



Southwest Virginia Firefighters Association Convention Business Meeting June 15, 2024

We Protect Southwest Virginia

15 June, 2024

The Convention Business meeting of the Southwest Virginia Firefighters Association was held on Saturday, 15 June, 2024 at the Natural Bridge Hotel in Natural Bridge, VA with 72 members present, representing 13 member organizations.

The business meeting was called to order at 0902 hours by President Ray Musselman. The invocation was given by Mr. Kenny Hancock of the Draper Volunteer Fire Department. President Musselman welcomed everyone in attendance.

President Musselman welcomed the following guest:

- Mr. Larry Gwaltney, VA State Firefighters Association,
 - Mr. Gwaltney invited everyone to the State Convention in September
 - Dues packets for the state association have been sent out to member departments
 - If your department is not a member and would like to be, please see him.
- Mr. Richard Dickerson, Dominion Energy
 - Spoke on the Dominion Grant Program
 - Thanked everyone for their hospitality during convention.

Reports:

President:

Ray Musselman 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 Riner Fire Dept for their help and support during this year's convention.
- 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

1st Vice President:

Josh Stitt offered the following report:

- Thanked President Musselman and the members of Riner Fire Department for their hard work putting on a successful convention.
- Most likely going back to Kingsport for next year's convention.

2nd Vice President:

Matt Holbrook offered then following report

- Thanked President Musselman and the Convention Committee for the work on this year's 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 Potsie 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 David Akers and seconded by Barry Simmons
 - **Motion voted and passed**

Secretary:

Nathan Brewbaker offered the following report:

- Thanked everyone for attending
- Thanked President Musselman and the Riner Fire Dept for a great convention.
- Apologized to Covington Fire Dept for the oversight in the memorial service. We are working to streamline that process so it will not happen again.

Asst. Secretary:

Mark Smith offered the following report:

- Thanked Riner 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
- He is stepping down as Asst. Secretary. Thank you to everyone for their support over the years

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 Roger Tillman- Marion Fire Department
 - Firefighter Page Brockenbrough- Martinsville Fire Department
 - Firefighter Jeremy Compton- Christiansburg Fire Department
 - Firefighter Martin Keiffer- Newport Fire Department
- Reminded everyone of the Sunday Morning Departure Service

Sgt. At Arms:

Joey Griffith offered the following report:

- No report

Board of Directors:

David Akers offered the following report:

- We are looking to increase convention registration from \$50 a person to \$60.
- Motion to accept made by Jimmy Buyers second by Todd Chrisley
 - **Motion Passed**

Legislative Committee:

Mike Moles offered the following report:

- Reviewed HB 2175, reference a possible funding stream for the fire service in Virginia
 - Advised that the bill was not very successful, fire council will address this again in the future

Legislative Committee: (cont.)

- Big OSHA changes are in the works that will affect fire departments
 - Fire council is working to address these issues
 - Larry Gwaltney spoke on behalf of the state association. They are not against safety, but additional funding to help make it happen.
 - Mark Bowery requested that members speak to their representatives.
- Thanked President Musselman, the Convention Committee and the members of Riner Fire Department for all of the work they put into this convention

Membership Committee:

Greg Burton offered the following report:

- His goal this year is to get member departments back involved in the association
- He has already made several contacts.

Training Committee:

Joey Griffith offered the following report:

- Thanked everyone that attended the training.
- Joey would like the association to purchase three sections of hose to replace the hose coupling competition hose.
 - Motion made by Joey Griffith, second by Jon Linkous
 - **Motion passed**

By-laws Committee:

- No report

Rules and Contest Committee:

Billy Cook and Mike Moles offered the following report:

- All members competing need to be sure to sign in.
- Team captains meeting after the business meeting.
- 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 \$300.00 with \$150.00 going to the winner
- Winner was Neal Turner. He graciously donated the winnings to the Jeremy Compton fund.

Scholarship Committee:

Barry Simmons offered the following report:

- The association received 8 scholarship applications this year
 - All 8 will be awarded at the banquet
- He Mission BBQ, Mark Bowery VFIS, and VCOM for donating to the scholarships this year.

Convention Committee:

Ray Musselman offered the following report:

- We need a convention coordinator this year to assist the upcoming president.
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Old Business

No old business

New Business

*The Audit Committee, consisting of Leon Reed and Frank Wright, reviewed the Treasurers books and reported that the books are in order

- Thanks to Robbie Kiser for his hard work in keeping the books in order.

Donnie Gatton spoke on behalf of the Red Knights, VA Chapter 13.

- Wished to thank all the departments and members that helped with the Jeremy Compton ride
- They are still gathering money, but currently they are over \$50,000.

Mikey Moles wished to continue our support of the Wise Regional School. In the past the association has donated \$300 to them.

- Motion made by Kenny Hancock, second by Jon Linkous
- **Motion Passed**

Barry Simmons advised that VFIS and Atlantic Emergency Solutions would be donating \$500 each for the purchase of cornhole boards for the Jeremy Compton fund.

- The winners from the cornhole tournament donated their winnings to the Compton Fund.

The 2024 – 2025 meeting schedule was set as follows:

The Fall Meeting: 15 September, 2024 at Christiansburg Fire Department, Christiansburg, Va.

The Winter Meeting: 19 January, 2025 at Boiling Springs Fire Department, Boiling Springs, Va.

The Spring Meeting: 27 April, 2025 at Riner Fire Department, Riner, Va.

Convention Business Meeting: 14 June, 2025 at the Meadowview Hotel and Conference Center, Kingsport, TN

****The following nominations were made from the floor for the slate of officers for the 2024 – 2025 year:***

- President – Mr. Joshua Stitt, Barren Springs Fire Department
- 1st Vice President – Mr. Mathew Holbrook, Newbern Fire Department
- 2nd Vice President – Mr. Joey Griffith, Riner 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. Eddie Entsminger, Covington Fire Department
- Sergeant at Arms – Mr. Barry Simmons, Christiansburg Fire Department
- Convention Coordinator – Mr. Pete Haislip, Christiansburg Fire Department

The officers were voted on by the membership and approved

After convention concluded, the Board of Directors and President Stitt have decided to move the Fall meeting. The original date conflicts with the Wise Regional School. The new date is September 22, 2024 at the Christiansburg Fire Department.

The meeting was adjourned at 1027 hours with Mr. Kenny Hancock offering the closing prayer.

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

The next meeting will be Sunday, September 22, 2024 at Christiansburg Fire Department in Christiansburg, VA at 1300 hours

Respectfully Submitted,
Nathan Brewbaker
Secretary
Southwest Virginia Firefighters Association
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