

THE BUGLE

Fall 2021

SAVING HISTORY, SAVING LIVES!

Volume 27, Number 4

PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR'S FEATURE EXHIBIT

BY JOHN ZANGERLE

As a small museum, we have worked hard to keep rotating exhibits so members and the public will have a reason to return for a visit. Having focused on suburban fire departments for three cycles of exhibits, we are now turning to a different theme of fire-fighting at the turn of the last century. We will be featuring horse drawn equipment including steamers and hose wagons. This means if you haven't seen our terrific current exhibit featuring Akron, Hudson, and Twinsburg, you need to plan your visit to the Museum soon. Our current exhibit will continue through February.

Our 2022 exhibit will be one of the best yet. It will highlight Steve Hildebrand's beautifully restored 1891 Second Size Amoskeag steamer. This steamer was originally from Stoneham, Massachusetts and may be the best example of a vintage steamer anywhere in the US. The Museum will also display the Cambridge, Ohio



Steve Hildebrand Photo

1891 Amoskeag Steamer

original 1873 Silsby steam fire

engine that used a rotary gear pump. Also on display will be Cambridge, Ohio's 1873 Silsby hose reel. Both pieces are on permanent loan from the Cambridge Fire Department. Tom Doyle, of Medina, Ohio's Little Wiz Fire Museum, has agreed to loan us his magnificently restored 1893 Bucyrus, Ohio hose wagon. This is a very rare piece of fire equipment made by Michigan Fire Engine and Ladder Company of Grand Rapids, Michigan. We will have many other photos and interesting displays relating to this romantic period of horse drawn equipment in American fire fighting history.



WRFEM Collection

Cleveland Engine 2 Responding

PRESIDENT'S LOG

BY JIM BELL

It is hard for me to believe another year has passed and we are back to our annual membership drive and capital campaign. Now is the time to renew your membership and keep getting the benefits of being a supporter of the museum. Membership in the museum entitles you to our quarterly newsletter, free admission to the museum and a discount on items purchased in our gift shop. While you are at it, please consider a generous donation to our capital campaign. The money generated during this campaign goes towards continuing the renovation of the building. We want to finish the renovation of the dormitory and complete the installation of the restrooms. Just those two projects are estimated to cost close to \$300,000. Any contribution will help us reach our goal and enable us to open the second floor.

The museum is looking for a new Education Director. This position is a paid, part-time job and includes working with visitors of all ages and providing fire safety education. It would be helpful if the Director had a background in the fire service. If you, or someone you know, would be interested in the position contact the museum at 216-664-6312.

In closing, on behalf of the Board of Directors, I wish everyone a wonderful Thanksgiving and a safe, happy holiday season.

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

Published by The Western Reserve Fire Museum and Education Center, 310 Carnegie Ave., Cleveland, Ohio 44115-2816

Phone: (216) 664-6312
www.wrfmc.com

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN NEEDS YOUR HELP

BY JOHN ZANGERLE

Yes, this is the same headline we used last year and we received a terrific response. Unfortunately, our needs have gotten even greater as we are trying to finish the dormitory and restrooms on the second floor. Our volunteers have done a lot of prep work on that space, but we now need to hire a contractor to finish the job. Once we can open the second floor, we will finally have an available revenue stream from parties, meetings, and other activities that can be held in this very desirable downtown space with great views.

We have been doing our homework and have gotten estimates from contractors who have been recommended to us. The longer we wait the more expensive these renovations become as labor and material costs have been escalating quickly. The good news is that we have completed the electrical work and it has been inspected and approved. Rough plumbing has been completed, inspected, and approved for both restrooms, but we need to install HVAC ducts, drywall, and tile. We also need to do duct work, ceiling repair, and drywall in the dormitory. New steps and handicap ramp to the alarm office are needed.

We feel we have earned our members support by our perseverance through these last difficult years. When COVID restrictions were lifted we resumed Museum activities this year and as you can see

from the Bugle we have had a full calendar of events. We were again able to hold our annual Luau fundraiser outdoors and we have seen our visitor flow return. We have also successfully obtained grants from a variety source of to help cover pandemic losses. With this issue we have published four issues of the Bugle and many of our volunteers have returned to support our activities.

This year we are adding a special incentive to our vital Capital Campaign. Each dollar contributed will now be matched by equivalent donations from two Board members. This will triple the amount of your contribution, for example a \$100.00 gift becomes \$300.00. Please remember that any donation, no matter how small, will still have a major impact on our ability to open the second floor and enhance our sustainability. You can donate online through our website under the "Support Us" tab or mail your contribution along with your membership renewal form found on the back of this issue or mail your donation directly to the Western Reserve Fire Museum, 310 Carnegie Ave, Cleveland, OH 44115. Please remember that if you are required to take a Minimum Distribution from your IRA, you can make a Qualified Charitable Distribution directly from your IRA administrator to the Museum thereby reducing your taxable income and saving taxes.

HUDSON DAY AT THE FIRE MUSEUM

BY JIM BELL

Saturday, October 23 was Hudson Day at the fire museum. Members of Hudson Fire Department as well as all citizens and workers from Hudson were invited to the museum to view the HFD exhibit and see the other exhibits and artifacts. Fire Chief Jerry Varnes prepared a short presentation about the history of Hudson FD. We even started up the vintage 1948 L-model Mack fire truck that Hudson FD provided for the exhibit. She fired right up and we let her run for a few minutes just to 'exercise the horses'. Everyone enjoyed some fresh popcorn and water or soda pop for refreshments.

It was a fun day for all!



City of Hudson Photo

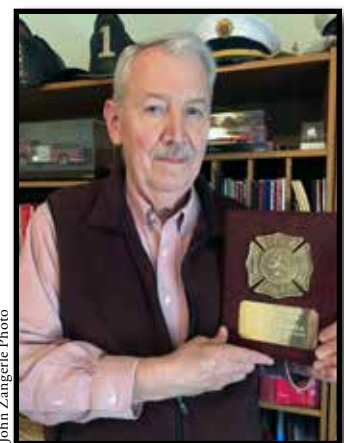
Chief Jerry Varnes

JOHN ZANGERLE RECEIVES SPAAMFAA'S HIGHEST HONOR

The Fire Museum's current Board member and past president, John Zangerle, was surprised with the presentation of SPAAMFAA's highest honor, the William L. Robinson Award at the Great Lakes Chapter muster at Frankenmuth this summer. Our Museum is a local chapter of the Society for the Preservation and Appreciation of Antique Motor Fire Apparatus in America (SPAAMFAA). This national organization helps preserve the history of fire apparatus and the fire service through its newsletter and quarterly magazine for members as well as helping sponsor chapter activities such as musters and meetings. SPAAMFAA holds annual midwinter and summer national conventions around the country.

SPAAMFAA's highest honor, the William L. Robinson Award was established in 1970, and is created in memory of William L. Robinson, of Syracuse, New York. Robinson was a founding member of SPAAMFAA and the organization's second secretary. He is remembered as a hard-working member who shunned the spot light.

The Robinson award is bestowed annually to the member who has contributed to the spirit and goals of the Society in an outstanding way, and who has done so quietly without fanfare. John is a SPAAMFAA Life Member who has served as SPAAMFAA vice president and served four terms on the Board of Trustees. He has also provided SPAAMFAA with both legal and financial advice and formed the SPAAMFAA Endowment Fund and chaired the Endowment Committee. He currently serves as the chairman of SPAAMFAA's Finance Committee. Congratulations to John who is approaching his fifty year anniversary of joining the organization.



John Zangerle Photo

John Zangerle Holding Award

MUSEUM HOLDS PREVENTION WEEK OPEN HOUSE

BY JOAN OLIVER

October ushered in Fire Prevention Week and with it the Museum held its Annual Open House Saturday, October 9th. The goal of Fire Prevention Week is to educate everyone about simple but important actions they can take to keep themselves and those around them safe. The theme this year was “Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety”. It emphasized the importance of learning the different sounds made by smoke and carbon monoxide alarms. If anyone hears a beeping or chirping sound, it’s important to take action. Everyone in the house should understand these sounds and meaning of these alarms and know how to respond.

All throughout the day there were activities for visitors on the plaza as well as inside the Museum. Outside Bob Shimits, Museum member and volunteer, served as DJ and serenaded visitors with a variety of tunes. His 1922 Model T Fire Truck was on display outside for everyone to see. A Junior Firefighters Challenge was set up outside for kids to conquer with the help of Museum volunteers

Stan Socha and Ken Rybka. When anyone got hungry or thirsty they could partake in a variety of delicious treats.

A refreshment stand was operated by Debbie Hubbard and Pat Zangerle both Museum members and volunteers. It offered free hot dogs, beverages, popcorn, and Honey Hut ice cream.

Inside the Museum, Frank Novak, Museum member and volunteer greeted everyone while Museum President Jim Bell conducted tours. Retired firefighter and volunteer, Bob Szabo conducted fire safety lectures at various times throughout the day.

A good time was had by all. We would like to thank all those who ventured out that day, as well as, all our volunteers who helped make the event a success. A special thank you goes out to Honey Hut for donating ice cream for this event. We look forward to seeing everyone again next year.



Frank Novak Greeting Visitors



Brothers Driving Model T



Visitors Enjoying Refreshments



Jr. Firefighters Ready for Action

ENJOYING A SAFE HOLIDAY SEASON

BY JOAN OLIVER

The holidays are a time to reconnect with family and friends, but they also can present seasonal safety hazards. Here are some tips to keep your family and home safe this holiday season.

Decorating Safety

Decorating is one of the best ways to get in a holiday mood, but emergency rooms see thousands of injuries involving holiday decorating every season. When decorating please follow these tips:

- Keep potentially poisonous plants – mistletoe, holly berries, and amaryllis – away from children and pets
- If using an artificial tree, check that it is labeled “fire resistant”
- If using a live tree, cut off about 2 inches of the trunk to expose fresh wood for better water absorption, remember to water it and remove it from your home when it is dry
- Place your tree at least 3 feet away from fireplaces, radiators and other heat sources, making certain not to block doorways
- Only use indoor lights indoors and outdoor lights outdoors, and choose the right ladder for the task when hanging lights
- Replace light sets that have broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, or loose connections
- Follow the package directions on the number of light sets that can be plugged into one socket
- Never nail, tack or stress wiring when hanging lights and keep plugs off the ground away from puddles and snow
- Turn off all lights and decorations when you go to bed or leave the house



Watch Out for Fire-Starters

Use of candles and fireplaces, combined with an increase in the amount of combustible, seasonal decorations in many homes during the holidays, means more risk for fire:

- Place candles where they cannot be knocked down or blown over and out of the reach of children
- Keep matches and lighters up high in a locked cabinet out of the reach of children
- Use flameless, rather than lighted, candles near flammable objects
- Don't burn trees, wreaths or wrapping paper in the fireplace
- Use a screen on a fireplace at all times when a fire is burning
- Never leave candles or fireplaces burning unattended or when you are asleep
- Check and clean the chimney and fireplace area at least once a year

LOCAL 93 BLOOD DRIVE

BY JOAN OLIVER

The Western Reserve Fire Museum hosted Local 93's William Walker Memorial Blood Drive Monday, November 1, 2021 from 7:30am to 1:30pm. Over 20 people came that day in honor of his memory to help ensure that blood is available whenever it is needed. The Red Cross and the Local 93 appreciated the great turnout for such a good cause.

Cleveland Fire Lieutenant and Local 93 member, William Walker was ambushed and shot multiple times outside his home on the evening of November 3, 2013. He was rushed to the MetroHealth Medical Center and blood was administered by ER staff. Despite the efforts of responding fellow firefighters, EMS paramedics, and ER staff, William sadly passed away from these injuries. This drive is done every year in his memory.



Dean Murad Donating for the Cause

MERIT BADGE CONTINUES AT MUSEUM

BY JOAN OLIVER

On Saturday, November 13th the Museum held its sixth Boy Scout Merit Badge Training class. There were 21 in attendance. Bob Szabo and Ken Rybka, both retired firefighters and Museum members handled the instruction for this session. Bob provided the classroom instruction while Ken took care of the hands on safety training and tour of the Museum.



Bob Szabo Lectures to Scouts



Ken Rybka Explains Gamewell System

After an afternoon of training, the scouts fulfilled the requirements to receive their Fire Safety Merit Badge. Classes through the Lake Erie Council will be held here at the museum every year beginning in the fall. Arrangements to attend can be made through Noah Boksansky, Business Manager of Experiences at the Boy Scouts of America Lake Erie Council at noah.boksansky@scouting.org.

MUSEUM'S FLEA MARKET TO RESUME FOR 2022

JOHN ZANGERLE

After canceling the 2021 March Flea Market because of COVID, the Museum is pleased to announce that we will again hold our annual Flea Market the first Saturday in March on March 5, 2022, at the Cleveland Fire Training Academy, 3101 Lakeside Ave., Cleveland. This is always a welcome harbinger of spring and a time to buy and sell fire related items and to catch up with old friends. Clean out your garage or basement over the winter and take a table at the Flea Market. Further information will be posted on our Facebook page and our web site. Steve Hildebrant and Bob Shimits have agreed to chair the event. We look forward to seeing you there.



Interested Buyers Browsing Wares

WRFBA REUNION MEETING

JOHN ZANGERLE

It is hard for me to imagine that the Western Reserve Fire Buffs (WRFBA) organization was formed almost 50 years ago in Hudson, Ohio. The organization grew and eventually generated the momentum as well as the seed money for starting the Western Reserve Fire Museum. As reported in the last Bugle, several of our early members, Paul Nelson, Tom Green, Bruce Sidaway, and Bob Gahr have started donating their collections to the Museum. When Ken Rybka and I met at Bruce Sidaway's house to pick up his donated collection, we started reminiscing and decided it was past time to track down WRFBA members and get together for an evening to swap stories. Thanks to Kenny's organizational skills we came up with a rough list of WRFBA members we could find still in the northeast Ohio area. We reached out to them and scheduled an informal get together at the Museum on Saturday, November 20. We want to bring back those great days when we listened to "KQA 216 to the Fire Department" on low band radio and all showed up from different directions to meet at the "big one". If you were not on the email list, please call or email the Museum to give us your contact information and we will add you to the list.

ONE OF THE BIG ONES IN CLEVELAND...THE GLIDDEN FIRE

BY PAUL NELSON

Fire at the Glidden Paint Co., 11001 Berea Rd. at Madison Ave., is considered the sixth largest fire in CFD history. On November 25, 1957, fire consumed two buildings on the 6-acre complex that took six hours to bring under control and burned for 14 hours. Response required a 5-5 alarm assignment plus 9 special alarms.

Fire started in the south west corner of the basement in Section 1, Building 21 from an electrical short in mixing equipment. Companies found heavy fire in the basement rapidly spreading to the elevator shaft. From there it spread through Section 2 and 3 of Building 21 (4-story brick factory, 366-ft long) and then to Building 22 (1-story brick factory, warehouse and loading docks, 140-ft long). Destroyed were mixing and canning equipment, raw materials, packaging materials and finished goods. Fire suppression required 12 deluge guns, 3 ladder pipes, 1 cellar pipe, 5 fog streams, 63 hand lines totaling 33,850-ft of hose. Fire flow was 4,158,333 gallons of water.

At 4:30am the same morning, a working fire broke out in a frame dwelling at 2690 E. 53rd Street. Arriving companies found the structure well involved. A child died in the fire.

Then, at 8:03 am companies were dispatched to Captain Frank's Seafood Restaurant on the E. 9th Street pier on report of a fire. With "Central Office Dispatching" in effect, the Alarm Office dispatched companies by phone rather than striking the box over the Gamewell Alarm System.

8:05am Box alarm response E: 34-41 L: 1-6 BN: 4 AC
 8:24 Special E: 30-18 RS: 1
 8:28 3-3 alarm response E: 35-31-29-15 (boat)

Fire started at the rear kitchen of the structure and extended into the cockloft. The fireboat supplied hand lines and four pumpers drafted from the lake.



Building 21 where fire originated



Captain Frank's on the 9th Street Pier

RESPONSE

10:08pm Box 6282 E: 23-32-33 L: 12 RS: 2 BN: 3
 10:21 3-3 6282 E: 4-8-12-20-24-38 L: 9 BN:9
 10:33 5-5 6282 E: 1-2-3-5-27-28 L: 2 BN: 5
 10:37 525-6 6282 E: 9-13-14-17-22-29
 528-1 6282 L: 1
 10:58 527-1 6282 H: 1
 528-1 6282 L: 7
 11:32 527-1 6282 H: 2
 528-1 6282 L: 5
 12:23am 528-1 6282 L: 11 (11/26/1957)
 525-3 6282 E: 11-19-
 2:30 525-1 6282 E: 18

At the 8:30am shift change only six engine companies were in service across the City. Chief Elmer Cain ordered the Alarm Office to secure mutual aid from suburban cities to cover some of the empty fire stations. It was the first and only time aid was called from outside the City in the 20th Century. (At the East Ohio Gas fire suburban apparatus responded voluntarily.)

MUTUAL AID RESPONSE

8:52am Cuyahoga Heights engine to Station 35
 8:55 Lakewood engine to Station 23
 9:00 East Cleveland engine to Station 29
 9:02 Parma engine to Station 42
 9:10 Shaker Heights engine to Station 10

At 9:17am East Cleveland Engine 2 and CFD BN 6 responded to a still alarm at 723 E. 105th Street



Companies operating inside the complex



Cuyahoga Heights 49 Seagrave responded

Loss in the Glidden fire was estimated at \$3.4 million and \$100,000 for the Captain Frank's fire.

SANTA IS COMING TO THE FIRE MUSEUM!

BY JOAN OLIVER

The Western Reserve Fire Museum and Education Center has received an urgent message from the North Pole. Santa and Mrs. Claus are coming to the museum!

Mark your calendars for Saturday, December 18th when Santa will arrive at the museum at 11:00 am. Instead of coming to the museum on his sleigh with reindeer, Santa will arrive by way of a bright, shiny fire truck with lights flashing and siren wailing. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be available to talk with all the children and hear their Christmas gift wishes. And they will be available for pictures as well. The museum will have refreshments for all and goodie bags for the kids to take home. Santa will be at the museum until 1:00 pm when he will return to the North Pole. This is a free event. So bring your children; grandchildren; nieces, nephews and neighbors and come spend the day with Santa at the fire museum.



Joan Oliver Photo

Ho! Ho! Ho! What Would You Like for Xmas?

TODD WOLF LOANS TWIN TOWERS FOR DISPLAY

BY JOAN OLIVER

The Museum is very lucky to have among its membership people who possess amazing creative talent and Todd Wolf is one of them. Todd has loaned us a magnificent replica of the World Trade Center Twin Towers and the World Trade Center Marriott which he constructed totally out of Legos to scale. It was built in tribute to this year marking the 20th anniversary of the attacks and is currently on display at the Museum. We were fortunate to have this in time to include in our 9/11 Memorial Ceremony held in September of this year.

Todd, who works full-time as a Fire Inspector for Solon Fire Rescue, loves to build Lego replicas of historic and notable buildings. This fascination began as a child and is something he has been doing as a hobby for over 35 years now. Other notable works included in his repertoire are a replica of Stan Hewett Hall, the William G. Mather Steamship Museum, Solon's Yellow Brick Schoolhouse & most recently Lakeview Elementary School which he built for our Collinwood exhibit. His pieces are works of art and truly amazing. So if you haven't visited recently it is worth taking a trip down to see.



Todd Wolf Photo

Todd Wolf Stands by Lego Replica

MUSEUM RECEIVES NEW PATCH BOARDS

BY JIM BELL

Recently the museum received a new addition to our exhibit display cases. Through the generosity of retired Maple Heights Fire Chief John Drsek, the museum has four beautiful oak patch boards to display our sizable collection. At last count we have over 800 shoulder patches that need to be mounted for display. With the help of museum volunteers Larry Gordon and Bill Shaw we will soon have the patches mounted and the boards hung on the walls. Stop by the museum soon and see these wonderful new boards.



Joan Oliver Photo

John Drsek with Jim Bell & Larry Gordon by New Cases

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- **Saturday, Dec. 18, 2021** – Cleveland, OH. Visit with Santa & Mrs. Claus, 11:00am – 1:00pm at the Western Reserve Fire Museum, 310 Carnegie Ave. Goodies for the kids. Bring your camera, a great photo opportunity for the family. For more information visit Museum website at www.wrfmc.com or call 216.664.6312.
- **Tuesday, Feb. 22 - Saturday, Feb. 26, 2022** – Kissimmee, Florida. SPAAMFAA National Winter Convention hosted by the Florida Antique Bucket Brigade. Host hotel Days Inn by Wyndham, 3011 Maingate Lane. Registration Deadline January 22, 2022. Contact Bob Romig at BobRFire17@aol.com or <https://spaamfaa.org/calendar/> for information. For all registration forms, awards & convention mementos visit <https://tinyurl.com/8efth7nz>.
- **Saturday, March 5, 2022** – Cleveland, OH. Annual Firematic Flea Market, held at the Cleveland Fire Training Academy, 3101 Lakeside Ave, Cleveland, OH. 8am – 1pm. Admission \$3.00 with children 12 and under free. For more information visit the Museum website at www.wrfmc.com.
- **Saturday, April 24 and Sunday, April 25, 2022** – Allentown, PA. Union Historical Society Spring Melt Flea Market and Auction. Auction Saturday, Flea Market Saturday afternoon and Sunday. Agri-Plex at Allentown Fairgrounds. Info at www.unionhistoricalsociety.com.
- **Friday, May 13 and Saturday, May 14, 2022** – Goodells, Michigan. Great Lakes Chapter Flea Market (formerly Jackson, MI Flea Market), St. Clair County Park, Goodells, Michigan. Info at www.gliafaa.org



<https://www.wrfmc.com>



<https://spaamfaa.org/calendar/>



<https://tinyurl.com/8efth7nz>



www.unionhistoricalsociety.com



www.gliafaa.org

CFD TRIVIA

BY PAUL NELSON

Q: When was the CFD High Pressure Pumping Station first used for a fire?

A: January 24, 1914 at Box 226 for a fire at 500 Prospect Avenue.



M&M Auto Supply Co. 500 Prospect Ave.

The CFD High Pressure Pumping Station on Lakeside Avenue went into service in November 1913. It was operated by a full company of fire fighters that were part of the 5th Battalion. The pumping station had four 2,200gpm pumps. Protocol called for starting the first pump on receipt of a box alarm over the Gamewell Alarm System that was struck for a location in the downtown area.

Box 226 was pulled by a policeman walking his beat at 8:10am on January 24, 1914. He noticed smoke coming from a 3-story block at 500 Prospect Avenue housing the M&M Auto Supply Co. on the first two floors and a restaurant on the third. Arriving companies found a basement heavily involved in fire with smoke conditions on all floors. Response to Box 226: E: 1-2-3-14-28 L: 1-7 H: 6 BN: 1 Assistant Chief

The fire was caused by ignition of uncontrolled gas flowing from a ruptured gas meter. The meter did not have an auto shutoff as required by law and fed the fire when companies could not stop the flow of gas. The contents of the basement included batteries that gave off hydrogen gas adding increased intensity to the fire.

It took 1½-hours to shut off the gas. The fire was contained to the basement but heavy smoke conditions ensued. A total of 15 fire fighters were injured with five transported to hospitals for intense smoke inhalation. Hand lines were stretched from a nearby Murphy 4-gated high pressure hydrant without the need of pumping engines.

The rig in the photo is Hose (Flying Squad) No. 6, a 1913 Peerless hose wagon/chemical engine with a crew of six men. It ran out of old Station 3 on E. 18th Street that also was the Department's training stable and horse vet hospital. CFD conversion to motorized apparatus had begun in December 1912. At this fire Engine 28, Ladder 1 and Ladder 7 had motorized tractors, the others were horse drawn.



Operating Room of Pumping Station



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

310 Carnegie Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44115-2816

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**CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR UPDATES ON
MUSEUM ACTIVITIES WWW.WRFMC.COM**

**Don't Throw
That Away**

The Fire Museum is looking for fire related photos, articles, artifacts from Cleveland and all of the Lands of the Western Reserve as we preserve area fire history.

Thank you for your continued support



Membership Renewal/Donation Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please Charge my: Visa Mastercard Discover Amex

Charge Amount \$ _____ Renew Automatically: Yes No

Card Number _____ Exp. Date: _____

Check here to receive electronic copy of "The Bugle" newsletter. Please make sure we have your current email address on file by filling in your email address above.

Please consider an additional yearend tax deductible donation. Your support is greatly appreciated.

**The Western Reserve
FIRE MUSEUM
and Education Center**

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Amount \$ _____

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IMPORTANT:

The name and address of your membership
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**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL**
Please remember us when making
your year end contributions