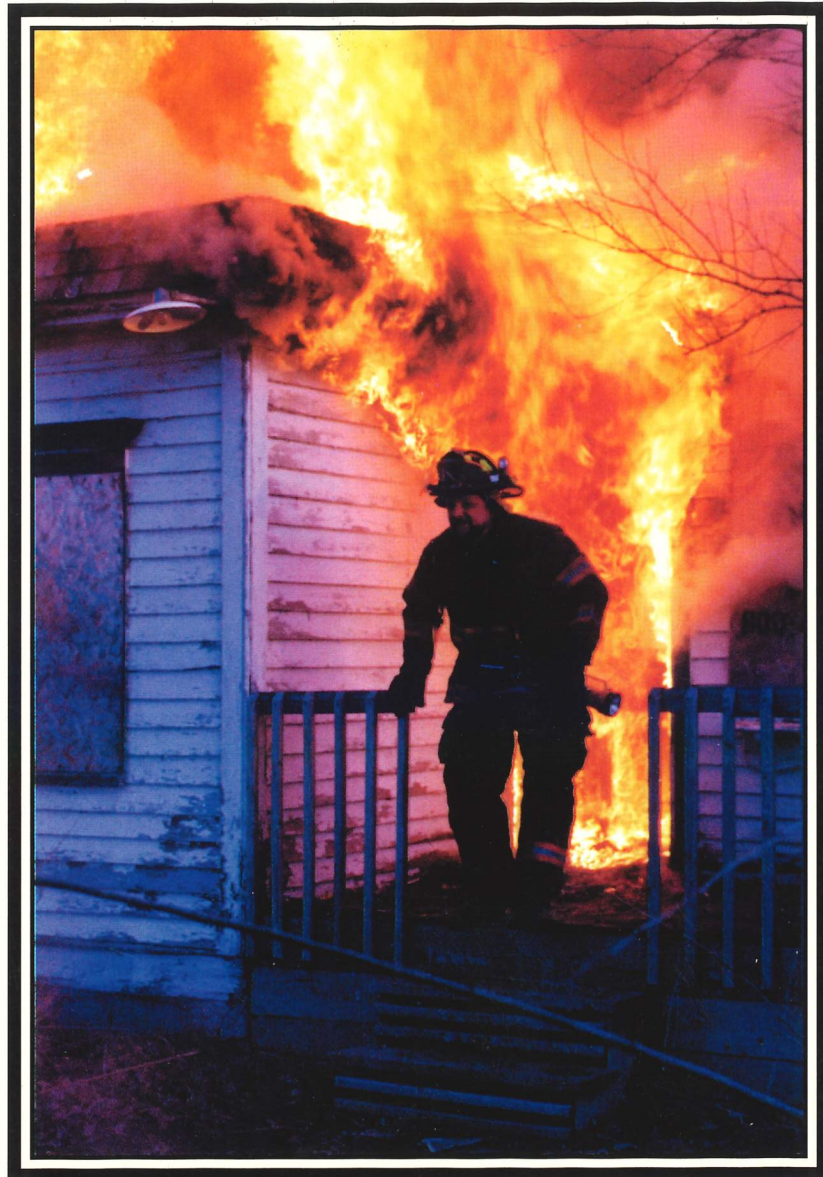


ANNUAL REPORT 1996



**McHENRY TOWNSHIP
FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**

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INTRODUCTION



The McHenry Township Fire Protection District proudly presents its 1996 Annual Report:

M MEMBERS
T TRUSTEES
F FRIENDS FOREVER
P PEOPLE WE PROTECT
D DEDICATION AND DUTY

Our successes are achieved by the dedication and commitment of the Trustees, Officers and Members of our Department.

HISTORY

In 1938, the McHenry Township Fire Protection District was formed as a taxing body. Until this point, all fire protection was provided by the City of McHenry which donated its only fire engine to this new district.

All vehicles were originally housed at City Hall until 1956, when a referendum was passed to construct the Fire District-owned building on Elm Street in McHenry.

In 1954, Company #2 was organized in Johnsburg. In 1963, the original Johnsburg station was built and, in 1990, a new expanded facility was completed.

In 1971, a third station was built in Lakemoor. A new, modified facility was built for Company #3 in 1994 to provide service for the residents in Eastern McHenry County.

The McHenry Area Rescue Squad merged into the Fire District in 1983, followed in 1990 by the merging with the Johnsburg Rescue Squad.

Other historical facts include the inception of a Paid-On-Premise (P.O.P.) Program on June 1, 1986, with 26 personnel participating originally. After several months of preparation, an additional P.O.P. Program began at Station #2 on February 1, 1997.

In 1987, Steve Laing was appointed as a part-time Code Enforcement Officer. This past July 1st, Steve was appointed to Assistant Chief and became the District's first full-time employee.

The District has had five Fire Chiefs in its brief history. Gus Freund served as Chief from 1939-1950, Harold "Red" Hobbs from 1950-1960, Ed Justen from 1960-1969, and Glen Peterson from 1969-1986. Chief Chris Bennett started his fire service career on January 1, 1968, was appointed Fire Chief in 1986, and continues to serve in this capacity today.

The Fire Protection District is still funded as a taxing body and the responsibility for overseeing policies, procedures, and financial issues is handled by a board of five County-appointed Trustees.

Presently, the three fire stations of the District provide service to an area of approximately 60 square miles with a population of approximately 40,000 citizens. Included within this 60 mile coverage is most of McHenry Township, portions of Nunda Township, certain municipalities, including Bull Valley, Holiday Hills, Johnsburg, Lakemoor, McCullom Lake and portions of unincorporated McHenry County.

The District operates 30 pieces of equipment that includes engines, squads, one tanker, one truck, two boats, five ambulances and light specialty vehicles. At present, the District has 133 volunteers.

In 1996, a total of 2,715 calls were run for an average of 7 calls per day. In some cases, this is double the number of calls that are responded to by similar departments in terms of size, geographic coverage, and population. *Fire House Magazine*, a national publication that reports an annual run survey, has once again named McHenry Township Fire Protection District as the busiest all-volunteer fire department in the State of Illinois. The District's ranking of ninth in this survey also makes it one of the busiest all-volunteer departments in the United States.

Today's firefighters, although better equipped and educated, still face the same dangers as the firefighters of the past. Even though the fire service is keeping up-to-date on today's progressive advancements, it appears there will always be a need for firefighters as long as people and flammable substances exist. The McHenry Township Fire Protection District will continue to meet this challenge to provide the community with the best fire and life safety protection available.

FROM THE DESK OF CHIEF CHRIS BENNETT



The McHenry Township Fire Protection District's 1996 Annual Report covers many of the challenges we faced in 1996, including an increase in call activity, rapid membership growth, new recruitment procedures, intensified training requirements, as well as changes in management.

Call activity increased to an all-time high of 2,715 runs, equating to over 7 calls per day. Even with this increase in call activity we continue to meet our main objective in providing high quality service.

To evaluate customer service, questionnaires are distributed to approximately 90% of those utilizing our services. The responses we receive help us to review our performance and improve our organization to better service our community. As a volunteer, paid-on-call department, we strive to provide the highest quality service at the most economical cost for the taxpayers of our district.

With approximately 75% of our activity being emergency medical services the term "Firefighter" has taken on a new definition. Not only are our members trained in fire fighting techniques, but also as Emergency Medical Technicians, Paramedics, Divers and deal with hazardous material, water/ice rescue, and confined space as well. Deputy Chief Amore and Captain Tony Huemann continue to develop new and innovative educational techniques enhancing an already excellent Training Program.

In 1996, we added 26 new members to our department. Education, training and assisting these new members in adapting to our organization was accomplished through an existing program known as Big Brother/Big Sister. With this system, a seasoned veteran is assigned to a new member for a 12 month period, thus, assuring maximum success of our newest personnel.

Administratively this past year, we added Vern Manke as Business Manger. Vern who has resided in McHenry for 19 years, comes to our department with an impressive background in Financial Management. He received his Bachelor of Science Degree from Illinois State University and served as Vice President of Administrative Services for 5 years at the College of Lake County and for 11 years at Harper College.

Steve Laing, who served as part-time Code Enforcement Officer for 10 years, accepted the full-time position of Assistant Chief and Code Enforcement Officer with our Department. Steve's dedication and extensive background in Fire Services has helped develop our Code Enforcement Bureau to one of the best.

Public Education has been, and will continue to be, a high priority of our Department. Linda Brady, coordinator of this program, continues to develop new programs, as well as maintain the success we have had through the education of the children of our District. This includes educational material during Fire Prevention Week, Fire Starters Program, and providing public education to community groups.

The high quality and dedication of our Trustees, Officers and Members of our organization will ensure continued success in meeting the challenges of the future.

Respectfully Yours,

*Christopher Bennett, Fire Chief
McHenry Township Fire Protection District*

ADMINISTRATION

Ed Guettler Trustee	Alan Miller Trustee	Jim Althoff Trustee President	Phil Bartmann Trustee	Bob Meyer Trustee
		Chris Bennett Fire Chief		
Wayne Amore Deputy Chief	Phil Gust Deputy Chief	Pat Arnold Assistant Chief	Steve Laing Assistant Chief Code Enforcement	Vern Manke Business Manager
<u>COMPANY 1</u>	<u>COMPANY 2</u>	<u>COMPANY 3</u>	Tony Oliver Inspector	Pat Nelson Secretary
Joe Foreman Captain	Loren Pitzen Captain	Steve Gould Lieutenant	Frank Graham Inspector	Rose Kouba Secretary
Kevin Shay Captain	Tony Huemann Captain Training	Bob Fritch Lieutenant	Linda Brady Public Education	
Dave Karls Lieutenant	Mike Majercik Lieutenant			
Kevin Long Lieutenant	Jeff Bartmann Lieutenant			
Tom Ruggero Lieutenant	Brian Diedrich Lieutenant			

COMPANY ONE

MEMBERS

Captain
Captain
Lieutenant
Lieutenant
Lieutenant

Joe Foreman
Kevin Shay
Dave Karls
Kevin Long
Tom Ruggero

Mark Amore
Scott Anderson
Jerry Beres
David Borst
Jim Bove
Linda Brady
Patti Burger
Tim Butler
Cindy Byron
Ed Curry
Carolyn Davis
Mark Diedrich
Leora Foreman
Kathy Freund
Nancy Gandy
Frank Graham
Larry Gumm
Ryan Harding
Denise Harkins
Steven Hill
Bob Hodges

Bill Homo
Jeff Huemann
Mark Justen
Ron Krumsee
John Kuhl
Kevin Kutz
Brent Lane
Tony Loporchio
Ed Malenius
Aimee Mann
Chris Mann
John Matthesius
John McCauley
Rich McMillan
Tom Michelsen
Bill Milbratz
Joe Nootens
Lydia Nootens
William Oeffling
Tony Oliver
Paul Polep

Mike Reid
Frank Rodgers
Cristine Roper
Ron Schaefer
Elizabeth Serritella
Ray Simon
Tom Sluga
Denny Smith
Phil Szyjka
Al Thennes
Connie Thennes
Brigid Thomas
Tom Uttich
Ronald Wagner
Scott White
Tim Wirfs
Matt Yegge
Joe Zelek
Sara Zelek
Bob Zujewski

COMPANY TWO **MEMBERS**

Captain
Captain
Lieutenant
Lieutenant
Lieutenant

Tony Huemann
Loren Pizen
Jeff Bartmann
Brian Diedrich
Mike Majercik

Bill Betke
Bark Buchanan
Bill Comstock
Bryan DeBaets
Jon Diedrich
Peter Diedrich
Dan Diperna
Phil Freund
Dan Gallagher
Bob Haag
Mike Haag
Suzan Habhab
Bill Hintz
Jim Hopp
Rich Huebner
Dave Huemann
Joe Huemann
Tom Huemann
Fred Hult
Paul Jargstorf
Pat King
Jerri Krieg

Michael Lynn
Tim Manning
William Nethaway
Roger Oland
Brian Olenick
Jan Olenick
Phil Ried
Rudy Rivera
Al Robel
Judy Robel
John Scott
Dick Seaborn
Dave Peterson
Wileen Peterson
Greg Sobiesk
Guy Stedman
Dan Stefka
Joel Taylor
Judy Taylor
Dave Thoren
Diane Wilkinson
John Wilkinson

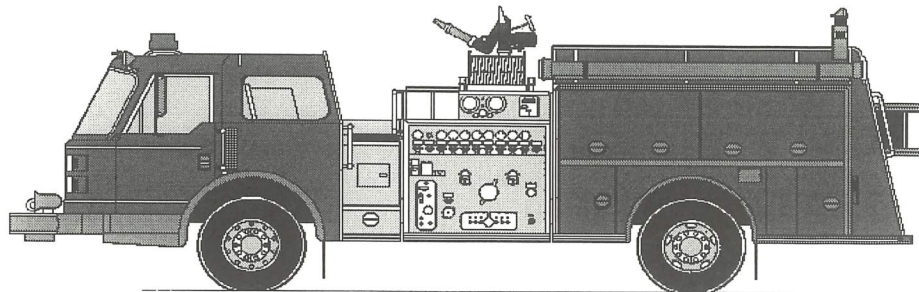
COMPANY THREE
MEMBERS

Lieutenant
Lieutenant

Bob Fritch
Steve Gould

Bill Baehne
Jim Baltich
Darrel Birkhoff
James Chancellor
Dave Freeman
Nancy Fritch
Richard Gengler
Dave Harwood
Elizabeth Kamrat
Bill King
Deb Mayo
Frank Oswald
Dawn Potter
Jay Rasmussen
Guy Smale
Bill Whyte
Mike Young

EQUIPMENT **VEHICLES**



1202	1996	Jeep Cherokee	Fire Chief
1208	1990	Pierce	Engine
1209	1979	Mack	Engine
1210	1995	Pierce	Engine
1211	1992	Pierce	Squad
1212	1984	Pierce	Ladder Tower
1221	1995	Pierce	Engine
1222	1992	Pierce	Engine
1223	1986	International	Tanker
1224	1996	Pierce	Squad
1234	1979	Mack	Reserve Engine
1235	1979	Mack	Engine
1253	1976	Chevrolet	Squad
1254	1994	Ford	Ambulance
1255	1995	Ford	Ambulance
1256	1989	Ford	Ambulance
1257	1993	Ford	Ambulance
1258	1996	Ford	Ambulance
1271	1991	Dodge	Grass Fire Truck
1272	1989	Dodge	Grass Fire Truck
1284	1995	Chevrolet	Utility Pickup
1280	1984	Dive Boat	
1281	1978	Ford	Dive/Rescue Truck
1283	1995	Hovercraft	
1285	1991	Chevrolet	Fire Officer
1286	1989	Chevrolet	Fire Officer
1287	1974	Chevrolet	Utility Pickup
1288	1993	Chevrolet	Fire Officer
1289	1994	Jeep Cherokee	Fire Chief

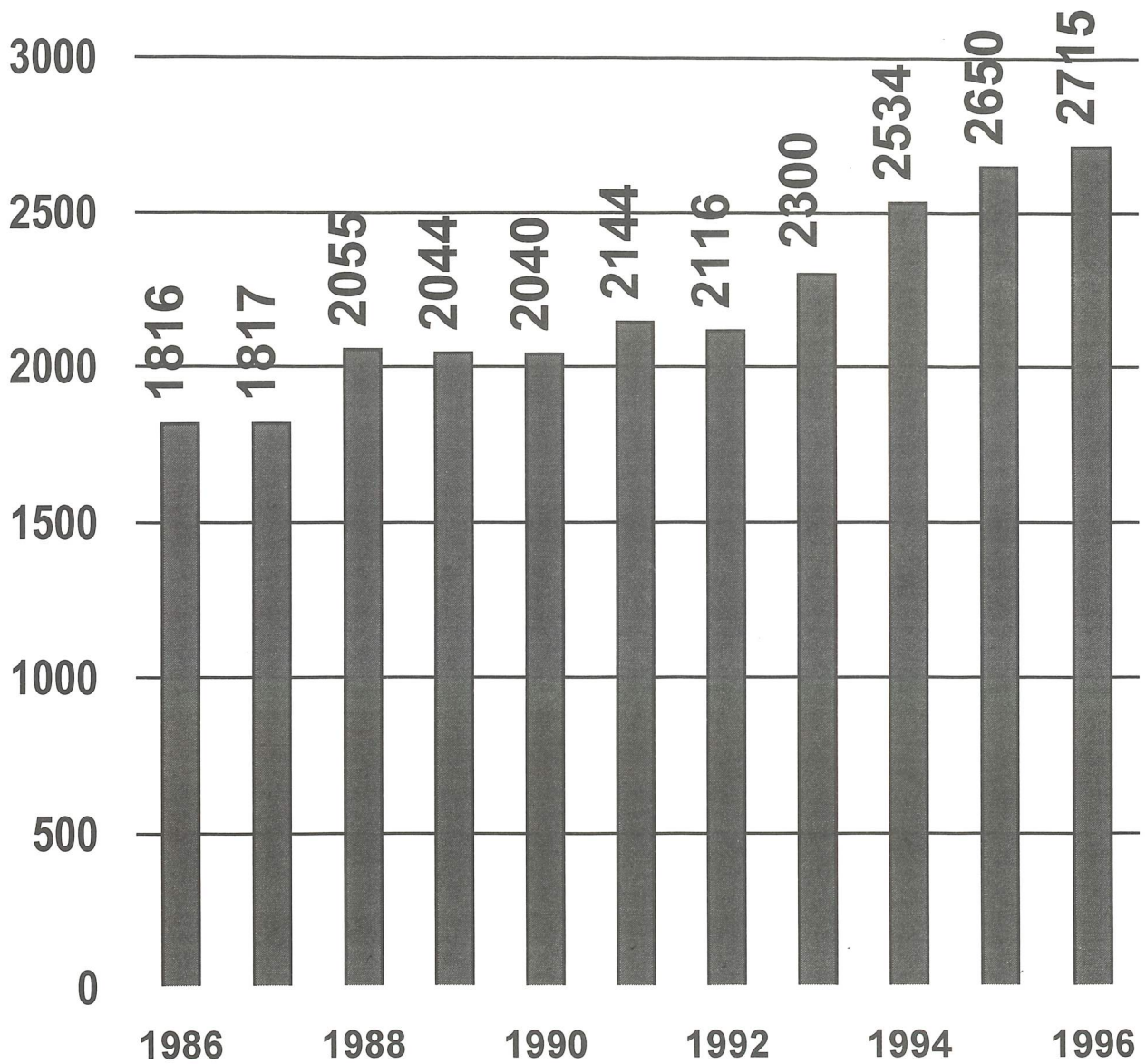
1995 CALLS - 2,659

	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	
G	0	1	2	1	4	4	12	46	G
H	0	0	13	13	2	9	87	17	H
I	0	1	4	0	19	36	41	9	I
J	1	2	26	34	21	21	11	15	J
K	2	8	41	126	148	40	5	1	K
L	5	9	50	157	172	23	16	35	L
M	6	2	15	25	53	15	4	17	M
N	1	2	3	20	14	4	2	8	N
O	0	1	0	0	2	0	15	12	O
P	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	P
	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	

1996 CALLS - 2,715

	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	
G	0	1	4	3	8	4	13	92	G
H	1	1	10	16	4	16	84	21	H
I	0	0	4	0	27	54	52	7	I
J	0	5	19	35	20	25	15	13	J
K	6	12	49	114	178	43	12	4	K
L	6	6	48	180	193	26	13	50	L
M	5	6	18	42	65	13	1	19	M
N	2	3	3	31	9	1	6	7	N
O	1	0	0	0	0	1	6	7	O
P	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	P
	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	

CALLS PER YEAR



MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

- How many active members?
- Average age of members
- Average time of Department
- Total combined years of experience

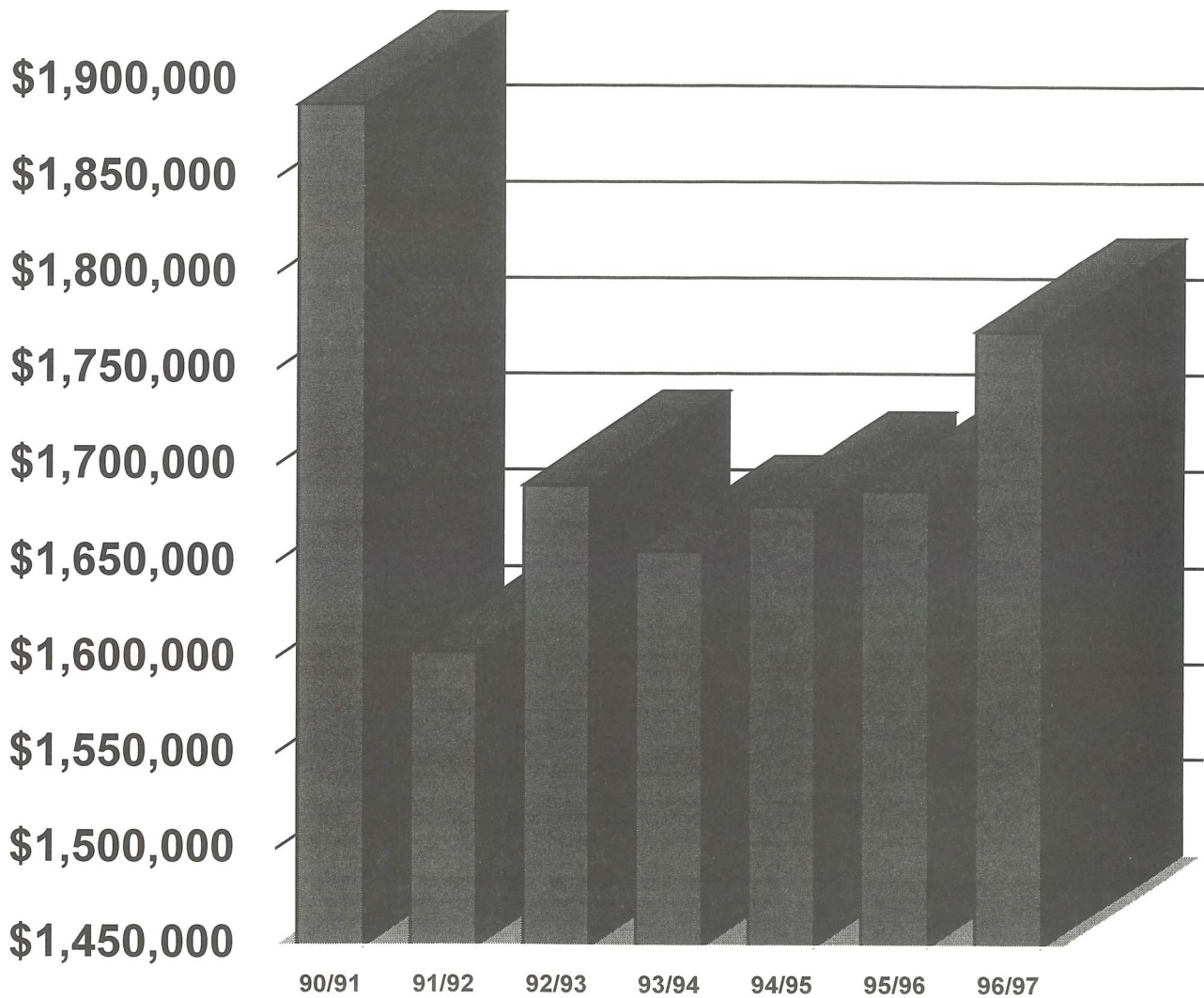
<u>1995</u>	<u>1996</u>
118	140
36.6 Yrs	25.89 Yrs
9.92 Yrs	8.91 Yrs
1,170 Yrs	1,221 Yrs

YEARS ON DEPARTMENT

- | | |
|---------------|----|
| • >2 Years | 34 |
| • 2-3 Years | 6 |
| • 3-4 Years | 6 |
| • 4-5 Years | 11 |
| • 5-10 Years | 28 |
| • 10-20 Years | 43 |
| • 20+ Years | 12 |



BUDGET/LEVY



STATISTICAL COMPARISON

VOLUNTEER DEPARTMENTS

There are 1,312 Fire Departments in Illinois. Of 554 Fire Departments reporting statistical information, 72 of them serve populations between 20,000 - 50,000. Of those departments, only 7 have NO full-time paid personnel.

<u>TOWN</u>	<u>POPULATION</u>	<u># VOLUNTEERS</u>	<u># CALLS</u>
Barrington	30,000	45	2,000
Glen Ellyn	25,000	53	950F
Harlem/Roscoe	25,000	80	1,458
Lake Villa	25,000	40	415F
Medora	10,000	35	15F
Tinley Park	40,000	92	535F
MCHENRY	41,000	140	2,715

* 1996 Illinois Firefighters Red Book

PAID DEPARTMENTS

Population 18,000 - 50,000

<u>TOWN</u>	<u>POPULATION</u>	<u># VOLUNTEERS</u>	<u># CALLS</u>
Bartlett	32,000	15	1,516
Blue Island	23,000	21	2,258
Carol Stream	42,500	52	3,509
Carpentersville	25,500	13	2,643
Countryside	26,000	28	2,261
Evergreen Park	24,000	6	3,010
Fox Lake	25,000	8	1,320
Lake Forest	18,000	33	2,042
Wauconda	35,000	27	2,248
Wilmette	26,960	44	1,438

HOW WE MATCH UP?

MCHENRY	41,000	140*	2,715
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* Paid-on-Call - Volunteer Department

**DEPUTY CHIEF
WAYNE AMORE
1996 ANNUAL REPORT**



Another year of increased call activity is behind us. However, call activity is not the only increasing time commitment. From restructuring the Training Division, taking delivery of new apparatus, purchasing new apparatus, hosting our first two McHenry County College intern students, and putting on twenty-six new members, the time commitment to oversee all of these projects is very demanding.

In January, Captain Tony Huemann was appointed as Training Officer. A very aggressive calendar was set for training for 1996. New ideas for the types of training and the structure we train under were instituted. The team concept of training was adopted. This concept breaks up the membership into teams made up of members from all companies. Our old way of training was training within each company. This new concept gives the members opportunity to interact with other companies.

The team concept allowed members to train hands-on in five different topics. Some of these were established techniques and others were new. Utilizing outside instructors and the Training Tower at McHenry County College helped contribute to the success. The overall grade for the Training Division in 1996 was excellent.

The District took delivery of a new Pierce Squad in November for Station Two. The process of planning, writing specs, the bid process, plan review, and delivery of this vehicle was almost two years. This is the first vehicle in the District with a cascade system for filling breathing air bottles on the scene of a call. New extrication equipment was purchased for the vehicle to keep the entire vehicle state of the art.

The Trustees approved an appointment of a committee to purchase a new engine to replace 1235 at Station Three. This committee looked at various types of engines and body styles. It was the recommendation of the committee to replace 1235 with the same type and body style that the District now has, a Pierce Lance. This will give continuity on all engines in the District. The Trustees approved the bid from Pierce Manufacturing for the engine. The engine was ordered and expected delivery will be August, 1997.

McHenry Fire District was one of only three departments in the County that committed to take interns from McHenry County College. This program was very successful. Each of the students were required to serve forty hours with the District to get one college credit towards their Fire Science Degree. It is the philosophy of the District Officers to give these interns a comprehensive look at the entire operation of the fire department. They were exposed to ambulance calls, fire prevention activities, fire calls, building inspections, plan review, and many other day-to-day activities that occur at the fire department. At the conclusion of their internship, they attended a District Meeting and gave a report to the Trustees on their experience with our Department.

The activities associated with the undertaking of putting twenty-six new members on the Department at one time were numerous. Scheduling physicals, assigning individual equipment, orientation of District policies and procedures are only a few of the many things that had to be done. All new members needing certification are currently enrolled in classes.

**DEPUTY CHIEF
PHIL GUST
1996 IN REVIEW**



Based on my responsibilities as an administrator and my staff position in the office, 1996 saw some great advances for the McHenry Township Fire Protection District.

The addition of Steve Laing to a full-time position for the Fire Prevention Bureau and his expanded role as a staff member, has greatly enhanced our ability to deal with day-to-day activities. His experience and willingness to undertake any task is refreshing and very helpful.

As the Office manager, Vern Manke has fit in very well with the other staff people. I'm sure Vern will continue to avail himself in the effort of refining our officer activities. His people skills are very beneficial to our overall mission. He has been very helpful with personnel matters that we need to address more efficiently.

The addition of twenty-six new members in 1996 has been a great challenge. This effort demonstrates our commitment to the community by meeting the demands that growth of business and population have created. If we want to continue to serve the community with the high quality of service we currently enjoy, we must strengthen our efforts to maintain a solid membership of dedicated personnel.

The EMS activity of the Fire District that I am directly responsible for, continues to perform to the highest standards. Our EMTs and Paramedics continue to maintain their EMS skills as accepted by the EMS System at NIMC. We currently have eight members in Paramedic class that will graduate in June, 1997. Hopefully, these new Paramedics will help us maintain our staffing well into the future. Considering our recent implementation of a second staffed daytime ambulance, available staffing of certified EMTs and Paramedics is a priority.

In summary, 1996 was a very successful year. A look into the future indicates the probable need to create some additional part-time staff positions to meet the increased demands of additional personnel and the ever-increasing call load.

**ASSISTANT CHIEF
STEVE LAING
FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU
ANNUAL REPORT**



The three Divisions within the Fire Prevention Bureau are Fire Inspection Division, Fire Investigation Team and Public Education. Accomplishments within each division are as follows:

FIRE INSPECTION PROGRAM - We now have 950 inspectable occupancies in our Fire District, which includes all business, commercial and industrial occupancies. This number does not include the multi-family occupants, of which we inspect the common areas, utility rooms, smoke detector checks, information updates, etc.

Ideally, all occupants should be inspected on an annual basis. This is called an inspection cycle. Currently, our inspection cycle is up to 16 months, not including multi-families. The cause of this lengthening of the cycle time is due to growth, available man hours, size of occupancies, etc. This time frame must be close to a one-year cycle to have an effective program.

The present fire inspectors are now being utilized in specialized inspections such as sprinkler systems, fire alarm systems, flow tests and final inspections for occupancy. Their areas of responsibility have also grown and are carried out according to their available time.

FIRE INVESTIGATION TEAM - The Fire Investigation Team is becoming more efficient with every fire that we have. The major incident at Irish Prairie taxed the team for a lot of extra time considering the size and cause of this fire. There is nothing new to report regarding this incident, although I'm sure that you all have heard the rumors regarding the cause, etc. This team functions in a consistent, professional manner and their confidence grows steadily.

PUBLIC EDUCATION DIVISION - This Division is an extremely important area within our Fire Department. Educating the public via active public education programs has proven to lessen fires and loss of life. Covering areas such as school programs, business community awareness, juvenile fire setters, CPR programs, tours, and press releases are just a few of the programs that must be done all year.

Linda Brady directs the Public Education Division in a professional manner and as her available time allows. As active as we are in this area, we have a long way to go regarding expanding programs, implementing new programs, and developing and maintaining community awareness

My specific responsibilities have not lessened, but, instead, have increased substantially:

- *Assisting and directing the fire inspectors with their inspection program.*
- *Follow-up investigations regarding alarm problems, code violations, open burning, etc.*
- *Controlling all fire prevention correspondence.*
- *Plan reviews of all new construction, including submittals of our requirements.*
- *Phase inspections of new construction.*
- *Maintaining our excellent relationship with all Building & Zoning Departments.*
- *Staying abreast of code and standard updates.*

THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE

As you have all heard me say, "We must all be prepared to meet the challenge of our growth." In order to meet the challenge, the Fire Prevention Bureau must do the following in the immediate future:

- *The allowance of the required personnel/man hours necessary to complete the inspection cycle in 14 months or less (never less than one year).*
- *Improve the data processing via an improved computer program for the Fire Prevention Bureau.*
- *The allowance of the addition of expanded Public Education Programs.*
- *Establish a "Residential Fire Prevention Program."*
- *Establish a program to keep the members regularly advised of fire prevention activities, occupants, new construction, building construction changes, etc.*

Obviously, 1996 was the most memorable year of my entire fire service career which spans 35 years and includes:

- *Retirement from Skokie Fire Department after 24 years.*
- *Hired as McHenry Township Fire Protection District's first full-time employee.*
- *Promoted to Assistant Chief.*

Along with my being Assistant Chief, as well as a full-time employee, a marked increase of activities and responsibilities have accompanied these changes. The P.O.P. Program and the beloved uniform project have required a lot of hours. What will not change is my dedication to do the very best that I can, in all areas, and I will continue to strive for a fire and life safe environment.

**ASSISTANT CHIEF
PAT ARNOLD
1996 COMPANY ACTIVITIES**



1996 company activities were once again at an all-time high. Fund-raisers for the Burn Camp, seminars, state-certified training, and blood drives for our community are just a few of the accomplishments our personnel were involved in over the last year. In addition to these activities, the personnel responded to 2,715 emergency calls which made for an extremely busy year. The amount of activities we accomplished during 1996 is due to the commitment and dedication of our personnel.

While I feel we need to include full-time personnel in our long range plan, our immediate concern should be to maintain high levels of member interest and involvement to allow us to keep operating as we do today. Some of these major areas of company involvement are as follows:

Probationary Members of all three stations seem to be adjusting to the pace and activity level very well. Almost 100% participation was received during our Open House.

Fire Prevention Activities:

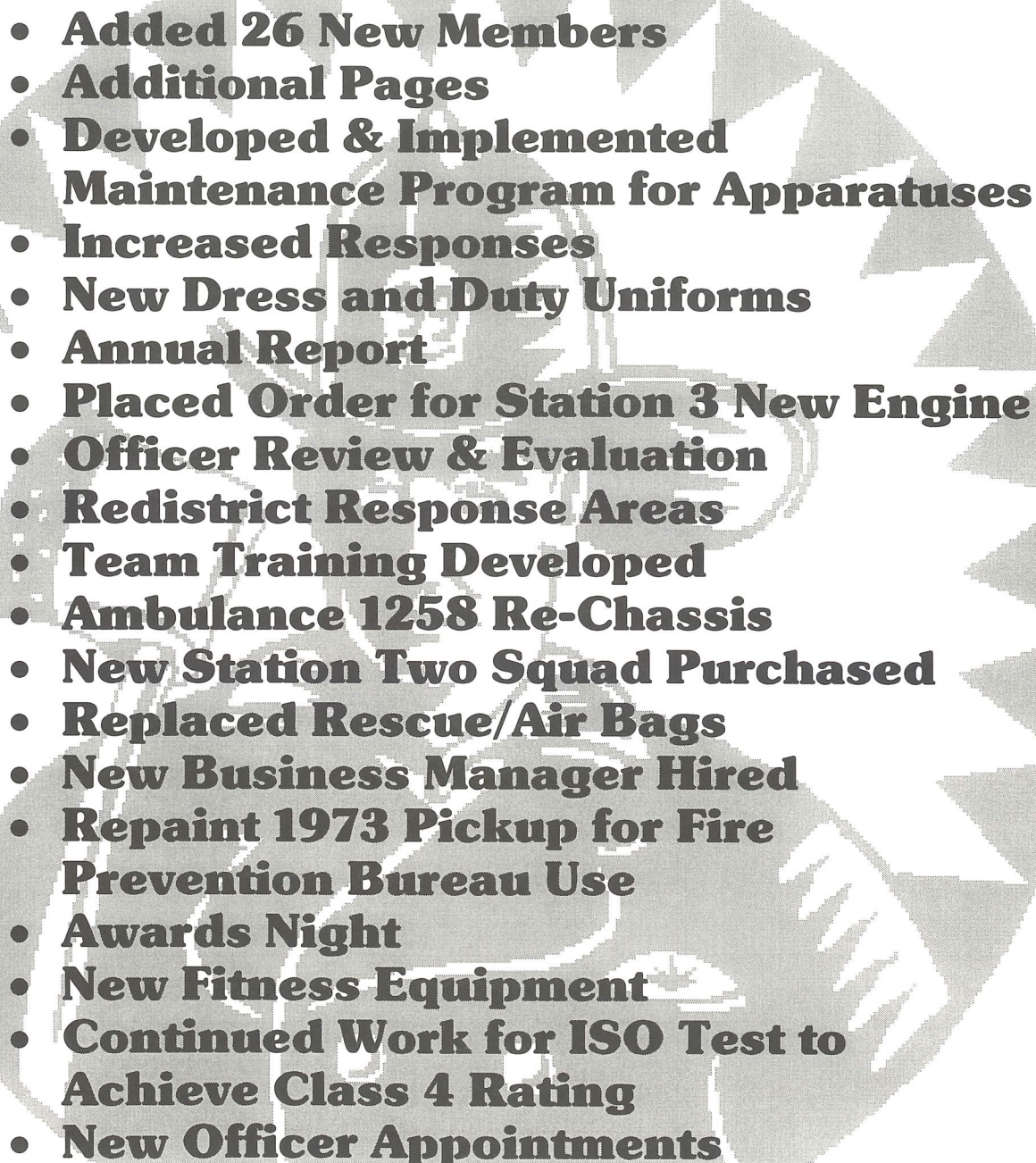
- 1. We distributed literature to 4,000 students in the McHenry/Johnsburg School Districts.*
- 2. Numerous articles in the Star, Northwest Herald and Chicago Tribune.*
- 3. Open House was well attended with over 500 people at Station One alone.*
- 4. We collected over \$300.00 for the Burn Camp with raffles during Open House.*
- 5. Tours and Preschool visits are ongoing.*

Sporting Events: During the summer of 1996, Stations One and Two combined talents to put together a softball team for a Wednesday night league at the McHenry Township Park. During regular season play they finished in first place, and took home a second place trophy at the end of season tournament.

THIS IS A YEAR THAT EVERY MEMBER SHOULD BE PROUD OF.

1996

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 
- **Added 26 New Members**
 - **Additional Pages**
 - **Developed & Implemented Maintenance Program for Apparatuses**
 - **Increased Responses**
 - **New Dress and Duty Uniforms**
 - **Annual Report**
 - **Placed Order for Station 3 New Engine**
 - **Officer Review & Evaluation**
 - **Redistrict Response Areas**
 - **Team Training Developed**
 - **Ambulance 1258 Re-Chassis**
 - **New Station Two Squad Purchased**
 - **Replaced Rescue/Air Bags**
 - **New Business Manager Hired**
 - **Repaint 1973 Pickup for Fire Prevention Bureau Use**
 - **Awards Night**
 - **New Fitness Equipment**
 - **Continued Work for ISO Test to Achieve Class 4 Rating**
 - **New Officer Appointments**

HOW OUR COMMUNITY FEELS... (Customer Survey Comments)

"You do a great job! I like the idea of women on the team. It added an immediate feeling of comfort. Thank you again."

"McHenry has a very good team and well trained and experienced members."

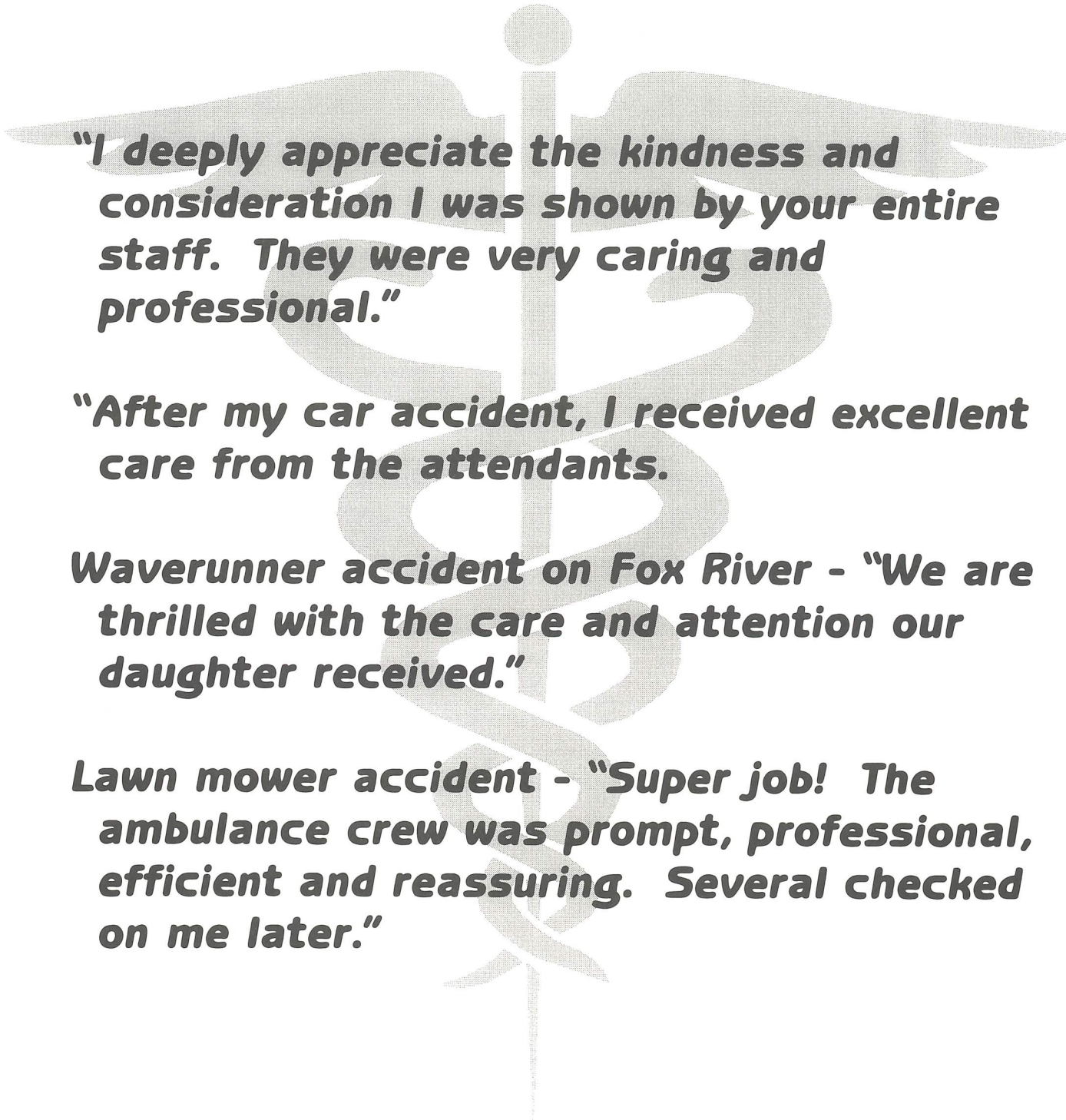
"Could not expect better service."

"The men and women on the emergency team were great."

Attacked by a dog - "The ambulance crew was very concerned. My heartfelt thanks and gratitude."

"By far a great group of people to have around when you need them. Thanks again."

HOW OUR COMMUNITY FEELS...



"I deeply appreciate the kindness and consideration I was shown by your entire staff. They were very caring and professional."

"After my car accident, I received excellent care from the attendants."

Waverunner accident on Fox River - "We are thrilled with the care and attention our daughter received."

Lawn mower accident - "Super job! The ambulance crew was prompt, professional, efficient and reassuring. Several checked on me later."

HOW OUR COMMUNITY FEELS...

**“THANKS!
YOU HELPED
SAVE MY LIFE!”**





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