Prater, Casey Cuno, Dylan Burrow, Doug Burrow, Little Dixie FPD; Hunter Rische, Kyle Arnold, David Pratt, Matt Listhartke, Kevin Kepling, Bryan Kepping, Sean Loughery, Kearney F&R; John Scheper, Gravois FPD; Doc Kritzer, FF Memorial Foundation; Jim Brockett, Dylan Honea, Southern Stone FPD; Dale Ransdell, Madison West Monroe FPD; Charlie Peel, Southeasten Randolph FPD; Billy Smith, North Central Carroll FPD; Cy Fields, Ronnie

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Fields, Darin Maupin, Paris Rural FPD; James Peffermann, Don Hahne, Pat Placke, Washington FD; Rob Schrage, Jefferson R-7; Chris Brockelbank, Lucas Cyr, West Plains FD; Brian Smiley, Clint Wilson, Erik Jackson, Galt FPD; Jennifer Berendzen, Cole County FPD.

AGENDA
President Hoover asked for additions to the agenda. Rick Dozier moved to accept the agenda as presented. RB Brown seconded the motion and all approved.

MINUTES
President Hoover asked for corrections or additions to the May 4-6, 2018, convention and the January 2, 2019, board meeting minutes. Rick Dozier moved to accept the minutes as presented. Gary Berendzen seconded the motion and all approved.

FINANCIAL REPORT
President Hoover asked for a review of the January–March 2019 financial report. Greg Wright moved to accept the financial report as presented. Grant Oetting seconded the motion and all approved.

REPORT OF OFFICERS AND SPECIAL GUEST(S)
Director Kevin Zumwalt with the Missouri Fire and Rescue Training Institute expressed appreciation to the FFAM for hosting the convention.

Summer Fire School early registration deadline is May 10.

There are still many classes scheduled for the remainder of the fiscal year, which ends in June. Everyone is encouraged to be in contact with your MU FRTI Regional Coordinators to request and communicate what trainings you would like to see in your area.

State Fire Marshal Tim Bean with the Division of Fire Safety advised that they are working on the budget with the training fund a top priority. They currently have $800,000 budgeted. A worker’s compensation insurance grant for volunteer fire departments is back on the table for the budget.

3,175 people have taken state training certification testing in the last eight months.

The nine mutual aid coordinators in the state have spent the last year updating the MOSCOPE mutual aid plan.

Fire department registrations are at 80% which is the highest ever. This helps when pulling/requesting mutual aid resources.

Thanks to those who attended Fire Fighters Day at the Capital. It was well attended.

October 19, the Division will host a memorial stair climb.

CORRESPONDENCE
No correspondence was received.

Sergeant-at-Arms Reynolds conducted a roll call of the delegates. There were 46 delegates and 16 officers present.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS
There is no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS
President Hoover advised that Gary Berendzen has requested the appointment of John Scheper of the Gravois FPD to District 6 Assistant Director. Greg Brown moved to accept the appointment. Greg Wright seconded the motion and all approved.

The Missouri Fire Service Funeral Assistance Team has advised them have purchased a larger trailer and now have a surplus trailer to dispose of. Discussion followed. Greg Brown moved to donate the surplus trailer to the EMS Funeral Team. RB Brown seconded the motion and all approved.

Keith Smith reported that seven positions are up for election Greg Wright, District 2; Gary Berendzen, District 6; There are no nominations for District 8 and District 12 Directors.

Kurt Ploch moved to approve the director appointments as presented. Terry Wynne seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposing votes. Larry Jennings, 1st VP, Jaime Miller, Secretary/Treasurer; Rex Reynolds, Sergeant at Arms. Rick Dozier moved to approve the Executive Committee positions as presented. Charlie Peel seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposing votes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

AWARDS COMMITTEE
Joe Jennings reported that six Life Saving Awards, Firefighter of the Year, Chief Officer of the Year and the Phil Sayer Lifetime Achievement Award were presented. There was no nomination received for Fire Department of the Year. The Department Equipment Grant application is due May 1.

BUDGET COMMITTEE
No report was given.

BYLAWS COMMITTEE
No report was given.

CHAPLAIN COMMITTEE
Larry Jennings reported on behalf of David Hedrick. The Missouri Fire Chaplains Corp’s Southwest Region has moved their monthly luncheons to Mcalister’s restaurant, 703 N. McCroskey in Nixa, Missouri. Usually on the fourth Thursday, at 11:30 a.m.

The FFC will be conducting an Essentials of Fire Chaplaincy training class at the Comfort Inn in Story City, Iowa, June 20-21, 2019. For more information contact Todd Edeker, ifachaplain@yahoo.com, or call (319) 939-6191.

The Federation of Fire Chaplains will host their 2019 FFC Annual Conference October 19-24, 2019, at the Double Tree by Hilton in Cathedral City, California. More information on the conference is available on the FFC website at: ffc.wildapricot.org/

The Missouri Fire Chaplain Corp (MFCC) annual meeting and training conference will be held September 9-10,
2019, in Springfield, Missouri, at the Green County EOC. Training schedule will include PTSD and substance abuse.

Contact information for the Missouri Fire Chaplains Corp is: MFCC President, Jim Cummings, medic4christ@hotmail.com, or 417-230-0610. Secretary Treasurer Ed Hatcher, email is edhat@earthlink.net, or 618-207-9487.

CONTEST COMMITTEE
Gary Berendzen reported that everything went well and thanks to all those that helped.

CONVENTION COMMITTEE
Larry Jones reported that the Kearney Firefighters Association had a presentation to give regarding hosting the 2020 convention. Kearney Firefighters Association President David Pratt presented a proposal. Larry Jones moved that the 2020 convention be held in Kearney. Charlie Peel seconded the motion and all approved. Washington FD and Jefferson County R-7 FPD have both expressed interest in hosting the 2021 convention. They were advised to discuss with the Convention Committee.

2019 Convention Committee Chairman Larry Jennings thanked all those who attended and assisted with this year’s convention.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE
Rick Dozier reported that 34 attended the Certified Fire and Ambulance District Board of Directors training held on Friday. Get any class proposal ideas to him.

FIRE PREVENTION COMMITTEE
RB Brown thanked everyone who participated in the poster contest. Posters were received from 12 departments. This year the committee added a Special Needs category which will continue in the future.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
Greg Brown reported Firefighter Day at the Capital was a big success and he thanked everyone who attended. He encouraged everyone to get to know their local legislators. There is only 5 weeks remaining in the legislative session. The Senate is working on the budget which includes funding for a volunteer fire department worker’s compensation grant. The Safe Cigarette funding has been pulled along with the $100,000 amendment to the boiler fund for certification and testing. Prescription drug monitoring is moving forward. The cancer bill did make progress but is no longer moving. HB 716 is in the house this week. SB 291 for 9-1-1 clean-up language got an amendment so it is still pending. The federal ambulance reimbursement bill is still moving.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE
Grant Otting reported the following membership counts: 466 Directors/Councilman; 295 Retired; 17 Associate; 11 Sustaining; 15 Corporate, 330 Departments; 5999 Active; 20 Educational Individuals; 2 Educational Institutions; 88 Juniors; 3 EMS Departments; 80 EMS Individuals.

NVFC COMMITTEE
Keith Smith reported that the fall meeting will be in Augusta, Georgia, and the spring meeting will be in Washington D.C., next week. He won’t be attending the spring meeting. Discussion was held on NVFC possibly hosting the 2022 fall meeting in Kansas City. Andrew Caldwell moved to authorize Keith Smith to send a letter to NVFC pledging on behalf of the FFAM support for hosting the 2022 meeting in Kansas City. Kurt Ploch seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposing votes.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE
Larry Eggen presented Travis Young with a high school scholarship. He as unable to attend the banquet Saturday. Eggen reported that the committee received a lot of applications this year.

STATE FAIR COMMITTEE
Steven Gentry reported that applications were due May 1.

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I hope this edition finds each of you poised to enjoy summer and maybe some much needed time away from at least a few of your normal responsibilities. I have come to realize over the years that it is vitally important to make and take time to break the normal daily schedule as overall life is way too short to not enjoy all that is around you.

Let’s talk a bit about the future. For those of us getting a little long in the tooth, that’s an “old generation” saying, the “future” we once saw may have already become yesterday and we have moved on towards a new “future.” For those younger readers it may seem like the future is so distant that it is just not that important to you right now. For those in the middle you have seen enough to know the past is the past and the future you once saw is not that far away. No matter which group you may fall into we all must remember one fundamental concept: the future is yours.

So how do we go about having a future? First, I do not advocate you live in a bubble. You have got to go out in the world and forge your path that leads you toward what you see as your future. Will you make “mistakes” along the way? If you don’t make a few mistakes from time to time then you are not human or you are the luckiest person known to humankind and we need to talk about a joint lottery ticket purchase. So now that you are out of the bubble and trudging forward toward the future you had planned the steps you take will either help your future become a reality or will act to change the course of your life and your future.

One of the ways we can have a future would be to simply “take care” of yourself. Proper eating, exercise, rest, relaxation and a few other things in this general category can do a lot for you reaching your future. Education would be another great tool to use to reach your future and the goals you have built in to that future. Now this doesn’t mean a four year college degree is needed for everyone, but it might be important for at least a few folks to have one. Many successful people have reached the future they dreamed of without “formal” education so it would appear there is not a single approach out there that will ensure you realize the future you set for yourself. What we do need to do however is work toward that future you once saw and held up on that pedestal.

If the future you see is retirement with no financial worries, great health and “not a care in the world,” do you think maybe you will need to take some steps to get there? Perhaps some investments, we have talked about that before. Perhaps looking out for your general health, at some point we have all probably heard someone say, “if I had known I would live this long I would have taken better care of myself.” Or perhaps making sure you did the “right” thing as you moved through life so nothing will “bite” you later on.

“Once you have decided on a future take the steps to get there.”

So how do we go about having a future? First, I do not advocate you live in a bubble. You have got to go out in the world and forge your path that leads you toward what you see as your future. Will you make “mistakes” along the way? If you don’t make a few mistakes from time to time then you are not human or you are the luckiest person known to humankind and we need to talk about a joint lottery ticket purchase. So now that you are out of the bubble and trudging forward toward the future you had planned the steps you take will either help your future become a reality or will act to change the course of your life and your future.
We have talked a bit about your personal future, but what about the future of the emergency services field. You don’t have to look hard to see the articles about the decline of volunteerism in the fire service, or really in almost all things. You should not be surprised when people are not lining up to join a full time fire or EMS department either and how many law enforcement agencies are struggling to get people to even attend their academies? So where is the future of emergency services heading and what can we do?

Each of us can be a proactive supporter of not only ourselves, but of each person we work with or talk to about our profession. We can each take the positive steps to making our professions the ones people want to be involved with. We can each work toward making the changes needed to keep the profession “alive” and not just sit back and enjoy the status quo. The emergency services are what they are today because somewhere in the past someone saw what they believed should happen in the future and took the steps to meet that end. That task falls to each of us and not a select few.

You are the future not only for yourself, but also for the emergency services as a whole. What you envision, what actions you take and what sacrifices you may make will all shape where the future will take us. Get out there and do what you can to keep the future a positive one.

As always, if I can be of any assistance please contact me.

Be Safe!

How can this be? By the time you read this, we will be in the fifth month of the year, already had 2019 Convention at Sedalia, and all the plans made for the Fallen Fire Fighters Memorial at Kingdom City. The Candlelight service will be May 18, at 9:00 p.m. and the Sunday Morning Service will be on May 19, at 10:30 a.m.

August will be here before you know it, and the State Fair is a big part of the month. Even if you don’t work at the fair, come down and see what it’s all about. There are many different trainings going on, a chance to help people at the fair, and a time to meet new firefighters from all over the state. It is a little fire fighting family within the State Fair.

The 2020 FFAM Convention will be held in Kearney. There will be information in the newsletter and on the FFAM website. Just keep watching for all the information you will find on it.

If I or either of District 3 Assistant Directors, Robbie Erdel or Steve Gentry, can be of help to you or your department, please let us know.
Greetings from District 4. Spring is here, well kind of. Seems like Mother Nature just can’t make up her mind yet. That is not stopping people from getting out and enjoying all of the festivities that have been going on. Baseball/softball season is in full swing. Snagging season is here, the crappie are biting and the elusive morel mushrooms are abundant this year. With all these activities getting started and with the official start of summer coming up soon, traffic will be picking up as everyone travels to the lake for fun in the sun and to take family vacations.

With the majority of departments in the state made up of volunteers, I ask when was the last time that the extrication tools were used, when were they last serviced, when was the last inspection done of the hydraulic hoses or the batteries cycled? It’s the little things that are often overlooked but easy to check. As you are coiling up the hydraulic lines they are easy to check for cracks and bulges in the line. If you can’t remember the last time they were used, get them out at your next training and use them. My department physically checks and cycles the tools once a month at a minimum. It is better to find the issue before it becomes a problem or causes a failure of the tools when you need them the most.

On March 6, Firefighters Day at the Capitol was held. I had the privilege of attending this event with Fire Chief Greg Harrell and Deputy Chief Matt Irwin of the Sedalia Fire Department. If you have not attended this event before I recommend that you try to attend next year. Our voice is heard and we can make a difference. At this event the Division of Fire Safety likes to recognize a special guest and this year it was the Missouri Fire Service Funeral Assistance Team. This team provides an invaluable service behind the scenes to the grieving department and family during the most difficult time when they have suffered the loss of a loved one in the Line of Duty. As part of being the special guest the funeral assistance teams were greeted by Governor Parsons in his office and he spoke to and thanked each team member for their service. I would like to thank Chief Harrell for serving on the team since 2007.

I had the honor of being able to attend Chief Hoover’s retirement reception; it was a well-attended event with people from all across the state and even a few from out of state. Congratulations on your retirement Chief.

Another convention is in the books! It was hosted by the board of directors on the Missouri State Fair Grounds. Camaraderie, food and fellowship were enjoyed and don’t forget the competition for bragging rights and trophies. Next year’s convention will be hosted
by Kearney Fire and Rescue Protection District. I hope to see everyone there.

During our annual convention the Pettis County Fire Department hosted their annual chili dinner fund-raiser. I would like to say thank you to those convention attendees who supported Pettis County Fire by attending their fund-raiser. I had the privilege of assisting Chief Harding and his firefighters by serving food to the public. I would also like to extend a thank you to our Second Vice President Grant Oetting for assisting at the fund-raiser.

Summer Fire School is just around the corner, if you plan on attending make sure that you get your registrations in soon. I hope to see you there and don’t forget about the Phil Sayer Memorial Scholarship which can cover your cost to attend fire school. For more information on the scholarship please see the MU FRTI website.

I want to take a moment to congratulate Training Officer Steve Ashbridge of the Warrensburg Fire Department on his retirement from the Warrensburg Fire Department after serving for almost 19 years with the department.

I would also like to congratulate Fire Chief Jim Kushner of the Warrensburg Fire department on his retirement after 39 years of service. If you would like to extend your well wishes to Chief Kushner they are having a retirement luncheon in his honor on May 17, 2019. Lunch begins at 11:00 hours with the program starting at 11:30 hours. This event is being held at Fire Station 2 1550 Corporate Drive Warrensburg Missouri.

In closing, I hope that everyone has a blessed Memorial Day and a fun summer kickoff. If the FFAM can be of any assistance to your department or if your department is having an event that you would like for the FFAM to attend or if you have any questions please feel free to contact me at 660-221-6161 or ffamhollywood@gmail.com. I will try to assist you or attend your event if possible. Until next time, stay safe out there.
The Cole County Fire Protection District held their 2018 Annual Service Awards Banquet.

The annual event shows appreciation to the firefighter’s for their years of service and dedication to the district.

There is another aspect that really stands out with the 2018 service awards. The District recognized six firefighters who have given 105 years of service to the district. The combined years of service of district personnel are over 1,300 years. This in itself shows the commitment to the district by its personnel in the aspects of training, call response and the rewards of helping others in their time of need.

The following firefighters were recognized for years of service.

5 YEARS
James Buechter, Bradley Kempker.

10 YEARS
Adam Bashore, Jim Rademann, Bill Wirtel.

15 YEARS
Matt Long.

50 YEARS
Donnie Braun.

FIRE FIGHTER OF THE YEAR
Mac Kennedy.

OFFICER OF THE YEAR
Gary Braun.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD
Steve Cearlock.

OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD
Blake Bopp.

DEPUTY CHIEF’S “DIRTY DOZEN”
The following fire fighters responded to the most calls.

Justin Braun, Zack Rustemeyer, Mac Kennedy, Galen Hammann, Gary Berendzen, Gary Braun, Jason Hammann, Mike Hart, Robbie Hammann, Dakota Roth, Adam Bashore and James Buechter.

PERFECT ATTENDANCE IN TRAINING AWARDS
Gary Braun, Galen Hammann, Robbie Hammann, Jason Hammann and Nathan Luebbering.

The District recognized the Ladies Auxiliary for their assistance to the firefighters.

LIFE SAVING AWARD
Firefighters Justin Braun, Jason Hammann, Matt Long and first responder Neil Sneller were fishing at the Lake of the Ozarks when they heard someone yelling in the distance. They looked around and located a boat with no operator. They heard someone yell, “I need help.” They called back to the person in the water that they were coming.

Life Saving Award from Senator Mike Bernskoetter. From left to right are Mike Hart, Justin Braun, Jason Hammann, Matt Long and Wayne Hammann.
The firefighters maneuvered their boat towards the empty boat. They encountered a man hanging onto the boat near the trolling motor. The man was identified as Mr. Jim Lane from Lake Ozark. Mr. Lane had been fishing when he stubbed his toe, lost his balance and fell into the water.

Jason Hammann asked if he could swim, Mr. Lane stated he could but that at this point he was too tired and about ready to go under. Justin Braun handed Hammann a throw cushion who gave it to Mr. Lane. Hammann grabbed Mr. Lane pulling him towards their boat. Matt Long then maneuvered the boat towards the bank. Once close to the bank and in about two foot of water Mr. Lane was encouraged to stand up and walk to the shoreline. Mr. Lane grabbed a mooring cable and walked out of the water, up the bank and sat down on a rock.

Hammann went ashore to assist Mr. Lane while the others went back to retrieve Mr. Lane’s boat. While on shore Mr. Lane was encourage to take slow steady breaths until he began to feel better.

Mr. Lane made his way to his boat, stopping several times to catch his breath and was helped in. He was offered dry clothes and helped to get back to his condo. Both he refused. He thanked everyone for their help and headed home.

Mr. Lane stated if it hadn’t been for the enough of these four men coming to his rescue, he probably would not be here today. Mr. Lane was extremely grateful for their quick actions.

Each firefighter received a Missouri Senate proclamation sponsored by Senator Mike Bernskoetter for life saving.

The District is always looking for men and women who would proudly serve the community. Firefighting is a very rewarding experience helping those in need, whether it be educating children on fire safety, extricating people from vehicle accidents, to extinguishing fires. If you are interested please contact the District office at 573-634-9011.

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We presented four high school students with $1,000 scholarships and two Continuing Education recipients with $500 scholarships at the 2019 FFAM Convention in Sedalia, Missouri.

HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS
Sarah Betherum from Fair Grove High School and a member of the Fair Grove FPD. She plans to attend Ozark Technical Community College.

Hannah Cole from Farmington High School. She plans to enroll at Missouri University in Columbia.

Ethan Ralls from Hale High School and a member of the Hale FPD and the Missouri State Fair FD. He plans to enroll at North Central Missouri College.

Travis Young from Wellington-Napoleon High School and a member of the Wellington-Napoleon FPD. He plans to enroll at Metropolitan Community College.

CONTINUING EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS
Madison Breid from Madison, a member of Madison West Monroe FD and the Missouri State Fair FD. She is enrolled at the University of Missouri in Columbia.

Christian Van Dyke from Kingsville and a member of Johnson County FPD #2 is planning to attend Fort Osage Career and Technology and enroll in Firefighter 1 & 2.

The Scholarship Committee wishes to congratulate all the winners and wishes them the best of luck. This scholarship is awarded to members of the FFAM or family members each year.
IN THE EVENT OF A PIPELINE EMERGENCY ARE YOU PREPARED?

Pipeline Association of Missouri (PAM) in conjunction with the Missouri Emergency Response Commission (MERC), the State of Missouri Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) and the University of Missouri Fire and Rescue Training Institute is bringing uniquely innovative opportunities to discuss and implement emergency planning activities for local emergency responders and pipeline companies.

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This fall schedule is tentative. For additional information please visit www.showmepipeline.com
MISSOURI DRIVERS ARE COVERED

By California Casualty

California Casualty has been the preferred auto and home insurance provider for FFAM since 1995 because of the special features it offers Missouri firefighters. One of those benefits is personal property coverage for items taken from your vehicle.

You may have heard about the rash of auto burglaries across Missouri. People have learned their auto insurance didn’t cover the items taken from their vehicles.

California Casualty is different. Most insurance companies only cover theft from your vehicle through homeowners or renters insurance. California Casualty auto policies provide up to $500 if your purse, non-electronic materials or other important possessions are stolen from, or damaged in, your covered car or truck. This includes turnout gear and uniforms that you purchased.

It’s that type of coverage that convinced FFAM to partner with California Casualty. FFAM members also qualify for these other outstanding benefits:

• 0 deductible for damage to vehicles parked at work
• Free pet injury protection (up to $1,000)
• Free ID theft defense and resolution
• Policies that cover you when you loan your vehicle to someone or rent a car
• Fallen Hero Survivor Benefit – which waives the insurance premiums for the current year and following year for the spouse or partner of a fallen firefighter

California Casualty also gives back to firefighters in meaningful ways:

• $7,500 Garage Makeover, www.contest4heroes.com
• Sponsor of many NFFF 9/11 stair climb events
• Sponsor of the NVFC Jr. Firefighter of the Year and Jr. Firefighter Program of the Year awards, https://juniors.nvfc.org/sponsors/

Learn for yourself why customers give California Casualty a 99 percent customer service rating and a claims satisfaction rating of 96 percent. Contact an advisor today at 1.800.800.9410 or visit www.calcas.com/FFAM.

Founded in 1914, California Casualty has partnered with the FFAM to provide auto and home insurance tailored to members since 1995. Headquartered in San Mateo, California, with Service Centers in Arizona, Colorado and Kansas, California Casualty has been led by four generations of the Brown family. To learn more about California Casualty, or to request an auto insurance quote, please visit www.calcas.com/FFAM or call 1.800.800.9410.
Create your ultimate garage, courtesy of California Casualty – the preferred auto & home insurance provider for First Responders across the U.S.

Gym. Workshop. Retreat. Enter to win $7,500 Garage Makeover. Contest4Heroes.com

©2019 CCMC. CA Lic #0641346 No quote or purchase necessary. See website for complete terms and conditions.
Greetings and salutations from the east side of the state from District 7. How time is flying by. The convention is in the history books and I have to say kudos to the 2019 convention staff. This was a great convention and thank you to each and every one that made this great convention happen. A big thank you to Chief Jeff Buford and crew for providing the shuttle service during the evenings of the convention. For the ones that didn’t attend, you missed out, but I hope that you plan to attend next year’s convention in Kearney, Missouri.

This was a special convention being the chairperson for the fire prevention poster contest. I’m proud to announce this year we added special needs students to the contest. So please encourage your school to enter all students from grades 1st through 6th. I want to send a special thanks to the ladies auxiliary for judging the works of art and making the final choices. We had a total of 12 districts/departments that entered. That was an increase of three. So again, I know it’s hard to get schools involved but encourage the schools to get into fire prevention and every district to enter posters. This year winners will be guests of the Missouri State Fair Fire Department where they will receive passes for them and their immediate family into the fair, a free pass to the Midway Carnival, receive their prize money and if they choose, join the firefighters for a meal. Again, congratulations to all the winners.

The N.F.P.A. will release this year’s theme around June 1, 2019. As soon as it’s released it will be placed on the website and published in the newsletter. As a friendly reminder please read the rules on the paper size and poster information for the back.

Speaking of the Missouri State Fair Fire Department, when you receive this newsletter the deadline for the applications will have closed. The work days have been set so check Facebook for the days. I hope to see all the veterans and many new faces. Just think every time you help with the state fair fire department you are making history because we are the only eleven day fire department in the nation. So be a part of the family and help serve the Firefighters Association of Missouri and the citizens and the state.

Spring weather can be very unpredictable. From rain, hail, wind, and tornadoes, severe weather can happen unexpectedly and it’s important to be prepared. Here are some safety reminders for those unexpected storms that can help keep you and your family safe:

**THUNDERSTORMS & LIGHTENING**
During thunderstorms remain indoors and do not take a shower, bath, or use plumbing because water can be a conduit for lightning. Also stay away from metal and do not use electrical appliances, which can cause electric shock if struck by lightning.

If you are outside, stay away from trees and seek shelter in a sturdy building.

If you are in your car, do not make contact with the metal outside.

If you plan on going back outside, wait at least 30 minutes from the last rumble before returning.

**HAIL STORMS**
During a hail storm, some storms can produce hail the size of baseballs. Be sure to protect your head with your hands as you seek shelter and stay away from windows.

Remember to put your vehicle in a garage if possible and bring all pets inside.

If you are traveling in your car, try to seek shelter before the hail starts as it can break through glass.

**TORNADOES**
During a tornado, pick a safe room with no windows on the lowest floor of your home. If no room is available, move to the closest interior hallway.

Cover yourself with blankets, pillows or a mattress to protect yourself from falling debris.

If you’re outside, get to the nearest shelter possible. If you’re unable to find shelter, look for low ground and lay on your stomach with your hands covering your head, protecting yourself from falling debris.

Do not go under an underpass or bridge as those can have a wind-tunnel effect.

**FLASH FLOODS**
During flash floods, try to avoid being outside at all costs. Floods happen quickly and can occur anywhere.

If you are driving, do not attempt to drive through a flooded area. It only takes a couple feet of water to flood your car. If your car stalls, abandon it and find higher ground.

Move hazardous materials such as paint and oil to a higher location so it cannot contaminate the water during a flood.

You never know when the next storm will hit, but it’s important to be aware of tips to help prepare for them. Have other safety reminders to help prepare for severe weather?
Oran Fire Protection District
Oran, Missouri
Chief: Jim Watkins

Kenworth T440 Chassis
Paccar PX-9 450 hp Engine
Rosenbauer FX Aluminum Body
Waterous CXK 1250 GPM Pump
Pro Poly 2500 Gallon Tank
Whelen Emergency Lighting Package
LED Roto Ray
Power Folding Port A Tank Rack
Electric Extend/Retract & Open/Close Chutes

TANKER 2500 Gallon
Greetings, Spring has arrived! We are all now thinking about vacations, going fishing, visiting family and friends, having picnics, and of course the kids are itching to get out of school for the summer.

The FFAM has been very busy since the last newsletter. *Firefighter Day at the Capital* in Jefferson City, on March 6, was a huge success. Firefighters from all over the state were visiting their representatives and senators, some were even invited on the floor of the House of Representatives, talking about the issues in hand. Including workers compensation and other fire related issues. The Missouri Firefighter Funeral Assistance Team were the featured guests of the Fire Marshal’s office and also Governor Parson. While at the Capital, there was a special service recognizing the funeral team and also a visit with Governor Parson in his office, to talk about the issues the fire service is facing today. Kudos to Fire Marshal Bean and his staff in hosting a very successful *Firefighter Day at the Capital*.

March 30, was a busy day for myself and Assistant Director Josh Koepke of District 11. We first started traveling to the Alma Fire Protection District for their open house they were having at their station. The district was thanking the citizens for their continued support of the district. They had numerous actives going on like showing the trucks, activities for the kids, an auto extrication demo, Air Evac was there selling memberships and they even had a BBQ serving hamburgers and hot dogs to its patrons. While we were there 1st Vice President Larry Jennings was in attendance as well. Chief Jeff Buford and the Alma Fire Protection District thanks for the invite and it is obvious the patrons of your District support your department.

Later in the day Assistant Director Koepke and myself traveled to another Lafayette County department. We attended the open house at the Odessa Fire Protection District. Odessa was trying to educate their patrons of a upcoming April ballot, in which they were trying to pass two different issues. The first was a 30 cent levy increase to move the ambulance from the city to the fire district and another 15 cent levy increase to help with staffing for the district. They did much like what Alma did, and had patrons tour the station, look at the trucks and equipment the district had, and they too had a BBQ. While we were there they had several EMS calls, myself and Assistant Director Koepke rode out on the trucks to see how their operation worked. I am happy to say that both issues passed in Odessa. It is good to hear that the voters of Lafayette County support Public Safety. Thanks to Chief Kevin Campbell and his staff for the invitation, Josh and myself really enjoyed the visit.

The FFAM convention was held April 12-14, in Sedalia at the Missouri State Fairgrounds. If you missed the convention you missed out on a lot of fun activities and networking with other firefighters. Friday consisted of an equipment expo, opening ceremonies with the vendors in attendance, and of course the mixer. The mixer was different this year as the FFAM served a BBQ dinner to the attendees, which I heard was a big hit. Saturday was a full day of activities with the games. Pettis County Fire hosted a chili dinner and dessert auction at their station and we ended the night with the banquet and the dance. On Sunday the convention concluded with the business
At the business meeting it was reported by Brian Zinanni of the Firefighter Funeral Assistance Team, that the team was in need of new public address systems as their frequency was no longer in use. The FFAM stepped up to the plate and donated $2,500 to this cause and even the bartenders from the convention donated their tips to this cause. Thanks are in order to the Board of Directors for hosting a great convention, and also to BK Catering out of Higginsville for the amazing food.

As I stated above, while at the convention several of the directors, assistant directors, board members and even members of the ladies auxiliary attended the annual fund-raiser of the Pettis County Fire Protection District. When most of us arrived, we found Assistant Director Evans of District 4 helping serve chili along with his brothers and sisters of Pettis County. He even helped with the dessert auction, to make sure to get a good prices on the desserts and that everyone went home happy. Director Vaughn was also in attendance as well as Fire Marshal Bean. Thanks to Matt Gardner for the invite, talking to all who came we all had a great time and willing to help out a great department.

May 11, is the Missouri Fire Service Charity Smoke Out in Columbia. The event will be held at the Mid America Harley Davidson at 10:00 a.m. This event will help support the Firefighter Cancer Support Network and the Firefighters Memorial Foundation of Missouri. Teams at this event will be judged on the category of ribs. I am proud to say that the FFAM has a team in the contest sponsored by the Missouri State Fair Fire Department. Tickets are still available for this event, get your before they run out.

The next weekend on May 18-19, is the annual Candlelight and Memorial Service in Kingdom City. The Candlelight Service will be held at dusk on the eighteenth and the Memorial Service will be held the next morning. If you are a Facebook follower, you need to check out the Missouri Firefighters Museum Page. On their page you will see that the museum is started to be built and materials have arrived. They are hosting several fundraisers in the coming months and if you want or your department wants to donate their is a link on their Facebook page.

The State Fair will be here before we know it. Chief Plumb and his staff have been busy getting equipment, medical supplies, ambulances and even PR items for the fair. They have announced the following weekends as work weekends to help them prepare for the fair, any help would greatly help: May 31 - June 2; July 12-14; and August 2-4.

At these work weekends, they are cleaning the station, organizing supplies, making phone calls for additional equipment or supplies that they find they are running short on. You don’t have to be a member of the department to help out, we love to have the volunteer help. Any questions feel free to contact the State Fair Committee or Chief Plumb if you would like to help out.

The FFAM is committed to being a voice for the Missouri Fire Service. If the FFAM can be of any assistance to you or your agency we would love to hear from you or if you want us to attend your next event. I can be contacted by email at grant_oetting@yahoo.com or cell 660-229-4525 and I will be glad to serve you with whatever needed you have.

Stay safe my brothers and sisters. Until next time...
I rely completely on my next-door neighbor to help me keep track of all the tools and equipment for firefighters that have passed into the history category. The reason for that is because every couple of weeks he appears at my front door or texts me a picture of something new that he has added to his collection of fire service memorabilia.

A couple of months ago he came over with huge box that UPS had delivered to his house. I don’t think he had even opened it until he got to my front porch. Inside was a dark blue wool almost full-length coat with a very high collar. When I inquired why he wanted an old Navy Peacoat, he was not impressed and preceded to tell me that it was antique British firefighting coat from the 1940’s and that it was a real find! That “real find” was added to the hundreds of items he has displayed on the entire ground floor of his home.

Chris Ely is my neighbor and an outstanding member of the Branson Fire Department. I’m fairly sure he likes me because we have many common interests in the fire service. It might also be because I mow his grass every time I mow mine. I’m also sure that his wife Brandi is a candidate for sainthood because she allows this collection fetish.

My latest experience came just a week or two ago when he texted me and ask if I knew what a “Detroit Door Opener” was and if I had ever seen one. Before I even had time to respond he shows up in my front room with his latest shipment.

After a short visit about the tool and many other interesting inventions, normally designed and invented by firefighters for special application, we decided they would make an interesting article.

THE DETROIT DOOR OPENER
At first glance, the tool appears to be two giant pry bars attached to one another. The top bar in the picture is actually close to a pry bar and the foot is cut at an angle with serrated teeth, which allows the base to imbed into the floor when it is used.

BOTTOM PRYING PORTION OF TOOL
The portion of the tool that contacts the door can be adjusted in length by pulling the pin that can be seen in the top picture above. The end of that portion has a foot that contacts the door or door lock, shown in the pictures.

THE COMPRESSION FOOT THAT CONTACTS THE DOOR
The length of the rod from the fulcrum to the compression foot may be adjusted by removing the pin, which is employed for locking the extension and drawing the...
extension out to the desired point, and then replacing the pin.

The editor extends his thanks to the Station Two crew for their assistance and hospitality, a dozen Krispy Cream donuts will buy you a lot of love!

And there will always be someone to come up with a “better mousetrap.” Check out this ad from Peter Persch Fire Apparatus. They combined the need for a door opener and a hose clamp in one tool.

THE POMPIER OR SCALING LADDER
This is one tool that I gained a fascination with and a healthy respect for when I was in the School of Fire Protection at Oklahoma State University in the early 1970’s. Most of the students in the program then lived in the Campus Fire Station. As part of the station, there was a large fire sprinkler lab and a five-story drill tower.

One of my idols at the time was a salty white haired Assistant Fire Chief by the name of W.C. Buck. Chief Buck was also an instructor in the School of Fire Protection and taught a college class on fire department ladders.

Buck also wore another hat as a captain in a local Engineering Battalion of the Oklahoma National Guard. He had
started Oklahoma A and M as a student in 1939, the first year the fire program started, but his college career was interrupted by World War II.

Story has it that when he left for duty his hair was coal black and after he returned from being a tank commander in the entire European Theater, his hair was white when he got home. Needless to say, this guy had no fear and wanted to make sure we didn’t have any either.

One exercise we did was to climb to the top of a fifty-foot banger ladder raised in a church raise, go over the top rung and back down the other side of the ladder. Of course, one of the other drills we did was to scale the entire five-story tower with a Pompier ladder, not once, lots of times.

LIEUTENANT CHRIST HOELL
ST. LOUIS FIRE DEPARTMENT

Lt. Christ Hoell of the St. Louis Fire Department introduced the Pompier Ladder to the American Fire Service in 1877. He learned the tool and methods of it use while on the Fire Department in Elberfeld, Germany. In 1873 at the age of 27, he immigrated to the US and worked as a stonemason until his appointment to the St Louis Fire Department. After two serious fires in 1877, Hoell suggested a “Pompier Corps” be developed within the department for major rescue activities.

He was later given a leave to travel to New York City to train their department. FDNY’s first rescue with a pompier ladder occurred on April 7, 1884, performed by John Binns of Ladder Company 3 and the last on December 15, 1967 by Gene Dowling of Ladder Company 25, making a daring rescue in 30 MPH winds. Both the first and last rescues performed with the Pompier Ladder earned the James Gordon Bennet Medal, the highest honor bestowed to FDNY firefighters.

Many people owe their lives to this odd ladder and the daring firefighters who scaled the sides of buildings to save fire victims! The FDNY carried the Pompier Ladder on their rigs until July 11, 1996, when it was decommissioned. The Boston Fire Department and other major cities around the country continue to use the ladder as part of their recruit training.

THE BROWDER LIFE NET

The huge round life net held by several firefighters was for a number of years carried on truck companies as standard equipment. The Browder life net was invented and introduced to the fire service August 19, 1902. One of the last recorded uses for life safety was by the

Los Angeles Fire Department in February 1964, during an apartment house fire.

Ladder 38 of the Stillwater Fire Department had one that we used in training several times when I was in school. In fact, Chef Buck amused us by doing a somersault out of the fifth floor and into a life net being held by ten or so 20 year old students. Not real bright, I must admit, but fun at the time.

There are hundreds of other unique tools that have been designed by firefighters and companies over the years that have been replaced by more modern hydraulic and mechanical tools that are more practical.

By the way, Chris Ely does not have a Pompier Ladder in his collection but would drive half way across the entire country to get one.
Work-related vehicle crashes are the top cause of fatality across all industries in the United States, and fire department vehicle crashes are a major problem. With nearly 900 fire departments in Missouri, wouldn’t it be amazing if all of them consistently did the following?

- Written driver safety policies to address concerns like seat belt use, distractions and alcohol-free workplaces
- Regular review of safety policies with paid and volunteer staff including employee sign-off
- Corrective action when safety rules are not followed
- Driver training for anyone that drives fire apparatus
- Regular inspection of vehicles for safety concerns

STEER TIRE BLOWOUT AND OFF-ROAD RECOVERY

There are two main concerns when driving fire apparatus on Missouri roadways: steer tire blowout and off-road recovery. These seem to be the two scariest contributing factors during crashes, because it’s commonly thought that the driver has no time to react.

Reduce the risk of steer tire blowout through better maintenance. Inspect fire apparatus tires regularly. Grass fires, travel through rough terrain and excessive driving on gravel roads may require that tire inspections take place after each call. Check for:

- Sidewall damage, tread separation or uneven wear
- Proper inflation
- Age of the tire
- 4/32” minimum tread depth on steer tires and 2/32” on rear tires
- Wheel damage from curbing
- Steering system for excessive play, bent components, missing nuts, bolts or pins

Drivers can be prepared for tire blowout by focusing on the driving task.
- Be ready. Keep both hands on the steering wheel and minimize distractions.
- Don’t overreact and panic brake when a tire fails.
- Avoid stab braking. Jamming on the brakes could cause you to lose control.
- Maintain vehicle forward momentum. This keeps the vehicle from pulling left or right.
- Find a safe place to stop the truck and assess the situation.

There are a few good videos on “steer tire blowout” on YouTube. Find an appropriate video and include it during a training meeting night.

Off-road recovery is another top concern for Missouri’s fire apparatus drivers. Check out these safety tips:

- Drive at speeds appropriate for road conditions. Lights and sirens can cause operators to drive faster and lose focus on safe driving. Always drive with safety in mind, regardless of the type of call.
- Keep a firm grasp of the steering wheel and minimize distractions.
- When the right-side tires leave the pavement, simply take your foot off the accelerator. Don’t jam on the brakes – your tires will brake on two different surfaces (pavement and gravel/grass). This will cause your apparatus to veer sharply to the left and potentially cross the center line, slide out of control, tip over or strike another vehicle.
- For a video, Google “Missouri State Highway Patrol off-road recovery.”

Please make steer tire blowout and off-road recovery a part of your driver training program or make it a discussion point during fire meeting nights. Back up these driving tactics with discussions on seat belt use and minimizing distractions. Let’s all do a little bit more around the station to minimize crash risk.
KENNETH HOOVER RETIRES
45 YEARS OF SERVICE
Meeting called to order by President Diane Hanes at 9:02 a.m. Colors were posted, and Pledge of Allegiance was said. Ann Jones, Madison West Monroe FPD, read “I’m a Fireman’s Wife.”

INTRODUCTION OF OFFICERS
President Diane Hanes, Galt FD; 1st Vice President Jessica Miller, Norborne FPD; 2nd Vice President Theresa Cox, Wentzville FPD; Secretary/Treasurer Sheri Berendzen, Cole County FPD; Historian Chris Slaughter, Warrenton FD; and Sergeant at Arms Ann Jones, Madison West Monroe FD.

Past Presidents were invited to stand and introduce themselves, Kim Voss, Beaufort-Leslie FD Frances Barger, Kearney Fire and Rescue and Chris Slaughter, Warrenton FD.

MINUTES
Sheri Berendzen, Cole Co FPD introduced the minutes. Diane Hanes, Galt FD, asked for any corrections, additions or any discussions. Carrisa Mueller, Holts Summit FPD, made a motion to accept the minutes, second by Jessica Miller, Norborne FPD. Diane Hanes asked all in favor, no opposed, motion passed.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS
Ann Jones, Madison West Monroe FPD read the roll call resulting in 15 departments, with 38 members present.

TREASURER’S REPORT
Sheri Berendzen, Cole Co FPD, reported as of April 14, 2019, we have a balance of $7,334.25. Since January we have 2 incomes for a total of $454 and 2 expenses of $171 so we now have a total of $7,617.25. The fund-raiser we held at this convention was a silent auction and a profit of $1,105 was made. Jessica Miller, Norborne FPD, made a motion to accept the treasurer report as read. Second by Missy Erdel, Little Dixie FPD. Diane Hanes asked all in favor, no opposed, motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

NOMINATION COMMITTEE
Chris Slaughter, Warrenton FD, and Kim Voss, Beaufort-Leslie Fire, Chris spoke that nominations are needed for all officer positions in 2020.

MEMBERSHIP
Theresa Cox, Wentzville FPD, reported that we have 123 paid members. There is also 11 honorary members. Asked if anyone has additions or corrections to the list she keeps to let her know.

CONTEST GAMES
Sheri Berendzen, Cole County FPD, reported games went well and everyone had a good time. The weather was a little chilly and windy, but everyone still enjoyed playing in the games. The games ended about 11:30 a.m. Hopefully we can get some more departments and teams to come join in the games in Kearney.

HISTORIAN
Chris Slaughter, Warrenton FD, stated she has started a web page album of pictures she has been taking. If anyone has pictures they would like to share, please let her know.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS
Ann Jones, Madison West Monroe FPD, there are no by-law changes currently. Ann made up a game about the auxiliary by-laws, she asked questions and anyone who answered correctly received a gift.

AUXILIARY OF THE YEAR
This year the award went to Shelia Nichols, Little Dixie FPD. Diane Hanes, spoke about the award and that nominations are to be sent in by the end of February and the form is on the web page. The award can also be a department auxiliary besides just an auxiliary member.

POSTER
Diane Hanes, Galt FD, talked about how the posters need to be received by 7:00 p.m. on Friday night. We had very good posters submitted, and the judges had a very hard time judging the posters. The size and weight are what gets posters disqualified mainly, the rules for the contest is on the web site. There were posters from 12 departments received. There is a new category group of special needs child. That needs to be written on the back of the poster that the child is a special needs student.
CHECKBOOK AUDIT
Was completed by Diane Hanes, Galt FD and Jessica Miller, Norborne FPD and found the checkbook is balanced.

2019 FIREFIGHTERS MEMORIAL SERVICE
Diane Hanes, Galt FD, reported on the services, the Candlelight Service will be Saturday, May 18, at 9:00 p.m., and the Memorial Service will be Sunday, May 19, at 10:30 a.m. These services will be held at the Kingdom City Firefighters Memorial. Galt will be doing the ribbon again.

During the break cash door prizes were given away.

OLD BUSINESS
There was no old business to report on at this time.

NEW BUSINESS
Carrisa Mueller, Holts Summit FPD, asked if there was a way the bimonthly meeting could be done electronically like webcam or such. Maybe more can take part in the meetings. Will need to check into this if this can be done.

Next year’s convention will be in Kearney, Missouri and will be held May 1-3, 2020.

Gail Hagans came and spoke on trying to have a trivia night sometime this fall to help raise funds for the Memorial Educational and Historical Preservation Center which is being built now.

Jessica Miller, Norborne FPD, made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Carrisa Mueller, Holts Summit FPD. All in favor, motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sheri Berendzen
Cole County FPD
Secretary/Treasurer 2018-2019

THE FLAME STILL BURNS
By Sherry Hoover, Read at President Hoover’s Retirement Party March 16, 2019

It only takes a spark to get a fire going as any fireman knows,
But inside the heart of a fireman another flame does glow.
It is the flame that burns within,
That keeps him going again and again.

Just like the blood that pumps through his veins,
It is the flame of courage that never wanes.
He took an oath to protect and serve,
Never seeking the recognition he so justly deserves.
He does a good deed, and saves property and life,
Not ever knowing what might be his sacrifice.
He meets the needs of others in their time of distress,
And when his work is done, only then will he rest.

His dedication to his fellow man cannot be measured by width or length,
It can only be measured by his inner strength.
This is the flame that burns within his heart,
It has been there from the very start.

The paper goes off as the call comes in,
The fireman springs into action again.
The flame within gets him up as he hurries to the call,
What will this fire be about—will he see a fireman fall?
He grabs his gear and the adrenaline starts to pump,
As he races to the firehouse and into the truck he jumps.
The sirens will howl and the lights will flash,
As he prepares himself to meet fire and ash.
He arrives on the scene and makes a plan of attack,
He picks up the line and feels the hand of his buddy upon his back.
The hose is charged and away he goes,
How this will end, only God knows.

The fire has taken on a life of its own and it raises its ugly head,
But the fireman knows the flame in his heart will serve him well instead.
He makes the entry and begins the work,
Of extinguishing the fire paying no attention to dangers that lurk.
The training kicks in and automatically takes over,
As he tries to stay focused and keep his composure.
He searches through heat, darkness, and smoke,
And hurriedly he prods and listens and pokes,
For the faintest of sound,
That lets him know someone inside needs to be found.
He touches a hand and quickly grabs hold,
“stay close to me,” the victim is told.
They make their way out of the ravaged place,
And the fireman feels the spray of water upon his face.
As they reach the door he looks back once more,
And he hears the creaking and cracking of the falling floor.
Safely outside the fireman kneels to pray,
“Thank you Lord for helping me save a life today.”

This job is for the agile and young,
And the true fireman knows when his time is done.
He turns over the reins to another Chief,
And almost breathes a sigh of relief.
For he knows the job is never done,
But sometimes it can be lots of fun!

The bravest fireman knows from the flame in his heart,
When it’s time to go—time to make a new start.
So as the fireman turns the page on a life-long career,
Please don’t be sad or shed a tear.
Be glad for him as he enters new stages,
And begins to fill another book with brand new pages.
A book filled with love, family, and laughter.
After all, it’s a brand new chapter.
The flame that burns in a fireman’s heart is tucked away in a special place.
Where it forever will burn and not be erased.
So this is just adios and not goodbye.
Because the flame that burns deep in his heart will never, ever die.
FFAM AWARDS AT 2019 CONVENTION

By Joe Jennings, Awards Committee Chairman

The FFAM Awards Committee is appreciative of everyone who submitted nominations to recognize FFAM members with 2019 awards from the Association. Each award was presented on Saturday, April 13, in Sedalia during the annual convention. Every nomination received were excellent and worthy of recognition in their respective categories. Again, thank you for taking the time to showcase and recognize the amazing achievements of our members.

The Awards Committee had the honor to present six Lifesaving Awards, Firefighter of the Year, Chief Officer of the Year and the Phil Sayer Lifetime Achievement Award.

LIFESAVING AWARDS:
Jared Wilt; Shelbina Fire Protection District.
Keil Borchers, Kente Boldridge, Gary Goetz, Miles Crow, Jeff Drury, Grant Oetting, Ashley Page; Higginsville Fire Protection District.
Justin Braun, Jason Hammann, Matt Long; Cole County Fire Protection District.
Joe Auffert, Chris Wilbanks, Joey Smith, Christel Cantrell; Howell County Rural Fire District #1.
Kendra Matthews, Alex Matthews, Brayden Miller; Norborne Fire Protection District.
Miles Crow, Jeff Drury, Adam Mallory; Higginsville Fire Protection District.

A simple measure of dedication to his agency exists in his off-duty response to structure fires where he has maintained an off-duty response in the 90 percentile for the past several years.

Not only does FTO Whitley train probationary officers, he is also responsible for all fire training to personnel throughout the entire agency. He takes pride in reducing fire loss and attends trainings to better serve his beers and his community.

On several occasions, FTO Whitley has entered burning structures, selflessly placing his safety at risk to attempt to save occupants. In two recent incidents those occupants did not survive, but his efforts found and removed them from the structures.

FTO Whitley is a fire service instructor, hazmat instructor, fire investigator, fire prevention officer, member of the regional homeland security response team, fire extinguisher instructor, MSA SCBA instructor, he maintains all of his agencies fire apparatus, is President of the Sikeston Rescue Squad, and is President of the Sikeston Professional Fire Association.

FTO Whitley demonstrates his ability to perform his duties in a professional manner that sets the bar for his agency. He arrives for shift every day with a positive attitude while wanting to teach others the job we all love. He is dedicated to his job, to his family, to his work family, and to the citizens of Sikeston.

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Jared Wilt; Shelbina Fire Protection District.
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Justin Braun, Jason Hammann, Matt Long; Cole County Fire Protection District.
Joe Auffert, Chris Wilbanks, Joey Smith, Christel Cantrell; Howell County Rural Fire District #1.
Kendra Matthews, Alex Matthews, Brayden Miller; Norborne Fire Protection District.
Miles Crow, Jeff Drury, Adam Mallory; Higginsville Fire Protection District.

2019 CHIEF OFFICER OF THE YEAR

2019 Firefighter of the Year was presented to Jason Whitley of the Sikeston Department of Public Safety. Field Training Officer began his career with Sikeston in 2004 where he has been training probationary officers in law enforcement and firefighting since 2007.

A simple measure of dedication to his agency exists in his off-duty response to structure fires where he has maintained an off-duty response in the 90 percentile for the past several years.

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2019 CHIEF OFFICER OF THE YEAR

2019 Chief Officer of the Year was presented to Assistant Chief Gary Berendzen of the Cole County Fire Protection District. Chief Berendzen has served as a Training Officer, Cadet Leader, Lieutenant, and his current role of Assistant Chief. He also previously served on a third agency for around six years where he held the positions of Firefighter, Lieutenant, and Deputy Chief, all while working with the cadets within his department.

Chief Berendzen visits the schools within his jurisdiction during fire prevention week or any time the schools want assistance in promoting fire safety. In addition to working with the schools, he was instrumental in establishing his agency’s cadet program and works with the cadets to keep their grades up so they can be active within the program.

He has been a member of the FFAM since 1983 where he currently serves as a Director. Chief Berendzen has participated in the FFAM contest during conventions for many year and has now made the transition into a leadership position within the Contest Committee.

Chief Berendzen has worked with MU FRTI’s Summer Fire School since 1995 where he served as a volunteer associate faculty member before working his way into assisting with ground support of the school, logistic section supply unit supervisor from 1997 to 2001, and logistic chief from 2002 to 2017.

His children are following in his footsteps of service. Chief Berendzen has four children, one daughter and three sons, who are all volunteer firefighters. Between him and his children, they have a combined 90 years in the volunteer fire service. One son also serves as a career firefighter.

Outside of his family and the fire service, he continues to serve the community while being involved in Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts. He teaches fire safety, CPR, and first aid to new scouts. He also still attends summer camps every summer and helps with fund-raising every year.
His fire service leadership, experience, and dedication towards mentoring youth, show his selflessness to serving his community.

**PHIL SAYER LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

The *Phil Sayer Lifetime Achievement Award* was presented to retired Chief Willard “Bill” Halmich of the Washington Fire Department. The *Phil Sayer Lifetime Achievement Award* is sponsored by the Volunteer Firemen’s Insurance Service (VFIS) in partnership with the FFAM and Sayer family. The awards is presented annually to honor an individual whose remarkable achievements in the fire service and community exemplifies outstanding performance.

Chief Halmich has dedicated his life to his country, his family, his fire department, his community, and the fire service community locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally.

He began his career with the Washington Fire Department in April 1966 and served his department from that date forward, except for a period when he served his country with a tour of duty with the United States Army as a combat soldier in the Republic of Vietnam from 1967 to 1968. He was honorably discharged from the Army as a Sergeant Specialist 5. He returned to Washington where he rose from a Firefighter to a Lieutenant, and then to Chief where he served in that capacity for 37 years, before retiring from Chief back to Firefighter in 2018.

During his period of leadership, Chief Halmich oversaw a department consisting of four stations and 65 volunteers protecting 65 square miles. The agency is regionally known for excellence and well trained, disciplined personnel. He was a key committee member on a capital improvement tax which he continued to serve on for two additional renewal periods. As a result of these taxes, he oversaw the acquisition of property and construction of four fire stations and a high tech 10 acre training center. The last renewal of the capital improvement tax laid the groundwork for the expansion for a fifth fire station in the most eastern part of the city. He saw the replacement of the entire apparatus fleet, with the addition of several key pieces of equipment and the department was also able to lower their ISO rating to a Class 3.

Chief Halmich started the first aid program for his department, was an integral part of the establishment of a fire technology program at East Central College, served on the State Fire Education Commission, and the State of Missouri Emergency Response Commission. He served as the Commander of the Homeland Security Hazmat Team in Franklin County and served as the county representative on the St. Louis Area Regional Response System Hazmat Working Group. He was active with state mutual aid, serving as the Region C, Area 3, Coordinator.

Chief Halmich contacted and worked with several State Representatives and Senators and worked with legislators to establish the dry hydrant program in Missouri, resulting in Revised Statute 320.273. In addition, he worked with the General Assembly to establish worker’s compensation for volunteer firefighters after an injury to a firefighter in Washington.

He worked to create the Washington Community Fire Protection District which works with a cooperative agreement with the City of Washington for tax supported fire protection within and surrounding the city limits. He also served on the committee for the establishment of 911 in Washington and later on the committee for county-wide 911.

Chief Halmich has earned five awards of merit and two medals of valor from his department in addition to having three CPR saves and countless other accomplishments.

In 2016, he was recognized by the International Association of Fire Chiefs as the *Volunteer Fire Chief of the Year*, in recognition of his service to the worldwide fire service community. Today, he remains devoted to the fire service locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally, as he has for over 50 years.

In a letter, late Chief Alan Brunacini described him by saying, “The countless hours he has voluntarily committed to the advancement of the fire service testify to his unwavering dedication. He is a respected leader and a gifted fire ground officer, who continued to look to the future, and prepare for whatever it may hold.”

In so many ways, he has held to his guiding principles: Lead from the front, example is the best general order, and accomplish the mission but retire health.

Again, on behalf of the entire FFAM Awards Committee, thank you to everyone who submitted nominations this year. Please continue to submit nominations for 2020 recognition throughout the remainder of year. Even though the deadline for nominations is February 28, 2020, we do not want to miss an opportunity to recognize the achievements of our members; so send them to us as they happen.
CONVENTION 2019 - THE AFTERMATH

By Larry Jennings

Well, it is over. That’s right Convention 2019 has come and gone and all that is left is some nifty shirts and memories. It was the pleasure of the FFAM Board of Directors to serve as host for the 2019 Convention and we hope each attendee had an enjoyable experience.

Returning to familiar territory, the event was held on the beautiful grounds of the Missouri State Fair, home too many of our members for 11 days a year during the State Fair. We were fortunate enough to have decent weather and made it through the entire weekend without rain, torrential winds or snow, all of which have blessed the convention on various other occasions.

As others will be providing additional details about the Convention throughout this edition let it suffice to say the fire fighter challenge contest and awards banquet went well. We tried something a little different this year and included a Friday evening meal as part of the registration fee. We put together a pretty tasty picnic style meal and were able to accommodate almost everyone’s dietary needs for the evening.

In true FFAM fashion almost everyone there pitched in and helped when help was needed making the event move along smoothly. Without trying to thank each donor or each person or group that helped in some way the committee would simply like to say thank you to everyone that had some part in making this year’s convention another successful event.

If you haven’t already heard, the Kearney Fire & Rescue Protection District is hard at work planning for the 2020 Convention. Get it on your calendars and plan to attend May 1-3, 2020. More information can be found at FFAM2020.eventbrite.com.

We hope each person had an enjoyable time and we hope to see you again next year. If you didn’t get the opportunity to attend, make plans now for 2020 and join members of the fire service from all over the state as we gather to learn, renew friendships, establish new friendships and conduct the business of the organization.

CONTEST RESULTS AT 2019 FFAM CONVENTION

2019 FIREFIGHTER DIVISION CHALLENGE RESULTS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>1st</th>
<th>2nd</th>
<th>3rd</th>
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<tr>
<td>2 Person Hose Coupling</td>
<td>Little Dixie 1 — 9.15</td>
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<td>Little Dixie 2</td>
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<td>Bucket Brigade</td>
<td>Little Dixie 2 — 1.34.68</td>
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2019 FEMALE DIVISION CHALLENGE RESULTS

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<td>Bucket Brigade</td>
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2019 JUNIOR DIVISION CHALLENGE RESULTS

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<td><strong>OVERALL WINNER</strong></td>
<td>Southern Stone 1</td>
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Holden Fire and Rescue has been working hard on new and fun ways to train. Keeping fire personnel engaged, motivated and eager to learn is key to building a firehouse and fire family. We have been busy with a lot of new updates and look forward to the future of what Holden Fire will be.

BASIC FIREFIGHTER CLASS AT SHELBY COMMUNITY FD

Shelby Community Fire Department in Shelbyville, conducted a Basic Firefighter course with nine department members completing the course on March 12. Firefighters completing the course were Preston Hall, Andrew Pantaleo, Maverick Taylor, Bryant Gibbons Vernon Cash, Brad Arment, Rowdy Vanskike, Clay Kiser, Corey Cooper, and Ethan Geisendorfer.

Front row, L-R: Preston Hall, Andrew Pantaleo, Maverick Taylor, Bryant Gibbons. Back row, L-R: Vernon Cash (Instructor), Brad Arment, Rowdy Vanskike, Clay Kiser, Corey Cooper, and Ethan Geisendorfer.
FIRE PREVENTION POSTER WINNERS

FIFTH AND SIXTH GRADE

FIRST PLACE: Madison Diener - Washington FD

SECOND PLACE: Alexandra Fortner - New Haven Berger FD

THIRD PLACE: Tanner Patterson - Iberia Rural FPD

THIRD AND FOURTH GRADE

FIRST PLACE: Claire Davenport - North Central Carroll FPD

SECOND PLACE: Reese Roesch - Union FPD

THIRD PLACE: Anniston Foss - Washington FD
FIRST AND SECOND GRADE


SECOND PLACE: Kiefer Wienstroer - Union FPD

THIRD PLACE: Phoenix Ensor - Paris Rural FPD

SPECIAL NEEDS

FIRST PLACE: Blake Templeton - South Central Buchanan Co FPD

SECOND PLACE: Remi Muller - South Central Buchanan Co FPD

THIRD PLACE: Molly Wheeler - South Central Buchanan Co FPD
Greetings and happy spring hopefully everyone had a great and safe Easter!

Wow where to begin! It has been a very busy beginning to the year so far, from departments all over the state responding to flooding incidents. Now we are responding to severe weather calls, on top of our everyday runs from the simple EMS to complex fire scenes. Always watch everyone’s back while on any of these calls. We can’t help our citizens if we get hurt ourselves.

Convention 2019 is concluded and it was a great turnout for the Friday mixer and Saturday’s formal banquet. I want to thank all the departments that were represented both at the banquet and the firefighter games. Also a big thank you to all the vendors that attended as well. If you couldn’t make it this year, mark your calendars now for the 2020 convention in its 66th year will be held in District 11s backyard as we once again return to Kearney, Missouri. The event planning committee that I’ve talked to are getting a lot of things getting lined up to make this a huge event. I will provide details as they get released.

As we approach summer there’s a steady stream of new firefighters completing Firefighter I & II academy’s across the state; Warrensburg, Blue River Community College, Dearborn Area Fire District, Fort Osage Career Center, Kansas City Fire Academy, Kearney Fire Department., Hillyard Technical, Excelsior Springs and Cass County Career Centers are some of the schools I know of, that have graduated students that have tested with the fire marshal’s office for our field.

On March 30, 2019, Second VP and myself attended the open houses of both Alma Fire and Odessa Fire. Both events were great. Thank you for your hospitality. Both events were family oriented and gave station and truck tours to patrons and answered questions the community had. Alma even did an auto excitation demo, which was moved indoors due to the weather, so their citizens could see firsthand what happens during an extraction. I would personally like to thank Chief Campbell with Odessa Fire and Chief Buford and Scott Olson with Alma Fire for the invited to attend.

Things are gearing up and in full swing for preparation of the Missouri State Fair Fire Department. Hopefully those that wanted to come experience it got your applications in by the deadline. It should be another great year of events training and making new friends. I can’t wait to see how the ladies auxiliary will spoil the crews this year in the kitchen again like every year. They do a fantastic job.

I would like to extend a big thank you and congratulations to Steve Ashbridge for his accomplishments and retirement after almost 19 years with Warrensburg Fire Department, where he retired as
the training officer. He oversaw the fire recruit program and daily company trainings. I’ve personally served with him as instructor and evaluator for numerous classes. He’s done a great job teaching and molding cadets into being professional and caring firefighters that they are today. He’s full of knowledge and compassion of the job and will be missed.

The Entire Firefighter Association of Missouri and Directors from District 4 and myself personally wish you a happy great retirement sir.
their budget. Proper funding is the real fire problem and inaccurate data is the root cause. In a recent independent study, we found departments across the country inaccurately reporting fire loss values by as much as 70%. Coupled with the number of losses that are unreported, it’s no surprise that budgets are not appropriated properly.

To address this “Fire Problem” we have spent years developing a calculator that will place a value on the structural damages after a fire based on general information related to that loss. This calculator can be used on a smartphone, tablet or desktop and is free to use for the fire service. It is updated quarterly and has a price index reflective of all 50 states. In 5 minutes or less, an estimated repair cost with 5% to 7% margin of error can be calculated for more accurate incident reports.

Please take a look at this tool and see if it would help create more accurate and consistent reports. www.myhomesafetyplan.com/fire-service. While it is our goal to reduce risk in home fires, we are also passionate about helping the fire service, and in order to do so adequate budgets need to be established. It is this “Fire Problem” we wish to transform.

Please feel free to reply with any questions or comments. We currently provide training and support to fire agencies around the country who wish to improve their fire loss value reporting.

www.myhomesafetyplan.com
john@myhomesafetyplan.com

I hope this information was worth the read.

I was contacted a few weeks ago from Kenny Seifert (Assistant Executive Director) for the Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA). He expressed the tremendous need for Sports Officials. He stated Firefighters, Law Enforcement, and EMS personnel possess the skills and training that fits in well with the requirements to be an Official. In addition to the financial rewards, this great opportunity to be engaged in activities that are community oriented. Go to www.mshsaa.org and click on Officials and watch the video, could be a great hobby to pick up.

In closing, we continue to stay aggressive with updating our training and certifications program. At last report you have taken/tested more state certified classes in the history of the division. Some of our accomplishments over the last two years: Fire Inspector II, Live Fire Training (NFPA1403), conducted 5 Fire Investigator courses across the state, just to name a few. Hopefully we will have exciting news in the near future in regards to Online Testing.

If you have an event you would like for your state fire marshal to attend, give me a call (573-751-1742) or Facebook message. If it’s where we can, we will do our best to come. Stay safe and continue to “Be the best boots on the ground” and “Leave things better that you found them”!

Fire Marshal J. Tim Bean
State Fire Marshal
Division of Fire Safety

Kenneth Hoover
President
Fire Fighters Association of Missouri

SAVE THE DATE
2019 Missouri State Fire Marshal 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb
Jefferson State Office Building, Jefferson City
October 19, 2019
Thank you for recognizing our fire department and our neighboring fire districts!

Ted Martin, Fire Chief, Branson Fire and Rescue

On April 25, materials were dropped off to begin the construction of the Museum. While there have been a few rain delays, things are progressing smoothly. We hope that you will be able to attend this year’s memorial ceremony and see the progress for yourself.

While the Foundation has enough funding to build the shell, we still need help in raising funds to finish this project. This is going to take everyone’s help, just as the memorial did. We have had several small fund raising activities of late, and hope to have some more coming soon. Keep watching our Facebook page under “Missouri Firefighters Museum Project” with the red FFAM logo for announcements of any in your area. If you have any fund-raisers you would like us to be a part of feel free to reach out to any of the Memorial Foundation members.

Gail Hagans

Museum Update

May/June 2019 • FFAM 43
I would like to begin this edition’s article by congratulating the FFAM Directors on a great convention in Sedalia! The conference takes a lot of hard work by many people and it was obvious this group was up to the challenge. I would also like to congratulate all the award winners from the posters, scholarships, contests, lifesaver, and finally the Phil Sayer Lifetime Achievement. We all do what we do never asking for recognition, but I am sure we can say too that it is nice to get a “Thank You” and recognition for what we do.

The annual FFAM Memorial Services are scheduled for May 18 and 19. The annual services are dedicated to those that have given their lives while answering the call to duty. Each year this event provides an opportunity to show respect to those whom have passed before us and I hope that many of you reading this article take an opportunity to attend. Please check the FFAM website or Facebook page for details.

The 87th annual MU FRTI Summer Fire School (SFS) will be May 29 – June 2, and will again be in Columbia this year. We are anticipating nearly 300 fire and emergency responders to attend. We are encouraged, as always, to provide quality training and education to the emergency response community and the Summer Fire School is just another opportunity to ensure responders are prepared to protect their community.

With a variety of classes offered at SFS, there is plenty of opportunity to attend a topic of your interest. Subject areas include: technical rescue, fire cause and arson determination, incident safety officer and live fire instructor certification, fire-ground techniques, honor guard clinic and wildland firefighting. For more information or to register for classes, please visit our website at mufrti.org. We hope to see you there!

Our Regional Training Coordinators have been busy the last few months contacting departments within their respective regions to assist in determining your training needs in preparation for our annual funding request to the Division of Fire Safety and the Fire Safety Education/Advisory Commission. We are still working on the final proposal; however, the number of requested classes already has exceeded last year’s number with over 700 requests! Training is a high priority for the fire service and we look forward, with the support of DFS and the Commission, to be able to assist in your agencies training needs.

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Incentives help, such as paid-on-call, fuel vouchers, gift cards for attendance at calls, training and work-sessions, awards and appreciation dinners to name a few. These and others come with costs to the department, but what is the cost if the volunteers go away? The article mentions a Pennsylvania Fire and Emergency Services Institute study estimated the value of volunteer firefighters could be as high as $10 billion a year. With the continuing loss of volunteers, taxpayers will face a very steep price tag, the report warns.

There may also be options of state incentives, such as tax credits, local grants, etc. An example in this legislative session is the Workman’s Comp bill that would help small fire departments pay for coverage of their members.

In Missouri, FFAM received a multi-year grant to support training on Recruitment and Retention to address the issue of declining volunteers. While there is no single answer to resolve the problem, the tools provided though the training can help outline a program that could work for your department. As the article stated,
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>05/17</td>
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<td>Sparta</td>
<td>Brian Loula</td>
<td>417-234-2136</td>
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<td>05/17</td>
<td>Preparing for Initial Company Operations</td>
<td>Columbia</td>
<td>MU FRTI</td>
<td>573-882-4735</td>
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<td>Piedmont</td>
<td>Seth Deck</td>
<td>573-561-3217</td>
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<td>Eldon</td>
<td>Trapper Meadors</td>
<td>330-347-6477</td>
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<td>05/18</td>
<td>Rail Safety for Emergency Responders</td>
<td>Hannibal</td>
<td>Mark Kempker</td>
<td>(573) 231-6284</td>
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<td>Lewistown</td>
<td>William Fountain</td>
<td>573-470-6685</td>
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<td>05/18</td>
<td>Certified Fire and Ambulance District Board Training</td>
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<td>MU FRTI</td>
<td>800-869-3476</td>
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<td>05/23</td>
<td>Strategy and Tactics for Initial Company Operations</td>
<td>Blue Springs</td>
<td>Trish</td>
<td>816-229-9118</td>
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<td>Vehicle Rescue: Technician</td>
<td>Harrisonville</td>
<td>Jim Sebree</td>
<td>816-380-6744</td>
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<td>Jeremy Mantz</td>
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<td>Ronnie Oehl</td>
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<td>Incident Command for Highrise Operations</td>
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<td>Buffalo</td>
<td>Dalton Wallace Trippe</td>
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recruitment is key and must be constant! I am familiar with a few departments in the state that have dedicated individuals and programs that address the issue: Redings Mill, Mid County and Boone County Fire Protection Districts come to mind. I am sure they would welcome the opportunity to discuss their programs and success stories that could assist your agency. If you are interested in hosting or participating in one of the FFAM classes, please contact your FFAM District Officer.

Train safe, Be Safe!

Kevin D. Zumwalt
Director
University of Missouri Extension
Fire and Rescue Training Institute

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
The St. Charles Fire Department was established in 1861 and has a proud tradition of service to the community. The City of St. Charles covers approximately 25 square miles with a population of 70,329. We have 80 personnel and operate 5 fire facilities within the city, with a 6th facility in development. It will be operational in summer 2019.

THE DEPARTMENT PROVIDES:
• Fire suppression
• Fire Prevention and Education
• EMS Services
• Water Rescue
• Technical Rescue
• Hazardous Materials capabilities

The report doesn’t specify, but it is a safe assumption that the majority of those reported as having a defined benefit pension plan are state and local government workers. While defined benefit pension plans are continuing to be phased out in the private sector, around 90% of state and local government workers in the U.S. still have access to these plans.

In Missouri, LAGERS is proof that pension plans for public workers are sustainable. LAGERS is not just surviving. LAGERS is thriving. In the private sector, pension plans continue to be closed in favor of 401(k)-type plans. Contrast that to what’s going on in Missouri, where in the last year, 39 local government employers have chosen LAGERS defined benefit plan for their workers. All but two of these employers had a 401(k)-type plan in place before choosing to switch to LAGERS defined benefit pension.

Local governments choose LAGERS over other types of retirement plans to attract and retain good workers to serve the taxpayers. They choose LAGERS so that employees can leave the workforce with dignity and security when they’re ready to retire. They choose LAGERS because they know the benefits will be there if one of their workers becomes disabled or dies before reaching retirement. They understand the importance of continuity of public services and how detrimental high turnover and low moral can be to communities. They choose LAGERS to reduce uncertainty and promote stability.

Defined benefit pension plans are not a dying breed. In Missouri, these plans are alive and well in the public sector and continue to be a good investment for Missouri.
Apparatus Parade – 9:00 AM

ANTIQUE AND MODERN FIRE APPARATUS • EMS VEHICLES
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Saturday - September 28, 2019
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

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