

# COMPLIANCE AUDIT

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Green Lane Firemen's Relief  
Association of the Green Lane Fire  
Company of Green Lane,  
Pennsylvania  
Montgomery County, Pennsylvania  
For the Period  
January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2015

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June 2016



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
Department of the Auditor General  
Eugene A. DePasquale • Auditor General



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EUGENE A. DePASQUALE  
AUDITOR GENERAL

Mr. Bradley S. Buck, President  
Green Lane Firemen's Association of the Green Lane Fire Company  
of Green Lane, Pennsylvania  
Montgomery County

We have conducted a compliance audit of the Green Lane Firemen's Relief Association of the Green Lane Fire Company of Green Lane, Pennsylvania (relief association) pursuant to authority derived from Article VIII, Section 10 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Section 403 of The Fiscal Code, Act of April 9, 1929, (P.L. 343, No. 176), and mandated by the Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Association Act, as consolidated by the Act of November 23, 2010 (P.L. 1181, No. 118), at 35 Pa.C.S. § 7411 *et seq.*, for the period January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2015.

The objectives of the audit were:

1. To determine if the relief association took appropriate corrective action to address the findings contained in our prior audit report.
2. To determine if the relief association received state aid and expended state aid and accumulated relief funds in compliance with applicable state laws, contracts, bylaws, and administrative procedures.

Our audit was limited to the areas related to the objectives identified above.

Relief association officers are responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal controls to provide reasonable assurance that the relief association's administration of state aid and accumulated relief funds complies with applicable state laws, contracts, bylaws, and administrative procedures, including the safeguarding of assets. Relief association officers are responsible for complying with applicable state laws, contracts, bylaws, and administrative procedures. It is our responsibility to perform procedures to obtain sufficient, appropriate evidence to the extent necessary to satisfy the audit objectives. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our conclusions.

Based on our audit procedures, we conclude that, for the period January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2015:

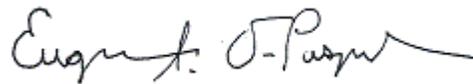
- The relief association took appropriate corrective action to address 4 of the 5 findings contained in our prior audit report. However, the relief association failed to take appropriate corrective action to address the one remaining finding contained in our prior audit report, as listed below and discussed in the Status of Prior Findings section of this report.
- The relief association, in all significant respects, received state aid and expended state aid and accumulated relief funds in compliance with applicable state laws, contracts, bylaws, and administrative procedures, except as noted in the finding listed below and discussed later in this report.

Finding – Noncompliance With Prior Audit Recommendation – Failure To  
Maintain A Complete And Accurate Equipment Roster

The supplementary financial information contained in this report is presented for purposes of additional disclosure and analysis. We performed only limited procedures on the supplementary financial information and, accordingly, express no form of assurance on it.

The contents of this report were discussed with the management of the relief association and, where appropriate, their response has been included in the report. We would like to thank the relief association officials for the cooperation extended to us during the conduct of the audit.

June 14, 2016



EUGENE A. DEPASQUALE  
Auditor General

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## BACKGROUND

Pursuant to Article VIII, Section 10 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Section 403 of The Fiscal Code, Act of April 9, 1929, (P.L. 343, No. 176), and the Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Association Act, as consolidated by the Act of November 23, 2010, (P.L. 1181, No. 118), at 35 Pa.C.S. § 7411 *et seq.*, the Department of the Auditor General's duty is to audit the accounts and records of every volunteer firefighters' relief association to determine that funds received under the Foreign Fire Insurance Tax Distribution Law, Act of December 18, 1984, (P.L. 1005, No. 205), as amended, 53 P.S. § 895.701 *et seq.* (commonly referred to as Act 205), are properly expended.

The relief association is a charitable organization that was formed primarily to afford financial protection to volunteer firefighters and to encourage individuals to participate in volunteer fire service.

Act 118 governs the overall operation of volunteer firefighters' relief associations. The relief association's bylaws define the specific operational procedures by which the relief association conducts business. To fulfill its primary purpose, Act 118 authorizes specific types of expenditures and prescribes appropriate volunteer firefighters' relief association investment options. Within the parameters established by Act 118, it is the responsibility of the relief association to choose investments in a proper and prudent manner.

Volunteer firefighters' relief associations receive public tax monies, and the association officers therefore have a responsibility to the public to conduct the association's financial affairs in a businesslike manner and to maintain sufficient financial records to support the propriety of all association transactions. Volunteer firefighters' relief association officers are also responsible for ensuring that the association operates in accordance with applicable state laws, contracts, bylaws and administrative procedures.

Act 205 sets forth the computation of the Foreign Fire Insurance Tax Distribution paid to each applicable municipality throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The amount of the distribution is based upon the population of each municipality and the market value of real estate within the municipality. Upon receipt of this distribution, the municipality must allocate the funds to the volunteer firefighters' relief association of the fire service organization or fire service organizations that is or are recognized as providing the service to the municipality.

**BACKGROUND – (Continued)**

The relief association was allocated state aid from the following municipalities:

<u>Municipality</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>
Green Lane Borough	Montgomery	\$ 4,114	\$ 3,917	\$ 3,742
Marlborough Township	Montgomery	\$ 27,443	\$ 26,016	\$ 24,969

The volunteer firefighters' relief association and the affiliated fire service organization are separate, legal entities. The relief association is affiliated with the following fire service organization:

Green Lane Fire Company

GREEN LANE FIREMEN'S RELIEF ASSOCIATION OF THE GREEN LANE  
FIRE COMPANY OF GREEN LANE, PENNSYLVANIA  
STATUS OF PRIOR FINDINGS

COMPLIANCE WITH PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The relief association has complied with 4 of the 5 prior audit findings and recommendations, as follows:

- Undocumented Expenditures

By receiving reimbursement of \$4,739 from the affiliated fire company for the undocumented expenditures that were made in the prior audit period.

- Unauthorized Expenditures

By receiving reimbursement of \$812 from the affiliated fire company for the unauthorized expenditures made in the prior audit period.

- Insufficient Surety (Fidelity) Bond Coverage

By increasing the Surety (Fidelity) bond coverage to an amount greater than the balance of the relief association's cash assets.

- Inadequate Financial Record-Keeping System

By establishing and maintaining a financial record-keeping system that allows the membership to effectively monitor the relief association's financial operations and provides effective control over cash receipts, disbursements, and assets.

NONCOMPLIANCE WITH PRIOR AUDIT FINDING AND RECOMMENDATION

The relief association has not complied with the following prior audit finding. This finding is noted below and discussed in detail in the Finding and Recommendation section of this report:

- Failure To Maintain A Complete And Accurate Equipment Roster

We are concerned by the relief association's failure to correct this previously reported audit finding. The relief association's management should strive to implement the recommendation and corrective action noted in this audit report.

GREEN LANE FIREMEN'S RELIEF ASSOCIATION OF THE GREEN LANE  
FIRE COMPANY OF GREEN LANE, PENNSYLVANIA  
FINDING AND RECOMMENDATION

**Finding – Noncompliance With Prior Audit Recommendation – Failure To Maintain A Complete And Accurate Equipment Roster**

Condition: As cited in the prior audit report, the relief association again failed to maintain a complete and accurate roster of equipment owned by the relief association. Although a listing of relief association owned equipment was provided during the current audit period, it was incomplete because it did not contain the names of suppliers (vendors), dates of purchase, cost of equipment and serial numbers to accurately identify equipment owned by the relief association. Furthermore, the equipment listing provided was commingled with fire company equipment. As such, it was impossible to determine if all of the equipment purchased during the audit period in the amount of \$46,415 was properly recorded. In addition, there was no indication that a physical inventory of equipment was conducted on an annual basis to account for the equipment owned by the relief association.

Criteria: Prudent business practice dictates that the relief association should establish adequate internal control procedures to ensure the maintenance of a cumulative equipment roster of all items purchased by the relief association in order to provide an effective accounting control over the relief association's equipment. A cumulative equipment roster of all relief association equipment should include all of the following:

- Types of equipment purchased
- Dates of purchase
- Unit costs
- Names of suppliers
- Serial numbers, if applicable
- Current locations of items
- Final dispositions of sold or damaged equipment
- Evidence of the performance and results of an annual physical inventory

Cause: Even though notified of this condition during our prior audit, relief association officials again failed to establish adequate internal control procedures over equipment by requiring the maintenance of a cumulative equipment roster and the performance of an annual physical inventory of equipment.

Effect: The continued failure to properly record equipment purchases in a detailed equipment roster prevents officials from effectively monitoring the relief association's equipment purchases. In addition, the failure to maintain a detailed equipment roster and perform an annual physical inventory of equipment prevents adequate accountability for, and safeguarding of, relief association equipment.

GREEN LANE FIREMEN'S RELIEF ASSOCIATION OF THE GREEN LANE  
FIRE COMPANY OF GREEN LANE, PENNSYLVANIA  
FINDING AND RECOMMENDATION

**Finding – (Continued)**

Recommendation: We again recommend that relief association officials maintain a cumulative equipment roster of all equipment owned by the relief association. Furthermore, the relief association should ensure it performs an annual physical inventory of all operable equipment and that the completion of the inventory be sufficiently documented. For further guidance, please refer to the Auditor General's publication, MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS' RELIEF ASSOCIATIONS.

Management's Response: Relief association management agreed with the finding as presented at the audit exit conference and indicated they will take action to comply with the recommendation.

Auditor's Conclusion: We are concerned by the relief association's failure to correct this previously reported audit finding and strongly encourage timely implementation of the recommendation noted in this audit report. Compliance will be subject to verification through our next audit.

GREEN LANE FIREMEN'S RELIEF ASSOCIATION OF THE GREEN LANE  
FIRE COMPANY OF GREEN LANE, PENNSYLVANIA  
SUPPLEMENTARY FINANCIAL INFORMATION  
CASH AND INVESTMENT BALANCES  
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2015

Cash	<u>\$ 95,981</u>
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GREEN LANE FIREMEN'S RELIEF ASSOCIATION OF THE GREEN LANE  
 FIRE COMPANY OF GREEN LANE, PENNSYLVANIA  
 SUPPLEMENTARY FINANCIAL INFORMATION  
 SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES  
 FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2013 TO DECEMBER 31, 2015

Expenditures:

Benefit Services:	
Insurance premiums	<u>\$ 24,325</u>
Fire Services:	
Equipment purchased	\$ 46,415
Equipment maintenance	19,395
Training expenses	<u>1,073</u>
Total Fire Services	<u>\$ 66,883</u>
Administrative Services:	
Other administrative expenses	\$ 871
Bond premiums	<u>1,063</u>
Total Administrative Services	<u>\$ 1,934</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>\$ 93,142</u>

GREEN LANE FIREMEN'S RELIEF ASSOCIATION OF THE GREEN LANE  
FIRE COMPANY OF GREEN LANE, PENNSYLVANIA  
REPORT DISTRIBUTION LIST

This report was initially distributed to the following:

**The Honorable Tom W. Wolf**  
Governor  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Green Lane Firemen's Relief Association of the Green Lane Fire Company  
of Green Lane, Pennsylvania Governing Body:

**Mr. Bradley S. Buck**  
President

**Mr. Scott M. Wolfgang**  
Vice President

**Mr. John M. Balmer**  
Recording Secretary

**Mr. Edwin Nowakowski**  
Treasurer

**Mr. Thomas Huguenin Jr.**  
Trustee

**Mr. Larry Stempel**  
Trustee

**Mr. Michael Kupchak**  
Trustee

GREEN LANE FIREMEN'S RELIEF ASSOCIATION OF THE GREEN LANE  
FIRE COMPANY OF GREEN LANE, PENNSYLVANIA  
REPORT DISTRIBUTION LIST

The following municipalities allocated foreign fire insurance tax monies to this relief association and received a copy of this report:

**Ms. Melissa Baine**  
Secretary  
Green Lane Borough

**Ms. Eleanor F. Sadorf**  
Secretary  
Marlborough Township

This report is a matter of public record and is available online at [www.PaAuditor.gov](http://www.PaAuditor.gov). Media questions about the report can be directed to the Pennsylvania Department of the Auditor General, Office of Communications, 229 Finance Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120; via email to: [news@PaAuditor.gov](mailto:news@PaAuditor.gov).