

Cumberland Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association
Booster Meeting
May 18, 2003
Level, Maryland

The meeting was called to order by **Vice President Wm. Dean Simpson** at 1:30 p.m. **President C. J. Bens** had not yet arrived. The Invocation was given by **Assistant Chaplain Ray W. Mowen**, followed by the Pledge to the Flag.

We were welcomed to Level by **Mrs. Sharon Worthington**, wife of Maryland State Firemen's Association President **Gene Worthington**. President Worthington had been called to another event but hoped to be able to make our meeting before we adjourned.

Lori Packard, President of the Level Ladies Auxiliary, asked if any of the CVVFA members would serve as judges for the Ladies Auxiliary of the Maryland State Firemen's Association Miss Fire Prevention contest at the MSFA Convention in June. President Bens and Advertising Manager Romig volunteered. They will be sent further information in the mail.

President Bens arrived and we proceeded with the regular order of business.

Roll call was taken by **Recording Secretary Louise E. Dell**:

OFFICERS

President Charles "C.J." Bens - present
First Vice President Wm. Dean Simpson - present
Second Vice President J. Allen Brennan - present
Third Vice President Hugh M. Harris - present
Fourth Vice President Marshall N. Younker II - present
Treasurer George J. Dove - **excused**
Financial Secretary James J. Wharry - present
Recording Secretary Louise E. Dell - present
Home Office Manager Stephen E. Heefner - present
Advertising Manager Robert C. Romig - present
Chaplain Charles E. Barnhart, Jr. - **excused**
Assistant Chaplain Ray W. Mowen - present
Attorney Howard S. Cohen - present

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Stephen P. Austin (DE) - present	Richard P. Jones (PA) - present
John L. Mitchell (DE) - present	Larry W. Smallwood (VA) - absent
Robert P. Cumberland (MD) - present	Stephen C. McBee (WV) - present
Wayne A. Baker (MD) - present	Harry C. Alt (WV) - absent
Guy M. Flory (PA) - excused	

PAST PRESIDENTS IN ATTENDANCE

Wayne A. Baker (1982, 1990)
Charles E. Myers (1988, 1992)
Stephen P. Austin (1993)
Robert P. Cumberland (1995)

Ray W. Mowen (1997)
Joseph W. Bukowski (1998)
Stephen E. Heefner (2000)
Stephen C. McBee (2001)

Roll call of the general membership was taken. Those members representing one or more companies were asked to respond to only one company with the number of delegates and guests present, and to respond “here” or “present” to the other companies they represent. There were 33 members and 7 guests for a total of 40 persons in attendance, representing 20 companies.

Recording Secretary Louise Dell received an e-mail from **Pennsylvania Director Guy M. Flory** advising that he was not present due to his scheduled surgery on May 15.

OFFICERS REPORTS

President Charles “C. J.” Bens - Officers, members and guests - it is a pleasure to be here at the Level Volunteer Fire Company and we thank you for hosting our meeting today.

Since our last meeting, I have attended the FDIC Conference in Indianapolis, IN, and just recently the Congressional Fire Service (CFSI) dinner in Washington, DC. Our good friends from Delaware were wonderful hospitality hosts at both, as usual.

First Vice President Wm. Dean Simpson - I would like to thank the Level Volunteer Fire Company, home of Maryland State President Gene Worthington, for hosting today’s Booster meeting. I am looking forward to having a good meeting today and seeing new people from the Eastern part of Maryland.

I have been very busy this year building my new beach home. I still have a lot of little things to do but I’m in and ready for some time off. Seven days a week gets old real fast, doing it for a year. I am looking forward to enjoying it this coming year.

I have attended my home company meetings along with my Officers meetings.

I am learning a new position at work that I started in January of this year--class meter man after 25 years as an electrician for the City of Newark, DE.

I am looking forward to going to Ocean City, MD, for the Maryland State Firemen’s Convention June 16-19.

I am also looking forward to becoming President of this Association at Taneytown, MD, the site of this year’s Convention, in August.

Hope everyone has a safe trip back home and remember our armed forces that are protecting our freedom.

Second Vice President J. Allen Brennan - The following is a report of my activities: Attended the Booster meeting in Newport, PA; attended NVFC Spring meeting in Salt Lake City, UT; attended the VSFA Executive Committee meeting in Roanoke, VA; attended VSFA Ladies Auxiliary Zone meeting in Dunn Loring, VA; and attended the CFSI dinner in Washington, DC.

It is great to be in Level, MD, for this meeting.

Third Vice President Hugh M. Harris - I want to thank everyone for the many cards, etc., that I received after the death of my father. They really helped. I have been in and out of the hospital so have not been able to get around too much. I did attend the Prince George's County Association meetings.

Fourth Vice President Marshall Younker - I would also like to thank the Level Fire Company for a wonderful day yesterday and for hosting our meeting today.

Since the last Booster meeting in Newport, PA, I have attended my home station meetings as well as County Association meetings and the Shenandoah Apple Blossom Festival Parade in Winchester, VA.

Again, thanks to our hosts and I hope to see everyone at the Convention in August.

Treasurer George J. Dove - Excused. Written report furnished as follows: I missed the last Booster meeting due to illness but things are looking good.

I am sorry that I will not be with you today as I am working. If anything comes up and you should need me, the phone number is 540-665-5679.

Since my last report I have attended one funeral of fellow fireman Bobby Hodgson, the Shenandoah Apple Blossom Festival where I had the pleasure of talking to Steve Austin and Jim Kimble, was good for all. I did see the Association advertisement of the Convention and Wayne Baker and Donna.

I went to the fire college for the grant program where I had the chance to meet chiefs, assistant chiefs, and fire marshals. We did 5,000 reviews and I would say that at least 50% of them will receive grant money in the future.

If all things go right for the rest of the year, I will retire December 31, 2003. My wife retires just before our Convention. Who knows--maybe I'll travel for Steve Austin and the Association.

Now to the meat of my Treasurer's report:

General Account	
Bank of Clarke County	\$3,318.75
BB&T	<u>1,003.38</u>
Total	\$4,322.13

The money in the Bank of Clark Co. Is for advertisements (\$1,665) and the Holey Bears (\$2,560) These figures are as of May 28, 2003 - updated from the written report above.

Death Benefit Account	
Bank of Clarke	\$ 459.15
BB&T	<u>1,080.34</u>
Total	\$1,539.49

The money from BB&T will be transferred to the Bank of Clarke Co.

Savings Accounts and HH Bonds	
HH Bonds	\$ 5,000.00
CD #1	65,745.52
CD #2	<u>6,734.18</u>
Total	\$77,479.70

The net worth of the Association at this time is \$83,341.32

For those who have died since the last Convention, may they rest in peace. Will someone tell the Stanley Family how sorry I am for his loss? We lost a good man.

Until we meet at the Convention, may you all leave here today with an open mind, peace, and think of all the military overseas. God Bless.

Financial Secretary James J. Wharry - Since the last meeting I have been able to get all the problems straightened out with the bank and now have deposit tickets and checks. I am working on the Dues Notices and they are almost ready to mail. I have worked on the system producing reports, mailing labels and research.

We have 1,089 members and 109 companies.

I am being considered for promotion at my job. I am able to devote time at work now to work with the things I was unable to do during the last two years. If I get the new job, that will cease. Because of that, I feel at this time that I will be unable to seek the Office of Financial Secretary again at Convention. I will continue to have everything caught up before the Convention so I can turn everything over to my successor at that time.

Thanks to the host company for this meeting.

Recording Secretary Louise E. Dell - My report is the usual. The minutes are taken at the meeting, transcribed, and mailed to those individuals on our mailing list. I did send a copy of our last minutes to Mrs. Stanley and I received a very nice note from her telling me how much she appreciated our remembering him in our minutes.

Home Office Manager Stephen E. Heefner - Welcome to our May Booster meeting. Thanks to the Level Fire Company for hosting this weekend's events. The hospitality shown by the members of the Level Fire Company has been terrific.

I continue to remind everyone that there are plenty of open dates available for future (near and far) Booster meetings and Conventions.

To everyone who may be wondering, there will be a mail out before Convention to cover such things as pre-registration and schedule of events. Due to the cost of this mailing I need to collect as much accurate information as possible.

I continue to serve in many ways. I attended the FDIC Conference in Indianapolis, and worked the Responder Safety Institute booth. I also attended the 15th Annual CFSI banquet.

Any comments, complaints, or pay increases, please contact me at any time.

Advertising Manager Robert Romig - I apologize for not having made the previous Booster meetings but I had conflicting events.

I sent out over 200 letters to various fire departments in MD, VA, WV, PA, and DE at the beginning of the year. I am not sure how many new applications we received back from this mailing but they would have come in with the new dues in the amount of \$15.00. Perhaps Jim Wharry can enlighten us on this.

I sent out over 100 advertising packets to various vendors and as noted from my previous reports and e-mails to the Officers, the response has not been what I expected. As of this memo I only have 20 ads for the book. In 1991 we had 51 ads paid for; in 1994 we had 49 ads paid for. Hopefully today at the meeting I will receive more ads.

I'm not sure if it is my responsibility to visit the area where we have the Convention and go knocking on doors or not. If it is, forgive me because I did not do that. I feel it is better for the host company to solicit ads in their home town than to have some stranger visiting them. (NOTE: Wayne Baker turned in 9 ads at the meeting.)

I would at least like to break even on the book. However, my goal was to make some money for the Association.

I am extending the cutoff date until June 15 to hopefully get a few more in. As of this date my graphic designer has put together a rough draft of the ads and copy that we have for the book. I am still missing some information for the book which hopefully will be given to me today.

I hope that I have done what is expected of me as Advertising Manager. However, if not, and someone would like to put me on the correct path, I will accept their guidance.

Wishing all of you a beautiful summer and hope to see you all at the Convention in Taneytown the end of July.

Chaplain Charles E. Barnhart - Excused. No report.

Assistant Chaplain Ray W. Mowen - No report.

Attorney Howard S. Cohen - No report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Archives/Historical Committee - Don M. Ringer - Guy M. Flory - Excused. No report.. **Steve Heefner** reported that he has visited Guy to pick up trophies to be updated for this year's Convention. While he was there he looked at what Guy has in his garage in the way of the CVVFA historical material. He made a personal commitment to him that he (Steve) will move the historical material from Guy's garage to the Archives in Chambersburg. However, what Steve looked at he did not feel was all of historical value. He asked for permission, as an Officer, to dispose of any items he felt were not of historical value. After discussion, **MOTION BY ROBERT TRACE, SECOND BY ROBERT CUMBERLAND, THAT STEVE HEEFNER BE GIVEN PERMISSION TO DISPOSE OF ALL UNNECESSARY ITEMS. MOTION CARRIED.** **Hugh Harris** asked, and was given permission, to receive the excess items.

Auditing Committee - Gerald L. Holtry - The books will be audited on Wednesday night, July 30, at 7 p.m. in the meeting room at the Sleep Inn Motel. All concerned individuals should be present at that time.

Budget & Finance Committee - George J. Dove - Excused. No report.

Constitution & By-Laws Committee - Wm. Dean Simpson - Progress. **Attorney Howard Cohen** announced that he will be addressing the Constitution & By-Laws at the Convention.

Convention Committee - Wayne A. Baker - Sent all information concerning pre-registration, schedule of events, etc., for the Convention to Steve Heefner.

Steve Heefner had copies of information re the Sleep Inn Motel available for those who need them. He reminded everyone that they had to make their own reservation, other than Officers, Directors, speakers and special guests, whose reservations he is making. When the next Newsletter comes out he will include a listing of over-flow motels and camp grounds in the area.

Question was raised as to whether the Officers and Directors would have their rooms paid for. This was a By-law issue previously. Attorney Cohen stated that it is no longer in the By-laws. Our financial status is very precarious at this time.

Credential Committee - Marshall E. Bricker - No report.

Fire Person of the Year - Louise E. Dell - No report.

Fire Prevention Committee - Charles E. Myers - Reported that Steve Austin has made arrangements for a speaker at Convention.

Legislative Committee - Stephen P. Austin. Bob Cumberland reported on the following:

Bob thanked all those who contacted their Legislators. We were successful in getting 36 classes restored that had been cut from the Fire Academy curriculum. We don't know where the money is coming from yet but we are working on that.

We were also advised that the Grant Program would stay intact as is but we weren't told where that will be. We would ask that you very diligently speak with your Legislators and tell them that we would like to see the program stay with FEMA and not move to the Office of Domestic Preparedness (ODP). If it goes there we may never see the money again.

There were 13,500 grants reviewed in three weeks and they are complete. There were members from the five state area participating in this program. Hopefully by June 1 those receiving grants will be notified. I have seen reports that show there were 20,000+ applications received.

Legislation Introduced to Provide Tax Incentives for Fire Sprinkler Installation - On April 11, Congressman Curt Weldon (R-PA) and Congressman Jim Langevin (D-RI) introduced legislation to provide tax incentives for the retrofitting of automatic sprinkler systems in commercial buildings. The legislation, entitled the "*Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act of 2003*" (H.R. 1824), would amend the Internal Revenue Code to classify automatic fire sprinklers as a five-year property for purposes of depreciation.

Health & Wellness Resource Manual - The National Volunteer Fire Council, in conjunction with the U.S. Fire Administration, is developing a Health and Wellness resource manual for use in combination and volunteer fire departments.

Fallen Law Enforcement Officers and Firefighters Flag Memorial Act - The Fallen Law Enforcement Officers and Firefighters Flag Memorial Act passes in the Senate. In the early morning hours of Friday, May 16, the Senate agreed by unanimous consent to pass S. 535. The legislation allows the family of a law enforcement officer or firefighter who has died in the line of duty to request from the Department of Justice or the Department of Homeland Security a United States flag to be flown over the Capitol Building in their honor.

Hometown Heroes Survivor Benefit Act (H.R. 919/S. 459) - This legislation, introduced by Rep. Bob Etheridge (D-NC), Rep. Curt Weldon (R-PA), Rep. Steny Hoyer (D-MD), and Rep. Michael Oxley (R-OH) in the House and Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-VT), Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC), Sen. James Jeffords (I-VT), and Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME) in the Senate, would extend the current Public Safety Officer Benefits Program to firefighters, law enforcement officers, and EMS personnel who die of heart attacks or strokes in the line of duty. This legislation unanimously passed the House last Congress, but the fire service and our supporters in Congress were unable to get the bill to the Senate floor before Congress adjourned. (Status: Introduced on February 26, 2003 and referred to the House and Senate Committees on the Judiciary.)

Hometown Heroes Survivors Benefit Act Passes the Senate Unanimously - The Hometown Heroes Act extends the current Public Safety Officers Benefit (PSOB) Program to public safety officers who die as a result of a heart attack or stroke within 24 hours of being on duty, responding

to an emergency, or participating in a training exercise. Heart attacks and strokes represent a significant risk among public safety officers, accounting for nearly half of firefighter deaths each year.

NVFC to Receive FEMA Grant for Firefighter Heart Attack Prevention Program - The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the United States Fire Administration (USFA) are pleased to announce that the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) is a 2002 Fire Prevention and Safety grant award recipient. The NVFC's project, entitled "*The Firefighter Heart Attack Prevention Program*," will promote the prevention of heart attacks.

USFA and NVFC will launch a major national campaign to increase awareness of this serious health problem within the fire service and will include the coordination of a Medical Advisory Panel who will provide guidance in the areas of proper nutrition, physical fitness and cardiology. The Panel and NVFC will develop a Heart Attack Indicator Kit which will be distributed at national fire service trade shows and made available through an exclusive website with specific information related to heart attack prevention including in-depth resources and recommendations. Educational materials such as posters, pamphlets, etc., will also include exercise and proper nutrition guidelines that lead to a heart-healthy lifestyle.

Bob also spoke on the National Burn Center Report System. A copy of that report is included with these minutes.

On another subject, Bob reported that he prepared a letter, for President Bens signature, to go to the Carroll County Commissioners, namely, Julia W. Gouge, President; Dean L. Minnich, Vice President; and Perry W. Jones, Jr., Secretary, inviting them to the CVVFA Convention in Taneytown. President Bens will be getting the letters out soon.

Memorial Committee - Chaplain Charles E. Barnhart, Jr. - Excused. No report.

National Emergency Responder Institute - Steve Austin - Reported that the work on the Emergency Responder Institute grows every day. He has held some discussions with USFA as to increasing our grant to include a part time contractor to handle some of this work. He is meeting with a potential contractor to discuss costs. Steve is meeting with Chief Ron Siarnicki regarding feasibility of this idea.

Parliamentarian Howard S. Cohen - No report.

Pennsylvania Delegate - Charles E. Myers - Gave an update on his activities since the last meeting. A full report will be given at Convention.

Public Relations Committee - Stephen C. McBee - No report.

Resolutions Committee - Joseph W. Bukowski - Only two State Directors have submitted nominees for Resolutions. He was promised that more will be sent by e-mail on Monday. When he receive those names, he will make copies of the information and forward to Louise Dell, Chair of the Fire Person of the Year Committee. She will contact her committee members and make a decision as to who the Fire Person of the Year should be.

Scholarship Committee - Joseph W. Bukowski - We have no scholarship applicants for this year. He did receive several requests for applications which he will send out and they will be considered for the year 2004 scholarship.

He is still collecting money for the bears that have been sold. If you have any today, please turn it in by the end of the meeting. If any of you still have bears, please try to sell them before Convention. Be sure to bring them to Convention where we may be able to sell them. He was to report that we have at least covered all of our costs. He has sent Treasurer Dove three checks but two of those checks, his personal checks dated in February and March, have not cleared the bank as of this past week. He thanked everyone for their efforts in selling the bears.

Topics Committee - Stephen P. Austin - The speakers for Convention are as follows:

Keynote - Thursday afternoon, July 31-

Reflecting on the Future - Mr. Brian Yoder, General Manager
Mifflin Valley Reflective, Schillington, PA.

Friday afternoon, August 1 - E. Wade Thomas Fire Prevention Program

New Directions in Fire Prevention - Fire Marshal Doug DeHaven
City of Hagerstown MD Fire Department

Friday evening banquet speaker - August 1

Musings of a Firefighter, the Wit and Wisdom of Chief Harry Carter
Editor, Respondersafety.com

Web Page, CVVFA.org - Stephen P. Austin - He still needs articles from some of the membership for the Web Page. He also needs someone to work in the booth at the Maryland State Firemen's Convention in Ocean City in June. Hugh Harris and Wayne Baker volunteered.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

Robert Romig - Bob stated that he would like to get about 20 more ads in. Some of our member companies have anniversaries--75 or 100 years--and we have not hear from them. Every Director and Officer in this Association was sent three advertisement packets. He has only heard from a few of them.

The question was raised regarding last year's parade winners--should they go in the book? The response was "yes" and he can get the information from Guy Flory. President Bens was asked to submit a photo for inclusion in the book.

Bob would like for the person who is helping to put the book together be given a CVVFA shirt and banquet tickets to show a little appreciation for all his work.

We have about six new members over last year but we still don't have the Pennsylvania Firemen's Association or the Virginia Firemen's Association as members of this Association. We need to work on that.

The question was raised as to whether the minutes of the 100th Anniversary Convention in 2001 would be included in the Convention book since there was no book last year. It was decided that they should be and Recording Secretary Louise Dell will forward them to Bob Romig for inclusion. The cover of this year's book should show that the minutes of both the 2001 and the 2002 Convention are included. Also, in small print, the names of New York and New Jersey should be printed.

We are only going to have 300 copies of the book printed. Every member does not need to receive a copy. Those attending the Convention, and each member company will receive a copy.

Bob also suggested we might want to consider having vendors at our Conventions and charge them a set fee for the privilege.

The subject of the Officers and Directors rooms being paid for at Convention was brought up. **Attorney Cohen** stated that his recommendation is that we follow the By-laws. There was much discussion on the finances of the Association. **MOTION BY JOHN MITCHELL, SECOND BY HUGH HARRIS, TO LEAVE IT AS IT IS. MOTION DIED.**

MOTION BY STEVE AUSTIN, SECOND BY JOHN MITCHELL, TO TABLE THIS SUBJECT UNTIL A FUTURE MEETING. MOTION CARRIED.

Steve Austin spoke on the financial situation of the Association. In 1995 this Association developed a financial plan that dealt with two issues. Officers and Committee Chairs were to submit recommended budgets to a Budget Committee, who would prepare a budget and compare the income of the Association to the expenses of the Association. We would vote on that so we could determine and actually have a budget. If you look at what has happened to our finances since that time, which is now nine years since we passed that unanimously and it was never implemented, our finances have fallen from over \$100,000 in our reserve down to \$70,000+. That is because, in his estimation, we haven't been able to generate enough dues paying members.

In the financial plan, we were to have a study done of the amount of money that we needed in reserve to pay all of those folks who chose the death plan alternative rather than have their dues paid or a buyout of \$50 cash. We were supposed to have this study done to set aside a reserve account for this purpose.

The rest of the money that was in the Death Benefit Account was to be put in Escrow and we were to hold that, using only the interest.

We need to take a hard look at this situation while we still have a sum of money in the bank. We really need to take a hard look at our expenses.

Steve is in favor of all Officers and Directors receiving a free room if we can afford it. If you serve the Association, you should not have to pay for the privilege of doing that. However, that is a luxury we may not be able to afford. This is something the Directors and Officers will discuss before our next meeting.

We need to think very seriously about getting back on track financially by setting up a budget and then staying on it.

Guy Flory has done a terrific job of getting sponsors for the parade trophies, etc., which is a tremendous help to the Association's finances.

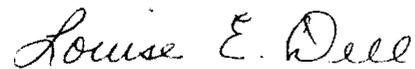
We all need to work to get new members and strengthen our Association.

Ray Mowen brought up the subject of how individuals are dressing at the Memorial Service. Everyone should wear appropriate attire--no shorts, etc., to show respect for our deceased members.

There being no further business to come before the group, the Benediction was given by **Assistant Chaplain Ray Mowen**.

The meeting adjourned at 3 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Louise E. Dell".

Louise E. Dell
Recording Secretary