

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
SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 2015

LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

Robin Schott, Chairman of the Legislative Committee, opened the Legislative Update Session at 12:15 p.m.. He presented the 2015 Legislative Score Card as of March 27, 2015. Noted that complete information is on the FASNY website at www.fasny.com

He reported that during the last Legislative session, the following bills were signed into Law:

- LOSAP benefits are no longer taxed by New York State, they are taxed by the IRS.
- Sex Offender law regarding application to join a fire company.
- Job Protection for volunteers during a "State of Emergency."
- VFBL for out of jurisdiction response. (Municipality must approve a resolution on this. They may Opt-In or Opt-Out.

2015 Legislative Agenda

Chairman Schott listed the following items that are on the FASNY 2015 Legislative Agenda:

- Prohibit chemical flame retardants on furniture.
- Long Life Smoke Detector Batteries that cannot be removed, but good for 10 years.
- Expand Cancer Coverage for Volunteer firefighters.
- Seat belt exemption off the books (we need to be belted in when responding).
- Fair Play ambulance law that would allow fire companies to bill for ambulance calls.
- Endangering welfare of first responders, increase penalties.
- Volunteer Firefighter Lung Benefit. Expires June 30, 2015. Legislature need to extend for 5-years.
- Volunteer Firefighters Heart Benefit. Expires June 30, 2015. Legislature need to extend for 5-years.
- Consolidation Amendments-to educate public on the effects of consolidation.
- 2015 IRC Building Codes.

2015 Study Bills

- VFBL and VAWBL reform to increase benefit from \$400 to \$650 per week.
- Extend VFBL benefits.
- Implement New York State Propane Education Act.
- Increase, gradually, the Tax Credit for volunteers.
- Prohibit Sky Lanterns.
- Add Cancer Prevention Training.

Six FASNY representatives and other emergency service providers will be going to Washington, D.C. to Lobby Federal Officials on National Fire and EMS issues.

FASNY Liaison David Sweet reported on the current status of the SAFER grant. The current grant expires this August. Application has been made for an additional grant.

Past President Michael Wutz addressed the issue of proper funding for 9-1-1. Assemblyman Ray Walter reported that they were working on improving the funding for this.

Assemblyman Walter noted that Legislators look at and support the emergency service and related information that crosses their desks. He also noted that we need to focus on members of the Senate and Assembly that are not responsive to our needs and issues.

David Sweet reported that the State budget has an appropriation for the new Code Books, that Lobby Day in Albany is May 11th and that emphasis is being placed on Expanded Cancer Coverage.

Robin Schott discussed the "Fireworks Opposition Booklet."

Also present and adding input were: Russ Rizzo, representing Senator Robert Ort (62nd District); Assemblyman Ray Walter (146th District); Elias Cobti, representing Assemblywoman Angel Wozniak (143rd District); and Risky Sanabria, representing Assemblyman John Ceretto (145th District).

The Legislative Update Conference Adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING

The Regular Meeting was Called to Order when Sergeant-at-Arms Donald Trzepacz pointed out the exits and President Harold Wollaber gavelled the meeting into session at 2:00 p.m. Sergeant-at-Arms Trzepacz led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and Chaplain Alan Way offered the Invocation. Chaplain Way requested that member organizations prepare and send in Necrology lists for this years Convention Memorial Service.

President Wollaber welcomed everyone. A Motion by Ken Fuller, seconded by William Kershner to accept the Minutes of the previous session. Carried.

Report of Secretary Timothy Tyrrell: Dues have been collected from 126 fire companys (\$2315) and 148 individual members (\$1050) for a total of \$3365. He has been contacting delinquent fire companies and has had some success. Has sent letters to all of the Erie County Fire Companies. We are still going through and sorting out and consolidating old files. He was contacted by the Solicitor to apply for a nonprofit status with the Post Office. Has been in contact with the IRS to secure a copy showing our 501©(3) status. Motion by William Kershner, seconded by Peter Casey to accept. Carried.

Report of Treasurer Thomas McLaughlin: Account balances as of April 12, 2015:

Savings	\$ 3,501.99
Checking	9,922.93
Scholarship	1,310.68
TOTAL	\$14,735.60

Disbursements \$ 2,513.49

Motion by Douglas Wood, seconded by John Thomson to accept. Carried.

Communications: Secretary Tim Tyrrell listed the following communications:

- Letter from Northern Central and Central New York Volunteer Firemen's Associations regarding their joint convention June 12-13 at Liverpool, NY.
- Letter from Wellington Fire Company on 100 years of service.
- Letter from Rescue Hose Company of Cheektowaga on 50 years of service.
- Southwestern Association of Volunteer Firemen program book ad and convention.
- Firemen's Memorial Exhibit Center donation request.
- Fantasy Island Theme Park specials for fire companies.
- Fire Service Camp at Phoenix, AZ.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

First Vice President Darrin Harter assumed the Chair

Trustees Report: Chairman Ken Fuller reported 8 trustees present. They were working on the Bylaw change with the Bylaw Committee regarding the abolishing of the Assistant Secretary and Assistant Treasurer positions and the establishment of a Financial Secretary position.

Bowling Committee: Chairman Thomas McLaughlin reported that the tournament was held the last two weekends of February and the \$1846.10 was turned over to the Treasury. Prize money was being mailed out this week. Next years bowling tournament will be at the Gates Bowl, Rochester, NY.

Budget Committee: Chairman Robert Walker. No report.

Program Book Committee: Chairman Edward Dysard reported that as of April 12th, 45.7% of the goal had been reached. Gross Sales-\$38,898.00; Support Services of New York-\$31,118.40; WNYVFA-\$7,779.60. Any fire service organization holding a fund raising in their area should notify Ed and he will have the Solicitor stay out of their area. © 716-946-1094 or Edwardo011781@aol.com

Constitution & Bylaws: Chairman William Kershner reported that any changes must be in the hands of the committee by the June 14th meeting. Noted the proposed changes regarding the Assistant Secretary and Assistant Treasurer and a new position of Financial Secretary. Also, the Organizations that are two or more years in arrears in dues would first be suspended and then dropped from this Association.

Convention Committee: Chairman Michael Kislack reported that everything was on schedule.
EMS Committee: Crystal Fisher reported that letters would be going out very soon. They had not settled on a site for the competition. The Head Judge will develop "Problem" for EMS competition. Questions: Call 585-689-4169

Explorer/Junior Firefighter Committee: Forrest Skelton. No report.
Fireman of the Year Committee: Chairwoman Barbara Barber reported that notice had been mailed out and the committee was evaluating applications.
Fire Officers Committee: Chairman Anthony DeMarco reported that everything was set for both Friday and Saturday.
Fire Police Committee: Chairman Donald Trzepacz reported that the committee was evaluating the nominees and that the Local Competition was all set.
Fire Prevention Committee: Alan Way reported that they were working on finalizing the essay winners.
History Committee: Chairman Frank Wilczak reported that they were always looking for donations of items. 5 fire companies were celebrating special anniversaries this year.

Investment and Finance Committee: Chairman Thomas McLaughlin reported:

Savings	\$ 3,501.99
Scholarship	1,310.68
Past President's	500.00
Checking	9,922.93
6 Certificates of Deposit	74,873.98
TOTAL	\$90,109.58

Legislative Committee: Chairman Robin Schott reported that the Legislative Update Conference had been held at 12:15 p.m. this afternoon and that Lobby Day in Albany would be on May 11th.
Memorial Scholarship Committee: Chairman Timothy Wolfanger reported that three applications had been received and that the committee would do the evaluation at the Alexander Fire Hall on Wednesday, May 13th. Also, that three of the four award winners from 2014 had been paid. And, that \$160.00 in donations had been turned over to the Treasurer. We are looking for donations to scholarship fund from organizations and individuals.

Second Vice President Bruce Mack assumed the Chair

Nominations Committee: Chairman Forrest Skelton requested that Nomination letters be submitted to him and the Secretary prior to the June 14th meeting. Also, each County needs to send in their County nominee/trustee.
Nozzle Practice Committee: Chairman Douglas Wright reported that the event would be on the Cambria Fire Company grounds at 12:00 noon on Saturday, July 25th.
Parade Committee: Chairman James Dermody reported that everything was all set.
Past President's Committee: Chairwoman Wendi Walker reported 10 Past President's were present and they were working on their Spring dinner for the end of May.
President's Participation Committee: Chairman Greg Robertson requested that everyone attending/participating in each convention event, to be sure to sign the registration book for each event.
Public Relations Committee: Chairman Stanley MacWilliams was taking photographs for the program book. Articles for the May edition of "The Volunteer Firefighter" magazine had been sent in.
Queen's Pageant Committee: Wendi Walker reported that the girls were doing very well. Amanda Robertson presented the Trophy to Youngstown Fire Company at their Installation Dinner.
Resolutions Committee: Chairman Michael Delamere requested that he be sent information regarding fire service organizations that were celebrating 75-100-125 year anniversaries.
Topics Committee: Chairman Donald Gavenda. No report

2% Tax Committee: Chairman Carl Veltri. No report.

Website Committee: Chairman Timothy Tyrrell reported that he was keeping information up to date. If anyone had anything to put on the website, get the information to him.

Northern Central Liaison: David Sweet reported their next meeting will be on April 19th at Solvay, NY at 2:00 p. m. Their joint convention will be on June 12-13 at Ramada Inn, Liverpool, NY.

Southwestern Liaison: Doug Wood reported their next meeting will be on June 7th at Highland Hose Company, Derby, NY. Their Convention will be August 5-8, at Highland Hose Company.

Steering Committee: Chairman Marc Kasprzak reported on the following FASNY endorsements: Thomas Krawczyk, Treasurer; Wayne Jagow, Chaplain/Chaplain Committee; Committees: Marc Kasprzak, EMS; Richard Silveroli, Fire Prevention & Life Safety; Michael Wutz, Fire Service Achievement Award; Andrew Pilecki, Firefighter of the Year; Robin Schott, Legislative; Harold Wollaber, Membership; Bruce Mack, Public Relations; David Winzig, Training & Education; Anthony DeMarco, 2% tax; Elizabeth Warner, Youth in the Fire Service; Alvin Sweet, Youth in the Fire Service.

Delegates to Southwestern: Dan Evans reported that he and Tim Tyrrell had participated in the January 25th (Westfield) and March 8th (Bolivar) meetings of the Southwestern Association of Volunteer Firemen. We have developed a very good working relationship with the Officers and Members with discussions and sharing of information which gives us some new ideas and some different ways of doing things. We appreciate, very much, the courtesies that President Terrance Cooke and his staff extend to us. Their next meeting is Sunday, June 7th at Highland Hose Company, Derby, NY. Their 107th Annual Convention will be August 5-8, at Highland Hose Company.

President Harold Wollaber resumed the Chair

Motion by Ken Fuller, seconded by William Kershner to accept the committee reports. Carried.

FASNY Director David Sweet reported that FASNY had their meeting at Clayton, NY yesterday. He noted that we have to watch what local legislators do regarding the "Sparkler Prohibition." FASNY can assist. The SAFER grant expires in August. A new grant has been applied for. Recruit New York is set for the end of April. Send information to FASNY on what your fire company is doing. Mercy Flight will offer a "Fly-In." Fire Prevention-Life Safety Conference, 4 to 5 hour course, Syracuse, NY on May 20th.

Donations can be made to the Gerard Buckenmeyer Scholarship Fund. The FASNY Museum is requesting expansion of its facilities. The loan for the Firemen's Home has been paid off.

FASNY is bringing back the "Civil Officers" training for Fire Service Organizations. Many are still not in compliance with State regulations regarding Organization Management and Accountability. And, Educate firefighters on how to maintain our own Health and Safety.

FASNY Firemen's Home: Trustee David Wolf reported the Home Census at 84 and there is now a waiting list. They have adopted new general admission guide lines that have been approved by both boards. Residents are getting ready for the Spring activities.

Wayne Butts is the new Chairman of the Softball Tournament which will be held July 31st and August 1st and 2nd. Only 20 teams will be allowed into the tournament. Information on the FASNY website. They are looking for Tournament Sponsorship. Also, Trustee Alan Way is looking for fire organizations that would "Adopt a Home Member."

Vice President David Schmidt reported that the Home Board was looking for an outside vendor to operate the therapy pool. They are investigating outside vendors to help reduce the cost of operations and that will allow for Medicare reimbursement. They are hoping for a new bus for the Home.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business: Motion by Michael Wutz, seconded by Peter Casey to donate \$50.00 to the Firemen's Memorial Exhibit Center of Western New York. Carried. Motion by William Kershner, seconded by Forrest Skelton to endorse the Steering Committee FASNY recommendations. Carried.

Good of the Organization: Dan Evans has placed information at the Sergeant-at-Arms table regarding three fire service museum's in Western New York area for visitation. William Langenfeld raised a question regarding getting more funds from the State for operation of the 9-1-1 system. Bruce Mack reported that FASNY was putting together a video of volunteer firefighters with various cancers.

Guest List was ready by Second Vice President Bruce Mack.

Sergeant-at-Arms Trzepacz reported attendance at 104.

Excused List was read by Secretary Tyrrell. Motion by William Kershner, seconded by Anthony Demarco to accept. Carried.

Benediction Offered by Chaplain Alan Way.

IN MEMORY

Donna Gilchrist, Rushford, NY – Past Allegany County Trustee
John Dugan, Skaneateles, NY – Past Director, FASNY

Motion to Adjourn by Ken Fuller, seconded by Robert Carncross at 3:14 p.m. Carried.

Respectfully submitted

Daniel K. Evans
Assistant Secretary

Timothy A. Tyrrell
Secretary

NEXT MEETING

Sunday, June 14, 2015
2:00 p.m.
Cambria Volunteer Fire Company
4631 Cambria-Wilson Road (Rte 425)
Lockport, NY 14094