



Southwest Virginia Firefighters Association Convention Business Meeting June 17, 2023

We Protect Southwest Virginia

17 June, 2023

The Convention Business meeting of the Southwest Virginia Firefighters Association was held on Saturday, 17 June, 2023 at the Meadowview Conference Resort and Convention Center in Kingsport, TN. with 72 members present, representing 18 member organizations.

The business meeting was called to order at 0916 hours by President Roy Wall. The invocation was given by Mr. Kenny Hancock of the Draper Volunteer Fire Department. President Wall welcomed everyone in attendance.

President Wall welcomed the following guest:

- Mr. Ken Brown, VDFP Coordinator of Community Risk Reduction
 - Mr. Brown addressed the audience about the Community Risk Reduction program and how it structured through VDFP
 - If you are interested in more the Community Risk Reduction program check put the VDFP website at www.vafir.com
- Executive Director of the Virginia Department of Fire Programs Mr. Brad Creasy
 - Director Creasy addressed the members and gave an overview of the Department of Fire Programs and his vision for the future of the department
 - Director Creasy thanked the membership for the invitation to the convention and for allowing him to speak at the Memorial Service
 - VDFP is working on a Firefighter I modular program
 - This modular program has been tested along with the online testing portion
 - There have been a couple of issues and the department has been working on them
 - Reviewed upcoming classes and discussed future programs
 - Discussed HB 2175, This bill is looking into providing a funding stream for the fire service in Virginia

Reports:

President:

Roy Wall offered the following report.

- Thanked everyone for their attendance and participation at the conference
- Thanked members of the Convention Committee for their hard work on the conference
- President Wall also thanked the members of Dublin Fire Department for the support and help with this years conference
- He 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 please contact one of the association officers or any Dublin Fire Department member

1st Vice President:

Ray Musselman offered the following report:

- Thanked President Wall and the members of Dublin Fire Department for their hard work putting on a successful convention
- Is looking forward to 2023-2024

2nd Vice President:

Josh Stitt offered then following report

- Thanked President Wall and the Convention Committee for the work on this years conference

Treasurer:

Robbie Kiser offered the following report.

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

Asst. Treasurer:

Potsie Smith offered the following report.

- Gave a report on the Convention account
- Motion to accept made by Scott Canada and seconded by Mark Smith
 - **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 President Wall for the work to make the convention a success
- Advised that this is his last year as your Secretary
 - Thanked the membership for the support over the past 18 years
- Advised that I would like to continue to maintain the association website and assist with the social media accounts
- Requested to buy the current association laptop that is being used by the secretary at what ever the fair market value is.
 - There was a short discussion and a motion from the floor "to allow Curtis to keep the laptop that he is currently and buy the incoming Secretary a new laptop"
 - Motion was made by several people from the floor and seconded by Billy Cook
 - **Motion voted and passed**
- All association information and files will be transferred to the new Secretary at a later date
- The association will be sending a Post Convention Survey out to collect information for future conventions

Asst. Secretary:

Mark Smith offered the following report:

- Thanked Dublin Fire Department for the work to make the conference a success
- Thanked the membership for getting the registrations in early, this makes the planning ahead much easier

Chaplin / Welfare:

Kenny Hancock offered the following report:

- Thanked everyone that attended the Memorial Service and those that had a part in the service
- Advised that he had received 4 names of deceased members since the spring meeting:
 - Firefighter Larry Akers – LongShop McCoy Fire Department
 - Firefighter Dickie Horne – Christiansburg Fire Department
 - Firefighter Mike Glass – Fort Lewis Fire Department
 - Esley Dillon - LongShop McCoy Fire Department
- Reminded everyone of the Sunday Morning Departure Service

Sgt. At Arms:

Mathew Holbrook offered the following report:

- No report

Board of Directors:

David Akers offered the following report:

- No report

Legislative Committee:

Mike Moles offered the following report:

- Reviewed HB 2175, reference a possible funding stream for the fire service in Virginia
 - He advised that the Southwest Virginia Firefighters Association has been a voice in the support of this bill
 - President Wall sent a letter expressing the associations support of this bill
- A needs assessment survey will be sent out from VDFP in the near future
 - Please take the time to review and submit the survey
 - Please work with your governmental leaders to ensure your agency is represented in this survey
- Thanked President Wall, the Convention Committee and the members of Dublin Fire Department for all of the work they put into this convention
- Thanked the Virginia Department of Fire Programs for their support of the association

Membership Committee:

- No report

Training Committee:

- No report
- Many members from the floor commented on the training from Chief David Decker

By-laws Committee:

- No report

Rules and Contest Committee:

Billy Cook and Mike Moles offered the following report:

- Contest were held on the golf course driving range on Friday night at 2030 hours
- The food at the contest seemed to be a big hit
- Thanked Mark Bowery and VFIS Insurance for sponsoring the contests

Ways and Means Committee:

Mark Smith offered the following report:

- The 50/50 purse was \$380.00 with \$190.00 going to the winner

Scholarship Committee:

Billy Hanks offered the following report:

- The association received 5 scholarship applications this year
 - The applications were reviewed and the committee reported that 1 application was received late and did not meet the criteria
- He advised that Mission BBQ contributed to this year's scholarship fund
- After the discussion a motion was made by Patsie Smith and seconded by Mike Hutchison to award 4 scholarships at \$1,000.00 each
 - **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
- Reminded people to stop by thank the vendors for their support of the association
- Advised that he has a binder for the new Convention Committee Chairman that will help planning for future conventions
- Advised the membership that there needs to be some new people on the Convention Committee that will have ideas, if anyone is interested please contact President Musselman
- Any issues or suggestions contact the committee members

Old Business

No old business

New Business

*The Audit Committee, consisting of Mike Moles, Billy Cook and Frank Wright, reviewed the Treasurers books and reported that the books are in order

- There were a lot of \$50.00 checks that have not been cashed,
- These checks are being sent to departments as memorials for members that have passed
- Often times these checks do not get cashed

There was a discussion to look into a different type of recognize the members that have passed

- There was a motion to look into possibly look into a different type of donation, possibly making a donation to a Firefighter Charity in honor of the deceased member and a formal letter sent to the department and/or family.

A motion was made by Todd Chrisley and seconded by Joey Griffith for the charity donation and to accept the Audit Committee report of the books

- **After the discussion this motion voted and passed**

The name of the charity will be discussed and determined at the Fall Meeting

The 2022 – 2023 meeting schedule was set as follows:

The Fall Meeting: 17 September, 2023 at Covington Fire Department, Covington, Va.

The Winter Meeting: 14 January, 2024 at Abington Vol. Fire Department, Abington, Va.

The Spring Meeting: 14 April, 2024 at Newbern Vol. Fire Department, Newbern, Va.

Convention Business Meeting: 15 June, 2024 at the Natural Bridge Hotel, Natural Bridge, Va.

**The following nominations were made from the floor for the slate of officers for the 2023 – 2024 year:*

- President – Mr. Ray Musselman, Riner Fire Department
- 1st Vice President – Mr. Joshua Stitt, Barren Springs Fire Department
- 2nd Vice President – Mr. Mathew Holbrook, Newbern Fire Department
- Treasurer – Mr. Robbie Kiser, Pulaski Fire Department
- Secretary – Mr. Nathan Brewbaker, Christiansburg 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. Joey Griffith, Riner Fire Department
- Convention Coordinator – Mr. Roy Wall, Dublin Fire Department

The officers were voted on by the membership and approved

Mr. Jimmy Byer of the Virginia State Firefighters Association addressed the membership and invited them that the 2023 Virginia State Firefighters Association Conference in Hampton, Va. The date of the conference will be 20-23 September, 2023

Lawrence Keffer addressed the membership:

There are a lot of roles in the association that are being filled by Past Presidents. If the association is going to continue to grow we need some younger people to get involved with committees and see how the association works. This will get them ready to move into the officer chairs.

Billy Cook addressed the membership:

Please take the time to fill out the Post Convention Survey and provide honest feedback. This will be used to provide information to make future convention better and fit the needs of the membership.

Mike Moles addressed the membership:

Made a request 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.

- Motion was made by Nathan Brewbaker and seconded by Kenny Hancock to approve the funding request.
 - **Motion voted and passed**

At the Saturday night dinner the membership was addressed by Curtis Whitt advising that the Board of Directors elections were overlooked at the Business Meeting.

The following changes to the board of directors were presented to the membership:

- Mr. Leon Reed has resigned from the Board of Directors
- Mr. Mark Smith was nominated to fill the vacant seat

A motion was made and the membership present approved Mr. Mark Smith to fill the seat vacated by Mr. Leon Reed.

- **The motion was voted and passed**

The Full Board of Directors were presented to the membership present for a vote, A motion was made and the membership present approved the Board of Directors for the 2023-2024 year.

- The 2023-2024 Board of Directors is made up of the following members:
 - 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
 - Mr. Mark Smith – Blacksburg Fire Department (Past President)

*The Spring Meeting did not have enough members to set the Audit or Nomination Committees

The meeting was adjourned at 1120 hours with Mr. Kenny Hancock offering the closing prayer.

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

The next meeting will be Sunday, September 17, 2023 at Covington Fire Department in Covington, VA at 1300 hours

Respectfully Submitted,
Curtis Whitt
Secretary
Southwest Virginia Firefighters Association
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