

Warwick Firefighters Retirees Association



**October Meeting
Monday, October 4th**

**November Meeting
Monday, Nov. 1st.**

**CHECK OUR WEB
SITE @ WARCIIK-
FIREMENSASSOCI
ATION.COM for up
to date events.**

Thanks this month goes out to Bob Lavalley for his generous donation.

As always we count on your support in so many ways to help grow our association.

Rescue Lieutenant Raymond Cahoon,

It is with deep regret and sadness to report the passing of brother fire fighter Raymond Cahoon. Ray died on August 10, 2010. Appointed to the Warwick Fire Department on March 24, 1958, and retired 24 years later on September 12, 1982. Ray spent the greater portion of his career as a rescue lieutenant assigned mostly to Rescue 2 and Rescue 4.

Ray had been ill for many years but on occasion would attend the retiree meetings. He was present at our last meeting. In addition to his public service, Ray was involved in the community and for many years directed the West Shore Drum and bugle Corp. Ray served proudly in the United States Army and, if asked, he would tell you of his combat actions during the Korean War. We send our condolences to his family and to his son, Fire Fighter Steve Cahoon. In accordance with his wishes, a donation in Ray's name was made to the Warwick Animal Shelter.

Pension Rolls Increase by 32%

Records obtained from the City of Warwick show that the number of former Warwick Fire Fighters now receiving pensions has grown by 32% since March, 2005.

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|------------|----------|-----|--------|----|
| Sept. 2010 | Retirees | 232 | Widows | 46 |
| March 2005 | Retirees | 176 | Widows | 44 |

20 deceased retirees since 2005

Pondering

Election time is rapid approaching and it is more important than ever that we THINK before we vote. But before getting too involved about politics, I would like to relay two stories about where this election is probably headed.

The first story involves me driving down Route 95 while listening to a talk radio show. Much to my surprise a retired Warwick fire fighter called the talk show host and began to pontificate his views as to the evils of unions and the cost of property taxes and how state and city workers are being over compensated for their labors. While I respect his right to voice his opinion, I could only hope that he backs up his words with action and refuses to receive any future pension adjustments. However, we all know this will never happen. You can bet your bottom dollar that come election time he will vote for those candidates less likely to support school teachers, police, and fire fighters. In short, this is another example of a selfish individual that doesn't THINK how electing politicians to public office who hold such anti-labor views can affect his bottom line.

My second story involves receiving my summer alumni magazine from Bryant University. The issue was of particular interest in that the topic of discussion was our present economic recession and what needs to be done to bring back our economy. The feature article included interviews with four distinguished alumni: one a CEO of a large regional bank and the other three top executives of Wall Street investment houses. All four stated that they could see trouble brewing one year before the housing market collapsed. Which raises the question "If they knew the housing market was about to collapse, why didn't they they take corrective action to prevent their industry from nearly bringing America to its knees?" The short answer is that they were to busy making huge profits.

Their answer as to how to bring America back was even more interesting. 'American workers must be more productive to meet foreign competition.' Translation: American workers need to work longer hours at less pay to match that of workers in India, and China. Not one of them ever made mention of a study conducted by Harvard University in conjunction with the University of Utah that reported between the years 190-2005 the average United States CEO pay increased by 300% after adjusting for inflation. The middle class in the United States is disappearing right before your eyes. The resentment being focused on state and municipal workers is a direct result of our elected officials unwilling to protect the wealth of this nation from being shipped overseas.

Unionism is not synonymous with any particular political party. Unionism is neither socialism nor capitalism. Unionism, is the democratic joining of workers to improve their common interest and working conditions. Based on these simple principles it is more important that we THINK on what candidates come closest to embracing these views. Nearly all of us are opposed to wasteful government spending, but we should never confuse a politicians views of wanting to curb wasteful government spending with cheating the workers who make government work.

Fred Slaiger



Class of 1962

Top Row: L to R Elmer Mungo, Joseph Werbinski, Capt. Ralph Madison, Arthur Riley, George Gardner
 Bottom L to R Bill Prado, Jim Cullin, George Noble, Elmer Cobb, Olen Parker, Robert Lee

Note: If you have a class picture please submit for publication

History Trivia—Uniforms

The light blue with navy blue trousers now being worn by Warwick Fire Fighters has a history relating to the Vietnam War. Up until the late 1960s' most, if not all Rhode Island fire fighters, wore khaki shirts and trousers. As the Vietnam War grew in intensity, the US Army expanded in manpower and khaki became in short supply in order to meet the needs of the Army.

If memory serves me correctly, Lieut. Gorge Kaye and B/C Arthur Ellis researched changing our class B uniforms to a more affordable blue uniform manufactured by Lions. A vote was taken by the membership and soon after dark navy blue shirts and trousers were issued. Lieutenants and captains wore white shirts. As you can imagine, white shirts are not suited well for fire fighting and both fire fighters and officers switched to light blue shirts now in use. Hats were worn at all times, including to and from work. Winter jackets were brown railroad style. B/C's wore Class A uniforms at all time. Please feel free to add your comments for historical accuracy.



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WARWICKFIREMENSASSOCIATION.COM

- **New Retiree Joins Our Ranks:** On May 20, 2010 Fire Fighter Kristines' (Johnson/Rozzero) Squeo, the first female fire fighter appointed to the Warwick Fire Department, retired after having served 20 year on the Department. Kristine Last assignment was as Driver, Engine 4 A Platoon. Kristine joined the Warwick Fire Department on May 7, 1980.
- **Union Contract Posted on City of Warwick Website** If you are so inclined to have a look at the collective bargaining agreement between the City of Warwick and Local 2748, IAFF, you can by pulling up the City of Warwick website. Also posted are the collective bargaining agreements for police and municipal workers.
- **Steak Fry** Greenwood Volunteer museum will be holding a steak fry on Oct. 3rd. Cost is \$25.00. Please help support the history of our Dept. Call James Masterson 641-5008 for tickets.
- **Question:** Who was the Warwick Fire Fighter who designed our Department shoulder patch???

Important Phone Numbers

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|--------------------------|---------------|
| Warwick City Hall | (401)738-2000 |
| Mayor's Office | ext. 6200 |
| Tax Assessor | ext. 6271 |
| Tax Collector | ext. 6255 |
| Human Services | 468-4101 |
| Warwick Fire Dept. | 468-4000 |
| Warwick Firemen's Assoc. | 467-7888 |

WARWICK FIREFIGHTERS RETIRESS BOARD OF OFFICERS

Fred Slaiger, President
Joe Evangelista, V. President
Ed Duckworth, Secretary
Fred Taute, Treasurer