As another year closes, the Officers of the Greene County Volunteer Firemen’s Association and Ladies Auxiliary, and their membership, would like to thank the Hunter Fire Company for being such fine hosts for the 126th Annual Convention of the Greene County Volunteer Fireman’s Association.
This year, the convention began a possibly new tradition. On Thursday, September 4, the members of the Ladies Auxiliary joined together with the members of the GCVFA for a common dinner in the Colonel’s Table Lodge.
Once dinner was over, the evening took on a somber and reflective theme with the annual MEMORIAL SERVICE. Gary Goodrich, President of the Hunter Fire Company called the crowd to attention as the colors of our country were presented. Charles Murphy then performed the National Anthem on bagpipes. Richard Frasco, Chaplain of Hunter Fire Co. gave the invocation. Rev. Dr. Karen A Monk from the Kaaterskill United Methodist Church gave a moving Memorial Message. This was followed by the traditional roll call of deceased members with the last ringing of the bell being sounded by Leon Goodrich. One by one the names of those no longer with us were read as a representative from their home fire company placed a flower in the memorial Maltese Cross. In reflection, Amazing Grace was played. Paul Jones, Hunter Fire Co, Chaplain closed the evening with benediction.
The last flower... a white Carnation – In Memory of All Deceased Auxiliary members placed by GCVFALA President Catherine Johnson

**Hunter Fire Co.**
Ronald Denham
Jerome Peskowitz
Debi Scofield
Gleason Truesdell Jr

**Jewett Fire Dept.**
Pasquale (Ziggy) Giordano

**Kiskatom Fire Comp.**
James Katt

**Leeds Fire Comp.**
Warren Sheridan

**Palenville Fire Dept.**
Dominic Croce

**Round Top Fire Co.**
Bruce Watts

**West Athens-Lime St Fire Co.**
Doug Osterhoudt
John Rexford
GCVFA / GCVFALA ANNUAL MEETINGS:

After the conclusion of the Memorial ceremony, a brief intermission was held. During that time, the two organization split to hold their annual meetings.

Convention Co-Chairman John LaVeglia greeted the ladies and turned the gavel of authority over to GCVFALA President Catherine Johnson. The usual officers reports and committee reports were given. It was now time for the highlight of the meeting – the nomination & election of officers for the next year. In the absence of Nominating Chair Nancy Ferretti (who was very much missed from the convention), Marilyn Schrader presented the following slate:

President – Catherine Johnson (Medway-Grapeville)
1st VP – Dawn Palmateer (Athens)
2nd VP – Amber Hunlock (Haines Falls)
Tecording Secretary: Catherine Spring (Palenville)
Financial Secretary – Nikki Hodor (D M Hamilton)
Treasurer - Debra Miller (Haines Falls)

As there were no nominations from the floor, the above were elected to office. GCVFA President P. J. Pugsley joined the ladies and presided over the installation of officers. As there was no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed.

In a nearby room, Convention Co-chairman John Murphy and Hunter Fire Co. President Gary Goodrich welcomed the members of the GCVFA in attendance and called the annual meeting to order. At that time, he turned the gavel of authority over to GCVFA President P. J. Pugsley.

Amongst the standing committee reports, the following were reported: Attendance Awards: 1st qtr: (To be announced); 2nd qtr: Catskill; 3rd qtr: East Durham and 4th qtr: West Athens. Placques will be presented at the next meeting.
Congratulations to John Falke from the Lexington Fire Company on being named Fire Police Officer of the Year and to John Gaspar on his recognition as a 50 year member of the GCVFA.

The final report was that of Firefighter of the Year. The winner was William Smith of Cairo Hose Company. In nominating Smith, Cairo Fire Chief Gerard Buckley wrote “William was on Main Street in Catskill on August 26, 2013 when a fire was reported at the Village Pizza, 416 Main Street, catskill. As the early morning fire in the pizzeria began to spread upstairs, William ran across the street, and with smoke beginning to get upstairs he banged on the door trying to get to awaken the residents. As he banged on the door, he tried to get them to leave but they were unwilling. William convinced them to leave the residence and then helped Catskill hook-up to the hydrant, put on gear and fight the fire. I feel if William wasn’t there to do what he did without regards to himself, the outcome could have been worse.”

Locations for the quarterly meetings of the next year were announced: Thursday November 6, 2014 7:30pm, Coxsackie Hose #3; Thursday February 5, 2015 7:30pm, Catskill Fire Company; Thursday, May 7, 7:30pm, Hunter Fire Company and Thursday August 6, 7:30pm at West Athens Fire Department. GCVFA Day at the Firemens Home will be hosted by West Athens on Sunday June 7. The annual GCVFA Drill Day will also be hosted by Werst Athens on Sunday June 14 at the fire district office (Scvoharie Turnpike) The 2015 annual GCVFA/LA convention will be hosted by the Palenville Fire Dept. Details of all to be announced in the future.

The highlight of the evening was the annual election of officers. The following were nominated and unanimously elected to serve office for the next year:

President – John J Farrell (West Athens)
1st VP – Paul Overbaugh (Catskill)
2nd VP – John LaVeglia (Hunter)
Recording Secretary – Phyllis Dinkelacker (Athens)
Financial Secretary – George Stacey (Athens)
Treasurer – Harold Rivenburgh (Catskill)

This year the installation of officers took a different twist with two installations. First, all officers with the exception of the new President, were installed into office under the watch of the HVVFA.
As they sat down, it was now time for the newly elected President to take his oath. GCVFA/HVVFA/Board of Trustees NYS Firemens Home Past President John P Farrell had the honor, and the pride as a father, to instill his son, John Joe Farrell, in as President.

After both meetings concluded, it was now time for some more social interaction between the members of both organizations.

EVENING CANDIDS
MARDI GRAS
With all the serious business of the convention closed, Friday September 5, saw a time for fun and festivity with the Mardi Gras parade. The theme this year was **Firefighting in 2114**. Units lined up in the vicinity of the Hunter firehouse and proceeded to Rte 23A to the Hunter Lake pavilion. At breakup, attendees were treated to refreshments, social brotherhood of firefighting, entertainment and of course, trophies. Line-up included:

- Greene County Royal Order of the Blue Vests
- Hunter Fire Co.
- Kiskatom Fire Department
- Town of Athens Fire Service
- Catskill Fire Company and Ladies Auxiliary
- Cairo Fire Dept
- Palenville Fire Department
- Coxsackie Fire Service
- Cornell Hook and Ladder (New Baltimore)
- Haines Falls Fire Company

**Our fun-loving hosts – Hunter Fire Co.**

**Kiskatom Fire Company.**

**Catskill Fire Company**
Haines Falls Fire Company

Cairo Hose Company

Town of Athens Fire Service

Palenville Fire Company

Town of Coxsackie Fire Service
"And the winners of the Mardi Gras trophies are . . .".

**Most Firematic:**
Town of Athens
Firefighting Bubbles

**Funniest & Most Original:**
Haines Falls Fire Dept
CONVENTION DRESS PARADE:

As a new day dawned, so too did the conclusion of the annual convention begin. Despite rumors to the contrary, the dress parade was not cancelled due to an accident and the show went on. Saturday September 6, the apparatus judging was done prior to the Dress Parade at Hunter Mountain Ski Bowl Slope at 11:30am. Trucks began arriving at 9:30 am and at 11:30 the judging began. Despite a traffic inconvenience, parade units began to arrive around 1pm for lineup. As the clock ticked closer and closer to 2pm, units began getting in place and prepared for the march ahead. The parade traveled on Rte 23A through the Village of Hunter and ending up in the parking lot of Hunter Mountain Ski Lodge. After a long and hot march thanks to an un-cooperating Mother Nature, those in attendance went to the Hunter Lake pavilion for some refreshments and to await the announcement of trophy winners.

ESCORT DIVISION: GRAND MARSHALL: 65 YR MEMBER, ROBERT GOODRICH

Greene County Sheriff’s Dept. Color Guard

GCVFA & LA Officers

OUR HOSTS

Town of Hunter WWII Veterans
Centerville/Cedar Grove Fire Co.

H. D. Lane Vol. Fire Co.

Palenville Fire Dept and Ladies Auxiliary  Led by Tarrytown VFW Drum & Bugle Corp

Guilderland Center Fire Dept.

Haines Falls Fire Co & Auxiliary

Tannersville Fire Dept

Kiskatom Fire Dept & Ladies Aux.  Led by Ghent VFW Band

Windham Hose Co

Lexington Fire Co.
FIRST DIVISION GRAND MARSHALL: 62 YR MEMBER, RICHARD HARTY

Windham VFW Post Color Guard

Ravena Hose Co
Coeymans Fire Co & Auxiliary
w/Drum Line
Grand Gorge Fire Dept

Town of Athens Fire Service & Auxiliary w/Drum Line

Freehold Vol Fire Co
Cairo Hose Co & Auxiliary led by Capital District Marching Band
Hensonville Hose Co

East Durham Fire Co & Auxiliary
Leeds Hose Co.

Oak Hill-Durham Fire Co & Auxiliary
SECOND DIVISION GRAND MARSHALL:
63 YR MEMBER, LEON GOODRICH

American Legion Post 175 Tannersville Color Guard

East Jewett Fire Dept

Catskill Fire Dept & Ladies Auxiliary
Led by Yankee Doodle Band

Medway-Grapeville Fire Co
Jewett Fire Dept.

Earlton Fire Dept and
Cornell Hook & Ladder & Auxiliary
w/Drum Line

Ashland Fire Dept

Town of Coxsackie Fire Service

Round Top Fire Co
AND NOW THE MOMENT WE HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR . . . TROPHIES

Thanks for coming & now everybody have fun tonight

The Winner of the raffle for $1,000 is Chris Gibson
**HOST TROPHIES:**

Brotherhood  
Village of Athens Volunteer F. D.  
Honorary Mountainfolk – East Durham, Kiskatom & Palenville

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**APPARATUS, BEST APPEARING:**

1 – 5 years old
- 1st Place: Kiskatom
- 2nd Place: Coxsackie

6 – 12 years old
- 1st Place: Kiskatom
- 2nd Place: Palenville

13 – 20 years old:  
Medway-Grapeville
Motor Driven Antique, Out of Service - Lexington

COLOR GUARD:
- Non-Firematic: Tarrytown VFW
- Firematic: Ghent VFW

MUSIC:
- Drumline:
  - 1st: Coxsackie
  - 2nd: Cornell Hook & Ladder

Musical Unit:
- 1st Place: Tarrytown VFW Drum & Bugle
- 2nd Place: Yankee Doodle Band
JUNIOR EXPLORER UNIT

Prattsville

BEST APPEARING AUXILIARY:

5 – 7 in line

1st Place: East Durham

2nd Place:
Cairo

8 - 10 in line

Catskill

Town of Athens

11 + in line
Cornell Hook & Ladder

Without Music, 5 + in line - Haines Falls

Overall Auxiliary - Earlton
BEST APPEARING FIRE UNIT

5 – 8 in line

Round Top

9 - 15 in line

Earlton

Lexington

Tannersville

16 - 24 in line

Palenville

Kiskatom

Cairo

25 + in line

Town of Athens

Catskill
Best Appearing Overall Mountain Top Company
Haines Falls

Out of County - Ravena

Millennium Memorial / Best Overall in County
Town of Athens

Thank you to all the photographers who contributed these photos & many more . . .
Chuck Adsit, Amy Hodor, Margaret Garvey, Veronica Chewens,
Sean Houghtaling, Tim Albright, John Miller
& anyone that may have been forgotten.
Without your contributions, this issue would not be what it is.
Apologies to those who we missed photographing.
Anyone wishing copies of these photos or others on file with The Booster Line,
can email theboosterline@yahoo.com & state your request.
Greene County Volunteer Firemen's Association
Ladies Auxiliary of the Greene County Volunteer Firemen’s Association
Greene County Fire Chief's Association
Greene County Fire Police Association

Dear Officers and Members:

It is that time of year again when the four county associations join together to honor the Past President’s. We encourage everyone to join us in honoring those who have served as president. This year’s Honorees are:

PJ Pugsley - Greene County Volunteer Firemen's Association
Tyrell Sherman - Greene County Fire Chief's Association
Gary Koopman - Greene County Fire Police Association

This year the Past Presidents Dinner will be held on:
Sunday, November 9, 2014 at
Pegasus, Rt. 9W, Coxsackie, NY.
3 PM - 4 PM (cash bar) cocktail hour with appetizers
4 PM - Dinner: Roast Sirloin of Beef & Fresh pork served family style.

The cost will be $25.00 per person for all reservations made and paid on or before October 31, 2014 and $27.00 per person for all reservations made and paid after October 31, 2014.

Send all reservations and payments to:
Harold Rivenburgh
Past President's Dinner
PO Box 10
Catskill, NY 12414

Please make checks payable to the Greene County Volunteer Firemen's Association. If you have any further questions you can contact me at (518) 755-2715.

Fiermatically,

____________________________________________
John J. Farrell Past President Dinner Committee Chairmen

Past President's Dinner Committee
GCVFA * LAGCVFA * GCFCA * GCFPA
Would you like to receive The Booster Line at home?
If you would like to receive The Booster Line and do not have computer access, please send a note to The Booster Line, c/o 280 Vosenkill Road, Athens NY 12015 and we will add you to the postal mailing list.

If you have email, we would love to send The Booster Line to you electronically. It would save printing & mailing costs thus allowing the Greene County Volunteer Firemen’s Association to redirect the money to other core services. Just send a note to theboosterline@yahoo.com In the subject line please put subscription. State that you wish to receive The Booster Line electronically and remember to include your name & address & so we know who we are sending it to.

In addition, any fire company or Auxiliary that has an event coming up & would like to post it in The Booster Line, please send to the email address above.

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