

# The MIFDI BULLETIN

Massachusetts Institute  
OF



**FIRE DEPARTMENT  
INSTRUCTORS**

September  
2023

MIFDI  
PO BOX 507  
MERRIMAC, MA 01860-0510

65th Year  
(1959-2024)

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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 - 2023**

President: Captain Mark W. Roche, Newton Fire Department (Retired)  
 Vice President: Deputy Chief Christopher Kelley, Concord Fire Department (Retired)  
 Secretary: Vacant  
 Treasurer: Firefighter / Instructor Michael McLeieer, Merrimac Fire Department (Retired)

**THE MIFDI BOARD of DIRECTORS**

**Terms Expire 2024**

Chief Thomas Conway, III, Billerica Fire Department (Retired)  
 Assistant Chief Robert MacKendrick, Lynnfield Fire Department (Retired)  
 Chief Richard Gomes, Norton Fire Department (Retired)

**Terms Expire 2023**

Firefighter / Instructor Michael McLeieer, Merrimac Fire Department (Retired) (Past President)  
 Chief James M. Vuona, Shrewsbury Fire Department

**EDITOR**

Firefighter / Instructor Scott D. Maker, Merrimac Fire Department (Retired)

**VISIT US ON THE WEB!**

**[www.mifdi.org](http://www.mifdi.org)**

**E-MAIL- [mifditreasurer@escapeinc.org](mailto:mifditreasurer@escapeinc.org)**

**Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors - Tax ID: 04-2307216  
 2024 Membership Application & Invoice  
 Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2024**

**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></b> \$ 35.00
<b><u>Active</u></b>	<b><u>Home</u></b>	<b><u>Retired</u></b> \$ 15.00
<b><u>Retired</u></b>	<b><u>Work</u></b>	<b><u>Associate</u></b> \$100.00
<b><u>Associate</u></b>	<b><u>E-mail</u></b>	

**There is also a \$10 late fee if dues are paid after April 1st**  
**Please mail completed Application with check or money order payable to:**

**MIFDI**  
 Attn: Michael McLeieer, Treasurer  
 PO Box 507  
 Merrimac, MA 01860-0510  
 Phone: (978) 346-4731  
 E-mail: [mifditreasurer@escapeinc.org](mailto:mifditreasurer@escapeinc.org)



## FSP Books

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**\*800-522-8528\* [www.Fire-Police-EMS.com](http://www.Fire-Police-EMS.com)**



## Glen Rogers

Your Fire Chief Realtor  
Friend in North Carolina

Chief.g.a.rogers@gmail.com 508-654-2625

Thinking of  
moving south?  
Florida a bit  
too far from  
family and  
friends?



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text and let's  
talk about  
finding you a  
place in North  
Carolina!

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REALTOR

### MEETING NOTICE

The September meeting of MIFDI will be held on **Wednesday, September 27, 2023** hosted by the Brookline Fire Department courtesy of Chief John Sullivan and Training Officer D.C. Ryan Guilfooy. We will meet in the NEW Training Division classroom located at the rear of Fire Station 6, 962 Hammond St.

Our training will be provided by DetecTogether with an important program on cancer detection and prevention. Our presenter will be retired Deputy Chief Joseph Marchetti of the Brockton Fire Department. Joe is a cancer survivor and now passionate about sharing the importance of cancer detection and prevention among firefighters.

### SCHEDULE:

**0930:** Coffee, **1000:** Training program, **1130:** Business Meeting and information sharing, **1200:** Lunch (off site)

### DIRECTIONS:

From Rt.128 (I-95), take Exit 36A (Rt.9 EAST). Follow Rt.9 through 6-traffic lights (3.6 miles). Turn right at the 6<sup>th</sup> light onto Hammond St. Follow Hammond St 1-mile and the firehouse will be on the left. Turn into the driveway on the D-Side of the station to the rear drill yard where there is plenty of parking.

# DetecTogether

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Beginning Balances for 01/03/2023

Preferred C.U. Checking	\$ 121.56
Preferred C.U. Savings	\$1,250.83
CapitalOneSav. Balance	<u>\$2,371.06</u>
Total:	\$3,743.45

50/50 Raffle = None

Winner = N/A

Net Proceeds from 50/50 Raffle = N/A

Total active members = 103

Dues paid thru 2031 =	1
Dues paid thru 2030 =	2
Dues paid thru 2027 =	1
Dues paid thru 2024 =	6
Dues paid thru 2023 =	60
Dues paid thru 2022 =	26
Dues paid thru 2021 =	1
Dues paid thru 2020 =	6

Balances as of 09/19/2023

Preferred C.U. Checking:	\$ 230.86
Less uncleared checks:	\$ ( 0.00)
PCU Cking. Balance:	\$ 230.86
PCU Savings Balance:	\$ 1,429.00
Capital One Sav. Balance:	\$ <u>2,372.64</u>
Total	\$ 4,032.50

### Bills Paid June - Aug. 2023:

Sept. MIFDI Bulletin - Michael	\$120.00 - 08/31
Michael McLeieer - MIFDI June Lunch	\$229.29 - 08/31
Network Solutions - Web domain Xfer	\$136.31 - 07/17
Starbucks Coffee - MIFDI Mtg Roche	\$ 43.80 - 06/28
Market Basket - MIFDI Mtg Danish	\$ 12.68 - 06/27
TOTAL:	\$542.08

### Account Transfers:

PCU Savings to Cking -	\$193.20 - 09/14/2023
PCU Savings to Cking -	\$229.29 - 09/15/2023

### Mailings

E-Mail - 72	Home - 20
	Work - 11
Total:	103

### Membership Totals: 103

60 Active - 39 Retired - 4 Associate

Please welcome this new member who recently joined MIFDI:

- Patrick Haverty - Captain - Fitchburg

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 2023 were due in January, 2023.**  
**Please add \$10.00 for late renewals paid after April 1, 2023 for your 2023 dues**

(b) You may now use the 2023 membership application as your invoice. It has MIFDI's tax ID number listed, for your accounts payable department to process the dues payment. Simply use the dues year or payment date as your invoice number.

The MIFDI website is now hosted on a new server. This transition was completed in August and you should no longer have access issues. Our new hosting site has more capacity for our members to simultaneously access www.mifdi.org. If you are having connection issues, please contact Michael.

Respectfully submitted

09/19/2023

by Michael McLeieer, Treasurer - 978-346-4731

Email: mifditreasurer@escapeinc.org

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

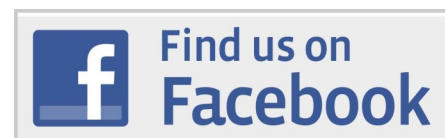
**MIFDI will also accept credit card payments. Contact Michael McLeieer for details.**

**Active Member dues is \$35 / Retired Member dues is \$15 / Associate Member dues is \$100**

**Please remember to still add a \$10 late fee for renewal dues paid after April 1st, 2023. This fee does not apply to new members or for those who renewed before April 1, 2023.**

**\*\* If you are a Comcast internet subscriber, you may NOT be receiving the MIFDI monthly emails. Please contact me if you are not receiving your digital Bulletin and email notifications. Thanks. Michael**

MIFDI is now on Facebook. Login to your Facebook account and search for **Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors** or visit **www.facebook.com/mifdi**. Become a Facebook friend to MIFDI and receive up to date announcements right to your tablet, phone or computer. You may also select the MIFDI Facebook link on the MIFDI website home page at [www.mifdi.org](http://www.mifdi.org)



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RENEWAL of DUES or NEW MEMBERSHIPS may be addressed to:  
MIFDI - Attn: Michael McLeieer, Treasurer  
PO Box 507, Merrimac, MA 01860-0510  
Phone: (978) 346-4731

**PLEASE NOTE NEW Email:** mifditreasurer@escapeinc.org

**\*Dues are \$35.00 per year for Active members \*(\$45 after April 1st)  
\$15.00 for Retired members \*(\$25 after April 1st)  
\*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. Add a \$10.00 Late Fee after April 1, 2023.**

## RECALL OF MEETING #2023-6

The June meeting of MIFDI was held on Wednesday June 28, 2023 hosted by the Lexington Fire Department courtesy of Chief Derek Sencabaugh and Asst. Chief Chris Ford. The meeting opened with a welcome by Chief Sencabaugh and an update on happenings within the Lexington Fire Department.

The training was provided by MIFDI Treasurer/Past President Michael McLeieer with highlights of some of the presentations offered during the 2023 FDIC Conference & Expo held in Indianapolis. MIFDI members were provided with a zip-drive with some of the programs covered this year.

Following Michael's presentation, A.C. Ford displayed their new EV Emergency Plug for those members who missed the demonstration during our May meeting in Waltham.



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- ☐ Mustang Survival
- ☐ Stearns
- ☐ Mercedes Textiles Hose
- ☐ BW Technologies
- ☐ Genesis Rescue System
- ☐ Koehler-Bright Star
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**PARATECH**



## **EMS Run**

### ***Suicide Prevention Month***

September is “National Suicide Prevention Month”, also known as “Suicide Awareness Month”. We all know someone with a family member of this cruel mental health illness. Suicide affects everyone not just the victim, it impacts family and friends long after the loss of a loved one. There is an average of 123 suicide’s each day in this country, the largest age group being 25-34. The majority of suicides are, not surprisingly, people suffering from depression.

Those of us as EMS first responders can remember every call for a suicide in our career, especially if it is a young person. They can also be very gruesome if the person has been hanging for a while or have used a shotgun to end their suffering. We take these calls home with us and try to bury the flashbacks of these incidents and the agony of seeing their loved ones hysterical upon finding the victim. We too are affected by these tragedies.

There appears to be an increase in EMS runs for mental health issues in the past few years. The financial strains due to the economy can push people beyond their coping levels. Those diagnosed with terminal illness can be suicidal to end their suffering and to not burden family with long-term care for them. The bullying of children at school and on social media sites can create depression and thoughts of suicide with young people. Lost love or a person jilted by a lover has always been a trigger for suicide.

The focus of Suicide Awareness Month is to understand behavioral signs of those with suicidal thoughts. Identifying depression can be difficult, not all with depression show signs. People that do talk about killing themselves are a red flag to have them seek treatment before they act upon it.

Families can seek access to resources on suicide prevention through the “National Alliance on Mental Health Illness” website at [www.nami.org](http://www.nami.org). The National Suicide Prevention Hotline is 800-273-TALK (8255). There is also a newly created “SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE”; those in need of help can now call “**9-8-8**”



## **LAST ALARM**

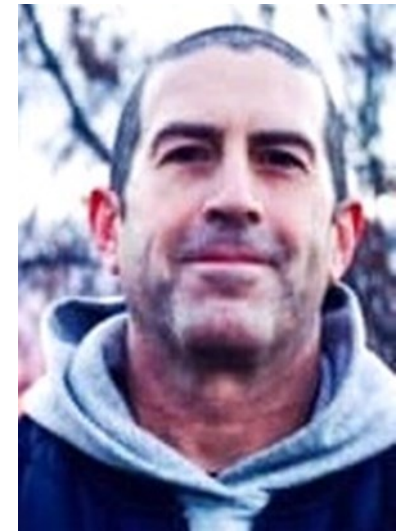
The Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors offers our condolences to the family and friends of the following;

**Firefighter Jamie Topham**, ACTIVE member of the Nantucket Fire Department. Jamie died unexpectedly on June 12, 2023 at age 28.

**Firefighter Gary J. LoPresti**, ACTIVE member of the Malden Fire Department. Gary died on August 27, 2023 at age 48 due to occupational cancer.



*Firefighter Jamie Topham*



*Firefighter Gary LoPresti*



*May They Rest In Peace*

## CONGRATULATIONS

The Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors offers our congratulations and best wishes to Massachusetts State Fire Marshal **Peter J. Ostroskey** upon his retirement in July. Peter has over 40-years of public service including the past 7-years as Fire Marshal and the previous 4-years as Deputy Fire Marshal. We wish Peter good health in his retirement and/or great success in his future endeavors.



We also congratulate and offer our support to the new Massachusetts State Fire Marshal **Jon M. Davine** who was appointed to the position by Governor Healey on July 31, 2023.

We wish Marshal Davine great success in this important position and look forward to working closely with him on issues of firefighter training and safety in the Commonwealth.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

September 16, 2023: National Firefighter Memorial  
Colorado Springs, CO [www.iaff.org](http://www.iaff.org)

September 22, 2023: Greenwood Emergency Vehicle Open House  
North Attleborough, MA [www.greenwoodev.com](http://www.greenwoodev.com)

September 25-29, 2023: FireHouse Expo 2023  
Columbus Convention Center [www.firehouseexpo.com/2023](http://www.firehouseexpo.com/2023)

September 27, 2023: MIFDI - Brookline



*\*October 8-14, 2023 is Fire Prevention Week\**



## **REPORT of the PRESIDENT:**

### **Captain Mark W. Roche (Ret), Newton Fire Department**

As we begin the 65<sup>th</sup> year of MIFDI, it is appropriate that we hold the meeting in Brookline where MIFDI was organized back in September 1959 when a group of Fire Department Drill Master's got together to hold the first formal meeting of MIFDI with the motto "To Promote Fire Department Training & Education by the Mutual Sharing of Knowledge". That organizational charge continues to this day!

Our June training meeting provided members with a recap of some of the high-lights from the 2023 FDIC. I thank our Treasurer/P.P Michael McLeieer for again sharing the topics of this annual training conference. I also thank Chief Derek Sencabaugh and A.C. Chris Ford for again hosting MIFDI at the Lexington Fire HQ Training Room.

Stay safe and I hope to see you in Brookline on September 27.



Brookline Training & Fleet Repair Facility

*"To Promote Fire Department Training & Education by the Mutual Sharing of Knowledge"*

## **INSTRUCTORS CORNER - School Bus Safety**

The three black lines on school buses serve a purpose. The bottom line is the floor of the bus. The middle line is the seat line. The top black line is the top of the seats. These lines of the bus are reinforced, but they also let firefighters know where to cut in case of an accident.

