



**Southwest Virginia Firefighters Association**  
**Quarterly Business Meeting**  
**January 12, 2014**  
*We Protect Southwest Virginia*

12 January, 2014

The Winter Quarterly Business meeting of the Southwest Virginia Firefighters Association was held on Sunday, 12 January, 2014 at the Abingdon Volunteer Fire Department in Abingdon, VA. with 31 members present, representing 15 member organizations.

The business meeting was called to order at 1257 hours by President Potsie Smith. The invocation was given by Mr. Kenny Hancock of the Draper Volunteer Fire Department. President Potsie Smith of the Christiansburg Fire Department welcomed everyone in attendance. President Smith also thanked Chief John McCormick and the members of the Abingdon Volunteer Fire Department for hosting the meeting and providing lunch. Mr. Mike Stevens advised that the lunch was a joint effort with Green Spring Volunteer Fire Department.

The meeting started with 2 representatives, Ms. Ashley Bishop and Ms. Molly Carpenter, from the MeadowView Conference Resort & Convention Center in Kingsport, Tennessee that presented plans and possible activities for the spouses and guests of the members. The list of activities will be included in the Convention Registration package.

**Reports:**

**President:**

President Potsie Smith offered the following report:

- Thanked the members of Abingdon Fire Department

**1st Vice President:**

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Morgan O'Quinn offered the following report:

- Asked the members to keep the Secretary from Bristol Fire Department in their thoughts and prayers as she was recently diagnosed with cancer.

**2nd Vice President:**

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Bill Nunley offered the following report.

- No report

**Treasurer:**

Treasure Billy Cook submitted the following report.

- Submitted the Treasure's report
- Motion made by Morgan O'Quinn and seconded by Steve Hall to approve the Treasure's Report
- **Motion voted and passed.**

### **Asst. Treasurer:**

Asst. Treasurer Chris Lloyd offered the following report:

- Gave a report on the Convention Committee account.
- Motion to accept by Roy Redd and seconded by Danny Yopp to accept.
- **Motion voted and passed.**

### **Secretary:**

Secretary Curtis Whitt offered the following report:

- Passed a get well card around for Tyler Shannon for the members to sign and it will be mailed this week
- Dues invoice's will be mailed out in the next week or so
- Convention registration packages will be mailed out in the next week or so

### **Asst. Secretary:**

Secretary Mark Smith offered the following report:

- The final Convention Income Workbook has been delivered to the Convention Committee

### **Chaplin / Welfare:**

Chaplin Kenny Hancock offered the following report:

- Reported that the association has lost 6 members or family members in the last quarter

### **Sgt. At Arms:**

Sgt. at Arms Mavin Ogle offered the following report:

- No Report

### **Executive Committee:**

Potsie Smith offered the following report:

- The Executive Committee met and advised that they support the Ways and Means Committee request to do a raffle of a \$1,500 Carnival Cruise gift card (See Ways and Means Committee Report)
- The recommends that the association support the proposed legislation called "Andrews Law" with a letter of support to the association lobbyist and a copy to the family (See Legislative Committee Report)

### **Legislative Committee:**

Mr. Mike Moles offered the following report:

- The representative on the Fire Service Council is Mr. Walt Bailey
- There were 3 major issues being reviewed at this time:
  - The 4 for Life funding has been reinstated to EMS
  - There will be TL money that will be available for VDFP mini-grants
  - Senate bill #493 is dealing with the "Line of Duty Act"
    - This is bill will go to the Senate floor on 13 January, 2014
- Virginia Department of Fire Programs and Pro-Board certification
  - At the Fire Service Council meeting there were many complaints about high failure rates
  - It is important that the Virginia Department of Fire Programs and the stakeholders work together on this issue

- With Pro-Board Certification the instructors do not teach the test, they are to teach the curriculum. The tests are generated from a bank of approx.. 1,500 questions and the course instructor do not know what questions will be on the test.
- Mike also provided statistics on the pass / failure rates on different VDFP offered courses
- Every municipality mandates fire service training levels and requirements
- Mike asked for any comments or concerns to take back to the Fire Services Board. If you have any please contact him
- Tim Estes encouraged everyone to go to the VDFP website and review the minutes from the Fire Service Council meetings
  - Tim also advised that the VDFP courses and programs are to NFPA standards
- Potsie Smith reported on a request from the family of Virginia State Trooper Andrew Fox to support legislation called “Andrews Law” that will make striking an emergency worker in the Commonwealth of Virginia a felony
  - Trooper Andrew Fox was a member of the Draper Volunteer Fire Department prior to becoming a state trooper
  - The Executive Committee has given its support to the backing of this bill
  - The association will send a letter of support to our lobbyist as well as the family
  - Motion by Kenny Hancock and seconded by Chris Loan to proceed
  - **Motion passed**

### **Membership Committee:**

Mr. Steve Hall offered the following report:

- No Report.

### **Training Committee:**

Mr. Tim Estes offered the following report for Mr. Roy Redd:

- Lack of attendance and registration caused several classes to be cancelled
- If you have training needs in your department please contact your division office
- Check out the VDFP website for on line classes
- VDFP will be sending the 2014 – 2015 training requests out in February
  - It would be better if your county applies for classes as a county not individual departments

### **By-laws Committee:**

Mr. Page Brockenbrough offered the following report:

- Adding Allegany County will require by-laws change.
- Second reading of the proposed by-laws change to add Allegany County.
  - Motion to accept the change made by David Akers and seconded by Barry Simmons
  - **Motion passed**
- Proposed change:
  - **CURRENTLY READS:**

*ARTICLE 1*

*Membership*

*Section 1.*

*Any volunteer or career Fire Department or Company in active service in Henry, Franklin, Roanoke, or Craig counties, and those Counties, Towns, or Cities west thereof shall be entitled to membership upon approval by the Membership Committee, and upon payment of the prescribed dues. All persons that are*

*members of such individual Departments or Companies shall automatically become members of this Association.*

○ **PROPOSED CHANGE:**

*ARTICLE 1*

*Membership*

*Section 1.*

*Any volunteer or career Fire Department or Company in active service in Henry, Franklin, Roanoke, Craig or Alleghany counties, and those Counties, Towns, or Cities west thereof shall be entitled to membership upon approval by the Membership Committee, and upon payment of the prescribed dues. All persons that are members of such individual Departments or Companies shall automatically become members of this Association.*

**Rules and Contest Committee:**

Mr. Danny Yopp offered the following report:

- Suggest that members bring pop up tents for the competition because there are no trees for shade at the competition location

**Ways and Means Committee:**

Mr. Chris Loan offered the following report:

- 50/50 drawing
- As a way to help make money the committee has offered the following:
  - A \$1,500 Carnival Cruise gift card.
  - The association would buy the gift card and raffle off 200 tickets at \$20.00 per ticket
  - The association would raise \$2,500
  - The gift card would be given away at the Saturday night dinner
- Motion made by Mike Moles and second by Mark Smith to purchase the gift card
- **Motion passed**

**Scholarship Committee:**

Mr. David Akers offered the following report:

- Planning to award (4) \$300 scholarships
- Deadline for applications is 1 April, 2014
- Application is on the association web site

**Convention Committee:**

Mr. Barry Simmons and Mr. David Akers offered the following report:

- Asked that the members take the information back to their departments and families
- There might be activities that may need a headcount or pre-registration
  
- There was a discussion about the Sunday morning departure service
  - The hotel has proposed a breakfast for this service at a cost of \$9.50 per person that includes sausage biscuit or muffin, juice and coffee.
  - The Sunday buffet will cost \$12.50 + per person
  - The Virginia State Firefighters Association currently sponsors the meal for this service.
    - The current VSFA President is Mr. Larry Logan

- There was a motion by Page Brockenbrough and seconded by Chris Loan to not have the meal for this service but see if coffee and juice could be provided and weather permitting, have service on the patio.
  - **Motion approved**
  - Breakfast would be on your own
- When playing golf please respect the course and try not to damage the course or facilities
- The association has had a history of minor damages at golf courses in the past

### **Old Business**

Mr. Mark Bowery discussed the Affordable Health Care Act  
This will not apply to volunteer fire departments

Mr. Mark Bowery advised that VFIS has new truck maintenance software that is available to members at no cost  
Please contact Mark if you are interested

### **New Business**

Mark Bowery has access to a search and rescue trailer that he will be bringing to the convention as a display. This might be incorporated into future conventions as a training opportunity.

The training for the 2014 convention will be Active Shooter Response Training for First Responders. This class will be held on Friday morning, 20 June, 2014 from 0800 – 1200 hours.

Riner Fire Department Annual Oyster / Turkey Dinner - 1 February, 2014  
Tickets are \$13.00 in advance and \$15.00 at the door  
See any Riner Fire Department member for tickets

Above and Beyond Award nominations need to be to Page Brockenbrough by the April meeting

Lifetime membership nominations need to be to Jeff Saunders by the April meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 14:40 with Mr. Kenny Hancock offering the closing prayer.

**Thanks to the members of the Abingdon Volunteer Fire Department  
for hosting the meeting and providing lunch.**

**The next meeting will be Sunday, April 6, 2014 at the Dublin Fire  
Department in Dublin, VA. at 1:00 pm.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Curtis Whitt  
Secretary  
Southwest Virginia Firefighters Association

