

# **FIRECRIER**

**West Des Moines Fire Department**

**JANUARY, 2014**



## **UPCOMING DATES**

◆ Tonight could be the night

.....

## **ON THE SPOTS**

**Derrick Bingham**

**Corry Dolbeer**

**Eric Brenneman**

**Jerry Eslick**

**Sam Kranovich**

**Don "Foxy" Cox**

## **MOVING ON**

Greg Willis (#17- 13 years) has resigned due to work and family commitments. Good Luck Greg and Thanks!

## **THANK YOU !!!**

On behalf of the City of West Des Moines and the entire Fire Department we wish to thank the Fire Fighters' Association for their recent donations to the department. New SCBAs were purchased for E170; the inflatable fire fighter for public education/relations events has been ordered and the previously purchased IPADs for the Duty Officers. These donations total almost \$30,000+. There has also been recent discussion among other department managers

about the success of our own recognition dinner which would not be possible without the Association sponsoring the one time, each year, that we can officially recognize some of the extraordinary accomplishments made by our personnel. Various fund-raising that takes place during the year such as the mid volleyball tournament and the pancake breakfast takes a lot of work but the outcomes appears to be well worth it, by benefiting our members recognition, safety and welfare.

## **NOTE AND GIFTS OF APPRECIATION FROM THE CLARKE FAMILY**

A house fire is a devastating event to experience, especially when it's your own home.

However, the professionalism, teamwork and expertise we all witnessed at my folks' home at 5100 Grand Avenue, in West Des Moines, by your Department or Station was simply extraordinary!!... Your team certainly went way above and beyond the "Call for Duty", especially, considering the near arctic temperatures at the time.

Thanks to all of your joint efforts to corral together many furniture pieces and other items and then to place a tarp over the top, saved many generational and prized belongings so that they can continue to be enjoyed by current and also future family members, and for that we are extremely and forever grateful.

Again, we thank you for all your extraordinary efforts not just for our family but for all the citizen's you serve each and every day!!

Please enjoy the case of various Apples, Oranges, pears and Grapefruit as a token of our highest regard, appreciation and gratitude.

Sincerely,

Lloyd & carol and the John and Jody Clarke Families

(Chief's Note- we are making headway with fruit delivery vs. donuts)

## 2013 RECRUITS GRADUATE

January 12, 2014- Valley High School

One of the largest audiences ever, witnessed the swearing in of twelve (12) new paid-on-call fire fighters for West Des Moines along with fire fighters from four other communities. Audience attendees came from as far away as Kansas City. Pictures by Yoshi....



**Recruits Watch the Excellent Video they produced which drew a lot of positive comments from the audience.**



**Taking the Oath and Realizing the Importance of It**



**Chief Cox addresses the Recruits and Audience**



**Some family members also serve in the fire service.**



**D.C. Eslick accepts the traditional Class Pictures and Unit Emblems**



**Lt. Jeremy Nelson receiving the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Employee Excellence Award from City Manager Greg Sparks.**



Lt. Nelson received the award for his creative training evolutions he managed for the entire fire department. The acquired buildings were current buildings in WDM undergoing renovations. Lt. Nelson performed a number of these duties on his days off, without compensation and created real-life scenarios for F/Fs to escape dangerous condition in buildings they may encounter.

**TRAFFIC SAFETY !!!**

Safety Focus for the month (and always) of February 2014.

Based on feedback from our leadership team, the #1 pick to prevent injuries and fatalities had to do with Traffic Safety--here are the specific things identified that Officers and personnel should review during February and bring up almost every shift for discussion.

- a) Review Traffic Related SOGs!
- b) 100% mandatory use/enforcement of traffic vests (no exceptions)!
- c) Encourage Duty Officer to help protect the scene on all traffic accidents.
- d) Proper use (SOG) of vehicle lighting on emergency scenes,
- e) Proper vehicle placement on traffic accidents (SOG)
- f) Establish a Traffic Spotter when possible.
- g) Use of Tiger Flares & Traffic Cones
- h) Situational Awareness of Slip/Fall risks (ice, slopes, etc.)

Based on your focused attention/review /training, I anticipate that ideas will come forward to improve our situations (SOGs, etc.) Please funnel those through D.C. Eslick, the Chair of our Health/Safety Committee).

Personally, I think this is the most risky environment we work in that could cause injury/death so I am please you also recognize that risk and want to do something about it. It is up to each and every one of you. This includes all administrative staff that stops at vehicle accidents/disabled cars.

All,

Every fire and EMS Department operates on roadways-so here is another one we need to know about and share with the troops in your firehouse. And while many FD's do what we are trained to do by folks such as [www.ResponderSafety.com](http://www.ResponderSafety.com), **the drunks are everywhere...and we cannot expect normalcy and directed behavior when they are involved.**

In this case, they were doing everything right while assisting a stranded motorist, using warning lights and arrow boards, yet still a careless, drunk semi-driver ran them over resulting in this tragic outcome. In this case, a tollway worker from Illinois died and an Illinois State trooper was hospitalized night after a fiery crash along Interstate 88. The trooper and the highway safety worker were helping a disabled semitrailer truck about 2145 hours in the eastbound lanes of I-88 in Aurora when another semitrailer truck barreled into them. District 15 State Trooper Douglas J. Balder, 38, was listed this morning in critical condition, but is conscious and expected to recover.

Killed in the line of duty was Illinois Highway Safety Worker Vincent Petrella. Petrella had pulled over on Interstate 88 in Aurora in the bitter cold night for a semi that had broken down when another semi crashed into a state trooper's squad car which then crashed into his truck in a fiery explosion. Petrella, 39 and the father of two, died at the scene. Trooper Douglas J. Balder, 38, remains in critical but stable condition.

**DUI DRIVER CHARGED:** Cops charged Renato V. Velasquez, 46, in connection with the accident. Velasquez was charged with operating a commercial vehicle while impaired/fatigued, filing a false report of record and duty status, driving more than 14 hours and driving beyond the 11 hour rule, all class four felonies. He was also charged with failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident and failure to yield to stationary emergency vehicles in violation of the Illinois Scott's Law.

Below are links to a local article for this tragic

accident that occurred in Illinois night about 25 miles west of Chicago. While not a FF LODD, but roadway safety workers and cops work with us all, daily. In this case the Tollway Worker was killed and the State Trooper remains in critical condition after the fiery crash and extrication handled by the Aurora Fire Department. They were doing everything right while assisting a stranded motorist, using warning lights and arrow boards, yet still a careless, drunk semi-driver ran them over resulting in this tragic outcome.

**It could have been any of us.**

<http://www.dailyherald.com/article/20140127/news/701279681/>

[http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2014-01-28/news/chitrooper-accident-maintenance-worker-20140127\\_1\\_tollway-worker-state-trooper-illinois-tollway](http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2014-01-28/news/chitrooper-accident-maintenance-worker-20140127_1_tollway-worker-state-trooper-illinois-tollway)

<http://www.nydailynews.com/news/national/tollway-worker-killed-crash-illinois-highway-article-1.1593823>

[www.FireFighterCloseCalls.com](http://www.FireFighterCloseCalls.com)

## **LUNCH IS ON THE CHIEF**

The first person to identify (send Chief an e-mail) the Vehicle that used the most fuel in 2013 and approximately how many Gallons and the associated Cost will be treated to a free lunch by me. One rule- you may not contact PW for this information.

## **NEW LOOK !!!**

### **Fire Marshal's New Tahoe**



The New Patch and Color match of Blue and Silver is on C104 and will soon be on C219.