



From the Desk of the Executive Director

Mission Accomplished!

In July of 2002, when I accepted this engagement, I found it came with several assignments, one of which was to relocate the operation to new quarters. The existing facility there in Decatur was too small, run-down and technologically terribly obsolete. It was built in 1970 and still had the original paneling, the original carpeting, and I do not believe it had ever been repainted inside. I once described it as a "rat-hole." In the conference room, the state flag was pinned to the wall. There were several paintings of antique fire apparatus; this was the only evidence of this being a fire service related facility. As we received visitors in the business and investment community from around the country, the office was, to say the least, an embarrassment to the Board, the staff and the Fire Service of Georgia.

As we prepared to develop a new facility, the Board and I agreed: the new quarters, whether we built it or bought it,

would represent the fire service well. In designing this facility, we strove for a façade that looks like a modern fire station with a bay to display a small fire truck. (We have had Chief Hadden's 1915 Ford La France in here from the start.) Inside, we have some pictures of fire events, a couple of 911 remembrances, a few items of fire paraphernalia to display (we need more) and even some toy fire trucks. The logo of the pension fund is embedded in the floor.

This month, as this issue of the newsletter is dedicated, we installed three bronze sculptures of firefighters to greet visitors as they enter the parking lot and approach the building. These sculptures are the capstone to the effort to provide this facility.

My mission, our mission, was to provide a facility that would serve the members of the pension fund well, and in so doing, would honor those who serve, will serve and have served our communities in the Fire Service of Georgia.

Chairman Buice, Captain Smith, Fire Marshal Shuman, Mr. Conger, Chief Gardner:

Mission Accomplished!



Jim Meynard

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**“Dedicated to the Firefighters
of Georgia,
Past, Present and Future.”**



“It’s not about the Board; it’s not about the Staff. It’s just not about us. It’s about our firefighters, who risk their lives to protect Georgians and Georgia property.”
Chief Michael Buice, (Ret.), Chairman of the Board of Trustees



Commissioner Oxendine noted that this fund is a model for other agencies.
“It started in 1955 collecting \$5 a month in dues and paying \$50 a month in benefits. Today it collects \$15 a month in dues and pays \$882 a month in benefits. Dues have gone up threefold while benefits have gone up seventeen fold. We have over 15,000 members in the fund today. The Governor and other agency heads should take notice.”
John W. Oxendine, Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner



“This is one of my most important pieces of work. Your guys, especially Jim, really pushed me on detail and accuracy. It is clearly my best work. I am really proud of this production.”

Brian Hanlon, Sculptor

Hanlon Sculpture Studio, Toms River, New Jersey



“The artist really captured the essence of purpose and dedication in the expression on the faces of the figures. It’s incredible to just look at them. I really found it moving and appropriate for this location.”

John W. Oxendine

Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner



Chief Tommy Morgan and Eddie White, Retirees from the Rockdale County Fire Department, came to admire the new additions to our building.



“I am really proud to be a part of this celebration. I have always been a friend of the Fire Service and always will be.”

John W. Oxendine
Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner



It was a sunny and proud day for the Staff and the Board of Trustees, with Commissioner Oxendine.





Installation process with the sculptor.



GFPF NEWS

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