

Club Valiants Newsletter



"Good Conduct and Courage Lead to Honor"



Volume 6/2003

December 2003

A Message from the President

Greetings,

This is the time of year when we probably give the most. It's called the season of giving. As your president I am asking you the members to give consideration to making a contribution to your favorite charity through the **United Way Campaign**.

As you know there are many worthy causes that receive funding through the United Way. Many of the people who benefit directly from the programs are the people known as *"The Have Nots"*. This group includes many African-Americans who are elderly, the youth and others with specific problems. We can't turn our backs on those who need us.

The United Negro College Fund, Concerned Black Men, The Second Alarmers and so many other organizations help benefit us as fire fighters, paramedics and African-Americans. If you think about it we all may have someone in our families who benefits from the United Way Programs.

In the spirit of Christmas giving I urge you; I implore you to give a little to the United Way Campaign. The payroll deduction cards are in the stations. The dollars that you give will hardly be missed by you. Please be kind and generous to those who are less fortunate than us. I know that in your hearts you want to give to this worthy cause. I thank you for doing so.

I wish all members of the organization a Merry Christmas, Happy Kwanza, Feliz Navidad and a Happy (*Prosperous*) New Year. I also wish good health and a prosperous New Year to all of your family members.

Love and Peace,
Claude Smith
President

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Club Valiants, Inc.

General Meeting (Monthly)
January (2004)

Valiants Hall

07:30 PM

Monday, January 05, 2004...D/C/F
Thursday, January 08, 2004...A/B/F

Club Valiants, Inc.

Executive Officers

President

Claude Smith

1st Vice-President

Eric Fleming

2nd Vice-President

Vacant

Secretary (Correspondence)

David Reaves

Secretary (Financial)

Walt Jackson

Treasurer

William Smalls

Business Manager

Allen Holman

Building Manager

John Pelzer

Chaplain

Diane Mercer

Sergeant-At-Arms

Lloyd Edwards

Board of Directors

Daniel Williams

Bernard Newsome

Dorsey Jackson

Robert Wilkins

Edmond Wells (Retired)

Anthony Hudgins

Willie Williams

Northeast



Regional Meeting

Club Valiants, Inc. will be hosting the Northeast Regional Spring Meeting.

The tentative dates are Friday, April 30, 2004 – Sunday, May 02, 2004

Further information will be forthcoming.

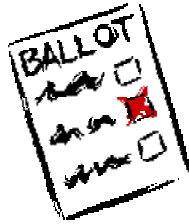


Valiants Officer Development Program

It is not too late to get into the Valiants Officer Development Program (VODP). So far there has been a very good response to the program.

Don't be left out when the new lists for Lieutenant and Captain are posted. We believe that if you participate in the program you will see your name at the top of the list and within promotional range.

To participate in this program contact Valiants Hall and speak to Joyce Davis. She will gladly give you the information you will need to register. The phone numbers are 215.276.8222 or 215.424.9974. Don't delay because the tests are sooner than you think!!!



Club Valiants, Inc.

Election Results

2004 – 2006

Executive Board

President

Claude Smith

1st Vice-President

Eric Fleming

2nd Vice-President

David Reaves

Secretary (Correspondence)

VACANT

Executive Board (cont'd)

Treasurer

William Smalls

Business Manager

Al Holman

Chaplain

Diane Mercer

Sergeant-At-Arms

Lloyd Edwards

Board of Directors

Ernest Hargett
 Derrick Sawyer
 Robert Wilkins
 Daniel Williams

All candidates are entitled to have votes recounted.

*Votes are being held by
Larry Edwards
Judge of the Election*

*James Marshal
Teller*

*Ted Norman
Teller*

*The swearing in ceremony will be
on the 1st Monday, January 05,
2004*

Sick, Death and Promotion Benefits

Sick Benefits

All members in good standing with a long-term illness or injury two (2) weeks or longer will be eligible for a fruit basket and a card.

The Treasurer of the Club will conclusively determine all questions of good standing insofar as payment of Club membership dues and Sick Benefit dues and fines are concerned.

Death Benefits

Upon the death of a member in good standing, the Club shall forward an appropriate acknowledgement of condolence.

The Club once notified, and provided with a death certificate (by the next of kin) of the deceased member, shall be given the appropriate forms issued by the insurance carrier. These forms must be completed for the claim to be processed.

Upon the death of a member of the Club, the death benefit of \$4,000.00, provided by the insurance carrier of all members active and retired will be paid. This sum shall be payable to the beneficiary as designated by the member. In the absence of such designation, the "death benefit" shall be paid to the estate of such member.

Members over the age of sixty-five (65) will be paid a "death benefit" of \$500.00, to their beneficiary or estate.

Upon the death of a members immediate family (mother, father, son, daughter, or in-laws) a card and flowers will be sent to the member.

If notification received after a funeral service has been held, a fruit basket will be sent with a card to the member.

Promotions

Any member in good standing that is promoted will receive \$100.00.

Northeast Regional Meeting



The Hilton Fort Lee at the
George Washington Bridge
2117 Route 4 Eastbound
Fort Lee, New Jersey 07024
(201) 461-9000

Friday, January 23 – Sunday, January 25, 2004

Hosted by

Jabari Society of Englewood, New Jersey

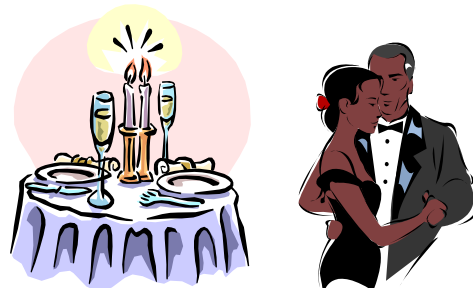
(Ask for the Northeast Region, IABPFF Rate)

Registration Cost: \$65.00
(Includes Saturday lunch and breakfast)

Hotel Cost: \$86.00 (single/double, plus tax)

HOST CHAPTER DINNER DANCE

Saturday, January 24, 2004



Tickets \$55.00

(Includes Dinner and Open Bar)

**PLEASE TAKE TIME TO MAKE
YOUR HOTEL RESERVATION**

Obituary

Dalmund Edmunds Deputy Chief (Retired)

Dear Valiants Members,

We recently buried a historical figure who was a member of our organization, Deputy Chief Dalmund Edmunds (Retired). Chief Edmunds was the first African-American to achieve the rank of Deputy Chief in the Philadelphia Fire Department (PFD). He accomplished this feat in 1968.

Dal was one of the founding members of Club Valiants, Inc. He was assigned to Engine 11 upon his appointment to the PFD. As you know Engine 11 was one of two places that African-Americans could work before integration came to the PFD. Dal was one of those who was part of the nucleus of the Valiants and for many years after his retirement attended Valiants meetings and events like Founders Day until his health began to fail.

Dal served the PFD for more than 40 years. As the word got around of his passing the comments that I received from Black and White alike were all the same. Dal was a gentleman, knowledgeable of his profession and calm on any fireground. Dal commanded a lot of respect from anyone who knew him or was associated with him.

I learned from his family that Dal always wanted to be a fire fighter from the time he was a child. He fulfilled his wishes and rose through the ranks. He was a dedicated member of the PFD and Valiants organization. He continued to have an interest in the Valiants and PFD until the end.

Dal was a man who encouraged and inspired others to be promoted as well. He helped anyone who wanted to be promoted and many of those Valiants members were successful. When I first came on the PFD in 1977 there were only two Deputy Chiefs. They were Edmunds and Donald Patton. Today we have three active Deputy Chiefs, Bernie Newsome, Al Nelson and Rob Wilkins. Dal also paved the way for Bob Dobson and Harold Hairston to achieve that rank as well. There have only been eight African-Americans who have achieved that rank in the history of the PFD. There will be more to follow. Dal Edmunds was the first.

In closing, I must say that Dal will be missed. He will always remain with me and so many other Valiant members in our hearts and spirit. Because of Dal Edmunds and so many other Valiants members, both alive and deceased many of us would not know the success we currently enjoy and appreciate. Yes, Dal Edmunds was a pioneer. Dal was one who paved the road to make it a little easier for us to travel. Dal was a bridge on which we crossed.

I wish that many of you newer members had known or met Dal Edmunds. He was the type of person you could draw strength from. There are still many of the old timers around that you can draw strength from. When you see them, talk to them. Listen to their stories. Their stories are the history of the African-American fire fighter in the City of Philadelphia, Fire Department. We all can learn from their experiences.

Claude Smith
President



Announcements

Condolences

Condolences to Brian Everage, Engine 09/B, upon the passing of his mother.

Eugene Guy (Retired)

Funeral services were held for Eugene Guy on Wednesday, August 27, 2003, 11:00 AM, at the Mitchum-Wilson Funeral Home Inc., 1412 South 20th Street (20th and Reed Streets), Philadelphia, PA 19146. He joined the Philadelphia Fire Department on October 14, 1963 and retired February 24, 1988.

Condolences to Kenneth Greene, Ladder 14/B, upon the passing of his aunt Edmonia Lewis.

Condolences to Karim Abdul Raqib upon the passing of his sister Christine Smith.

Condolences to Jelani Asukile, Engine34/B, upon the passing of his brother Vernon Williams.

Condolences to George Jefferson, Engine 13, upon the passing of his mother.

Condolences to the family of Deputy Chief Dalmund Edmunds (Retired).



Club Valiants, Inc.



ADDRESS

www.clubvaliants.org

You may view the newsletter in your e-Mail account if the e-Mail address is provided to the office.

Name _____

e-mail: _____ @ _____

215.276.8222



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Club Valiants, Inc.**

Edited by: J. Davis

Comments and articles welcome.

This newsletter does not necessarily reflect the official views of Club Valiants, Inc., and does not imply endorsement thereof.

Announcements

Get Well Wishes

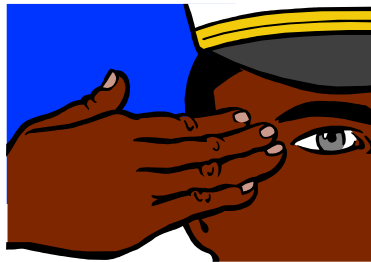


Get well wishes to FF Steve Kerrin (Retired).

Promotions

November 24, 2003

* Denotes not a member



To Lieutenant

FF Vincent Waters
FF Charles Johnson
FF Alice McDonald
FF Frederick Baker *
FF Sean Mack
FF Donald Long
FF Diane Mercer
FF Mike Grant
FF Craig Murphy
FF Wayne Forte
FF Jeff Thompson
FF Rodney Wright
FF Ed Powell*
FF Leroy Ruffin
FF Bruce Lawrence

To Captain

Lt. Robert Blanks
Lt. Charles Walker

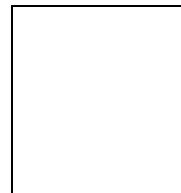
To Battalion Chief

Captain Asa Grimes
Captain Willie M. Williams
Captain Daniel Williams

To Deputy Chief

Battalion Chief Robert Wilkins

Club Valiants, Inc.
7543 Williams Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19150-2211



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



**Feliz
Navidad**

IN THE EVENT OF A DEATH IN A MEMBERS FAMILY CONTACT ANY EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER



Moved Lately? Changed Your Telephone Number?

Any change in your status (retired/active) or your location/telephone number, let us know.

Tear off this portion and send to...

Club Valiants, Inc., Attn: J. Davis, 7543 Williams Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19150-2211

Name _____ Telephone _____

Street Address _____ Apartment _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code + 4 _____

Company/Unit # _____ Rank # _____

e-Mail Address _____

Valiants Hotline – Valiants Hotline – Valiants Hotline

215-276-8222/215-548-0333 (F)

Don't forget the Valiants Hotline is in service. If you wish to leave a message for a Board Member, Executive Officer, or member, call anytime day or night!