

SOUTH KITSAP FIRE & RESCUE VOLUNTEER ASSOCIATION

PO Box 2431 Port Orchard, WA 98366-0697
<http://www.skfrva.org/>



Annual Report

The SKFR Volunteer Association experienced highs and lows in the year 2007. Despite the fluctuation, the Association's goals and objectives were met and our vision into the future is positive.

Fortunately, the combined efforts of our members got us through the difficult times and kept our activities strong. Simple things like FF Scott Gammill stepping up to handle all the multiple large sign hanging through out town for our various events eased the burden.

2007 Officers:

President: Battalion Chief Terry Bontrager
Vice-President: Firefighter R. S. Lucke
Treasurer: Tender Operator Debi Smith
Secretary: Firefighter Josh Zurbrugg

The primary interest of these officers was to manage the annual calendar for our recurring events, oversee the efforts to complete a Strategic Plan for the volunteer association, and develop ways to increase the members and their participation. These objectives were unfortunately shadowed by the failing health, and tragic loss of, Barb Bontrager, a former volunteer member and wife of our president.

Operations:

In 2007, 29 Association members logged at least one of the Tuesday night or Saturday morning trainings. 32 members are logged as responding to at least one incident, contributing over 1000 hours on scene. Volunteer apparatus response included Engine 6, Tender 6, Air 9, Tender 9, Tender 11, and Brush 12.

Significant events included an hour's worth of interior combat at a residence on Olney Ave., a 15 acre vegetation fire on Burley-Olalla Rd., and a series of heavy storms in December that dropped 12 inches of rain in 48 hours.

Community Service:

The annual calendar of community events has become second nature.

After a swift clean up effort of the Triangle Park and Olalla Elementary school grounds by all the members before the start of a drill, the Easter Egg Hunt was staged and ready. The Saturday hunt at Olalla Elementary was wet, but the turn out was healthy and full of smiles. Beautiful weather appeared the next day for another successful Olalla Easter Breakfast. The Association and IAFF Local 2876 served breakfast to 446 people, this year. This was the union's year to select recipients for the breakfast proceeds. Multiple families in the community were identified as needing assistance and the funds were dispersed in short order.

In addition to providing apparatus and staffing to the Safety Fair, which was BC Wilson's last production before retirement, the association offered hot dogs, chips and beverages to the crowd.

Marie Spiker of South Kitsap High was selected as this year's scholarship recipient. The scholarship committee, Fire Commissioner Preuss, DC Olson, Lt. Smith, FF Lerma and FF Barr, were particularly impressed with Miss Spiker and her objectives for the future. Later investigation discovered that she was also the first selected recipient to have competed in the HotFoot 5K which finances the scholarship program.

The 6th annual HotFoot 5K production met expectations again. However, it was decided that it is time for improvements, so 2008 will be a big year for the event.

The event calendar really picked up after summer. The Fire House Spaghetti Feed, in October, treated 387 people to

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spaghetti, two choices of sauce, salad, and garlic bread, with chocolate chip cookies for dessert. The event remains a community favorite. Collected funds were used to provide bleachers at the SK High tennis courts and a storage structure at the Eastern Little League earlier in the year.

Lt. Tammy Ross took the lead again in our assistance to the Givens Halloween Party. Regrettably, the Association has received reports that the 13th annual community party may not have a 14th, due to budget cuts.

The Breakfast with Santa event, which debuted so well in 2006, was adored by 281 people this year. Mike and Debi Smith implemented some lessons learned at the 2006 event, and version 2 went much more smoothly than the first one. One highlight was Ed Russel reprising his role as Santa. The Association is particularly thankful to the assistance of Scout Troop 1523 in helping staff the breakfast. They helped make the breakfast look easy. Proceeds from the breakfast greatly enhanced the Association's contribution to the Sidney Glen Family Outreach program this winter.

Unfortunately, the Santa Runs suffered this season. Staffing was an issue we could not overcome. More evening runs were missed than in previous years, despite a few occasions where an incomplete team was available to work. Still, the community made financial and food donations. 57 pounds of food was collected and taken to SK Helpline. Several possible modifications to the program are being considered for 2008.

Activities outside the community event calendar:

- Supported by Peninsula McDonalds Restaurants, owners of the Mile Hill McDonalds, SKFR Fire Explorer Post #77 conducted a McTakeover for their fund raising efforts.
- Association members provided a small role in raceway coverage, and look forward to increased inclusion in 2008.
- The Association proudly contributed sponsorship to the two SKFR teams participating in the Firefighter Combat Challenge National Finals in Las Vegas. Both teams placed very well.
- The Association's Strategic Plan was written. Approval is expected early in 2008. This will be the Association's roadmap for the future.
- Engine 6 received its reflective striping.
- The storage area of Station 12 was organized.

Not surprisingly, Mike and Debi Smith were at the forefront of all these actions.

Membership:

In 2007, the Association gained 4 new Firefighters from the Spring and Fall volunteer academy classes, and 2 new Air Support Operators. We would like to welcome:

- Air Support Operator Jon Andrzejews
- Firefighter Andrew Bergford
- Firefighter Justin Downey
- Firefighter Nicole Eggebraten
- Firefighter Jimmy Ferguson
- Air Support Operator Eric Loynd

The South Kitsap Fire & Rescue Volunteer Association would like to thank each of you for giving us your time and energy.

This year was another example of our high attrition rate and how quickly we can lose good members. This is not necessarily negative. Most of the people we see leave are moving on to see their objective of career fire service. Some, of course, move on to pursue other better opportunities. But, it is evident that our structure caters more to the young ambitious types who are un-established. Although they serve well; they tend to move on to serve other communities. Clearly, attention needs to be placed on providing the incentive to draw the interest of those established community members who also choose to serve.

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The Coming Year:

In addition to the event calendar, the Association is looking forward to assisting with two more large projects:

- Increase the membership of the Chaplain's Program. The current chaplains work very hard, and the Association would like to help them by spreading the load.
- Help Fire Prevention Manager Greg Rogers with the restart of the Home Inspection Program.

Conclusion:

2007 had its share of successes and failures. The Association found a talented and ambitious young lady deserving of a scholarship, and suffered from an inability to get Santa out to the neighborhoods before Christmas.

Looking forward to 2008, the Association will soon have its community event calendar set and published. The anticipated changes include moving the Breakfast with Santa up by a week, and exploring alternative events for Halloween.

Written by: FF R. Scott Lucke and FF David Barr