

# The MIFDI BULLETIN

Massachusetts Institute  
OF



**FIRE DEPARTMENT  
INSTRUCTORS**

November  
2009

MIFDI  
PO BOX 507  
MERRIMAC, MA 01860-0510

**50th Anniversary  
(1959-2009)**

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The Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors is a non-profit organization and was established on September 30, 1959. MIFDI's mission is "to promote fire department training and education by the mutual sharing of knowledge".

**THE MIFDI OFFICERS - 2009**

President: Captain Mark W. Roche, Newton Fire Department  
 1st Vice President: Captain Brian F. Belliveau, Fitchburg Fire Department  
 2nd Vice President: Vacant  
 Secretary: Vacant  
 Treasurer: Firefighter / Instructor Michael McLeieer, Merrimac Fire Department

**THE MIFDI BOARD of DIRECTORS**

**Terms Expire 2010**  
 Deputy Chief Thomas Conway, III, Billerica Fire Department  
 Assistant Chief Robert MacKendrick, Lynnfield Fire Department (Retired)  
 Chief Richard Gomes, Norton Fire Department  
 Firefighter / Instructor Michael McLeieer, Merrimac Fire Department (Past President)

**Terms Expire 2009**

Lieutenant George Churchill, Brockton Fire Department (retired)  
 Chief Frank W. Fitzgerald, Jr., Malden Fire Department (retired)  
 Captain James M. Vuona, Shrewsbury Fire Department

**EDITOR**

Firefighter / Instructor Scott D. Maker, Merrimac Fire Department

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**E-MAIL- info@mifdi.org**

**Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors  
 Membership Application  
 Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2010**

**Your MIFDI Dues  
 are due Jan. 1st**



**or Join MIFDI for  
 the first time.**

**Membership Information**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Address** \_\_\_\_\_  
**City & State** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Zip Code** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Phone (Home)** \_\_\_\_\_  
**E-mail Address** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Fax (Home)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Work Information**

**Department** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Rank** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Phone (work)** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Fax (work)** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Address (work)** \_\_\_\_\_  
**City & State (work)** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Zip Code** \_\_\_\_\_

<b><u>Membership Type:</u></b>	<b><u>Send Bulletin To:</u></b>	<b><u>Membership Dues:</u></b>
<b><u>circle one</u></b>	<b><u>circle one</u></b>	<b><u>Active</u> \$ 25.00</b>
<b><u>Active</u></b>	<b><u>Home</u></b>	<b><u>Retired</u> \$ 12.50</b>
<b><u>Retired</u></b>	<b><u>Work</u></b>	<b><u>Associate</u> \$100.00</b>
<b><u>Associate</u></b>	<b><u>E-mail</u></b>	

Please mail completed Application with check or money order payable to:

MIFDI  
 Attn: Michael McLeieer, Treasurer  
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 Phone: (978) 864-2015 or (978) 346-4731  
 E-mail: michael.mcLeieer@merrimacfire.com

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## NOVEMBER MEETING:

The next meeting of MIFDI will be held on **Wednesday, November 18, 2009**  
**(NOTE: THIS IS THE THIRD WEDNESDAY TO AVOID THANKSGIVING WEEK)**  
Our meeting will be hosted by the Saugus Fire Department courtesy of Chief James Blanchard. We will meet in the training room of the Saugus Public Safety Building, 27 Hamilton St.

Our presenter will be Lieutenant Richard Conway of the Nashua Fire Department. Lt. Conway has a fascinating presentation of the massive fire that destroyed a large part of Downtown Lynn in 1981. *(The fire occurred 28 years ago this month)*. Lt. Conway's father, Lynn Deputy Chief William Conway, was a Sector Commander during this incident. Some of the many challenges experienced during this and other large scale incidents included; *water supply, communications, building collapse and falling walls, evacuation of nearby residents, rehab of firefighters, etc.*

### SCHEDULE:

**0900:** Coffee, **1000:** Presentation, **1130:** Business Meeting, **1200:** Lunch (off site)

### DIRECTIONS:

From US Rt.1, take the Main St. Exit towards Saugus. Travel towards Saugus Center to the rotary. Travel around the rotary onto Hamilton St. and the Saugus Public Safety Building will be on your right. Go beyond the building and turn right to the upper parking area. Use the front entrance of the building to access the training room.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

**Beginning Balances for 01/01/2009**

Eastern Bank Cking. \$ 38.98  
 Consumers Cking. \$ 0.00  
 Consumers Savngs. \$233.47  
 ING Savings \$342.39  
18 Mo. CD CCU \$1,007.30  
 Total \$1,622.14

**Bills Paid October 2009 (Checking):**

Nov 09 Newsletter \$120.00 Michael - 10/31  
 Oct. Meeting Coffee & Rolls \$ 40.00 - Mark - 10/31  
**TOTAL: \$160.00**

**Account Transfers/Auto Debits/Credits:**

Bank Charge - New Cks.Economy- \$ 16.44 - 10/07/09  
 Economy Cking to Savings X-fer - \$158.52 - 11/05/09  
 Consumers CU Cking to Sav X-fer \$ 6.79 - 11/05/09

50/50 Raffle = N/A  
 Winner = None  
 Deposit from 50/50 Raffle = N/A

**Total active members = 122**

Dues paid thru 2019 = 1  
 Dues paid thru 2012 = 2  
 Dues paid thru 2011 = 1  
 Dues paid thru 2010 = 15  
 Dues paid thru 2009 = 87  
 Dues paid thru 2008 = 16

**Mailings**

E-Mail - 56 Home - 51  
Work - 15  
 122

**Balances as of 11/06/2009**

Bank Statement Checking: \$ 100.00  
 Less uncleared checks: (\$ 0.00)  
 Economy Cking. Balance: \$ 100.00  
 Economy Savings Balance: \$ 168.52  
 ING Savings Balance: \$ 983.67  
 CD/None  
 Consumers C.U. Checking: \$ 0.00  
 Less uncleared checks: (\$ 40.00)  
 Consumers C.U. Savings: \$ 202.01  
**Total \$ 1,414.20**

**Membership Totals: 122**

85 Active - 29 Retired - 8 Associate

**No New Members joined last month:**

*Treasurer Notes:*


- (a) Please remember to look at your mailing label for the PAID THROUGH date. Thank you to all of you who have paid your dues. **Your 2010 dues will be due in January, 2010.**
- (b) If anyone needs an invoice for their city or town to pay their membership dues, or if you have any other questions about your membership, please feel free to contact me directly.
- (c) If you receive your bulletin via the U.S. Postal Service and it is damaged, please let me know. Recently, a few members, have received their MIFDI Bulletin severely damaged by the Postal Service.

Respectfully submitted  
 11/06/2009

by Michael McLeieer, Treasurer  
 978-346-4731 or 978-864-2015

Thank you for your continued support and for your prompt payment of your dues!

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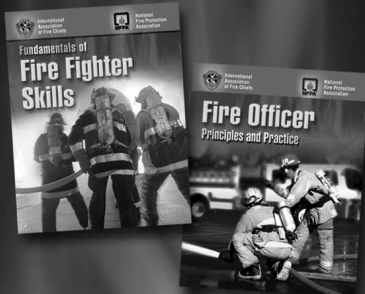
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**RENEWAL of DUES or NEW MEMBERSHIPS**  
may be addressed to:

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PO Box 507  
Merrimac, MA 01860-0510  
Phone: (978) 864-2015 or (978) 346-4731, ext. 1

**\*Dues are \$25.00 per year for Active members**  
**\$12.50 for Retired members**  
**\*100.00 per year for Associate members**

(which includes a 1/4 page of advertising in the MIFDI Bulletin and on the MIFDI website).

Membership dues are for one calendar year (January 1 through December 31).  
Dues are DUE by January 1st .

**RECALL OF MEETING #529**

The 529<sup>th</sup> meeting of MIFDI was held on October 28, 2009 hosted by the Chelmsford Fire Department in the Training Room of the Chelmsford Police Department. The presentation was provided by Chelmsford Fire Chief John Parrow . Chief Parrow gave us an interesting overview of the “Generational Divide” within the fire service and some of the characteristics of each including;

- TRADITIONALISTS (Born 1925-1944)
- BABY BOOMERS (Born 1945-1964)
- GENERATION X (Born 1965-1980)
- MILLENNIALS (Born 1981 or after)

Chief Parrow’s presentation focused on the generational expectations of the four generations including the liabilities and assets of each. This informative insight on the behaviors of each generation gave us all a better understanding of the attitudes and outlook of today’s firefighters.

President Roche conducted a business meeting beginning with a moment of silence for former MIFDI member Deputy Chief Edward Quinn (See Last Alarm). It was mentioned that the organization is “looking for a few good men” to become more involved and to consider running for a MIFDI Officer position in 2010. Anyone willing to run should contact the President, Treasurer, or any of the board members. Member Steve Perrson gave a report from the past two MFTC meetings. A question was posed by member Mike Curran looking for information on the hazards of solar panels on building rooftops. If anyone one has any information on this topic, please share it with us.

Members adjourned for lunch at Princeton Station Restaurant in North Chelmsford.

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**EMS RUN:**

**LAST ALARM:**

MIFDI President Mark Roche regrets to announce the death of former MIFDI Member **Deputy Chief Edward G. Quinn** of the Chelmsford Fire Department. Deputy Quinn died on October 19, 2009 at age 83. He served proudly on the Chelmsford F.D. before retiring in 1981. May he Rest in Peace.

The Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors offers our condolences to the family and friends of **Firefighter Michael J. Coyne**, ACTIVE member of the Chelsea Fire Department. Firefighter Coyne died on October 10, 2009 at age 48 of occupational cancer. May he Rest in Peace.

The Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors offers our condolences to the family and friends of **Firefighter John C. Balbin**, ACTIVE member of the Sudbury Fire Department. Firefighter Balben died on October 15, 2009 at age 60 of occupational cardiac illness. May he Rest in Peace.



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- Drager Safety
- Genesis Rescue System
- Koehler-Bright Star
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**CONGRATULATIONS:**

John O'Donoghue for 30 years of service at DFS and a 2009 Performance Recognition Program recipient.

Jim Vuona for 5 years of service at DFS and a 2009 Performance Recognition Program recipient.

**GOOD & WELFARE:** Nothing Reported

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

November 18, 2009: MIFDI – Saugus

November 20, 2009: Mass Fire Academy Recruit Graduation

November 21, 2009: Statewide Exam- Fire Lieutenant & Captain  
*Good Luck!*

December 3, 2009: Massachusetts Firefighter of the Year Awards  
Hanover Theatre, Worcester                      Contact: [mass.gov/dfs](http://mass.gov/dfs)

December 16, 2009: **MIFDI**

January 27, 2010: **MIFDI**

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**REPORT of the PRESIDENT:**

**Captain Mark W. Roche, Newton Fire Department**

Our October meeting was informative and a little entertaining as Chief John Parow described the difference in the work ethics of people from different generations and how it relates to the fire service. I thank Chief Parow for his presentation as well as Deputy Chief Mike Curren for arranging this meeting for MIFDI.

Another reminder as we approach the time for election of officers of the organization, it is important for members to step up and get involved with keeping this important organization going forward in the future bringing fresh ideas and recruiting new members to keep MIFDI strong and continue to be an important resource for the fire service.

See you on the 18<sup>th</sup>. Until then, stay safe!

*Mark*

**INSTRUCTORS CORNER:**

***Staff & Support Vehicle Saga***

**Captain Mark Roche, Newton Fire Department**

Fire departments nationwide have determined the Ford Expedition and the Chevrolet Tahoe to be the perfect fit for our Shift Commanders. They are built strong to withstand the wear-and-tear 24/7, they have all-wheel drive to navigate the difficult winters, and most importantly, they have sufficient room to allow for an array of equipment that we now carry including a Command Post cabinet and associated ICS tools.

However, when it comes to fire department staff and support vehicles (*this includes Training & Safety Officers*), most end up with “hand me downs” of former vehicles from chief officers or in worst cases old police cruisers! Why should the Training & Safety Officer beg or borrow a vehicle to support the needs of this vital role? It just doesn’t seem right.

Take a glance in the parking lot at a MIFDI meeting and look at the variety of junk that our fellow training officers are operating with, are you *bleeping* kidding me? Isn’t it a tad hypocritical to see a Safety Officer with a “Rejection Sticker” on his windshield? They are considered the lucky ones that are actually provided with a department vehicle!

OK, I know it’s a money thing and I fully agree that the Shift Commanders/ Duty Chief’s should have first priority when replacing vehicles. I also am realistic enough to know that most departments cannot afford to provide everyone with a new SUV. So what else is out there?

In early 2011, General Motors is introducing the Chevrolet Caprice PPV (Police Package Vehicle) to address the emergency vehicle needs of communities due to the expected end of production of the very popular Ford Crown Victoria. According to GM, police fleets account for around 70,000 vehicles in North America each year.

The new Ford Taurus and the Dodge Charger continue to gain popularity as an alternative to the beloved Crown Vic as well. These are just a few of the future options to provide fire department staff and support officers with a decent and reliable vehicle and hopefully stay out of the cars that police are replacing. One final note, it will be a sad commentary for our country if the American Fire Service considers turning to Honda to fulfill our vehicle needs.