



# Southwest Virginia Firefighters Association Quarterly Business Meeting April 9, 2017

*We Protect Southwest Virginia*

9 April, 2017

The Spring Business meeting of the Southwest Virginia Firefighters Association was held on Sunday, 9 April, 2017 at New River Community College in Dublin, Va. with 45 members present, representing 19 organizations.

The business meeting was called to order at 1240 hours by President Brian Hollins. The invocation was given by Mr. Kenny Hancock of the Draper Fire Department.

President Hollins introduced Chief Dean Russell of Dublin Volunteer Fire Department. Chief Russell welcomed everyone in attendance. President Hollins welcomed everyone in attendance and thanked the members of Dublin Fire Department, New River Community College, Mr. Josh Tolbert, Virginia Department of Fire Programs and Mr. Curt Varone.

President Hollins also introduced Mr. Michael Parris, Division Chief of the Virginia Department of Fire Programs who offered the following report.

Mr. Parris reported on 2 bills that could affect the fire service in Virginia and the closing of the VDFP Bookstore.

- SB #1196 – EVOC
  - This would require EVOC become mandatory training
  - You would have to get up to date on the training that would be required to meet the requirements
  
- HB #1532 – ATL funding increase
  - This bill has been sent back to the House
  - This is a 80/20 funding split
  - The bill was originally introduced to increase the funding back to the departments
  - The revision of this bill will a 4% that will help fund the Virginia Department of Fire Programs. Without this additional funding the VDFP would not be able to provide the service it currently offers as a training agency and would become more of a testing agency. This would mean that the individual departments would be responsible for hosting and teaching classes without VDFP funding.
  
- The VDFP Bookstore has closed
  - Departments will be responsible for printing Virginia specific materials for these classes
  - Some books can be purchased on line

## Reports:

### President:

President Brian Hollins offered the following report.

- He and Dublin Fire Department are working on convention
- Reminded the members to get the information about the deceased members to Craig Helvey as soon as possible, very few names turned in at this time.
- See old and new business sections of these minutes

### **1st Vice President:**

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Nathan Brewbaker offered the following report.

- No Report

### **2nd Vice President:**

2nd Vice President Brenda Hankins offered the following report.

- No Report

### **Treasurer:**

Treasure Billy Cook offered the following report.

- Billy thanked the membership for their support for him and his family during the loss of his father and mother
- Motion to accept the Treasures Report made by Page Brockenbrough and seconded by Kenny Hancock
- **Motion voted and passed**

### **Asst. Treasurer:**

Asst. Treasure Potsie Smith offered the following report.

- No Report

### **Secretary:**

Secretary Curtis Whitt offered the following report:

- No Report

### **Asst. Secretary:**

Assistant Secretary Mark Smith offered the following report:

- Convention and vendor registrations are coming in at this time

### **Chaplin / Welfare:**

Chaplin Kenny Hancock could not be in attendance:

- He attended that he was made aware of the following deaths within the association:
  - Mr. Bill McCrosky – Pembroke Fire Department
  - Mr. Tony Newton – Fairlawn Fire Department
  - Mr. Kenny Vest – Draper Fire Department
  - Mr. Justin Smith – Snowville Fire Department
  - Mr. Buck Monroe – Clifton Forge and Radford Fire Department
  - Bill and Joann Cook – Radford Fire Department

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

Sgt. At Arms Andrew Whitt offered the following report:

- No report

### **Executive Committee (Board of Directors):**

Jeff Saunders offered the following report.

- No Report

### **Legislative Committee:**

- Michael Parris reported on Reported on HB 1532 and SB 1198 in the first part of the meeting
- A motion was made by Roy Redd and seconded by Nathan Brewbaker to resend the letters to the local delegates asking them to support the House and Senate bills with the revisions to HB 1532
  - **Motion was voted on and Passed**

### **Membership Committee:**

Leon Reed offered the following report:

- No Report

### **Training Committee:**

Michael Parris offered the following report:

- Check the VDFP website for upcoming classes

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

Page Brockenbrough offered the following report:

- No Report

### **Rules and Contest Committee:**

Danny Yopp offered the following report:

- Contest will be held in the grass area in front of the hotel along the road
- There will be vehicle parking at the contest site, items can be dropped off but you cannot park in the contest area

### **Ways and Means Committee:**

Chris Loan offered the following report:

- The 50/50 winner will get \$70.00
- Need to sell raffle tickets for the \$1,500 Martin Travel gift certificate
- There will be only 400 tickets sold
- At this point only 40 of 400 tickets have been sold at this point
- The Raffle information will be added to the association Facebook page

### **Scholarship Committee:**

Jeff Saunders offered the following report:

- There have been 9 applications turned in as of this meeting
- The association will award (3) \$500 scholarships

### **Convention Committee:**

Jeff Saunders offered the following report:

- Everything is coming together for convention
- Reminded members to turn in the Deceased Members recognition forms
- **Convention registrations and golf tournament registrations must be received by 1 May, 2017 to avoid the late fee (\$10 per member)**
- We need help selling golf hole sponsors

## *Old Business*

- President Hollins and Secretary Whitt met with the association lawyer
  - The association is now incorporated as a non-stock corporation
  - The question was asked to the attorney if the association wanted to go forward with 501c3 status.
    - The advantage to the association would help when applying for grants
  - The membership asked to follow up with the attorney for clarification between a non-stock corporation and a 501c3 organization and to report back at the June meeting.
- Mr. Curt Varone addressed the group and was able to provide some advice from the perspective of a lawyer, although he is a lawyer, he is not clear about Virginia law.
- It was discussed that the Treasure and Assistant Treasure will need to go to the bank to setup the new bank accounts with the new EIN.

## *New Business*

- The June meeting will be held in Roanoke at the 2017 Convention at 0900 hours
- Now that the association is incorporated we need to look into getting the trailer registered in the association name and get tags for it.
- There will be 2 officer positions that will need to be filled at the convention business meeting:
  - Treasure and Sgt At Arms
- The following committees were appointed at this meeting:
  - Audit – Leon Reed, Frank Wright, Robbie Smith and Mike Moles
  - Resolutions Committee – Fred Linkous and Potsie Smith
  - Nominating Committee – Page Brockenbrough, Mark Smith and Billy Hanks

Mr. Barry Simmons presented the following information about the host hotel for this years convention:

- The hotel needs to have your room reservations and/or room list to the hotel by 18 May, 2017.
  - Be sure to advise the hotel to put your name under your departments room block.
- If your department is paying for the hotel rooms and the department is Tax Exempt the hotel will need that information when you are making the department room reservations

Barry stated that the association would save money on the convention expenses if we were to continue and become a 501c3 organization.

- The association attorney will be contacted about the 501c3 process and tax savings

He asked the members to help out with the convention as needed and to sell golf hole sponsorships

If you need any contact information for the hotel you can contact Barry.

The meeting was closed at 1335 hours with a closing prayer by Mr. Kenny Hancock

**Thanks to the members of the Dublin Fire Department for hosting the meeting and setting up for lunch**

**Thank you to the Virginia Department of Fire Programs for offering the training**

**The next training and meeting will be Saturday, 17 June, 2017 at the Sheraton Roanoke Hotel & Conference Center in Roanoke, Va. at 0900 hours**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Curtis Whitt  
Secretary  
Southwest Virginia Firefighters Association  
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