



Southwest Virginia Firefighters Association Convention Business Meeting 26 January, 2025

We Protect Southwest Virginia

17 September, 2023

The Winter Business meeting of the Southwest Virginia Firefighters Association was held on Sunday, 26 January, 2025 at the Boiling Springs Volunteer Fire Department in Covington, VA with 31 members present, representing 12 organizations.

The business meeting was called to order at 1300 hours by President Ray Musselman. The invocation was given by Chaplain Kenny Hancock of the Draper Volunteer Fire Department. President Stitt welcomed everyone in attendance.

President Ray Musselman welcomed Walt Bailey, President of the Virginia State Firefighter's Association. Mr. Bailey addressed the membership about legislative bills moving through Virginia. More of that will be covered in the legislative report. He also spoke on the future of the state association. They are exploring many options to make the association more fruitful.

President Stitt welcomed Mack Craft from VDFP. Mr. Craft thank us for inviting him.

Reports:

President:

Josh Stitt offered the following report:

- Thanked Boiling Spring Volunteer Fire Dept. for hosting the meeting and their hospitality. Also, for the wonderful meal!
- Please work on collecting golf hole sponsors and door prizes for convention.
- Asked the membership if we want to have a booth at the VA Fire Rescue Conference in VA Beach. Motion made by Billy Hanks and seconded by Barry Simmons to host a booth
 - **Motion voted and passed**
- Does the association want to cover hotel costs. Motion made by Kenny Hancock, seconded by Billy Hanks to pay for a hotel room for someone to work the booth
 - **Motion voted and Passed**

1st Vice President:

Matt Holbrook offered the following report:

- No Report

2nd Vice President:

Joey Griffith offered the following report:

- No Report

Treasurer:

Josh Stitt offered the following report for Robbie Kiser:

- 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:

Buddy Joe Smith Jr offered the following report:

- No report

Secretary:

Nathan Brewbaker offered the following report:

- Thank you to Boiling Spring Fire Dept. for hosting the meeting.
- Thank you to Curtis Whitt for taking minutes for me at the last meeting.
- Dues notices will be going out shortly.

Asst. Secretary:

Eddie Entsminger offered the following report:

- No Report

Chaplin / Welfare:

Kenny Hancock offered the following report:

- There have been 3 member deaths since our last meeting
 - James Kern Jr- Falling Spring Fire Department
 - Michael Griffith- Covington Fire Department
 - David Akers- Christiansburg Fire Department

Sgt. At Arms:

Barry Simmons offered the following report:

- Please try to invite newer members in your department to our meetings and convention
- We are exploring new ways to get information out in a timely manner. Other than email to relay meeting changes or other pressing information

Board of Directors:

Barry Simmons offered the following report:

- The passing of David Akers was a huge loss to the association. Please keep his family in your prayers
- There will be an open Board of Directors spot, as well as other officer positions that need to be filled. Please recruit your members to fill these spots.

Legislative Committee:

Walt Bailey with VSFA offered this report during his opening remarks:

- HB 2175, the fire study has been completed and delivered to the governor's office
- HB2069 raises ATL money to 1 ½%
- HB2065 will mandate reporting by all agencies. This is coming for all departments
- SB984 will offer a grant program for fire departments. Please contact your state senator to support this bill. Also contact Sen. Creigh Deeds to support this bill.
 - The association will send a letter to Deeds and senators representing the association to support.

Billy Hanks offered the following report:

- HB 94 effects cancer coverage for firefighters. This would broaden the cancers covered.
 - Ex throat cancer is covered but esophageal cancer is not

Membership Committee:

No Report

Training Committee:

Josh Stitt offered the following report:

- Convention committee is working on training for convention
- There will be a motivational speaker for Friday at convention
- Dominion energy is planning a solar safety class for Thursday morning
- Possibly a Wednesday evening class on turnout manufacturing.

By-laws Committee:

- No Report

Rules and Contest Committee:

- No Report

Ways and Means Committee:

- 50/50 winner was drawn.

Scholarship Committee:

Barry Simmons offered the following report:

- Scholarship applications are Due April 1. Apply online.

Convention Committee:

Barry Simmons and Josh Stitt offered the following report:

- Please get golf holes and door prize sponsors
- Planning is on track for convention.

Old Business

No old business

New Business

No new business

The meeting was adjourned at 1424hrs with Chaplain Kenny offering the closing prayer.

**Thanks to the members of the Boiling Spring Volunteer Fire
Department for hosting the meeting and providing lunch**

**The next meeting will be Sunday, 27 April, 2025 at the Riner Volunteer
Fire Department in Riner, VA at 1300hrs.**

Respectfully Submitted,
Nathan Brewbaker
Secretary
Southwest Virginia Firefighters Association
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