



Southwest Virginia Firefighters Association Spring Business Meeting 14 April, 2019

We Protect Southwest Virginia

14 April, 2019

The Spring Business meeting of the Southwest Virginia Firefighters Association was held on Sunday, 14 April 2019 at the Martinsville Fireman's Cabin in Martinsville with 20 members present, representing 11 member organizations.

The business meeting was called to order at 1301 hours by President Andrew Whitt. The invocation was given by Mr. Kenny Hancock of the Draper Volunteer Fire Department. President Whitt welcomed everyone in attendance.

President Whitt thanked the members of Martinsville Fire Department for hosting the meeting and for lunch. Martinsville Fire Chief Ted Anderson and Martinsville Volunteer Fire Department President Randall Hundley were recognized and addressed those in attendance.

President Whitt also recognized President Jimmy Byer and 1st Vice President Ken Brown of the Virginia State Firefighters Association. Their reports will follow in the New Business section.

Reports:

President:

Andrew Whitt offered the following report:

- Association pamphlet is coming along and should be finished by convention
- Anyone who can help sell golf hole sponsorships will be greatly appreciated. Get with myself or Curtis for the letter and/or the tax form for sponsor.
- Working on the 2019 Convention

1st Vice President:

Bill Nunley offered the following report:

- Was unable to attend due to work schedule
- No report

2nd Vice President:

Todd Chrisley offered the following report:

- Thanked Martinsville Fire Department for hosting the meeting
- Attended training at the Fire Rescue Conference in Va. Beach in February
- Advised that 4 members from Christiansburg Fire Department attended the FDIC show and got good training
- Reminded members when you get a chance to take a class be sure and bring that knowledge back to your department

Treasurer:

Robbie Kiser offered the following report:

- Treasurer's report for the past quarter was read.
- Motion to accept made by Danny Yopp and seconded by Kenny Hancock
- **Motion voted and passed**

Asst. Treasurer:

Potsie Smith offered the following report.

- Unable to attend
- No Report

Secretary:

Curtis Whitt offered the following report:

- Reported that dues notices were sent out in January
- As of this meeting we had 52 departments that had paid their association dues

Asst. Secretary:

Derek Thompson offered the following report:

- Convention registrations are starting to come in at this time

Chaplin / Welfare:

Kenny Hancock offered the following report:

In the last quarter we have lost the following members within the association:

- Firefighter Lee Cochran – Christiansburg Fire Department
- Retired Fire Chief Bill Webb – Pulaski / Draper Fire Departments
- Retired Firefighter Phill Tickle – Pulaski Fire Department
- Retired Chief Jimmy Epperly – Christiansburg Fire Department
- Lt. Brian Cecil – RFAPP Fire Department
- Firefighter James Randy Johnson – Eggelston Fire Department
- Retired Capt. Benny Gray – Martinsville Fire Department
- Founding Member Dewey Parcell – Poplar Hill Fire Department

Sgt. At Arms:

Mark Smith offered the following report:

- No Report

Executive Committee:

David Akers offered the following report:

- Unable to attend
- No Report

Legislative Committee:

Mike Moles offered the following report:

- Unable to attend
- No Report

Membership Committee:

Leon Reed offered the following report:

- No Report

Training Committee:

Forest Redd offered the following report:

- Unable to attend
- No Report

By-laws Committee:

Page Brockenbrough offered the following report:

- Provided the third reading of the proposed By-Laws change to reflect the changes needed for the 501 c 3 status of the association
 - Motion to accept the third reading was made by the By-Laws Committee and seconded by Jeremy Williams
 - **Motion passed**
- See the attached
- The revised By-Laws and Constitution will be posted on the association website and a copy emailed out at a latter date

Rules and Contest Committee:

Billy Cook offered the following report:

- Unable to attend
- Jeremy Williams offered the following:
 - The contest location from past conventions is unavailable due to a construction project.
 - The committee will be looking at the hotel site and working with the staff to find another location for the contest

Ways and Means Committee:

Mark Smith offered the following report:

- Doing a 50/50 during the meeting, \$80 collected

Scholarship Committee:

Billy Hanks offered the following report:

- Unable to attend
- Curtis Whitt offered the following report:
 - Currently have 8-10 scholarship applications in at this time
 - Applications will be emailed out to the committee members for review
- There was a question about what the scholarships can be used for, non-college classes such as EMT or other classes that can help someone grow in the fire service

Convention Committee:

Jeremy Williams offered the following report:

- The committee is working with President Whitt to finalize the convention
- The committee will meet in mid-May to make sure no details have been over looked
- Jeremy requested to purchase a TV to use as an information board at convention and raffle off at the Saturday night will start meeting
 - Motion was made by Leon Reed and seconded by Robbie Kiser
 - **Motion passed**
- If you would like to assist with the convention or have any questions please contact someone on the committee

Barry Simmons advised that hotel room lists need to be turned in as soon as possible

Old Business

None

New Business

President Whitt asked that the membership help sell golf hole sponsors, program ads and any other items that they would like to donate to help with convention. If you need any of the forms please contact President Whitt. The Golf Hole Sponsorship letter is attached with these minutes.

President Jimmy Byer of the Virginia State Firefighters Association addressed the members:

- The VSFA dues have been sent out this past week to the departments
- You now have the ability to pay these dues on line. You will still need to send in your department credentials to be able to vote in the VSFA business meetings
- Your VSFA membership cards will now be printable online
- The VSFA currently has about 270 member departments
- The 2019 First Responder Virginia, 1st Annual Conference/Expo VSFA and VAVRS will be held in Hampton, VA, 6-10 August, 2019.
- The conference registration is currently online
- There will be a Kids Camp as part of the conference this year. It will be for kids 8-15 years old and is free. Just need to register on line for a head count
- The VSFA office of 3rd Vice President will be open as well as the Treasurer / Secretary
 - The VSFA would like to see some interest from southwest Virginia in these positions. If you are interested please contact VSFA President Byer.

1st Vice President Ken Brown of the Virginia State Firefighters Association addressed the members:

- Discussed the NVFC (National Volunteer Fire Council)
 - Advised that there are 2 representatives from each state
 - Members of the NVFC sit on boards of standards
 - If you are a member of the VSFA your NVFC membership is ½ price
- Discussed VOLSAP (Volunteer Service Award Program)
 - This Service Award Program for Volunteer Firefighters and Rescue Squad Workers (VOLSAP) was created by state statute, specifically § 51.1-1200–51.1-1211 of the Code of Virginia, to provide a mechanism by which the state could facilitate optional retirement savings for volunteer firefighters and rescue squad workers throughout the Commonwealth.(VOLSAP.org)
 - At this time there is no money input from the state
 - Members, departments or localities can contribute into the members account
 - There is a limit per contributing party of \$120 per year
 - This program is run by VRS
- The VSFA is POSSIBLY looking into changing the districts
 - This is being looked into to help reduce the load on the district reps
 - This will help the district reps be more responsive to the members
- The VSFA is looking for district reps, if interested please contact President Byer or 1st Vice President Brown
- The VSFA is looking for a Convention Chairman
 - The VSFA and VAVRS will have a combined conference / expo for the next 2 years as a trial

- They are also looking for people that would be interested in assisting on the conference committee
- If you have any questions about the VSFA contact your district rep or any VSFA officer

Secretary Curtis Whitt advised that he is currently working on getting the history of the association in a digital format that can be posted on the association website and have the ability to have a digital record of the history

1st Vice President Todd Chrisley requested any member that has programs, photos or any other items that show the history of the association please contact him. He will be the president for the 75th annual convention and is working on putting together a display of the association history at that convention.

Jeremy Williams thanked VSFA President Byer for their support and sponsorship of the Past Presidents breakfast at our annual conventions

President Whitt reminded members that the scholarship applications are due at the end of April

The following committees were appointed and are to report at the convention business meeting:

Audit Committee

Leon Reed – Martinsville
Frank Wright – Christiansburg
Mike Moles – Riner

Resolutions Committee

Jeremy Williams – Christiansburg
Barry Simmons – Christiansburg

Nomination Committee

Billy Hanks – Christiansburg
Mark Smith – Blacksburg
Lawrence Keffer - Salem

The meeting was adjourned at 1420 hours with Mr. Kenny Hancock offering the closing prayer.

Thanks to the members of the Martinsville Fire Department for hosting the meeting and providing lunch

The next meeting will be Saturday, June 15, 2019 at the MeadowView Conference Resort & Convention Center in Kingsport, TN at 0900 hours

Respectfully Submitted,
Curtis Whitt
Secretary
Southwest Virginia Firefighters Association
cwhitt@swvafirefighters.com

Recommended proposed changes in the Southwest Virginia Firefighters Association Constitution and By-Laws required by 501c3 accreditation.

Existing in italics Proposed changes **from in red** with changes **to in black**

Changing only the words **Executive Committee** to Board of Directors

CONSTITUTION

Article 3 Section 2 / Section 3 (3 times) / Section 5 / Section 8 / Section 15

Article 4 Section 4

BY-LAWS

Article 1 Membership Section 2 & Section 3

ARTICLE 3 Dues Section 1

ARTICLE 4 Committees Section 1 (2 times) / & Section 2 (2times)

Change Sections of the Constitution and By-Laws

CONSTITUTION

Article 3 Officers and *Executive Committee* Board of Directors

Section 2. *The Executive Committee shall consist of five (5) members appointed by the President.*

Section 2. The Board of Directors shall consist of five (5) members elected at the regular meeting of the Association held in June of each year. Board of Director members may succeed themselves in office. The Board of Directors shall keep minutes of any Board of Directors meetings and provide a copy to the association Secretary to be included in the Association records.

BY-LAWS

Article 5 Expenditures of the Association

Section 1. The members at a regular meeting, with the exception of the following, shall approve all expenditures made by the Association:

(a) The Association shall reimburse a Department or Company its expenses in hosting a regular meeting, not to exceed the sum of \$125.00.

(b) *The Secretary and the Treasurer shall each be compensated by the Association the sum of \$50.00 per year for services rendered.*

(c) *Salary to be paid at the Convention.*

Proposed to delete sub section (b) and (c) No one can remember the last time either Office accepted the compensation and the 1023EZ form (pg2) #6 pay compensation to any Officers is checked NO



Southwest Virginia Firefighters Association

We Protect Southwest Virginia

Golf Hole Sponsorship

The Southwest Virginia Firefighters Association is requesting your help.

The purpose of the Southwest Virginia Firefighters Association is to represent all firefighters, career and volunteer, throughout Southwest Virginia. The association works to get firefighter training in southwest Virginia. It is through this training we become stronger and more proficient in our skills and abilities to protect our communities and neighbors. Training also keeps us healthier and safer as an organization. The association also sees that firefighters are represented on both the state and federal levels, through our lobbyist and state representatives.

This request will give you, your business or organization the opportunity to show your support for the firefighters of southwest Virginia. Every June the association hosts an annual convention that includes training and golf tournament. We are asking for your support by sponsoring a golf hole at this year's golf tournament. This will be a great way to show your support. The sponsors will be recognized in the convention program book and a sign will be placed at a hole that you help sponsor. The cost for a hole sponsorship is \$100.00.

Again thanks for your support of the firefighters of southwest Virginia.

Sincerely,

Southwest Virginia Firefighters Association