

Annual Installation & Banquet

The Royal Order of the Blue Vests Annual Installation & Banquet was held on September 28, 2008, at the Firemen's Home in Hudson honoring the new President Mr. Paul D. McCagg of Columbia County.

The master of ceremonies for the evening was Mr. Santo 'Chan' Rivera, immediate Past President. Mr. Rivera introduced our honored and invited guests for the evening. The honored guests included Honorary Blue Vests member Mr. Craig Wittman, Firemen's Home Administrator, and Mr. Paul Beaumont from the Firemen's Home. The invited guests included many of the large group of Residents that were in attendance.

The dinner was served after the introductions were completed. The dinner selections were Steak, Stuffed Breast of Chicken, and Stuffed Sole. The dinners and desserts were terrific. A special Thank You to Mr. Paul Beaumont and his staff from the Firemen's Home kitchen for the delicious meal and for the excellent service they provided. Special note: The hors d'oeuvres included Manhattan clam chowder, cheese (sharp, horseradish, & jalapeno), pepperoni, shrimp (three & four bite size), Chicken wings, fruit platter, and soda. The hors d'oeuvres were served in the multi-purpose (bingo) room and the dinners were served in the main dining room.

The formal part of the ceremony was about to start. Mr. Rivera assembled the new officers in front of the dining hall. Mr. Craig Whitman, spoke on his travels with the residents and was called upon to administer the Oath of Office. Mr. Crain Wittman installed the new Officers and everyone was congratulated. The Officers for the Year 2008 – 2009 are as follows:

President	Mr. Paul D. McCagg, Columbia County
First Vice President	Mr. John D. Shafer, Dutchess County
Second Vice President	Mr. Fred P. Pettingell, Albany County
Third Vice President	Mr. Paul Schlegel, Rockland County
Fin. Sec. & Treas.	Mr. George H. Hill, Dutchess County
Recording Secretary	Mrs. Jennifer Mackenzie, Sullivan County
Chaplain	Mr. Frederick A. Van Loan, Greene County
Chaplain	Mr. Robert J. Creifelds, Saratoga County
Sergeant at Arms	Mr. Garth W. Walker, Greene County

The fun part of the evening was about to start. The raffle tickets were sold to all in attendance. The raffle tickets were used to dispense the many door prizes provided by the

Officers and to select the 50/50 winner. Mr. Craig Wittman selected the first winning raffle ticket to a shout of YES and many grunts and groans. The lucky winner received \$118.00.

Everyone had a good time. If you missed this Annual Installation & Banquet, don't worry, we are already starting to form plans for the Year 2009 Annual Installation & Banquet. A special Thank You to Master of Ceremonies, Mr. Santo 'Chan' Rivera, Chef Paul Beaumont, the staff that assisted the Residents & who served the dinners, Mr. Craig Whitman, Mr. James A. Coons, Mr. George W. Harp, and everyone else that lent a helping hand. A very special Thank You to the Board of Trustees of the Firemen's Home for allowing the Royal Order of the Blue Vests to use the Firemen's Home for this gala occasion.