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Lewiston No. 1 celebrates 110 years of service to community

Value of volunteerism, teamwork by membership praised at installation



Top: Lewiston No. 1 line officers take their oaths from the Hon. Hugh Gee. Above: Lewiston No. 1's top responders for 2023.

BY TERRY DUFFY Editor-in-Chief PHOTOS BY K&D ACTION PHOTO & AERIAL IMAGING

Lewiston Fire Co. No. 1 members celebrated 110 years of service to the Town and Village of Lewiston community at their 85th installation, held April 20 at Brickyard Brewing Co.

"It's nice to come to my own fire district, my hometown," said Niagara County Sheriff Michael Filicetti, who served as master of ceremonies for the event. He went on to offer his praise to Lewiston No. 1 members for their volunteerism and teamwork with the community.

"I just want to say thank you to all the volunteers," Filicetti said. "You don't hear it enough, we in law enforcement. I guess I want to thank you on two fronts. I want to thank you as a law enforcement officer for everything you do, and everything you provide. You work as a team with us every single day.

When the bell rings, you show up." That spirit of teamwork went on to serve as a theme for this annual event.

In his remarks, fire company chaplain Frank Previte said that, being part of the fire service and also serving as chief of the Lewiston Police Department, rank as the most significant events in his life: "Being part of both of those, there is such a brotherhood in both of those organizations. ... Through that, there's a lot of friendships, a lot of time, a lot of faces, a lot of people that I met, that I never would get the opportunity to unless I was part of this organization. ... That's what makes it so hard, when you lose somebody that you care about or has been a part of our lives."

Incoming Lewiston No. 1 President Tracy Grant presented the president's report on behalf of outgoing President Barry Beebe, who was absent that evening.

"Barry's mantra is family. School

work and then firehall. He repeats the list time after time when new members come into the hall," Grant said.

Noting Lewiston No. 1's century-plus years of service to the community, he said, "One hundred and ten years ago, in 1914, when a few people had a little idea that became the beginning of this fire company, (was) the concept to answer the call for those who need assistance. So, Barry would like to thank those of us who served with him on the executive committee for the last five years. Spending a lot more time away from our families, running the business that is the firehall, in addition to the calls for those in need.

"He said 'not one of them would say that the thanks was needed, because they understand the importance of what happens in the office, the executive office, the line office.' And it affects what we do outside the hall."

The program went on to see

swearing-in ceremonies for Lewiston No. 1's line officers and administrative officers for 2024-24 by town justices, the Hon. Hugh Gee and the Hon. Thomas Sheeran.

Lewiston No. 1 line officers include Fire Chief Spencer Lilly; assistant chiefs - fire, Will McEvoy and Chris Copeland; assistant chief - EMS, Matthew Grainge; fire captains Jacob Meagher and Keith Parmer; EMS captain Kevin Krueger; fire lieutenants Eugene Siegrist and Andrew Fultz; EMS lieutenant Collin Monteleone; and fire police lieutenant Josh Kilmer.

Fire company administrative officers for 2024-25 are: Grant, president; Rick Horton, vice president; John Penzotti, recording secretary; Beebe, financial secretary; and Les Myers, treasurer. Also, directors: (three years) Matt Ingham; (two years) Brian Christman; (one year) David Defazio and director emeritus James Franey.

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Niagara County Tribune/Sentinel

Founded February 14, 1987

PUBLISHER Skip Mazenauer GM/MANAGING EDITOR Joshua Maloni EDITOR IN CHIEF/SENTINEL EDITOR Terrence P. Duffy WEBSITE/SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR Joshua Maloni ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES Colleen Rebmann, Jeff Calarco ACCOUNTING/OFFICE MANAGER Kim Stacharczyk ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT Jennifer Walowitz

PRODUCTION MANAGER/ GRAPHIC DESIGNER Wendy Juzwicki CLASSIFIED MANAGER Wendy Puffer CIRCULATION Kim Stacharczyk SENIOR REPORTERS Michael J. Billoni, Patrick J. Bradley, Alice Gerard, Karen Keefe CONTRIBUTORS Timothy Chipp, Kevin and Dawn Cobello, Michelle Blackley Glynn, Wayne Peters, Elijah Robinson, Lauren Zaepfel

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