

2017 Annual Report



Box 15 Club, Inc.

Serving Central Ohio's Public Safety Forces since 1947

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Message from the Outgoing President

Welcome to the 2017 Annual Report. 2017 has been another successful year, both operationally and financially. Not only did we celebrate our 70th Anniversary, we upgraded our fleet by replacing the 2003 Ford/Horton with a 2008 Freightliner/Horton. This makes the operational aspects of all three units nearly identical. Thank you to Chief Hoovler and the Plain Township Trustees for making this unit available. We also relocated Rehab 2 from the northwest part of the county to north central, which has drastically improved our response time.

We closed out the year with a total of 86 responses, including a heavy commitment to supporting firefighter training. As we have done for several years, we continue to support the American Red Cross and every fire department in their ongoing quest to educate the public on fire safety and the importance of working smoke alarms. Membership-wise, we have a solid team of people – ranging from seasoned veterans to some very talented younger folks who will eventually take on leadership roles. Financially, we are in better condition than ever before. All in all, Box 15 has a lot to be proud of and I thank each and every one of our members for a job well done in getting us to this point!

After 19 years of service on the Executive Board, including 8 years as President, I have decided it is time to step aside and make way for younger leadership, new ideas, and continued growth into the future. I am not walking away, but will take on a secondary role to support those who have chosen to lead. We have a great leadership team in place and I look forward to their continued successes.

Best Regards,

Brett Barber

Box 15 Past President

Message from the Incoming President

Greetings and welcome to 2018. First, I want to say "Thank You" to our outgoing President, Brett Barber. Anyone that is familiar with Brett realizes his are some large shoes to fill. The good news is Brett will remain a member of Box 15 and continue to help us grow and serve our communities. As I write this, we have been in the midst of a nasty cold spell in Central Ohio. During the last few weeks, our members have spent countless hours serving various fire departments and first responders. Our active members are the backbone that makes us successful at giving back to the firefighting communities we serve.

We have a great team of volunteers that are willing and able to respond on short notice. I would like to thank our active members for their service and dedication. We would not be here without you. We are very fortunate in our area to have generous donors that provide us with water, sports drinks, and in some cases, financial donations to purchase equipment. When possible, we share these with other rehab groups in the area. We continue to assist new start up rehab groups with the knowledge we have obtained over the years. This says a lot about why we have been successful over the last 70 years.

As we look forward to 2018, we will continue to serve the men and women in public safety whenever and wherever we're needed.

Regards,

Joe O'Brien

Box 15 President

Mission Statement

The Box 15 Club, Inc. is dedicated to providing Canteen and Firefighter Rehab Services, and to support, as best we can, in every practical way, the work of our “first line of defense against the ravages of fire” - the men and women of the fire service.

Meetings

Box 15 meets on the last Tuesday of every month except December. Our meetings are held at various locations, mostly area fire stations. Meeting times are generally at 7:00 PM (1900 hours); however, certain meetings have associated activities and begin at 6:00 PM. Information about meeting dates, times, and locations can be requested by emailing board@box15.org.

Synopsis

As we look back on 2017, it goes without saying that Box 15 had quite a year. The same things that were said of 2016 can literally be said of 2017 – if was a year full of highs and lows, cold winter nights and hot summer days, fleet changes, and local community recognition.

We saw five nights of cold weather standby, four days of hot weather standby, fires ranging from single to 3-alarm, hazmat incidents, a disaster drill, two funerals, and countless civic events, training activities and smoke detector outreach initiatives. We replaced another vehicle in our fleet and received another large donation of sports drink.

Financially, we remained in good shape, ending with a net gain for the year, even with the costs of acquiring and outfitting a new vehicle. Membership remained strong, adding one new member during the year.

Month by Month Activity

January

The year got off to a quick with two greater-alarm fires on January 2nd. The first was an early morning 2-alarm apartment fire on the far southeast side. Late that evening, we responded to a 3-alarm fire at a thrift store warehouse. Crews remained on scene until daybreak. On the 4th, a crew responded to a 2-alarm apartment fire on the far northeast side. The cause of the fire was determined to



Buffalo Run 2-alarm fire – Photo by J.O'Brien

be someone disposing of their Christmas tree by burning it in the fireplace. During a cold weather standby (expected wind chills below 0°F) on the 7th, we responded to three working fires during the overnight hours. The month ended with a tanker fire at a major freeway interchange. We did not have a crew available to respond, but thanks to our mutual aid agreement with Union County EMA, they were able to provide rehab support during the incident that had crews tied up for several hours. January also included providing support for a recruit training activity and a hockey fundraiser. Box 15 would also like to thank MSC Industrial Supply, who donated around 3 tons of sports drink products last summer, for their donation of rock salt in January. Their generosity doesn't go unnoticed and is always greatly appreciated.

| Date | Time | # | Street | Community | Jurisdiction | Incident |
|--------|---------------|---|-------------------|------------------|--------------|--------------|
| 2-Jan | 05:58 | 5692 | Celtic Sea Ln. | Columbus | Columbus | 2nd Alarm |
| 2-Jan | 22:36 | 5640 | W. Broad St. | Columbus | Columbus | 3rd Alarm |
| 4-Jan | 13:11 | 5028 | Buffalo Run | Columbus | Columbus | 2nd Alarm |
| 7-Jan | 19:00 - 08:00 | Cold Weather Protocol Standby - Staff Rehab 1 to respond on all working incidents | | | | |
| 7-Jan | 18:00 | 162 | Sheffield Rd. | Canal Winchester | Madison Twp. | Working Fire |
| 7-Jan | 20:13 | 5093 | Westerville Rd. | Columbus | Columbus | Working Fire |
| 7-Jan | 22:55 | 1733 | Hickory Creek Ln. | Columbus | Columbus | Working Fire |
| 11-Jan | 14:00 | 3663 | Parsons Ave. | Columbus | Columbus | Training |
| 14-Jan | 12:00 | 555 | Borrer Dr. | Columbus | Columbus | Civic Event |

February

February provided some relief with only two responses. One was a house fire in Fairfield County, the other was a 2-alarm apartment fire on the far northeast side.



Faulkner Drive working fire – Photo by J.O'Brien



Foxhound Lane 2-alarm fire – Photo by J.O'Brien

| Date | Time | # | Street | Community | Jurisdiction | Incident |
|--------|-------|------|--------------|------------|--------------|---------------|
| 7-Feb | 21:50 | 87 | Faulkner Dr. | Lithopolis | Bloom Twp. | Extra Co Fire |
| 26-Feb | 05:58 | 5464 | Foxhound Ln. | Columbus | Columbus | 2nd Alarm |

March

March also proved to be a slow month. Crews responded to a 2-alarm apartment fire on the north side and a fatal 2-alarm fire on the southwest side.

| Date | Time | # | Street | Community | Jurisdiction | Incident |
|--------|-------|------|----------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| 8-Mar | 13:16 | 6241 | Curtis Rd. | Radnor | Radnor | 2nd Alarm |
| 15-Mar | 16:23 | 1980 | Belcher Dr. | Columbus | Columbus | 2nd Alarm |
| 17-Mar | | 235 | Diley Rd. | Pickerington | Plain Twp. | Civic Event |
| 22-Mar | 11:23 | 6155 | Stornoway Dr. S. | Columbus | Columbus | 2nd Alarm |
| 24-Mar | 03:07 | 5128 | Cherry Creek Pkwy N. | Galloway | Columbus | 2nd Alarm |

April

Activity picked up again in April. Crews responded to a mercury exposure hazmat incident at an east side school on the 12th. The following week, we provided rehab support to the recruit class's auto extrication training. Box 15 was also present at the International Trauma Life Support Ohio's conference, along with our friends from Stark County Fire Department Rehab Unit. The month ended with a response into Fairfield County for a working fire that had crews on scene for several hours.

| Date | Time | # | Street | Community | Jurisdiction | Incident |
|--------|-------|------|-----------------|-----------|---------------|--------------|
| 12-Apr | 21:14 | 1130 | S. Waverly St. | Columbus | Columbus | Hazmat |
| 20-Apr | 08:00 | | Haul Rd. | Columbus | Columbus | Training |
| 23-Apr | 22:38 | 8865 | Walnut St. NW | Carroll | Violet Twp. | Working Fire |
| 24-Apr | 16:00 | 6500 | Doubletree Ave. | Columbus | Hamilton Twp. | Civic Event |

May

May brought two training events, a smoke detector outreach and two 2-alarm fires. The month ended on a sad note, however, with the funeral of Kirkersville Police Chief Eric DiSario. Box 15 was honored to provide support for the graveside service.



Lands End Circle 2-alarm fire – Photo by B.Barber

| Date | Time | # | Street | Community | Jurisdiction | Incident |
|--------|-------|------|------------------|--------------|--------------|-----------|
| 5-May | 08:00 | 8895 | E. Main St. | Reynoldsburg | Columbus | Training |
| 6-May | 09:00 | 1254 | Briarwood Ave. | Columbus | Columbus | Red Cross |
| 10-May | 08:00 | 8895 | E. Main St. | Reynoldsburg | Columbus | Training |
| 13-May | 08:00 | 5440 | Morse Rd. | Columbus | Columbus | Training |
| 16-May | 13:22 | 2303 | Vicente Ct. | Columbus | Columbus | 2nd Alarm |
| 17-May | 12:55 | 1401 | Lands End Circle | Pickerington | Violet Twp. | 2nd Alarm |
| 17-May | 15:18 | 1134 | Corrugated Way | Columbus | Columbus | 2nd Alarm |
| 20-May | 08:00 | 6440 | S. High St. | Lockbourne | Police | Police |

June

In June, we responded to one working fire during a hot weather standby (heat index over 100°F). We also provided rehab and support services for four training events, including the unique grain bin rescue class. The month came to a close with the Central Ohio Antique Fire Apparatus Association's annual Muster.



Grain bin rescue – Photo by J.Penty

| Date | Time | # | Street | Community | Jurisdiction | Incident |
|--------|---------------|--|--------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 3-Jun | 12:00 | 990 | Coover Rd. Buckeye Valley H.S. | Delaware | Tri-Township | Training |
| 4-Jun | 12:00 | 990 | Coover Rd. Buckeye Valley H.S. | Delaware | Tri-Township | Training |
| 12-Jun | 12:00 - 20:00 | Hot Weather Protocol Standby - Staff Rehab 1 to respond on all working incidents | | | | |
| 13-Jun | 12:00 - 20:00 | Hot Weather Protocol Standby - Staff Rehab 1 to respond on all working incidents | | | | |
| 13-Jun | 15:18 | 947 | Dunmore Ct. | Pickerington | Violet Twp. | Working Fire |
| 13-Jun | 19:00 | 995 | Bellows Ave. | Columbus | Columbus | Working Fire |
| 14-Jun | 10:00 | 2425 | Woods Ave. | Columbus | Columbus | Training |
| 14-Jun | 12:00 - 20:00 | Hot Weather Protocol Standby - Staff Rehab 1 to respond on all working incidents | | | | |
| 15-Jun | 19:59 | 3663 | Parsons Ave. | Columbus | Columbus | Training |
| 17-Jun | 12:00 - 20:00 | Hot Weather Protocol Standby - Staff Rehab 1 to respond on all working incidents | | | | |
| 19-Jun | 08:00 | 1648 | Wilson Rd. | Columbus | Columbus | Training |

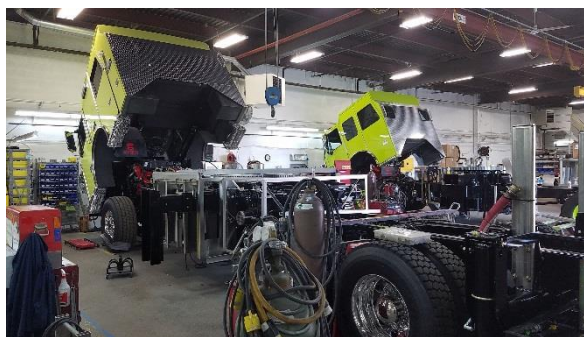
July

July saw us supporting one training event, as well as Columbus's annual Fourth of July celebration, Red, White & Boom. We were also in Berlin Township for this year's Touch-A-Truck event. The only fire response was to a 2-alarm fire in an appliance store.

| Date | Time | # | Street | Community | Jurisdiction | Incident |
|--------|-------|------|--------------------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|
| 3-Jul | 17:00 | 300 | N. 4th St. | Columbus | Columbus | Civic Event |
| 3-Jul | 20:00 | | W. Spring & N. Front St. | Columbus | Columbus | Police |
| 13-Jul | 10:00 | 3900 | Chagrin Blvd. | Columbus | Columbus | Civic Event |
| 14-Jul | 10:00 | 3900 | Chagrin Blvd. | Columbus | Columbus | Civic Event |
| 15-Jul | 10:00 | 3900 | Chagrin Blvd. | Columbus | Columbus | Civic Event |
| 18-Jul | 03:16 | 6080 | E. Main St. | Columbus | Columbus | 2nd Alarm |
| 20-Jul | 08:00 | 1648 | Wilson Rd. | Columbus | Columbus | Training |
| 21-Jul | 08:00 | 40 | Inah Ave. | Columbus | Prairie Twp. | Training |
| 22-Jul | 08:00 | 2708 | Lackey Old State Rd. | Berlin Twp. | Berlin Twp. | Civic Event |
| 24-Jul | 19:31 | 1508 | Picard Rd. | Columbus | Columbus | Extra Co Fire |

August

In August, Box 15 provided rehab for two training events. We participated in two safety fairs – Pleasant Township's Safety Day and Madison County's Safety Expo. We also provided support services for the First Responders Rastin Challenge. The highlight of the month, however, was getting the opportunity to tour the Sutphen facility in Dublin as part of our monthly membership meeting.



Sutphen tour – Photo by T.Knowles

| Date | Time | # | Street | Community | Jurisdiction | Incident |
|--------|-------|------|-------------------|--------------|-----------------|-------------|
| 11-Aug | 08:00 | 40 | Inah Ave. | Columbus | Prairie Twp. | Training |
| 13-Aug | 22:11 | 6754 | Heatherstone Loop | Dublin | Washington Twp. | Hazmat |
| 18-Aug | 08:00 | 8895 | E. Main St. | Reynoldsburg | Columbus | Training |
| 18-Aug | 09:00 | 1775 | Darby Creek Dr. | Darbydale | Pleasant Twp. | Civic Event |
| 24-Aug | 08:00 | 8895 | E. Main St. | Reynoldsburg | Columbus | Training |
| 26-Aug | 08:00 | 10 | Pittsburgh Ave. | Mt. Vernon | Mt. Vernon | Civic Event |
| 26-Aug | 09:00 | 205 | Elm St. | London | Mad. Co. EMA | Civic Event |

September

September's fire response activity picked up as we responded to three fires, including a 2-alarm apartment fire and a fire in a self-storage facility. Box 15 participated in Pickerington's Labor Day Parade and Jefferson Township's Open House. We also provided rehab and support during this year's 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb.

| Date | Time | # | Street | Community | Jurisdiction | Incident |
|--------|-------|------|--------------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|
| 4-Sep | 09:00 | 201 | Opportunity Way | Pickerington | Violet Twp. | Civic Event |
| 4-Sep | 20:08 | 4900 | Sinclair Rd. | Columbus | Columbus | Working Fire |
| 10-Sep | 01:01 | 6501 | Blicking Dr. | Columbus | Columbus | Working Fire |
| 10-Sep | 07:00 | 100 | E. Broad St. | Columbus | Columbus | Civic Event |
| 12-Sep | 04:49 | 9097 | Polaris Lakes Dr. | Columbus | Columbus | 2nd Alarm |
| 16-Sep | 13:00 | 6767 | Havens Corners Rd. | Blacklick | Jefferson Twp. | Civic Event |
| 16-Sep | 20:58 | 3740 | Snouffer Rd. | Perry Twp. | Worthington | Extra Co Fire |
| 20-Sep | 08:00 | 4695 | E. Fifth Ave. | Columbus | Columbus | Training |
| 24-Sep | 05:46 | 3668 | Cleveland Ave. | Columbus | Clinton Twp. | Working Fire |

October

In October, we provided rehab for five days of training events, participated in the City of Delaware's First Friday, along with Open House events in Plain and Prairie Townships, and provided support services during the Columbus Division of Fire's Firefighter Memorial Service.

| Date | Time | # | Street | Community | Jurisdiction | Incident |
|-------|-------|------|----------------------|------------|--------------|-------------|
| 1-Oct | 11:30 | 260 | N. Fourth St. | Columbus | Columbus | Civic Event |
| 3-Oct | 08:30 | 2928 | London Groveport Rd. | Darbydale | Jackson Twp. | Training |
| 4-Oct | 08:30 | 2928 | London Groveport Rd. | Darbydale | Jackson Twp. | Training |
| 6-Oct | 17:00 | | Sandusky St. | Delaware | Delaware | Civic Event |
| 8-Oct | 09:00 | 9500 | Johnstown Rd. | New Albany | Plain Twp. | Civic Event |

| Date | Time | # | Street | Community | Jurisdiction | Incident |
|--------|-------|------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| 13-Oct | 09:00 | 1827 | S. High St. | Columbus | Columbus | Training |
| 15-Oct | 16:00 | 123 | Inah Ave. | Columbus | Prairie Twp. | Civic Event |
| 19-Oct | 15:00 | 3663 | Parsons Ave. | Columbus | Columbus | Training |
| 31-Oct | 08:00 | 8895 | E. Main St. | Reynoldsburg | Columbus | Training |

November

Activity remained consistent through November, with Box 15 responding to several fires. The month started with a working fire at an east side tire shop. The remainder of the month's fire responses were for multi-alarm fires. The first was a 3-alarm in a 2-story apartment building on the city's west side. The second was a 2-story duplex with extension to a neighboring duplex, resulting in a 2nd alarm dispatch. The final fire run was a 2-alarm fire in a high-rise apartment building. Box 15 also provided support at two training exercises and to volunteers working Columbus's Veterans Day Parade.



Derrer Height Lane 3-alarm fire – Photo by J.O'Brien



N. Guilford Avenue 2-alarm fire – Photo by J.Penty

| Date | Time | # | Street | Community | Jurisdiction | Incident |
|--------|-------|------|-------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 5-Nov | 09:46 | 3389 | E. Main St. | Columbus | Columbus | Working Fire |
| 9-Nov | 08:00 | | Nationwide Blvd. | Columbus | Columbus | Civic Event |
| 13-Nov | 08:00 | 8895 | E. Main St. | Reynoldsburg | Columbus | Training |
| 16-Nov | 03:08 | 101 | Derrer Height Ln. | Columbus | Columbus | 3rd Alarm |
| 16-Nov | 08:00 | 8895 | E. Main St. | Reynoldsburg | Columbus | Training |
| 19-Nov | 05:55 | 162 | N. Guilford Ave. | Columbus | Columbus | 2nd Alarm |
| 26-Nov | 21:57 | 300 | E. Rich St. | Columbus | Columbus | 2nd Alarm |

December

While the saying is usually saved for March, December certainly came in like a lamb and out like a lion (relatively speaking, of course.) With the exception of a few days, the month started off fairly mild, with temperatures even hitting the 50s and people wondering if there'd be any snow for the upcoming holiday season. Box 15 started the month with providing support for a Red Cross smoke detector

outreach event. Mid-month brought three fire responses – one an extra-company working fire at a west side warehouse, followed by a residential working fire in Whitehall, then a 2-alarm



Ashley Avenue working fire – Photo by R.Mullins



E. Main Street 2-alarm fire – Photo by T.Knowles

house fire in Urbancrest. The cold weather moved in for the end of the month, though, resulting in four cold weather standby nights throughout the final week of December.

Although the first two standbys were uneventful, the last two days of the month had us responding to six fires, including a 2-alarm at multi-story downtown building under construction. Another highlight for the

month was not one, but two news pieces by a local television station, which received some great response and helped spotlight Box 15 and our mission to support first responders.

| Date | Time | # | Street | Community | Jurisdiction | Incident |
|--------|---------------|------|---|------------|--------------|---------------|
| 2-Dec | 09:00 | | Linden | Columbus | Columbus | Red Cross |
| 12-Dec | 13:24 | 5580 | W. Broad St. | Columbus | Columbus | Extra Co Fire |
| 14-Dec | 13:38 | 4830 | Ashley Ave. | Whitehall | Whitehall | Working Fire |
| 15-Dec | 19:24 | 2850 | Walnut St. | Urbancrest | Jackson Twp. | 2nd Alarm |
| 26-Dec | 19:00 - 08:00 | | Cold Weather Protocol Standby - Staff Rehab 1 to respond on all working incidents | | | |
| 27-Dec | 19:00 - 08:00 | | Cold Weather Protocol Standby - Staff Rehab 2 to respond on all working incidents | | | |
| 30-Dec | 10:35 | 392 | E. Main St. | Columbus | Columbus | 2nd Alarm |
| 30-Dec | 19:00 - 08:00 | | Cold Weather Protocol Standby - Staff Rehab 1 to respond on all working incidents | | | |
| 30-Dec | 18:41 | 3773 | Tylor Dr. | Columbus | Madison Twp. | Working Fire |
| 30-Dec | 21:36 | 2997 | E. Eleventh Ave. | Columbus | Columbus | Working Fire |
| 30-Dec | 21:50 | 2034 | Republic Ave. | Columbus | Columbus | Working Fire |
| 31-Dec | 02:19 | 4507 | Karl Rd. | Columbus | Columbus | Working Fire |
| 31-Dec | 19:00 - 08:00 | | Cold Weather Protocol Standby - Staff Rehab 1 to respond on all working incidents | | | |
| 31-Dec | 20:40 | 167 | Chicago Ave. | Columbus | Columbus | Working Fire |

Financial Performance

2017 was another successful year for us financially. While revenue was down compared to last year, expenses were a third of 2016's. Much of that was due to the cost of putting a new vehicle in service last year. Corporate sponsorships again helped us with the cost of the awards dinner. Corporate and individual donations helped us with costs of consumable goods.

| Revenue (rounded to nearest \$) | |
|---|-----------------|
| <i>Apparel & Other Sales</i> | 34,666 |
| <i>Shipping</i> | 162 |
| <i>Donations</i> | 5,974 |
| <i>Dues, Fees & Assessments</i> | 1,175 |
| <i>Banquets & Events</i> | 2,676 |
| <i>Raffles</i> | 95 |
| <i>Interest & Dividends</i> | 91 |
| <i>Misc. Income</i> | 399 |
| Total Revenue | \$45,237 |
| Expenses (rounded to nearest \$) | |
| Fund Raising | |
| <i>Purchase Expense</i> | 9,515 |
| <i>Credit Card fees</i> | 625 |
| <i>Sales Tax & Shipping</i> | 144 |
| Operations | |
| <i>Licenses & Insurance</i> | 3,185 |
| <i>Tools & Equipment</i> | 3,086 |
| <i>Repairs & Maintenance</i> | 4,537 |
| <i>Consumables</i> | 1506 |
| <i>Miscellaneous</i> | 25 |
| Administrative | |
| <i>Postage & Office Exp.</i> | 71 |
| <i>Background Checks</i> | 35 |
| <i>Subscriptions</i> | 736 |
| <i>IFBA Convention, Prof. Dues</i> | 50 |
| <i>Awards Dinner, Certificates</i> | 2,170 |
| <i>Donations</i> | 50 |
| <i>Advertising & Promotion</i> | 3 |
| <i>Taxes & Fees</i> | 104 |
| <i>Admin Misc.</i> | 60 |
| Total Expenses | \$15,616 |
| Net Gain (Retained Earnings) | \$19,337 |

Benefactor Acknowledgments

Over the years, we've been fortunate to receive the help from a great number of friends and sponsors. Box 15 would be hard-pressed to provide our level of service without the generosity of others. We would like to publicly acknowledge and thank the following for their support:

- Columbus Firefighters Local 67
- Columbus Firefighters Foundation – financed backup cameras for two of our trucks
- Thompson Building Associates – supplying bottled water since 2005
- Niagara Water Company
- MSC Industrial Supply
- Foresters Financial
- Firehouse Subs
- Plain Township Fire Department and Trustees
- Fire Chief's Association of Central Ohio
- Delaware County Fire Chief's Association
- Columbus Division of Fire
- Jerome Township Fire Chief Scott Skeldon (Ret.)
- CME Federal Credit Union
- 1-800-BOARDUP
- Washington Township Fire Department
- Plus several individual donors

Partnerships & Alliances

Cooperation is essential in life, especially in the fire service. Fire departments have formal mutual aid agreements. We are fortunate to share cooperative efforts with both the Columbus Fire Auxiliary and the Central Ohio Fire Museum & Learning Center. We would also like to acknowledge the cooperative efforts between Box 15 and several other fire rehab services throughout Central Ohio, including the Union County EMA, Box 49 in Madison County, Box 65 in Pickaway County, Support 401 in western Licking County, Knox Rehab, and Box 5 in Athens & Hocking Counties. We also appreciate the cooperative effort with Red Cross, Delaware County EMS, and Stark County Fire Department Rehab Unit. We couldn't do what we do without the efforts of all these groups.

Box 15 also provided assistance to Richmond, Virginia's newly formed Metro Flying Squad rehab unit. President Brett Barber lent his vast knowledge and experience to help the club with their efforts to become operational.

Box 15 is pleased to have affiliations with the Fire Chiefs' Association of Central Ohio, the Franklin County Fire Chiefs' Association, the Delaware County Fire Chief's Association, the Fairfield County Fire Chiefs Association, the Franklin County Chiefs of Police, Franklin County CERT, the Volunteer Organization Coordinating Council, Northwest Area Strike Team, and the Central Ohio Strike Team.

2017 Firefighter Awards

On Sunday, May 7, Box 15 held its Annual Firefighter Awards Dinner, honoring two firefighters and six Box 15 members.

Columbus Division of Fire's Lt. Sexton Towns was recognized with the ***Max Haverman "Outstanding Columbus Firefighter"*** award, and Lt. R.C. Fellows from Pleasant Valley Fire Department (Union County) received the ***Larry Parlett "Outstanding County Firefighter"*** award. Both recipients are truly outstanding individuals who demonstrate great professionalism. We are pleased to be able to honor them.



Chief Mark Kidd, Lt. R.C. Fellows, President Brett Barber, Lt. Sexton Towns, Assistant Chief Gary Fellows (Ret, Brilliant FD) – Photo by S.Lewis

Columbus Division of Fire Lieutenant Steven Chesshir, in nominating Sexton Towns, wrote:

I would like to nominate FF Sexton Towns for the annual Max Haverman award. FF Towns has been working alongside me in recruit training during these last 6 months. I have personally witnessed not only his dedication to this fire department, but his personal commitment to the success of the recruits. He has given a great deal of his own time to the recruits, just to help ensure they continue to improve and complete recruit training. On top of this, he has volunteered several times to help community service events around the city. This is something I believe all of us in the fire service should commit more time to as firefighters.

Before FF Towns and I came to recruit training, we worked together at station 15. He not only pushed the crew around him to be better at their jobs, but he would push himself to have a high level of proficiency in his fire department skills. On several occasions he would encourage me to work hard to be proficient at things I struggled with and I thank him for that.

In closing, FF Sexton Towns has a supreme dedication to this department and city. His positive attitude and self-sacrifice makes him an easy choice for this award.

Pleasant Valley Joint Fire District Chief Mark Kidd, in nominating R.C. Fellows, wrote:

I would like to formally nominate Firefighter Robert "R.C." Fellows for the Larry Parlett Award. I believe that Firefighter Fellows exhibits all the qualities necessary to be considered for this prestigious honor. His dedication to the fire service, his level of commitment to the profession, and his servant's heart all contribute to my wish to see him recognized.

Firefighter Fellows is extremely valuable to the Pleasant Valley Joint Fire District. He handles many of the tasks necessary to make our organization successful. I am constantly asking him to handle various aspects of our daily operations, and he always exceeds my expectations. In addition to his "normal" responsibilities, R.C. currently serves as our training coordinator and has raised the skills in our department to new levels. He spends countless hours above and beyond what is expected of him to make sure that each and every firefighter in our organization is prepared for any job that is asked of them. His "no nonsense" approach to teaching has made every firefighter within our department better and it goes without saying that members of the fire service can be some of the most difficult students to train.

Another area in which Firefighter Fellows has become the “face of the organization” is Pleasant Valley Fire’s Community Outreach Training Program. Through his efforts, the District was able to partner with Tolles Career and Technical Center to provide CPR training to members of our community and surrounding areas. R.C. manages a group of instructors making sure that everyone who would like to learn valuable life-saving techniques has that opportunity. The program has evolved to include first aid training and numerous public speaking engagements on emergency preparedness. His efforts have made our community safer and supplied a much needed medium to convey PVFD’s message of safety and service to the public.

In addition to what he does for our department, R.C. is heavily involved at the State level, too. Firefighter Fellows is a Rescue Specialist for Ohio Task Force 1 and shows great enthusiasm in his role as a member of a national FEMA asset. He also is one of the best fire instructors in Ohio. There are very few times throughout the year that he is not sharing his wealth of knowledge with others. He is an adjunct faculty for the Ohio Fire Academy and is active teaching numerous fire and rescue classes in Eastern Ohio. I am constantly watching him give of himself to others, all in the name of making his fellow firefighters better. I feel he is one of the most knowledgeable and dedicated members of the firefighting community. What truly makes him special is the amount of time and commitment he gives back to the future of the profession. His level of personal sacrifice is something which should be noted in this letter of recommendation.

While all of the “job-related” accomplishments are important, everything pales in comparison to what Firefighter Fellows has been able to achieve as a husband and father. His wife and daughters are very much a part of his firefighting world. I believe it says much about R.C. by the way he weaves his personal life in with his career. His girls are regular visitors to the fire station (and an occasion “patient” during training) and their giggles are infectious. This speaks volumes to the character of the man and I speak from the heart when I say how fortunate we all are to be around R.C. He simply gives us all someone to look up to and to use as a pattern our fire service careers.

Six Box 15 members received performance-based awards. The Peter R. Fowler Award is presented to those members who have participated in 25% or more of the club’s activities. Vice President Joe O’Brien, Secretary Tom Knowles, J. J. Corcella, Duane Davidson, Bob Hess, and Joe Penty all earned this award.

The criteria for these awards are to respond to incidents when Box 15 is dispatched, participate in fundraising and maintenance activities, and attendance at the monthly meetings. It does not include going to Association meetings, informal lunches or any other activities where all members could participate.



Box 15 Pete Fowler Award winners this year include J.J. Corcella, Tom Knowles, Joe Penty and Bob Hess. (Not pictured: Joe O'Brien and Duane Davidson) – Photo by S.Lewis

Membership

Active members total 23, with the addition of Rob Mullins in 2017. One prospective member is also going through the membership process at year's end. One member moved from Active to Affiliate. Affiliates are welcome to all activities but have no attendance requirements or privileges to vote, present motions, or hold office. No members transitioned to Life membership status in 2017.

Training

Not only does Box 15 take an active role in supporting firefighters during their training evolutions, training is an important process for us, as well. Typically, every other monthly meeting is designated as a training meeting. Although there is some deviation, depending upon needs, we try to have a mix of business and training gatherings, with a few social activities scattered in. We continually cover topics such as radio operation protocols, documentation, equipment function and deployment, driver training, and new member orientation.

Charitable Support

Box 15 also believes in giving back to the community. Each year we participate in several public and civic events. During 2017, we were involved with or donated to the following causes:

- Central Ohio Fire Museum & Learning Center (support services)
- National Fallen Firefighters (donation)
- Ohio Arson School (donation)
- Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association (concierge & security services)
- Stefanie Spielman Fund (donation – apparel sale proceeds)
- Fire Fighter Cancer Foundation
- Military Veteran's Association (shelter & canteen service)
- American Red Cross (canteen service for smoke alarm outreach)

Other Noteworthy Items

Box 15, with quite a bit of help from 2017 Vice President Joe O'Brien, has been offering museum-grade Sutphen fire engine replicas for sale. Members of Box 15 presented Bill Hall of the Central Ohio Fire Museum with a scale replica Sutphen fire engine. The models, made by Fire Replicas, is modeled from the Columbus Division of Fire's Sutphen Monarch Custom Engine 16. The museum's home is the



Central Ohio Fire Museum fire engine replica presentation – Photo by William Bixby

original Engine House 16 located at 260 N. Fourth Street, Columbus, OH. The museum and learning center is a great asset to our community. If you're ever in town, stop by for a visit.

During our March meeting, Box 15 members got the opportunity to tour Columbus's new hazmat truck. Thanks to Capt. Brobst for letting us check out the new rig!

Longtime club friend and Jerome Township Fire Chief Scott Skeldon retired after 47 years of fire service. Box 15 was pleased to present Chief Skeldon with a gift of appreciation at his

retirement dinner in April for everything he's done. Congratulations on your retirement, Chief!



New Columbus Fire Hazmat Truck – Photo by T.Knowles



Box 15 President Brett Barber presenting plaque to Chief Skeldon – Photo by S.Lewis



In July, instead of our normal monthly meeting, members got together to celebrate the club's 70th birthday! Columbus Fire's Keith Thomas hosted the event at his house, giving members the opportunity to see and enjoy the vast amount of firefighting memorabilia and antique items he owns. We were even joined by Metro Richmond Flying Squad's Steve Korb, in town from Virginia.

Prior to our regular August meeting, Box 15 members had the privilege of touring Sutphen's facilities in Dublin. Interesting doesn't begin to describe seeing up close all that goes into putting together the impressive machines we see on the road every day. At the end of the tour, Dan Sutphen was presented with challenge coins and Box 15 patches.



Sutphen tour – Photo by J.O'Brien



Dan Sutphen being presented with challenge coins and patches – Photo by T.Knowles

The summer brought with it the excitement of a new addition to Box 15's fleet. As discussions continued about possibly replacing Rehab 2, the club began exploring options for obtaining a new truck. Those options were quickly numbered down when Plain Township decided to generously donate one of their medic units they had replaced. Not only was the price perfect, but the new truck is nearly identical in layout to our other two rehab units, allowing members to know exactly where supplies would be regardless of which truck they were in. So over the course of the summer, the new truck was made ready for service and the old truck taken out of service.



New Rehab 2 – Photo by J.O'Brien

Along with the new, larger truck came a new home. Old Rehab 2 had been housed at Washington Township Station 91. But, given the size of the truck and location of several active members in close proximity to one another on the north side of Columbus, it was decided that options should be explored for finding a new north side home. With the approval of the

Columbus Division of Fire, that new home was found in Columbus Fire Station 33. The new location will allow for much quicker response times, especially for incidents in northern Franklin and southern Delaware Counties.

Vital Statistics

| Runs by Jurisdiction: | | | | | |
|--------------------------|----|----------------------|----|------------------------|---|
| Bloom Township | 1 | Civic/Other | 12 | Clinton Township | 1 |
| Columbus Battalion 1 | 3 | Columbus Battalion 2 | 9 | Columbus Battalion 3 | 3 |
| Columbus Battalion 5 | 8 | Columbus Battalion 6 | 7 | Columbus Battalion 7 | 3 |
| Cols Fire Training Acad. | 13 | Columbus Police | 1 | Columbus Public Health | 1 |
| Delaware | 1 | FAA/CMH | 1 | Jackson Township | 3 |
| Jefferson Township | 1 | Madison Township | 1 | Orange Township | 1 |
| Plain Township | 2 | Prairie Township | 3 | Pleasant Township | 1 |
| Red Cross | 3 | Violet Township | 4 | Washington Township | 1 |
| Whitehall | 1 | Worthington | 1 | | |

| Runs by severity: | |
|----------------------|----|
| Working fire | 16 |
| Extra company fire | 4 |
| 2-alarm fire | 16 |
| 3-alarm fire | 2 |
| Hazmat/Bomb | 2 |
| Law Enforcement | 2 |
| Red Cross support | 3 |
| Training Support | 23 |
| Civic Events & Other | 18 |

| Miscellaneous Statistics | |
|----------------------------------|------|
| Fire & Police Personnel served | 3449 |
| Vehicle In service hours (runs) | 355 |
| Member "in-service" hours (runs) | 1057 |
| Miles Travelled | 2076 |
| Generator Hours | 103 |
| Misting Fan Hours | 9 |
| Heater Hours | 4 |

| Runs per Unit & Severe Weather Deployments | | | | | | | |
|--|----|----------|----|----------|----|----------|----------------|
| Rehab 1: | 48 | Rehab 2: | 18 | Rehab 3: | 13 | POV: | 12 |
| Cold weather standby (12 hour shift) (also crew hours) | | | | | | 5 Shifts | 150 Crew hours |
| Hot weather standby (8 hour shift) (also crew hours) | | | | | | 4 Shifts | 76 Crew hours |

| Member Activity Level | | | | | | | | | |
|--|----|-----------|----|----------|----|----------|----|------------|----|
| 2017 activities (runs, special duty, shirt sales, work details, meetings, etc.) Total 151 events | | | | | | | | | |
| Barber | 67 | Penty | 53 | Davidson | 40 | O'Brien | 40 | Hess | 38 |
| Keaton | 30 | Corcella | 29 | Knowles | 23 | Mullins | 22 | Northrop | 14 |
| Mills | 13 | Lewis | 11 | Murphy | 11 | Fuhrmann | 8 | Corbisello | 6 |
| Hathaway | 5 | Henderson | 5 | Karr | 5 | Fricke | 4 | Lerner | 4 |
| Vaughn | 4 | Burly | 3 | Kuczek | 3 | Maupin | 3 | Gibson | 2 |
| Swisher | 2 | Woods | 2 | Meyer | 1 | Phillips | 1 | | |

| Consumables: | | | | | |
|---------------------------|------|------------------------|-------|----------------------|-----|
| Bottled water | 4844 | Bulk water (gal.) used | 122 | Coffee (gal.) | 60 |
| Sqwincher/Gatorade sticks | 618 | Gatorade (bottles) | 243 | Hot chocolate (cups) | 160 |
| Granola bars (2/pkg.) | 978 | Ice (lbs.) | 1504 | Rehab towels | 78 |
| Fruit cups | 48 | Anti-cancer wipes | 1000+ | | |

Executive Board for 2018

- President – Joseph O’Brien (1st term; formerly Vice President & Secretary)
- Vice President – Bob Hess (1st term; formerly President & Vice President)
- Secretary – Tom Knowles (2nd term)
- Treasurer – Pamela Murphy (2nd term; formerly Secretary)
- Trustee – Sonny J. Lewis (6th term)
- Trustee – Jerry Keaton (1st term)

Cover Photo Credits

Front cover: Red, White and Boom – Photo by J.Penty

Actions Shots



Auto extrication training – Photo by B.Barber



Walnut Street NW working fire – Photo by M.Fuhrmann



E Main Street 2-alarm fire – Photo by J.O'Brien



Auto fire training (May) – Photo by B.Barber



Foresters Financial donation – Photo by S.Lewis



Linden area smoke detector outreach (May) – Photo by T.Knowles



Training fire – Photo by B.Hess



Pickerington Labor Day Parade – Photo by T.Knowles



Kirkersville Police Chief Steven Eric DiSario graveside service – Photo by T.Knowles



Grain bin rescue training – Photo by J.O'Brien



COAFAA muster – Photo by T.Knowles



N Wilson Road training fire – Photo by JJ.Corcella



Auto fire training (August) – Photo by B.Barber



9/11 Memorial Stair Climb – Photo by T.Knowles



Polaris Lakes Drive 2-alarm fire – Photo by J.O'Brien



Linden area smoke detector outreach (December)



Night operations training



Karl Road working fire – Photo by JJ.Corcella (with J.Keaton)