



110 Years of Service to Volunteer Firemen

# The Signal

www.njnyvfa.org



**Volume 62 No. 3** Official Publication of the NJ & NY Volunteer Firemen's Association **MARCH 2023**

## From the President's Pen...

Thank you to the Montvale Fire Dept for hosting our general membership meeting on February 24, 2023. Chief Geoff Gibbons gave a brief presentation on procedures to use in combating electric vehicle fires. Of particular note was the need for copious volumes of water to knock down the fire and cool the batteries on these vehicles. Montvale has learned from experience that maintaining a continuous water supply on limited access roadways such as the Garden State Parkway can be difficult and that a fire operation involving an EV present unique challenges.

Our next general membership meeting will be March 31 in Little Ferry Hook and Ladder located at 124 Main Street in Little Ferry, NJ starting at 8:00 p.m. At this meeting we are also looking for volunteers that are interested in serving as officers and trustees of our association.

We have openings for Trustees, Treasurer and Second Vice President.

May 21, 2023 is our annual memorial service being held at the Bergen County Fire Academy. This year we are honoring three Line of Duty Deaths from 2022 from Bergen County and two LODDs from previous years from Rockland County.

June 2nd is our annual convention in the Lyndhurst Fire Department located at 299 Delafield Avenue in Lyndhurst, NJ. The convention will start at 8: 00 p.m. The program Includes scholarships, awards and recognizing special people that have gone above and beyond in their community. All these dates are very important to our association. Your attendance and participation would be greatly appreciated. God bless stay safe. And continue to volunteer to make a difference in your community.

*President Roy De Young Jr*



## YOU CAN NOW CALL HIM CHIEF!

New Milford Fire Company 2 recognized member George Saigh at their recent holiday party in honor of his 90th birthday and 65 years of service to the fire department. George was made honorary Chief of Department. Chief Saigh is pictured with the plaque presented to him by Chief Jared Birnbaum recognizing this significant achievement.

Over his 65 years in the fire service George was never a firematic officer. In 1976 he received the Fireman of the Year Valor Award for rescuing a child from a house fire. He has served as president of New Milford Fire Company Two 4 different times totaling 11 years and is currently the treasurer of the fire company and has been for many years. George also serves as the relief secretary for New Milford Fire department and treasurer of the NJ & NY Volunteer Firemen's Association. He will be stepping down at the end of his current term as association treasurer.

Thank you George for being such a valued member.

## FILING DEADLINES FOR NJNYVFA APPLICATIONS

- Joseph Costello "VALOR AWARD"..... April 1st
- NJNY Unit Citation ..... April 1st
- Ladies Auxiliary..... April 1st
- Rudy Appeld Award..... April 1st

All the above applications to be mailed to:

Pat Conner, 9 Medford Rd., Dumont, NJ 07628

- Scholarships ..... April 20th

All scholarship applications to be mailed to:

George Saigh, 306 Luhmann Dr. • New Milford, NJ 07646-2327

MAKE SURE THAT ALL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS ARE COMPLETE, CORRECT AND SIGNED BY A CURRENT MEMBER OR LIFE MEMBER AS THE SPONSOR, OR THEY WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

**NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD MARCH 31ST AT LITTLE FERRY HOOK & LADDER FIRE COMPANY  
124 MAIN STREET • LITTLE FERRY, NJ AT 8PM**



The officers and members of the NJ & NY Volunteer Firemen's Association extend their deepest sympathy to the families of our departed comrades:

**Ex-Chief Robert Moore, Carlstadt Fire Dept., Carlstadt, NJ FD**

**FF Kyle Lydecker, Mazeppa Fire Co., Nyack, NY FD**

**Asst. Chief Robert Emmett Daly, John Paulding Engine Co., Sparkill/Palisade, NY FD**

**FF John Lima, Rescue Hook & Ladder, Haverstraw, NY FD**

**FF George J. Petry, Nyack Fire Patrol, Nyack, NY FD**

**FF Robert Lobbe Sr., S. W. Johnson Fire Engine Co., Garnerville, NY FD**


Listings of deceased members is published based on their last address on record and may not be the same as the town in which they served.

## Remember Our Troops Visit us at [www.njnyvfa.org](http://www.njnyvfa.org)

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Financial Secretary	John Schwedhelm	Lffd11@aol.com
Asst. Fin. Secretary	Jeffrey Guenther	jguenther@optonline.net
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Asst. Treasurer	Allan Silverman	firemusik@aol.com

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## Upcoming Meetings and Events

### 2023

- March 31 NJNYVFA monthly meeting at Little Ferry Hook and Ladder Fire Company, 124 Main Street, Little Ferry, NJ. The meeting starts at 8:00 p.m.
- April 16 Bergen County Firemen's Home Association Day at the New Jersey Firemen's Home in Boonton, NJ. Entertainment and refreshments for the guests starting at 2:00 p.m.
- April 19 NJNYVFA Executive Board meeting at New Milford Fire Company #2, 680 Trenton Street, New Milford, NJ. This meeting starts at 7:30 p.m.
- April 22 & 23 Annual Spring Melt Antique Muster and firematic show in Allentown, PA
- May 6 Leonia Volunteer Fire Company No. 1 125th Anniversary Antique Muster, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Broad Avenue, Leonia, NJ. Celebration at Wood Park starting at 12:30 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.
- May 6 & 7 National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend at the National Fire Academy, Emmitsburg, MD
- May 21 NJNYVFA Annual Memorial Service, Bergen County Fire Academy, Mahwah, NJ
- May 22 & 23 33rd Annual National Fire and Emergency Services Symposium and Dinner, Washington, DC.
- June 2 NJNYVFA Annual Convention at the Lyndhurst Fire Department in Lyndhurst, NJ. Convention starts at 8:00 p.m.
- June 3 New Jersey State Exempt Firemen's Association Annual Convention, Phillipsburg, NJ
- June 4 Annual Memorial Service, NJ State Fire Museum, Allentown, NJ
- June 10 Bergen County Firemen's Home Association Picnic at the New Jersey Firemen's Home in Boonton, NJ. Picnic and music start at 12:00 noon
- June 10 Wallington Fire Department Park Row Hose Co. 3 100th Anniversary Celebration at the Wallington Little League field on Mount Pleasant Avenue in Wallington, NJ starting at 12:00 noon and going until 6:00 p.m.
- August 5 Bergen County Firemen's Home Association Picnic at the New Jersey Firemen's Home in Boonton, NJ. Picnic and music start at 12:00 noon
- August 10 Bergen County Caucus for the NJSFA at Paramus Catholic High School, Paramus Road, Paramus, NJ. Registration starts at 6:00 p.m. Caucus starts promptly at 7:00 p.m.

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# MAINTAINING YOUR RELIEF VALVES

By Kevin Schade, EVT

Although pressure relief valves are slowly fading out of the fire service you should still know how they operate and how to properly maintain them. Pressure relief valves are still very common on older apparatus but have been slowly fading away due to the advances in pressure governor systems. Both pressure relief valves and pressure governors provide the same service. They both manage pump discharge pressure but they do it in different ways.

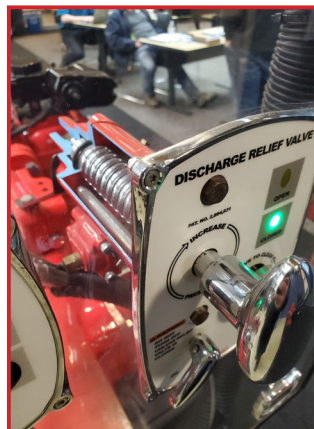
Pressure Governors change the speed or RPMs of the motor to dictate pump pressure output. These systems are usually totally electronic systems and will tell the motor of your vehicle to rise and fall depending on your inputs on the pump panel. If you set your pump pressure governor to 150 PSI without a handline flowing then the speed of your motor will only rise slightly to make the 150 PSI in the pump. Then with the handline open, the speed of your motor will rise to accommodate for that loss in pump pressure. Once the handline is closed, the speed of the motor will decrease to bring the pressure back down to 150 PSI. The pressure governor will continue to change the speed of the motor to keep the pump discharge pressure within close proximity to what you, the pump operator set it to. Pressure governors should be exercised not because they are a moving part but because they rely on a series of sensors that could easily fail. All of the electronic components communicate with one another to keep the desired pump pressure and if one sensor fails, the whole system can be compromised.

The opposite theory is true with relief valves. Relief valves are almost totally mechanical and need to be exercised due to their moving parts. Relief valves rely on a spring tensioner that can be adjusted by the pump operator. As the tension in this spring is increased, the pressure in the pump will have to be higher than the spring tension to overcome it. Once the spring tension is overcome, the relief valve is active and is relieving the water pressure from the discharge side of the pump. Relief valve assemblies contain an electronic switch. This switch operates the "Open" light on the pump panel. When that light is illuminated, the relief valve is open and relieves pressure. The pump operator uses this light to set the relief valve to the desired pressure. Since this light system tends to fail, the pump operator can also rely on the master discharge gauge to see the pressure difference. The pressure on the master discharge gauge will drop a few pounds and will be noticeable. Utilizing both the light and the visible drop in pressure, the pump operator can successfully set the desired pump pressure. The pressure at which the relief valve operates often depends on the volume of water being flowed. If you are only flowing a low volume of water the pressure swing could be as much as 30 psi. When flowing a larger volume of water the pressure difference will likely be in the range of 10 psi.

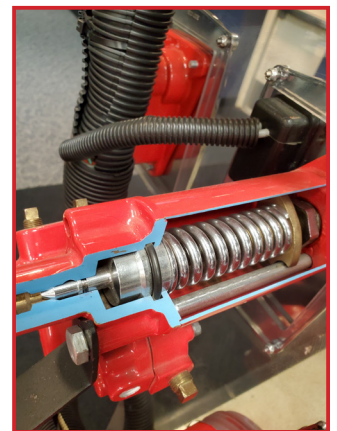
A typical Department will set the relief valve to a common number (150PSI) or to the desired pressure of their most common handline. That practice is great in theory but an issue will arise from constantly leaving the relief valve spring in one position. The spring will get a "Memory" and will want to stay in that position. After a few years of being left in the same spot, the spring will not want to expand to relieve at lower pressures. The best way to keep a relief valve healthy is through exercise. Most manufacturers recommend either daily or weekly movement of the valve. Exercise is not just moving the wheel a few times; exercise is actually hooking up a positive water supply and letting the valve operate at all different pressures.

As always, look up the manual for your specific relief valve and become familiar with the operating and maintenance systems. Become familiar with the specifics such as if your valve has a screen that can be easily accessed and cleaned of debris. In the included pictures you will see a cut-away photo of a common relief valve with a great look at the actual adjustable spring.

Kevin Schade is a lieutenant with the Bergenfield, NJ Fire Department. He is a full-time truck mechanic at Hudson County Motors in Secaucus, NJ and holds several Emergency Vehicle Technician (EVT) certifications from the EVT Certification Commission.



A photo of the relief valve control found on the pump panel showing the manual control knob, the open and closed indicating lights and the on/off switch.



This photo shows a cutaway view of the operating spring of the relief valve. This mechanical spring needs to be exercised frequently to prevent the spring from developing a memory and getting stuck in one position and at one pressure setting.



New Jersey State Volunteer Firemen's Association  
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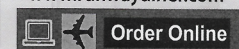
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# NJSFA UPDATE AND REPORT

Gerard "Jerry" Naylis,  
Bergen County Executive Committeeman

Wall Township NJ – The NJSFA Executive Committee met on Saturday February 25, 2023 at the association office in Wall Township, NJ. The following items were mentioned and discussed:

1. The secretary reminded everyone that the Membership Reports were due by February 28, 2023 in the state office. I am pleased to confirm that all 68 Bergen County local relief associations filed their Membership Reports on time. Additionally, all Annual Financial Reports were filed on time as well. As of this report, all Bergen County local relief associations are seated for the 2023 Annual Convention in Wildwood, NJ in September.
2. Anyone seeking to run for office with the NJSFA must file their petition with the state office no later than June 1, 2023. I have filed my petition and will run for re-election as the Bergen County Executive Committeeman at the Bergen County Caucus in August.
3. The manuals for Secretary and Treasurer are in the process of being updated. As soon as they are finished, the new manuals will be posted on the NJSFA Website.
4. Second Assistant Secretary Rick Dreby advised that letters have been sent to all treasurers of local relief associations regarding submission of bank statements. He also mentioned that the memo line on any check should contain a brief note identifying the purpose of the check.
5. NJSFA Treasurer Ed Mullen reported that some local relief associations had their tax exemption revoked by the IRS and that some also had penalties assessed for various tax code violations. Treasurer Mullen is working with these associations and the IRS to resolve these situations. He noted that the best approach to follow is to file all tax returns prior to their due date and to comply with all IRS requirements. Mullen noted that all relief association tax returns must be filed electronically and that the IRS will no longer accept paper tax return filings. Further, Mullen stated he is evaluating various direct deposit options for the associations and reminded everyone that IRS tax form 990's must be filed by May 15. A copy of the local tax return must be submitted to the NJSFA state office. He recommended that all local relief associations submit their returns early.
6. Spring field exams have been scheduled. There are two field exams scheduled for Bergen County. They are March 29 in Midland Park at the Midland Park firehouse and April 6 in Fort Lee at Fire Company #4. Each of the local relief associations that are being audited have been given letters identifying that date and appointment time for their audits.
7. Legal Counsel reported on several items they are dealing with. The legal cases were discussed under closed session and will be reported on at a future time when finally adjudicated. Assistant Counsel Moore reported on a records retention document that he recently updated and is now posted on the NJSFA Website. He encouraged all associations to read and follow the recommendations contained in the guidance document regarding how to deal with records

retention and record management. Every local relief association should adopt a local records retention policy that follows the guidance document and complies with the requirements of state law when dealing with records retention.

8. President Ordway reported that there is a possibility of the association holding officer workshops on Saturday during the annual convention in Wildwood. This is being explored further and information will be sent out at a future date. Bergen County will be scheduling an officer workshop for a date in May. Ordway reminded everyone that the annual convention will be September 15 and 16 in Wildwood. He also reported that for 2022 the NJSFA provided over \$26 million in relief, health care assistance and death benefits.
9. The Compendium Committee reported on multiple items as follows:
  - a) There was a discussion regarding discipline and in particular the issue of moral turpitude. The executive committee asked legal counsel to research the issue and report back with a definition. Legal Counsel provide the definition and the Compendium Committee reviewed the information provided by Legal Counsel. The committee recommended that if a member is convicted of a crime of moral turpitude the local association must notify the NJSFA that they want the convicted member to be removed from the rolls of the NJSFA. The member would then be afforded a hearing in front of the Advisory Committee. Following the hearing the third and final step would be action by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee voted to add these steps to the Compendium.
  - b) The second item was regarding Health Care Benefit eligibility for spouses and domestic partners. The guidelines for Health Care Benefits were amended to follow the guidelines in place for burial benefits.
  - c) There was considerable discussion by the Compendium Committee about establishing a possible scale for the payment of relief benefits. The Executive Committee decided that the current methodology for paying relief benefits would continue. Following this decision, a related item was discussed. Specifically a proposal was put forth that if a local relief association had \$1 million or more in their treasury and that association received an application for Special Relief the application would have to be sent to the Advisory Committee for review and approval. If approved the application would be returned to the local relief association for payment of the Special Relief by the local relief association. This change in policy was approved by the Executive Committee by a vote of 15 in favor and 6 not in favor. I voted against this policy change. I do not believe it is fair to require an association to pay Special Relief benefits. The Special Relief fund was established to provide additional benefits for those associations that were not able to give the maximum local relief benefits allowed at the time. The Special Relief fund was then expanded to give all members the potential to receive additional relief benefits. This was done by having the state office increase the amount that the state office holds back from all relief associations from the annual distribution. The policy change means that for the 42 associations affected by the change they will have their distribution reduced and their members will have to use their own treasury to pay for Special Relief benefits. In effect, the



**Christopher H. Assenheimer**  
Secretary - Past President  
Editor of 5 Trumpet Journal

**New Jersey State Fire Chief's Association**

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treasuries of these 42 associations will have to pay twice. The most galling argument put forth in favor of the policy change was "they can afford it so they shouldn't argue." Pure socialism at its finest.

d) There was a discussion regarding non-qualified members who are injured in the line of duty. Should the member not return to duty due to total disability and be a non-qualified member they would cease being eligible for any relief benefits. This would include Health Care benefits and the burial benefit in addition to any regular, special or supplemental relief benefits. The Executive Committee voted to grant qualified member status to any non-qualified member who is totally disabled in the line of duty.

e) There was a discussion regarding those associations on subsidy. The Executive Committee voted to keep the threshold for subsidy at \$50,000 and to raise the subsidy amount to \$17,500.

f) The new records retention document developed by Assistant Legal Counsel Morris was reviewed. This will be made a part of the Compendium.

g) There was a discussion regarding Per Diem firefighters and whether they should be considered careen or volunteer for the purpose of credit for annual reporting. Due to the numerous nuances with each municipality, the decision was made that this is a local matter and will be left to each local fire department and local relief association to decide.

10. The Investment Committee noted that the return on bonds is down. Local relief associations that have invested in bonds should continue to monitor this situation and take appropriate action to preserve their assets.
11. The Long Range Planning Committee reported good feedback from the local relief associations for putting the association forms on the website.
12. The Resolution Committee reported that one resolution has been submitted for consideration at the next annual convention.

Under new business, Helmetta and Washington Township (Bergen County) were removed from being under review. Union, NJ (Union County) has three volunteer fire companies that have been dissolved. Audubon Park asked to join the NJSFA. They were provided with the necessary documents and we are awaiting a reply. The career members in Hillsborough (Somerset County) are seeking to have their own company as part of the local relief association. Finally, Sea Isle City was not seated for this year's convention for failing to meet a report filing deadline.

Delegate designation reports are due to the state office no later than May 1. Please file this report as soon as you have selected you convention delegates.

Any local relief association with any questions is asked to please contact the Bergen County Executive Committeeman.



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# BERGENFIELD FIRE COMPANY NO. 2



## ANNUAL PANCAKE BREAKFAST

SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 2023

8:00am - 12:30 pm

at the Fire House

8 Home Place, Bergenfield, NJ

Adults/Children \$5.00

## BERGEN COUNTY FIREMEN'S HOME ASSOCIATION UPDATE

Boonton, NJ – The Bergen County Firemen's Home Association has sent out their annual donation request letter at all fire departments and fire companies in Bergen County. The funds that are generated by this appeal enable the BCFHA to provide entertainment, services and support to the guests at the New Jersey Firemen's Home in Boonton, NJ.

This past St. Patrick's Day, the BC Firemen's Home Association provided a bagpiper from the Bergen County Fire Pipes and Drums to entertain the guests before their annual St. Patty's Day dinner. Bagpiper Chris Kotwica gave a wonderful performance. He is an active member of West Paterson Fire Company 3 and an exempt member of Garfield Truck Company 4. Superintendent John Veras said the guests really enjoyed the music. This is the second year that we have been able to provide a bagpiper for this special occasion.

Upcoming events include entertainment and refreshments on Sunday April 16 starting at 2:00 p.m. plus picnics on Saturday June 10 and Saturday August 5. The picnics start at 12:00 noon each day. The August 5 picnic will be very special as we honor George Steger of Maywood who is turning 100 years old! The Maywood FD and the New Jersey New York VFA are planning a parade of fire apparatus to help celebrate this very special day. More details will follow.

These picnics and the other parties, entertainment, gifts and special work done by the Bergen County Firemen's Home Association is all made possible by the generous donations from the fire departments and fire companies in Bergen County. Any person or organization wishing to make a donation to the BCFHA may send their check payable to the BCFHA c/o Jeff Parma, Fund Drive Chairman; 277 Harriot Avenue, Harrington Park, NJ 07640.



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## NEW JERSEY LEGISLATIVE REPORT FOR MARCH 2023

There were 65 new bills introduced since the last report. The total number of bills are at 9,420 for this session. Two new bills were added to the NJSFA tracking lists this week which are related to other bills that the NJSFA is already tracking. S-3660 establishes a First Responder COVID-19 Supplemental Benefits Program and appropriates \$20 million. S-3698 provides PFRS members in federal or State military service who is injured or killed with disability or death benefits.

The NJSFA is tracking a total of 156 bills currently in the legislative hopper. There are currently 23 bills sitting on the Governor's desk awaiting action.

A-5179, "Fire Life Safety Damper and Smoke Control System Inspection Verification Act," requires routine maintenance and periodic testing of smoke dampers, fire dampers, and smoke control systems in certain buildings by qualified personnel had a hearing in the Assembly Appropriations Committee on March 23.

President Ordway, Vice President Hankins, and First Assistant Secretary Martone continue to meet with members of the Senate and Assembly concerning the new legislation for Cancer Screening for Volunteer Firefighters. The Senate version of the bill was heard in committee in mid-February and released with amendments for a second hearing in the Senate.

ACR 163 and ACR 171 are constitutional amendments that were introduced that would ultimately allow municipalities to enact ordinances permitting a property tax exemption for volunteer firefighters and volunteer first aid squad members. No hearings have yet been scheduled on this resolution and no action has been taken to date. The joint resolution must first pass both houses of the legislature and then be placed on the ballot of the November general election and passed by a majority of the voters in that election to allow for municipalities to pass a required ordinance. Each resolution provides for changes to the state constitution but have slightly different approaches to how the property tax exemption will work. We will continue to monitor the direction of these proposed constitutional amendments.



Gerard "Jerry" Naylis  
Bergen County Executive Committeeman

New Jersey State Firemen's Association

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## NJ/NY VFA OFFICEHOLDER NOMINATIONS – MARCH/APRIL 2023

Nominations for office will be held at the March and April meetings with nominations being closed at the April meeting and voting to be held at the NJ/NY Convention on June 2, 2023.

<u>Office</u>	<u>Current Projected Nominees</u>
President	Bryan Hennig (Lyndhurst, NJ FD)
1st. Vice President	Anthony Chiodo (Moonachie, NJ FD)
2nd Vice President	OPEN
Secretary	Rosemary Weyer (Haworth, NJ FD)
Asst. Secretary	Nancy Naylis (Bergenfield, NJ FD)
Treasurer	OPEN
Asst. Treasurer	Alan Silverman (New Milford, NJ FD)
Financial Secretary	John Schwedhelm (Little Ferry, NJ FD)
Asst. Fin. Secretary	Jeffrey Geunther (Cresskill, NJ FD)
2028 Trustee	Thomas McCoy
2028 Trustee	OPEN

## FIREFIGHTER'S SON NEED ASSISTANCE

The Englewood Cliffs Fire Department will be hosting a Charity Comedy Night on Friday April 21, 2023 at 6:30PM at the Bicycle Club in Englewood Cliffs.

This is a fund raiser to help the family of one of our members and their infant son Michael.

Michael was born on September 14th and incurred a brain injury at birth resulting in brain bleeds, seizures, strokes, and ultimately brain damage. It was later diagnosed that Michael has Hemophilia A, which is a disorder in which the body does not have enough factor VIII to clot and properly control bleeding.

Michael was given a little chance of survival after birth, but despite what doctors have said, Michael has surpassed all obstacles. In the past few months he has battled against bacterial meningitis, hydrocephalus, and three brain surgeries. Michael is a warrior and continues to fight every day.

Though he has sustained brain damage, Michael is globally delayed making it difficult for him to meet milestones. He requires multiple sessions of physical therapy, occupational therapy, and vision therapy to help meet his needs. Michael will need adaptive equipment to help him get through his daily routine and to help meet his goals

Along with equipment, therapy sessions, medication costs, and hospital bills have become quite the expense for Michael's family. Please help by donating to this amazing fighter and continue to spread Miracles for Michael

The donation is \$50 and it includes the show and Hors D'oeuvres. There is a cash bar available as well. All payments will be done at the door.

Thank you for your support.

Andrew D. Nikow  
Assistant Chief  
Englewood Cliffs Fire Department  
Cell: 201-697-4933

### Leonia Volunteer Fire Company No. 1 invites you to celebrate their

**1898 125th Anniversary 2023**

## May 6, 2023

# Antique Muster

Broad Avenue, 9:00am - 12:00pm

Fire Apparatus staging begins at 8:00 am.

Public viewing, to be followed by judging & trophies at Noon.



## 125th Celebration

Wood Park, 12:30pm - 7:00pm

Come out & enjoy a fun filled day with Leonia's Bravest!

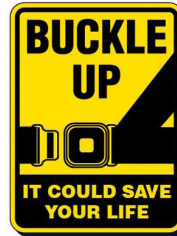
Activities for kids. A good time for all ages.

T-SHIRTS FOOD BEER REFRESHMENTS

Live Entertainment by  
*The David Christopher Band*  
(beginning at 2pm)

Apparatus Parking for Muster:  
Broad Ave between Fort Lee Road  
& Woodland Place

Inquiries: lfd125@leoniafire.org



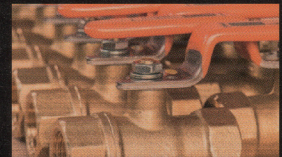
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Going to and coming Home  
from All Calls

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ARCHITECT, PC

**Michael A. Bet, AIA, CSI, CDT**  
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Contact:  
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