



Southwest Virginia Firefighters Association

Winter Business Meeting

24 January, 2021

We Protect Southwest Virginia

The Winter Business meeting of the Southwest Virginia Firefighters Association was held on Sunday, 24 January, 2021 via ZOOM with 15 members online, representing 9 member organizations.

The business meeting was called to order at 1305 hours by President Todd Chrisley. The invocation was given by Chaplain Kenny Hancock of the Draper Volunteer Fire Department. President Chrisley welcomed everyone in attendance.

Reports:

President:

President Chrisley offered the following report.

- Thanked everyone for logging into the ZOOM meeting.
- The association is playing things by ear for the 2021 convention.
- The association is planning for a convention in June but will keep the membership up to date as we go.

1st Vice President:

1st President Mark Smith offered the following report

- Glad to see everyone online.

2nd Vice President:

- No Report

Treasurer:

Treasure Robbie Kiser offered the following report

- Treasurer's report for the past quarter was read and shared with everyone.
- Motion to accept made by David Akers and seconded by Potsie Smith
 - **Motion voted and passed**

Asst. Treasurer:

Asst. Treasure Potsie Smith offered the following report.

- The report was presented
- Motion to accept made by David Akers and seconded by Jeremy Williams.
 - **Motion voted and passed**

Secretary:

Secretary Curtis Whitt offered the following report:

- Asked about the Dues Notices and the Convention Registration information.
 - These items will be covered in later sections of these minutes.

Asst. Secretary:

Position is currently vacant.

Chaplin / Welfare:

Chaplin Kenny Hancock offered the following report:

- Please keep the members of the association that have experienced loss or illness in your thoughts and prayers.
- Kenny attended the funeral services for Linda Reed in Martinsville, the family was grateful for the Southwest Association support.
- Firefighter Ronnie Marshall of Snowville Fire Department passed away recently.

Sgt. At Arms:

- No Report

Board of Directors:

Page Brockenbrough and David Akers offered the following report.

- As per the association by-laws the Board of Directors has the authority to set or suspend membership dues.
 - It has been discussed among the Directors and some of the officers that with the COVID-19 pandemic potentially causing fund raiser issues for departments that the association WILL NOT be collecting membership dues for the 2021-2022 year.
 - Members that have paid dues in advance of the current cycle will have those advance years will be advanced by one year.
 - A department information sheet will be sent out to each department and be requested to be returned to maintain accurate membership numbers and to help verify that departments are in good standing.

Legislative Committee:

- No Report

Membership Committee:

- There was a discussion about sending non-member departments an application and remind them that the first year is free. This will hopefully get former departments and new departments in the association.

Training Committee:

- No Report

By-laws Committee:

Page Brockenbrough offered the following report:

- No new business at the time of this meeting.

Rules and Contest Committee:

Billy Cook offered the following report:

- Still planning for the 2021 convention.

Ways and Means Committee:

- No Report

Scholarship Committee:

Curtis Whitt for Billy Hanks offered the following report:

- Reminder that the 2020-2021 applications are due by 30 April, 2021

Convention Committee:

Barry Simmons offered the following report:

- The 2021 convention is still in the planning, the membership will be kept up to date as more information is available.
- The convention host hotel is currently open with some limited operations.
- The meeting spaces are currently at 50% to 30% capacity.
- The Convention Committee is requesting that the members and vendors be contacted to see if they are able to travel for the convention.
 - Several localities and vendors have placed travel restrictions in place.
- The committee is working closely with the hotel to determine the availability of rooms, meeting and training spaces and food options.
- At this point there is no confirmed cancellation date, the committee will continue to work with the hotel and keep the membership informed.
- The convention registration packages will be sent out as normal to allow the members to plan to attend.

Old Business

None at this time

New Business

David Akers

Discussed continuing the scholarship awards, with or without a convention, to help the members and families of the association continue the educational direction. This will be 5 scholarships @ \$500 each. He will reach out to past sponsors and see if they are able to assist in the future.

A motion was made by Kenny Hancock and seconded by David Akers to offer and award the scholarships.

Motion voted and passed

Jeremy Williams

Asked about the 2 Life Member nominations that he turned in last year. These were not pursued due to the cancellation of the 2020 convention. Jeremy advised he would follow up.

- Meeting was adjourned at 1350 hours with the closing prayer by Chaplain Kenny Hancock

**The next meeting will be Sunday, 18 April, 2021 at the Christiansburg
Volunteer Fire Department at 1300 hours**

Respectfully Submitted,

Curtis Whitt
Secretary
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