



# Southwest Virginia Firefighters Association Convention Business Meeting June 18, 2022

*We Protect Southwest Virginia*

18 June, 2022

The Convention Business meeting of the Southwest Virginia Firefighters Association was held on Saturday, 18 June, 2022 at the Meadowview Conference Resort and Convention Center in Kingsport, TN. with 72 members present, representing 17 member organizations.

The business meeting was called to order at 0905 hours by President Mark Smith. The invocation was given by Mr. Kenny Hancock of the Draper Volunteer Fire Department. President Smith welcomed everyone in attendance.

President Smith welcomed the following guest:

- Mr. Larry Gwaltney, Executive Director of the Virginia State Firefighters Association
  - Mr. Gwaltney addressed the membership and informed the members of the activities with the Virginia State Firefighters Association
- Division Chief Michael Parris of Virginia Department of Fire Programs
- Executive Director of the Virginia Department of Fire Programs Mr. Brad Creasy
  - Mr. Creasy addressed the members and gave an overview of the Department of Fire Programs and his vision for the future of the department
- Chief of Training and Operations Mr. Jamey Brads
  - Chief Brads addressed the membership and gave an overview of the training division of VDFP
  - He reviewed some of the new programs and changes that VDFP is working on to enhance the training and opportunities for the members of the fire service in Virginia
- Both Mr. Creasy and Chief Brads answered questions from the membership

## **Reports:**

### **President:**

Mark Smith offered the following report.

- Thanked everyone for their attendance and participation at the conference
- Asked everyone to stop by and see the vendors, without them we would not be able to have the quality convention that we have
- If you have any questions or issues during the convention please see any Blacksburg Fire Department member of association officer

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

Roy Wall offered the following report:

- Thanked President Smith and the members of Blacksburg Fire Department for their hard work putting on a successful convention

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

The office is currently vacant

- No Report

### **Treasurer:**

Robbie Kiser offered the following report.

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

### **Asst. Treasurer:**

Potsie Smith offered the following report.

- Gave a report on the Convention account
- Motion to accept made by Kenny Hancock and seconded by Barry Simmons
  - **Motion voted and passed**
- The books will be audited at the September meeting

### **Secretary:**

Curtis Whitt offered the following report:

- Thanked everyone for attending
- Thanked Blacksburg Fire Department for the work to make the convention a success

### **Asst. Secretary:**

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Todd Chrisley was not present:

- No report

### **Chaplin / Welfare:**

Kenny Hancock offered the following report:

- Thanked everyone that attended the Memorial Service and those that had a part in the service
- Thanked Craig Helvey and Horne Funeral Home for their support of Memorial Service
- Reminded everyone of the Sunday Morning Departure Service
- Reported that Retired Blacksburg Firefighter Wayne Garst was the only death notification he received since the spring business meeting

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

- No report

### **Board of Directors:**

- No report

### **Legislative Committee:**

Mike Moles offered the following report:

- Thanked President Smith, the Convention Committee and the members of Blacksburg Fire Department for all of the work they put into this convention
- Thanked the new members of the Virginia Department of Fire Programs for their support of the association
- Advised that if you have not reached out for your ATL money to please do so. If that money is not collected by the municipality, it goes back to the state.
  - Here is the link to the VDFP website to see if your locality has received its ATL money
  - [ATL Payments FY22.xlsx \(vafire.com\)](#)
- Thanked the Fire Service Board Mr. Ben Reedy

- Recognized Mr. Larry Gwaltney, Executive Director of the Virginia State Firefighters Association
  - Mr. Gwaltney addressed the membership and discussed the following items:
    - Reviewed House Bill 743 that refers to the volunteer training fund
    - Discussed the ATL funding and what it looks like in the future
- Advised that the association has supported the Wise Regional School in the past and will be asking to support this school again
- The association was well represented at the 2022 Fire Rescue Conference in Va. Beach in 2022 and would like to consider setting up a booth at this conference in 2023
  - A request was made to be a sponsor at the Wise Regional School, the cost is \$300.00, the motion also included 1 night lodging for an association representative to be at the school and speak about the association
  - A request was made to setup at the VFCA Fire Rescue Conference in Va. Beach in February 2023. The cost will be reported back to the association at the January meeting, the motion included lodging for the association representative to be at the booth to answer question about the association
- Motion made by Nathan Brewbaker and seconded by Leon Reed to continue funding the 2 events
  - **Motion voted and passed**

### **Membership Committee:**

Leon Reed offered the following report:

- No report

### **Training Committee:**

Susie Ratcliffe offered the following report:

- Thanked everyone that attended the trainings

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

- No report

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

Billy Cook offered the following report:

- Contest will be in the grass area across from the hotel at 2000 hours
- Captain's meeting will be after the business meeting
- Thanked Mark Bowery and VFIS Insurance for sponsoring the contests

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

Susie Ratcliffe offered the following report:

- The 50/50 purse was \$310.00 with \$155.00 going to the winner

### **Scholarship Committee:**

Billy Hanks offered the following report:

- The association will give out 5 scholarships this year
- He advised the Mission BBQ, VCOM and VFIS all contributed to this year's scholarship fund
- The amount donated this year for the scholarships was about \$7,500

- After the discussion a motion was made by Nathan Brewbaker and seconded by Barry Simmons to increase the amount of the scholarships to \$1,500.00 per award
  - **Motion passed**

**Convention Committee:**

Jeremy Williams offered the following report:

- Thanked everyone on the Convention Committee and everyone else that assisted with the convention and activities
- Thanked the vendors for their support and encouraged everyone to visit the vendors
- Advised that after the 2022-2023 year term he would not be the chairman
- The association is looking at moving the conference back into Virginia in 2024, convention in 2023 will be here in Kingsport
- Any issues or suggestions contact the committee members

**Old Business**

No old business

**New Business**

The Audit Committee reviewed the Treasurers books and reported that the books are in order

- A motion was made to accept the committee report by Billy Hanks and seconded by Barry Simmons
  - **Motion passed**

**The 2022 – 2023 meeting schedule was set as follows:**

**The Fall Meeting:** 18 September, 2022 at Draper Volunteer Fire Department, Draper, Va.

**The Winter Meeting:** 8 January, 2023 at Boiling Springs Vol. Fire Department, Covington, Va.

**The Spring Meeting:** 16 April, 2023 at Hiltons Fire Department, Hiltons, Va.

**Convention Business Meeting:** 17 June, 2023 at the MeadowView Conference Resort & Convention Center, Kingsport, TN.

**The Nomination Committee offered the following slate of officers for the 2022 – 2023 year:**

- President – Mr. Roy Wall, Dublin Fire Department
- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Mr. Ray Musselman, Riner Fire Department
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Mr. Joshua Stitt, Barren Springs Fire Department
- Treasurer – Mr. Robbie Kiser, Pulaski Fire Department
- Secretary – Mr. Curtis Whitt, Dublin Fire Department
- Chaplain – Mr. Kenny Hancock, Draper Fire Department
- Assistant Treasurer – Mr. Potsie Smith, Christiansburg Fire Department
- Assistant Secretary – Mr. Mark Smith, Blacksburg Fire Department
- Sergeant at Arms – Mr. Mathew Holbrook, Newbern Fire Department
- Convention Coordinator – Mr. Jeremy Williams, Christiansburg Fire Department
- Motion made to accept the slate of officers except the Convention Coordinator, which will have to come from the floor, was made by Billy Hanks and seconded by Barry Simmons
  - **Motion Passed**

Curtis Whitt requested a by-laws change/update:

- This change/update is to clean up some of the wording in the current by-laws and to better define the classifications and roles of membership. The request also includes a reformatting of the by-laws.
- This was the first reading of the proposed changes/updates
- A copy of the current by-laws and a copy of the proposed changes (highlighted in yellow) are attached to these minutes

There are 2 vacant seats on the Board of Directors for the association

- Mr. Page Brockenbough and Mr. Jeff Saunders have stepped down from the board
- The 2 new members that were recommended for the vacant positions are Mr. Barry Simmons of Christiansburg Fire Department and Mr. Robbie Kiser of Pulaski Fire Department
  - A motion was made by John Linkous and seconded by Potsie Smith to accept the 2 new appointments
    - **Motion Passed**
- The Board of Directors is made up of the following members:
  - Mr. Leon Reed – Martinsville Fire Department (Past President)
  - Mr. David Akers – Christiansburg Fire Department (Past President)
  - Mr. Mike Moles – Riner Fire Department (Past President)
  - Mr. Robbie Kiser – Pulaski Fire Department
  - Mr. Barry Simmons – Christiansburg Fire Department

Curtis Whitt asked to work with the Membership Committee to create a Convention Scholarship to help get departments involved with the association that may be paying dues but not attending the business meetings or the convention or not currently a member department of the association.

At this time this scholarship would not be available to departments that currently attend the meetings or convention.

The outline of the scholarship program will look like the following:

- Provide (4) hotel rooms for Friday and Saturday nights.
- Provide Convention Registration for 8 people (4 members) / (4 Guests).
- Requirements for the department receiving the grant:
  - Departments that have not been to the conference in the past.
  - Must attend training,
  - Must attend the Memorial Service,
  - Must attend the Business Meeting,
  - Must attend the Dinner and Awards,
  - Must attend the Competition.
- Application must justify the need for the assistance and a commitment to membership, if not currently members. Applicant must have a member willing to serve on a committee of the association for the upcoming year.
- Applicant department must be willing to host a quarterly meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 1115 hours with Mr. Kenny Hancock offering the closing prayer.

**Thanks to the members of the Blacksburg Volunteer Fire Department  
for the work hosting the convention**

**The next meeting will be Sunday, September 18, 2022 at Draper  
Volunteer Fire Department in Draper, VA at 1300 hours**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Curtis Whitt  
Secretary  
Southwest Virginia Firefighters Association  
[cwhitt@swvafirefighters.com](mailto:cwhitt@swvafirefighters.com)