

Plans For FASP 2011 Convention at Lake Harmony in Pocono's Underway

Lake Harmony Chief Ralph Lenno and A/C Steve Lilick, of Albrightsville are already making plans for the 2011 convention of the Firemen's Association of the State of Pennsylvania.

One of the things you will see first hand when you get there will be A/C Steve Lilick and his son Nicholas displaying their 1860 Wirt & Knox hand-drawn hose cart that they have painstakingly restored over a period of several years.

At the recent 2009 Convention of Firemen's Association of the State of Pennsylvania (FASP), hosted by King of Prussia VFD, Steve Lilick was named to the position of the Northeast Director of the FASP, and also captured first place honors for "best appearing privately owned hand-drawn apparatus" with his entry in this year's Convention Parade – a fully restored 1860 Wirt and Knox hand-drawn hose cart.

The hose cart originally came from the city of Philadelphia, which purchased it in 1860. It was in service until 1910.

After Philadelphia, it was purchased by a fire department in Upper Darby and used until 1968, when it went to auction.

After its sale, it eventually ended up sitting in a farmer's field until 2002 when Lilick purchased it and started the work to restore it to its former glory.

While the cart's metal and tags were still intact, some of the wood in the wheels had rotted away.

Lilick had the wheels rebuilt in the Lancaster, PA area and he had it painted. While it is now complete, he is still adding things to it each year.

He also replaced the hose and nozzles with pieces that are appropriate for when it was new.

Last year Lilick took it to the Pennsylvania State Firemen's Parade in Gettysburg and it took second place in its category.

While next year's Pennsylvania State Firemen's Convention will be in Hanover near Wilkes-Barre, the September 2011 Pennsylvania State Firemen's Convention will be held at Lake Harmony with a parade scheduled for Sept. 24, with Lilick and Lake Harmony Chief Ralph Lennon serving as chairpersons.



A/C Steve Lilick and his son Nicholas with their restored 1860 Wirt & Knox hand-drawn hose cart.

The convention and its family-oriented parade, which encompasses fire departments from all over the state, will be the first such event of its kind for the area.

According to Lilick, most of the time conventions are basically just for the firemen, but with all the things this area has to offer such as fishing, boating, golfing, shopping, and even casinos, this convention and parade will appeal to the entire family.

Lilick, who is third generation firefighter, has been in the fire service since he was 16 and his son Nicholas, who was the "2007 Pennsylvania State Firemen's Junior Firefighter of the Year," is now the fourth generation.

As northeast director of the Firemen's Association of the State of Pennsylvania, Lilick works with firefighters in the counties of Bradford, Carbon, Columbia, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Pike, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Wayne, and Wyoming.

The Firemen's Association aids these firefighters with benefits such as a scholarship fund, training, education and more.

Anyone desiring more information on the Firemen's Association of the State of Pennsylvania or the 2011 convention can visit www.pafirefighters.org or e-mail Lilick at steve_lilick@klenzoidinc.com.

Reported provided by Victor Izzo TN Correspondent tneditor@tnonline.com