



## FOREST FIRE LOOKOUT ASSOCIATION THE KEYSTONE CHAPTER

2533 Falling Spring Road  
Chambersburg, PA 17202

Annual Report, January, 2009

Membership: During 2008 three members withdrew by nonpayment of dues, one was added, a net loss of two from one year ago. Formerly 21 members, now 19.

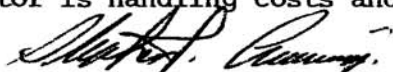
Status of Towers and standing former towers: 66 Fire Towers and structures formerly used as fire towers are standing in Pennsylvania. Of these, 12 are privately owned, 2 are owned by Counties, 3 owned by a city, and 1 is owned by the federal government. The remaining 48 are owned by various State agencies; PA Fish Commission has 1, PA Bureau of State Parks 2, State Capitol Complex 1, and the PA Bureau of Forestry 44. 27 towers are considered as 'in-service.' Of these, 25 are State towers, 1 is a private tower, and 1 is a city tower. These figures tend to change every year among the categories mentioned here.

National Historic Lookout Register: Ten fire towers are listed on the National Historic Lookout Register. While several towers and structures are presently being seriously considered, there can be no action on any actual towers until the work presently underway by the Pennsylvania Fire Tower Task Force is concluded. This mixed body is currently considering the future status of all standing State-owned towers whether currently in service or not. This body will recommend 'restore,' 'dismantle,' 'maintain,' 'use,' etc. A member of the Keystone Chapter serves on the Task Force, the Chapter Director.

Publications, 2: (1) Because research data is frequently changing, a PA Tower list has been developed, on average, every two years. With help from FFLA leaders in the field, this material is being frequently updated. The data provided above under status of towers, is drawn from this list in part. Merle Waltz is the lead in this effort, in cooperation with the PA Forest Fire Museum Assn. Copies available on specific request. (2) The first in a series of pamphlets was published in 2008, detailing fire tower histories, Forest District by District. (PA has 20 Forest Districts.) This first covers the area of the Buchanon Forest District, or District # 2. The series is designed in part, to draw out missing details from local sources, prior to publishing a major book on the towers of the entire Commonwealth. Author is Merl Waltz, with help from Scott Ritter, Mark Houghwout, Steve Cummings, Henry Isenberg and Bob Spear, as well as local citizens and Forestry Officials. Published by the PA Forest Fire Museum Assn., with major help from FFLA members. Available from the address above @ \$ 2.00 plus postage.

Research: PA FFLA members are being canvassed to determine which members wish to be actively involved in the ongoing research represented above under publications. Those not interested will subsequently not be bothered by the otherwise heavier mail and increased Email. Canvassing as of this date is incomplete.

Finances: At the National level, the Chapter showed \$ 412.29 at the start of the year, and \$ 491.20 at the close of the year, a modest gain of \$ 78.91. At the local level the State/Chapter Director is handling costs and outlays.

  
Stephen J. Cummings, Director