

Fire Department  
March 2023

I'm back from my excused absence in time to wish Captain Eldred a happy retirement. As with his retirement from the museum, he also has to say bon voyage to the fire department. We are hoping to get him to rejoin some day but, until then, we will be filling some big boots for the time being. He left us in great shape as far as his role as acquisitions officer. I'll never witness the ordering process for rebuilding an entire fire department again, but Captain Eldred did this without much complaint. 4 years out from the fire hall tragedy and we still stumble over items we lost and need to replace but that has slowed way down.

Jamie Murry at town hall will be helping a lot with the spreadsheets Red created to track our calls, runs, special tasks. That had its moments but it's a great tool for tracking our points for pay and our retirement plans. This has definitely saved a ton of paperwork that was generated for years. I will be working with Jaime on the process to get the needed run reports and such to her to keep the spreadsheet current.

Training officer Tyler Andreas has been keeping the troops occupied with very creative monthly training that he definitely puts some time and thought into. He's created almost games out of challenging the members to get acquainted with every apparatus and what's stored in them. This type of training/knowledge is priceless when on the many varieties of calls we are asked to respond to.

Assistant Chief Wiltz has a few hats with emergency services: he is our liaison with the EMTs as well as heading up ice rescue training and windsled activities involving rescue. He is a certified trainer of new members in ice rescue, whereas we used to have to hire trainers to get certified into ice rescue. He has certified two new members this winter, Kye Castillo and Nick Montanto .... hopefully I didn't butcher their names too bad. If you run into these guys, thank them for their commitment -- as ice rescue training is rewarded but the actual calls are generally very hard.

Next report, I'll give an exact update where we are at with the building process of the new pumper. Until then, be safe and enjoy the big snow melt.

Chief Reichkitzer

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