

Safety News from Northport Fire Department

By Jim Mahoney

Northport FD's 123rd Annual Installation

The Northport Fire Department held its 123rd annual installation dinner Saturday April 28th. It was an evening to welcome the incoming officials and to thank the outgoing Chief. It was a night to recognize and salute the dedication of various firefighters for their outstanding service during 2011. Also it was a night to recognize longtime service in the department.

Past Chief Christopher Hughes was given the honor of swearing in his son Chris Hughes as the department's 48th Chief Engineer. The new Chief Hughes thanked the outgoing Chief and officers and he promised to provide the leadership of nearly 120 volunteer members in the next year. He took time to salute DC3 Nathan Bruckenthal, son of Firefighter (and Chief of Police) Ric Bruckenthal. Nathan paid the supreme sacrifice in the Northern Persian Gulf as a member of the United States Coast Guard, ironically on a fire department installation night in April of 2004.

Completing the chiefs staff were 1st Asst. Chief Joseph Pansini, and newly elected 2nd Asst. Chief Bradford Wine. Family ties were noted for both Chief Hughes and 2nd Asst. Chief Wine. Chief Hughes is the son of Past Chief Christopher Hughes, nephew of Past Chief Nicholas Hughes and 1st cousin of Captain John Hughes. 2nd Asst. Chief Wine is the son of Past Chief Edward Wine, grandson of Past Chief John Berglund, nephew of Past Chief Bruce Berglund and brother of Past Chief Lawrence Wine.

A number of dignitaries were on hand to recognize outgoing Chief John McKenna. New York State Senator Carl Marcellino, New York State Assemblyman Andrew Raia, Huntington Town Council Members Susan Berland, Mark Cuthbertson, Gene Cook and Mark Mayoka, Northport Mayor George Doll and Board of Director Members of Northport American Legion all commended Chief McKenna and thanked him for his many contributions to the fire service and the Northport Community.

The following members were chosen for their outstanding work during 2011;

Department Fireman of the Year (the Chief Robert Guinn Memorial Award) – FF Bryan Hartt.

Hook & Ladder Company Fireman of the Year – FF George Sumereau.

Engine Company Fireman of the Year – Past Chief Nicholas Hughes

Rescue Squad Member of the Year (the Capt. Peter Picchioni Memorial Award) – FF/EMT Jay Polla.

Fire Police Member of the Year – FF George Sumereau.

Safety Officer Raymond Maloney was recognized for the response to the most fires (148 alarms). EMT Donald Freed was recognized for the response to the most rescue calls (254 alarms), Freed was also recognized for his response to the most total calls of fire and rescue combined (366 alarms) in 2011. Chief McKenna awarded EMT Donald Freed the “Most Valuable Member Under 5 Years Service”.

Ten department members were recognized for significant firematic anniversaries;

25 Years Service

Walter Blessing
James Hall
David Lindley

30 Years Service

Antonio Graziano
Edward Sheehan

45 Years Service

Bruce Berglund
Thomas O’Mitman
Wilbur Scherer, Sr.

55 Years Service

Peter Cross
David Weber, Sr.

Again this year FF Peter Nolan handled the duties of Master of Ceremonies. He moved a long program along smartly and with his keen Irish wit. Peter continues the MC assignment handled so well by his father Jim Nolan. Department Chaplain Paul Latuso gave a moving invocation and grace.

Safety News congratulates all of the new officers, commends the award winners and wishes the entire department another successful and safe year of service to the Northport Community.

Firemen’s Fair in July

The fair this year runs Monday July 9th thru Saturday July 14th. Fair books are sent to you with a chance to win the Early Bird Prize June 9th (4 tickets to the John Engeman Theatre and dinner for 4), plus additional chances to win one of 12 nightly prizes and 3 main prizes awarded Saturday night (\$5,000 / \$2,500 / \$1,000). This drive and our benevolent fund drive in the fall are the only times we ask for your financial support. We do appreciate all of your loyal and generous support in the past. We look forward to seeing you at the fair in July.