



History Is Made ~ Alfred Station Fire Company Wins Allegany County Firemen's Convention Earning Coveted Grand Trophy 2 Consecutive 3 Year Cycles

by Fire Police Captain David Williams

July 24, 2007

The Alfred Station Fire Company, under the direction of President Judson Stearns, Jr. and Chief Jeff Ormsby won the Grand Trophy at the 92nd Annual Allegany County Firefighter's Convention held in Belfast, NY from Wednesday July, 11th through Saturday July 14th.

The Grand Trophy, which Alfred Station has won seven times (1999, 2001, 2002, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007), is awarded based on attendance at convention meetings, year-round participation in county meetings, the Firematics skills competition, the convention parade, fire prevention book & programs and truck judging. The Grand Trophy is a 'revolving' trophy unless a fire company wins the trophy 3 consecutive years in a row at which point the company has earned the right to retire and permanently display the trophy at their hall. Alfred Station Fire Company is the first fire company in the history of Allegany County to have retired the Grand Trophy twice, retiring it in two, consecutive three-year revolving cycles in a row.

In addition to the Grand Trophy, Alfred Station was awarded first place trophies for: Best Appearing Fire Department (16 members and over), Most Firefighters In Line [for the parade], the Officers Trophy (most membership in line as a percentage of total members), the Fire Prevention Book (the Alan Young Memorial Trophy), Best Appearing Pumper In-Service 1996-2005, Broom-Ball, and Human Truck Pull. Alfred Station also took a third place trophy for the water-ball competition.

This year was the fourth time (2004, 2005, 2006, 2007) Alfred Station Junior Firefighters competed in convention events; bringing home the first place trophies for Best Appearing Junior Fire Company, Most Junior Firefighters in Line, Broom-Ball, and Human Truck Pull. The Alfred Station Fire Company reestablished its Junior Firefighter Program in 2003.

When asked about the Company's success, Chief Jeff Ormsby replied, "We're extremely proud to be able to represent our community at the convention and while our members have a lot of fun participating in convention events, our success demonstrates our firefighters' true dedication to the communities we serve." He also congratulated the other fire companies which participated adding, "Allegany County is lucky to have such skilled and dedicated firefighters."

Chief Ormsby extended a special thanks to two company members who were honored by Allegany County at the convention meeting on Wednesday, July 11th for their years of service. Mr. Charles Burdick and Mr. Douglas Burdick are active company members who have served our company for a combined total of 110 years since the company was formed in 1912. The two members are brothers and both are lifelong residents of our community. Charles Burdick (right center) joined the fire company in 1947 making 2007 his 60th Anniversary of service and Douglas Burdick (left center) joined the fire company in 1957 making 2007 his 50th Anniversary of service. Chief Ormsby added, "We, as a company, are inspired by these gentlemen and their dedication to the community. When these gentlemen were recognized, they were surprised because in their words, 'We just do what is needed.' which exemplifies the true heart and spirit of volunteer firefighters."



Photo (left to right): Chief Jeff Ormsby, Firefighter June Kenyon, Firefighter Pat Wasson, Honoree Douglas Burdick, Honoree Charles Burdick, Firefighter Donn Lang, Firefighter Gerri VanTreese, Firefighter Ben Link, and Assistant Chief Brian Goodridge

The members of the Alfred Station Fire Company would like to extend their thanks for the tremendous support from the surrounding community, without which their success would not be possible. This year the Alfred Station Fire Company is celebrating 95 years of service to the towns of Alfred, Hartsville and Ward.