



# IRIS FESTIVAL EXECUTIVE BOARD

Members of the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Tennessee Iris Festival Executive Board are (l to r): front row - Maegan Jolley, Melinda Goode, Sarah McAlpin (co-chair), Josh Pirtle (co-chair), Marla Rook, and Mayor Jeff Washburn; back row - Lauren Bean, Kate Bynum, Willie Parker, Beverly Oliver and Erica Moore. Those not pictured are: Student Representatives - Alex Dunn and Claire McAlpin.

## *Volunteers Of The Year*

# DRESDEN FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Dresden Fire Department is a professionally trained combination department with a full staffing of 30 members, which consists of paid, on-call firefighters and special operations teams. The services the department currently provides are as follows:

All forms of fire suppression activities.

Vehicle extrication and technical rescue operations.

Hazardous materials response.

Land search and rescue teams.

Rapid intervention teams.

Regional honor guard activities.

Public safety and fire prevention education programs.

Smoke alarm installation program called "Get Alarmed Tennessee".

Medical assistance and patient transportation activities to assist with life flight operations.

Mutual aid assistance for rural Weakley County and other municipalities.

Storm and weather related emergencies.

Public assistance of any other kind including multiple festivals and parades throughout Weakley County.

The Department, which has a rich history and tradition of service, has been in existence since 1905, and has been in service every minute of every day since that time.

Currently the department responds to between 150 and 230 calls for service each year. There have been too many firefighters that dedicated



their time, energy, and efforts to fully list or adequately credit in this description. Traditionally, the fire service in Dresden was staffed by citizen volunteers that were dedicated to service, but had little in the way of formal or required training.

There have been many leaders throughout the decades. Chief Dickie Hart served as Chief from 1994 to 2008 and helped transition the department from an all-volunteer force into the more formally trained department we have today. When Chief Hart decided to dedicate more of his time and effort to serving the Dresden Citizens in community service and city government he took

on an advisory and investigative role within the department.

The current Chief, who has been in place since 2008, is Paul Hutcherson who, along with the help and assistance of a highly trained and extremely motivated department, has continued the tradition of departmental excellence and a commitment to public safety and service.

Chief Hutcherson believes he is fortunate to have officers in positions of leadership which include: Deputy Chief Kory Green, Assistant Chief Freddie Winstead, and Captain Judge Tommy Moore.

The fire ground operators and

lieutenants include Lt. Josh Taylor, Lt. Dustin Kemp, and Lt. Robert Doran.

The department also has many well-trained and dedicated firefighters with multiple years of service and a dedication to continued education and training within the fire service. They include Patrick Tarver, John Gallimore, Justin Staples, Joe Smith, Woody Woodruff, Dale Hutcherson, Tyler Hutcherson, Austin Powell, Chris Culver, Tyler Verner, Chris Cravens, Taylor Parks, Drake Doran, Tim Spence, Devin Mansfield, County Mayor Jake Bynum, Kyle Hutcherson, and Matt Smith.

Many members of the Dresden department also have various degrees of medical training, and each and every firefighter is first aid certified.

Other important leadership within the department includes: Former Alderman Ted Kelley, Former Alderman Ronnie Gearin, Alderman Dickie Hart, and Alderman Lyndal Dilday. Each of these aldermen and former aldermen have served in various leadership and officer roles within the department and have committed substantial portions of their lives to serving the Dresden community in the realm of public safety.

According to the most recent U.S. Census Bureau figures, there are 3,005 citizens in Dresden Fire Department's response area, and another 8,091 citizens in its secondary

response area. The Department protects 56.46 square miles, which encompasses 1,531 structures within the city limits and another 3,000 outside Dresden's city limits. This amounts to a total service population of 11,096 citizens. The Department also provides mutual aid agreements with 11 surrounding fire departments, and will provide mutual aid to 580.19 square miles and a population of 35,021 under existing agreements and a logistics responsibility with its Region 9 CBRNE response team.

The Dresden Fire Department continues to grow and expand its effective reach by employing rigorous educational and training standards.

"We have mutual aid and training arrangements with other departments within the county that enable Dresden Fire to assist others in need well beyond the geographic boundaries of our city," Chief Hutcherson said. "We have been asked to provide mutual service and assistance in most every area in the county. We have assisted with numerous search and rescue efforts upon request, even outside Weakley County. Our department consistently makes applications for grants so that we might continue to serve with the most up to date equipment possible to provide high quality service to the citizens of our community."