

February 2008

Last month I probably wrote about the New Year and all the good things of the past and those to come in the future. Well, since we have enacted some of the things we said we would, let's see what else is new and remind you of some of the things we said.

One of the most important things I want to share that is new, or maybe not as new, but slightly modified. This is our Vision, Mission, and Values. It is very important to our organization and ultimately those we serve that each and every one of us know our Vision, Mission, and Values. These items make our organization perform, whatever the situation is and most importantly, they make us the organization we want to be.

Our VISION is to be non-typical.

Our MISSION is to serve because we care.

Our VALUES guide us to do the right thing.

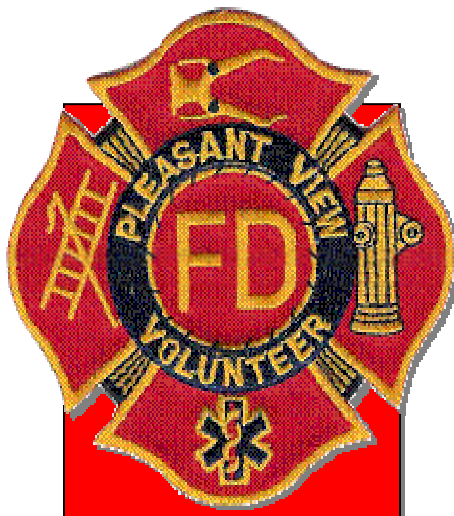
Our Motto is *Working, Serving, Learning, and Growing... TOGETHER!*

If you think of this as our vision, think of it as what we want to be in the future. Our vision of being non-typical reflects on the fact that we want to be the most progressive, best trained, most adaptive, highly effective, and always responsive fire department. Our mission is why we do what we do. We CARE! I always say there is no one organization as responsive and caring of all the people as the fire department. Why would you stop and help a stranded motorist change a tire? Why would you take food baskets to the poor and fruit plates to the elderly? Why do you get up every night and respond on a call? Why do you teach fire prevention to all the kids in the schools? Yep, because we care. Each of us make up this fine department and the actions portrayed to the public are a direct result of our values. We are outstanding members of the public because of our values, these are the things instilled in us by our parents, grandparents, family and friends, but they are reinforced by our peers and our organization and community. This is the reason the actions we take at the fire station, in the homes of our citizens as we serve them, or in our own homes has to be that reflective of our good human values. We will carry all of this out by always remembering and acting upon our motto of Working, Serving, Learning, and Growing... Together.

Take all this to heart and we will get a new fire station, new fire engine, new equipment, new people, and most of all a bright future. Good things come to those who always work hard and live right. A service that reflects on its confirmed vision, mission, and values will be rewarded in the end.

Speaking of rewards and incentives. Our incentive program will be retro-active back to January 1st and will be awarded at the end of 2008. We should have a finalized document out to the organization before long and an operations meeting will be held soon to roll-out the program. The officers have worked hard with your feedback from the last operations meeting and I believe we will have a great system that will not only last for a long time, but will also improve over time.

Stay safe and serve well. Chief *Shane Ray*



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PVVFD members,

February is already here and it seems like another year is already flying by. We have several things going on with training and personal growth. We have a few members taking state written tests in the upcoming weeks. Best of luck to you as you try to progress your certification level. BOOTER class is in full swing and these new "Candidates" will soon start attending our PVVFD monthly trainings. Please make them feel welcome and help them with their questions. We were all new at one time, so be a positive part of their fire service growth. We will have a few county wide events coming soon as we try to further strengthen our relationships with the other agencies we respond with. Like I said, we always have something just around the corner. The February PVVFD monthly trainings are as follows:

Feb. 4th- P.P.E. 1800 hrs.-

Sycamore H.S. Feb. 16th/17th- Haz-Mat Operations- 0800 hrs (both days)- Sycamore H.S.

The PVVFD Training Committee is in the process of reviewing each members training hours for 2007. We are also preparing to interview you in regard to your 2008 goals. We hope to cover both areas with you at once, so be looking for that soon. We will review your 2007 training, try to set you up some make-up sessions if needed, and get your 2008 goals documented and a plan of success mapped out.

Any of you that need hours or would just like to attend a few specific classes during BOOTER training are more than welcome to attend. Just let me know before hand so the Instructor/class will be expecting you. This will help minimize disruptions.

We had a good turn out of personnel at Firefighter Survival training this past weekend. I appreciate your attendance and participation. Putting together schedules and events is not easy, and to have just a few people show up after lots of hard work is invested is hard to deal with. Your involvement is important, and as I said before....appreciated. Most of you did very well and I was proud to see you had retained some previous information. A few of you were first timers or had some difficulties, but that's what training is for. We can get you up to speed and get you proficient.

Don't forget SCBA Fit Testing make up on February 7th. This will be held at BOOTER class beginning at 1800 hrs. We will be in a classroom on the "A/B" corner of the High School. You will have paperwork to fill out and then a facepiece fit test. It doesn't take long but is MANDATORY. We got most of our members tested on Jan. 26th, but some of you were not able to attend. This make-up date is your opportunity to get squared away. If you have any questions, please call Jim Roman or myself.

I am going to pick up the generator from Tanker 415 today and will have it back on the rig. The circular saw (K-12) off the Squad has been fixed and is back in service. Remember the rope on this is short, so don't pull so hard. We stripped out and broke the plastic sprocket that holds the rope, resulting in a \$45.00 repair bill. For those that did not know, Engine 401's ladder rack is broken. I talked with Wesley Hudson at Hudson Fire Apparatus on Friday. They still work on apparatus and are a Ziomatic dealer/repair facility. Ziomatic is the manufacturer of our hydraulic ladder rack. He is going to come to Station 1 soon and evaluate our problem. Once figured out, we'll get the repairs done.

This is also a reminder of the "Farewell" party in honor of Dave Brasells that his Channel 4 friends are throwing. Big River Grill, 2nd Ave and Broadway in Nashville, Feb. 15th from 7pm-til. They really want to have some Firefighters in attendance and I know Dave would appreciate the support as he makes his career change.

Thanks for your commitment and stay safe.

Captain Nelms