

2012 Annual Report
Auxiliary - Francestown Volunteer Fire Department

Officers elected for 2012

President: Karen St. Cyr
Vice President: Linda Abbott
Secretary: Donna Barbalato
Treasurer: Judi Miller

The Auxiliary is committed to supporting the Francestown Volunteer Fire Department (FVFD) via service and fund raising efforts. We were called out to provide refreshments for extended calls and were prepared for hurricane Sandy. Refreshments for lengthy training sessions were also provided. A traditional corned beef dinner was catered for over sixty attendees at the March meeting of the Hillsborough County Forest Fire Wardens, annually held at the Francestown station.

Publication of the biennial Francestown Telephone and Business Directory, our primary fundraiser, provides a community service for residents. Proceeds from the Directory Project are donated to the FVFD for use toward a priority need. The *2012 Francestown Telephone and Business Directory* was released in March, and we are indebted to local, mostly small, businesses for their support. Their advertisements make the publication possible and indirectly support our volunteer fire company. A movement to “shop locally, support local businesses” seems to be on the upswing and benefits everyone; we urge you to keep the momentum going. \$3500 has been dedicated towards the purchase of a much needed replacement Defibrillator. Another fundraising initiative is Town Meeting refreshments at Saturday’s deliberative session.

Over seventy children, including Francestown Elementary School students, preschoolers, and home schooled students, teachers, support staff, and parent chaperones, participated in the Fire Prevention and Safety Program in October. This year a special program was held at the fire station for FES students. Close up inspection of all fire apparatus, educational stations, and a spirited mini muster for combined grades three-four in the side parking area made for a memorable event. FES classes were presented with Toadstool Literary Vouchers, compliments of the Auxiliary. Later that morning, a similar program geared towards younger children was held at the library. Refreshments for both programs were provided by the Auxiliary.

Our service extends to the Francestown community and beyond. 2012 marked the tenth year of Red Cross blood drives being held in town. Thanks to donor generosity, representing over a dozen communities, the goal of surpassing 900 pints collected to date was achieved! Begun by the Auxiliary in response to the need for blood following 911, the semi-annual blood drives are held at FES on the first Monday in May and the last Monday in November. The blood drives regularly include a mix of donors: regular donors, donors returning after a hiatus in giving, and first time donors.

We are honored to participate in Francestown’s Veteran’s Day Celebrations as host for the Veteran’s Day Luncheon immediately following the Veteran’s Day Service. On a beautiful November Sunday, over one hundred attendees and veterans gathered at the Masonic Lodge for refreshments and socializing. We also support The Welcome Basket Project led by Diane Noonan and Lori Hardwick -Way.

The Auxiliary is deeply appreciative of its friends and neighbors for their support of our endeavors. If you are interested becoming a member, or would like more information about the Auxiliary, please contact an officer.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen A. St. Cyr
President