

## Cumberland Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association

Booster meeting May 4, 2014

Wilson VFC Lynnhurst VA

The booster meeting was called together by President Watson at noon. Jim asked Assistant Chaplain James Wharry to give the blessing for the meal. The meeting was then recessed for all to enjoy, lunch served by our host.

The meeting was called back to order at 12:50 to resume the business of the Association. The invocation was given by Assistant Chaplain Wharry followed by the pledge to the flag led by PP Steve Austin. Jim asked our hosts to come forward for the welcome. Chief Mays welcomed each to Wilson and spoke about the fire company starting in 1994, a small rural company that has come a long way with a long way to go. President Stevens spoke also bringing greetings. Jim presented the complimentary \$100 check to our host company.

### Introduction of Guests

Chief Tim Taylor recently retired from Prince William County was introduced. Chief Taylor has come aboard to handle our federal highway contract. Tim has done many projects with the NFFF. Tim commented glad to be here and spoke on his background. He looks forward to representing CVVFA.

Roll call by Recording Secretary Gene Worthington with 108 Officers, delegates/representatives and guests in attendance

TITLE	NAME	OCT	BOARD	MARCH	MAY
President	James Watson	1	1	1	1
1st Vice President	Walter Robertson	1	1	1	1
2nd Vice President	Hoby Howell	1	1		1
3rd Vice President	Bill Keller	1	1	1	1
4th Vice President	Rich Brunner	1			1
Treasurer	George Dove	1	1	1	
Financial Secretary	Stephen McBee	1		1	1
Recording Secretary	Gene Worthington	1	1	1	1
Home Office Manager	Stephen Heefner	1	1	1	1
Publicity Manager	Bob Timko		1		
Chaplain	Charles Barnhart				
Assistant Chaplain	James Wharry	1	1	1	1
Attorney	Howard Cohen		1		
Pennsylvania Delegate	Charlie Myers	1	1	1	
Director, Pennsylvania (2015)	Donna Welsh	1	1	1	1
Director, Pennsylvania (2014)	Mike Whitzel	1	1	1	1
Director, Maryland (2015)	Dave Lewis	1	1		
Director, Maryland (2014)	Robert Cumberland	1		1	
Director, West Virginia (2015)	Dustin Amtower				
Director, West Virginia (2014)	Mike Sullivan				
Director, Delaware (2015)	Harry Balthis	1	1	1	1
Director, Delaware (2014)	Steve Austin	1			1
Director, Virginia (2015)	Steve Switzer	1	1	1	1
Director, Virginia (2014)	Allen Brennan		1	1	1
Director, New York	Dave Jacobowitz	1			
Past President	Steven Haines	1	1	1	1
	Totals	20	18	16	16

Past Presidents	12	10	13	9
Maryland Fire Depts	12	0	11	8
Delaware Fire Depts	5	0	10	7
Virginia Fire Depts	7	0	8	53
West Virginia Fire Depts	1	0	1	1
Pennsylvania Fire Depts	27	0	33	14
Others	1	0	0	0
Grand Totals	85	28	92	108

## Reading of Communications

None

## OFFICERS REPORTS:

### President's Report – James Watson

First, Tom Savage has requested to step down from the Reputation Management committee, Claudia and Candice have agreed to co-chair and they have been appointed. Tom will remain on the committee. I would like to have some discussion about the 5 state meeting under proper order of business. I'd like to thank the Officers and members of the Wilson VFD for hosting this booster meeting. Since the last meeting, I have attended my company meetings, board of director meetings, several 2015 convention meetings, county firefighter association and fire chiefs association meetings and the Delaware Valley fire chiefs meeting at Upland FD in PA. I have attended many in house training classes at my firehouse and statewide open house recruitment day that DE had on April 13<sup>th</sup>. I also attended the 5 state presidents council meeting in Seaford, DE on April 4 and 5. On April 8, I had the pleasure of attending the firefighters day at my state capitol. Lastly, I traveled to Indy for FDIC conference to work the ResponderSafety booth.

### First Vice President's Report – Walter Robertson

Walter reported on his riding partner Bill who is not with us today, Bill is having some medical problems and needs our prayers. The card you signed today will be delivered to him this afternoon by me. Welcome everyone to Wilson VFC, since our last meeting I have attended all of my fire company meetings and fund raisers. I also have attended all of my county meetings and committee meetings. I have taught an EVOC class in Highland County and at Wilson VFC. Also, I have attended the Presidents Council meeting in Seaford, DE, hope everyone enjoys their time here at Wilson and has a safe trip home. Walter then gave the Treasurer's report shown below.

### Second Vice President's Report – Hoby Howell

Thanks to Wilson VFC for hosting our May booster meeting this fine Sunday. Coin sales are going well, 200 of them are out in distribution. President Watson thanked Hoby for his work with this fundraiser.

### Third Vice President's Report – Bill Keller

Welcome and thank you to the Wilson VFC for hosting the CVVFA booster meeting. Since the last booster meeting, I have taught Fire Officer I & II, EMT recert and attended Hazmat tech recert class. I attended Mineral County fire school held in Keyser, WV. I will be teaching aerial apparatus driver/operator and aerial EVOC class in New Creek. I hope to see everybody in Chambersburg for the convention.

### Fourth Vice President's Report – Rich Brunner

Good afternoon President Watson, Officers, members and guests, welcome to the CVVFA May booster meeting. A special thanks to the Wilson VFC for hosting the meeting this afternoon and preparing the food that you have enjoyed. As usual the hospitality of our hosts is second to none and very indicative of the member companies of the CVVFA. I am glad to be here after a hectic few months and thank the Association and members for their thoughts and prayers at the passing of my mother-in-law.

Since our last meeting, I have attended all of our company meetings, training and functions. I have also attended training for Emergency Coordinators presented by Perry County Emergency Services and continue to work with our County EMS coordinator. I have also attended our recent county Association meeting that included a presentation and discussion regarding wild/forest fires and working with our State Bureau of Forestry. Again, thanks to all involved for making today's meeting a success and wish everyone a safe trip home.

Treasurer's Report – George J. Dove was absent, doing Apple Blossom taskings.

George provided the following account balances:

Death benefit	400.00
General account	21,087.97
Savings	90,681.07

Sorry I am not with you, but as you know its Apple Blossom time and I will be working for the fire company and our fund drive. I talked to Hoby and he has some money for coins, mine are sold and money will go in the account. See you all at the convention in August.

Financial Secretary's Report – Stephen C. McBee

No additional report at this time.

Recording Secretary's Report – Gene Worthington

Thanks to Wilson for hosting our booster meeting today. The minutes from the March booster meeting have been transcribed and sent out for review, grammatical corrections were received. The agenda for the meeting was sent to the President. I continue to meet my local training requirements and attend many meetings, company, county and state. As always the office remains committed to support the Association.

Home Office Manager's Report – Stephen E. Heefner

President, Officers, members and guests, welcome to Wilson VFC in beautiful Lynnhurst, VA the back drop of the Blue Ridge Mountains is truly an amazing site. I would like to thank 1<sup>st</sup> VP Walter Robertson and the officers and members of the Wilson VFC for hosting today's meeting. Since our last meeting, I process and delivered tag stickers for the CVVFA sign trailer to Chairman Wayne Baker. I attended along with Jeff Ringer, Administrator of the Volunteer Fire Co of Halfway the Presidents Council meeting in DE. I have been communicating with Teresa, the Secretary for the Chambersburg convention. Also, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Howell about arrangements for the October booster meeting, in addition the March, May and October meeting dates for 2015 are all available, please contact me after the meeting.

Publicity Manager's Report – Bob was absent

Chaplain's Report – Charles E. Barnhart, Jr. - absent

Assistant Chaplain's Report – James J. Wharry

Since the last meeting, I have sent cards when requested and attended my own company meetings. Thank you to the Wilson VFC for hosting this meeting. Please contact me if you need a sympathy card or thinking of you card sent for one of our members.

President Watson spoke about Robert Knight Past Chief at Long Island, became ill at the CFSI dinner, suffered a life ending stroke. A card is being sent around for signing and we will send that to NY.

Attorney – Howard S. Cohen – absent, informed us that he would not be in attendance, however he continues to research the web every day on our behalf.

Delegate to Pennsylvania – Charlie Myers was absent.

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORTS**

Pennsylvania - Donna Welsh (2015)

Mr. President, members and guests, it is good to see everyone. I would like to thank Wilson VFC for hosting today's meeting. Since the last meeting, I have attended my monthly department meetings and some EMT con ed classes. I also attended a drive to survive class that my department hosted. I attended the Five States meeting in DE and gained a lot of valuable information that I was able to share. I

attended a town hall meeting given by our State Senator and a town hall meeting hosted by our State Representative. I also attended the PA Township Emergency Management Association meeting in Hershey and shared some of the new ResponderSafety cards that were made available in DE. I attended an Emergency Services Workshop that was hosted by our state senator. R&R is a concern of Senator Eichelberger as well. We had presentations by the state fire commissioner and the gentleman in charge of small games of chance. There is going to be some more changes happening in the near future if you have a small games of chance license in PA. I also made the ResponderSafety information available on the table that the Senator had for handouts. It has been a busy time and I am also inviting folks I talk to, to join the organization. I hope everyone has a safe trip home and a safe summer.

Mike Whitzel (2014)

Good afternoon Officers, members and guests, my report was sent electronically. Myself, Bob Timko and the Chambersburg gang went to Bob Trace's viewing and represented CVVFA, actually presented our coin to the family. Some activities going on June 13 will be the NFFF golf tournament in Fairfield. Also from PA a stat on number of volunteers, back in 1976 we had 300,000 firefighters and less than 70,000 today. This is a really good special report. Also, there will be a social media event presented by the PA Firemen's Legislative Federation on June 28. I would like to thank the Wilson FD for hosting the meeting. Thank you for your hospitality. I attended my company meetings, training and fundraisers. I have been working with my staff members on our new rescue, mounting of the equipment and training. The new rescue went into service on April 1. I have been helping with company fundraisers Thursday and Sunday dinners. I assisted with 3 fire prevention programs at the station and the local church. I also attended the EMA meeting for the townships we serve. I attended my school district security and safety meeting. The last two months I have been flying to other sites within Harley Davidson so my time has been limited. I also worked on the weekend shifts. I have been in touch with my state reps on various different types of emergency service issues and concerns. I have been in touch with PFESI on legislative issues. I'm promoting CVVFA, letting emergency service responders know that we have free highway safety training for them.

Mike continued his comments by giving the reports for Erin on fire prevention and the youth leadership. Erin sent Mike a facebook message with her reports. Nothing to report on fire prevention, youth leadership, we have received one nomination with deadline of June 15.

I have to leave early tomorrow morning on a flight, therefore I am heading out apologize for having to leave. Steve Flickinger reminded Mike that the info needs to get to him for the plaque preparation and also the Secretary for the resolution. Mike asked Ernie to give a further report for PA.

Ernie spoke about the special report on legislation on the table. I have copies of our annual Directory on the table along with the web. I invite you all to the Expo in Harrisburg, any firefighters interested in the Flashover program, Harrisburg Community College is going to conduct a class each day, need to sign up in advance. We had our congressional fire service program on Thursday with some special recognition. Ernie provided some dollar amounts \$48B annually for career payrolls. Based on number of volunteers, collectively save \$138B to the government. There is federal money from the railroad industry on training for emergency rail accidents and their lack of safety devices not working. It appears the money is coming down to the states, however the fire service is not aware, reach out to your state training institute. Hahn Fire Apparatus is having an event in September at the factory, celebration of their past.

Maryland - Dave Lewis (2015) was absent

Robert P. Cumberland (2014) was absent, sent the following report.

President Watson, Officers, Directors, and Guests, I will not make the meeting because of my mobility but want to thank the Wilson VFD for hosting the booster meeting and the fine meal. I attended by fire department meeting and was in attendance on a teleconference call with the Board of Visitors in April. The main purpose of this meeting was to approve a new program requested by the NFA has chosen to start entitled "Managing Officer Program." This program is aimed at improving the capabilities of mid-level Officers. For more information and requirement to get into the program go to the NFA web page. I

am still waiting to find out when I will be getting a knee replacement and hope to be traveling by convention time.

West Virginia – Dustin Amtower (2015) – absent, working today

Mike Sullivan (2014) - absent

Virginia - Steve Switzer (2015)

I would like to welcome everyone to VA and to thank the Wilson VFC for hosting the booster meeting today. Due to the spring activities at the school, I have attended as many meetings, training/work sessions as possible. I look forward to seeing everyone at the convention. Hope you enjoy your time in the Shenandoah Valley.

Allen Brennan - (2014)

I would like to thank Wilson VFC for their hospitality today. I have attended the Directors and booster meetings, attended the Auxiliary to VSFA meeting in Riner, on May 2-3 attended the NVFC meeting in Alexandria. At that meeting Chief Charlie Singleton from Vienna was awarded the Lifetime Achievement award from the Council. I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the convention.

President Watson congratulated the Brennan's on their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary followed by applause from the group. Some comments were made about the FaceBook pictures shown.

Delaware - Harry Balthis (2015)

Thanks to Wilson for hosting the booster meeting. I did attend the Presidents Council meeting and will have more comments later under reports.

Steve Austin (2014)

It is good to be back from Florida and back in the saddle. As mentioned about the Presidents Council meeting, we have also been planning our long range planning meeting, suggest we discuss this topic at that meeting. The other item is a concern for younger members becoming active within the Association. I contacted Steve McBee for some membership numbers with a concern over the reduction of membership from VA and WV, another agenda item. I will have more reports later under committees.

New York - Dave Jacobowitz – absent, had intended to attend, got up this morning sick and decided to head home from the NVFC meeting.

Past President - Steven Haines

I would like to say thanks to Wilson for hosting today's booster meeting, good to see everyone and have a safe trip back home.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Archives/Historical Committee – Guy M. Flory/Ray Mowen were both absent

Steve Heefner advised the relocation would start this month. A file cabinet has been donated for the project.

Auditing Committee – Jerry Daniels

No report

Budget & Finance Committee – George J. Dove

VP Robertson advised nothing else to add currently

Business & Operations Plan – Greg Yost

President Watson stated this goes along with the long range meeting being planned

Constitution & By-Laws Committee – Robert P. Cumberland

Bob was absent, however sent the following report: President Watson has been asked to see if we can change the life member status Article I Section 5A from 20 years to 15 and section 5B from 50 years to 20 years. He asked me for feed back for today's meeting. I would like more discussion on this subject and a change for the committee to meet and give feed back. Before we change it we need to look at the amount of funding the Association will lose because that is one of our main funding areas. With the Association taking more members out this could cost the Association in future years as the revenue will

be reduced. I am not sure why or what brought this change to the President, but I feel we should leave Section A as is, but I would agree to look at changing Section B from 50 to 20 years.

President Watson reminded all that in case there is a contested election, you will need to have your dues card available in order to vote, this is per the current by-laws.

Convention Committee – Steve Flickinger

The parade sponsorships were mailed out last week, please send your money back to me by June 15. This is also the meeting we take up a donation to sponsor the Louise Dell memorial award, pass the hat underway. Any other committee needing a plaque for convention, contact me to get those done. Steve asked Dick Hershey to give further info. Dick stated we are ready with just a few loose ends to tie up, had a great committee and looks like a great convention is planned. We will be selling shirts, hats and challenge coins from Chambersburg along with trading cards. All delegates coming to the banquet will get a free coin. A full course meal will be served at \$14 per person. The activities on Thursday will be at the Fayetteville firehouse with memorial service at the church just up the street. The picnic will be at the fire station grounds chicken and the fixings. The parade invitations are out, please RSVP. Friday activities will be at the Franklin station. The info and agenda will be sent to the web for posting. Advance sales for convention items will be available June 1.

Steve Heefner further spoke on the convention lodging, host hotel Country Inn & Suites. The overflow will be at the Best Western at 211 Walker Road 717-262-4994. This info will also be posted on the web.

Credentials Committee – Jeff Ringer

Nothing to report.

Fire Person of the Year Committee – George Dove – absent

Fire Prevention Committee – Erin Drumheller - absent

This was discussed earlier.

Legislative Committee – Bob Cumberland – absent

Memorial Committee – Chaplain Charles E. Barnhart, Jr. – absent

Parliamentarian – Howard S. Cohen - absent

Public Relations Committee – Rich Toulson - absent

Publicity – Robert Timko – absent

This was discussed earlier.

Recruitment & Retention – Allen Brennan

Allen reported the NVFC has received a grant, possibly we could adapt their program.

Reputation Management – Claudia Garner – absent

As reported earlier, Tom Savage desired to step down as chairman, Claudia and Candice will co-chair. Steve Austin commented from a report sent by Candice as follows: Erin and I had a successful event at the Miltenberger conference with an invite back next year. We have been asked to speak at the IAFC VCOS symposium in November. I gave the presentation at the Ohio Fire Corps conference. We are looking to submit several other venues in 2015. I have an article almost finished for Fire Rescue magazine. I would like to propose that CVVFA explore the idea of creating a second version of the White Paper. Anything over five years old is considered outdated in the research/academic world. We have done so much to combat this issue since the first one, that would be nice to have a new benchmark and stay the leaders in the industry.

Steve continued his comments about the budget needs to support this program. We could do one of these programs monthly across the country. We have submitted a grant request to the NVFC Foundation, maybe look at a partner in progress in the corporate world.

Resolutions Committee – Jerry Daniels

I just want to remind everybody to please submit their requests early and appreciate your cooperation.

Scholarship Committee – Harry Balthis

The committee received 12 applications for scholarships. We recommend Kyle Mellon for the \$1,000 J. R. Haines memorial scholarship. He is a member of Middletown FC and attends the University

of New Haven, studying Fire Science/Administration. Kyle is a repeat recipient of this scholarship. We recommend Brook Shoop to receive the \$1,000 Kenneth Butts memorial scholarship. Brook lives in New Bloomfield, PA and plans to attend Penn State this fall to study pre-medicine. We recommend Lena Illig from Anchorage AK to receive the \$500 CVVFA scholarship. Lena attends the University of Alaska Anchorage with a course study in Criminal Justice/Emergency Services.

A suggestion was offered to name the new scholarship from a former member, will add this to the long range planning meeting.

Motion was made to accept the recommendations from the scholarship committee to award the three nominees by Bill Keller, seconded by Walter Robertson, no further discussion, verbal vote taken, motion passed.

Sgt At Arms – Wayne Baker

Nothing

Sign Trailer – Wayne Baker

The trailer has been taken to Chambersburg .

Training Weekend – Greg Yost - absent

Grants – Steve Austin

We have a pending application to the NVFC for Reputation Management. We have an RFP just received Thursday from the USFA and the DOJ, a contract, not a grant. Much of this will be geared toward police training. We have selected a project on DUI checkpoints dealing with lighting issues. We are waiting decision on the FP&S grant application to fund the Learning Network. We have an application to Himatro Corporation to sponsor half a learning module on the dangers associated with extrication activity around automobiles from a non-fire service perspective.

Emergency Responder Institute – Steve Austin

Thanks to all who work on this project. Many of you devote a portion of your time everyday of the week. We have a very successful FDIC and CFSI. We are booked at several locations with the trade show booth. We have invested in new equipment to avoid the rental of equipment. Greg briefed the President and I on our current financial picture and we are in good shape. The dates of several events were discussed as to our participation. Thanks to PA Firemen for printing our push cards reference the Learning Network. MIEMSS will be issuing CEU's for these classes taken in MD. Dave Lewis is working on our Secondary Reporting feature to document the training conducted on a jurisdictional level. PA Firemen is also printing our MUTCD manual which will be given away at our booths. We are moving forward with two new initiatives, first we have nominated Jack Sullivan to serve on the national committee that writes the NUTCD. Jack will be making a formal presentation to them, something that is highly beneficial to our reputation and will serve us well in the future. The second is the potential to become a member of the CFSI national advisory committee. All of this comes at a cost, will need to seek funding. A motion will be made under new business to pursue this.

Web Page Committee – Stephen P. Austin

We are making great progress that will allow us to access many more features including some of the projects that we have discussed; classified ads and possibly a new dues collection system.

We have started discussions about how this Association could get accredited under NFPA Traffic Control Highway Incident, which would be tremendous for us along with a funding mechanism. We could offer a testing procedure with certificate to meet 1091 standards.

Topics Committee – Stephen P. Austin

This was discussed earlier in the convention committee report.

Youth Leadership – Erin Drumheller - absent

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Promotional package and agreement with booster meeting partners – Heefner  
Greg Yost will be assisting with this to bring to conclusion.

Classified ads on the web page – Bruner

Need upgrade to web site

PA sales tax exemption – PA Directors

Nothing to report, Mike looking at.

Long range planning – Watson

Still planning a date, affects the business plan and module for ResponderSafety.

Challenge coins – Hoby Howell

Hoby reported on this earlier.

Chambersburg museum request letter – Heefner

Discussed earlier, relocation in progress

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Motion Mr. President that we set up our PayPal accounts under the new web site to facilitate the processing of our dues and any other merchandise that we would like to sell by Austin, seconded by Howell, discussion, also working now with Fire Store in Coatesville by opening an account, verbal vote taken, motion passed.

Motion that we seek membership on the CFSI National Advisory Committee by Austin, seconded by Howell, verbal vote taken, motion passed.

President Watson spoke about a conversation with Jeff McDonald reference forming a CVVFA Honor Guard, consist of our membership, week long training class, cost to be covered by the member company, currently to look at a concept, motion by Keller for same, seconded by Robertson, discussion, verbal vote taken, motion passed.

PP Austin reported on the youth leadership committee work on a youth leadership convention concept day, kids would attend similar to a day camp, participate in fire safety and other subjects, to correspond at the same CVVFA convention timeline, possibly ready for vote at convention.

PP Flickinger reminded all of the Bukowski award nominations, applications on-line.

## **SUGGESTIONS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION**

President Watson reminded everyone to bring your membership card to convention to be eligible to vote, if you need a card contact Steve McBee.

Steve Heefner has openings for 2015 booster meetings, consideration of the Presidents Council combining needs coordination, could be a 3 day event. We have bookings for conventions, however sign up for a booster meeting.

VP Howell spoke again on the challenge coins, see me before you leave.

VP Robertson has Wilson patches, thanks to the Wilson VFC for hosting the meeting. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by motion at 14:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Gene Worthington  
Recording Secretary