

WESTERN NEW YORK VOLUNTEER FIREMAN'S ASSOCIATION, INC.

CONVENTION MEETING MINUTES

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118<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION

JULY 27-29, 2017

ST. JOHNSBURG FIRE COMPANY

7165 WARD ROAD

NORTH TONAWANDA, NEW YORK 14120

REGULAR MEETING

JULY 28, 2017

Sergeant-at-Arms Donald Trzepacz pointed out the exits.

Convention General Chairman Michael Kislack called the meeting to order at 0900 hr.

Presentation of the colors by: Color Guard from the 914<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing

Sergeant-at-Arms Donald Trzepacz led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Chaplain Alan Way offered the Invocation.

Introduction of Distinguished Guests:

New York State Senator Robert Orrt.

New York State Assemblyman Angelo Morinello

Niagara County Legislator Godfrey

Town of Wheatfield Supervisor Robert Cliffe

President of St. Johnsburg Fire Company

President of Frontier Fire Company

FASNY President Kenneth Pienkowski who introduced the state Officers who were in attendance at the meeting.

President Bruce Mack welcomed everyone.

Roll Call of the County Members of the Association:

Allegany Y ,Cattaraugus ,Chautauqua Y ,Erie Y ,Genesee Y ,Livingston Y ,

Monroe Y ,Niagara Y ,Orleans ,Steuben Y Wyoming Y .

A Motion by Alan Way seconded by Andy Pilecki to accept the minutes of the previous session. Carried.

Report of Recording Secretary: Bruce Geschwender

Still in the process of straightening up the office.

Members Eligible for Life membership are: Valerie Amo, Larry Carnes, Norm George,

Richard T. Kelleher, James Lundmark, Michele Neubauer, Ed Pink, Roger Schreader, Kathy Wright, Jason Lawrence, Dean Eck, Bruce Geschwender.

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

Report of Financial Secretary: Penni Dysard:

Reported dues collected as of July 26, 2017

Fire Companies – 136 Fire Depts.	\$ 3,315.00
Members – 145 Members	\$ 1,250.00
Total:	\$ 4,565.00

Motion by Alan Way, seconded by Wayne Butts to accept. Carried.

Report of Treasurer:

Savings:	\$ 4,263.47
Checking:	\$ 25,182.64
Scholarship:	\$ 486.16
Total:	\$ 29,932.27

Disbursements: \$ 1,583.42

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

Communications: Bruce Geschwender:

Received an announcement from Darien Lake of WNYVFA Days at Darien Lake Park July 28-31 entrance at a reduced price with WNYVFA ID.

Received information and a schedule of events for the Southwestern Convention August 2 – 5, 2017 in Westfield.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nominations Committee: Forrest Skelton

President – Jim Miller

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Christopher Pettit

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Michael Kislack, Sr.

Recording Secretary – Bruce Geschwender

Financial Secretary – Penni Dysard

Treasurer – Thomas McLaughlin

TRUSTEES:

Allegany – Wayne Butts

Cattaraugus –

Chautauqua – Douglas Wood

Erie – David Nedell

Genesee – Kathy Wright

Livingston – Stanley MacWilliams

Monroe – Ken Fuller

Niagara – Edward Dysard

Orleans –

Steuben –

Wyoming – Terry Snider

First Vice President Jim Miller assumed the Chair.

Trustees Report: Doug Wood:

Books were Audited everything was found in order.

Nine Trustees Present today.

Bylaws Committee: William Kershner presented the following Amendments to the Western New York Volunteer Firemen's Association, Inc. Constitution/By-Laws.

WNYVFA Constitution:

**ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS**

Section II as amended

There shall be elected a Board of Trustees. This Board shall be composed of one (1) member of each County holding membership in this Association. This member can be nominated by the **County Firemen's Association, County Fire Chief's Association, County Fire Advisory or another County Fire Organization deemed applicable by WNYVFA for which they represent and reside in.** The Secretary of such County Association shall submit a certificate to the Secretary of WNYVFA stating that that County for such position has duly nominated the WNYVFA Trustee candidate. This certificate shall be submitted to the WNYVFA Recording Secretary prior to the annual meeting of this association. In the event that the County Secretary fails to file such certificate, then the office shall be declared vacant.

**ARTICLE VI – QUORUM**

Section I as amended

**Thirty-five (35)** members of the Association will constitute a quorum for then purpose of conducting business at regular business meetings and the annual meeting.

WNYVFA By-Laws:

### **ARTICLE I – Duties of Officers**

Section 4 – Recording Secretary as amended add new 4 – Recording Secretary as amended add new section:

***E. It shall be the duty of the Recording Secretary to ensure that the Constitution and By-Laws of the Association, inclusive of all duly approved amendments, is properly maintained on the website of the Association ([www.wnyvfa.org](http://www.wnyvfa.org)). In addition, the Recording Secretary will cause that duly printed hard copies of the most current revised edition of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Association be provided to the President, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Financial Secretary, Treasurer, the 11 Trustees, and the members of the Association By-Laws Committee. The Recording Secretary will at all times keep a copy of said Constitution and By-Laws at all meetings.***

### **ARTICLE III – Committees**

Section 8 – Steering Committee as amended:

***The STEERING COMMITTEE shall consist of one member from each of the member counties of this Association. A member from each County of the Association shall be appointed by the County Firemen’s Association, County Fire Chief’s Association, County Fire Advisory or another County Fire Organization deemed applicable by WNYVFA for which they represent and reside in and shall serve for a five-year term.*** An alternate member can be appointed to represent the County if the member is unable to attend a meeting. If an appointment cannot be made from a County, that seat will remain vacant until an appointment is made. The appointed members of this Committee shall elect a Chairman, Co-Chairman, and Secretary. Any appointed member must attend at least 75% of the meetings, rounded to the nearest whole number or be removed from the committee. If any appointed members become a FASNY or Firemen’s Home elected official they may be replaced for the remaining term.

Convention Committee: Michael Kislack

Reported that everything is on schedule and coming along good.

Legislative Committee: Robin Schott

Reported that the Cancer Bill has passed both Houses of the Legislature and is awaiting action by the Governor.

The only other bill acted on were:

The VFBL Increase was passed by the Assembly and the Death Benefit was passed by the Senate. No other bills moved out of committee.

There were several Non Scorecard bills passed by the Legislature and sent to the Governor.

There were over 500 bills concerning the Fire Service Submitted.

Robin also reported on the Legislative Conference held November 5-6, 2016 in Albany.

Robin also reminded all FASNY members to visit the FASNY website often to see how the legislation is progressing. He also encouraged all to sign up for the CAPWIZ/ENGAGE Alert program. This is an efficient way to contact your Senate and Assembly members on issues pertaining to the Fire Service. Lastly he encouraged everyone to “work smarter, not harder and be safe”.

Steering Committee: Wayne Butts

Meeting of the Steering Committee after the conclusion of this meeting to discuss several matters.

Presidents Participation Committee: Mike Norwood

Reported that he is up to date.

Fire Prevention Committee: No Report

Investment & Finance: Tom McLaughlin

Scholarship Account	\$ 486.16
Savings Account	\$ 4,263.47
Men's Bowling Account	\$ 150.00
Women's Bowling Account	\$ 150.00
Past President's Account	\$ 440.00
American Fund Account (opened 7-7-17)	\$ 21,450.99
FASNY Credit Union	
Scholarship Account	\$ 14,579.99
CD – 102 (cashed in 6-16-17)	\$
CD – 106	\$ 2,630.29
CD – 107	\$ 5,713.28
CD – 108	\$ 9,626.47
TOTAL	\$ 32,549.03
FASNY Checking Account	\$ 25,182.64
TOTAL of Association on 6-30-17	\$ 84,672.29

Second Vice President Chris Pettit assumed the Chair.

Program Book: Ed Dysard Reported

As of 7/28/17 reached 77.7% of goal, the Association has received \$11,668.14.

He reported that he has the contract for next year, will be acted on tomorrow.

Budget Committee: Robert Walker

Committee budget requests need to be turned in by the end of the Convention or by August 5<sup>th</sup> at the latest.

History Committee: No Report

Public Relations Committee: Stan MacWilliams

Commended the FASNY Officers on the quality of the Magazine.

Memorial Scholarship Committee: Tim Wolfanger

Reported that the Committee awarded one \$800.00 Scholarship to William D'Angelo of York Central School.

Fire Officers Committee: Anthony Demarco

National Grid will give a Demonstration this afternoon in the parking lot of the Senior Center.

Topics Committee: FASNY Director Diane Pfersick

Introduced Tim Hanigan, who gave a presentation on the proposed amendments to the FASNY By-Laws.

After the presentation a brief question and answer period was held

Nozzle Practice Committee: Doug Wright

Registration will be Saturday at 1100 hr, will start at noon.

President Bruce Mack resumed the Chair:

Motion by Wayne Butts, Seconded by Edward Taes to accept the committee. Motion Carried

Guest Lockport City Fire Chief Brady gave a presentation on the Tire Recycling Facility on August 10, 2016.

Sergeant at arms Donald Trzepacz reported attendance at 83.

FASNY OFFICERS addressed the convention.

President Ken Pienkowski spoke on the Cancer Bill. First Vice President Steven Klein spoke on Recruit New York which will be held April 28 & 29 2018.

Chaplain Wayne Jagow thanked all for the support of the Caring Window in the Chapel at the Home.

Firemen's Home Trustees President David Schmidt reported that the Home Census stands at 81.

The Capital improvements to the Home grounds, the portico over the main entrance and the pavilion outside of the dining hall, are progressing and on schedule.

Motion was made by William Kershner, Seconded by Chris Curry to recess the meeting until Saturday.

Motion Carried.

Meeting recessed at 1118 hr.

Respectfully Submitted Bruce Geschwender, Recording Secretary.

## 118<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION

JULY 29, 2017

### MEMORIAL SERVICE

Chaplain Alan Way thanked Rev. Wayne Jagow and Gary Hunt for the work they did on the service and program.

He stated that he received replies from one hundred twenty four (124) departments. The names of three hundred and one (301) men and women that were members of the Association which was five (5) more than last year. Also read were the names of four (4) past FASNY officers, two (2) past Western Past Presidents and twenty one (21) Auxiliary members. He thanked his Assistant Chaplain and the present officers for their help.

## SERVICE AWARDS PROGRAM

The following awards were given out Saturday morning following the Memorial Service:

EMS PROVIDER of the Year:	Gary W. Hume	Gainesville Fire Department
FIRE POLICE of the Year	Lawrence D. Amacher Jr.	Pekin Fire Company
FIREMEN of the Year	Matthew Pietrzykowski	Alexander Fire Department
1 – 5 Year Service	Jacob Smith	Dansville Fire Department
5 – 20 Year Service	Peter Chase	Adams Fire Company
20 + Year Service	Richard Silvaroli	Frontier Fire Company
30 + Year Service	William Kershner Jr.	Dansville Fire Department
50 + Year Service	Robert G. Walker	St. Johnsburg Fire Company
50 + Year Service	Gary D. Hunt	Frontier Fire Company

## REGULAR MEETING

JULY 29,2017

Sergeant at Arms Donald Trzepacz pointed out the exits.

President Bruce Mack called the meeting to order at 1128hr.

Sergeant at Arms Donald Trzepacz lead the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

President Bruce Mack began the Committee Reports:

Memorial Committee: Alan Way

See above concerning the Memorial Service.

Fire Police Committee: Donald Trzepacz

Reported that Thirty (30) members attended the Fire Police Seminar on Friday.

There was no Fire Police Competition due to lack of participation.

EMS Committee: Ronda Skelton:

Competition went very well. We had four (4) teams: Cambria, St. Johnsburg, Bergholz, and Churchville.

First Place: Cambria with a time of 11:25

Second Place: Churchville with a time of 12:12



Third Place            St. Johnsburg with a time of 12:46

Fourth Place:        Bergholz

Twenty-Sever (27) people were present

By-Laws Committee: William Kershner:

Motion was made by William Kershner, Seconded by Alan Way that the Proposed Amendments to the Constitution / By-Laws of the Western New York Volunteer Firemen's Association, Inc. be accepted as presented.

Motion Carried.

Past Presidents Committee: Anthony Demarco:

Eight (8) Past Presidents attended the Convention.

Resolutions Committee: Michael Delamere presented the following Resolutions:

#### RESOLUTION No. 1

WHEREAS, Our infinite Father, in His Divine wisdom during the past year, removed from life several members of the Western New York Volunteer Firemen's Association; and

WHEREAS, These fine persons have made splendid contributions to their respective communities having served as volunteer firefighters; and

WHEREAS, It is not to pass judgement upon termination of their stay among us, even though our feelings of loss are most acute; and

WHEREAS, It is fitting and proper at this time to pay our respect to their memory, and extend our sincere sympathy to their families; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That there shall be set aside a page in the official proceedings of this, the 118<sup>th</sup> Convention, and that the names of those members of this Association deceased during the past year shall be inscribed thereon.

Respectfully Submitted Michael Delamere, seconded by Alan Way. Motion Carried.

#### RESOLUTION No. 2

WHEREAS, This association, through its Legislative program, has promoted such legislation beneficial to the Volunteer Fire Service during the past year; and

WHEREAS, Several persons have contributed with their consideration of this program; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That this Association extend its sincere thanks to the Honorable Andrew Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, all members of the State Senate and Assembly, Chairman of the Legislative Committee of the Firemen's Association of the State of New York, Chairman of the Legislative Committee of this Association, and all other persons who assisted in any way with our legislative program during the year.

Respectfully Submitted Michael Delamere, seconded by Kenneth Fuller. Motion carried

RESOLUTION No. 3

WHEREAS, Much good can be accomplished by favorable impression given to the general public by means of television, radio, and the press; and

WHEREAS, Whenever this Association has held a convention we have had harmonious relationships with the newspaper reporters, and area radio and television personalities; and

WHEREAS, As in the past, this year is no exception; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the thanks and gratitude of this Association be extended to all newspapers, radio and television stations, and various periodicals for their services to all volunteer firefighters of Western New York.

Respectfully submitted Michael Delamere, seconded by Daniel Evans. Motion Carried

RESOLUTION No. 4

WHEREAS, The Officers, Trustees & Members of the Western New York Volunteer Firemen's Association are assembled at the 118<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention in Wheatfield, New York; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the members endorse and pledge our full support to the following candidates for office in the Firemen's Association of the State of New York:

Board of Director	Jose DaRocha
Board of Director	Kenneth J. Holmes, Sr.
Trustee Firemen's Home	Walter W. (Bill) Eck, Jr
Trustee Firemen's Home	Stephen Goodman
Trustee Firemen's Home	Alan C. Way

Respectfully submitted Michael Delamere, seconded by Kenneth Fuller. Motion Carried.

RESOLUTION No. 5

WHEREAS, The Officers, Trustees, and Committee members of the Western New York Volunteer Firemen's Association have served the membership well and faithfully during the past year; and

WHEREAS, They have given freely of their time, money, and ability in order to further the interest of the Volunteer Firefighters; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the members and delegates, assembled here today, **extend a rising vote of thanks** to:

President	Bruce Mack
First Vice President	James Miller
Second Vice President	Chris Pettit
Financial Secretary	Penni Dysard

Recording Secretary	Bruce Geschwender
Treasurer	Thomas McLaughlin
Chaplain	Alan Way
Assistant Chaplain	Robert Carncross
Sergeant-at-Arms	Donald Trzepacz
Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms	Doug Wright

And

The Board of Trustees, each Committee Chairman and all committee members of the Western New York Volunteer Firemen's Association.

Respectfully submitted, as amended, Michael Delamere, Seconded by Harold Wollaber.

Motion Carried.

RESOLUTION No. 6

WHEREAS, This 118<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Western New York Volunteer Firemen's Association has, in every way, been another outstanding success; and

WHEREAS, Much time and effort has been extended with plans and arrangements in order to make this possible, including the Quarterly Executive Committee meetings held throughout this past year; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Association, **by a rising ovation**, extend its sincere thanks to the Convention General Chairmen Michael Kislack & Gary Hunt, Secretary Rich Silvaroli, Treasurer Mike Hefferon, and the entire convention committee; and to all other individuals who contributed in any way to make this, the 118<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention, a huge success.

Respectfully submitted Michael Delamere, seconded by Alan Way. Motion Carried.

2% Tax Committee: Anthony Demarco: Nothing New

Fire Officers Committee: Anthony Demarco:

Reported that Sixty-One (61) members attended the National Grid Demonstration Friday Afternoon.

North Central Liaison: David Sweet

Reported on the proposed meeting dates and places for North Central:

September 17 <sup>th</sup>	Elbridge	
October 21 <sup>st</sup>	Banquet	Palmyra VFW
January 20 <sup>th</sup>	Penfield	Legislative outreach and meeting

April 8<sup>th</sup> Fairville  
June 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> Convention possibly Penfield

Southwestern Liaison: Doug Wood

Reported on the date of their Convention: August 3 – 5, 2017 in Westfield.

President Bruce Mack read the Guest List.

Unfinished Business: NONE

New Business:

Motion was made by Edward Dysard, seconded by David Wolf to accept the contract from the solicitor. Motion Carried.

Motion by Michael Delamere, seconded by Chris McKinny that the Western New York Volunteer Firemen's Association oppose the proposed FASNY By-Law change and ask that all WNYVFA members attending the upcoming FASNY Convention vote "NO" on the change.

IN FAVOR 29, AGAINST 3, ABSTAIN 3

Motion Carried.

The President informed the membership of the Executive Committee Meeting held Friday, in which the Executive Committee Voted to take legal action against Past President Harter concerning the recuperation of the monies owed to the Association from the last Convention.

Also to reiterate to all candidates for the office of President that no expenditures for a Convention are to be in the name of the Association. They shall be in the name of the sponsoring Agency.

A motion was made by Michael Wutz, seconded by William Kershner to remove the name of Darrin Harter from Resolution No. 5. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Stanley MacWilliams, seconded by Forrest Skelton to set aside a page in the minutes of the Convention to honor the deceased Past Presidents of the Association. Motion Carried.

A motion was made by Kenneth Fuller, seconded by William Kershner to accept the names submitted for Life Members in the Association. Motion Carried

***THE FOLLOWING PAGE IS LEFT BLANK IN MEMORY OF PAST PRESIDENTS:***

***JOHN O'NEIL AND GARY WUETHRICH***



Good of the Organization:

The Convention next year will be held in North Collins, NY the letter in on file in the Secretary's Office. Dates to be determined.

Motion was made by Kenneth Fuller, Seconded by Wendi Walker to accept the invitation from North Collins Fire Company to host the 2018 WNYVFA Convention. Motion Carried

Sergeant at Arms Donald Trzepacz announced the attendance at the various activities during the Convention.

Past President David Wolf stated the at the Past Presidents Dinner Friday evening the Past Presidents did not vote to admit Darin Harter into the Past Presidents Association.

Sergeant-at-Arms Donald Trzepacz reported attendance.

52 Members, Delegates,

Excused List read by Recording Secretary Bruce Geschwender.

Motion by Alan Way, Seconded by Harold Wollaber to accept. Carried.

Benediction offered by Chaplain Alan Way

Motion by William Kershner, seconded by James Dermody to adjourn. Carried

Meeting adjourned at 1200 hr.

Respectfully Submitted Bruce Geschwender, Recording Secretary.

Next Meeting: September 10, 2017 Frontier Fire Hall.

WNYFVA Legislative Clearing House 1200hr, Meeting 1400hr.