

AUXILIARY OF THE VOL. FIRE DEPARTMENT

Officers elected for 2017

President: Karen St. Cyr

Vice President: Linda Abbott

Secretary: Donna Barbalato

Treasurer: Judi Miller

The Auxiliary of the Francestown Volunteer Fire Department actively aids and benefits the Francestown Volunteer Fire Department - a 100% volunteer fire company. We provide assistance when needed, and financial support to the department, primarily via the Directory Project. Our service extends to the Francestown community and beyond. This year was challenging and busy for us, as well as being one of change and opportunity. New members, Kelly Marshall, Lisa St. John, Bev Abbott and Janet McSweeney were warmly welcomed to the organization.

Meetings are scheduled every other month, except during the summer months. We are also on call 24/7 for refreshments when the fire department is out on extended calls. On two occasions this year, food, hot beverages and water were provided on scene, and at the firehouse for covering fire companies during two winter calls - a nighttime house fire and a midday windstorm. In June, refreshments were provided for a special Saturday morning Regional Training Seminar presented by Lt. Bill Greenwood, the official from the support agency that assisted the FVFD with plans for the funeral service for Cole Wohle. Attendees from the local area and beyond were invited.

March was our busiest month. The Auxiliary provided refreshments for the deliberative session of Town Meeting. We thank the many residents who have patronized and generously supported this fundraising effort over the years. On the last Tuesday in March, the Auxiliary hosted the traditional corned beef dinner for the March meeting of the Hillsborough Country Forest Fire Wardens.

Successful semi-annual blood drives held in May and November boosted the total of pints collected to almost 1300 pints since blood drives began in response to the need for blood following 911. In spite of a cold and rainy October day, Francestown Elementary School students and staff and homeschooled families enjoyed an enlightening and memorable Fire Prevention & Safety presentation at the firehouse. The Auxiliary provided refreshments and presented Toadstool Literature Vouchers to each classroom.

At the luncheon following the annual Veteran's Day Service, the Auxiliary presented a quilt, designed and hand made by a "quilt angel" resident, to the veteran who won the drawing. The luncheon, hosted by the Parent Teacher Organization at Francestown Elementary School, was the first town event held at the renovated Town Hall. The PTO and children served a standing-room only gathering, and continued the traditional luncheon established by the Auxiliary when the Veteran's Day service began in town close to a decade ago.

The Auxiliary is a sponsor for the Welcome Basket project that welcomes new residents moving into town. 2017 was a record-setting year for the number of deliveries for the initiative, which is continued by a 3rd generation family member. Over a dozen families had a special Christmas, thanks to efforts of the Community Church of Francestown, together with help from the Auxiliary and many residents.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen St. Cyr

