



December 2011

To the Aurora-Ledyard Fire District:

Dear friends,

Some of you recently received a solicitation letter from Southern Cayuga Instant Aid. Capital campaigns are an effective way for organizations to raise funds and, of course, anyone can donate to whomever they please. Their letter may have given you the mistaken impression, however, that SCIA is your primary emergency/ambulance service provider. This is not the case. You are receiving this letter because you are a property owner/resident of the Aurora-Ledyard Fire District. Your primary emergency/ambulance service provider is the Aurora Volunteer Fire Department, which is supported with your annual fire tax payment and donations to the AVFD's Ambulance Memorial Fund. Though we occasionally rely on SCIA for mutual aid, and vice versa, they are rarely dispatched to our district. We are writing this letter to clarify the role of the fire department, and specifically the ambulance service, in our community.

We are an all volunteer operation with no paid staff, and the majority of our members have at least 10 years of experience. Our fire department's ambulance is certified ALS, which stands for Advanced Life Support. Our ALS status is due to having a member who is a Critical Care Technician (level 3 EMT) and a member who is a Paramedic (highest medical training on an ambulance). Our remaining EMTs are certified in Basic Life Support.

If we are dispatched to a call that requires ALS and our Critical Care Technician or Paramedic is not available, we request an ALS ambulance service (TLC or Rural Metro out of Auburn or Bangs out of Ithaca), and their Paramedic rides with us to the hospital. When our ALS personnel respond with our ambulance there is no charge to the patient, however, if we have to request an ALS intercept, the patient/insurance company will receive a bill from them.

Daytime calls can present a challenge as there may only be one EMT from our department in the area; therefore, we have a mutual aid agreement with Poplar Ridge Fire Department. When we have a call during the day, Poplar Ridge's Rescue Squad is dispatched along with our ambulance to ensure we have the medical personnel/manpower needed on the scene. Poplar Ridge is also an all volunteer department, and we are grateful for their continued assistance.

The AVFD remains viable, due in part to supplementing our membership with an aggressive recruitment campaign specifically targeting Wells College and Southern Cayuga High School. This ongoing campaign continues to benefit us, and neighboring departments as well. Though many of our members, including our EMTs, work outside the area, our response rate remains near 100%. In short, when the siren blows, we respond.

As a community of our size, we should all feel fortunate and take pride knowing we maintain an all volunteer fire department and ALS ambulance service. Our department continues to grow and evolve through the commitment and dedication of our members and the continued support of our district residents.

Best Regards,

John Miller - Chairman
Board of Fire Commissioners
Aurora-Ledyard Fire District

Chief Sarah Homick
Aurora Volunteer Fire Department