



LIGONIER VALLEY FIRE COMPANIES

P.O. BOX FIRE
LIGONIER, PA 15658

DARLINGTON - LIGONIER - WATERFORD - WILPEN



July 2024

Day in and day out, without pause, without fail, the firefighters of our four Ligonier Valley fire companies – Ligonier, Waterford, Darlington, Wilpen – stand watch over our valley. They serve without pay, devoting countless hours to our safety and well-being. Once a year, they seek your financial support and report on their activities over the past year.

Station 42 - DARLINGTON

Calls in 2023: 346

Non-emergency phone: 724-238-9469

2023 was a typically busy year for Station 42, dealing not only with the calls in the Darlington area but rendering mutual aid to fire and rescue companies throughout the Ligonier Valley to the east and over Chestnut Ridge to the west. We continued with projects to preserve our station (new siding and windows on the original fire hall) and enhance our operational capabilities (acquiring and refurbishing a newer squad/utility truck to replace our 24-year old squad truck). One of our most important endeavors was spearheading a regional FEMA grant to help replace our 20-year-old emergency radio equipment. The grant will enable Darlington and seven other area companies to acquire the state-of-the art radios which cost \$2,500 to \$5,000 apiece. Membership remains steady with the addition of 3 new firefighters, and we continue to host our regular fundraising events, which have been so popular in the community, including our major event – the food stand on Ligonier Diamond during Fort Ligonier Days. We are deeply grateful for the continued financial support of Station 42 from residents and businesses in Ligonier Valley and beyond.

Station 43 – LIGONIER

Calls in 2023: 328

Non-emergency phone: 724-238-2016

In our 127th year of service to the Ligonier Valley, retaining experienced firefighters and recruiting new ones remains the first priority of Station 43. Volunteer fire companies across Pennsylvania are experiencing serious declines in membership, some so severe that they threaten their ability to answer emergency calls. But, our efforts to avoid such a dire situation are paying off. We have taken in 8 new members over the past year - some with training and experience, others – new to the fire service – entering our training program for what we hope will be long careers with us. We are grateful for these new firefighters but we need more. We welcome volunteers for both firefighting and non-firefighting positions to help us protect the valley. Over the past year we have continued our fund raising efforts, carried on our usual rigorous training program, and dealt with the constant maintenance challenges of our aging stations. We replaced the roof of our truck hall and our historic original fire hall across the street. Plans for remodeling the old hall – a borough landmark -- are underway. All of these efforts are only possible through the continued financial support of you, the valley residents whom we serve.

Station 44 - WATERFORD

Calls in 2023: 437

Non-emergency phone: 724-238-5270

It was an extremely busy year for Waterford's company. We responded to more emergency calls than we ever have since our founding in 1937. Our personnel logged over 8,000 man-hours, not only on emergency calls, but on work nights, meetings, fund raising events and other activities. The never-ending work to maintain and improve our station buildings continued with the installation of new garage doors, insulation of the truck bay ceilings, and updating of our radio room. Thanks to grants from Fire House Subs and from the state we were able to acquire 10 sets (at over \$2,000 a piece!) of bunker gear and helmets. Our current fundraising is focused on a new attack pumper to replace our 35-year-old engine at a cost of approximately \$550,000. As always we are in need of new volunteers, either as fire fighters or to aid us in numerous capacities such as truck and building upkeep or fundraising activities. We are proud to serve the Ligonier Valley and deeply grateful for the financial support of area residents and businesses that help keep us trained, equipped and ready to do our duty.

Station 45 - WILPEN

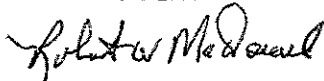
Calls in 2023: 266

Non-emergency phone: 724-238-7221

Our station weathered some unexpected and costly repairs to our fire hall. Sinking ground beneath the hall required extensive reconstruction work, including deep excavation, installation of new footers, replacement of concrete under two truck bays, replacing collapsed drains, and installing structural pillars as part of leveling the building. New gear lockers and industrial heaters were also installed. We are also in the process of acquiring a rescue truck and an air system (to refill firefighter's air tanks at the site of a fire) which would be installed on it. Otherwise our focus currently is on replacing the funds used to refurbish the fire hall. As with every Valley company, we are in need of reliable volunteers to help us protect and serve the Ligonier Valley. We are grateful for the financial support we receive from residents and businesses that have stood by us over the years.

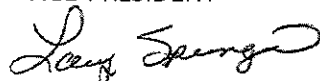
Remember, this is our only appeal and we do not solicit by telephone. We are a 501(c)(3) charitable organization operated entirely by representatives from each of our local fire companies. Your donation is fully tax-deductible and all contributions are divided equally among the four companies.

PRESIDENT



Robert W. McDowell

VICE-PRESIDENT



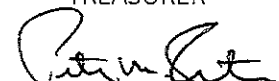
Larry W. Springer

SECRETARY



Maria R. Horner

TREASURER



Peter M. Fitzner