



A publication of the Huntington Fire District

# HUNTINGTON

## FIRE DISTRICT NEWS

Serving the Huntington Community Since 1843

Volume 14 Number 1 • Summer 2023

### COMMISSIONERS' CORNER



#### OBSERVING NFPA STANDARDS

There are few, if any, institutions that are more a part of their communities than volunteer fire

departments. Yet some taxpayers question the size of firehouses and substations or the number of fire trucks, or even the type of equipment used. Few taxpayers realize that volunteer fire departments must adhere to the same standards as major municipal fire departments like the New York City FD. These important standards originate with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), the organization that researches and reviews all aspects of firefighting and safety issues. Established in 1896, the NFPA is a global, self-funded, nonprofit organization devoted to the elimination of death, injury, property and economic loss due to fire, electrical and related hazards.

The leadership of both professional and volunteer fire departments pay close attention to ensure compliance with all NFPA standards, especially when a fire station is to be built or renovated. NFPA standards apply to key elements from site location to types of equipment to the fire trucks that will be housed therein. Failure to meet the NFPA standards can dramatically affect taxpayers who could potentially experience increased insurance costs, and fire districts which could be exposed to increased liabilities. This is why all fire departments, both professional and volunteer, follow the standards established by the NFPA.

Sincerely,  
**Edmund M. Erickson**  
Commissioner



### Chief's Corner



**T**he Huntington Fire Department has a proud history of 180 years of service to the community, and it is an honor to serve as Chief and follow in the footsteps of so many Chiefs.

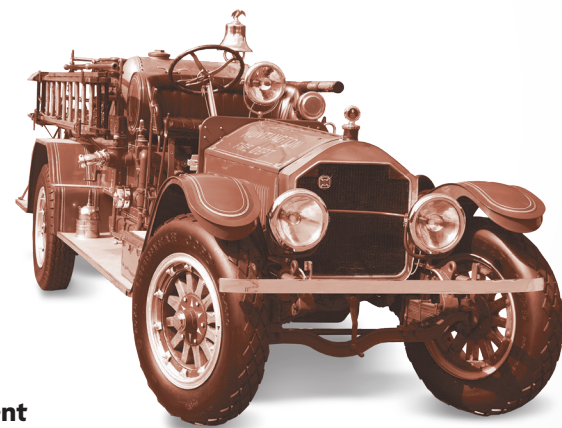
In fact, serving the Department is a family tradition that includes four generations. Involvement began with my great-uncle Henry E. Schwier who joined the Department in 1913, and continued with my great-grandfather John D. Schwier who joined in 1918, my grandfather (Clifford Schwier Sr., Chief 1972-1974), my father (Clifford Schwier Jr., Captain 1980-1982), my uncle (Gary Schwier, Chief 1997-1999) as well as my first cousin, Jesse Cukro (Chief 2016-2017). Three hundred years of service in one family! I had the opportunity to grow up around the Huntington Fire Department in a family that regarded giving back to the community through dedicated service to be invaluable and the feeling of camaraderie to be an essential part of your life.

Our Huntington Fire Department volunteers respond to an average of 600+ alarms and emergencies annually, and though times have changed greatly, they perform duties and do their jobs with professionalism equal to the original HFD firefighters back in the 1800s.

The time and dedication that the men and women of the Department provide to the community is unprecedented. I thank each and every one of them for the time they dedicate, for the training they master, for the dangers they confront and for all that they do; and I especially thank their families for allowing them to be a part of our family at the Huntington Fire Department.

Sincerely,  
**Sean Schwier**

**Chief of the Huntington Fire Department**



### Fire Commissioner Edmund M. Erickson Reelected



In the December 2022 election, Commissioner Edmund M. Erickson was reelected to the Huntington Fire District Board of Fire Commissioners for a five-year term. Commissioner Erickson is a 57-year member of the Huntington Fire Department Engine Company, the Contributing Editor of Huntington Fire District News Commissioners' Corner, and serves as Treasurer for both the Engine Company and the Fire Department.

# Department Election Results for 2023

## HUNTINGTON FIRE DEPARTMENT CHIEFS:



Left to right: Chief Sean Schwier, 2nd Deputy Chief Matthew Getter, 3rd Deputy Chief Ryan Doyle, Assistant Chief Paul Smith.

### DEPARTMENT

**Chief:**

SEAN SCHWIER

**Asst. Chief:**

PAUL SMITH

**2nd Deputy Chief:**

MATTHEW GETTER

**3rd Deputy Chief:**

RYAN DOYLE

**Financial Secretary:**

NEIL GETTER

**Secretary:**

JASON SANDVIK

**Treasurer:**

EDMUND ERICKSON

**Chaplain:**

RICHARD FERNANDEZ

**Asst. Chaplain:**

MATTHEW KENNAUGH



### PROTECTION HOOK & LADDER COMPANY, INC.

**Captain:**

CONNOR RIGGS

**1st Lieutenant:**

WILLIAM MARTIN

**Secretary:**

JOHN MOHLENHOFF

**Treasurer:**

FRED BUCKHOLTZ JR.



### PROTECTION ENGINE COMPANY #1

**Captain:**

BENJAMIN KITZEN

**1st Lieutenant:**

JOHN CANINO JR.

**Secretary:**

ANDREW KITZEN

**Treasurer:**

EDMUND ERICKSON

### PROTECTION FIRE HOSE COMPANY #1

**Captain:**

MICHAEL PORDES

**Secretary:**

JASON SANDVIK

**Treasurer:**

GEORGE BODNAR





# Milestones

## Fire Fighter of the Year Award 2022

LIANNA DECHIARO

Lianna DeChiaro joined the Huntington Fire Department Hook & Ladder Company in October of 2020 as the COVID-19 pandemic raged. The Huntington High graduate immediately proved to be a valuable asset to the HFD and the Huntington community with camaraderie and dedication, while continuing her education and working in the medical field.

Lianna has demonstrated the true spirit of being a Huntington Fire Department member by taking on additional non-firematic roles, including handling the Department's social media accounts. Over the 2022 year Lianna exhibited the focus and energetic drive of a dedicated member of the Department. Congratulations, Lianna, on being recognized with the Fire Fighter of the Year Award for 2022.



Left to right: 3rd Deputy Chief Ryan Doyle, 2nd Deputy Chief Matthew Getter, Lianna DeChiaro, Chief Sean Schwier, Assistant Chief Paul Smith.

## Clifford "Pop" Schwier Sr. Award 2022

SCOTT LOECHNER

Scott Loechner joined the ranks of the Huntington Fire Department Hook & Ladder Company in March of 2014, and he proved to be a tremendous asset to our Department and to the entire Huntington community from his very first day. With conspicuous energy and determination Scott quickly became one of our top responders and a Class A Chauffeur. His ability to communicate and teach has served him well in both our Probie Training Program and our Five and Under Training Program. His dedication to his fellow men and women of the HFD led many to feel that it wasn't going to be a question of "if" Scott wins the Clifford "Pop" Schwier Sr. award, but more of a question of "when". The committee's decision to recognize Scott with the 2022 award was unanimous. Congratulations to Scott on a job well done!



Left to right: Captain Connor Riggs, Scott Loechner, Abbey Loechner, 1st Lieutenant William Martin.

## Meet Anthony Annunziata New HFD Fire Commissioner



### ANTHONY ANNUNZIATA

Appointed to the Huntington Board of Fire Commissioners on January 24, 2023, Anthony Annunziata is a lifetime resident of Huntington. Commissioner Annunziata has served in the Huntington Fire Department's Engine Company for over 20 years and is currently an Honorary Member. Commissioner Annunziata spent 25 years in the Telecommunications Industry and is currently working as an Executive Assistant for the Town of Huntington. Commissioner Annunziata is well known throughout the area, having been active as a coach for youth sports in the community for over 25 years. He lives in Huntington with his wife Tiffany and his three children, Isabella, Lena and Anthony.

## Passings

### Charles Ranft



Charles "Charlie" Ranft joined the Huntington Fire Department on April 13, 1970. He proudly served the Hose Company as 1st Lieutenant in 1975-1976, as 2nd Lieutenant in 1986, as 1st Lieutenant 1987-1988 and as Hose Company Captain 1989-1990.

Charlie was involved in many committees including fundraising and planning social events. A US Army veteran, he served in Vietnam and was very involved in the Patriot Guard assisting with veteran's funerals. With

over 50 years of service to the Department and to the Huntington community, Charlie was an honored recipient of the Clifford "Pop" Schwier Sr. award in 2018.

### Thomas Patrick Collins II



Thomas Patrick Collins II was called home to God on Monday, October 10, 2022, at the age of 83. He will be ever remembered for his quick wit, strong work ethic, fierce loyalty, strong Catholic faith as well as his service to the greater Huntington community.

Born in Huntington in 1939, Tom graduated Huntington High School and enlisted in the US Coast Guard where he served honorably for four years before becoming an electrician's apprentice. While honing his electrician's skills, Tom passed the NYC Fire Department exam and was a proud member of the FDNY for over 25 years. On the job Tom received a Medal of Honor award from NYC Mayor Edward Koch for saving a woman from a burning building in Queens.

Tom was first elected Commissioner in 1992. During his 30 years of service to the Huntington community, Tom was widely respected as a hardworking and determined individual. The proprietor of Collins Electrical Contracting, Tom was still active at the time of his passing. Recently reelected Fire Commissioner in 2021, Tom's guidance, foresight and affability will be missed by all.

# HUNTINGTON

## FIRE DISTRICT NEWS

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### Board of Fire Commissioners

Chairman: Michael F. Plant  
Vice Chairman: Andre Sorrentino  
Commissioner: Thomas Brown  
Commissioner: Edmund M. Erickson  
Commissioner: Anthony Annunziata

**District Manager:** Bruce Smith

**Treasurer:** Fred J. Buckholtz, Jr.

**Secretary/Deputy Treasurer:** Karla Wright

**Account Clerk:** Marie Caputo

**District Counsel:** Joseph Frank

Questions or Comments? Email us at [hfd230@gmail.com](mailto:hfd230@gmail.com)



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## Fire Facts & Safety Tips

In a given year, more than 25,000 people are injured and over 4,000 people are killed in fires in the USA alone. Fire devastation costs approximately \$10 billion annually, and the worst part is that the majority of these tragedies could have been prevented by observing and practicing the following rules:

### DO

- ✓ Immediately call your fire department when you suspect a fire! Never assume anyone else has called.
- ✓ Install smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors and test them monthly.
- ✓ Have a family escape plan and practice evacuation, especially for children and for seniors.
- ✓ Always clean the filter to remove concentrated lint in your clothes dryer after each use.
- ✓ Keep your Fire Department's phone number handy in your home and on your cell phone.



### DON'T

- ✗ Never go back inside a burning building for any reason.
- ✗ Do not overload electrical extension cords or outlets.
- ✗ Never use space heaters near combustible or flammable materials.
- ✗ Smoking is the leading cause of civilian home fire deaths. Never smoke in bed, or better yet, inside a house or building.
- ✗ Cooking equipment is the leading cause of home structure fires and fire injuries. Be careful when cooking!
- ✗ Using a barbecue or storing propane indoors is an invitation to disaster. Don't do it!
- ✗ Never use gasoline, charcoal lighter or other fuel to light/relight a fire. Vapors can explode!

ANNOUNCING OUR  
**2023**  
BACKYARD

**BBQ**



**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2023, 4:30PM – 10PM**

Great grilling, beer, line dancing. 50/50, raffles, games. Music by Urban Rodeo.  
Tickets \$35 in advance, \$40 at door.