

Raleigh Fire Museum – Winter Update - 2017

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Introduction

This document provides an administrative update on Raleigh Fire Museum activities both in 2017, and notably since the summer, as reported in the Summer 2017 update document (<http://raleighfiremuseum.org/docs/2017-summer-update.pdf>).

What We Do

Things that the fire museum organization does, both collective and through individual actions:

- Running our museum.
- Collecting and storing artifacts and materials.

- Storage and preservation of old Raleigh fire apparatus.
- Produce web-based content about Raleigh and local fire history.
- Answer questions and provide historical information as needed, to RFD, city officials, and citizens.
- Design historical plaques for renovating and rebuilt fire stations.
- Record history through photos and videos.
- Distribute e-mail messages to retirees.
- Create a periodic newsletter.
- Etc.

Meetings

Four meetings were held this year:

- January 19, 2017
- March 30
- April 11
- December 13

Finances

Balances on December 13, 2017

General fund	Checking	\$1,800.56
Reserve funds	Savings	\$3,977.95
Apparatus funds	Savings	\$477.03
Coin funds	Savings	\$3,867.94
Ball funds	Savings	\$970.41
		\$11,093.89

Activity, Year to Date

Checking Account

Money Out:

12/12/17	-\$85.92	XpressTags – 20 engraved plastic tags for identifying loaned artifacts.
11/2/17	-\$15.00	QuickBooks
10/2/17	-\$80.00	PrecisionPros – Two-year renewal for domain names, raleighfiremuseum.org, raleighfirenews.org
10/2/17	-\$15.00	QuickBooks
9/5/17	-\$15.00	QuickBooks
9/1/17	-\$11.48	Facebook, promotional boost for monthly opening
8/17/17	-\$75.08	Costco, reprinting more museum photo postcards

8/2/17	-\$42.73	Wal-Mart, small fire-proof box, for museum vehicle titles, for Chamblee to keep
8/2/17	-\$15.00	QuickBooks
7/14/17	-\$199.82	Jack Rabbit Signs
7/3/17	-\$15.00	QuickBooks
7/3/17	-\$14.20	Facebook, promoting postings for museum opening
6/20/17	-\$148.29	Jan Chamblee, reimbursement for RV cover, for 1961 ALF
6/2/17	-\$15.00	QuickBooks
6/1/17	-\$1.10	Facebook, promoting postings for museum opening
5/2/17	-\$15.00	QuickBooks
5/1/17	-\$5.00	Facebook, promoting postings for museum opening
4/3/17	-\$42.68	Amazon, rack card holders x20
4/3/17	-\$15.00	QuickBooks
3/24/17	-\$2.60	eBay fee, for coin sales
3/17/17	-\$117.17	Ares print, rack cards, x1000
3/3/17	-\$15.00	QuickBooks
2/22/17	-\$114.17	Vista print, rack cards, x500
2/17/17	-\$144.00	Firesmart Promotions, kiddie helmets, x200
2/3/17	-\$15.00	QuickBooks
1/24/17	-\$132.00	USPS, annual postal box fee
1/3/17	-\$15.00	QuickBooks

Money In:

11/6/17	+\$45.53	EarthShare, combined campaign quarterly payment
9/11/17	+\$55.00	Donation box
8/26/17	+\$53.84	EarthShare, combined campaign quarterly payment
7/26/17	+\$20.00	Donation box
7/17/17	+\$21.00	Donation Box
6/19/17	+\$94.83	EarthShare, combined campaign quarterly payment
5/11/17	+\$5.00	Amazon Smile
4/3/17	+\$175.22	EarthShare, combined campaign quarterly payment
2/6/17	+\$21.00	Donation box

Excludes monthly \$1.00 checking account service fee, and monthly interest deposits under \$1.00.

Savings Accounts

Coin funds

11/21/17	+\$290.00	Deposit, from coin sales.
11/21/17	+\$220.00	Deposit, from coin sales.

11/16/17	+\$297.00	Deposit, from coin sales.
11/16/17	+\$30.00	Deposit, from coin sales.
7/31/17	+\$22.68	PayPal payment received, for two coins. Transfer to savings pending.
4/10/17	+\$117.69	Deposit, from PayPal order
3/2/17	+\$200.00	Deposit, from coin sales
2/17/17	+\$110.00	Deposit, from coin sales.

Ball funds

2/17/17	-\$110.00	Withdrawn, moved to coin funds, wrong account selected upon 2/17/17 deposit.
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Apparatus funds



11/16/17	+\$51.00	Deposit, from Engine 1 donations, from prior year.
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Excludes monthly interest deposits under \$1.00.

Antique Apparatus






Museum Owned


<p>1961 ALF pumper</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Title received. (November) • Protective cover purchased. (June) • Moved from Station 16 to Jan Chamblee property. (June) • Title located for 1961, but lists incorrect VIN and model year. Capt. Chamblee leading effort to correct with DMV. (July) 	 
<p>1936 ALF pumper</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protective cover purchase pending. • Moved from Services to Jan Chamblee property. (July) • Replacement motor located in Pennsylvania, approved for pending purchase. (January) 	 

1988 Pierce pumper	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moved from Services to Mike Ezzell property, and stored with RFD-supplied protective cover, and under an enclosure. (November) • Title received. (November) • Removed from service as educational engine. (May) • Approved by council for donation to museum. (spring) 	 
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City Owned

The fire department fleet contains several antiques, which are managed and maintained by a committee of RFD members.

1905 ALF steamer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passed annual boiler inspection. (July) • Gong installed, that we procured last year. (July) • Stored at Station 29. 	
1926 ALF pumper	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stored at Station 28. • RFD planning to move to Station 29. 	
1950 Mack pumper	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stored at Station 28. • RFD planning to move to Station 29. 	
1982 Mack pumper	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parked at Services (?). • New rear axle installed (fall). • RFD planning to move to Station 29. 	
1953 rescue boats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stored at services. 	

1900s hand hose reel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stored and displayed at museum. 	
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Private Owned

- Vinny Florio has been bringing his truck, a 1986 Pierce/1971 Mack ex-Greenville, OH, to most monthly museum opening dates, when he has been staffing. He also promotes the museum with materials kept on his truck.
- Retired Capt. Tim Duke also brought his truck, a 1992 Pierce/1978 Mack pumper, ex-Raleigh, to a couple of monthly openings.

Acquisitions

- Received offer of donated 1970s crash truck from airport in Eastern North Carolina. Staff discussed our current organizational limitations to undertake this project, and ideas for “making it happen” through, perhaps, project partners. Airport is also contacting state transportation museum, which is a preferred donor organization to ours. Still in contact and assessing. (November-December)

Administrative

- Jan Chamblee is coordinator for all museum-owned antiques and related activities.
- Fireproof document box purchased, for storing titles to 1936 ALF and 1961 ALF, and any other materials related to the antiques. To be kept by Capt. Chamblee.

Acquisitions and Collections

Notable acquisitions:

- Brass steamer gong, from donor in Wisconsin. Directly shipped to RFD Services, and transferred to the RFD steamer committee members.



The RFD steamer committee plans to install the brass gong as a replacement for the non-brass gong that

the museum procured in 2016, and that they installed this summer, and is shown below. (November)



- Three-ring binder of photographic prints from George While, who was an official RFD photographer in the late 1980s. She gave the notebook to Engine 15 on “A” platoon, after meeting them after an emergency call, at her apartment complex. Legeros is scanning, and will create an album of her work on our web site. (July)
- Twelve-plus boxes of books, papers, video tapes, film slides, and other errata from family of retired Captain Tim Pearce. Legeros is reviewing and parsing. Most retained items to be stored. Few things to be displayed. (May, July)
- Pluggie the remote-control fire hydrant. Added as museum display. (April)



- Collection of handmade greeting cards and other thank you notes to the fire department, from the Metropolitan fire. Most placed in storage. (March)
- Several melted items from Engine 13, from the Metropolitan fire. Added as museum display. (March)



- Digital originals of Metropolitan fire photos, from several local photographers. Added to museum displays and web site. (March)
- Small set of papers and a couple photos from the former owner of the 1936 ALF. (January)

Museum Display Space

Attendance

Over 650 people visited the fire museum this year, for monthly openings, scheduled tours, and other events:

Month	Date	Event	Visitors	Staffing
Dec	12/8	Monthly	8	Florio (10-1) Legeros (1-2)
Nov	11/11	Monthly	18	Barefoot (detailed) Chamblee
	11/2	Raleigh Neighborhood College	27	OFM
Oct	10/14	Monthly	9	Chamblee (detailed) Legeros
	10/20	Youth group	75	OFM
Sep	9/9	Monthly	11	Harkey Barefoot (detailed) Johnson (OFM)
Aug	8/12	Monthly	50	Legeros Chamblee (detailed)
	8/1	RFD Youth Academy	15	OFM
	8/9	Law Enforcement Adventure Camp	87	OFM
Jul	7/8	Monthly	31	Legeros Barefoot (detailed) Howard (OFM)
	7/19	Law Enforcement Adventure Camp	100	OFM
		Explorer Family Night	TBD	
Jun	6/10	Monthly	17	Chamblee (detailed) Florio +Tim Duke
	6/14	Daniel Center for Math and Science	30	OFM
May	5/13	Monthly	12	Chamblee (detailed) Walters Florio +Tim Duke
		Retiree Luncheon	TBD	
Apr	4/8	Monthly	10	Legeros Florio Howard (OFM)
	4/27	Raleigh Neighborhood College	27	OFM
	4/28	Daniel Center for Math and Science	30	OFM

Mar	3/11	Monthly	5	Legeros Barefoot (detailed) Howard (OFM)
		Others	5	
Feb	2/11	Monthly	22	Florio Howard (OFM) Johnson (OFM)
		Recruit Class	39	
		Others	5	
Jan	1/16	Monthly	16	Florio Hubbard (OFM)
		Others	1	

Staffing

- Monthly museum openings are staffed with museum staff members.
- Educators from OFM have assisted at several monthly museum openings.
- Retired Capt. Tim Duke also assisted with staffing.




Training Engines

- Two decommissioned pumpers are housed at the training center.
- One pumper is often used during monthly openings, for visitors to experience.



Notable Activity

Miniature Replica	Die-cast model of 1920s ALF pumper added, along with plastic display case. The 1:24 scale replica is very similar to Raleigh's 1926 ALF.	A miniature die-cast model of a 1920s ALF pumper truck in a plastic display case. The model is red and white, matching the larger truck shown in the previous image. It is a 1:24 scale replica.
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Picnic Tables	All-weather portable picnic tables procured, for placement beside museum during monthly openings. They are deployed in the shaded grass area beside the museum, for visitors to use. (Summer)	
Portable Signs	Additional portable signs purchased, for “museum is unexpected closed” and “please park on the street” (July)	
Metropolitan Display	Metropolitan fire display created, with a new computer slideshow and case-top display of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • physical artifacts • framed photograph of Engine 13 after arrival • framed montage of scene photos • three-ring binder about “great fires” (March)	

Future Goals

- Add “spraying water” experience to monthly museum openings, by procuring a hydrant wrench, length of hose, nozzle, and adapters, plus container for storage. Possibly stored underneath museum building.

Displays Outside of the Museum

Notable activity:

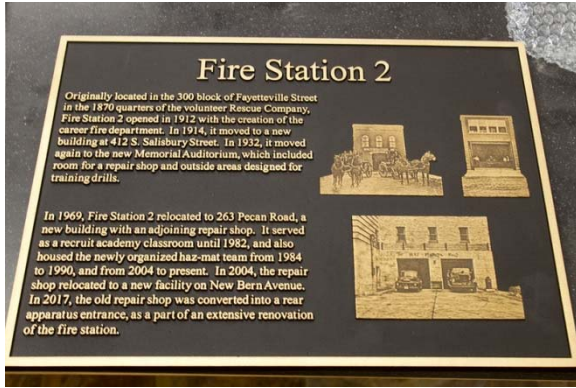
Online Displays

New and updated displays on our web site:

- Faces of the Past photo album, expanded with more pictures, <http://raleighfiremuseum.org/photos/people/> (June)
- 1984 yearbook, digitized, <http://raleighfiremuseum.org/photos/books/1984> (June)
- Great fires, PDF document displayed in museum, <http://raleighfiremuseum.org/docs/great-fires.pdf> (April)
- Metropolitan Fire, new page of photos, narrative, and more, <http://raleighfiremuseum.org/content/metropolitan> (March)

Station Plaques

Created plaque design for Station 2, which city ordered and installed, upon completion of renovation project:



Facilities

Current Facility Usage

The Raleigh Fire Museum utilizes display and storage space provided by the City of Raleigh Fire Department.

Administration

Display case located in staircase landing outside main office in Dillon Building on Martin Street.



Station 23

Artifact storage, record storage, and log book library, located in upstairs storage room at Fire Station 23.



Training Center

Museum space inside modular classroom at the Keeter Training Center.



Wish List

- Station 3 on East Street – Engine house is planned for relocation in coming years. We wish to preserve and repurpose as an “old fire station” exhibit, with public accessible areas both upstairs and downstairs. Along with possible additional space usage for office or storage purposes.
- Training Center – Facility is planned for relocation in future years. We think the training center, after being vacated, would be a great site for a public education and public experience hub, as well as an auxiliary RFD training or event space. It has space for a larger museum, as well as offices and meeting rooms. There’s land space for expanded parking. Drill pads for demonstrating apparatus, conducting special events, and more.

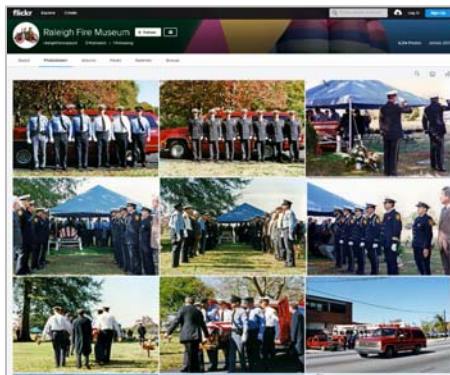
Pending action items:

- Walters and Mizell to meet with Fire Chief, to discuss best ways and means of pursuing our wish list.

Web Site

Notable Activity

- Photo albums moved to newly created Flickr site.
 - www.flickr.com/photos/raleighfiremuseum/
 - No fee at present.
 - Reduced number of files hosted by Legeros from 20,000+ to 4,000+.
 - Flickr is a responsive site, and will display appropriately on all types of devices, from phones to desktops.



- Learn about our history, new “start here” page
 - <http://www.raleighfiremuseum.org/learning/> (March)



- Domain names renewed for two more years:
 - raleighfiremuseum.org
 - raleighfirenews.org

Future Goals

- Convert site to a “responsive platform,” so it works just as well on phones and tablets.
- Move hosting from Legeros-donated server space to another service.

Marketing

Notable Activity

- New rack cards created, with new colors.
 - Supplied to city fire stations and other notable locations around town.
 - Older rack cards collected from various locations, and disposed. (March-April)



- Re-created a listing on Carolina Parenting web site. (May)
- Paid promotions on Facebook started. (April)
- Legeros featured in News & Observer interview, with museum promoted (March)
- Legeros attended City Museum social, and promoted and networked. (March)

Social Media

- Facebook
 - 1,158 users “like”
 - 1,146 users “follow”
 - Average a half-dozen postings per month, or fewer.
- Twitter
 - 182 users follow
 - Average a dozen tweets or retweets per month, or fewer.

Note: Our “logo” used on social media, as well as letterhead, is a colorized line drawing of an old steamer. Since we created same, a decade-ish ago, it’s been also adopted by the Carolinas SPAAMFAA chapter.



Pending Actions

- Restock needed of rack cards. Legeros has about 50 in stock.

Members and Memberships

Notable Activity

- Our organization is behind schedule for an annual member meeting, and bi-annual election of officers.
- Members with active membership status is 22, as of December 2017.

Pending Actions

- Annual member meeting to be scheduled for February 2018.
- Create a mailing list for members and other stakeholders and interested parties.
- To be used for meeting announcements and agendas, and other news.

Merchandise

Notable Activity

- Coins
 - Sold at museum, at training center, and on web site.
 - Minimal sales through web site.
 - Occasional sales at museum.
 - Infrequent sales at training center, including occasional quantities of ten or twelve.



- Survivor bracelets
 - Sold at museum.
 - Now sold out (May-June).
- Centennial T-shirts
 - Sold at museum
 - Sell a couple per month, or less.
 - Created in 2012 for fire department centennial.
 - Mostly in gray, and a few in blue. Limited sizes.



Officers and Staff

Notable Activity

- Tim Henshaw resigned as Vice President on March 6, 2017.
- Vinny Florio elected as replacement on April 11, 2017.

Staff Members

- David Barefoot
- Jan Chamblee
- Vinny Florio
- Tim Henshaw
- Jeff Harkey
- Mike Legeros
- Ronny Mizell
- John Rehbock
- Alan Walters

Officers

- President Mike Legeros
- Vice President Vinny Florio
- Secretary-Treasurer Ronny Mizell

Planning and Discussion

- Discussed need for new or renewed outreach to personnel and public, to increase participation and awareness of museum, and methods to make this happen, including a mailing list and future Friends of the Museum program. (December)
- Discussed need to expand our staffing pool, to have more people available to help at monthly museum openings. (August)
- Discussion with fire department finance officer, about long-term facility goals and current facility uses, for his information and future use. (July)
- Discussed need for remote/cloud-based back-up of all digital materials maintained by Legeros. (April)
- Discussions with Raleigh Fireman's Club, about joining forces toward a future facility to benefit both organizations. (Spring)

Contact Information

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