



**1877 - 1977**

**Greetings:**

It is with sincere pleasure that the 100th Anniversary of the New Jersey State Firemen's Association comes as a part of my regime as your president.

May I express my appreciation and that of my fellow officers, the honor it is to be serving in the footsteps of so many dedicated leaders who preceded us in this association.

In entering the span of Century II, may we continue to expand our progress and fulfill the concept under which this association was organized.

Sincerely,

*William J. Dugan*

President  
New Jersey State Firemen's Association

J352.3

H673

copy 1

## 1976-1977 OFFICERS



PRESIDENT  
WILLIAM J. DUGAN



VICE PRESIDENT  
ERNEST J. GREENWALD, SR.



1ST ASST. SECRETARY  
J. OLIVER KEHS



SECRETARY  
ARTHUR D. WEBER, SR.



2ND ASST. SECRETARY  
LEWIS E. BERRYMAN



TREASURER  
LOUIS W. PULASTY



AUDITOR  
PAUL F. PENN



COUNSEL  
BARRY T. PARKER

## HISTORICAL RECORD

The real value and importance of recognized fire service in the State of New Jersey goes back to the year 1846. It was in this year that the inception of foreign fire insurance companies doing business in the state found a 2% levy on insurance fire premiums being paid to the firemen. The definition of foreign insurance companies is where their headquarter office is located outside of New Jersey. Such payments were made to the Treasurer of the State of New Jersey and redistributed. Essex County being the first to receive such distributed funds.

The method of collection and distribution was deemed far from satisfactory by the firemen. Twenty-seven years later in 1873 an investigation was directed by Hon. Theo. Macknett, then a member of the state assembly. His investigation disclosed excessive costs and that the method that had much to be desired in claims by the firemen had been found to be true and cause for concern.

In 1876 the law was changed giving local fire company treasurers the right to collect such 2% direct by petitioning for such money through the local insurance agents. The first year under the new collection method saw much improvement. Such method also found the concept of Local Firemen's Relief Associations being formed to eliminate agents splitting distribution payments where more than one fire company made up a fire department.

The new collection method stimulated a belief by firemen in Newark that a state organization should be formed to protect their interest. In early 1877, a meeting was held in Newark with fifty five men present and representing the following nineteen fire departments in attendance.

Burlington	Hackettstown	Newark	Phillipsburg
Dover	Hoboken	Newton	Passaic
Elizabeth	Jersey City	New Brunswick	Salem
Harrison	Long Branch	Paterson	Trenton
Hackensack	Morristown	Orange	

It was at this meeting that the New Jersey State Firemen's Association was organized and became a reality. William H. Brown of Newark was elected president with his term to continue until a convention could be planned and held later in the year. Such a convention being anticipated to encourage more fire departments and broaden a membership that would bring strength to a state organization.

## THE FIRST CONVENTION . . . 1877

The New Jersey State Firemen's Association convened for its initial convention in Trenton, N.J., September, 1877. At that meeting William H. Brown was seated as the first president of the association. Col. Bird W. Spencer, Passaic, was elected treasurer and what was a start to many years of service and leadership for which the organization is indeed thankful.

The object of the association being, to combine efforts and unity in binding cooperation of all firemen and to develop what would be best for its membership and next of kin.

The 1877 convention found but fourteen Local Firemen's Relief Associations in attendance. At that meeting treasurer Spencer introduced a resolution which was passed unanimously establishing ground rules for legislation making it mandatory for all foreign insurance companies to pay the 2%. Failure would result in a denial for doing business in New Jersey.

The second convention was held in Paterson in September 1878. At which meeting Col. Bird W. Spencer was elected president. He then proceeded to be re-elected for the next fifty-two years. During this span of service there were many achievements that proved to be the outcome of his vision of organizational needs to bring about successful growth. President Spencer was instrumental in starting a move for a home for firemen. Only after hard work did such become a reality in 1900. This man was also the backbone of a Death Burial Benefit Fund that has proven a real motivation to all firemen. Such fund along with a supplemental modification to our by-laws found additional funds also being provided for financial relief to those in need.

It is most interesting to note from records that the first Local Firemen's Relief Associations were incorporated by special acts of legislation. In the year 1885, all laws relating to firemen, were consolidated and incorporated into a single act to be generally known as "The Firemen's Act of 1885." This act provided and paved the way in March of that year for the Certificate of Incorporation of the New Jersey State Firemen's Association.

In 1922 an amendment was passed making possible the establishment of a General Relief Fund. Such fund replaced the original Death Burial Benefit Fund and broadened the scope of benefits with permissible distribution. This fund is part of the rules and regulations and is administered by the Executive Committee of the association. The expressed purpose of the General Relief Fund was to provide controlled supervision for all benefits with mandatory reporting of such to bureaus of the state. The General Relief Fund is supported through an annual assessment placed on each Local Firemen's Relief Association. It also receives supplemental funding from Trenton, where money is paid by insurance companies writing fire insurance

policies in areas having no Local Relief Association. However, such disbursements are only provided to our fund after the budget demands of the Firemen's Home in Boonton has been fulfilled.

In 1928 with the retirement of president Bird W. Spencer, senior vice president Chris H. Hasselhuhn of Carlstadt was elected to succeed him, and lead the association through re-election for the next thirty six years. During this span of service, president Hasselhuhn and the Executive Committee instituted membership control with established minimum and maximum age as well as controlled quotas for membership. In addition, a new method of collecting the 2% money was created. The success in revenue receipts being a tremendous up-lift to the treasuries of all local associations. Today, all collections are made from the insurance companies through The Insurance Service Organization of New Jersey and re-distributed to all Local Relief Associations by designated area code numbers in which insurance is sold. All money distributed is accurately reported to the satisfaction of the various agencies or bureaus.

The September 1964 convention and retirement of president Hasselhuhn found William J. Dugan of Morris Township being elected as the fourth president of the association. His election gave the membership new leadership, having moved up from serving on the Executive Committee to that of vice president in which he was elected in 1952. His election brought about continued progress with dedicated leadership that has marked the continued growth of the organization.

Fire departments in New Jersey are for the most part volunteer, yet united with that of many paid departments making up the roster of the organization. Any fire department or fire company under municipal control by ordinance or resolution is eligible to form a Local Relief Association. Regardless of status, paid or volunteer, all must function under a common set of uniform rules.

An Executive Committee consisting of twenty-three members representing all counties is elected annually at the convention. It is their responsibility to supervise and control all funds, and to see that all reports are subjected to both internal and private audit. In addition a five member Advisory Committee is appointed by the president to approve burial claims and to act on appeals, etc. This committee is made up of three members of the Executive Committee and the treasurer and auditor by virtue of their office.

The headquarter office, located in East Orange, is responsible for the membership of now close to 57,000 active and retired firemen. Such membership is incorporated within the 487 local Firemen's Relief Associations throughout the state. The obligation and responsibility of the office can be described as full time. Changes on the local level and normal operations in the

office finds a full time staff of employees working in conjunction with the elected state officers.

To qualify for permissible benefits from the General Relief Fund a fireman must serve seven years under established rules and regulations. They must perform 60% duty in attendance for alarms and drills during each year. The current maximum payment at time of death is \$1500. Should death occur from direct performance while in the line of duty, a claim is paid at double the maximum or \$3000.

Like any organization, the New Jersey State Firemen's Association has been faced with its share of problems. Such have been quite heavy during the past twenty four months. Certain medias outside the organization have prompted a challenge to our means of operation. Your officers, the Executive Committee and the firemen in general responded to the critics in an honorable and just manner. President Dugan in making known our open door concept to our means of operation, has been successful in satisfying every avenue of concern.

In completing 100 years of service as a state organization, we can look back with pride on overall accomplishments. Our disbursement of funds under General Fund Rules finds over one million dollars being paid out annually to widows or next of kin of firemen who pass away. Another amount in excess of \$800,000, is being paid out in relief. However, such relief is only made available after application of need is presented and scrutinized prior to approval by local association trustees. The assets of the combined associations making up the New Jersey State Firemen's Association is over fifteen million dollars. This has only been made possible by sound management and good business practices.

The pattern of our operation is unlike that of other states, yet all do receive the 2% for use by the firemen. In New Jersey all money is received by the firemen, and managed and disbursed by firemen. We feel that act of 1885 which has spelled out our activity has been fulfilled with honor and dedication.

Activity of all associations of the organization is reported to the New Jersey Commissioner of Insurance and to the Secretary of State each year. In addition a full and a detailed printed version of all activity is made available to delegates attending the annual convention. Local Firemen's Relief Associations not meeting the criteria under which they are chartered are not funded.

After 100 years of service, it remains the desire and goal of the officers and members of the association to continue the high level qualities of management and bringing financial success to our growth. With this in mind, The New Jersey State Firemen's Association will enter Century II offering the dedication and enthusiasm which was gifted to the organization when organized in 1877.



OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, NEW JERSEY STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

1976-1977

## OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### NEW JERSEY STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

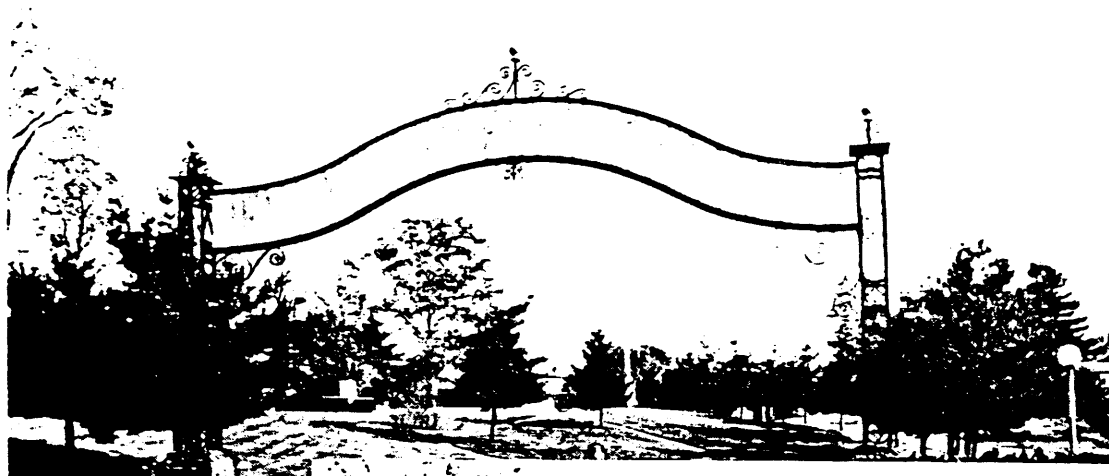
President	William J. Dugan	Morris Plains
Vice President	Ernest J. Greenwald, Sr.	Lumberton
Secretary	Arthur D. Weber, Sr.	Brick Town
1st Asst. Secretary	J. Oliver Kehs	Freehold
2nd Asst. Secretary	Lewis E. Berryman	National Park
Treasurer	*Louis W. Pulasty	Edison
Auditor	*Paul E. Penn	Metuchen
Counsel	Barry T. Parker	Mt. Holly

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Atlantic County	William T. Carney, Jr.	Northfield
Bergen County	Bernard T. Aschenbrand	Bergenfield
Burlington County	Hal Quicksall	Riverside
Camden County	Norman Figueroa	Pennsauken
Cape May County	Harry G. Martin	Stone Harbor
Cumberland County	George Reeves	Millville
Essex County	James J. Scavello	Cedar Grove
Essex County	John H. Flaherty	Bloomfield
Gloucester County	Kenneth G. Wigglesworth	Glassboro
Hudson County	Francis J. Coppola	Hoboken
Hudson County	Michael DeGregorio	West New York
Hunterdon County	James G. Strouse	Lambertville
Mercer County	Charles H. Sherman	Trenton
Middlesex County	Joseph A. Dambach	Fords
Monmouth County	Alfred Adler	Matawan
Morris County	John T. Curtin	Boonton
Ocean County	*Hector Reid	Point Pleasant
Passaic County	William P. Lewis	Wayne
Salem County	Howard K. Davis	Salem
Somerset County	*Joseph Navatto, Jr.	Raritan
Sussex County	Walter C. Mooney	Andover
Union County	*Ralph S. Whittle, Sr.	Roselle
Warren County	George H. Brahler	Phillipsburg

\* Denotes: Member of Advisory Committee





ENTRANCE TO  
NEW JERSEY  
FIREMEN'S HOME



NEW JERSEY FIREMEN'S HOME



OFFICERS AND BOARD OF MANAGERS, NEW JERSEY FIREMEN'S HOME

## New Jersey Firemen's Home—Boonton, N. J.

The first mention of a home was at the state convention held in Paterson on September 26, 1888, when a resolution was presented for a firemen's home; but the first move towards the establishment of the New Jersey Firemen's Home was brought to the attention of the New Jersey State Firemen's Association at the nineteenth annual convention held in Cape May on September 30, 1896, when President Spencer promised in his acceptance speech that an effort would be made to obtain legislation for the purchase or building of a suitable firemen's home for the aged firemen in need of such an institution.

It was suggested and afterwards adopted that the purchase and construction of the home should be made from the surplus funds in the hands of the Commissioner of Banking and Insurance, and the annual support of the home should be taken from the same funds.

The property, owned by Judge William Lathrop, Boonton, was purchased, remodeled and formally opened in June, 1900.

Pursuant to the act of the Legislature in 1923, the Board of Managers was appointed by the Governor. Members are now elected by the New Jersey State Firemen's Association in convention assembled: one from each county (with two from Essex and Hudson Counties) who, together with the Governor, State Comptroller, the Commissioner of Insurance, and the President of the New Jersey State Firemen's Association, compose the Board of Managers.

The firemen of the state are proud of the fact that it is one of the best managed institutions in the state and operated without a cent of cost to the taxpayers.

There is presently in the home an average of fifty guests, whose average age is over seventy-five years. The home is in its 77th year and has served over 1300 retired firemen since it first opened its doors.

The property consists of beautiful grounds and farm of about eighty-one acres and includes a large main building, six dormitories, recreation building, garage and boiler house.

The museum, in the few short years it has been in existence, has been given or loaned some of the finest fire memorabilia found anywhere. The museum will be dedicated in October, 1977 as a memorial to the late Robert H. Schenck, who was solicitor for the State Association and did much to start and publicize the museum around the state. The museum is cared for by several of the guests and is under the supervision of Superintendent Max London.

There have been seven major renovation and addition programs, each one making the home a more pleasant retirement home for the firemen. The present capacity of the home is determined by the State Department of Human Services, and is limited to forty-eight residential and forty intermediate care guests.

# 1976-1977

## OFFICERS AND BOARD OF MANAGERS

### NEW JERSEY FIREMEN'S HOME

Chairman	Kenneth D. Schmidt	Watchung
Vice Chairman	Robert H. Philhower	High Bridge
Secretary	Donald G. Richman	Mullica Hill
Treasurer	George A. Grillo	Hawthorne
Home Physician	Dr. J. J. Lenko	Boonton
Home Superintendent	Max London	Boonton
Asst. Superintendent	L. George Hoth	Glen Ridge
Chairman Emeritus	Arthur W. Bilby	Montclair

### BOARD OF MANAGERS

Atlantic County	Francis R. Murphy	Absecon
Bergen County	Leonard Craparo	Rochelle Park
Burlington County	Norman E. Wells	Marlton
Camden County	George F. Rossner	Pennsauken
Cape May County	J. Oliver Elwell	Cape May City
Cumberland County	Lewis D. DeMarco	Vineland
Essex County	Frederick V. Schmitz	Glen Ridge
Essex County	Arthur W. Bilby	Montclair
Gloucester County	Donald G. Richmond	Mullica Hill
Hudson County	Robert W. Ward	Guttenburg
Hudson County	James M. Rottner	Jersey City
Hunterdon County	Robert H. Philhower	High Bridge
Mercer County	Laurence B. Patterson	Princeton
Middlesex County	Chester J. Jean	Metuchen
Monmouth County	Alfred Pouzenc	Keyport
Morris County	Richard J. Clark	Mendham
Ocean County	Donald E. Wiesner	Beachwood
Passaic County	George A. Grillo	Hawthorne
Salem County	Robert S. Bell	Elmer
Somerset County	Kenneth D. Schmidt	Watchung
Sussex County	Wilbur N. Hunt	Lafayette
Union County	Harry Krouse	Roselle Park
Warren County	George J. Lehr	Alpha