



# ROLL CALL

1st Quarter 2013

Issue No. 1

[www.galenafd.com](http://www.galenafd.com)

The history of our beloved department - the guardians of Galena, IL

## Inaugural Issue!

### HIGHLIGHTS

#### CHIEF'S CORNER

Chief Michael Simmons welcomes us to the inaugural issue of *Roll Call* and highlights recent events and developments of the Galena Fire Department.

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#### NEW RECRUIT CLASS AND THE RECRUITMENT & RETENTION COMMITTEE

GFD's new initiative, the Recruitment & Retention Committee brings a fresh approach to building and maintaining our team.

*Continued on Page 3*

#### ALARMS & TRAINING

The first quarter kept us busy this winter season as GFD responded to over 29 calls including 2 structure fires.

*Continued on Page 5*

#### RETIREE SPOTLIGHT

Each issue of *Roll Call* will recognize the service and dedication of our members, past and present. This issue honors Social Member Melvin Brodrecht

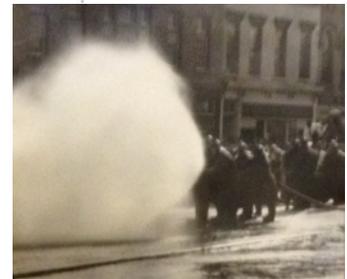
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*Liberty Co. No. 1*



*Hanging out at the station*



*Cleaning up after the flood*

### Moments in history...

Visit our website for more historical pictures!



*The old Agnew Pumper*



*Chief Mike Simmons*

## Chief's Corner

### NEWSLETTER

Welcome, from 101 South Bench Street. There have been quite a few changes lately here at the department, so Matt Oldenburg is spearheading a newsletter for all members (regular and social) to view to keep up with the changing times. The newsletter will be put out quarterly and if any one of you has any pertinent information to add to the newsletter contact Matt. Thanks Matt for your dedication.

### RETENTION AND RECRUITMENT

Next, I would like to thank Captain Bob Conley for chairing the recruitment and retention committee. The committee has been busy trying to get new members into the department and has had some success. They established a protocol starting with educating every one of the proposed members on the duty, pride and tradition of the department. Next, they cover the basics of firefighting to enhance the skills they will learn in Firefighter II. They are meeting monthly and have numerous ideas to share.

### STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES

Finally, I am seeing some progress on establishing a set of SOG's for the department to view in a readable format. Terry Werner and I started three years ago to establish a list of SOG's for the members to read. They had ranged from some written on a scratch paper to ones that we had copied

from other departments. Time was the negative factor that kept Terry and I from completing the job. Hence on board, steps Brother Bill Bingham with a knowledge of administration. Bill has been instrumental in getting the SOG's back on line and finished shortly. I would estimate that the completed book will be available in the station and online by June. Many thanks to Terry and Bill for their assistance.

### BID FAREWELL

The time has come to pass the bugles to my good friend Randy "Bugs" Beadle. I will be retiring from the Chiefs position effective May 13, 2013. After 30 years of service with the department, with 8 years as Chief, I am setting my goals on something else. Good luck to Randy and his officers and the rest of the department. It has been a great ride in the best organization I have ever been in. God Bless you all and STAY SAFE.

Mike Simmons  
Fire Chief  
Galena Fire Department



*Orientation Class for New Recruits - January 2013*



Class  
2013-01

## RECRUIT ORIENTATION

During the month of January, eight GFD Recruits completed the department's first-ever formal orientation program. Classes were held January 5, 12, and 19 for four hours each morning. This program generated from the Department's newly formed Recruitment and Retention Committee which is responsible for recruiting interested members and, just as importantly, to develop ways to maintain operational membership levels by addressing retention initiatives.

Classroom topics included the following: GFD History and Mission; Job Descriptions and Responsibilities; Standard Operating Guidelines; Firefighter Safety; Community Relations; By-Laws and Rules and Regulations; Probation Criteria; Ethics; Insurance Benefit Programs; Social Media Policies; Legal Issues; Alarm response; City and Rural District Mapping and Address System; Blue Light Use; Mutual Aid; Fire Station Duties; Radio Procedures; Training Program. Participants toured the County Dispatch Center at the conclusion of the second class day.

Apparatus bay topics included: Response Protocol; Vehicle Utilization; Equipment Placement; Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus; Tools and Appliances; Personal Protective Equipment.

New members will be matched up with an accountability officer throughout their one-year probation. This officer

will serve as a mentor to the firefighter and ensure that he or she has one person to help answer questions and help prepare the firefighter for the post-probationary testing process.

All of the necessary membership forms were signed and placed in their respective files, and each new member was provided with a Recruit Program book that included detailed information on all of the topics that were presented. Recruits in attendance were (pictured above from left to right): (Back row) Bob Doyle, Brian Jasper, Tom Brady, Michael Werner, Joe Morenus; (Front row) Justin Cook, Chris Garza and Charles Kindred. Program Instructors included Asst. Chief Randy Beadle, Captain Bob Conley, Captain Doug Smith, Captain Terry Werner, Lieutenant Kevin Peebles, and Firefighters Brett Temperly, Aaron Abt, Todd Lincoln, Matt Oldenburg, and Bill Bingham.

## RECRUITMENT & RETENTION COMMITTEE

You might have heard by now that GFD has formed a Recruitment & Retention Committee, which began meeting in late summer of 2012. The committee consists of a cross-section of regular members and officers of the department with the purpose of creating a robust recruiting initiative that attracts new talent while addressing retention issues and ways to encourage our members to remain active in the organization.

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The committee has met 1-2 times per month since its inception and, with its 15 members, has generated multiple initiatives, including: Recruit Orientation, Recruitment Brochures, GFD's first website - [www.galenafd.com](http://www.galenafd.com), GFD Scholarship for students aspiring in Emergency Services related fields, quarterly newsletter, GFD Honor Guard, Commendation Policy, Branding Policy, and much more. This committee reports to the Fire Chief and President. Stay tuned for more great things to come from R&R!

### ANNOUNCEMENTS & CONDOLENCES

It is with deep regret that we announce the passing of two GFD family members during this quarter. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of Social Member David Coates and Mary Welp, wife of Social Member Elmo Welp.



We also wish to welcome two new arrivals to the family - Congratulations!!

Kylie Madison Sites was born on February 1st, 2013 to Jason & Ashley Sites. Jason is a firefighter on GFD.



Ellie Paige Kline was born on December 1, 2012 to Loren and Elizabeth (Bingham) Kline of Margate Florida. Ellie is the granddaughter of GFD firefighter Bill Bingham.



*New Brush Truck - July 2012*



*Fire House No. 5 - Spring St.*



## January - March 2013

### SIGNIFICANT ALARMS:

On January 2nd, GFD responded to a structure fire involving a mechanic's garage at the residence of Jack Johnson. Flames were showing upon arrival and mutual aid was requested from neighboring departments. Despite very low temperatures that evening, firefighters were able to establish a rural pump operation and get the fire extinguished. Heavy overhaul was needed to stop fire extension and some vehicles were saved that were stored in the building.

On January 22nd, GFD had a second structure fire at the J. Erschen residence. A newly constructed horse barn was ablaze as initial units arrived on scene. Soon after lines were stretched around the building for a defensive attack, the roof on the larger part of the structure collapsed. Mutual aid from neighboring departments was also requested and firefighters worked for several hours to stop the progress of the fire. Dan Wiene brought his heavy backhoe to assist in the overhaul, ultimately tearing down the entire building. 4 horses perished in their stalls.

On February 4th, GFD responded to a vehicle collision in late morning just past the Territory Vet Clinic on Highway 20. Two sedans collided head-on and mutual aid was called from Elizabeth and Galena Territory. Rescuers worked on a difficult extrication and were able to remove the driver of the severely damaged car, who was gravely injured but was still conscious. The drivers of both vehicles died as a result of the



January 22, Barn Fire - 4 Horses Dead Photo by Andrew Brunner of Galena Gazette

collision. A second passenger in the lesser damaged vehicle suffered minor injuries.

### DRILLS

Nine drills and three meetings were held during this quarter on Monday evenings. January began with our traditional duties to help take down the Christmas wreath decorations in downtown Galena. George Petitgout assisted the effort with his boom truck.

On January 14th, our monthly meeting was held.

The next week's drill consisted of medical evaluations and the members had their vitals taken, then donned a mask and air pack for 5 minutes while walking around, then had vitals taken again. *Continued on Page 6*

- This quarter, GFD responded to:
- 8 Vehicle Accidents
  - 2 Structure Fires
  - 1 Electrical Fire
  - 4 Mutual Aid
  - 10 Red Box Alarms
  - 2 CO Alarms
  - 2 General Alarms



## January - March 2013

When not being examined, members were downstairs going through all of the trucks, removing all equipment and performing maintenance and cleaning on it.

On January 25 & 26th, a Fireground Management class was held at the department with several GFD members in attendance. This class was taught by an instructor from the Illinois Fire Service Institute. The following Monday's drill covered more maintenance and medical evaluations.

February 4th drill covered annual HazMat training requirements and the following Monday was our monthly meeting night.

On February 18th, members of Galena Area EMS came down to give a class and certify members on the newest CPR procedures. Ice Rescue familiarization was also held downstairs afterwards to prepare for our hands-on Ice Rescue training.

GFD members received practical training at the Le Fevre Inn pond on February 25th. Two large holes were cut in the ice, which was about 1' thick. Members donned their orange "Gumby Suits" that are specially designed for cold water and ice rescue situations, then they practiced moving out to the victims. After they reached the victims they positioned them on the sled and were pulled back to shore. The water was refreshing!

On March 2nd, four members of GFD went to Apple River FD to help teach a class about Rapid Intervention Teams to departments from the eastern part of the county. Classroom and some fun hands-on training with some challenging props made it into a great event.

March 4th drill focused on Salvage and Overhaul operations. Members used salvage tarps to route running



*Ice Rescue Training - February 25, 2013 at the Le Fevre Inn Pond*

water from the ceiling out of the bays onto the ramp - creative training by LT Peyton!

On March 18th & 25th drills, we focused on fundamentals of wearing our SCBA air packs. Repetition and timed drills of donning our equipment was culminated on the second week by working in teams to follow a hose line and locate a victim in complete darkness while crawling over and through obstacles. We are excited about warmer weather arriving soon!



*RIT Training event at Apple River Fire Department - March 2nd*

*Apple River, Warren, Stockton, Scales Mound and Galena in attendance.*



Melvin "Mel" Brodrecht



## ALMOST 60 YEARS OF SERVICE AND STILL GOING!

One thing that we wanted to include in our newsletter is recognition of the efforts of our retired members that give so much to our community. In this inaugural issue, we found it fitting to recognize a man who keeps on giving, Mel Brodrecht.

### BACKGROUND

Mel traces his service to the community back to 1954 when he began making ambulance calls for Bill Nash. That same year, he joined the fire department as a probationary member, signed-up by Jimmy Hudson and Delbert Simons as his sponsors. Mel served on the GFD for 30+ years as a firefighter and trustee. This husband and father of four also made time, aside from his occupation, to serve on medical calls and as Deputy Coroner for 40 years. In 1975 he began training for EMT and was certified in 1977, subsequently serving as a Charter Member of the Galena Area EMS. Mel retired from GFD and became a social member in the 1980's and still serves on Galena EMS. He can still be found at GFD on Monday nights catching a few games of Euchre!

### EXPERIENCES

We asked Mel some questions about his experiences at GFD. As he reflected on his years of service, we heard some great stories about bus trips to training in Monroe, the GFD Band and the time they lost their harp, training with 55' extension

### A Rewarding Experience:

*“When you go out to a call and you help someone - when they look up at you and thank you, it's all worth the while.”*

ladders downtown, dancing on the tables in the club room, and so much more. His stories made evident that camaraderie was abundant in our ranks in those years as we had a waiting list to join and be a part of the brotherhood. When asked about some of his most memorable fires, Mel listed the St. Michael's Church fire in 1955 (his first major fire), some foundry fires, and the Leisure Lanes bowling alley to name a few. He said the biggest change at GFD since he began was the equipment. When he got in, they had two apparatus: a 1935 Seagrave Engine and a 1936 Diamond T Howe Ladder Truck. All 62 members had no breathing apparatus or turnout gear other than 3 coats, 6 pairs of boots and a handful of old leather helmets to share - quite a bit different from today! His favorite thing about being a fireman was helping people, “it's a rewarding experience, when you go to a call and you help someone - they look up at you and thank you, it's all worth the while.” Mel's words say it all right there - thank you, Mel, for a job well done!

Keeping you posted.



*The Galena Fire Departments Firehouse - 2012*

Roll Call is a Galena Fire Department Publication that captures our history and informs our members - past, present and future.



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MAIL TO: