

Congratulations are due to Lake Harmony and Albrightsville Volunteer Fire Companies! They jointly pursued being the hosts for the 131st Annual Convention and Parade of the Fireman's Association of the State of Pennsylvania AND they were chosen from amongst the many areas of the State which submitted proposals to hold that event!!

A press conference was held at The Galleria on Monday 2/25/08 to announce the awarding of the event to the area. It was covered by and aired on Channel 13, plus the Times News. Speaking at the press conference, in addition to Chief Bruce Berger from Albrightsville Fire Co and Larry Polansky of Lake Harmony Fire Co (Chief Ralph Lennon was unfortunately unable to attend), were Fireman's Association Vice-President James Mullanne to make the formal announcement of their decision to hold the Convention here, State Representative Keith McCall, the Carbon County Commissioners (William O'Gurek, Charles Getz, and Wayne Nothstein), Kidder Township Manager John Finnerty on behalf of the Township Supervisors (Supervisors Larry Polansky and Tom Bradley were in attendance), Alicia Crane of the Pocono Mountain Visitors Bureau, and Chuck Dickinson of Split Rock Resort and Vacation Charters, Inc.

The event is scheduled for September 21 to 24, 2011. That's right 2011 – that is how early these events are awarded so that the host area can properly plan for the influx of people and equipment. It is expected that over 300 pieces of fire fighting and rescue apparatus, 3000 or so marching Fire Fighters, many marching bands and others will be in the parade. This will be a parade not likely to be forgotten in this area any time soon. The parade route will go from the Big Boulder area down Lake Harmony Rd and South Lake Dr to the Galleria at Split Rock.

Judging will take place for the prizes and awards given in many categories for the apparatus and these are fiercely competed for by the state-wide Fire Companies attending. The two local fire companies have their work cut-out for them over the next couple years as the planning, logistical, and coordination effort required to carry this event is enormous. It speaks volumes to the dedication of and commitment made by these outstanding local resident volunteers.

This is the first time the Convention and Parade will ever be held in the Pocono Mountains area. The event itself, the visitors and the publicity will be an economic, tourism, and prestige enhancer for the entire area. Not to mention the fun it will generate for locals and visitors alike during the parade and surrounding activities.

Plan to attend this gala event as it will be a fun and inspiring day and the Association uses it as fundraiser for many worthy causes supported by the state-wide Fireman's Association. Click the link below to see pictures from the press conference, courtesy of Maureen Kennedy.