Deputy Chief John T. Mooney is assigned to Division 1. John joined the FDNY on September 2, 1978. He was sworn in as a probie on the steps of City Hall. The Fire Department was still attempting to rebuild its ranks after the devastating affects of the layoffs in 1975. Probie School was only five weeks long in an effort to get more firefighters into the field as soon as possible. Upon graduation, Jack was assigned to Engine Company 221 in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. Fire Commissioner Beekman believed all firefighters should start out in an engine company, so all probies went to engine companies for the next two years. As his first year progressed, the company received a probie or two every five weeks. By the time he had one year under his belt there were ten probies behind him in Engine Company 221. Across the floor, Ladder Company 104 had a new Captain, Steve McMahon. He seized this youthful staffing situation as an opportunity to start molding a large group of eager probies into competent firefighters. Study groups were formed and reading assignments were given out. On each tour this group would be drilled on the previous assignment in addition to normal drill periods. What an excellent indoctrination.

One year later on September 2, 1979, Jack transferred to Ladder Company 102.
President’s Message
George K. Healy

The Fire Chiefs Association wishes to congratulate Assistant Chief Robert Sweeney on becoming the Department’s Chief of Operations. Chief Sweeney is an active member of our Association and the Department will be well served with Chief Sweeney in his new position. We also wish to thank Chief Sweeney for accepting our invitation to be our guest speaker for our October membership meeting to be held on Thursday, October 1st at the Bayside Historical Society Building in Fort Totten.

September 11th marked the 8th Anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and Pennsylvania. Having attended several Remembrances for the 11th, I was proud to see the level of participation by the members of our Department. Traveling on that day through Long Island, the City and upstate New York, it was evident, to a large extent, society has moved on. However, upon reaching any of the numerous services our members held, the turnout was as strong as ever. We should all be proud to say we are members of the FDNY and we will never forget that day.

One service in particular that I wish to mention is the Memorial Walk in remembrance of Father Michael Judge and the victims of September 11th. Detective Steven McDonald holds this annual service the Sunday prior to the 11th to remember his friend, Department Chaplain Father Judge. For me, it was a nice way to prepare for a most solemn week.

On a lighter note, this week the Fire Chiefs Association enjoyed another great fall outing in Montauk. Our annual trip to the East End saw the largest crowd ever, hosting two hundred and forty members including spouses. With a little help from Mother Nature and some great food and drink, a good time was had by all. The Board wishes to thank all the participants for their help and understanding as we tried to accommodate a tremendous turnout. This outing is a must do event for many of our members and promises to be even larger and better next year.

The Secretary’s Desk
John Johnson

April Meeting
Chief Cassano spoke at the April meeting. It is always a privilege and pleasure to have the Chief of Department take the time to grace our meeting with his attendance. He spoke of the issues and concerns that currently confront us and answered all questions put to him. Thanks again.

May Meeting
Once again the Con Ed meeting was a great success. Matty Palmer put together an informative and engaging presentation on joint FD and Con Ed drills. One of our big boats put on a waterworks display, Tommy Behan (Lt., L-105) entertained on the bagpipes and the food and drink was excellent.

June Meeting
Once again the Retirement Dinner was a great time for all who attended. Big Battalion 16 and Harlem turnout for George Carlin. Nice turnout by Battalion 38 for Kevin Byrnes who sadly never joined our club. Kevin felt that any club that would have him as a member he didn’t want to belong to. Mark Twain said that our biggest regrets involve the things that we didn’t do. Hopefully all our retirees have hoisted the sails, pulled tight the sheets and are boldly striking out toward the open sea.

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located on the border between Fort Greene and Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn, and spent the next seven years working with a truly great group of firefighters and officers. Firefighters such as Mike Banker, Tom Reichel, Jay Tavalaro, Ed Geraghty and Billy McGovern were just a few of the many who were unting in their desire to work. Taking time was unheard of. The truck’s bosses were Captain Harry Rogers, Lieutenants Dennis Cross, Gerry Barbara, Frank Deletto, Ed O’Connor, Jack Dougherty and Tom DeAngelis. These officers provided excellent examples of effective leadership skills and he attributes much of his supervisory style to their influence. Also during these years Jack was strongly influenced by very senior battalion commanders – Ed Kienzel, Battalion 34; Larry Lee, Battalion 35; and Jim Duffy, Battalion 57. These chiefs were truly inspirational in command presence, experience levels and their passion for firefighter safety.

On July 29, 1986, Jack was promoted to lieutenant and assigned to Division 5 which comprises Harlem, Washington Heights and Inwood. Long stretches always comes to mind when he thinks back to those years. Fourteen or more lengths were common occurrences when dealing with those large “H” types. Many times he’d call for water and the engine would aggressively and quickly extinguish the top floor fire. Afterwards he always marveled at how efficiently they had stretched a 700-foot temporary pipeline without incident. After bouncing for a year Jack was assigned to Engine Company 84 in the Heights and began learning from the best. Captain “JJ” Johnson led Engine Company 84 in true “player/coach” style. Jack quickly realized how effective and efficient this style of leadership can be. He also saw this leadership skill displayed on a constant basis working for Battalion Chiefs Tom Cherry, Battalion 13; Frank Griffin, Battalion 16 and Deputy Chief Neil McBride, Division 5.

On August 21, 1991 Jack was promoted to captain and assigned to Division 14. During the next two years he covered in Engine Companies 287, 289, 295, and 307. In 1993, Jack transferred to Division 15 and was placed UFO into Ladder Company 103. He remained there for the next seven years. Working on Sheffield Avenue was extremely rewarding as a company commander. The workload was high and the firefighters were motivated.

On July 1, 2000 Jack was promoted to battalion chief and assigned to Division 3. The 3rd offers great work diversity since its five battalions span from Harlem to Midtown. Assigned to Battalion 8 after 9/11/01, he was given the opportunity to work on many special training projects. Midtown is a fascinating and challenging area to work. The buildings are complex, the traffic is horrendous, the occupant load is heavy and no two tours are alike.

In April 2007 Jack was promoted to deputy chief and assigned to Division 1. After covering for four months he was asked to take a detail off line to work for Assistant Chief Galvin in the Bureau of Training. This has been a tremendously rewarding experience. Assigned to Fort Totten, he deals with the daily functions of the Fort, but the true rewards come from the special projects he has been involved with such as: Wind Driven Fires research on Governor’s Island; emergency roll call procedure development; Building Inspection Safety Program training and revisions; and the High-Rise Symposium.

Jack says “The FDNY is a great and rewarding place to work, with the true rewards coming from the people you work with day in and day out. On that note, I must say it has always been rewarding for me.”

Chief Mooney lives in Williston Park with his wife of 34 years, Jill, and they have four children.
NEVER FORGET

I t’s been eight years – BARBARA – since the murderous 9/11 attack on the United States. – BURNS – The WTC laid waste – CROSS – and thousands dead. – DE ANGELIS – Three hundred forty-three firefighters, including twenty-three brother chiefs – all members of our Association. – DEVLIN – In the interim nothing has been as we expected it to be. – DOWNEY – Thieves have stolen jewelry off the dead. Pieces of the WTC have been sold on the internet. – FANNING - Businessmen have received hundreds of thousands of dollars – GANCI – for damage that didn’t happen. – GERAGHTY – People got benefits for non-existent casualties. Profiteers proliferated. All, however, was not gloom. – GRZELAK – Through all this the ultimate goodness of people came through. – KASPER – But now people have forgotten; in most of the world it is not an issue. – MCGOVERN – Whenever firefighters gather a memorial will soon follow. – MORAN – Even on I-95 to Florida I noticed a small park at a welcome center – PALMER – in North Carolina. A tranquil 9/11 memorial area to sit and rest awhile. Recently, on the South Shore of Long Island – PAOLILLO – a memorial was built in the dunes, near the beach. The most important memorial of all – PRUNTY – at ground zero has finally had a spade of dirt turned over. – RYAN – We can only hope the planners – SCHEFFOLD – know who the memorial is for. The FDNY, as usual, was the first responder. _STACK – Over 25,000 people were taken out of the buildings. – WILLIAMSON – It was the greatest rescue in FDNY history. – FEEHAN – I know if you are reading this you remember. – CHAPLAIN JUDGE – It is seared in my soul forever. Never forget.

“Live While You’re Alive!”

Fire Department Promotion Lists Status as of 3/11/09

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New Members 3/1/09 to 9/1/09

The Fire Chiefs Association welcomes the following new members:

- Steven Fitzgerald
- Patrick Ginty
- Steven A. O’Brien

Retired Members 3/1/09 to 9/16/09

The Fire Chiefs Association wishes the following members a happy and healthy retirement:

- Joseph G. Anzalone
- John F. Belnavis
- George Carlin
- John E. Doherty
- Michael Dilena, Jr.
- James J. Gormley
- Kenneth R. Grabowski

In Memoriam 1/28/09 to 7/20/09

The Fire Chiefs Association extends its deepest sympathy to the families of the following members who have recently died:

- Milton Brodey
- Edward J. Brown
- Bruce Cummings
- John J. Donovan
- Daniel C. DiMonda
- Peter J. Eisemann
- Romolo Gentili
- Charles Golden
- John T. Kleehaas
- Kevin McCabe
- John S. McDonald
- Michael S. Sapienza
- Patrick M. McNally
- John A. Seibert
- Gerard Tracy

Travel News

July trip out west was a spectacular success. Next we will be traveling to Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island for eight days on or about June 23, 2010. Also, last week of September 2010 an Irish Folklore and Music / London with optional transAtlantic QM2 home. Particulars to follow. Stay tuned.

P.S. Group leaving for South America on November 2, 2009.