

WESTERN NEW YORK VOLUNTEER FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION, INC.
MINUTES OF THE 114th ANNUAL CONVENTION
THURSDAY, JULY 25, 2013
J.W. JONES HALL
354 LEICESTER ST.
CALEDONIA, NY 14423

President Anthony DeMarco, III Called the Meeting to Order at 9:04 a.m. Sergeant-at-Arms Donald Trzepacz pointed out the exits and then escorted the Caledonia Fire Department Color Guard before the assembled delegates, members and guests.

Chaplain Alan Way offered the Invocation and Sergeant-at-Arms Trzepacz led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

President DeMarco introduced the following officials who welcomed the members of the fire service to Caledonia and Livingston County: Ross Corser, General Chairman; Stanley MacWilliams, president-Caledonia Fire Department; Dan Pangrazio, Town of Caledonia Supervisor; Dan Chapman, Village of Caledonia Police Chief; Jim Sesneck, Livingston County Under Sheriff; Kevin Niedermaier, Livingston County Emergency Management Coordinator; James Burns, president-FASNY. Recognized at this time were FASNY 2nd vice president, Ken Pienkowski; FASNY directors Edward Tase and David Sweet; FASNY past presidents Carl Veltri and Michael Wutz and past sergeant-at-arms Werner Kramer. FASNY president James Burns reported on the success of "Recruit New York" for signing up new members with the next Statewide program set for April 27-28, 2014; SAFER grant for recruitment and retention with free tuition for community colleges and Empire State college; FASNY convention August 20-23, 2013, Albany, NY.

President DeMarco assumed the Chair for the Regular Business Meeting
Motion by Alan Way, 2nd by William Kershner to accept the Minutes of the previous session. Carried.

Roll Call: Secretary Tim Tyrrell Called the Roll of the member Counties with the following Counties responding present: Allegany, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Niagara, Orleans, Wyoming. Counties not responding were Cattaraugus and Steuben.

Report of Secretary Tim Tyrrell: Dues collected to date: \$5,525.00. Members paid: 225 out of 688. Fire Companies paid: 142 out of 307. Our membership has been shrinking.

We need to recruit new members and fire companies. There are 45 or more fire companies that are more than one year in arrears on their dues. I have been trying to contact them. There are eight fire companies that want to be dropped or were out of operation. I will be updating Directory information and want to be as correct as possible, especially emails. There are 1445 fully paid life members. Assistant Secretary Dan Evans is working on the list to correct addresses and delete deceased members. There are 40 members eligible for fully paid life membership with 25 current on their dues and will get certificates. We found 31 certificates in a file box from 2004 and have sent these to the members. We continue to maintain office hours every Tuesday from 9:30 am to 1:00 pm. Motion by Bill Kerschner, 2nd by Norm Eberle to accept. Carried.

Secretary Tyrrell listed the following individuals as new 20 year fully paid life members: Donald Campbell; Pat Cleary; Michael Corey; Jeni Corser; Ross Corser; Craig Flint; Jim Kelly; Robert Kirkland; Ronald Mleczo; Joseph Morlino; Brian Murray; Mike New; Donald O’Hearn; Debbie Parmerter; David Peck; Donald Phelps; John Stearns; Ed Vandenvouwer; David Vanderbergh; Jody Volpe; Thomas Walker; Glenn Wendt; Bill Wollaber.

Report of Treasurer Thomas McLaughlin: Account balances as of June 30, 2013:

Savings	\$ 1,137.27
Checking	3,322.50
Scholarship	1,903.41
Total	\$ 6,363.18

Motion by Alan Way, 2nd by Forrest Skelton to accept. Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

First Vice President Wendi Walker assumed the Chair

Trustees Report: Ken Fuller, Chairman reported the audit of the regular, bowling and program book accounts were held on Wednesday afternoon with 7 trustees present. All accounts were in balance and good order. The financial records of the Steering and Queen’s pageant committees have not been submitted for audit. The next audit will be at 11:00 a.m. on September 8, 2013.

Bowling Committee: Thomas McLaughlin, Chairman reported that all prize checks had been sent out. Four had not yet been cashed.

Program Book Committee: Edward Dysard, Chairman reported that as of July 25, 2013 we are at 103.5% of the Budget goal. Gross sales-\$77,404.95; Support Services of New York-\$61,883.96; WNYVFA-\$15,520.99. There have been no complaints.

By-Laws Committee: Bill Kershner, Chairman submitted a proposed amendment change to the Constitution Art. VII, Sec. 1-Annual Meeting and By-Law Art. III, Sec. 16-Standing Committees to be effective with the 2015 convention. The proposed amendment change

would move the Convention from a Wednesday through Saturday to a Thursday through Saturday time frame.

Convention Committee: William D'Angelo, Chairman. No report.

Local Committee: Ross Corser, Chairman reported that a bus would take personnel to the golf tournament and that on Saturday the Fire Police seminar would be held in the back meeting room.

Explorer/Junior Firefighter: Forrest Skelton reported that the Juniors would be participating in the Friday Nozzle Practice events.

History Committee: Frank Wilczak, Chairman thanked fellow firepersons that have been providing information about their fire companies, history books, program books and anniversary books. Caledonia is hosting the 114th annual convention, 50 years after they hosted the 1963 convention.

Investment & Finance Committee: Tom McLaughlin, Chairman reported account balances as of June 30, 2013:

Savings	\$ 1,137.27
Scholarship	1,903.41
Past President's	229.40
Certificates of Deposit (7)	87,389.17
Checking	3,322.50
Total	\$ 93,981.75

Legislative Committee: David Sweet reported that we have had a very successful year. The Governor has Called Up: the Job Protection Bill; Other bills awaiting Call Up are: Novelty lighters; EMS glucometry; Revolving loan; LOSAP Tax relief. The Legislative committee will meet at 12:00 noon September 8th to prepare the next legislative program. The fall legislative conference will be November 2nd, Albany, NY. Effective September 1st, DKC Governmental Affairs will be FASNY's new legislative advocate.

Memorial Scholarship Committee: Tim Wolfanger, Chairman reported that the committee awarded \$1800 in scholarships in 2013 to: Kaylynn Stanley, Dansville-\$450; Adam Meier, Alexander-\$350; Elizabeth Weber, Attica-\$300; Jessica Camuto, Dansville-\$250; Alison O'Hearn, Albion-\$250; Matthew Morgan, Starpoint-\$200. WNYVFA has a new member as a result of the scholarship application process. We have received \$420 in donations.

Second Vice President Harold Wollaber assumed the Chair

Nominations Committee: Forrest Skelton, Chairman reported the following endorsements:

President-Wendi Walker Motion to accept by Don Martin, 2nd.

1st Vice President-Harold Wollaber Motion to accept by Norm Eberle, 2nd.

2nd Vice President-No nominee

Secretary-Timothy Tyrrell Motion to accept by Ed Tase, 2nd.

Assistant Secretary- Daniel Evans Motion to accept by Michael Wutz, 2nd.

Treasurer-Thomas McLaughlin Motion to accept by Ken Fuller, 2nd

Assistant Treasurer-Jack Hurlburt Motion to accept by Marc Kasprzak, 2nd

Trustees: Allegany-Wayne Butts; Chautauqua-Douglas Wood; Erie-Robert Carncross; Genesee-Kathy Wright; Livingston-Stanley MacWilliams; Monroe-Kenneth Fuller; Niagara-Edward Dysard; Wyoming-Terry Snyder. No endorsements had been received from Cattaraugus, Orleans or Steuben Counties. Endorsement letters need to be received by the Nominations Chairman before the September 8th meeting. Motion by David Wolf, 2nd by Bill Kershner to close nominations and the Secretary cast one ballot electing the nominees to their respective offices. Carried.

Nozzle Practice Committee: Doug Wright, Chairman reported that the event will be held next to tent city on Friday at 12:00 noon. Friday's Nozzle Practice event results are listed here: There were over 200 spectators at the event.

Hydrant Hook-Up: 1st-Alden; 2nd-Silver Springs 1; 3rd-Sheldon; 4th-Silver Springs 2;

Waterball: 1st-Silver Springs 1; 2nd-Rapids; 3rd-Alden; 4th-Shawndeville;

Overall Winner of the Hotchkiss Trophy was Silver Springs.

Junior Teams: Hydrant Hook-Up: 1st- Caledonia;

Waterball: 1st-Shawnee; 2nd-Caledonia;

Parade Committee: Marc Kasprzak reported that 34 units had registered for the 7:00 p.m. parade on Friday.

Past President's Committee: Gerald Gehrig, Chairman reported they would meet at 6:00 p.m. Thursday evening at the Village Inn.

President's Participation Committee: Wayne Stanley, Chairman noted that sign-in books are at all convention events and points are awarded for participation.

Public Relations Committee: Stanley MacWilliams, Chairman reported that photo's and articles were regularly submitted to FASNY's "The Volunteer Firefighter" magazine and that photo's of local committee chairs, officers and trustees would be turned over to Dan Evans, chairman of the 2014 local convention program book.

Queen's Pageant Committee: Sarah Bobo, Chairwoman reported that the Queen and Princess would be present for the various events over the next two days.

Topics Committee: Donald Gavenda, Chairman introduced Larry Amidon, a New York State DOT official who addressed the attendees on the crackdown on groups using State Highways for parades. New form PERM 33c must be submitted at least 30 days in advance. There is not cost. Go through your local municipality.

Northern Central Liaison: David Sweet reported their convention was held June 15th in Fairville. Frank Orbaker will continue as president. Next meeting will be September 22nd

at West Webster. Banquet is planned for October 19th at Geneva.

Steering Committee: William Nichols, Chairman reported a FASNY Director vacancy with the recent passing of Director Richard Vella. Eugene Perry of Suffolk County has been endorsed to serve until 2016.

President Anthony DeMarco resumed the Chair

Motion by Bill Kershner, 2nd by Alan Way to accept committee reports. Carried.

FASNY Firemen's Home: Trustee David Wolf reported that the Home members were excited about attending the FASNY convention. There are currently 67 members at the Home and 3 passed on during the past month. The annual soft ball tournament will be held August 1, 2, and 3, 2013 at the Home.

Guest List was read by Second Vice President Harold Wollaber.

Sergeant-at-Arms Don Trzepacz reported 81 members, delegates and guests present.

Excused List, with six names, was read by Secretary Tyrrell. Motion by Marc Kasprzak, Seconded to accept. Carried.

Benediction was offered by Chaplain Alan Way.

Motion by Wayne Stanley, 2nd by James Dermody to Adjourn at 10:31 a.m. Carried.

2:00 p.m. Seminar-Thursday

Glenn Sickles, Scottsville Fire Department presented a seminar for fire training personnel on Fire Safety/Fire Prevention Education. The seminar included the proper instructional use of: Sparky and the Mobile Fire Truck; Video's and DVD's; "Buzz" the Talking Smoke Detector; House of Hazards; Puppet Programs-on tape; 9-1-1 Simulator; Sparky costume. The purpose of Fire Prevention Education is to: "Leave Kids With a Message."

Attendance was 24.

FRIDAY, JULY 26, 2013

MEMORIAL SERVICE

The Annual Memorial Service commenced at 9:00 a.m. at St. Columba's Catholic Church in Caledonia, NY. The Caledonia Fire Department Color Guard presented the Colors and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Sergeant-at-Arms, Donald Trzepacz. The opening Hymn was "God Bless America" followed by welcoming remarks from President Anthony DeMarco, III. The Invocation was offered by St. Columba Pastor, Father Steve Lape with Scripture Readings by WNYVFA Assistant Chaplain Robert Carncross and WNYVFA Ladies Auxiliary Chaplain Mollie Bleistein. The Memorial Address was offered by Father Steve Lape followed by the Hymn "Shelter Me, O God." The Necrology List was read by WNYVFA Chaplain Alan Way and Assistant Chaplain Robert Carncross. Carnations were

placed on the Memorial Cross for deceased firemen from each of the 11 Counties by Caledonia Fire Chief Chris Beach. A Blue carnation was placed in Memory of fire service members whose names had not been submitted. WNYVFA Ladies Auxiliary Chaplain Mollie Bleistein read the Necrology List for deceased Auxiliary members and a Pink carnation was placed on the Memorial Cross. Second Vice President Harold Wollaber extinguished the Memorial candles representing each County and First Vice President Wendi Walker Tolloed the Bell for each County. "Firefighters Song," written by Paul Cummings of the Bergen Fire Department was played. The reading of the 23rd Psalm was led by Chaplain Alan Way and Reflection Prayer and Benediction was offered by Father Steve Lape. The Memorial Service concluded with the Hymn "How Great Thou Art."

FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

The Awards ceremonies commenced at 10:30 a.m. at J.W. Jones Hall with nine presentations. Ken Fuller introduced each presenter and Sergeant-at-Arms Trzepacz escorted each Honoree and their Honor Guard to the podium.

EMT Provider of the Year-Mark R. Stevens, First Volunteer Fire Company of Bergholz. Niagara County.

Fire Police of the Year-Clarence Spohr, Henrietta Station 1, Monroe County.

Explorer/Junior Firefighter of the Year-Kaylynn Stanley, Dansville Fire Department, Livingston County.

1 to 5 Years of Service-Dave Bray, Arcade Fire Department, Wyoming County.

6 to 20 Years of Service-John Murray, Caledonia Fire Department, Livingston County.

21 to 35 Years of Service-Gorton Welton, Dansville Fire Department, Livingston County.

36-50 Years of Service-Ivan Carson, Caledonia Fire Department, Livingston County.

Over 50 Years of Service-Joe Pomana, Cowlesville Fire Department, Wyoming County.

Heroism-Brian Schirmer, Dansville Fire Department, Livingston County.

Committee members presenting the Honorees were: Barbara Barber, David Evans, David Wolf, John Wise, Anthony DeMarco and Kenneth Fuller.

REGULAR MEETING

President Anthony DeMarco III, Called the Meeting to Order at 11:30 a.m. at the J.W. Jones Hall and Sergeant-at-Arms Don Trzepacz pointed out the exits.

Second Vice President Harold Wollaber assumed the Chair

Budget Committee: Robert Walker, Chairman requested that all Budget requests for 2013-14 be forwarded to him not later than Thursday, August 15, 2013.

Local Convention Committee: Ross Corser, Chairman reported everything was going well.

EMS Committee: Crystal Fisher, Chairwoman reported the results of the Thursday evening

competition: Three teams competed: 1st-Genesee Valley EMS; 2nd-Churchville; 3rd-Alexander. A great time was had by all. The 2013 EMS Provider of the Year was Mark R. Stevens of Bergholz Fire Company. Honorable Mention went to Connie Almeter, North Java Fire Company and Vern Baker, Wyoming Hook & Ladder Fire Company.

Fire Officers Committee: Harold Wollaber reported 24 present at the Thursday afternoon Fire Safety/Fire Prevention Education seminar presented by Glenn Sickles.

Fire Prevention Committee: Jonathan McKnight, Chairman. No report.

Nominations Committee: Chairman Forrest Skelton, Chairman. Nominations were reopened for 2nd Vice President. Motion by Thomas Vernam nominating Darren Harter of Groveland, Livingston County. Seconded by Michael Kislack, Sr. Motion by Michael Delamere, and Seconded, to have the Secretary cast one ballot electing Darren Harter for 2nd Vice President. Carried. We are awaiting letters of endorsement for County Trustees from Cattaraugus, Orleans and Steuben Counties. Endorsements are due to the Nominations Chairman by the September 8th meeting.

Past President's Committee: Gerald Gehrig, Chairman reported 13 past president's at Thursday evening dinner. They donated \$100 to the FASNY Home Chapel and \$150 to the FASNY Home Wish List.

Resolutions Committee: Michael Delamere, Chairman presented six Resolutions, summarized here:

Resolution 1: Honoring the Memory of our Volunteer Firefighters who died during the past year. Motion by Marc Kasprzak, 2nd by Alan Way. Carried.

Resolution 2: Extending Thanks to the Governor, Senators, Assemblymen and Legislative Committee members. Motion by Don Martin, 2nd by Leon Randall. Carried.

Resolution 3: Thanks and gratitude extended to newspapers, radio and television stations. Motion by Ken Fuller, 2nd by Bill Sturgis. Carried.

Resolution 4: The members and delegates extend a raising vote of thanks to: WNYVFA Officers, Trustees, Committee Chairs and Committee members. Motion by Gerald Gehrig, 2nd by Gerald Dunst. Carried.

Resolution 5: Give thanks and a rising ovation to the Host Committee from Caledonia for arranging an outstanding year and convention. Motion by Ken Fuller, 2nd by Alan Way. Carried.

Resolution 6: WNYVFA endorses the following candidates for FASNY office: Board of Directors: Michael Caron; Robert Ottaviano, Jr.; Laurie Hance; Eugene Perry, Jr.; Home Trustees: David Blair; David Wolf; Jerry Owenburg; Michael DeVittorio. Motion by Marc Kasprzak, 2nd by Don Martin. Carried.

2% Tax Committee: Carl Veltri, Chairman. Reported that no issues have been presented. On the State level, the issue of the distribution of funds in combination departments continues on a regular basis. With more frequent audits of benevolent associations, it is

important to keep accurate records and prudent distribution of funds in accordance with their charters and opinions of the NYS Comptrollers Office. Hopefully, organizations have received their share of funds and filed proper reports with the Insurance Department as mandated by Law.

Website Committee: Tim Tyrrell, Chairman requested that items to be included should be emailed or called into him. Information is added and updated on a regular basis.

President Anthony DeMarco resumed the Chair

Southwestern Liaison: Doug Wood reported their Convention would be held in Westfield, NY on July 31 to August 2nd. Meetings at the High School.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: A Constitution and By-Law Amendments were presented by the By-Laws Committee at the Thursday Business meeting. The approved amendments will become effective at the 2015 annual convention.

Constitution Art. VII-Annual Meeting, Sec. 1:

“The Annual Meeting of the Association will be held on the fourth Friday and succeeding days in July of each year at such a place the majority of members of the Association, present at the meeting shall designate. In the event such a meeting cannot be held in the place designated by the members, such meeting shall be held at some other place, designated by the Executive Committee.”

Motion by Marc Kasprzak, 2nd by Donald Trzepacz to approve. Carried without objection. (NOTE: All events will be completed on Friday and Saturday).

By-Law Art. III-Standing Committees, Sec. 16:

“The AUDIT COMMITTEE shall consist of six Trustees, minimum of three to function, appointed by the Chairman of the Board of Trustees. They shall audit the books of the Secretary and Treasurer of the Association twice a year. The first audit should take place at 1:00 p.m. on the Thursday of the Convention. The second audit shall take place at 11:00 a.m. on the Sunday of the September meeting. Other audits may be conducted at such times as may be deemed necessary by the Executive Committee.”

Motion by Marc Kasprzak, 2nd by Alan Way to approve. Carried without objection.

Good of the Order: Trustee Ken Fuller requested that Convention shirts be sent to the FASNY Firemen’s Home members. Local committee was making those arrangements.

Guest List read by: Second Vice President Harold Wollaber.

Sergeant-at-Arms Donald Trzepacz reported the following attendance: Memorial Service-54; Firemen of the Year-100; Regular Meeting-84

Excused List read by Secretary Tyrrell. Motion by Alan Way, 2nd by Ken Fuller to accept. Carried.

Next Years Convention: First Vice President Wendi Walker introduced her Co-General Chairman, Michael Kislack, Sr., who announced that St. Johnsburg Fire Company, Town of Wheatfield, Niagara County would host the 115th annual convention July 23-26, 2014. Motion by Marc Kasprzak, 2nd by Donald Trzepacz to accept the invitation. Carried. Wendi requested that all Committee Chairs submit their committee member recommendations to her by Thursday, August 15, 2013.

Testimonial Dinner and Installation of Officers: President DeMarco reported that this event would be held:

Saturday, September 7, 2013

6:00 p.m.

J.W. Jones Hall

Reservations to: Harold Wollaber (\$25.00 per person), 3581 Lower Mountain Rd., Sanborn, NY 14132 by August 29, 2013.

Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, September 8, 2013

2:00 p.m.

J.W. Jones Hall

Audit Committee meets at 11:00 a.m.

Legislative Committee meets at 12:00 noon

Benediction was offered by: Chaplain Alan Way

Motion by Ken Fuller to Adjourn at 12:02 p.m. 2nd by Donald Martin. Carried.

Special Note: Secretary Tim Tyrrell and Assistant Secretary Dan Evans extend their deepest appreciation to Marcia Tyrrell and Howard Whan who so ably managed the Secretary's Convention Registration Table and the multitude of problems that need to be corrected in membership records. And, our appreciation to all Committee Chairs who submitted such accurate information reports for the permanent file.

Respectfully submitted

Daniel K. Evans
Assistant Secretary

Timothy A. Tyrrell
Secretary

