

THE SECOND ALARM

BRINGING VALUABLE RESOURCES & NEWS
ONE ALARM AT A TIME

APRIL 2016

THE SECOND ALARM



VALDOSTA FIRE
DEPARTMENT



A Department Without Limits

Editor:
Sgt. S A Miller

BIRTHDAYS:

CHIEF FREDDIE BROOME 04/01

LT BENNIE KENNEDY 04/03

FF BRANDON MATHENY 04/08

FF STEPHEN FRIEND 04/14

SGT CHUCK JONES 04/20

FF VINCENT HOUSTON 04/23

LT RICKY WEEKS 04/27

CHIEF'S TOPIC OF THE MONTH

I would like to again congratulate our newly promoted Lieutenants, Sergeants and Firefighters and offer some words of encouragement. This month's topic is "Be Encouraged."

Stephen King said, "Talent is cheaper than table salt. What separates the talented individuals from the successful one is a lot of hard work."

I wouldn't be honest if I said your journey to success is going to be easy. I wouldn't be honest if I said everyone is going to be happy for you and support your journey. However, I can be honest and ensure you that if you put your spir-

ituality first and be committed to working as hard as you did to get promoted, you will overcome any obstacles while traveling on your journey of success. Remember, "character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experience of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, ambition inspired, and success achieved." - Helen Keller.

Thank you for your continuous support and commitment to our department as we strive to be "A Department without Limits."



Freddie D. Broome, Fire Chief

From the Editor: For you newly promoted personnel looking for a scrapbook-worthy newsletter, I hope to have pictures for next month's newsletter. Or... you can send me a picture to include in next month's Attaboy section.

POINTS OF INTEREST

- Submissions to the newsletter should occur before the 20th of each month
- Feel free to submit photos with your submissions
- Have a strong opinion about a topic of concern to our fire department? Feel free to submit a piece for review and possible publication in the newsletter

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY



Sgt. Ryan and Stephanie Seymour welcomed Liam's brother, Landon Seymour, to the family on March 1st. Welcome to the world and welcome to the Valdosta Fire Department Family, Landon.



On March 19th, FF Bradley Douglas Donaldson married Ms. Savannah Dawn Bran-non. Congratulations on your wedding and welcome to the Valdosta Fire Department Family, Savannah.

ATTA BOY—DONE DID GOOD



Congratulations to Officer Findlay, Lieutenant Dwight Primrose, and Sergeant Keith Niehanke for being named March 2016 Employees of the Month. They received this honor for their actions during the 2015 holiday season previously detailed in this very column. These gentlemen helped a citizen in need above and beyond the scope of duty.

Congratulations to Darren Williams, Dwight Primrose and Keith Niehanke for being nominated for the Red Cross Community Heroes Award.

Congratulation to Chief Ronald Skrine for being nominated for the Peace Officer of the Year.

I received a text from Leadership Lowndes stating the following: “Your guys are class act!!! Great group you have... be proud, they represented the department very well...” Excellent way to represent the Valdosta Fire Department. Kudos!

Janice Hancock sends her thanks to Captain James Clinkscales and Lieutenant Jeff Thibodeau for teaching a CPR and First Aid class to her church.

Congratulations to former Recruits now Firefighters Austin Williams, Benjamin Bennett, David Heeter, and Nick Bishop. Having completed recruit training, these four recruits graduated and officially became Valdosta Department Firefighters on Thursday, March 24th.



Congratulations to Valdosta Firefighter Darren Williams for being recognized with a special municipal award at the March 24 American Red Cross Heroes Award Dinner

GUEST EDITORIAL—LT PLY

As firefighters we have plenty of encounters with danger throughout our careers. Most of us will spend 30 years or more of our lives doing what we love to do and that is to protect our citizens. We will rush to their building if it is on fire, rush to their vehicle accident, rush to their medical emergencies. We take the proper precautions to protect ourselves from any dangers that present themselves at the time. The part that we forget because we cannot see it is the danger that is present during and after the fire that is called the carcinogen. The **carcinogen is a substance capable of causing cancer in living tissue.**

The carcinogen is the silent killer of firefighters during their careers, and after retirement. It is up to us to prevent as much exposure as we can from this killer. We know when we arrive at a fire what dangers it presents via fire, smoke,

heat, toxic gases that are present from the combustion process and many other dangers. But what we do not know is what deadly compound of chemicals and gases have mixed on our turnout gear from entering that burning building. It is up to us not the Chief, Captain, Lieutenant, Sergeant, or Firefighter to take care of us. You can do that by not only utilizing your PPE to the max, but **cleaning** it properly after each fire that you take it in to.

Throughout the past couple of years we have taken better preventative measures to prevent our exposure to these nasty byproducts of the fires we respond to. We no longer allow turnout gear in the sleeping, or living area. We are also ventilating more effectively, monitoring the air for clarity, and utilizing our EMS in rehab to monitor our oxygen saturations. These are steps that the

department as a whole has taken to protect us. Each and every one of us owe it to our family to protect ourselves from this nasty disease called **cancer**.

There is also current legislation that is being brought before our state government. It is HB 216 (Firefighters Workers Compensation Bill). Please go online and check out this link <http://www.legis.ga.gov/Legislation/en-US/display/20152016/HB/216> to get more information.

Editor’s Note: HB 216 passed both houses on 24Mar2016 with the original language intact. It is now awaiting the Governor’s signature.

I implore you to read about and research this bill and if you are so moved, contact the Governor’s office and voice your support.

EMPOWERING BUGLES—NOTES ON LEADERSHIP

What Millennials Need In A Leader

by Margy Kerr-Jarrett

I will be honest – it took me a while to catch on to the fact that the title millennial was referring to me and my peers.

Until I really took the time to step back and consider how differently (and why) my generation worked and related to leadership, I saw my steps into the professional world as just more cogs turning in the business machine.

But after a few years of working in a variety of environments, I am beginning to understand how different we twenty/early thirty somethings really are.

There is much talk about how to encourage leadership in millennials, what millennials need to succeed, how millennials will lead, etc. However, until my generation of twenty/thirty somethings is able to learn from our predecessors, we won't be able to advance and begin to fill their shoes! Young professionals such as myself need good leaders to look up to learn from, and our leaders need to be in tune with how our millennial minds work.

Leaders, This Is What We Need

Tear Down The Walls – My generation is all about breaking down barriers (hence hacking, startups, file sharing, open-sourcing, etc.). In order for our leaders to reach us and help bring out the best in us, we need to feel a strong sense of camaraderie: the we're in this together kind. We do not inherently respect authority, and need a personal relationship to really look up to someone. We need to feel empowered to approach problems from a wide variety (and often untraditional) perspectives. We need to feel a sense of openness (think communal office spaces and coffee-break brainstorming).

“...our leaders need to be in tune with how millennial minds work.”

Put Those Walls Up – I know this seems to contradict my previous point, but it doesn't! We recognize that too much freedom leads to chaos, and we do need structure to our lives. We need to feel free to express ourselves and experiment within the boundaries of clear goals and objectives. It is easy for us to get distracted (we grew up in the information age after all), so by giving us clear and definitive targets, you will help us to know when we are on the right track (consider a sonnet – a form that

requires a tremendous amount of structure but can ignite unprecedented creativity!). Give us that structure, that framework, but be flexible and remember that rules are only effective when they push us to grow.

Treat Us Like Future Leaders – That means we need you to relate to us as not only employees, but future leaders. You need to communicate with us that you see how

“...remember that rules are only effective when they push us to grow.”

much potential we have to grow. You need to invest in helping us outgrow our current positions and communicating with us how that can be accomplished. Please check in with us regularly – we are not always the best at expressing ourselves (we have been tainted by email, texting, and could stand to learn a thing or two from you about face-to-face communication) – and help us develop a trajectory for our professional lives.

Help Us Stick To Our Guns – With so many options in the world available to us at every moment of the day, we need your leadership. Though we tend to have great ideas and tons of passion, we often get stuck when a concrete decision needs to be made. This is where you come in – help us learn to be decisive, and to defend our decisions when necessary (as a new mom, I find myself constantly googling baby advice and second guessing myself – don't let us do this with our careers!).

Believe In Us – Despite how much confidence we exude, how much creativity we possess, and how nonchalant we may seem, we are perhaps the most self-critical, unconfident generation yet. I am not a psychologist and do not understand all of the nuances of this reality, but I can see how much my peers (and sometimes myself!) need older generations of leaders to help us access and activate our potential. We should not be coddled, or considered too delicate for criticism, but we do need your confidence to help build our own. This confidence and clarity of purpose is something we admire most about you, our leaders.

No matter what business you are in, there's no avoiding us millennials! We are here to stay, but we need YOU to help prepare us to one day (not too soon!) fill your shoes and usher in the next generation of future leaders.

Reprinted from: <http://leadchangegroup.com/what-millennials-need-in-a-leader/>