

WESTERN NEW YORK VOLUNTEER FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION, INC.
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

CAMBRIA VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY
4631 CAMBRIA-WILSON ROAD (RTE 425)
LOCKPORT, NY 14094

FRIDAY, JULY 24, 2015

OPENING OF THE 116TH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE WESTERN NEW YORK VOLUNTEER FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION-HOSTED BY THE CAMBRIA VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY.

Sergeant-at-Arms Donald Trzepacz Called the Association to Order and pointed out the exits. General Chairman Howard Morgan Called the Convention to Order at 9:02 a.m. The New York State Correctional Services Color Guard presented the Colors. Chaplain Alan Way offered the Invocation and Sergeant-at-Arms Donald Trzepacz led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

General Chairman Howard Morgan welcomed everyone to the 116th Annual Convention of the Western New York Volunteer Firemen's Association.

The Honorable Robert Ortt, New York State Senator, 62nd District, was introduced and spoke on several Legislative issues that he was either introducing or supporting. They include: changes in the Law that affect First Responders when dealing with the Heroine epidemic; Expand the tax credit for volunteer firefighters and volunteer ambulance workers; Increase the compensation for disabled volunteer firefighters based on the Consumer Price Index; Provide incentives for the young to receive service and academic credit for joining and serving in volunteer fire companies.

General Chairman Howard Morgan then presented the Gavel to President Harold Wollaber, II.

FASNY President Robert McConville introduced his officers that were present: 1st Vice President Ken Pienkowski; 2nd Vice President Steven Klein; Directors David Sweet and Edward Tase; Chaplain Wayne Jagow; Past Sergeant-at-Arms Werner Kraemer; Past President's Michael Wutz and Carl Veltri. FASNY Home President David Blair introduced his board of trustees that were present: Vice President David Schmidt; Alan Way and David Wolf; and Past Trustees Norman Eberle and Francis Neidert.

Secretary Timothy Tyrrell Called the Roll of the County Delegations present. A Quorum was present. A Motion by Ken Fuller, Seconded by William Kershner to accept the Minutes of the previous session. Carried.

Report of Secretary Timothy Tyrrell. The Secretary's office sent out dues notices to 278 member organizations of which 138 have paid 2015 dues. Mailed more than 430 dues notices to individual members of which 155 have paid 2015 dues to date. A little over \$3800 in dues have been collected prior to the start of Convention. Motion by David Schmidt, Seconded by Forrest Skelton to accept. Carried.

Report of Treasurer Thomas McLaughlin: Account balances as of June 30, 2015.

Savings	\$ 4,347.19
Checking	7,691.08
Scholarship	1,310.71
TOTAL	\$13,348.98

Disbursements	\$ 938.55
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Motion by Douglas Hanes, Seconded by Ken Fuller to accept. Carried.

Communications: Secretary Tim Tyrrell listed the following: Endorsement from Chautauqua County for Douglas Wood as Trustee. Letter from Insurance Company advising that they would not divulge personal addresses to others.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nominations Committee Chairman Forrest Skelton reported the following nominees for elective office:

President-Darrin Harter, Livingston County
1st Vice President-Bruce Mack-Niagara County
2nd Vice President-James Miller-Erie County
Secretary-Timothy Tyrrell-Niagara County
Assistant Secretary-Daniel Evans-Niagara County
Treasurer-Thomas McLaughlin-Wyoming County
Assistant Treasurer-Penni Dysard-Niagara County
Trustee- -Allegany County
Trustee-Dorothy Button-Cattaraugus County
Trustee-Douglas Wood-Chautauqua County
Trustee-Robert Carncross-Erie County
Trustee-Kathy Wright-Genesee County
Trustee-Stanley MacWilliams-Livingston County
Trustee-Kenneth Fuller-Monroe County
Trustee-Edward Dysard-Niagara County
Trustee-John Totter-Orleans County
Trustee- -Steuben County
Trustee-Terry Snyder-Wyoming County

On each nominee, a Motion was made and Seconded and the Secretary was directed to cast one ballot for each candidate.

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT DARRIN HARTER ASSUMED THE CHAIR

Trustees Report. Chairman Ken Fuller reported 8 Trustees present. All books, except Queens, have been audited and found in order. The Audit commenced at 10:10 a.m. on Thursday morning and concluded at 11:25 a.m. The next Audit will be at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, September 13, 2015, Cambria Fire Company.

Constitution & Bylaws Committee Chairman William Kershner reintroduced two Bylaw changes: One, involving the abolishing of the Assistant Secretary and Assistant Treasurer positions and creating the positions of Recording Secretary and Financial Secretary. The Second, involves a procedure to deal with Organizations who are two or more years in arrears on their dues. Detailed language is available from the Bylaws Committee and Secretary's office. Both changes will be voted on at Saturday morning General Meeting.

Convention Committee Chairman Michael Kislack reported everything was going well.
Parade Committee Chairman James Dermody reported that everything was ready for the Parade late Saturday afternoon with line-up at Lower Mountain Road and Cambria-Wilson Road.

Legislative Committee Member David Sweet reported on the status of the following legislative items:

- Heart/Lung Extension bill-passed both Houses and signed by the Governor.
- 10 Year Smoke Alarm-passed both Houses and awaiting delivery to the Governor.
- Seat Belts-passed both Houses and awaiting delivery to the Governor.
- VFBL Cancer Expansion coverage-has passed in Senate despite concerns about unfunded mandates. No action in the Assembly.
- Furniture-flame retardant standards-Senate was agreeable to pass, but Assembly refused to move the Bill unless specific chemicals were listed. This made the bill "toxic" in the Senate.
- EMS Billing-Did not move. Unless Medicare provisions are changed or the bill "tweaked," it is Unlikely this bill will move forward.
- Consolidation-no action.
- Endangering the Welfare of Firefighters-based on political and legal issues associated with the real Estate industry, this bill was not going to move.
- VFBL-to increase payments. Passed Senate. No action in Assembly.

- VFBL Death Benefit-payments to be made within 90 days. Pending.
 - Exempt fire trucks from highway weight limits. Pending.
 - LOSAP-modification to current law that will allow employees to be granted response credit, even if working. Passed both Houses.
 - Fireworks-try to convince legislators not to approve sale and use of fireworks.
- The September 13, 2015 Legislative Conference will commence at 12:00 noon at Cambria Fire Hall, for preparation of the next Legislative Agenda.

Steering Committee Chairman Marc Kasprzak reaffirmed the endorsements made at the June 14th meeting: FASNY Directors Edward Tase and Diana Pfersick and Home Trustee Wayne Butts.
Bowling Committee Chairman Thomas McLaughlin reported that the 2016 Bowling Tournament would be held at the Gates Bowl, Gates, NY.

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT BRUCE MACK ASSUMED THE CHAIR

President’s Participation Award Committee: No report.
Nozzle Practice Committee Chairman Doug Wright reported that Competition would commence at 12:00 noon on Saturday behind the Cambria Fire Hall.

Investment & Finance Committee Chairman Thomas McLaughlin reported that as of June 30, 2015 the financial status of the Association:

Savings Account	\$ 4,347.19
Scholarship Account	1,310.71
Past Presidents Account	450.00
Bowling Committee – men	150.00
-women	150.00
Certificates of Deposit (6)	74,945.75
Checking Account	7,691.08
TOTAL	\$89,044.73

Program Book Committee Chairman Edward Dysard reported that as of July 21, 2015, we are at 84.0% of the Budget goal. Gross sales to date: \$71,424.00; Support Services of New York: \$57,139.20; WNYVFA: \$14,284.80.

Fire Prevention Committee Chairman Jonathan McKnight. No report.
History Committee Chairman Frank Wilczak reported that this years Convention was the 23rd hosted in Niagara County. The following fire companies will be celebrating Special Anniversaries this year: Delevan FC-75 years; Cherry Creek-125 years; Sinclairville FC-125 years; Chemical Engine Co. East Aurora-125 years; Niagara Hose Co. No. 3-125 years; Frontier Fire Co.-75 years; Gratwick Hose Co. No. 6-125 years; Spencerport FD-125 years. We are still collecting fire company items.
Public Relations Committee Chairman Stanley MacWilliams reported his years on the Committee and requested that fire service organizations continue to submit information and photographs for publication in the FASNY “The Volunteer Firefighter.”
Memorial Scholarship Committee Chairman Tim Wolfanger thanked all of his committee members for their participation. Payments to scholarship winners will be made when they submit proper documentation at the end of their first semester of higher education. \$240 in donations have been turned over to the Treasurer.

Fire Officers Committee Chairman Tony DeMarco reported that a Mercy Flight Seminar would be held at 2:00 p.m. this afternoon.

MERCY FLIGHT SEMINAR

A 45 minute session on the organization of flying injured individuals to medical facilities was presented. Mercy Flight provides coverage across Western New York, Northern Ohio and Western Pennsylvania. Also presented was information on “Ground Crew” duties, responsibilities and safety-the placement of equipment and personnel. The Mercy Flight helicopter made a landing for personnel to visit.

Topics Committee: FASNY President Robert McConville reported that FASNY had formed a Health & Wellness Committee with information on the website. Seminars are being scheduled across the State and that a video on FASNY events and activities has been made.

FASNY 1st Vice President Ken Pienkowski presented information on the 143rd annual convention of FASNY, August 18-22, Town of Colony, Albany, NY. A golf tournament would be held and fire service organizations were being asked to be a Flag Sponsor for \$150.

FASNY 2nd Vice President Steven Klein reported on the renewed effort to finish the Home Chapel Stained Glass Windows for the 125th anniversary of the Firemen's Home in 2017.

President David Blair of the Firemen's Home, reported on changes and plans for the Home; that "Big Red," the new Home bus was expected to be delivered in September. There are currently 81 Home Members; they are working on ways to enlarge the services to Home members.

A Topic on: "New York Cancer Services" was presented by Tony Cruz and Ronnie Barz on "Firefighter Cancer Support Network." The National phone number is: 866-994-3276. Website is: www.FirefighterCancerSupport.org.

Assistant Secretary Daniel Evans presented 20-year fully paid life membership certificates to: Glen Camuto; Allen Clark; Michael Curry; James Dick; Thomas Domino; Stephen Gesler; Diana George; Donald Homer; Matt Lenhard; Jacqueline Lowe; Thomas Lowe; George Maziarz; James McDonough; John Meyer; Lee Miesner; Jeff Moore; Wende Schimschack; Thomas Schledorn; David Schultz; Guy Scribner; Joseph Siler; Bonnie Simmons; Ted Summers; Donald Szpircher, Jr.; Wendi Walker; Donald Wilcox.

Sergeant-at-Arms Trzepacz reported 60 delegates and members present for the morning session.

PRESIDENT HAROLD WOLLABER, II, RESUMED THE CHAIR

President Wollaber recessed the meeting until 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, following the 9:00 a.m. Memorial Service and 10:00 a.m. Awards Ceremonies. Recessed at 11:49 a.m.

SATURDAY, JULY 25, 2015

MEMORIAL SERVICE

The Annual Memorial Service was held at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday morning. The Memorial Service was opened with the Presentation of the Colors by the Live Hose Co. No. 4 Color Guard. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Sergeant-at-Arms Donald Trzepacz. The Welcome was given by Pastor Todd Blackley, the Invocation by Chaplain Alan Way. Old Testament and Responsorial reading by Carolyn Graff. New Testament reading by Kenna Liddell and the Gospel by Howard Morgan. The Memorial Reflection was given by Robert Paul. The Firefighters Necrology was read by Chaplain Alan Way and Assistant Chaplain Robert Carncross. Flowers were placed by Darrin Harter, Candles were extinguished by Bruce Mack and the Bell was Tolloed by Harold Wollaber, II. The Concluding Prayer and Benediction were given by Pastor Todd Blackley. The Organist was Wright Ellis.

AWARDS CEREMONIES

The Annual Awards Ceremonies convened at the Cambria Fire Hall at 10:05 a.m. with the following presentations:

Fire Police of the Year

Presented to Douglas Wright, Community Fire Company, Pavilion, NY. Presenter was Kathy Wright
EMS Provider of the Year

Presented to Tracy L. Weis, Warsaw Rescue Squad, Warsaw, NY. Presenter was Ken Fuller.

Junior Firefighter/Explorer of the Year

Presented to Shara Polowski, Warsaw Fire Department, Warsaw, NY. Presenter was Ken Fuller

Meritorious Service Award 1 – 5 Years

Presented to Nathan Coffey, Attica Fire Department, Attica, NY. Presenter was David Evans

Meritorious Service Award 6 – 20 Years

Presented to Matthew Snyder, Dansville Fire Department, Dansville, NY. Presenter was Tim Wolfanger

Meritorious Service Award 21 – 35 Years

Presented to Chris Snyder, Dansville Fire Department, Dansville, NY. Presenter was David Wolf.

Meritorious Service Award 36-50 Years

Presented to Wayne Stanley, Dansville Fire Department, Dansville, NY. Presenter was Douglas Hanes.

Meritorious Service Award 50+ Years

Presented to Gerald L. Slane, York Fire Department, Retsof, NY. Presenter was John Totter.

The Awards were presented to each Honoree by President Harold Wollaber, II; 1st Vice President Darrin Harter; and 2nd Vice President Bruce Mack.

Fireman of the Year Moderator Ken Fuller also issued Honorable Mention Certificates. He also noted that this was the second year in a row that there was no “Heroism Award.” More nominations for the various awards are encouraged.

The Regular Meeting of the Association was reconvened by President Harold Wollaber at 11:05 a.m.

Fire police Committee Chairman Donald Trzepacz reported that the Fire Police Seminar would commence at 12:00 noon.

FIRE POLICE SEMINAR

The guest speaker for the Fire Police Seminar was Lt. James Hildreth, K-9 Corps, Niagara County Sheriff’s Department. Lt. Hildreth discussed what the Service Dogs do: sniff out drugs, explosives, accelerants and tracking. Service Dogs can differentiate between 8 and 13 odors. He discussed the issue of increasing number of “Meth” fires. He further noted that we should do “all things safely,” but very important that law enforcement and fire service work closely together. His dog “Sarg” gave a “sniff” demonstration.

EMS Committee Chairwoman Crystal Fisher reported the results of Friday nights competition. Four teams: Churchville, Wilson, Cambria and Wendelville participated. Problem #1 went to Churchville; Problem #2 went to Wilson; Problem #3 went to Churchville. Churchville took home 2nd place overall and Wilson took home 1st place. A good job was done by all. The EMS committee will be looking over the rules and regulations for next year.

Constitution and Bylaws Committee Chairman William Kershner re-presented the two recommended Amendment changes to the Constitution and Bylaws. On a Motion by Michael Delamere, Seconded by Kenneth Fuller and Carried, both changes were approved: Constitution Article IV, Section 1 and Bylaws Article I, Section 4 and 5-abolishing the offices of Secretary, Assistant Secretary and Assistant Treasurer and establishing the offices of Recording Secretary and Financial Secretary. Also, Bylaw Article IV, Section 5b-establishing a procedure to deal with Member Organizations who are two or more years in arrears on their dues.

Past President’s Committee Chairwoman Wendi Walker reported that 12 past presidents attended their dinner on Friday evening.

Resolutions Committee Chairman Michael Delamere presented the following Resolutions

1. Resolution 1 – On the passing of members during the past year. Motion by Kenneth Fuller, Seconded by Alan Way. Carried.\
2. Resolution 2 – Extend appreciation to State Legislators for beneficial Legislation passed during the past year. Motion by Michael Delamere, Seconded by Edward Tase, Carried.\
3. Resolution 3 – Extends appreciation to Local Media for providing favorable impression of the fire service to the general public. Motion by Michael Delamere, Seconded by Douglas Wood. Carried.
4. Resolution 4 – Endorsement to FASNY office of Director Edward Tase; Director Diana Pfersick; Trustee Wayne Butts. Motion by Michael Delamere, Seconded by Marc Kaprzak, Carried.
5. Resolution 5 – Extending appreciation to the Officers, Trustees and Committees of the Western New York Volunteer Firemen’s Association. Motion by Michael Delamere, Seconded by Douglas Hanes. Carried.
6. Resolution 6 – Extend appreciation to the Cambria Local Committee for hosting a successful 116th annual convention for the Association. Motion by Michael Delamere, Seconded by John Totter, Carried.

2% Tax Committee Chairman Carl Veltri reported that there was nothing new at this time.
Fire Officers Committee Chairman Tony DeMarco reported that there would be a HAZMAT demonstration in the parking lot this afternoon.
Northern Central Liaison David Sweet reported that their Convention was held in Liverpool, NY June 12th and 13th. The Officers carry over for another year: President-Ralph Vedder; 1st Vice President-David Sweet; 2nd Vice President-Vern Pratt.
Southwestern Liaison Douglas Wood reported that their Convention would be held August 5th-8th at Highland Hose Company, Derby, NY.
Second Vice President Bruce Mack read the guest list.
Delegates to Southwestern Association of Volunteer Firemen: Tim Tyrrell and Dan Evans reported that they would be attending the convention and that they have been very well received. President Terrance Cooke and his officers and committee members have been very kind and gracious to us.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: Motion by Donald Trzepacz, Seconded by Michael Delamere to hold officers (Secretary, Assistant Secretary and Assistant Treasurer) over until endorsements for the new offices of Recording Secretary and Financial Secretary are submitted to the Nominations Committee Chairman Forrest Skelton. Action on this matter to be taken at the September 13, 2015 regular meeting. Carried. Endorsement letters are to be sent to: Forrest Skelton, POB 17, Churchville, NY 14428 and WNYVFA Secretary Tim Tyrrell, POB 216, Niagara Falls, NY 14304 by September 8, 2015.
Motion by Edward Dysard, Seconded by William Kershner to accept the new contract with the Solicitor. Carried.

Good of the Order: President Harold Wollaber called forward FASNY President Robert McConville to present a check from the Past Presidents for the FASNY Home Chapel fund. Also, called forward was David Blain, President of the Home Board of Trustees who was presented with a check for the Home members.
Budget Committee Chairman Robert Walker announced that the Budget Committee would meet at 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, August 26, 2015 at the Secretary's office, 2181 River Rd., Niagara Falls, NY 14304. All Committee budget requests need to be forwarded to Chairman Walker by August 15, 2015.

President-elect Darrin Harter announced that the November meeting of the Association (reorganization) would be on Sunday, November 15, 2015 at the Moose Club on Main street, Dansville, NY. And, the convention would be the last week of July at the Hemlock Fair Grounds in Livingston, County. Motion by Ken Fuller, Seconded by Wendi Walker to accept the next convention at Hemlock Fair Grounds. Carried.

Benediction was offered by Chaplain Alan Way.

Motion by Douglas Wood, Seconded by Thomas McLaughlin to Adjourn this meeting and the 116th Annual Convention In Memory of Past President Gerald Gehrig at 11:47 a.m. Carried.

Past President Gerald Gehrig served as President of the Western New York Volunteer Firemen's Association in 2011-2012. Gerald died on June 16, 2015. He was a Deputy Fire Coordinator for Livingston County and was a Past Chief of the Mount Morris Fire Department. He has also served as Livingston County Trustee to Western and served on the Memorial Scholarship Committee.

NOZZLE PRACTICE

Nozzle Practice Committee Chairman Doug Wright reported the results of the Nozzle Competitions:

Hydrant Hook-Up: 1st-Jamison Road
2nd-Sheldon\
3rd-Silver Springs/Sheldon
4th- Silver Springs I

Water Ball: 1st-Jamison Road
2nd- Rapids
3rd-Silver Springs/Sheldon
4th-Silver Springs

Overall Winner of the Hotchkiss Trophy was: Jamison Road

Junior Teams:

Hydrant Hook-Up: 1st-St. Johnsburg
2nd-Shawnee\
3rd-Cambria

Water Ball: 1st-St. Johnsburg
2nd-Cambria
3rd-Shawnee

A Special Thanks to Robert Wilson and Howard Whan, who again so generously gave of their time to manage the Secretary's Registration Office during the 116th Annual Convention.

NEXT MEETING

Sunday, September 13, 2015
Cambria Volunteer Fire Company
4631 Cambria-Wilson Road (Rte 425)
Lockport, NY 14094

11:00 a.m. – Audit Committee (Trustees)

12:00 Noon – Legislative Conference

2:00 p.m. – Regular Meeting

(Election for new positions of Recording Secretary and Financial Secretary)

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel K. Evans
Assistant Secretary

Timothy A. Tyrrell
Secretary

