

Donation Form

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F.D. Newton V.F.A.

P.O. Box 359

Southborough, MA 01772

The F.D. Newton V.F.A. is a non-profit charitable organization under Internal Revenue code 501(c)(3). Donations are fully deductible on all personal and business tax returns.

For more information on hand fire engines & New England muster activities and the current muster schedule please visit www.handtubs.com

Our Engines



UNION No.1

The Union No. 1 was built in 1867 by the Wm. Hunneman Co. of Boston. It was originally delivered to the Braintree-Weymouth Fire district and was in service until 1883. After its retirement from fire service it was used for muster purposes by the Braintree, MA VFA until 1922. While there, it won the 1914 NESVFL championship. In 1959 it was purchased by the FD Newton VFA. In 1960 it won the NESVFL Class B championship. It is the only handtub to win both the Class A & B championships. It has 6" cylinders and attended over 450 musters. Its longest stream is 227' 11" done in 1902.



Franklin No. 1

The Franklin No.1 was built by the Wm. Jeffers Co. of Pawtucket, R.I. in 1857. It originally served Dedham, MA. In 1897 when E. Dedham became Westwood it served that community. The engine was donated to our organization in July 2024. It has 9" cylinders and has never been entered in muster competition.

F.D. Newton Veteran Fireman's Association, Inc.

125 Southville Road

Post Office Box 359

**Southborough,
Massachusetts**

01772

fdnewtonvfa@gmail.com



***Establish 1959
Incorporated 1960***

Who Are We

In 1959 several members of the Southborough Fire Department restored the town's first fire engine the "Falcon". The hand fire engine was purchased for \$150 in 1896 after a large fire devastated the village of Fayville. The group entered the handtub into muster competition, but unfortunately having only 4" cylinders the engine was not very competitive against the larger 6" handtubs in her class. This lead to a search for a larger engine and discovered rotting beside a Braintree Fire Station they found the "Union No. 1". Over the winter of 1959-60 the boys totally restored the Union and entered her into competition. This effort quickly bore fruit with the Union winning the 1960 NESVFL Class B championship.

Since that time the organization has attended hundreds of muster competitions throughout the United States and Canada, including hosting several musters here in Southborough.

Our purpose as stated in our By-laws: *"for the purpose of participating in contests between other Veteran Firemen's Associations or like organizations to test the efficiency of hand tubs and other ancient firefighting apparatus and equipment.... in the laying and coupling of hoses and in the use of all kinds of firefighting equipment, both modern and ancient, and for the purpose of providing refreshments, entertainment, exercise and social diversion of its members."*

We meet the first Wednesday of every month at our building at 125 Southville Rd. Membership is open to any person 18 years of age or older, the current dues are \$50. Ask us about joining today!

Who Was F.D. Newton



Francis Dexter Newton was known as Southborough's "Grand Old Man". He was born on August 30, 1848 in Fayville. He was a Constable for 45 years, Deputy Sheriff for 40 years, Town Selectman for 35 years. He was a Civil War veteran, Free Mason, Notary Public, Justice of the Peace, Real Estate Broker, Auctioneer and a member of the Massachusetts Legislature.

After a fire devastated the village of Fayville in March of 1896, including Mr. Newton's own home. He, as a member of the Board of Selectman was instrumental in securing fire equipment for all 4 of the Town's villages.

In 1921 the Town purchased it's first piece of motorized fire apparatus and reorganized the Fire Department as we know it today. As a result, it was voted to sell the existing fire equipment. Mr. Newton purchased the "Falcon" handtub which had been stationed in Fayville and donated it to the firemen of the town. Because of this action when members of the SFD formed the organization around the "Falcon" in 1959, it was decided to honor him and name the group after the "Grand Old Man". F.D. Newton passed away on June 30, 1927 and is buried in Southborough's Rural Cemetery.

What is a Veteran Fireman's Association

From colonial times through the Civil War, hand fire engines were the primary source of fire protection in America. Large numbers of men were required to operate these "handtubs" and often times local fire companies became an important part of the fabric in many communities.

In the late 1850s fire engine manufacturers started to develop the steam powered fire engine. By the late 1860s steam power replaced man power as the integral part of the fire service. Many of the venerable old handtubs were being retired. In order to keep the camaraderie of these old machines alive, and preserve the engines they cherished so dearly, many Veteran Fireman's Associations were formed.

New England States Veteran Fireman's League

The NESVFL was organized in 1890 for the betterment of hand fire engine competitions. The organization standardized the rules of competition for handtub musters and still thrives today holding 5-10 muster every summer throughout New England & New York. The F. D. Newton VFA has been a member in good standing of the league since it's inception in 1959. Over the years several member of the our organization have been appointed as judges for the competitions and 2 of our members have served as President of the League.