

## NYS AFC CONVENTION SWITCHED TO TURNING STONE FOR 2009

Following the 2008 convention, the New York State Association of Fire Chiefs (NYS AFC) staff immediately began negotiations with Warren County with the intention of hosting the 2009 convention in Lake George, NY. The Association was concerned over having to bear the expense of large tents to house exhibits and, as of October 20, Warren County had been unable to guarantee a site for next year's event. To ensure the continued financial security of the Association, the Board of Directors decided to move FIRE 2009 to the Turning Stone Resort in Verona, NY (Oneida County) for June 2009. This site was being considered as a possible venue for FIRE 2010, but given the Board's concerns, an immediate change in location was deemed necessary.

Although we understand this late decision will cause some concerns for our attendees, we believe the overall benefits of the move outweigh these concerns. These benefits include a large, permanent, state-of-the-art, climate controlled conference center/exhibit facility, outdoor exhibit space on concrete or asphalt, ample parking for exhibits at areas adjacent to exhibits (as well as shuttle service provided by Turning Stone for outlying parking area), handicapped accessible parking and facilities, and on-site education rooms allowing us to expand our education program at no additional cost to attendees. Turning Stone has an environment that will remind many of you of the Concord. Centrally located off NYS Thruway Exit 33, its location will lessen travel time by over two hours for western New York, yet add only a half hour to the travel time for our downstate members. Turning Stone boasts a PGA quality golf course, as well as on-site entertainment, a night club, spa, restaurants, shops, gaming and an RV park. There are also many activities at the resort and in the region for families to enjoy.

NYS AFC has been able to secure over 500 rooms on the Turning Stone property ranging from \$94-\$314 night. Additionally, there are approximately 200 hotel rooms across the street from the resort, as well as properties in Syracuse and Utica (approximately 20 minutes away). Information for these properties and details on the reservation process, as well as the Conference Full Term Registration Form, will be posted on their website, [nysfirechiefs.com](http://nysfirechiefs.com) shortly.

Hands-on training will continue to be part of the show at this new location. More details will be forthcoming.

One other important change to point out for FIRE 2009 is the addition of a day to the event for education programs only. Education programs will be held from Wednesday, June 10, to Saturday, June 13, 2009, for Conference Full Term registrants only. Exhibits will be open Thursday, June 11 to Saturday, June 13, only. Once again, one day tickets for the exhibits will be available for free from FIRE 2009 exhibitors.

If you have any questions, please contact the NYS AFC office at (800) 676-3473 or visit their website <http://nysfirechiefs.com/>.