

Chatham Fire Department October Blue Vests Meeting

The Chatham Fire Department in Columbia County hosted the Royal Order of the Blue Vests meeting on October 12, 2008. It is the home of the new Royal Order of the Blue Vests President, Mr. Paul D. McCagg.

The registration started at noontime with many members arriving earlier. President McCagg decided that a Directors Meeting was necessary and it was called to order at 1:00 PM. Several items were discussed that would be brought to the membership at the regular business meeting. One of the items discussed was the American Museum of Firefighting membership program.

President McCagg opened the business meeting at 2:00 PM. The Invocation was given by Chaplain, Mr. Frederick A. Van Loan (Athens Fire Department, Greene County). The Committee reports included the Royal Order of the Blue Vests Annual Installation & Banquet (Sept. 27), the Annual Christmas Home Day Program (Dec. 20), the January meeting that will be hosted by the Napanoch Fire Company (Jan. 25), and the Annual Steak Roast outing (June 18). Fin.Sec./Treas. Mr. George H. Hill, reminded everyone that the 2008 Annual Dues are long past due and that he has started collecting the 2009 Annual Dues. An application was read for one new prospective member. The one new member is:

Mr. Anthony Garaventa Earlton Fire Department Greene County

Under New Business, the topic of the membership in the American Museum of Firefighting was discussed. A motion was made and the membership voted to become a Chief member. Past Present Harry (aka Road Kill) Barrett gave a brief report on the Hudson Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association. Past President, Mr. Henry Tabor, announced that the Royal Order of the Blue Vests may be traveling to the Hillcrest Fire Department for the Annual Picnic. This will be confirmed at the January meeting of the Blue Vests.

President McCagg requested that Mr. Donald Berretta to please come to the dais. President McCagg announced that Mr. Donald Berretta has achieved life membership in the Royal Order of the Blue Vests. Mr. Donald Beretta received his life membership card and a round of applause. President McCagg then called for the drawing of the winning 50/50 ticket. The winning (and very lucky to be awake) member this meeting was Past President Mr. James A. Coons. A special Thank You goes to Past President Mr. George W. Harp, for his assistance in

keeping Mr. Coons awake. As always, there were a lot of "Boo's & Hiss's" from all of the unlucky ticket buyers. It was noted that our Recording Secretary, Mrs. Jennifer Mackenzie, recently gave birth to a beautiful baby girl. Mother, daughter Calie, and Grandfather Road Kill Barrett are all doing fine.

Refreshments were available before and after the meeting. Everyone was welcome and the refreshments were delicious. A special Thank You goes to the members of the Chatham Fire Department for hosting the October meeting, for their wonderful hospitality, for the great refreshments, and to Road Kill Barrett for his usual special refreshments.