

UNION HISTORICAL FIRE SOCIETY



DELAWARE VALLEY CHAPTER S.P.A.A.M.F.A.A.

Our October 2, 2022 UHFS meeting was held at the Reading Area Firefighters Museum. We received a guided tour of the beautifully renovated facility. Our Treasurer, Donna Tickner, took numerous pictures of the treasures to be found inside; too many pictures to properly showcase in this edition. The next pages will have some of the highlights, but we urge you to explore this museum when you are in the area.

We also held an all Zoom Meeting on Sunday, November 6, 2022 which began at 10:00 a.m. We had 14 members attend and would really like to see more of our membership participate via Zoom while sitting in their living rooms drinking coffee. Nominations Board of Directors / Officers and 2023 Spring Melt update were the big topics at this meeting.

Our next meeting will also be a Zoom Meeting **ONLY** on Sunday, January 8th at 10:00 a.m. Members will receive an email link to join the meeting.

President Elizabeth (Butch) Tickner



Reading Area Firefighters Museum

Walking through the Reading Area Firefighters Museum (RAFM) one discovers the rich history, artifacts, memorabilia, and firefighters that protected and served the citizens of Reading and Berks County for almost 250 years. The RAFM preserves, documents, and displays one of the richest historical firefighting collections of artifacts not only in Pennsylvania, but also in the United States. The museum's building is an important part of the Collection and the local architectural heritage. Located in the Callowhill Historic District, one of the first areas developed in the city in the 18th century, the RAFM is in the former home of Liberty Fire Company No. 5, often referred to as the "Liberties." In 1985 the building, still home to the Liberty Fire Company, was added to the National Register of Historic Places. The nomination form provides a detailed survey of the firehouse including the following quote: "one of the finest examples of Victorian architecture in the City of Reading and Berks County." The unusual combination of utilitarian purpose and architectural quality of the structure and its intact original character makes it one of the best-preserved historical landmarks in the city and county. Numerous tours have been conducted through the building and without exception of the tour participants, whatever their age, background, or experience, has been genuine surprise mixed with respect and appreciation for the elegance and beauty of the rooms.

The City of Reading, the current owners of the museum building, have recently made a commitment to invest 1.2 million dollars into the rehabilitation of the HVAC system, and other key building related components to preserve this historic structure for many generations to come. The Reading Area Firefighters Museum was established in 2004 and has successfully preserved and restored all three floors of the interior of the fire station through donations and grants. The museum houses artifacts relating to the history of firefighting from the founding of the Union Fire Company of Reading in 1770 thru modern day. We showcase the evolution of fire engines from 1770, 1812, 1909, 1924, 1931 and 1937 which all of them served here in Berks County.

Recent visitors to the museum have made the following comments on Trip Advisor: a "must see" - "tour guides were real life heroes who are passionate and knowledgeable and made me want to learn" - "incredible collection" - "blown away by the grandness of the building and the beautiful collection" - "the kids loved having their pictures taken on the fire truck" - "a hidden treasure that must be discovered".

One can see that our primary objectives at the Museum are to inform, educate and entertain. At the Reading Area Firefighters Museum, we present historical information on the evolution of fire-fighting with personally guided tours and “hands on” experiences. Our youth and school programs not only include student participation activities, but also a “Home Fire Safety Awareness” educational component.

In 2023 ,we will be celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the Rainbow Fire Company and the 275th anniversary of Reading, Pa.

We will be having special displays and events throughout the year.

Our operating hours are Thursdays 9am to 12 Noon and Saturday 10am to 2pm, other times available by appointment. Admission starting Jan 1, 2023, will be \$10 per adult, 16 and under are free.



Artifacts at the Reading Area Firefighters Museum



Artifacts at the Reading Area Firefighters Museum



THE UNION HISTORICAL FIRE SOCIETY

ALLENTOWN SPRING MELT

THE LARGEST FIRE ANTIQUE AND MEMORABILIA MARKETPLACE IN THE U.S.

Sunday, April 23, 2023

Opens at 9:00 AM

Opens 7:00 AM for Early Buyer Passes



SCAN ME



Agri-Plex at Allentown Fairgrounds
302 N 17th St. Allentown, Pa 18104

Admission: \$10 Contribution to the UHFS
Children 12 & under No Charge

Tickets & Registration
GO LIVE Jan 15, 2023
springmelt.uhfs@gmail.com

EARLY BUYER PASSES AVAILABLE SEE WEBSITE TO PRE-PURCHASE

Over 300 vendor spaces available offering:

- Gamewell Goods
- Apparatus Parts
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- Uniforms
- Bunker Gear
- SCBA
- Hose & Nozzles
- EMS Equipment

*Fire, Rescue and EMS companies
Turn old equipment into cash!*

Cost per Space \$75

UHFS Members \$65 per Space

All vendor spaces measure 8' x 10'

Allows for ample space for selling and storage.
The parking lot surrounds the building, ADA Compliant.

FOOD & REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

www.unionhistoricalfiresociety.com

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**The 34TH Annual
FIREMATIC ANTIQUE AUCTION**

**Saturday, April 22, 2023
8:00 AM START TIME**

FRIDAY PREVIEW 12-3 PM SATURDAY PREVIEW 7-8 AM

Auction Presented by

The Eastmere Fireman

Contact Brian Enterline for Info and consignments
brian@eastmerefireman.com
<https://eastmerefireman.com/>
717.648.4458

**Admission: (Auction Day) \$5.00 Contribution to
the Union Historical Fire Society**

NEW FOR 2023 ONLINE VENDOR REGISTRATION + TICKET SALES



*******NOTICE ***** NOTICE *****NOTICE *******

In accordance with our Bylaws, at the November 2022 Meeting nominations were taken for all Officer positions and for all Board of Director positions. On-line voting ballots will be emailed to members of good standing. For those without internet access, voting ballots will be mailed to the address on file. Your ballot selection must be received by January 6th no later than midnight for your vote to be counted.

Welcome new member,

Brian Enterline, Harrisburg, PA

*Merry
Christmas*



Union Historical Fire Society

Delaware Valley Chapter
S.P.A.A.M.F.A.A.

www.unionhistoricalfiresociety.com

Meet us on Facebook at Union Historical Fire Society

2022 Officers

President	Elizabeth Tickner
Vice President	George Hofstetter
Treasurer	Donna Tickner
Corresponding Secretary	Dave Evans
Membership Secretary	John Trimble
Sergeant at Arms	Jeff Stauffer
Director	Tom D'Arcangelo
Director	Alan Hoffman
Director	Joe Landy
Director	Ken Snyder

All correspondence should be sent to
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