



# News Brief **September 30, 2013**

## **September 9, 2013 Meeting Report**

Our September 9, 2013 quarterly meeting was hosted by Kennebunk Fire and Rescue at their West Kennebunk Station.

We were grateful for the opportunity to meet at and tour this great station. Thanks Chief Nichols !

Our featured presenter was Joe Thomas, a Portland firefighter who retired as Chief of Department and then took a job with the Fire Marshall's Office and ended up as Fire Marshal.

His presentation was casual as he recalled his days on the department; riding the tail board and the right front seat. He recalled those firehouse pranks (like nailing the drivers shoes to the floor and waiting for an alarm), the introduction of probies and how if you weren't picked on, you weren't being accepted.



A casual presenter



"And sometimes you wonder"

He explained that when he became Chief, he wanted to make a difference in the safety of his men and of the public. He found that it wasn't so easy to get thru the politics and also to get the public to care about their own safety. "It won't happen to me" is a problem.

He went to the Fire Marshall's Office to continue to make a difference. It was an enforcement job, not a legislative job so the ability to make a difference was, in many cases, a job of influencing others. For example, modern engineered construction and it's problems.

Bottom line: Firefighters need to protect themselves from these hazards, then they can protect others.

We all came away knowing that Joe Thomas, is in fact making a difference.

We thank Joe for a great Time !!

Summary of Business Meeting actions:

The By-Law change passed to allow:

1. Quarterly meetings to be held on nights other than the 4 second Mondays
2. Special meetings to be held as required by the President or Board

The Officers nominated for Decembers elections are the entire present slate.

See the website for the listing.

General inputs from the floor:

SM553 volunteered to do a prototype Facebook page for the December meeting

It was suggested we make our selves better known thru area Fire Chiefs

Web Site needs new content – **Forward any fire, apparatus, or station pictures !**

The December Meeting will be Monday December 9, 2013 At Biddeford Central Station at 19:00.

We adjourned at about 21:30 after a great meeting

**Remember: "If you know of an active incident, we should ALL know"**