



GRFFRA MONTHLY (#2/21)



STAY INFORMED - STAY HEALTHY - STAY SAFE

.....THEN.....and.....NOW.....



ALWAYS CARING FOR OTHERS



Welcome to our second official publication and we hope all of you are doing well.
In the past month our organization has grown by 2 - **CONGRATULATIONS**

Capt. Jim Pulsipher Retired on Jan. 4

FF Chris Moleski Retired on Jan. 5

NICE JOB GUYS and WELCOME TO THE RETIREMENT RANKS

=====

TO ALL - If there is anything you would like to pass along please feel free to submit to the publishing committee (grffra@gmail.com) by the last week of each month.

With all this information we have emailed this newsletter to 172 Retiree/Guests and have physically mailed 75 by the US Postal Service to those retirees without internet service. The cost for last month's publication was \$45.70 and we strive to keep the cost to a minimum and yet keep all informed, we may need to adjust the publication dates due to cost control, but we will see. The breakdown was \$40.70 postage, \$2.00 envelopes, \$3.00 print paper, this does not include printer ink or labor.

If you know of someone not receiving this please forward their contact information so we may keep them informed as well.

NEWSLETTER HOUSEKEEPING....

A note we would like to pass on to all, the publishing committee attempts to keep typos/misspellings to a minimum, the committee proofreads the publication several times but mistakes happen so please bear with us.

DUES -----

If you are concerned about paying your 2021 voluntary dues (\$10.00 per year) you may at any time pay by check, money order, or using Paypal or if you prefer to wait for the tentative scheduled **May 11, 2021**

Breakfast Meeting you may.

Make checks or money orders out to GRFFRA and mail those to;
GRFFRA
9101 Whittall NE
Rockford, MI. 49341

When using Paypal - Go to the Paypal website, click on Send money to -
Enter Grand Rapids FireFighters Association
Place Amount \$10.00 in the \$ Box
Complete by following further instructions

You may need to sign up for a Paypal Account but it is safe and easy to use, it costs nothing...

=====

Our Brothers who were called up to a Higher Department

“2020 IN MEMORY FOREVER”



**A very unfortunate oversight in the January Edition
WE SINCERELY APOLOGIZE**

“2021 IN MEMORY FOREVER”



HEALTH...

With the vaccine presently being distributed, let's not let our guard down.



STAY MASKED UP FOR EVERYONE'S HEALTH!

=====

Ray Braate - On 1/30/21 I Spoke with Ray and he is recovering well from his stroke.

Ken Crouch - Spoke with Ken, he is recovering well with some additional follow-up and he passed on information in regards to coping with cancer (see **FCSN** article below), he is willing to offer any assistance anyone and their family would need to deal with this issue and will maintain confidentiality.

Al Currie - Spoke with Al, he is recovering well from his by-pass surgery.

Ray Sasak - On 1/30/21 attempted to contact Ray with no results.

=====

Members Covid-19 Update ----- GRFD has now started receiving the vaccine and by the time you read this newsletter many will have received both doses. All of us should stand-by and be patient. Let's keep all of the GRFFRA Family Members in our thoughts and prayers.

MediCare Supplement Trust Fund Premium Assistance Program

The 2021 disbursements remain the same - \$115.00 for the Retiree and \$57.50 for the Surviving Spouse. According to the participating numbers on 9/22/2020 we had 89 Retirees and 19 Surviving Spouses enrolled in the program, as we move along in the coming year those numbers change due to members retirement and deaths by the end of this month (Feb. 2021) we would have 89 Retirees and 16 Surviving Spouses that are eligible/participating in the MCSTF Program. As you can see the numbers fluctuate during the year. Coming in March we could add 2 more Retirees to the total number. As the 2021 year progresses we will add a total of 12 eligible retirees by year's end.

"Happy 65th".

Any questions feel free to contact us. Stay Healthy

From the Local

Spoke with Pres. Joe Dubay 1/30/21 and he said the Union Election resulted in the offices of Vice President and Secretary being changed with Dan Weatherwax being elected to Vice President and Jared Elyea being elected to Secretary. Thank you Brothers for stepping up and representing the members of IAFF-Local 366. With the election being completed the top four officers of the local are;

President Joe Dubay, Vice President Dan Weatherwax, Secretary Jared Elyea, Treasurer Nick Fedewa

During our conversation Joe stated the Dept/Local is on the rebound from the health issues that affected the department these past few months, also he stated the Local would pick up the tab for publication (postage, printing, paper, etc...) cost of the GRFFRA Newsletter. We say Thank You Local 366.

We will be meeting with Joe in the near future reviewing issues/concerns as soon as the health concerns are reduced.

From the GR Police-Fire Pension Board - Ms. P. Korzen

We posed the question requesting the number of Fire Pensioners and Ms. Korzen responded with the following response.

Currently we are showing **289 Fire Retirees**, which does not include the alternate payees (ex-spouses).

From the GRFF BLDG. CORP.

The Annual Meeting is currently scheduled for April 28, 2021 @ 6:00 PM - This is dependent on Health Care Issues so stand by and we will keep you updated with any future decisions.

=====

From the GRFD

Email received from Fire Ch. John Lehman 1/13/21...

Please let the retirees know that all is well here and we have weathered some strange storms this year but have come away stronger and smarter as a result. Thanks, Chief Lehman

Email received from Asst. Fire Ch. Brad Brown - 1/12/21...

Numbered Badge Request - Ch. Brad Brown spoke with Lisa Dumez at Nye uniform about Retiree Badges and she is more than happy to work with the GRFFRA on that. Badges will be around \$100-\$120 depending on the materials chosen. The only thing she needs to get started would be a list of retirees with their rank and badge number. With that in mind please send your request to Don.

GRFD GOOD & WELFARE - excerpt from Ryan Sparks - 1/26/21 ...

Here's what's happening in the lives of our members.

Condolences to **retired LT David Pyle** on the loss of his mother, Mary Jane Pyle, who passed away unexpectedly at the age of 76 on January 22 while battling cancer.

Retired FF David VanDyke (#1791), age 90, passed away at home on January 22 with his wife of 70 years and family at his side. Firefighter VanDyke was hired July 30, 1952 and retired October 22, 1963 to pursue a career as a builder/developer. There will be a visitation at 13:30 hours on Friday, January 29 at Vineyard North Church, 4700 E. Beltline Ave. NE. The funeral will follow at 15:00 hours.

UPDATE: Retired FF Kurt Kolenda continues to recover at home. During follow ups with his medical team last week, his surgeon was pleased with his physical progress and felt that he was slightly ahead of where he should be at this point. Unfortunately, his MFB doctors said his neurological function is not where they'd like it to be. He still has very limited feeling from his naval to his knees, including bowel function. There is no change to his prognosis and he is still looking at 15-months before his physical healing is complete. There is an effort afoot to provide snow removal for the Kolendas this winter. If anyone has any contacts with plow services in the Caledonia/Middleville area that would be willing to bid the job, please contact Casey Spielmaker. We will find the funding to cover the cost. The Kolendas thank you for the support they've received and will soon be depending exclusively on their GoFundMe donations until Kurt is able to work again. If you'd like to contribute, you can do so here:

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/kurt-kolenda?qid=1bfe48aec997d077a6c42a7d43fdac0c>

EO Dave Parish had abdominal/GI surgery last week, after some red flags noted during his department physical. The test results were negative and the masses they removed were benign. He is recovering comfortably at home.

Thank you for your thoughts, prayers, support and encouragement of our GRFD family past and present. If you have any news to report in G&W, please let me know.

Ryan
231-638-3036
rsparksff@gmail.com



Accidents & Injuries with Horses

Annual Report – May 1, 1883 thru April 30, 1884

Assistant Fire Marshal Solon Baxter broke his collarbone when his horse fell responding to an alarm of fire.
Engineer Thomas Gibbons Steamer Company #2, injured his hand while hitching his teams of horses.

April 29, 1890

Lineman Allen Lamb, Alarm Division, injured after being thrown from a line wagon while it's horse was running away.

August 13, 1901

Pipeman Thomas Fitzpatrick, Hose Company #7, was thrown from his exercising wagon and struck his head and shoulders, bruised the right side of his face and sprained his right ankle. He was off duty for 9¼ days.

August 25, 1901

Driver J. B. Taylor, Hose Company #2, injured his foot when it was struck by a whiffletree chain strap. He was off duty for 7 days.

December 24, 1901

Driver Henry P. Beckwith, Steamer Company #2, had two ribs broken when a horse pushed him against a wall in the stable. He was off duty for 10 days.

December 8, 1902

Lieutenant John Younglove, Hose Company #4, was hit in the eye by a piece of steel from a horseshoe calk. The injury caused a cataract in the eye that required an operation. He was off duty 38 days.

January 23, 1904

Lieutenant Joseph A. Brown, Hose Company #8, had bones in his foot injured while getting his team of horses out of a hole filled with snow. One of the horses struck his foot but he remained on duty.

January 25, 1904

Driver Will Baker, Chemical Company #1, got bit on the face by a horse while doing work in the stable but he remained on duty.

February 8, 1904

Substitute Driver Tony DeHoes, was injured about the head and face after being thrown from the exercising wagon while exercising the steamer team. He was off duty for 4 days.

July 1, 1904

Pipeman John Miller, Hose Company #2, had his head injured. While riding a horse out of the barn the horse jumped up striking Miller's head against the frame of the barn door. He was off duty for 4 days.

July 22, 1904

Driver Peter Wieland, Hose Company #3, was kicked in the leg by a horse and was off duty 2 days recovering from the injury.

January 7, 1907

Driver Michael Murphy, Steamer Company #3, had his foot broken when one of his team of horses stepped on it in front of the station. He was off duty 42½ days.

October 10, 1907

Driver Charles Shook, Steamer company #5, was kicked by a horse in the station and went off duty for 8 days to recover from the injury.

November 8, 1909

Pipeman Richard Duerloo, Engine Company #2, was injured when the Fire Marshal's buggy ran over him as he attempted to stop the horse when it became frightened leaving the station. Duerloo was quite badly hurt but remained on duty.

December 7, 1911

Driver James Carey, Engine Company #4, had his eye injured by a cinder that was thrown by the horses he was exercising. He was off duty for 9 days.

October 15, 1912

Assistant Engineer Charles Seydel, Steamer Company #11, was badly shaken up and bruised his hands and limbs when a team of horses he was exercising became frightened by a street roller and ran away, but he remained on duty.

February 12, 1913

Lieutenant Samuel Pomeroy, Steamer Company #11, while responding to an alarm at Box 247, was thrown from Hose Wagon #11 at the corner of Lake Drive and Diamond Street and received a severe scalp wound but he remained on duty.

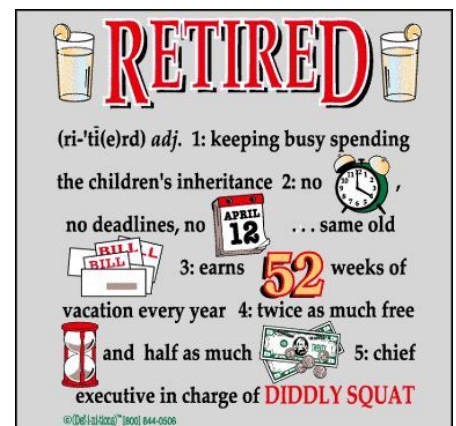
June 28, 1913

Driver Dewitt C. Stapleton, Steamer Company #9, had his foot trampled on while leading a horse at the station. He was off duty for 10 days.

October 31, 1915

Pipeman Peter Heyboer, Engine Company #12, sprained an ankle and dislocated a rib after being thrown from the exercising wagon. He was off duty for 10½ days.

A LITTLE HUMOR - Can we relate???



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hi Everyone,

The traveling golf league appears to be a go this 2021 summer. In case you missed the communications, the following are excerpts from emails sent by Steve just recently....

Email sent 1/7/21 -

A little update for our upcoming traveling golf league. It's been suggested that we start out modestly and reserve maybe 4 or 5 tee times and see what kind of response we get. We will try and golf each week with this in mind. There will probably have to be a cut off a week before to reserve those times. Two weeks out, I'd like to announce where we will be playing(any ideas would be welcome) and start collecting those who can play. It would be nice if we could mix it up on formats and some modest wagering. We will need to be somewhat flexible and if it gets bigger, adjust.

Email sent 1/15/21 -

I would like to ask you all to give me 5 courses that you would like to golf this year. They should be in our neck of the woods (not Pebble Beach!). We've always liked Scott Lake, Moss Ridge, The Meadows, The Falls and Ironwood is fun- you get the idea. I made a list of about 15 courses around GR and would like to stay with-in an easy reach. This traveling league is open to anyone - get the word out to have them send me an email and I'll enter them.



Keep your head down and swing hard- Steve - (lp1ayter@yahoo.com)



IAFF ALUMNI MESSAGE...

As retirement nears, it is reassuring to know that your union is and always will be there for you. The IAFF Alumni program is designed to help retirees and former members maintain their relationship and connection with the IAFF.

As an Alumni member you:

****** Keep a membership status within the IAFF



***** Are eligible to continue to receive the Fire Fighter Quarterly Magazine (at a discounted rate)

****** Qualify for the benefits available to members through the IAFF Financial Corporation(IAFF-FC) and Union Plus programs

In addition, you will continue to receive regular communications from the IAFF on what's going on within the fire service, our union and among our members in the U.S. and Canada.



MPFFU ALUMNI MESSAGE...

The MPFFU Alumni is working diligently to provide support, information, and to encourage retirees on maintaining communication within and assisting when possible with those issues/concerns that may arise during our golden years. Visit the Group FaceBook Page to communicate as well. Consider joining for free.

=====



FIREFIGHTER CANCER SUPPORT NETWORK... firefightercancersupport.org

Brother Crouch has directed us to this national support organization for those dealing with cancer, if this affects you visit their website for information.

=====

2021 TENTATIVE REMINDER SCHEDULE - MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

These times and dates may change or may be canceled due to the current health issues and protocols...

GRFF BLDG. CORP MEETING ----- APRIL 28, 2021 @ 6:00 PM - FIREFIGHTERS HALL

ST. FLORIAN'S BREAKFAST MASS ----- UNKNOWN AT THIS TIME

GRFFRA BREAKFAST MEETING ----- MAY 11, 2021 @ 9:30 AM - FIREFIGHTERS HALL

GRFFRA GOLF OUTING ----- JUNE 28, 2021 @ - COURSE/TIME TBD

RETIREES DINNER/DANCE ----- FIREFIGHTERS HALL - DATE/TIME TBD

GRFFRA BREAKFAST MEETING ----- OCTOBER 12, 2021 @ 9:30 AM - FIREFIGHTERS HALL

Stand-by for any updates as they come about, we will keep all informed if possible...

=====



INFORMATION RESOURCE LIST... Emails and Phone #'s

GRFFRA Officers - Don Quick ----- grffra@gmail.com ----- 616-490-1040
Dave vanderWall ----- Dandmwall@aol.com ----- 616-648-1185
Roger Rohloff ----- rrohloff1@att.net ----- 616-453-3180

GRFF BLDG. CORP. Matt Keusch ----- mattkeusch@yahoo.com -- 616-443-6246
John Fredricks Hall Mgr. ----- jfred62@gmail.com ----- 616-485-1172

GR City Ins. Services - Lisa Rule ----- lrule@grcity.us ----- 616-456-3300

GR Pol/Fire Pension Bd. - Peggy Korzen -- pkorzen@grpensions.org --- 616-365-5015