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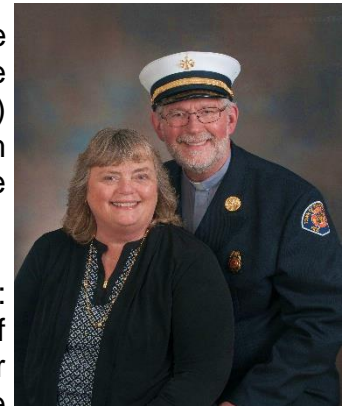
**20/20 Vision for Chaplains – Seeing & Serving**  
**NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHAPLAINS, INC.**

Annual Fire Chaplain's Training Conference: April 26 – April 29, 2020

Dear Fire and EMS Chaplain,

Margie and I, along with the Board of Directors of the NYSAFC, Inc. are excited to invite you to this year's Annual Training Conference. It will be held at the Ramada Inn (21000 NYS Rte. 3, Watertown, NY 13601 – (315) 788-0700). The Ramada Inn is just off Interstate 81 at exit 45 (coming from the south, turn left and stay in the left lane – it is the first driveway on the left).

Chaplains are called upon for a variety of important tasks: Invocations/Benedictions at banquets, dedicatory prayer/blessing of apparatus, planning a Memorial Service for a firefighter, and many other important responsibilities. However, one of the most challenging tasks we are called upon to handle are tragic events with people emotionally and spiritually hurting. What do you do and say when you arrive on the scene of a fatality, with surviving loved ones crying hysterically?



I'm pleased that **Dr. Ryan N. Fraser**, Ph.D., LCPT will be our presenter/trainer. Dr. Fraser is a tenured Associate Professor of Clinical Mental Health Counseling at Freed-Hardeman University in Henderson, Tennessee. He has been teaching in the graduate counseling and undergraduate psychology programs since 2006. He teaches a wide spectrum of courses, which focus on challenging topics including crisis intervention and counseling, grief care and counseling, depression and anxiety management, and many more.

After we spend six hours of training with Dr. Fraser, we will then participate in a training where we will use the tools we have learned in a role-playing situation. On Wednesday morning, we will hold a debriefing and a time for questions with our trainer. I'm hoping it will be a very helpful practical training that we will never have to use (but we will be prepared when the crisis arises).

It has been a challenge to secure funding so that we can keep the costs affordable. Over the last several years, a few conferences have brought in some revenue to the association and at other times, they have been a financial strain. The cost of this conference for Fire Chaplains is less than many of the other associations around the state, but it is not as low as I would have preferred and for that – I'm sorry.

As you will see on the agenda, our annual meeting will be held at 7:00 PM on Sunday evening. Once you settle in to your room at the Ramada, there are plenty of choices for restaurants nearby. Bob Evans is only 100 feet away, with Red Robin, Long Horn Steak, Panera Bread, Red Lobster, Texas Roadhouse, Olive Garden, TGIFridays, Tully's, IHOP, Buffalo Wild Wings, Five Guys, Chipotle Mexican Grill, Sonic, Chinese Buffet, Denny's, Applebees, Cracker Barrel, Japanese Steak House, McDonald's, Arby's, Taco Bell, and a locally owned Coca-Cola theme diner called Shorty's Place, all within 1.3 miles.

Events are still being finalized for the spouses, but at present we have some time for shopping planned, a possible speaker and a special "Paint & Sip" event hosted and sponsored by Lynnette Lundy-Beck and Director Emeritus Chaplain Samuel Canon Lundy. Please check out the enclosed flyer for spouses.

The conference ends with lunch on Wednesday. If you will be leaving before lunch, please indicate that on the registration form so I will be able to get your certificate to you.

Please either complete the enclosed REGISTRATION form, or go to our website <http://www.nysafc.org/home.aspx> and download a Word document. The completed form needs to be returned to our Executive Secretary. You can pay for the conference using PayPal on the website as well or you can include a check when you mail the registration form to the Exec. Sec'y.

Conference Reservations must be made and submitted with the enclosed form, PREPAID in advance by check, money order or PayPal. All checks are payable to: *New York State Association of Fire Chaplains, Inc.*

Reservations must be post marked by Tuesday, March 31, 2020. After March 31<sup>st</sup>, please enclose a late fee of \$50.00.

Cancellations can be accepted until April 10<sup>th</sup> without penalty. Unfortunately, refunds after that date may not be able to be processed.

Check in time at the Ramada is 3:00 PM on Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup> and check out time is 11:00 AM on Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup>.

The tentative Conference Agenda (Draft A) is attached. We look forward to your attendance at this year's conference.

If you have any specific questions or special needs, please contact me directly at the contact information on the top of page one.

Sincerely,



Rev. Leon VanWie, 1<sup>st</sup> Deputy Chief Chaplain

Enc. - Registration Form  
Spouses Events Planned (Draft 1)  
Agenda (Draft A)