



Southwest Virginia Firefighters Association

January 8, 2006 Minutes

We Protect Southwest Virginia

9 January 2006

The winter quarterly meeting of the Southwest Virginia Firefighters Association was held on Sunday, 9 January 2006 at the Radford Fire and Rescue with 51 members present, representing 15 member departments.

The meeting was called to order at 13:05 hours by President David Akers. The invocation was given by Mr. Kenny Hancock of the Draper Volunteer Fire Department. Assistant Chief Butch Reed of the Radford Fire and Rescue welcomed everyone in attendance. President David Akers recognized Mr. Norman Rice, 1st Vice President; Mr. Ronnie Black, 2nd Vice President and Mr. Dickie Atkins, Secretary of the Virginia State Firefighters Association. Also recognized were Mr. Scott Fritz of Singer Associates, Mr. Mike Durham of Blue Ridge Rescue Suppliers and Mr. J. Mark Bowery of VFIS Insurance, Inc. as guest.

Reports:

President:

President David Akers offered the following report:

- Attended the services for Kenny Hancock's mother.
- Attended the visitations for the daughter of Past President Mr. Sammy Vest.

1st Vice President:

1st Vice President Gary Akers offered the following report.

- The "training weekend" that was discussed at the September meeting has run into some snags. The association can not find free instructors for some of the topics that the association wanted (L.P. Gas, Natural Gas, AEP). The railroad can do a 2 hour class for free. This will be looked into closer.
- The Hybrid Car class for 2 days will cost \$800.00 for the weekend.
- Mark Bowery with VFIS informed the association that VFIS can offer classes in areas such as driver training (vehicle roll over, intersections, etc.).
- Gary suggested that the "training weekend" be changed to a 1 day class to help get the attendance up and the instructors.
 - Keep the date of March 5, 2006
 - Location to be at Christiansburg Fire Department in Christiansburg, Va.
 - Mr. Dickie Atkins suggested contacting local car dealers to assist with any cost involved with the hybrid car class if needed.
- The motion was made by Mr. Billy Hanks to have the class at Christiansburg Fire Department on Sunday March 4, 2006. Have VFIS to assist with getting classes set up. Motion was seconded by Mr. Mike Hutchinson. **Motion Passed.**

2nd Vice President:

2nd Vice President Mike Moles offered the following report:

- Mr. Moles attended 3 parades during fire prevention week with the chairman of the membership committee Mr. Steve Hall to help get the membership in the association up.
- Mr. Moles introduced Mr. J. Mark Bowery of VFIS to present a short program about the insurance program that was discussed at the September meeting.
 - The plan would be set under the name of the Southwest Virginia Firefighters Association.
 - This will be a 24/7 plan.
- Mr. Bowery gave a brief explanation of the plan structure and benefits for the members present.
- This beneficiary plan could be used as a recruitment and retention tool.
- There was much discussion about the cost of the plan. Mr. Bowery explained that the cost is based on the total number of people that want to participate in the plan. The cost of the plan **WILL NOT** be covered by the Southwest Virginia Firefighters Association but by each department, member or a combination of the two. The reason for putting the plan in the name of the Southwest Virginia Firefighters Association is to get the best rate by getting as many members possible to enroll.
- The major discussion about this plan was the price. Mr. Bowery has agreed to assist in the cost of mailing out information to each department, both members and non0-members, in the association to help get a accurate count of the number of people that may be interested.
- A motion was made by Mr. Jerry Farlow and seconded by Mr. Leon Reed for the information to be sent to all departments for review and brought back the April meeting.
Motion Passed.
- President Akers thanked Mr. Moles and Mr. Bowery for their work on this plan.

Treasure:

Treasure Vickey McCraw offered the following report:

- Treasures report
- Vickey has looked into the cost of a safety deposit box for the association. The cost for a large box to hold the ledger books and past minute books will be \$ 100.00. There was a discussion about where to keep the ledger books and minute's books. For now the safe deposit box will be the best place.
- The new checking account is set up.
- A motion was made to accept the treasurer's report. **Motion voted on and passed.**

Secretary:

Secretary Curtis Whitt offered the following report:

- Minutes for the September meeting had been sent out.
- Dues notices and applications will be sent out in January.
- Please fill out application even if you are a member, this info is needed for the association database.
- Insurance information will be sent out with the dues notices.

Chaplin:

Chaplin Mr. Kenny Hancock offered the following report:

- Kenny thanked the association for the donation that was made in his mother's name.
- Thanked President David Akers for attending the service for Kenny's mother.
- Kenny advised the he will try to attend as many services for the members of the association that he can. Please notify him if the is a death in the association and he will try to attend.

Sgt. At Arms:

No Report

Historian:

No Report

Executive Committee:

No Report

Legislative Committee:

The chairman of the legislative committee was not present but Mr. Dickie Atkins of the Virginia State Firefighters Association offered the following report:

- There is a push in the legislative session to tie poker games in with the bingo bill for fire departments. The state association will be opposing this bill.
- There is a bill in the legislative session to resend the dealers bill. This is due to departments that have been taken advantage of by unrepeatable dealers.

Membership Committee:

Mr. Steve Hall of the Membership Committee offered the following report:

- Steve reported on the status of the membership.
- Hollybrook and Upper Craig Creek where present and eligible for the \$100.00 new member door prize. The decision was made to give each department \$50.00.
- Steve asked that members talk to other members in there area.

Training Committee:

Roy Redd of the Training Committee offered the following report:

- Introduced Mr. Dennis Price as the new area manager for the Department of Fire Programs for division 4.
 - Mr. Dennis Price thanked the association for there support.
 - He will work with the Southwest Virginia Firefighters Association to help with training.
 - Dennis encouraged members to attend the Department of Fire Programs "town meetings"
 - The January – June training schedule has been set.
 - School request for July – December have been sent out.
 - Dennis advised to call him if you have any questions or comments.
- David thanked and congratulated Dennis on his new job.

- The Galax school had all classes except 1 filled.
- The Spring school in Pulaski will be held in the 3rd weekend in May..

Welfare Committee:

- Mr. Dave Worrell passed away.
- President Akers thanked Vickey for all of her hard work.

By-laws Committee:

No Report

Rules and Contest Committee:

Mr. Danny Yopp of the Rules and Contest Committee offer the following report:

- There are a few changes in the wording for the contest. These changes were reviewed, discussed and the 1st vote on the changes were approved.
- The revisions will be reviewed and voted on at the April meeting.

Ways and Means Committee:

No Report

Web Page Committee:

- Market place for the web site has been approved. If you have any items that you would like to sell please contact me.
- Any upcoming events please contact me for posting on the web site.
- The association will be selling ads for the website to help generate income for the association.

Scholarship Committee:

President Akers offered the following report:

- David asked for volunteers to set up this committee. Please contact David if you are interested.

Old Business

None

Guest

Mr. Norman Rice, 1st Vice President of the Virginia State Firefighters Association.

- The VSFA offers a \$ 7,500.00 death benefit for its members.
- The Virginia State Firefighters Association convention will offer a casino night at the 2006 convention.

New Business

- State convention: Mr. Dickie Atkins asked that if you attend the state convention to please be sure to register your spouse or guest. This has been a problem in the past.
- Mailing addresses are to be sent out with the minutes.
- 2 area Emergency Coordinators would like to join the association as Associate Members.
 - ✓ Pulaski County
 - ✓ Montgomery County
- Convention:
 - ❖ Work is in progress.

The meeting was closed with a prayer by Mr. Kenny Hancock of the Draper Volunteer Fire Department. Meeting was adjourned at 15:30.

Thanks to the members of the Radford Fire and Rescue for hosting the meeting and serving lunch.

The next meeting will be Sunday, April 9, 2006 at Christiansburg in Christiansburg, VA. at 13:00.

Respectfully Submitted,
Curtis Whitt
Secretary
Southwest Virginia Firefighters Association