

Call/Volunteers Serving Today to Protect Your Tomorrow

# *Smoke Showin'*

The Official Publication of the Massachusetts Call/Volunteer Firefighters Association



CAPTAIN (RET.)  
**MIKE BIRD**  
1941 - 2019

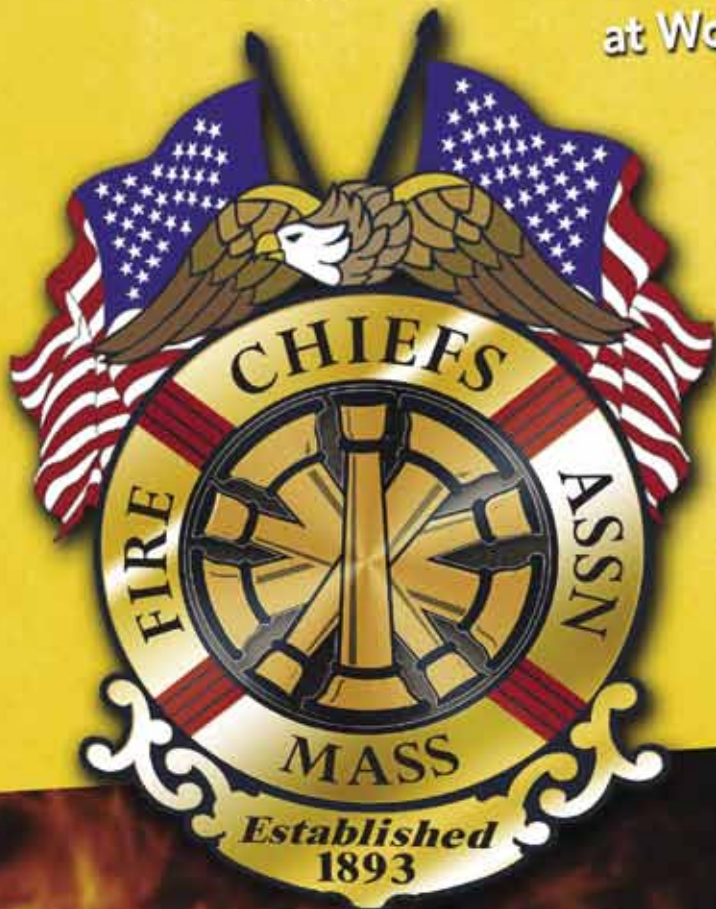


# **FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION OF MASSACHUSETTS**

**MARCH 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE**

at Worcester DCU Center



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FIRE SERVICE**

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TO FACE  
THE FUTURE**



# 2020

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Winter 2020

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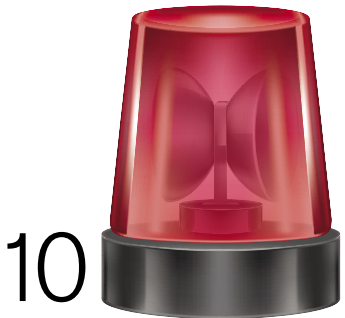
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The editorial staff of *Smoke Showin'* is always looking for topics and articles about the industry. If you have any suggestions or would like to write an article, please contact Larry Holmberg at [editor@mcvfa.org](mailto:editor@mcvfa.org).

Cover photos Mike Bird, the first President of the Association, passed away on October 8, 2019. Mike was a giant in the MCVFA and this issue reflects his legacy.



# MCVFA Merchandise



## Gray T-shirt

Gildan, 99% cotton/1% poly  
Front maltese cross in black  
Back MCVFA in red/orange  
(S - XL) \$13.00 + postage  
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*Portion of sale will go to the  
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Coalition*



## MCVFA Coffee Mug

16 oz. cream color ceramic mug with  
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\$8.00 + postage

MCVFA merchandise also has men's and ladies golf shirts, baseball caps with MCVFA logo, sweatshirts, decals, pins, patches, helmet stickers, portfolios and novelty banks. To order items or for more information, please contact [merchandise@mcvfa.org](mailto:merchandise@mcvfa.org).

**Order Today at**  
**<https://store.mcvfa.org>**

# Smoke Showin'

The Official Publication of the Massachusetts  
Call/Volunteer Firefighters Association



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## President's Message

First, I would like to start off by thanking everyone that supported me in my election as your new state leader. I have been in this position before and I am truly dedicated to continuing to move this organization forward.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank a few people that have dedicated their time with this organization and hope they continue working with us in some other capacity.

First, there is Kevin Connelly. Kevin has been our President and has helped moved legislation in the state house and has been keeping us up to date of all the moves. He brought us a much more formal state meeting and honoring the deceased members of the Call/Volunteer service from across the Commonwealth. There are so many other projects he has worked hard on and hope to have him continue to work on. Again, I thank you and I speak for all the members MCVFA.

Second, there is Larry Holmberg. Larry has been our treasurer since 2011 and he has been trying to step down for the past few years but hadn't until we found a replacement. That's not been easy task.... Larry has been a tough guy to work with but if it wasn't for his work the Association wouldn't be where we are financially. He has dedicated a lot of time over the years in different roles of this organization and I thank him for his dedication to MCVFA.

Third, there is Dave Sullivan. Dave has been our secretary for the past six years plus holding many other roles in the MCVFA. He has always brought something different to the table and given us an alternative prospective to consider. His commitment to this organization has not gone unrecognized and I thank you.

The last person I would like to thank was my good friend and partner for many years who helped me and many others in this organization - Mike Bird.

It was a great loss to me to lose Mike so quickly but the things he taught me will last forever. He will be truly missed in this organization, not only for all the phone calls of him telling you your dues were due but his wit and wisdom that he brought to us everywhere we went. He taught me what getting involved really meant; not to just to get involved but go all in it at 110 percent. I will miss you as bother, father and a mentor but will continue your vision of what MCVFA is about.

It is my goals to work with the Regional Vice Presidents and the E-Board to increase the membership base and to create new revenue sources to help make this organization stronger and stable. I will work hard with the other state leaders in the Fire Service to help the Call and Volunteer firefighter better protect themselves and provide resources and tools they need to make their departments stronger.

I look forward working with you and, as always, don't hesitate to reach out to me. Thank You. 🍀

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom Burnett' with a stylized circular flourish at the end.

**Tom Burnett**  
**MCVFA President**

# TRIBUTE TO MIKE BIRD



BY LARRY HOLMBERG

In this issue there are at least three references to Mike Bird and with good reason. In many ways Mike Bird and the MCVFA are one in the same. As the first president of the Association, he guided us through the formative years and help build the foundation upon which the Association now stands.

I first really met Mike in January 2001 as the newly elected vice president from Region 4 at my first Executive Board meeting. It was also the first meeting for Tom Burnett from Region 1 and Jonathan Plante from Region 3 as vice presidents. Together we formed a block of young newcomers who wanted to learn what the MCVFA was about and maybe make a difference.

Mike took us under his wing and tried to teach us the ins and outs of the Association and his vision for the MCVFA. Those first two years were an experience; several times Mike and I were the only ones at an E-board meeting, which were held at the Lancaster Fire Department. Needless to say, we got a lot accomplished with only two of us talking.

In 2003 when I became president, Mike wanted to show us that there was more to the volunteer fire service than Massachusetts so he introduced us to the National Volunteer Fire council (NVFC). Over the next few years, we travelled to meetings in Washington, DC; Albany, NY; Portland, Oregon; Providence, RI; and other locations to meet our colleagues from other states and exchange information. These travels were all due to Mike's vision for the Association.

It wasn't always easy working with Mike. He was opinionated and passionate man to the extent there were times when Tom,

Jonathan, and I tried to ease Mike out of his leadership role but we were never successful. The three of us and later others decided that it would be easier to guide Mike into our way of thinking than to move him out. In truth, he was probably two steps ahead of us and molded our vision into his.

Mike did have one major fault that drove us up the wall. He was a very good idea man. The ideas he came up with would keep 20 people busy with their implementation if we knew how to implement the ideas. Mike never had any details, leaving it up to others to figure it out. Sometimes we did and sometimes we didn't but Mike's heart was always in the right place.

In the later years, the Bird influence became a family affair with Mike's wife, Kathy, becoming the Membership Secretary. That made life really interesting because Mike was the Membership Committee Chair and theoretically directed the Secretary. As you can imagine that could have become a real problem but in typical Mike Bird fashion he had an idea and this time acted on it, he delegated responsibility to Tom Burnett. At times, this arrangement was very handy. I would call Mike to discuss bylaws or some other topic and then be handed off to Kathy and deal with membership issues and then, usually, get handed back to Mike because he or I remembered something else that needed to be discussed.

Mike could dominate a discussion and a room, which is one of the reasons we called him the 800-pound gorilla. Mike was a friend, a provocateur, a pain in the neck, and sometimes all three wrapped together at the same time. I'll miss his gruff exterior and his carrying soul. I'll miss his laugh and his advice. I'll miss his presence and I'll miss him. God Bless you Mike. 🚒



# In Memory of Mike Bird

**Mike** Bird was a true believer; a true believer in the call/volunteer fire service and all of the good that we do for our communities. He believed in professionalism, training, and that volunteer firefighters were inherently good people doing good for their neighbors. He spent a lifetime toiling on behalf of his fellow call and volunteer firefighters pursuing a vision of better, stronger, and more professional volunteer fire service.

Mike Bird was a founding member and the first President of the Massachusetts Call/Volunteer Firefighters Association (MCVFA). He saw the need for a way to unify and create a strong voice for call/volunteer firefighters across Massachusetts. For the past twenty-five years, Mike spent part of each day working on some MCVFA project; working through the MCVFA on your behalf as call/volunteer firefighters and people who lead them. His efforts were second to none.

Mike Bird also represented you and MCVFA on the Board of Directors of the National Volunteer Fire Council. He served in this role starting in 1993 and ending 26 years later on the day he died. At the national level he forged partnerships with other fire service organizations such as the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). He was known from Alaska to Florida and back to New England for his blunt and forceful advocacy. Finding someone to fill his shoes on the NVFC Board of Directors will prove a challenge for the MCVFA.

Recently, Mike saw a need to provide support and training to small town and rural fire chiefs. He saw that they were struggling with the administrative and strategic aspects of their roles, and were flooded with conflicting bad information. Responding to this Mike put together a regional coalition of volunteer fire and EMS service leaders from across New England to provide training programs for small town chiefs and officers. The New England Volunteer Fire & EMS Coalition, under Mike's leadership, spent the last three years providing training classes for volunteer and small town fire chiefs in all six New England States, Georgia, and New York.



The family of Michael A Bird wishes to express their appreciation to all the people within the "Fire Service Family" for their outpouring of support during Mike's illness. Mike was a dedicated husband, father, brother and grandfather. His lifelong passion was fire service and he spent countless hours networking, planning and building the fire services at a local, regional and national level. Your kind words, your visits, your cards and letters and your stories were a comfort to him and to us, his family.

*Thank you*

Mike Bird served as a call firefighter with the Wareham Fire District for 35 years, retiring as Captain.

Mike is survived by his wife, Kathleen I. Bird of Wareham, his children, Russell Bird, Samantha Gomes, Michael Bird, and Matthew Bird, and seven grandchildren.

We at the MCVFA ask that you pause for a moment to reflect on Mike's life and legacy. Rest easy, Mike, it's time for the next generation to take up the banner and continue the work where you left off. 🚒



photos courtesy of West Barnstable Fire Department

# The Benefits of Joining the MCVFA

The Massachusetts Call/Volunteer Firefighters' Association (MCVFA) is always working on a statewide level to improve legislation, funding, safety and training. We are the voice of the call/volunteer fire and EMS services in the Commonwealth.

Don't miss out on this excellent opportunity for your department and join the MCVFA today at [www.mcvfa.org](http://www.mcvfa.org).

Questions on membership, please contact  
MCVFA President Tom Burnett at  
[president@mcvfa.org](mailto:president@mcvfa.org).

## Benefits

- > Accidental Death & Dismemberment Insurance
- > Liberty Mutual Insurance
- > Anna Maria College Online Program
- > Scholarships
- > Subscription to *Smoke Showin' Magazine*
- > Training and Education
- > Health & Wellness
- > Recruitment and Retention Assistance
- > General Welfare
- > Legislative Advocacy



Join Today at [www.mcvfa.org/join-renew/](http://www.mcvfa.org/join-renew/)



2020-2021

# MCVFA Annual Membership Dues

(Please return this form with your current dues payment and updated roster)

- ☐ **\$20.00** per member for B-1, B-2, B-3, B-4, and B-5 \_\_\_\_\_ # of Members
- ☐ **\$10.00** per member for B-7 \_\_\_\_\_ # of Members
- ☐ **\$5.00** per member for B-8 with a **\$50.00** cap \_\_\_\_\_ # of Members
- ☐ **\$0.00** per member for B-9 \_\_\_\_\_ # of Members

Total Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for MCVFA Membership

Payments should be received by the MCVFA as soon as possible after Dues Notification.

This dues form and dues payment (check or money order) should be mailed to:  
**MCVFA, PO Box 1015, East Wareham, MA 02538**

MCVFA Roster should be completed using the Excel file which can be found online  
at [www.mcvfa.org/join-renew/](http://www.mcvfa.org/join-renew/) and emailed to: [dues@mcvfa.org](mailto:dues@mcvfa.org)

Date Completed: \_\_\_\_\_

## Types of MCVFA Memberships

B-1 Active

B-2 Associate

B-3 Chief Officer/Director

B-4 FT Firefighter/EMT

B-5 Charter

B-7 Retired

B-8 Junior Firefighter/Explorer

B-9 Military

## DEPARTMENT INFORMATION (if applicable) Region: \_\_\_\_\_

Department Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Department Website: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ **DELEGATE** Type of MCVFA Membership B \_\_\_\_\_

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☐ **ALTERNATE** Type of MCVFA Membership B \_\_\_\_\_

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Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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Type of MCVFA Membership B \_\_\_\_\_

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Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate below if dues notice or other correspondence  
be sent to an additional individual:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

# Red Lights & Sirens on Private Vehicles

By Chief Joe Maruca



As a call/volunteer firefighter or career firefighter you can have red lights and a siren on your privately owned vehicle for the purpose of responding to emergency calls. To do so, you must first have the permission of your fire chief. There is nothing that requires your fire chief to allow this. Once your fire chief has given you permission for red lights you must get a Red Light Permit from the Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles pursuant to GL Chapter 90 Section 7E. Red light permits must be renewed every two years.





Red light permit applications must be signed by the fire chief. They are submitted by your fire department to the Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles Red Light Section in Boston. There is no application fee and applications are generally processed without difficulty in a few days. You must use the RMV's official paper form, on red paper, and mail the application.

If you are a member of more than one fire department or emergency service, you cannot use a red light permit issued by one department for responding to calls with another department. If you belong to two departments you need two red light permits. When you look at the permits you will notice that they state on them which department you are using the permit in connection with. This statement of department is in box labeled "INSURANCE COMPANY".

Massachusetts does not regulate the type and number of red lights you may put on your car or truck, or the type of siren you install. Your fire chief can regulate this. Your department can and should have written standard operating procedures/guidelines for the installation and use of red lights and sirens.

There is no state license or permit for sirens. The decision on whether or not you can install and use a siren on your personal car or truck is for your fire chief to make. The law, Chapter 90 Section 16, only says that call and volunteer firefighters can have and use sirens on their personal cars in the "official line of duty". It is up to your chief to define what the official line of duty is. I recommend that fire chiefs grant this permission in writing and that a copy of the permission be carried in the vehicle.

Once you are permitted to install and use red lights and a siren you must remember that as you are responding to emergency calls you are under the command and control of your fire chief. Your car is functioning as if was fire apparatus. These mean that you must follow the rules set forth by your chief and state law.

When using red lights and a siren (in your private car or in a fire truck) you must come to a complete stop before proceeding through a red light or stop sign. (GL Chapter 89 Section 7B) You must stop for school buses that have their red flashing light on in the same manner as all other traffic. And you must slow down when passing pedestrians and bicycles. Pedestrians have the right of way even over fire trucks (GL Chapter 90 Section 14).

When using reds lights (and siren) you may exceed the speed limit if you exercise "caution and due regard under the circumstances for the safety of persons and property". (GL Chapter 89 Section 7B) If you are exceeding the speed limit and

you hit another car, a pedestrian or a fixed object it is likely that you were not exercising caution and due regard for the safety or persons and property. You and your fire department will be found at fault.

The law clearly indicates that your ability to exceed the speed limit is based upon the circumstances of your response. If you are on your way to station coverage or to check on burning without a permit, and not a true emergency, you better follow the speed limit.

Massachusetts has what it calls the "universal speed law" (GL Chapter 90 Section 17) that applies to all drivers at all times and it says that your speed must be reasonable and proper having due regard to traffic, the use of the way and the safety of the public. Let me use a recent case from Louisiana to demonstrate what can happen. While the law varies from state to state, I think Massachusetts would have resolved these two cases in a similar manner.

In 2018, a New Jersey firefighter and his department, Wenonah Volunteer Fire Company, had to pay \$4.6 million to a woman who suffered fractures to her legs, neck, arms and ribs requiring multiple surgeries, and who was left confined to a wheelchair. The firefighter, responding in his private car, drove through a red light without stopping. The firefighter was charged with careless driving, failure to stop for the red light and creating a risk of a motor vehicle crash. The firefighter paid \$100,000 and the fire department paid \$4.5 million.

In 2014, in Tallulah, Louisiana, a fire truck responding lights and sirens to an emergency call collided with a deputy chief's car responding lights and sirens to the same emergency call. Louisiana's universal speed law and its laws on the use of lights and sirens are similar to Massachusetts. Both vehicles were approaching the same blind intersection, controlled by traffic lights, from different angles, with their lights and sirens on. The deputy chief had a green light and the fire truck had a red light. The court found the driver of the fire truck liable for the accident because he was driving too fast, about 10 miles per hour over the speed limit. Under the circumstances, the fire truck driver couldn't stop in time to avoid the crash because of his speed. He was driving too fast for circumstances. The lesson of this is that if you are driving over the speed limit or you go through a red light (even after stopping), and you hit something, you are going to be liable. You don't have an absolute right of way.

So save the use of red lights and sirens for true emergencies. Use them to respond to life threatening incidents and not to every little call. Stop at red lights and stop signs. Be safe. 🚫



# DEDICATION OF **New Search & Rescue Training Prop** IN SPRINGFIELD







(L-R) Fire Marshal Ostroskey, Congressman Richard Neal, FEMA's David Parr, MFA Director David Evans, and FCAM President Chief Condon

On November 5, 2019, Congressman Richard Neal, Undersecretary for Criminal Justice Andrew Peck, State Fire Marshal Peter J. Ostroskey, Springfield Mayor Domenic J. Sarno and public safety and fire officials dedicated a new Search and Rescue Training Prop at the Department of Fire Services' Springfield campus. The prop was funded by a \$434,783 fiscal year 2017 Assistance to Firefighters Grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency

The new training prop allows firefighters to practice searching for and rescuing victims in a fire without taking the live fire training building out of service. The new prop also has one room where live fire training can take place. The prop increases the flexibility of the training schedule particularly for the Career and the Call/Volunteer Firefighter Recruit Firefighter Training Programs and for the Springfield Fire Department.

"Congratulations to the Department of Fire Services' Springfield campus for securing the federal funding from the United States Fire Administration to open this important facility where lifesaving training will occur," said Congressman Richard E. Neal. "Firefighters constantly face new challenges. When we help them train to face them, they are better able to protect their communities. An investment in training is an investment in every community in the Commonwealth. I am proud to be a partner on the federal level."

"Training saves lives, and training sites like this one help save the lives of firefighters and the people who count on them," said Secretary of Public Safety and Security Thomas Turco. "We're deeply grateful to Fire Marshal Ostroskey, his team, and the local, state, and federal partners whose hard work helps to deliver consistent training to firefighters at all state fire training facilities."

"This facility is an incredible example of a local, state and federal partnership that works and pays real dividends to the cities and towns of Massachusetts. I want to thank all our partners for improving our ability to train firefighters who put themselves on the line for us every day," said Springfield Mayor Sarno.

"This training facility has made the rigorous training the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy offers more accessible to firefighters in western Massachusetts," said Northampton Fire Chief Duane Nichols, representing the Western Massachusetts Fire Chiefs' Association. He added, "It has also made training more available statewide as more classes can be held allowing new hires to be trained sooner."

State firefighting academies have been eligible for federal Assistance to Firefighter Grants (AFG) for only six years. The Massachusetts Firefighting Academy has made successful grant requests each year and has received \$2.4 million in funding for vital training resources. Several other training props funded by the AFG program were on display during this dedication: the forcible entry prop, the maze trailer, the flashover training prop, and the new search and rescue training prop. 🚒

## New England Division International Association of Fire Chiefs

### 52nd Annual Meeting & Educational Seminar



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# 30th Annual “Firefighter of the Year” Awards



*Governor Baker presenting the Medal of Honor to the family of Firefighter Christopher Roy*

**O**n November 26, Governor Charlie Baker, Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito and other state officials joined State Fire Marshal Peter J. Ostroskey to honor Worcester Firefighter Christopher Roy, who gave his life in the line of duty last year, along with firefighters from 14 Massachusetts fire departments for heroic acts of bravery at the 30th annual “Firefighter of the Year” Awards ceremony at Worcester’s Mechanics Hall. Officials also recognized Worcester Fire Lieutenant Jason Menard, who died in the line of duty on November 13 while fighting a house fire on Stockholm Street. WCVB’s Doug Meehan emceed the event.

“The Commonwealth’s first responders put themselves in harm’s way each day, and these awards provide an opportunity to recognize their bravery and sacrifice. This year, our administration is proud to honor Christopher Roy, his family, and his legacy of heroism and sacrifice,” said Governor Baker. “Massachusetts cities and towns are safer places to live, work and raise a family because of the men and women like him, who selflessly answer the call to serve knowing the danger that may await them.”





Fall River FD recognized for Meritorious Conduct

work addressing and supporting victims of occupational cancer; an Excellence in Leadership Award to a Westborough captain for his work on peer support and critical incident stress management; ten Group Awards for Meritorious Conduct to teams of firefighters from Boston, Everett, Fall River, Revere, Rockland, Saugus, Sudbury, Westborough and Worcester; and ten Medals of Valor to individual firefighters from Boston, Everett, Fall River, Revere, Rockland, and Worcester. The Medal of Honor award was presented posthumously to Worcester Firefighter Christopher Roy.



Worcester FD recognized for Meritorious Conduct

"It is our privilege to recognize the heroes who take such remarkable action to protect our communities, even at great cost to themselves," said Lieutenant Governor Polito. "Our administration also wants to thank their families, who make sacrifices of their own as their loved ones keep us safe."

The Excellence in Leadership Award was presented to Westborough Captain Daniel J. Hehir for his work on peer support and critical incident stress management. "The wounds that first responders suffer are not always visible," said Secretary of Public Safety Thomas Turco. "Captain Daniel Hehir is working to help change the stigma of mental health. He works behind the scenes in often stressful situations to ensure that fire and police get the help they need after an incident so they can be ready for the next call."

The Governor and Undersecretary recognized 91 individuals with 23 awards: two Norman Knight Awards for Excellence in Community Service to Fitchburg and Rochester firefighters for

The Stephen D. Coan Fire Marshal Award was presented to the entire Andover, Lawrence and North Andover Fire Departments for their response to the Merrimack Valley gas

*continues on page 16*



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*Fitchburg Firefighter Patrick Roy accepting the Norman Knight Award*



*Rockland FD recognized for Meritorious Conduct*



*The Stephen D. Coan Fire Marshal Award was presented to the Andover, Lawrence and North Andover Fire Departments*

explosions and their role in the long recovery. “The civilians and first responders from these three communities showed tremendous leadership, professionalism, and care during the first chaotic hours of the Merrimack Valley gas explosions and during the months of recovery,” said State Fire Marshal Ostroskey. “Many were personally affected by the situation, yet worked everyday to protect their fellow residents.” 🚒

*For more information, go to [www.mass.gov/dfs](http://www.mass.gov/dfs) and search for Firefighter of the Year.*



*Firefighters from Rockland FD accepting the Norman Knight Award*



# Need A Scholarship?

## LET US HELP!

**Don't miss out on this excellent opportunity!**

The Massachusetts Call/Volunteer Firefighters' Association (MCVFA) will be awarding five (5) \$750 Robert J. Hindley Memorial Scholarship. The scholarship is available to an MCVFA member or immediate family member.

### Requirements

#### Official Transcript or Letter:

- A school official transcript or letter from the most recent institution attended. If unavailable, please provide a written explanation and a copy of the highest level diploma or certification received.

#### A Statement of Interest of 400 words or less including:

- Why you want the Robert J. Hindley Memorial Scholarship
- Your personal, educational, and career goals
- A list of extracurricular, community, and/or volunteer activities. Include dates of participation and a brief description of each activity. You may provide an explanation for lack of involvement under special circumstances. Special circumstances include financial hardship, family responsibilities, etc.
- Any other information you want the Scholarship Committee to consider.

#### Two (2) Letters of Recommendation:

- One letter should be from a teacher, employer, or a member of the community familiar with you and your goals and the other from a member of the fire service. If it is not possible to provide a letter from a member of the fire service, please attach an explanation.

### How to Apply

Application forms can be obtained from page 18-19 or download at [www.mcvfa.org/scholarships](http://www.mcvfa.org/scholarships)

Send your application form along with supporting documents to: [recruit@mcvfa.org](mailto:recruit@mcvfa.org) or

**Massachusetts Call/Volunteer Firefighters' Association (MCVFA)**  
**Robert J. Hindley Scholarship**  
**PO Box 1015, East Wareham, MA 02538**

**APPLICATION PERIOD OPENS: JANUARY 1, 2020**  
**CLOSING DATE: MAY 1, 2020**



**APPLY TODAY**



# Robert J. Hindley Memorial Scholarship REQUIREMENTS

## REQUIRED APPLICATION DOCUMENTS

*(These may be attached to your application or mailed separately.)*

An official transcript or letter from a school official from the most recent institution attended. If unavailable, please provide a written explanation and a copy of the highest level diploma or certification received.

### A Statement of Interest of 400 words or less including:

- Why you want the Robert J. Hindley Memorial Scholarship.
- Your personal, educational, and career goals.
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## CURRENT RECIPIENTS OF MCVFA SCHOLARSHIPS

If you are reapplying, you may submit current grades or a mid-term report. You must submit an update to your original Statement of Interest and one new letter of recommendation.

I certify that all of the information contained in this application and attachments is accurate. I understand that the MCVFA may verify all information I have provided as a part of my application for this scholarship.

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Signature

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Date

Send your application form along with supporting documents to: [evp@mcvfa.org](mailto:evp@mcvfa.org) or mail to  
Massachusetts Call/Volunteer Firefighters' Association (MCVFA),  
Robert J. Hindley Scholarship, PO Box 1015, East Wareham, MA 02538



**CLOSING DATE: MAY 1, 2020**

[www.mcvfa.org/scholarships](http://www.mcvfa.org/scholarships)

# Robert J. Hindley Memorial Scholarship APPLICATION

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Sponsor's Department: \_\_\_\_\_

MCVFA Dues Paid Years: \_\_\_\_\_

Region Applying (circle one):      1      2      3      4      5

## ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Type of program in which you plan to enroll for the 20\_\_\_\_ - 20\_\_\_\_ academic year (check one):

☐ Graduate      ☐ Bachelor      ☐ Associate      ☐ Technical/Trade      ☐ Certification

Planned Field of Study: \_\_\_\_\_

Enrolled or Planning to Enroll (check one):    ☐ Full Time      ☐ Part Time

Name of School/University Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Trade School/Certificate Program: \_\_\_\_\_

Field of Study: \_\_\_\_\_

List any civic groups, organizations or extracurricular activities, volunteer work, etc.:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Send your application form along with supporting documents to: [evp@mcvfa.org](mailto:evp@mcvfa.org) or mail to  
**Massachusetts Call/Volunteer Firefighters' Association (MCVFA),**  
**Robert J. Hindley Scholarship, PO Box 1015, East Wareham, MA 02538**



**CLOSING DATE: MAY 1, 2020**

[www.mcvfa.org/scholarships](http://www.mcvfa.org/scholarships)

# REGION 1

Covering the counties of Barnstable, Bristol, Dukes, Middlesex, Nantucket, Norfolk, Plymouth

**Vice President Ken Jordan, Wareham**

## West Barnstable Fire Department Promotions

Congratulations to the four volunteer lieutenants from left to right are: Lt. John Garofoli (Group 1), Lt. Steve Frye (Group 2), Lt. Luke Walsh (Group 3) and Lt. Ian Diaz (Group 4).



## Onset Fire Department received \$4,955 Grant for Protection against Toxic-Chemical Exposure

Senator Marc R. Pacheco, D-Taunton, announced that fire departments throughout his district were awarded more than \$34,000 for new equipment designed to shield firefighters from dangerous chemicals, including \$4,955.58 to the Onset Fire Dept.

"This latest grant round will contribute over \$44,000 to provide our local firefighters with better equipment designed to shield them from harmful chemicals and toxins," said Pacheco. "These brave first responders help keep us safe by vigilantly defending the areas they serve from fires and other emergencies. The least that we can do in return is help keep them safe from the hazardous chemicals they encounter in the line of duty. These grants will help protect our local firefighters from long-

term health risks and I am proud as always to support state initiatives that extend critical resources to our Southeast region and throughout the commonwealth."

Under the Firefighter Turnout Gear Grant Program, seven local fire departments will receive a total of \$22,872.58 for new hoods and gloves specially designed to protect high-risk areas from exposure to cancer-causing toxic substances.


"Replacing old and damaged turnout gear is a financial challenge for most every department in the commonwealth," said State Fire Marshal Peter Ostroskey. "These grant awards will ensure that a significant number of firefighters have access to hoods and gloves that effectively protect them from exposure to dangerous contaminants, and that is one of the best things we can do for them to reduce the risk of a future cancer diagnosis."

Four local fire departments will receive a total of \$21,632.73 through the Washer-Extractor Equipment Grant Program for the procurement of machines that cleaning hazardous chemicals and toxins off of structural firefighting gear used during emergencies.

A national standard set by the National Fire Protection Association on the care and cleaning of structural firefighting gear identifies specific types of machines that should be used to remove cancer-causing chemicals after each fire. Every washer-extractor purchased under this state grant program complies with NFPA standards and helps minimize long-term chemical buildup on firefighter gear.

The following fire departments received turn-out gear grants:

- Berkley Fire Department, \$4,218
- Bridgewater Fire Department, \$2,507
- Dighton Fire Department, \$2,480
- Marion Fire Department, \$3,240
- Onset Fire Department, \$4,955.58
- Raynham Fire Department, \$2,992
- Taunton Fire Department, \$2,480

The Carver Fire Department received washer-extractor equipment as part of the grant. 

*Reprinted from the Courier & Sentinel*



## REGION 2

Covering the counties of Essex, Middlesex

**Coordinator Lisa Evans, Groveland**

Congratulations to Chief Robert Valentine for becoming the newly appointed Chief of the Groveland Fire Department. Chief Valentine has spent most of his fire career at Albion Fire Department, located in Lincoln, Rhode Island, where he moved up in the ranks serving as firefighter, Lieutenant, Training Officer, and Deputy Fire Chief. Prior to his career with the Albion Fire Department, Chief Valentine served in the United States Air Force from 1982 to 1986.

Chief Valentine spoke at his pinning ceremony, showing passion and commitment to serve the Town of Groveland and the surrounding community. It was definitely a moving speech and it was refreshing to hear of his desire to serve. We welcome Chief Valentine and his family. 🇺🇸



*Photos courtesy of Tracy Gifford*

## REGION 4

Covering the counties of Franklin, Hampden, Hampshire

**Vacant**

### **Franklin County Fire Departments garner Grants for Protective Gear, Washing Machines**

Grants totaling \$920,000 have been awarded to 174 fire departments across the state, including those in Franklin County, to purchase new safety gear and gear cleaning machines.

The grant awards were announced last week by Gov. Charlie Baker and Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito. According to a state press release, the gear will help to reduce firefighters' exposure to carcinogenic chemicals on the job.

"Many fire departments across the commonwealth are all too familiar with the increased risk of occupational cancers faced by fire service personnel," Polito said.

The Baker-Polito Administration filed a bond bill to provide \$25 million in authorization to continue funding similar grants and allow departments to purchase equipment, including turnout gear and washers/extractors. The Firefighter Turnout Gear Grant program will provide firefighters in 144 departments with new hoods and gloves for structural firefighting.

According to the release, these items will reduce exposure to cancer-causing chemicals in the head and hand areas, which are high-risk areas for dangerous chemicals to enter the body.

The Athol Fire Department was awarded \$2,490 through the program to purchase two sets of gloves for each department member, Chief Joseph Guarnera said. This will allow firefighters to have a back-up pair in case they are called out while one set is being cleaned.

"Anytime there is an incident, you use your hands and feet the most," he said. "They get the most contaminated."

*continues on page 22*

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Some of the recipients of grant funding for washers/extractors are purchasing regional-use machines, so multiple departments will have access to them. All washers/extractors will meet the standard set by the National Fire Protection Association, which delineates specific types of machines that should be used to effectively remove chemicals after each fire.

The Shelburne Falls Fire District will be one of the stations housing these new machines for regional use. Shelburne Falls Fire Chief Herb Guyette said seven departments, including Shelburne Falls, applied together to get the gear washer and extractor at his station. The other six departments are Buckland, Shelburne, Colrain, Heath, Ashfield and Leyden. Guyette said the department is waiting to select the machine, which Guyette estimated will be delivered to the Shelburne Falls station by late February or early March.

"With the ever-increasing risk of cancer to firefighters, the need to clean our gear after large fires, or contact with any type of contaminant, is important to decrease the risk of cancer," Guyette said.

The Turners Falls Fire Department received \$2,415 from the grants, which will purchase complete coverage firefighting hoods for all its members, according to a press release from the department. Such hoods are worn by firefighters to protect their heads, necks and ears from being burned in a fire.

According to the Turners Falls Fire Department, more firefighters have been diagnosed with cancer in the last two years than in the previous 10 years combined.

"Cancer is unfortunately prevalent in the firefighting community," said Greenfield Fire Chief Robert Strahan, whose department also received \$2,415 to purchase 23 hoods for its firefighters. "We're trying to figure out what's causing this, and limit exposure to cancer-causing products."

Other Franklin County fire departments awarded grants include: Charlemont, \$372; Gill, \$3,900; Leverett, \$2,685; Leyden, \$2,040; New Salem, \$2,550; Rowe, \$372; and Shelburne, \$3,947.76.

*This article was originally published in The Greenfield Recorder on Dec. 16, 2019*

## REGION 5

Covering the county of Berkshire

**Vice President Frank Speth, III, New Ashford**

### Retired Chief Raymond W. Tryon Monterey Fire Company

Wallace Tryon passed away on November 16, 2019 surrounded by his loving family. Ray was born and raised in Monterey and from a very young age he was fascinated with machinery. Ray had an intuitive sense about how things worked; he spent his free time in the backyard working on creating a prototype for a snowplow for a tractor and a front loader. Chief Tryon had graduated from former Searles High School. Because of his mechanical genius, Chief Tryon was awarded a full scholarship to the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. The Chief founded Tryon Construction, a site work company that was known throughout the Berkshires.



Chief Tryon was appointed to the Monterey Fire Department in 1953 and served as the fire chief for over 55 years. Under his leadership the Chief was a fierce advocate for the fire service and was instrumental in building a new station for the Monterey Fire Department. The Chief also laid the groundwork to support a paid call fire department in an era where small town fire departments were struggling to survive. The retired Chief mentored many young firefighters even after his retirement from the department.

Ret. Chief Tryon was involved in Monterey town politics and served as a Constable from 1953 to 2008, as well as holding other positions including Fire Warden, Gas Inspector and Election Warden. He served on Conservation Committee, Capital Highway Improvement Committee, Veteran's Memorial Committee and Historical Committee.

Retired Chief Tryon played pivotal rolls in the Town of Monterey and not just in the fire department. Chief Tryon will be missed but not forgotten for everything he has done for not just the fire department but for the Town of Monterey. RIP Chief Tryon.

## New Marlborough Fire Department

The department held an Ice Rescue training/drill at York Lake in New Marlborough on December 11, 2019.



## Lanesborough Fire Department

The department had held their annual Lanesborough Senior Citizens Christmas Party at their Station on Sunday, December 8, 2019. 🚒



## UNITED to Face the Future



[www.fcama.org](http://www.fcama.org)

## Has your Information changed?

If your address or email has changed please let us know. To update your information, contact the Membership Secretary at [kibird@verizon.net](mailto:kibird@verizon.net) or 1-800-551-FIRE (3473).

## Like the MCVFA on Facebook

Check out the Massachusetts Call/Volunteer Firefighters Association (MCVFA) on Facebook and LIKE our page.

The MCVFA Facebook page is a great source of training opportunities, up-to-date fire/ems methods, and political and regulatory changes that affect your department.

The MCVFA Facebook is also a great place to see what other fire departments, like yours, are up to. You can see their emergency calls, drills, and events. You'll get excellent ideas from see what others are doing.





**MCVFA**  
PO Box 1015  
East Wareham, MA 02538  
[www.mcvfa.org](http://www.mcvfa.org)

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\*approximate pass-on rate: 2.5 readers per copy

For more details, contact Susan Dyer at 443-994-3350 or email [susan@sdyerdesign.com](mailto:susan@sdyerdesign.com).  
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