

Nominee: Chief Stuart D. Pearson

Fire Department/Agency: Harmony Fire District

State: Rhode Island

Explanation: See attached.

Name of person submitting nomination: Kimberly Barber

Fire Department / Agency: Harmony Fire District

NOMINEE FOR 2010 FIRE NEWS OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP AWARD

CHIEF STUART D. PEARSON

Introduction:

As Fire Chief for the Harmony Fire District for over a decade, Chief Stuart D. Pearson has overseen all aspects of management, operations and personnel within the fire department. Establishing and maintaining standard operating guidelines and procedures that he has created over the years has enabled him to achieve an effective, efficiently run department. The appointment and retention of qualified, capable officers has helped him to create a functional chain of command with strong leadership and oversight of individual crew members, at all times.

Experience:

Had a 26 year career as a firefighter with the Johnston Fire Department, he held the rank of Deputy Chief at the time of his retirement in 1999.

Hired as Fire Chief of the Harmony Fire District in 1999, a position he has held for 11 years now.

He has also been a Commissioner for the Town of Gloucester Public Safety Commission for over 11 years.

He has been a Director for the New England Association of Fire Chiefs since 2003. He has sat on several different committees, currently being the Strategic Plan & By-Laws committees

In 2007 he was the President of the Rhode Island Association of Fire Chiefs, an association he is still an active member of.

He is a member of the International Association of Fire Chiefs and has held the position of Chairman for their MAS90 Committee since 2008.

As a certified RI Fire Inspector and a Commissioner on the RI Fire Safety Code Board of Appeal & Review, he has taken part in the implementation of many changes to the RI Fire Code, as a direct result of the Station Night Club Fire in Warwick, RI. He testified in front of the House Oversight Commission to study the ramifications of the Fire Safety Code.

Achievements:

Increased the networking capacity with other fire departments in town, as well as other Gloucester Town Offices (ie. Planning and Building & Zoning.)

Radio alarm boxes installed at all schools & public buildings

Per/diem EMT staff added Monday thru Friday 8:00 am – 4:00 pm

Implementation of Incident Command System Town-wide

Strategic Plan document created for the Harmony Fire District

Gloucester Health and Safety Day – Annual Event Started in 2005 by Police & Fire

Staunch supporter of the RI Firemen's Relief Fund – testifying in front of the RI Senate

Part of the RIAFC Congressional Delegation to Washington, DC for several years

Attended Fire Prevention Week at the RI State House with Governor Donald Carcieri

Committee Member for the creation of Rhode Island's new Fire Academy to be built in Exeter, RI.

Appeared in Local TV Station Public Safety Spots for – 4th of July, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Carbon Monoxide & Grilling. He also did a Cable TV Public Access appearance on Elderly Independence Issues.

Developed a System of Dry Hydrants and Cisterns for a rural water supply within the Harmony Fire District.

The Harmony Fire Department Roster of Volunteers has been steady, with 4 life members and many 20-15-10 year members active on the roster still. They love what they do and become an extended family. I believe this says much for the leadership and environment in general at the station.

The Harmony Fire District has consistently come in within budget during the past 10 fiscal years, operating on a cash basis, with only a building loan open on the books.

Over the past 11 years he has obtained many grants, totaling well over \$425,000

NO TAX INCREASES IN THE HARMNOY FIRE DISTRICT IN 5 YEARS !!!