

WESTERN NEW YORK VOLUNTEER FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION, INC.
115th ANNUAL CONVENTION
JULY 23 – 26, 2014
ST. JOHNSBURG FIRE COMPANY
7165 WARD RD.
NORTH TONAWANDA, NY 14120

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
JULY 24, 2014

Sergeant-at-Arms Donald Trzepacz pointed out the exits. President Wendi Walker Called the Meeting to Order at 9:00 a.m..

The Niagara County Sheriff's Department Color Guard presented the Colors and the Pledge of Allergiance to the Flag was led by Sergeant-at-Arms Donald Trzepacs. Chaplain Alan Way offered the Invocation.

President Wendi Walker welcomed everyone to the 115th Annual Convention of the Western New York Volunteer Firemen's Association hosted by the St. Johnsburg Fire Company.

President Walker introduced the following guests, each of whom offered welcoming and congratulatory remarks: Michael Hefferon, President of St. Johnsburg Fire Company; Niagara County Sheriff James Voutour; St. Johnsburg Fire Chief Gary Ziomek; General Chairmen Tim Pytlik and Michael Kislack; Town of Wheatfield Supervisor, Robert Cliffe who presented a Proclamation from the Town; Niagara County Legislative Chairman William Ross; Niagara County Fire Coordinator Jonathan Schultz; North Tonawanda Fire Chief John Lapham; FASNY President James Burns who introduced his staff-2nd Vice President Ken Pienkowski, Directors David Sweet and Edward Tase, Chaplain Wayne Jagow, Past Presidents Carl Veltri and Michael Wutz; Past Sergeant-at-Arms Werner Kraemer; FASNY Home Trustee David Schmidt who introduced Home Trustees Alan Way and David Wolf and Past Trustee Norm Eberle.

President Walker then Called the Roll of the 11 County members of the Western New York Volunteer Firemen's Association.

Motion by Ken Fuller, Seconded by William Kershner to accept the Minutes of the previous session. Carried.

Report of Secretary Tim Tyrrell: We have collected \$4300 in dues to date with 151 fire organizations out of 298 paid and 201 members paid out of 707. This is down about \$2000 from last year. We will collect dues during the Convention. This is an important part of our income. We need to initiate some way in getting more members and fire companies. All Sectional organizations seem to have the same problem of membership. We have discovered that members of fire companies have no idea of what we are and what we have to offer. Mailings to fire companies are often thrown out by someone who sorts the mail and officers are not responding to dues notices. I have talked to other people and they see no benefits from belonging to Western or spending the money. We have taken in 17 new members this year. In the past we usually get over 100 joining. Isent 75 notices to last tears delegates aand rreceived 3 in return. We have about 25 new fully paid life members this year. There are about 140 delinquent members who will be deleted from the list. This will bring the dues paying membership to about 550. We have 298 fire companies, down from 340. About 50 have not paid dues in over 4 years. Some fire companies have paid back dues. Assistant Secretary Evans and I attended Southwestern's meeting in Bolivar, NY on June 22nd. We talked to their Officers about the same problems of membership. Dan checked on the County Trustees from the four Counties and spoke on our Convention, including giving out information.

Motion by Alan Way, Seconded by Doug Wright to accept the report. Carried.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Thomas McLaughlin reported the following account balances as of June 30, 2014.:

Savings	\$ 2,192.53
Checking	5,768.77
Scholarship	860.60
TOTAL	\$ 8,821.90
Total Disbursements	\$ 844.50