

FIRE FOCUS

By Les Kent PWvFD

Meet the New Captains

Fire Medic Company - Captain Phillip Poullada

To say that Captain Poullada's early years border on the exotic is no exaggeration. Son of a US Foreign Service officer, he was born in Kabul, Afghanistan in 1956. Thereafter, he and his family accompanied his father on assignments in Asia, West Africa and various US locations, including a one year tour of Europe in a Volkswagen bus by the family after Phil's father's retirement.

After his high school graduation in St. Paul, MINN, Phil was accepted at the exclusive Webb Institute in Glen Cove, and graduated in 1978 with a BS degree in naval architecture and marine engineering, followed by graduate studies in transportation engineering at Bucknell in 1979.

At this point, Phil moved to Port Washington and worked for the Society of Naval Architects and then a transportation consulting firm in NYC, after which he founded his own current transportation and business consulting firm of TC Information Resources here in Port.

Phil joined the Fire Medic Company in November of 1981, and as his outstanding organizational abilities became apparent quickly he was named company president a short 25 months later. After EMT and advanced EMT qualification, Phil graduated from St. Vincent's Hospital Paramedic School in 1990, and now in addition to his business he also serves as an EMS/911 paramedic in NYC for the Maimonides Medical Center in Brooklyn. As he states, he's "joined the ranks of a dozen or more paramedics in NYC who started their medical careers with the PWvFD."

By now Phil, who had no medical training prior to the Fire Medics, has answered literally thousands of emergency medical calls, including being awarded the Nassau County Fire Commission bronze medal of valor for his immediate attempt to revive Lt. Bobby Dayton, joining fellow firefighters still in dangerously close proximity to the raging fire and heavy smoke situation at that incident.

Also memorable to Phil is "the Sands Point Nursing Home fire of 1992, when the FM Co. and the rest of the PWvFD exhibited maximum effectiveness...an amazing and flawless logistics operation."

Additionally, Phil is fully cross-trained as a firefighter, with national firefighter class I certification after extensive training at the Fire Service Academy at Bethpage.

Flower Hill Hose Company - Captain Walter Martinek

Though born in Port Washington, Captain Martinek's family left Port when he was three years old, returning to Port when young Walter was 12. After attending local schools he graduated from Schreiber HS in 1968.

Always interested and talented in mechanical and technical subjects, he graduated from the automotive curriculum of the Trade and Technical Center, and went on to night courses at Farmingdale College to broaden his education.

Having started working on automobiles at his Uncle Walter Symanski's Auto Service Center as an early teenager, young Walter joined him in the business of "Walt and Walter's Auto Service", which Captain Martinek now owns and operates since his uncle's retirement.

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Recently married to the former Denise Guarino of Port, they are the proud parents of 2 1/2 year-old son Gregory and 6-month-old daughter Natalie. They are also equally proud of Margaret Ann, Walter's daughter by a previous marriage, who is earning her master's degree in teaching at Dowling College.

Walter has had six years service with the Air National Guard, where he held the rank of staff sergeant in a heavy truck transportation unit.

He joined the Flower Hill Hose Company of the PWvFD in December of 1968, and has worked his way up through the ranks from third assistant engineer through both lieutenant ranks to his election as captain in January of this year.

Especially important and laudable are his dedicated untiring efforts as the senior

training officer for the whole fire department. As the liaison with the Nassau County Fire Service Academy at Bethpage, he develops and coordinates all aspects of training of all personnel in all four companies regarding firefighting and specialized rescue procedures. These include not only the mandatory basics of firefighting for new "rookie" members, but many voluntary advanced specialized life-saving and other techniques like ice rescue, rope rescue, arson recognition, train the trainer, etc. Currently, he's in the process of organizing a "confirmed rescue team" for our department, for rescues in a small space for trapped victims.

His most memorable fire? The first call he ever answered...a house fire in town, and he remembers his reactions vividly whenever he passes the house even to this day.



PWvFd Receives Defibrillator Training

In addition to the Advanced Life Support and Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) staffed ambulance service now available in our town, many members of the PWvFD recently received training and certification in the use of semiautomatic defibrillators (SAEDs). "Our goal is preventing unnecessary deaths in our community from sudden cardiac arrest," said former Fire Medic Captain Donald Meyer. From left: Dr. Alan Katz, PWvFD Medical Director, Jeffrey Finance with mannequin, and Phil Poullada, newly-elected Fire Medic Company captain.