

# THE BUGLE

Summer 2017

SAVING HISTORY, SAVING LIVES!

Volume 23, Number 3

## State Officials Visit Museum

### Update on progress and future plans

By John Zangerle

In an effort to secure funding from the State of Ohio through the Cultural Facilities Commission, the Fire Museum invited all of the area State Senators and State Representatives to a May 22nd informational luncheon at the Fire Museum. We were very pleased to have so many of our area representatives accept the invitation to join us. We gave all the attendees a tour of the building and a packet with information about the Museum's future capital needs.

After the luncheon, Cleveland Division of Fire Chief Angelo Calvillo spoke to the group about the importance of the Fire Museum to the community. He was followed by Chief Patrick Sweeney of Shaker Heights, current president of the Cuyahoga County Fire Chiefs Association, and Ashtabula County's Rome Township Fire Chief Ed Koziol, current vice-president of the Northeast Ohio Fire Chiefs. They both reinforced the importance of the Fire Museum and its mission. The Museum provided a brief presentation to explain the Museum's mission and show why the funds were so badly needed and concluded by showing our DVD video which we have used in payroll deduction presentations.



Paul Nelson photo

Attendees at the meeting

It was a great opportunity for us to get to know our State Senators and Representatives. Many of the attendees had their own stories of connections to the fire service. Thanks to the Museum members who helped clean up the building and helped host the luncheon.

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This newsletter is dedicated to informing the members of the Western Reserve Fire Museum and Education Center of its activities and events.

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Phone: (216) 664-6312

www.wrfmc.com

## Members Attend Recognition Ceremony

By Joan Oliver



On August 1st, the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation held a special awards ceremony for local area grant recipients. Franchise owners Matt and Chris Mikola were the proud hosts of this special celebration at their newly opened store located at 3023 W. Market Street in Fairlawn, Ohio.

The Western Reserve Fire Museum was one of four area recipients to receive a grant in September of 2016. The grant was for a Bullex Fire Extinguisher Training System and RACE Station Trainer's Package valued at \$19,424. This equipment has become an important part of the Museum's Fire Safety Programming at the Museum and in the field.

Jacquelyn Grubbins, Senior Manager of Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation Programs, was in charge of organizing and running the event. Other team members in attendance were Firehouse Subs Franchise Business Manager, Rick Highers, Firehouse Subs Manager of Real Estate Services, Bob May, as well as, area reps Paul and Sheryl Belle and several local franchisee owners.

(Continued on Page 2, see Ceremony)

# Visit

(Continued from page 1)



Paul Nelson photos



Learning about the Museum and planned activities



State officials visiting included Senators Sandra R. Williams, 21st District and Kenny Yuko, 25th District. State Representatives included Bill Patmon, 10th District, Kent Smith, 8th District, Marlene Anielski, 6th District, Stephanie Howse, 11th District and Dave Greenspan, 16th District. Representatives of the fire service were on hand to underscore the importance of the Fire Museum to the community. Museum personnel on hand to talk about the Museum included Kenny Rybka, Jim Bell, John Zangerle, Ray Kotecki, Dan Martone, Johnny Brewington, Paul Nelson and Joan Oliver.

## Meet One of Our New Board Members...Dr. Anjay Khandelwal



MetroHealth Photo

Dr. Anjay Khandelwal, Comprehensive Burn Care Center Associate Director at MetroHealth Medical Center in Cleveland, joined the Fire Museum's Board of Directors last fall. He received his medical degree from Sri Devaraj URS Medical College in India, previously worked as the Medical Director of the Arkansas Children's Hospital (ACH) Burn Center, and co-founded India's first burn camp for children. He also currently serves as an Assistant Professor at Case Western Reserve University, School of Medicine.

He joined the Board at the end of 2016 after being nominated by Board Member Kenny Rybka. The Western Reserve Fire Museum and Education Center welcomes Dr. Khandelwal to our Board of Directors.

## Ceremony

(Continued from page 1)

The mission of the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation is to provide life-saving equipment and needed resources to first responders and public safety organizations. Since the Foundation started, it has given over \$28 million in grants for equipment, training and support. The Foundation extended \$83,000 alone to the four local area recipients honored at this event. Those also being recognized were the Twinsburg Fire Department, North Lawrence Volunteer Fire Department, and WVFD Joint Fire District, Windham, Ohio.

After a brief overview of the Foundation's mission, each recipient gave a short presentation on the equipment they received. We were then treated to complimentary subs and cake, had a chance to meet other local area Franchisee owners and personally thank the Foundation for their generosity and support.



Joan Oliver Photos

Dan Hayden and Jim Bell with Jacquelyn Grubbins of Firehouse Subs

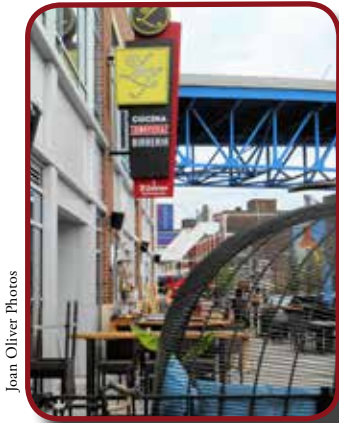


Firehouse Subs team and Jim Bell

To learn more about Firehouse Subs Public safety Foundation or donate, visit [www.firehousesubsfoundation.org](http://www.firehousesubsfoundation.org).

## Brunch at Lago

By John Zangerle



Joan Oliver Photos

Since none of our Board members have won the Lottery (yet), the Museum is always looking for fund raisers. Fortunately one of our newest Board Members, Andrew Czarzasty, Esq., is a principle in the Flats restaurant Lago, located in the Aloft Hotel building. Lago has started a program of sponsoring charity Sunday brunches and he arranged for Father's Day Sunday Brunch to benefit the Fire Museum. Because the brunches were just starting, we only had a little over two week's notice to pull together the announcement of the Brunch and co-ordinate the activities. As usual, Joan Oliver did a stellar job using both email blasts and social media to get the word out.

Jim Bell and Joan did a great job of putting together a very nice display of firefighting antiques and models at the restaurant. Jim also brought down the Funeral Caisson and parked it in a driveway adjacent to the restaurant. It definitely attracted attention.

The Brunch was very successful. Our thanks to all who attended. We also thank Lago for making an additional contribution to the Museum over and above the funds raised through the Brunch. Every dollar helps to get the Museum open.

Lago is located at 1091 W. 10th Street on the east bank. It is owned and operated by noted Chef Fabio Salerno and his wife Nicole. More information at [www.lagoeastbank.com](http://www.lagoeastbank.com).



## Safety Day at the Zoo

Each year the Fire Museum participates in the Greater Cleveland Safety Council's Safety Day at the Zoo. This was their 32nd annual year of presenting the event that promotes various aspects of safety to visiting youngsters and their parents visiting the Zoo. Exhibits, displays and activities are presented by a variety of fire, police and EMS organizations as well as NASA, RTA, Cleveland Water Department and schools.

The Fire Museum set up a short distance from the main pavilion along with Cleveland Fire's Public Education smoke trailer. Summer camp groups and kids with their parents stopped by to climb aboard Museum member Jeff Campbell's fire truck (76 ALF, ex Bedford Heights) assisted by his son and daughter. Great opportunity for photos of kids on the fire truck. Next was a stop by the "burning house." Young fire fighters could play away on "the flames" using pressurized water extinguishers. Out on the roadway our animatronic Pumper and Patches entertained all who passed by. All of the activities reminded everyone to be aware of the dangers of fire. Fire safety handouts were available to take home.



Paul Nelson photos



Learning about fire safety



Museum members participating in the program were Jeff Campbell, Jim Bell, Bob Gahr, Dan Hayden, Bob Szabo, Joan Oliver and Paul Nelson.

# Honoring the Only Cleveland Fire Fighter to Give His Life in World War II

By Paul Nelson



CD Archives

Capt. Frank D. Centanni

Frank D. Centanni joined the Fire Department on August 1, 1939 and was assigned to Engine 28 at Station 28. His brother Leonard took the entrance test at the same time as Frank. They sat together during the test and had identical scores. Civil Service accused them of cheating and required them to take the test again...in separate rooms. They did and both had identical scores, again. Leonard was not appointed until September 16, 1946 after serving in the Army and he also was assigned to Engine 28.

memory that was mounted at Station 28. When the Fire Museum took over building, the plaque was not found. Two years ago a serious effort began to learn what happened to the plaque and more about Frank with a story that ran in the Bugle. Research efforts began. Member Chuck Muckley found military records and a 1976 Cleveland Press story by Dick Feagler about the plaque being found at the E. 49th Street shops. It was in the trunk of a CFD auto being scrapped. Apparently it wound up there, possibly accidentally discarded during a Station 28 renovation to accept Engine 1 and Ladder 1 in the building.

Member Danny Hayden began to make calls to family names in the obit and Centanni names in directories. Fast forward Museum Board Member Kenny Rybka (also a Board member of the Annual Firefighters Memorial Ride) began exploring the possibility of honoring Frank at the Memorial Ride ceremony before the 2017 Ride. A new plaque would be made. After lots of telephone calls, Kenny finally located the last surviving of nine Centanni siblings, brother John in New York City. His daughter Cindy became involved in the conversations and was thrilled to learn about the project. John was physically unable to attend but Cindy would come to Cleveland. John made a video for Cindy to take along on the visit.



The new plaque

Frank left the Department on a leave of absence on May 31, 1941 to join the Army. He was chosen for Officer Candidate's School and graduated as a Second Lieutenant. He rose to the rank of Captain by 1944 and was assigned to the Replacement Depot in New Guinea. From there he became part of the invasion of Corregidor. On February 17, 1945 Captain Frank D. Centanni, 1st Platoon, 34th Infantry, led his troops up Malasla Hill where he was struck down. Frank was one of 70 Cleveland fire fighters to serve on active duty during the war and the only member to not return to duty. He is buried in the American Military Cemetery in Manila also known as Fort William McKinley.

On Sunday May 28, 2017 Kenny presented the story of Frank Centanni to over 800 people gathered for the ride and the ceremony.

CFD members donated ten cents each to fabricate a plaque in his



Steve Nedrich Photos

The presentation



Chief Angelo Calvillo joins the Centanni family after the ceremony



The original plaque

Fire Chief Angelo Calvillo offered remarks on behalf of the Fire Department. Cindy was presented with the new plaque honoring Frank. It was decided that it should go back to New York to reside with brother John.

A number of Frank's extended family had been contacted and invited to attend the ceremony. Following the event, they returned to Station 28 for a tour of where Frank served. Through the efforts of many people, the original plaque was located and donated by the Centanni Family with the understanding that it be displayed at the Fire Museum. A suitable site will be determined for its display. Its original location at Station 28 is unknown.

When installed the plaque will be a fitting tribute to FGF Frank D. Centanni, the only Department member to give his life for his country during World War II. May he rest in peace and know his sacrifice is recognized by all those who pass by.

## Firefighters Memorial Ride

By Kenny Rybka

Despite a forecast predicating rain and thunderstorms, participants of the 13th Annual Firefighters Memorial Ride were greeted with sunny skies on Sunday, May 28th. Approximately 800 people took part in the 40 mile ride from the Cleveland Firefighters Memorial, which is located next to First Energy Stadium, to South East Harley-Davidson in Bedford Hts. This year, four Ohio firefighters who died in the line of duty in 2016 were honored:

Timken Steel Corporation Fire Technician/Industrial Firefighter Kenny Ray Jr., age 32.

Austintown Firefighter John R. Fritz, age 48.

Defense Supply Center Columbus Fire and Emergency Services Firefighter Adam Long, age 44.

Wayne Township Volunteer Firefighter Ruben E. Mast, age 43.

The ride also purchased a plaque honoring Cleveland Firefighter Frank D. Centanni, the only member of the CFD to be Killed-In-Action during World War II.

The 14th Annual Ride will take place on Sunday, May 27, 2018 and will end at Rock-n-Roll City Harley-Davidson in Cleveland. More information can be found at [www.firefightersmemorialride.com](http://www.firefightersmemorialride.com)

### Some sights of the day



Steve Nedrich photos



# Museum Happenings

## Annual Fire Museum Memorial Muster in Hudson



Paul Nelson Photos

Hudson's restored 1928 Seagrave pumper

The Muster this year will be different. It is being held on the Village Green in downtown Hudson (SR-91 and SR-303) rather than at Barlow Farm Park. Date is Sunday, September 10, 2017, with activities beginning at 10:00am. Featured this year will be hand drawn and horse drawn apparatus with some of them pumping from a cistern on the Green. The surrounding streets will be the staging area for display of motorized apparatus. It will be a static display this year and will not include a parade. Members and friends are encouraged to bring their rigs as in the past. General free parking is available in the near-by First and Main area just west of the Village Green. There is also a free parking garage there. Food and beverages will be available from local vendors and restaurants.

The near-by Hudson Fire Museum will be open to visitors during the day. The recently completed Museum is located in the original fire station that was part of the Village Hall. It contains a collection of firematic items and historical displays of Hudson fire fighting activities.

The Muster originally started as a tribute to Bill Varnes and his wife Ida, long time volunteers of the Buff's club and the Museum. Bill was founder of the Western Reserve Fire Buffs Association in 1971 and first president of the Museum organization created in 1993. Bill was an Assistant Chief in Hudson. Now his son Jerry Varnes is Hudson Fire Chief.



Hudson's 1859 Burton & Blake hand engine

Museum member Parker Browne has been organizer in chief for many years. Jerry Varnes and the entire Hudson Fire Department graciously assist in the logistics and execution of the event. If you have questions about bringing your fire apparatus or other questions in general, please contact Parker at [brownefire@aol.com](mailto:brownefire@aol.com) or 330.612.3567. We look forward to your joining us for a fun-filled day of fire fighting activities and a chance to visit with old friends.

## Fire Museum Opens in October



Paul Nelson Photo

Hallock chemical engine will be on display

The Fire Museum will open during Fire Prevention week in early October with an exhibit on the apparatus floor entitled **From the Bucket Brigade to the Big Red Machine.** It is designed to illustrate fire fighting history from the days of the first settlers to the first big motorized fire trucks of the 1920's. While it features local history, it is typical of early fire fighting history beginning during America's colonial days. The adjacent fire safety education area will be in operation with interactive fire safety programming. The Museum will be open on a regular basis, Wednesday through Saturday, from 10:00am to 4:00pm. Check the website at [www.wrfmc.com](http://www.wrfmc.com) for details of the events for the opening week.

The entire first floor will be open for visitors. Work is on-going to finish the second floor for future displays as well as a meeting room available for special event rentals. There are still a lot of loose ends

to be wrapped up before the opening. We always need volunteers to help in a variety of activities ranging from painting and carpentry to cleaning and moving items and everything in between. Contact Roy Ziganti at [royziganti@gmail.com](mailto:royziganti@gmail.com). if you have some time to volunteer.

We also need volunteers during our opening hours from front desk help to docents. Time is flexible. You do not have to be a fire fighting scholar. We will provide you with some basic information to interact with visitors. Contact Joan Oliver at [oliverj@wrfmc.com](mailto:oliverj@wrfmc.com) if you would like to help.

We will be able to accommodate group tours and provide appropriate programming. Whether it is a school class, a group of home schoolers, an adult organization or a group of seniors, we will have a program that will be of interest. Call the Museum at 216.664.6312 for more information.

The ability to finally be able to open on a regular basis is the result of countless volunteer work hours and the generous financial contributions from foundations, state and local agencies, interested individuals and Museum membership. A huge amount of financial support has come from a long-standing payroll deduction program from Cleveland fire fighters. The Fire Museum will be another attractive venue for visitors to downtown Cleveland. Plan to come and visit us.

## CFD Trivia

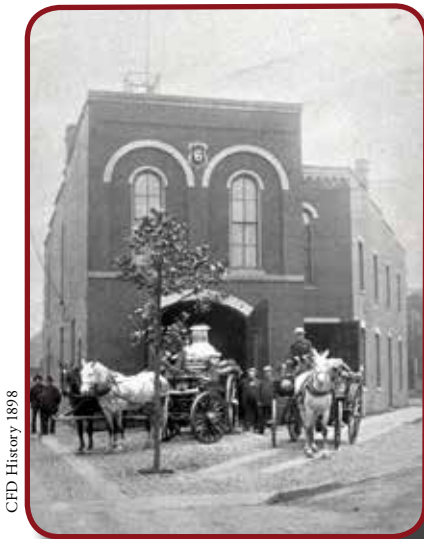
By Paul Nelson

**Q:** When were sliding poles introduced in Cleveland firehouses??

**A:** In 1881 at Station No. 6

Records indicate that the first sliding pole used in Cleveland dates to 1881 when an oak pole was installed at Station No. 6. The firehouse on the triangle lot of Lorain, Brainard and Abbey (now the site of the W. 25th St. Rapid Station entrance) was originally built in 1861 as a firehouse for Cleveland Volunteer Torrent Hand Co. No. 10. It originally was Ohio City Hand Engine Co. 2 that became Cleveland No. 10 in 1854 after the merger. It became home to Engine Co. 6 when established on September 17, 1867. The station was expanded in 1872 with a 2-story addition on the south side for a second hose reel and additional living space for company members.

On March 3, 1881 an oak sliding pole was installed from the second floor dormitory to the apparatus floor at Station No. 6. It was colorfully reported in the Cleveland Plain Dealer, "Speed of reaching the apparatus floor from the second floor living quarters was reduced from 16 seconds to 4 seconds in this Darwinian Descent."



Station No. 6

There was a problem...splinters! The Fire Department physician treated several members for injuries caused when sliding down the pole. It was replaced by an iron pole. Why an iron pole was chosen has never been found. Maybe because Cleveland was a steel town. Bright shiny brass poles became the norm at many firehouses around the country.

In 1881 sliding poles were added at Station No. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 7. The first fire station sliding pole in the nation is credited to one installed at Chicago Fire Department Station No. 21 in 1878. It was made of 3-in. diameter Georgia pine varnished and coated with paraffin. Maybe Cleveland should have done that to their new pole.

## Calendar of Events.

- **Sunday, September 10, 2017** – Hudson, OH. Annual Western Reserve Memorial Muster on the Green in downtown Hudson in conjunction with the Hudson Fire Museum at 27 E. Main St.. Location of the Green is adjacent at SR 91 and SR 303. Interactive apparatus displays featuring hand and horse drawn apparatus and motorized apparatus. Starts at 10am. Info: Parker Browne, [brownefire@aol.com](mailto:brownefire@aol.com), 330.612.3567.
- **Saturday, October 14, 2017** – Plain Twp, OH. Stark Co. Firefighter's Parade. 9:30am. Info: Gary Coen, [garyc@northcantonohio.gov](mailto:garyc@northcantonohio.gov).
- **Wed. - Sat., February 7-10, 2018** – SPAAMFAA Winter Convention, Kissimmee, FL. Info at website [spaamfaa.org](http://spaamfaa.org).
- **Saturday, March 3, 2018** – Fire Museum Annual Firematic Flea Market at Cleveland Fire Training Academy, 3101 Lakeside Ave. Starts at 8am. Info and booth space: Bob Shimits, 440.248.3586 or Bob Gahr, 220.286.6110, evenings.

## Preserving History

The Fire Museum archives CFD fire station journals as part of our mission to preserve fire fighting history. Museum volunteers Debbie Hubbard and Cathy Jordan are seen here processing a new batch of books just transferred from the CFD storeroom.



Cathy Jordan and Debbie Hubbard with the journals

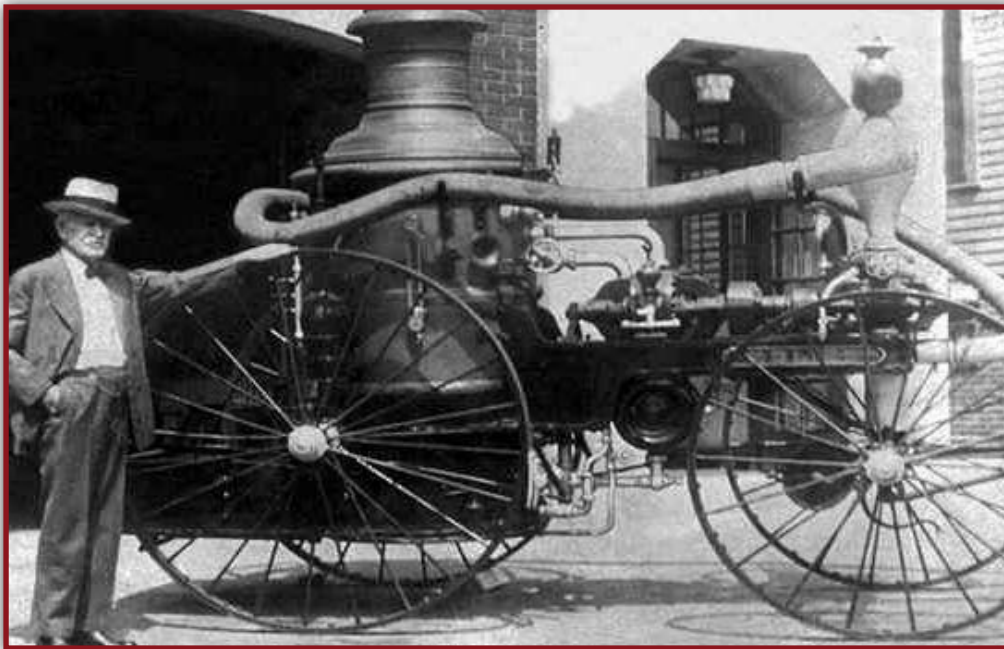
All journals are documented in Excel, cleaned, individually wrapped in an acid-free protective jacket and stored in acid-free cardboard boxes. There are about 3,500 books in the collection with the earliest journal dating to 1872 when Engine Co. 13 was established. Early books were about half the size and thickness of later books and were written only in black ink. In later years all alarms would be recorded in red ink and included routes taken to reach the fire, what work was done at the fire including the number of each length of hose used and then routes taken to return to quarters. That makes some great reading.

**Western Reserve Fire Museum  
at Cleveland, Inc.**

310 Carnegie Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44115-2816

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**Plan to attend  
ANNUAL MUSEUM FIRE ENGINE MUSTER  
Sunday, September 10, 2017 in Hudson  
See details inside**



WRFM Photo Collection

**Steamer on display at the Museum**

This 1873 Silsby rotary gear steam fire engine that once protected Cambridge, Ohio will be on display in the Fire Museum this fall. It will be part of our exhibit entitled **From the Bucket Brigade to the Big Red Machines** that traces early fire fighting history. See the article on page 6 of The Bugle for details.

**The Bugle** is a publication of the Western Reserve Fire Museum and Education Center. The entire contents © by Western Reserve Fire Museum at Cleveland, Inc.

**The Bugle Staff:**

Paul Nelson, Editor  
Joan Oliver  
John Zangerle  
Layout by X2Media

**Fire Museum Board of Directors:**

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**Fire Museum Officials:**

Paul Nelson, Historian

**Website:**

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