

Member Profile Archives

December 2011



Assistant Chief James Reagan

December's Firefighter Profile belongs to James Reagan. Jim joined the Elsmere Fire Company on November 20th, 1975. He became an active member five days later. Jim was elected Vice-President of the Elsmere Fire Company in April 1979 and April 1980. He served as Fire Lieutenant from April 1993 through December 1997. In 1998 he became Captain and served in that capacity through December 2003. He was elected 2nd Assistant Chief in December 2003 and advanced to 1st Assistant Chief in 2004. Jim (Car 302) continues to hold that office today. He has responsibility for overseeing the Elsmere Fire District's equipment and fire apparatus needs. With over 36 years experience, Jim has realized many accomplishments during the course of his emergency services career. He has also served as a paramedic for the Town of Guilderland for a number of years. A Life member of the Elsmere Fire Company, Jim was named the NA Blanchard Post Firefighter of the year in March 1998. He was recognized for his response to the WTC on 9/11 and was awarded the Kenneth E. McNary Achievement Award in May 2002. Jim also serves as the Fire District's liaison to the Albany County Fire Advisory Board. Recently retired from the Town Parks & Recreation Department, Jim keeps busy playing the keyboard for the [Playin With Fire Band](#).

November 2011



Firefighter William J. Yates

November's Firefighter Profile belongs to William J. Yates. Bill joined the Elsmere Fire Company on July 27th, 2006. He became an active member on May 31st, 2007. Bill has completed a number of firefighter training courses conducted by the NYS Office of Fire Prevention and Control including Firefighter I, Truck Company Operations and Fire Behavior & Arson Awareness, as well as several Incident Command courses. He is a valued member of the Elsmere Drill Team. The Elsmere Fire Company and Elsmere Fire District appreciate Bill's dedicated service to our community.

October 2011



Firefighters Donald J. Ballard and Jessica L. Ballard

This month's firefighter profiles present a rather unique situation. This is the first brother-sister firefighting combination in the history of the Elsmere Fire Company. Don Ballard joined the Elsmere Fire Company on March 31, 2005 and became active on June 30, 2005. He served as a Company Lay Chaplain in 2006 and 2007, and as Company Secretary in 2009. Don has completed a respectable list of training course during his six year career. He has completed more than thirty special training programs in addition to weekly drills. Jessica joined the Fire Company on January 27, 2011 and became an active firefighter on February 24, 2011. She completed her Initial Training Requirements last month. She has also completed the required NYS Firefighter I and several FEMA Incident Command courses. Both of the Ballards are very active members of the Elsmere Fire Company.

September 2011



Fire Police Officer and Past Commissioner James B. Hogan

James B. Hogan joined the Elsmere Fire Company on January 27, 1977 and became active on February 1st of that year. He served as Vice-President from April 1978 until January 1979, when he was appointed to the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Elsmere Fire District. He served in that capacity through 1998, having responsibility for the District's insurance needs. Jim currently serves on the department's Fire Police unit, but is also a qualified apparatus operator. He is a Life Member of the Elsmere Fire Company. Jim received the 2007 Kenneth E. McNary Achievement Award. He resides in Glenmont.

August 2011



Commissioner and Past Chief Anthony J. Morrell

Anthony Morrell joined the Elsmere Fire Company on October 26, 1962 and became an active member four days later. He has a long and distinguished career with the Elsmere Fire Company and Elsmere Fire District. Tony served as Company Property Clerk during 1968, and became a Fire Lieutenant in September 1968. He held that office April 1971 when he was elected Fire Captain. In April 1973, Tony was promoted to the rank of Assistant Chief. He served as Assistant Chief until April 1983 when he was promoted to Chief of Department. He served as Chief until April 1987. He also has served as Lay Chaplain for the Elsmere Fire Company since April 1981. He has served on the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Elsmere Fire District since January 1, 1990 and has responsibility for the District's firefighting apparatus and equipment. Tony also has served as the Secretary-Treasurer of the Town of Bethlehem Volunteer Fire Officers' Association since 1988. He is a Life Member of the Elsmere Fire Company and the NYS Association of Fire Chiefs. He was the NA Blanchard Post 1040 Firefighter of the Year in 1986 and was awarded the Kenneth E. McNary Achievement Award in 1991. Tony resides in Glenmont.

July 2011



Commissioner and Past Chief Richard S. Webster

Richard Webster joined the Elsmere Fire Company on February 28, 1974 and became an active member on March 5, 1974. Rick served as Fire Lieutenant from August 1977 through April 1982, as Fire Captain from April 1982 through April 1987, as Assistant Chief from April 1987 through April 1992, and as Chief of Department from April 1992 through December 1997. He currently serves on the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Elsmere Fire District, a post he has held since January 1999. He is in charge of the District's buildings and grounds. Rick is a Life Member of the Elsmere Fire Company and the NYS Association of Fire Chiefs. He is a long time member and Captain of the "Wanderer's" Drill Team. Rick was awarded the Kenneth E. McNary Achievement Award for 2004. Rick resides in Elsmere.

June 2011



Firefighter Matthew H. Grant

Matt Grant joined the Elsmere Fire Company on November 1, 1995 and became an active member on January 7, 1996. Matt served as Company Quartermaster from January 2002 through December 2010. Matt was awarded the Chief Kevin M. Shea Firematic Participation Award in May 2005. Matt also serves the Elsmere Fire District as Assistant Custodian. Matt resides in Glenmont.

May 2011



Captain John J. Zboray

John Zboray joined the Fire Company on February 22, 1973 and became an active member on March 6, 1973. He has held numerous elected offices in the organization including: Vice-President (June 1974 – April 1975 and April 1987 – April 1990), Fire Lieutenant (April 1975 – April 1981, April 1984 – April 1986, April 1993 – December 2001, and December 2006 – December 2008), Fire Captain (January 2009 – through today). *Back in the day*, John was a member of the “Wanderers” Drill Team. John is a Life Member of the Elsmere Fire Company and received the Kenneth E. McNary Achievement Award in May 2009. As Captain, he is the department’s training officer and has responsibility for planning, scheduling and executing training drills. John resides in Elsmere.

April 2011



Firefighter Oliver H. Palmer

“Jollie Ollie”, as he is affectionately called, joined the Elsmere Fire Company on March 27, 1953. On November 1, 1953, Ollie joined the ranks of the active membership. He served as Company Property Clerk from April 1963 until April 1968. He was named the NA Blanchard Post 1040 Firefighter of the Year in 1991. He was awarded Most Alarms Attended in May 2002, and the Kenneth E. McNary Achievement Award in 2001. He is a Life member of the Fire Company and continues as an active member today. He was recognized for his Support for the 9/11 WTC Response in May 2002. Ollie resides in Elsmere.

March 2011



Firefighter Kenneth E. Zigrosser

Ken Zigrosser joined the Elsmere Fire Company on December 28, 1980 and transferred to active status on March 26, 1981. Due to a few breaks in service, he has a total of 14 years of active service. Ken is a member of the "Wanderers" Drill Team and was instrumental in initiating Elsmere Fire Company's "Future Firefighters of Elsmere" Program. Ken resides in Delmar.

February 2011



Firefighter Jerome C. Smith

Jerome (“Jerry”) Smith joined the Elsmere Fire Company on July 24, 1968. He served as Fire Lieutenant from January 1975 through April 1978. He was elected Fire Captain in April 1978 and served in that office until April 1982. He continues to serve the Company and District as an active firefighter and qualified pump operator. Jerry received the Kenneth E. McNary Achievement Award in April 1993. He also was awarded Life Membership in the Hudson Mohawk Volunteer Firemans Association in 2006. He was awarded Life Membership in the Elsmere Fire Company A, Inc. in April 1993 upon attainment of 25 years of active service. In 2001, Jerry received an award for Most Drills Attended in the previous year. In 2008, Jerry received an award for 40 Years of Active Service. As a training officer and glazier by trade, Jerry brought unique talents and knowledge in the area of forcible entry. Jerry resides in Glenmont.

January 2011



Fire Police Officer Joseph A. Angermeier

Joseph A. Angermeier joined the Elsmere Fire Company on October 28, 1988 and became an active member on November 17, 1988. He served as the Company's Lay Chaplain from April 1991 until April 1992, and as Fire Police Lieutenant from April 1995 through December 1996. Joe continues to serve in the Fire Police unit. He is a professional photographer and has assisted the Fire Company and Fire District on many occasions with these skills. Joe resides in Glenmont.