

Cumberland Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association  
 Booster Meeting October 18, 2009  
 Pleasant Hill Volunteer Fire Department PA

President Robertson called the group together for lunch. Walter introduced Ted Coulson, our host for the meeting for some comments. Ted stated that lunch would be served in the social hall as they were holding a public dinner. After lunch, we would return back here for the business meeting. Assistant Chaplain James Wharry gave the blessing for the meal. Lunch was provided, old fashion dumplings and pot pie. Walter called the meeting back to order at 13:00 hours. He asked Chaplain Barnhart for the invocation and to lead the group in the pledge to the flag. Walter again introduced Ted Coulson who gave a warm welcome. Walter thanked the company for hosting the meeting and presented the complimentary \$100 check for expenses.

**Introduction of Guests** – None present

Secretary Worthington took roll call with 80 representatives and delegates being recorded in attendance.

TITLE	NAME	OCT
President	Walter Robertson	1
1st Vice President	Greg Yost	1
2nd Vice President	Michael Sullivan	
3rd Vice President	Steven Haines	1
4th Vice President	Rich Toulson	1
Treasurer	George Dove	1
Financial Secretary	Stephen McBee	1
Recording Secretary	Gene Worthington	1
Home Office Manager	Stephen Heefner	1
Publicity Manager	Robert Timko	1
Chaplain	Charles Barnhart	1
Assistant Chaplain	James Wharry	1
Attorney	Howard Cohen	
Pennsylvania Delegate	Charlie Myers	1
Director, Pennsylvania (2011)	Rich Bruner	1
Director, Pennsylvania (2010)	Gerald Holtry	1
Director, Maryland (2011)	Wayne Baker	1
Director, Maryland (2010)	Robert Cumberland	
Director, West Virginia (2011)	Bill Keller	
Director, West Virginia (2010)	Harry Alt	
Director, Delaware (2011)	Harry Balthis	
Director, Delaware (2010)	Steve Austin	1
Director, Virginia (2011)	Kevin Piatt	1
Director, Virginia (2010)	Allen Brennan	1
Past President	Jerry Daniels	1
	Totals	19
Past Presidents		11
Maryland Fire Depts		5
Delaware Fire Depts		10
Virginia Fire Depts		4
West Virginia Fire Depts		1

Pennsylvania Fire Depts	30
Grand Totals	80

**Communications** – None

**Motion** to accept the convention minutes with any corrections as distributed and published on the web site by Steven Haines, seconded by Robert Trice, no further discussion, voice vote taken, motion passed.

President Robertson asked PP Austin to install Officers Rich Toulson and Kevin Piatt to their respective positions, as they were absent from the swearing ceremony at convention banquet. Steve gave the oath of office and congratulated each at the completion of the oath.

**Officers reports** –

President Robertson brought greetings to the group and continued by stating good afternoon ladies and gentlemen, Officers and welcome to Pleasant Hill. I hope everyone had a successful time since convention. I have attended all my local fire company meetings, county and state meetings. I have a new job and have been working like crazy. That concludes my report for today.

First Vice President Yost presented his written report and commented from it. Hello everyone, welcome Officers and members, glad everyone came out today despite the weather we have been having. Thanks to Pleasant Hill for hosting today’s meeting and the excellent meal. Since our convention, I have attended my company and county meetings. I was able to obtain the elected Officers contact info for the website. I am still working on the Large Area Search and Rescue class. Getting the instructors coordinated is difficult as most of them are involved in MFRI classes. It is still going to happen, probably in the spring. The main instructor is very interested in conducting the class and is continuing to work on the program. It should be quite interesting. I have handed out a survey on your thoughts on our progress on the business plan. Please complete them and I will compile results. Feel free to make any suggestions, we will report at next meeting.

Second Vice President Sullivan was absent.

Third Vice President Haines presented his written report and spoke from it. President Walter Robertson, fellow Officers, members and guests, good afternoon and welcome to today’s booster meeting. I would like to thank the Pleasant Hill FC for hosting today’s booster meeting. Since the convention, I have attended my company meetings, as well as our own training sessions. Also, I have attended my county Association annual meeting in August. I also had the honor of attending the PA State Firemen’s convention in King of Prussia. It was good seeing everyone that attended the convention. Also, as usual, Charlie Myers did an excellent job at the convention. It is good seeing everybody today. I wish for everyone to have a safe and happy holiday season. Take care and everyone have a safe trip home.

Fourth Vice President Toulson brought greetings and it is good seeing everyone here. Rich talked about his itinerary over the past month. He highlighted more specific on some of the activities. He looks forward to serving the Association.

Treasurer Dove presented his written report. Account balances are as follows:

CVVFA #4100840 death	839.67
General Account	12818.63
CVVFA HH bonds	4000.00
CVVFA #236	78711.24
Net Worth	96369.54

George spoke about the financial statement from convention.

President Robertson then updated everyone on the health of Director Harry Alt. Harry is now home and we will be passing a card around for everyone to sign. We continue to keep him in our prayers. Hopefully this card will bring some happiness.

Financial Secretary McBee reported that dues notices have gone out with some coming back. I have sent a list to the Officers of the companies that have not responded. I will get another updated list out soon. I have been working with PP Austin on updating our record keeping. I did purchase the newest version of Microsoft Access which should allow us to actually communicate with our on-line database that should help with the mailing expenses. We should be able to do a lot of this work electronically.

Recording Secretary Worthington stated, the minutes from convention were transcribed and sent out electronically for corrections. A few were submitted with those being made. Copies were sent out to those desiring hard copy. Final copy was sent to webmaster for posting to the site. I was in communication with the President to assist with the committee appointments. I also provided him with the agenda for today. Thanks to our host company today. I have attended all of my company, county and state meetings. The Secretary's office has put together a proceedings book from convention for distribution, please help yourself to a copy. I have some items left over from convention that need to go to the proper recipient. As always, we stand ready to support the Association. Gene then passed out the resolutions to the various Directors for their action.

Home Office Manager Heefner presented a written report. Officers, Members, and Guests, I would like to thank the Officers and members of the Pleasant Hill Fire Company for hosting the October booster meeting here today. I hope everyone enjoyed the fall foliage as you arrived. Also I would like to thank the Officers and members of the Aetna Hose, Hook and Ladder for hosting an outstanding 108<sup>th</sup> convention. It was a record breaking event. Since convention I attended and represented the CVVFA at the West Virginia State convention in Vienna, WV, the DVFA conference in Dover, DE and the Firemen's Association of the State of PA convention in King of Prussia, PA. I processed and mailed approximately 1200 post cards to members and member companies. During the cut and paste process, I inadvertently recorded the wrong convention dates, which should read August 4-7, 2010. Everything else is printed correctly. My computer was taken to a service center to have viruses removed and a PC tune up. I have ordered 5 pocket badges and 3 gold badges to make 5 complete sets of Past Presidents badges for future conventions. I met with Tom Bigler of the St. Thomas Fire Company who has been named chairperson for the 2014 convention to be held in St. Thomas, PA. Finally I was guest french fryer for Citizen Fire Company #1 Newport, PA at their annual fish fry fundraiser. I hope everyone has a safe trip home. The next meeting will be for the BOD on January 10, 2010, hosted by the VFC of Halfway, MD. Additional post cards are at the front table for those needing.

Chaplain Barnhart stated it was fun to be here. Mr. President, Officers and guests, I handled something as a Pastor as I have never done before. He went on to speak about the need to be watching ourselves. Call upon me or Jimmy if you need us. This was a tragic event and unfortunately the son that was killed was a junior firefighter at Mt. Airy. My message is we need to watch our folks because as the economic picture becomes more bleak, lets watch ourselves. Remember, we are just a phone call away. It is good to be here with you as the booster meetings are close this year so that I can attend. He continued with some specific comments about the tragedy. We ask for continued prayers for Harry as he gets back on his feet and for everyone who needs prayer or healing at this time.

Assistant Chaplain Wharry presented a written report, read the following from it. Since the convention, I have attended all my company meetings. I have sent sympathy cards when requested. Thank you to the Pleasant Hill Fire Company for hosting this booster meeting.

Publicity Manager Bob Timko stated he has already started working with the Harrisburg convention committee as to mailing lists for businesses. Again, we encourage fire companies to place an ad.

Attorney Howard Cohen was absent; however he sent the following email message. Gene, I won't be in attendance at Sunday's booster meeting. I continue to work with Responder Safety and hope you have a successful meeting.

Pennsylvania Delegate Charlie Myers spoke about the activities at the PA state convention. Thanks to those that assisted with the reservations. We did have a nice delegation from CVVFA.

### **Directors reports –**

Pennsylvania Director Brunner spoke thanks Mr. President, Officers, members and thanks to the members of the Pleasant Hill Fire Company. He submitted the following report. Good afternoon President Robertson and members of the Cumberland Valley Volunteer Fireman's Association. I would like to first thank the Pleasant Hill Fire Company and all of their staff who helped to prepare the meal and make this meeting possible. With all that we have to do in our busy lives these days it is the volunteer who keep associations such as ours alive and well. Thank you. Since the convention in Delaware I have unfortunately not been very involved as my work has required me to travel quite a bit. I have been involved in attending my fire company meetings and training. In addition I have assisted at our fund raisers including our annual golf tournament. I will continue to work on making our fire company and the CVVFA the best organizations possible and one's that are responsive to today's needs. Again, thanks to the host company and their members for the meal and preparations for our booster meeting and to President Robertson and the board and members of the CVVFA. Have a safe trip home.

Pennsylvania Director Holtry presented his written report, which stated Mr. President, fellow Officers, Ladies and Gentlemen, and members of the Pleasant Hill Fire Company of York. Welcome to the beginning of our 109<sup>th</sup> year. Thank you for hosting today's meeting and lunch. This is our first time to visit Pleasant Hill, we hope to see you all at more meetings. To Aetna FD, thanks for a great convention. We all had a wonderful time. Charles Myers, Vivian Myers, Robert Trace, Jimmy Holtry and I were reelected to be delegates of the Cumberland County association for CVVFA. We all attended the Cumberland Valley Hose Co's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We also attended Cumberland County Firefighters Association Convention in Shippensburg on September 10 & 12. I delivered Donald Holtry his 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the membership card. I have contacted a Shippensburg University student who majors in music to work on the Cumberland Valley music to see if I can get a copy. As always, I supported and attended my local and county fire police meetings.

Maryland Director Wayne Baker spoke about his attendance at the Delaware convention and the National Memorial ceremony in Emmitsburg. I am working on the signs for the display and will report further later today. Thanks to Pleasant Hill for sponsoring the meeting.

Maryland Director Bob Cumberland was absent. Bob and Joan are in Duluth, Minnesota working the ResponderSafety booth at the Minnesota Fire Chief convention. He sent the following report. President Robertson, Officers, Directors, and Guest, since the Convention in August I attended all my fire department meetings, and Carroll County Volunteer Emergency Services Association meetings. I attended the Virginia State Firefighters Association Convention and West Virginia State Firemen's Association Convention and helped staff the ResponderSafety booth at both conventions. Attended the graduation of 10 NFA classes and the Board of Visitors meeting at the Fire Academy along with attending the candle light service and Fallen Firefighter Memorial program. The week of Labor Day I helped oversee a room for the Assistance to Firefighter Grants at the National Fire Academy. I continue to work on tech reviewing the fire grants. The peer review period for the Fire Prevention and Safety Grants will be the week of November 2<sup>nd</sup> at the National Fire Academy. I am still working with the Association store and the people at Emergency Training Associates in Taneytown, Md. to add and increase different products in the store for our members and other fire service personnel. If you have not visited the store site lately you may want to check it out and we have added a new type of whistle. We continue to make a small amount of money each month from sales of items but we need all the Officers and State Directors to

inform their members and other fire service members about the store so we can start moving our products. I don't have the exact amount that the store has brought in (George should be able to advise the amount). I worked with the Chief of the Pleasant Hill Volunteer Fire Department to have a highway safety class this weekend, but we had to postpone it until a later day. Allen Baldwin and I will work with Chief Clouser to reschedule the class and may work on doing it in the evening. They had 13 students signed up for the class. Joan and I are in Duluth Minnesota working the ResponderSafety booth at the Minnesota Fire Chiefs Conference. We are asking to be excused from the booster meeting as we are representing the Association.

West Virginia Directors Harry Alt and Bill Keller were not in attendance.

Virginia Director Allen Brennan submitted a written report. Officers and members of the CVVFA, pleasure to be with you today. Thanks to the Pleasant Hill Fire Company for hosting the meeting. Allen reported on his activities, presented a scholarship to a member of the Callal VFD on behalf of the NVFC. He also attended the meetings and venues for the Virginia State Firefighters Association convention held in Hampton. He gave out fire prevention literature at the open house held by the Fredericksburg FD. I was unable to attend the NVFC fall meeting held in Coralville, IA due to sickness in my family. I have attended all meetings and functions of my fire company.

Virginia Director Kevin Piatt spoke about his background in the fire service and his current position. I have been involved with the Responder Safety now for about nine years and look forward to working more closely with the CVVFA. Kevin has quite an impressive resume and we welcome him.

Delaware Director Austin displayed the whistle that is currently being sold on the web store. Steve provided an update on the health of Crawford and has been unable to attend any of the events. He was able to work with Bob at the Minnesota convention. Steve continued his talk referencing an email message received from James Garcia who spoke at our convention. If you remember, he moved his entire family to Cambodia to help with the medical treatment to the people. His family has been in a terrible tragedy and needs our help. I will speak further on this later in the meeting.

Delaware Director Harry Balthis was absent. He sent this message, I am sorry that I am missing the October booster meeting, but I will be in San Francisco. I attended the CVVFA convention at my home company in Newark. I have attended my home company meetings as well as the Delaware convention in Dover in September. I also attended the Pennsylvania convention in King of Prussia in September, and worked the ResponderSafety booth. See everyone at the Directors' meeting in January.

Past President Daniels stated he had no report.

President Robertson asked our fire prevention queen Erin for some comments. She thanked all for inviting her. I had a wonderful time at convention. Please contact us for anything that we can assist the Association with.

## **Committees –**

Archives – Guy stated there was a box of extra books and ribbons for anyone desiring them. These are all extras from the museum. We have been working on the minutes and financial reports currently.

Auditing – no report

Budget & Finance – no report

Business & Ops Plan – Greg reported on this earlier.

Constitution & By-Laws – no report

Convention – Steve Flickinger reported on some things to wrap up the convention report. I have the parade plaques being fixed and will mail out to the winners. This coming year, I have been receiving the minutes from the Harrisburg committee and they are working on hosting the convention. We plan on attending their next meeting in November. Hopefully, we can finalize most of their issues. Harvey was present, who represents Harrisburg, spoke about the activities in preparation for convention. We have the host hotel, right in Harrisburg. Bob Timko also spoke on this year's golf tournament, somewhat different

from last year. He also talked about some of the logistics as they continue to work hard. There is much to do in Harrisburg.

Credentials – no report

Emergency Responder Safety Institute – Steve Austin reported we have a lot going on presently. We are in the process of closing out our grant from last year. Our new grant will be used for the essentials manual being developed. The second part of the grant includes a study of the existing near miss reports that total over 500. Chief Ron Moore will take that data and analyze it for trends and get some best practices and later will be published. We are in the process of applying for another grant for the coming year. This is a distance learning platform that will allow our people to go online and take a lot of our course work at home. This will be a secure system. We anticipate reaching 10,000 firefighters the first year. Our reasoning is that we have been unable to reach enough people via our traditional delivery system. The IAAI has used this platform very successfully. We will develop modules that will allow you to do the training at smaller sessions at different locations. Hopefully, we can be awarded the grant, however there are new guidelines to follow. We presented our first training course sponsored by private industry here in Pennsylvania. We had real good results. We met with the MD State Highway Authority to do some more work with the public safety flagging course. We have a \$14,600 contract with them, unfortunately they are having some difficulty paying us. The issue is sole sourcing.

Grants – Steve Austin stated this report was covered earlier under Responder Safety.

Web Page – Steve Austin reported on the upgrade to ResponderSafety.com. We want to get the site more user friendly. We will also be adding stories to the archives. We need to be driving more people to our site. This is underway presently by Stone House Media. As to CVVFA.org we are working on merging of databases and be more realistic. We are trying to eliminate postcards and be more timely and less expensive. We are trying to get our entire membership on the email distribution, now there are about 350 on the list. Steve McBee added some additional comments about the upgrade to the mailing system. This will be an on-going process and will require the services of many to be successful. We have face book and twitter accounts that are being updated every single day. Some comments were made by many on the success of Facebook, however there were some negative comments also.

Fire Person of the Year – no report

Fire Prevention – no report

Legislative – Bob Cumberland was absent.

President Robertson asked if there were any other committees that needed to report.

Scholarship – Rich Bruner reported the scholarship awarded to Timothy Colclough at convention was returned because he failed to enroll. He continued to talk about the changes being made to the application and add some priorities as to the awarding. We still have some more work to do.

### **Unfinished business**

Reputational Management Seminar update - Steve Austin stated the final review has been completed and Oklahoma State will be printing the report. The Firefighter Behavior web site will be on line when the report is made for distribution.

Scholarship brochures – Rich Bruner stated these are on hold until the application process has been updated and approved.

Charitable tax status – Steve Austin reported no work since convention. First order will be to change the charter to qualify for 501C3.

Delinquent membership - Steve McBee stated that another list will be given to the Directors for audit. If you would like a list by respective companies, that can be made available, just let me know.

Promotional package and agreement with booster meeting partners – Steve Heefner stated we need some help with the computer requirements to accomplish this.

Outstanding resolutions – Gene Worthington stated that the resolutions were given out earlier during the Secretary’s report. This completes the distribution from convention.

Steve Heefner stated that the recruitment and promo DVD’s supply has been exhausted. Those that have copies should get their excess to Steve. He also had an inquiry about the buyout program from a member. There was much discussion on this from several folks. This will only affect the beneficial members as there is a \$100 benefit due to them. By law changes among other items were discussed. The option was open for a full year with everyone having the option. Actually as of right now, we have 427 beneficial members, out of those less than 30 would be affected.

**Motion** that upon notification by this organization the death of a member, they will have up to three years to claim the benefit, after the three years it will be null and void, seconded by Charlie Barnhart, further discussion, tabled until the Board meeting in January.

Wayne Baker reported on the sign upgrade needed, getting prices now. He will have those at the Board meeting for consideration.

### **New business**

Steve Heefner has met with a representative from FEMA Kenneth Wierman reference his offer to come to a meeting and speak on a specific topic.

Steve reported on a letter received from Vigilant Hose Company #1 from Shippensburg, PA reference hosting the 2013 CVVFA convention.

**Motion** was made that we appropriate \$100 for the Garcia family for the need to get their daughter back to the US for medical treatment by Steve Austin, seconded by Larry Mergenthaler, no further discussion, voice vote taken, passed.

Steve Austin reported on the trial going on in Delaware from the case of Michele Smith who was killed on the highway while rendering aid. The defense raised the question if she was a firefighter since she was an EMT giving aid. This is an informational item for all, please review your state laws as to the definition.

Steve also spoke about the PA issue reference fire police as to whether they are covered under PSOB benefits. Again, this is for informational purposes. Discussion ensued on this topic and it was felt that CVVFA should follow up. Please review your company by-laws to ensure these folks are covered as members. Some additional comments were made about the fire police as to their civic duties being done not under the direction of the fire company.

Some additional comments reference the Adams County incident from East Berlin were made. If you participate at these civic events, you need to look at these liabilities.

### **Good of the Association -**

Robert Trice reported that he would get the dates and locations of the meetings to the PA Fireman book.

Allen Brennan asked for anyone having any SOP’s reference a combination fire department, he would like to have.

Chaplain Barnhart gave the benediction, meeting adjourned at 3:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Gene Worthington  
Recording Secretary