

**Cumberland Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association
 Convention August 4 – 7, 2010
 Hancock Volunteer Fire Company, Hancock, MD
 Proceedings and Minutes**

President Walter Robertson called the convention to order at 9:15am by bringing greetings. He asked for the invocation from Chaplain Barnhart. The Chaplain offered the prayer giving thanks to the Officers and members of the Association. The Hagerstown Professional Firefighters Local 1605 Honor Guard presented the colors. Cara Trail led the group in the pledge to the flag followed by her singing of the National Anthem. The Honor Guard retired the colors with applause from the group attending. President Robertson thanked the Honor Guard for their participation here this morning. He called upon Fire Chief Greg Yost to give the host company welcome. Greg offered greetings, welcomed all to Hancock by doing the best they can, please enjoy yourselves this week. Directions to the various events are on the registration table out front. President Robertson presented the CVVFA resolution to Greg as host of the convention. He then introduced Donald Stouffer, PA President for some comments. At the end of his remarks, he presented Walter with a special coin. Walter also introduced Roby Robertson.

President Robertson continued with his welcoming remarks. He then asked for any additional comments from the Chaplain. Charlie had nothing further to report. He then appointed the special committees for convention. Sgt of Arms appointees are Wayne Baker, chair, Jeff Ringer, Robert Sweetman, and Raymond Streets. Election committee appointees are Dean Simpson as Judge and Bob Cumberland as Teller. Steve Austin will be the installing Officer.

Recording secretary Gene Worthington took roll call as follows:

TITLE	NAME	OCT	BOARD	MARCH	MAY	BOARD	CONV
President	Walter Robertson	1		1	1	1	1
1st Vice President	Greg Yost	1	1	1	1	1	1
2nd Vice President	Michael Sullivan		1			1	1
3rd Vice President	Steven Haines	1	1	1	1	1	1
4th Vice President	Rich Toulson	1	1	1	1	1	1
Treasurer	George Dove	1	1	1	1	1	1
Financial Secretary	Stephen McBee	1	1	1	1	1	1
Recording Secretary	Gene Worthington	1	1	1	1	1	1
Home Office Manager	Stephen Heefner	1	1	1	1	1	1
Publicity Manager	Robert Timko	1	1	1		1	1
Chaplain	Charles Barnhart	1				1	1
Assistant Chaplain	James Wharry	1		1	1	1	1
Attorney	Howard Cohen				1		1
Pennsylvania Delegate	Charlie Myers	1	1	1	1		1
Director, Pennsylvania (2011)	Rich Bruner	1				1	1
Director, Pennsylvania (2010)	Gerald Holtry	1	1	1	1	1	1
Director, Maryland (2011)	Wayne Baker	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Robert						
Director, Maryland (2010)	Cumberland		1	1	1	1	1
Director, West Virginia (2011)	Bill Keller					1	1
Director, West Virginia (2010)	Harry Alt-deceased						
Director, Delaware (2011)	Harry Balthis		1		1	1	1

Director, Delaware (2010)	Steve Austin	1	1	1	1	1
Director, Virginia (2011)	Kevin Piatt	1				
Director, Virginia (2010)	Allen Brennan	1		1	1	1
Past President	Jerry Daniels	1	1		1	1
	Totals	19	16	15	18	21
Past Presidents		11	10	10	11	11
Maryland Fire Depts		5	0	8	9	15
Delaware Fire Depts		10	0	6	10	13
Virginia Fire Depts		4	0	6	5	7
West Virginia Fire Depts		1	0	3	1	8
Pennsylvania Fire Depts		30	0	39	18	25

Recording Secretary Worthington then read the minutes from the Board of Directors meeting held August 4, 2010.

President Robertson called the meeting to order at 7:20pm. Opening prayer was given by Chaplain Barnhart followed by the pledge to the flag. The welcome was given by Vice President Greg Yost from the host company Hancock. Greg welcomed all to convention, company personnel are busy cleaning up the grounds for the various activities. Roll call was taken with 21 Officers and 11 Past Presidents in attendance. President Robertson asked if any Directors needed to report. There were no communications.

Convention report was given by VP Yost, gave some logistical info and directions for the various events. At that time, the siren started blowing for several minutes; working fire in Morgan County, Greg had to leave. Chairman Flickinger thanked Greg and Hancock for stepping up and hosting this year's convention. Hopefully next year will go well.

Chaplain Charley spoke on the memorial service, several family members will be in attendance. Charley asked for the Directors to assist as escorts with those families. The service will start at 11am. We will also be honoring Past Presidents' Smallwood, Alt, Holler, Bukowski and Diehl with eulogies. Charley spoke about the policy whereby we recognize the deaths between July 1 thru June 30. He received some just this past week making it difficult for inclusion within the service.

Bob Timko reported the convention book is here, thanks for picking them up.

*President Robertson asked for a motion to pay the convention expenses, **MOTION** made by Mike Sullivan, seconded by Steven Haines, no further discussion, verbal vote taken, passed unanimously.*

PP Austin addressed the group making a request to amend the budget to cover costs associated with NFPA Professional Qualifications standard for highway safety. The issue is to reimburse certain travel expenses to attend the needed meetings. Steve will be the chair of this new NFPA committee. Grant funds we currently have cannot be used for this. Treasurer Dove spoke on the financial picture of the Association and supported the expense.

MOTION was made by George Dove to amend the budget for expenses incurred to the amount of \$3,000 for PP Austin to chair and attend the necessary meetings of NFPA, seconded by Bill Keller, discussion, verbal vote taken, passed unanimously.

Bob Cumberland spoke about the sales from the store. He recommended the host convention company look into purchasing merchandise from our store vendor.

Jerry Daniels provided a copy of the audit of the general account and the grants account. All books were found to be in proper order.

George Dove reported that the CVVFA will be receiving some money from the will of PP Alt to be placed in the scholarship account.

President Robertson asked for any additional business, there being none, he asked for a motion of adjournment, meeting adjourned at 7:50pm.

Respectfully submitted, Gene Worthington, Recording Secretary

President Robertson asked for a motion to accept the Board of Directors minutes, **MOTION** to accept by Jerry Daniels, seconded by Steven Haines, no further discussion, verbal vote taken, carried.

President Robertson asked for a motion to approve the May booster meeting minutes that have already been distributed. **MOTION** to accept as printed by Hugh Harris, seconded by Bill Keller, no further discussion, verbal vote taken, carried.

Secretary Worthington reported on the communications received. He read a message from Bob Romig, just wanted to drop you all a few lines and wish everyone a very successful convention in Hancock this week. Greg Yost took the bull by the horns and put together which I am sure will be as good as the last one I attended in Hancock. Miss all of you, but can't make it this year. Should have come up as the weather has been very unbearable down here, 95-99 almost everyday. Evenings aren't any better, staying in the 80's even at 11pm when I let the dog out. Hope someone keeps John Fox and Dean Simpson under control. They can get a little rowdy every once in a while. Everyone enjoy the convention and when you come down to visit wonderful Florida, invitation still open for you to have your Board meeting.

President Robertson called upon George Dove to make the E. Wade Thomas Fireman of the Year award. This year's recipient is Ray Mowen. George presented the plaque to Ray and read from the inscription. Ray brought comments by thanking the Association.

Walter asked PP Austin to give the oath of office to Director Bill Keller who has been unable to attend our meetings. Bill formally took the oath.

OFFICERS REPORTS:

President's Report – Walter Robertson

I want to thank Hancock VFC for stepping up and hosting the convention. Thanks to all their people for their work. I have attended all my fire company meetings, countless meetings and other Association type meetings. My work schedule has made it difficult being on night shift.

First Vice President's Report – Greg Yost

Hello everyone and welcome to Hancock. We are not Harrisburg but I think you will have a good time. We have done a lot (and are still doing as we speak) to make your stay pleasant. Should you need anything let me know. You will see other members of my department at the activities. For the past couple of months, I have been busy making preparations for the convention. In addition to this I have attended all of my company meetings, all of my county chief committee meetings and some county association meetings. I have also worked the ResponderSafety booth at Harrisburg and Baltimore. Most importantly, I have been proud to read and share the Reputation Management White Paper. Thanks for coming and again, let me or any member of the Hancock Fire Company know if you need anything.

Second Vice President's Report – Michael Sullivan

Fellow Officers, members and guests, welcome to Hancock. First, I would like to thank Greg Yost and the members of Hancock for coming together in a time of need to host the

convention. I am sure it will be a great week. Since my last meeting, I have attended all of my company's regular meetings and I also attended the viewing service for PP and good friend Harry Alt. Walter, it's been a good year and I hope another good year to come.

Third Vice President's Report – Steven Haines

President Walter Robertson, fellow Officers, members and guests, welcome to Hancock, MD for the annual Cumberland Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association convention. I would like to thank the Hancock VFC for hosting this year's convention. I know that it was a challenge to put this convention together, with organizing the golf tournament which was fun. The course was very challenging and of course, it was hot. Also, putting together activities for the week. You all did it and I congratulate you all on a job well done. Since our last booster meeting, I have attended my own fire company meetings and our in-house training sessions. I have attended my county association meetings and also the meetings of the New Bloomfield FC. I also worked at the Fire Expo in Harrisburg with Bob Cumberland. Walter, your year is coming to a close as President of this Association. Congratulations on a job well done. To you Greg as the incoming President, I am looking forward to working with you and for you to have a successful year. Good seeing everyone, enjoy the convention and have a good time with your friends, take care and have a safe trip home.

Fourth Vice President's Report – Rich Toulson

President Robertson, fellow Officers, members and guests, welcome to Hancock, MD for the 109th annual convention. Very special thanks go to the Officers and members of the Hancock FC, Inc. for hosting this year's convention. Since our last booster meeting, I have attended my own fire company meetings and training classes. Also, I have attended my state and county association meetings. I have also taught EVOC and Highway Safety classes for our state fire school. I have helped with the CVVFA booth at the Fire Expo in Harrisburg, MSFA convention and Baltimore Fire Expo. President Robertson, congratulations on a successful year as President of the Association. I'm looking forward in working with you in the years to come and to continue to promote this Association. I'm looking forward to the rest of the convention. I hope that all of you have an enjoyable time at this year's convention.

Treasurer's Report – George J. Dove

I would like to thank Hancock for hosting the convention. Since our last convention, I have attended all my fire company meetings. My report reads as follows:

ENDING BALANCES

General Account	17182.17
Death Benefit Account	800.00
CD	82219.02
HH bonds	2000.00
NET WORTH	102201.19

This represents a 20% increase over last year. This concludes my report as we have reached my goal of \$100K.

Financial Secretary's Report – Stephen C. McBee

Good morning and welcome to everyone to our annual convention. A special thank you to Hancock Fire Department and Chief Greg Yost for understanding the true meaning of mutual aid. Dues notices have gone out to individual and company members for 2011. I am getting returns slowly on both sides. I still get updated addresses each mailing. There are still a significant number of members that I have no address or contact information on. Many of these are older members and quite possibly deceased. I have been working with Steve Austin to get as

many e-mail addresses as possible. Mailings only go to those folks without e-mail. All others receive information via the US Postal Service, providing I have current, correct addresses. I would still ask that everyone continue to check their local newspapers for news of deceased members. Please notify Chaplain Charley Barnhart, Asst. Chaplain Jim Wharry, and me, in no particular order. Thank you.

Recording Secretary's Report – Gene Worthington

Mr. President, all minutes from the meetings were transcribed, mailed and posted on the web by the webmaster. The agendas were prepared for the booster meetings and convention and forwarded to President Robertson for his actions. Resolutions requested for the convention have been prepared and ready for presentation. Thanks to Hancock for hosting the convention. The Office remains ready to assist the Association. I am requesting to further update the mailing lists, if you are not receiving mail from me, either by postage or e-mail, please add your name to the list or if there are any corrections from the printing in the convention proceedings book, please let me know. Books are up here at the front table. Congrats to Walter for a successful year.

Home Office Manager's Report – Stephen E. Heefner

Officers, Members, and Guests, welcome to Hancock, MD and the 109th Annual Convention of the CVVFA hosted by the Hancock FC. Since the May booster meeting, I have been busy attending many activities which include the Harrisburg, PA Fire Expo, Citizens Fire Company annual family day picnic, Newport, PA, MSFA convention in Ocean City, MD, and assisted with set up and the 2 day operation of the CVVFA ResponderSafety Booth, attended MSFA Queen Erin Drumheller's farewell event and presented her with crown and sash as CVVFA Queen For Life. Chief Ringer and myself set up the ResponderSafety booth at the 7th annual Delaware State Fire Chiefs Expo in Slaughter Beach, DE and also attended the Baltimore Fire Expo. I, along with my wife Anita, we processed and mailed 950 newsletters to CVVFA members, notifying them about the convention and pre registration. I received over 25 address changes, including some dues and death announcements, all of which were turned over to Steve McBee. I attended the viewing of PP Harry Alt and was saddened to hear of recent passing of PP Robert Diehl. President Robertson, I enjoyed working with you this past year. To incoming President Yost, I am looking forward to serving with you in the coming year and to the rest of the Officers past and present thanks for all your help in assisting me in my duties whenever I ask. Should I be reelected, I look forward to serving next year. Thank you.

Publicity Manager's Report – Robert Timko

Good morning, first thanks to Hancock and you Mr. President. We collected so far \$2,780 with an outstanding balance of \$120 which should be forthcoming soon. The cost was about \$1,500 for printing leaving us a profit of about \$1,200.

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

Mr. President, Officers and Guests, again it has been a pleasure to serve the office of Chaplain. I want to thank VP Yost for taking care of our logistical needs at convention here in Hancock. The memorial service will be held this morning, please be part of that. Thanks to Wayne Baker for transportation during the year. I am sorry to have missed some of the services. Thanks to Jimmy for his support. Again, please be part of the service this morning. It's been a pleasure to serve and hopefully I will be reelected to serve you for another year.

Assistant Chaplain – James J. Wharry

This has been a busy year for us with a total of 23 deaths, 5 of them being Past Presidents. I have made all but one of the booster meetings and most of my company meetings.

I am working again, part time and have had some medical issues the past two months. I would like to thank Hancock for taking over the convention and hosting. I would like to thank the members of my fire company with helping by providing transportation to the booster meetings. I would like to thank my family for understanding the times I must be away.

Attorney – Howard S. Cohen

Dear Officers, Members, and Guests, welcome to the 109th annual convention of the CVVFA. I want to start by thanking the Hancock Volunteer Fire Company and its Chief (and our incoming President) Greg Yost for hosting this convention and, more importantly, for stepping up to the plate at a time when this Association was in great need and offering its facilities to us and arranging this entire convention in the span of just a few months. This has been a difficult year with many losses, and I want to express my condolences in particular to Karen Bukowski and family on the untimely passing of Past President Joe Bukowski. We all miss Joe's warm and engaging personality and the energy and enthusiasm he brought to the CVVFA and our Emergency Responder Safety Institute. We also suffered the loss this year of four other Past Presidents, our beloved Harry Alt who lost a long and courageous battle to cancer, Larry Smallwood, Lee Holler, and Robert Diehl, and I also offer my condolences to their families. This has continued to be an active year for the Association. Not only does our Emergency Responder Safety Institute project continue to promote our highway safety message and win accolades for our proactive safety outreach, but this year we also issued a highly regarded White Paper addressing fire service reputational management. I was proud to have a significant role in producing the White Paper, and I continue my daily reporting of struck-by incidents for posting to ResponderSafety.com. I know that our efforts promoting responder visibility, safe parking and blocking techniques, and "watching your back," have helped prevent countless deaths and injuries. Still, far too many struck-by incidents continue to occur. Tragically, we have seen 3 CHP officers, a Shelton, Connecticut police officer, and state troopers from Massachusetts, New Jersey, and Florida struck and killed in just the past few months, so clearly our mission remains. Fortunately there haven't been any significant legal issues this past year, and we hope that things stay that way. Please enjoy this convention and, at its conclusion, have a safe journey home.

Delegate to Pennsylvania – Charlie Myers

This year's convention for the state of PA will be September 22-25, and be hosted by Hanover Township. I would like to ask those who are coming to let me know. We will be hosting a luncheon on Thursday for our guests. A long time member of ours Bob Trace is in need of our prayers as he undergoes some bad health conditions. This is the first convention that Bob has missed in many years.

President Robertson asked those that have not registered, please do so at this time, we will be taking a ten minute break.

Walter reconvened the convention business meeting by asking for report from the state Directors.

Board of Directors

Pennsylvania State Director – Rich Brunner

Good morning President Robertson and members of the Cumberland Valley Volunteer Fireman's Association. I would like to first thank and commend the Hancock Fire Company for stepping in at a crucial time, albeit embarrassing time for us from Pennsylvania and hosting this years CVVFA Convention. Having been involved in one in our home company, I understand the work put into such an event and to pull it off as well as I am sure they have in such a short time

is a testament to their organization. Again, thanks for a great job. Since the last meeting I have again been traveling extensively for my work and have not had the opportunity to be very involved in CVVFA. Since last meeting I have been involved in attending my fire company meetings, training and fund raisers. In addition I have been spearheading the effort to locate a company in need of air packs. We were fortunate to obtain a grant and are purchasing new air packs and thought it would be nice to extend that fortune to a company or companies in need of equipment. I placed an email ad for free air packs on our State Commissioner's website and have had numerous inquiries. The hard part will be to decide who gets the packs. In addition I have been working with the Scholarship committee to select this year's recipients. As you know this year we had the largest number of applicants, at least since I have been a member, and have selected two very worthy candidates. Unfortunately they were all very worthy and I wish we could have given something to all of them, but that is what the scholarship program is about. I have devised a selection criteria, which I will present at the Convention and the committee believes it should be approved by the members. 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. To President Robertson thanks for a great year and the board and members of the CVVFA thanks for your tireless efforts for the CVVFA. Have a wonderful convention safe trip home.

Pennsylvania State Director – Gerald Holtry

Mr. President, Fellow Officers, members and guests, welcome to Hancock and our 109th annual convention. It looks like we're going to have another fine time here as always. We are all disappointed that the plans for Harrisburg, PA didn't workout. Thanks to Hancock FD and Chief Greg Yost for coming to the rescue. It didn't take much to blow the dust off the plans from their last convention. It's been another successful year for us, but a very sad one, with the death of our Past Presidents; Larry Smallwood, Lee Holler, Joe Bukowski, Harry Alt and now Robert Diehl. Charles Myers and I knew Harry since he was about 19. He was a Shippensburg State Teacher College student who lived down the street from the station. We always had a few young guys hanging around and a few other local college boys, so he fit in. We were always running or doing something. After Harry graduated, Charles and I joined the CVVFA and we ran into Harry. So it has been a friendship for 40 plus years. We attended Harry's funeral May 19th. This was another fine mason's funeral and he was made an honorary worshipful master. Robert Trace will not be with us this year. It's the first convention he has missed in years. He's not feeling well. The doctor wants to change his pacemaker soon. He would like to stay on his present committees. As for me, I'm ready to give up PA Director. I'm given up a lot of duties this year, maybe someone with new ideas will be the new Director. So once again Greg, thank you for coming through and thanks for everyone for coming this week.

Maryland State Director – Wayne A. Baker

It was a pleasure to serve as a member of the Board of Directors. I attended all Board and booster meetings of the CVVFA. I attended the Apple Blossom Festival, the fallen firefighter service, Delaware state convention and funeral services for Larry Smallwood and Harry Alt. Thanks to everyone for the support and hope that it will continue this coming year. Wayne also announced that he will be retiring in March.

Maryland State Director – Bob Cumberland

Thanks Walter for the opportunity to work with you this year. His report is as follows: Since the Convention of last year 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. I 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. In June of this year I also facilitated a room for the Assistance to Firefighter grant program for the 2010 grants in Towson Maryland. I attended meetings of the Maryland Fire Rescue Education Training Commission where I serve as one of the commissioners. In October I joined the Westminster Fire Police and took training through the Westminster City Police department to be able to operate on the highways within the City of Westminster. In December I was again elected to the position of President of the Westminster Fire Engine and Hose Company No. 1 for the year of 2010. At the October Booster meeting I was in Duluth Minnesota working the ResponderSafety booth at the Minnesota Fire Chiefs Conference which was a very successful conference for Responder Safety. I was able to staff the booth at the following shows this past year FDIC in Indianapolis, Indiana, Fire Expo in Harrisburg, Pa., MSFA convention in Ocean City, Md., and FireHouse Expo in Baltimore, Md. In November I had the opportunity to attend the Pennsylvania Fire Services Institute Dinner and the Statewide Advisor Board meeting to make a presentation on ResponderSafety and the CVVFA on behalf of Past President Steve Austin on where the organizations are going and it was very successful. I also presented Dr. Bill Jenaway with his resolution of Appreciation for facilitating the meeting at St. Joe University in Philadelphia for the "Fire Service Reputation Management" workshop. I was able to present to the son of Deceased member Forest E, Brehm of Liberty Fire Company in East Berlin, Pa the resolution from the association. While at the station I talked about the CVVFA and ask them to take part in attending our Booster meetings and convention. I presided over the Maryland Fire Rescue Institute President's Board of Advisor as the chairman. I attended the Maryland State Firemen's Association Legislative Reception in the State Capitol, and I attended the Rocky Ridge Volunteer Fire Department, Winfield and Community Fire Department, and the Westminster Fire Department Fire Police Banquets. I attend the Westminster City Council meeting and department supervisors for the city representing the fire department. I participated in the SAFER grant review in February in Memphis, Tenn. I also attended the follow training sessions the first was the Maryland Weekend at the NFA and the second was the Maryland Chief Officers Seminar in Rockville, Maryland. I want to thank Howard Cohen, Jerry Laughin for their hard work in preparing the white paper on Fire Service Reputation management. We also need to thank Steve Austin and all the fire service leaders in the development group for their hard work on a great document. Since this was introduced there have been many good comments about this paper and it has created a lot of interest. This will become another great product from the association over the next couple of years and will take a lot of work on our part to make sure it produces good outcomes. 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. 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 am still working on getting the CVVFA store to have 511 shirts available I will continue to work with Lou on getting the shirts and anything else that we can provide to the membership. We have received from sales and membership dues

from Emergency Training Associates a total of \$152.10 this past year. There is money to be made from the store but we need the directors to promote the store and get our members to visit the web site, this is easy money for the association to improve our budget. We also need to look at working with them and the host company of our annual convention to purchase their items from our store so that we can provide business to Emergency Training Associates and the association on getting our convention items. Emergency Training Associates makes us money and helps the association in other ways and we need to support them. I would recommend that the convention committee invite them to their planning meetings and assist the host department in working to purchase items from the store. I want to give a special thank you to Vice President Yost and the Hancock Fire Department for stepping up and volunteering to host the 109th Convention. With the short amount of time they had to put it together they did a great job to make it a very successful event. **THANK YOU AND A GREAT JOB!**

West Virginia State Director – Bill Keller

It has been a busy year this year. I have taught many classes throughout the year, primarily within the Officer area. I attended the memorial service for PP Harry Alt. Unfortunately, I was either working or out of town for the others, didn't know about PP Diehl. I will have a recommendation later to fill the vacant office of Harry. Thanks to Hancock for taking care of business at the last minute, you guys have done a great job in pulling this off.

Virginia State Director – Allen Brennan

It is great to be here with everyone at this CVVFA convention. Many thanks, again, to Hancock, MD for stepping in to take on this year's convention on such short notice. It's always great to come to this area. In March, I attended the CVVFA booster meeting held in Blue Ridge Summit, PA. On April 10, I attended the Presidents Council meeting held in Clayton, DE. The weekend of April 16 and 17, I attended the VSFA Auxiliary Zone meeting held in Hampton, VA. On April 24, I attended the Fredericksburg VFC banquet in Fredericksburg, VA. From April 28 to May 1, I attended the NVFC spring meeting held in Alexandria, VA. On April 29, I attended the CFSI dinner held in Washington DC. On May 2, I attended the CVVFA booster meeting held in Manchester, MD. June 12 thru 15, I attended the MSFA convention held in Ocean City, MD. I hope everyone has had a good year and looking forward to the coming year.

Delaware State Director – Harry Balthis

I would like to thank Hancock Fire Company for hosting the 109th annual convention. During the past year, I attended the booster meeting in Manchester, MD and the Board meeting in Halfway, MD. I attended the PA state convention and Fire Expo in Baltimore and worked with others at the ResponderSafety booth. I also attended the Presidents Council meeting in Clayton, DE. I also served on the scholarship committee and attended my home fire company meetings.

Delaware State Director – Steve Austin

Thank you Mr. President, I just wanted to say that Greg and Hancock have done outstanding. We always talk about not having enough new leaders within the fire service and Chief Yost is certainly one of those exemplary people. I wish a lot of people would pay attention and do some of those things that Greg has done. I look forward to working you this coming year.

Past President - Jerry Daniels

I would like to thank all the members of the Hancock FD in particular Greg Yost for the outstanding job he has done to pull this convention together. I always enjoy coming out to this part of the country and also would like to congratulate you Mr. President for a fine year.

Ray Mowen asked to give the report of the Historical/Archives committee since he will not be here for committee reports. Ray stated they are having a celebration going on in his home town. As for the archives, Guy Flory has had some medical problems along with his wife who has been sick. The folders Guy received last year whereby each convention papers are filed have been pretty much completed. As for the convention badge display at Greencastle, out of a possible 109 convention badges we have 83 on display.

President Robertson announced the convention would be in recess until 13:00 hours allowing everyone to attend the memorial service. Reminder for all that lunch will be served at the fire station immediately after the service.

RECESS

Memorial Service

The annual memorial service was held at the Saint Peter's Catholic Church. The organist was Gwynne Cavey from the church who played wonderfully. The service started with singing and readings by all in attendance. The memorial message was titled "Well Done Good and Faithful Servants" and was given from the heart by Chaplain Charley. Roll call of honored deceased CVVFA members consisted of:

Harry Alt (PP)	Keyser Volunteer Fire Company
Joshua N. Barney	Berkley Spring Volunteer Fire Company
Richard G. Boldosser	Cumberland Valley Relief
Karen M. Brennan	Virginia State Firemen's Association
Wilbur S. Burger	Rescue Hose Company
Joseph W. Bukowski (PP)	Aetna Hose, Hook & Ladder
Robert "Peck" Diehl (PP)	Keyser Volunteer Fire Company
Howard E. Fox, Sr.	McConnellsburg Volunteer Fire Company
Eugene S. Goetz	Rescue Hose Company
Norma Y. Gsell	Rescue Hose Company
Lee G. Holler (PP)	Shawnee Fire Department
Chief Charles Hornberger	Milmont Fire Company
Donald McQuade	McConnellsburg Volunteer Fire Company
Paul Miley	Rescue Hose Company
E. James Monihan	Lewes Volunteer Fire Department
Paul Oehmier	FASNY
Donald Pine	Franklin Fire Company
David P. Rolls	Burlington Volunteer Fire Department
Richard C. Shade	Keyser Volunteer Fire Company
Larry W. Smallwood (PP)	South End Volunteer Fire Department
Robert L. Stanley	Westphal Hose Company
Robert W. Still	Reily Hose Company

President Robertson read the names as Assistant Chaplain Wharry placed the memorial flowers in the vase. Chaplain Charley gave a small eulogy for each of the CVVFA Past Presidents. At the end of the service, President Robertson presented flowers to the families or representatives of the families who were in attendance, several were. The service concluded with Charley's singing of the Lords Prayer, just outstanding as always. Our Directors served as escorts for those family members in attendance. The church was full of folks.

The delegates to convention moved to the Hancock Fire Company main station for lunch. All enjoyed the salads, spaghetti and desserts. Thanks to all who prepared the food.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

**CUMBERLAND VALLEY FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION
MEMORIAL SERVICE**

THURSDAY, AUGUST 5, 2010

**SAINT PETER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
HANCOCK, MARYLAND**

The Organ Prelude

Welcome and Statement of Purpose

*The Opening Hymn – *"Eternal Father, Strong to Save"*

*Invocation – CCVFA Chaplain – Deacon Charles Barnhart, Jr.

**Deacon* – Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the source of all mercy and the God of all consolation. He comforts us in all our sorrows with the consolation we ourselves received from God.

***CONGREGATION** – *"Thanks be to God!"*

**Deacon* – When we were baptized in Christ Jesus, we were baptized into his death. We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live a new life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall be certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

A LITANY OF FAITH AND HOPE

D – Our commonwealth is in heaven,
C – **AND FROM IT WE AWAIT A SAVIOR, THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.**

D – Jesus Christ is the Light of the World.
C – **THE LIGHT NO DARKNESS CAN OVERCOME.**

D – Stay with us Lord, and remind us of your promise.
C – **THAT WHERE WE ARE, THERE YOU ARE ALSO TO BE FOUND.**

D – Let your Light scatter the darkness of our mourning.
C – **AND ILLUMINE OUR LIVES WITH YOUR HOPE AND PRESENCE.**

D – The Lord be with you!
C – **And also with you**

***Let us Pray (together)**

Almighty God, those who die in the Lord still live with you in joy and blessedness. We give you heartfelt thanks for the grace you have bestowed upon your servants who have finished their labors. May we, with all who have died in the true faith, have perfect fulfillment and joy in your eternal and everlasting glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Scripture Readings
The Old Testament – *Ecclesiastes 3:1-8*
The Psalm – *Psalms 23 "The Lord's My Shepherd"*
The New Testament – *1 Corinthians 15:51-57*
*The Holy Gospel – *Saint John 14:1-6*

The Memorial Message *"Well Done Good and Faithful Servants!"*
Deacon Charles E. Barnhart, Jr. - Chaplain

*The Hymn of the Day – *"Abide With Me"*

Roll Call of Honored Deceased CVVFA Members

Presentation of Flower(s) to Family Members – President Walter Robertson

*Prayers of the People
Each petition by the Chaplain will end in "Lord in your Mercy"
The Congregation will respond – *"Hear Our Prayer"*

"The Lord's Prayer" - (Sung) – Deacon Charles Barnhart, Jr.

*The Benediction

*The Closing Hymn *"Lift Every Voice and Sing"*

*The Postlude

* = Congregation Standing

President Robertson called the convention back to order at 13:30pm. Walter introduced some special guests with us who brought comments from their respective organizations. He asked for Steve Austin to address the group. Steve introduced Skip Gibson from the ISO who will be our keynote speaker for the convention. Skip was asked to speak on the new grading criteria for insurance ratings.

Skip started his remarks by thanking CVVFA for the invitation. He talked about his role as a liaison to the fire service groups. The main objective of this talk will be on the proposed changes forthcoming. He started his comments with explaining just who they are and what they do. Skip then went into a very extensive slide show depicting the updated changes that are based on national standards. These specific changes are not reflected within these minutes, however we encourage you to contact your local rep for a briefing and certainly we encourage all fire departments to look into upgrading their ISO rating within their districts. The briefing ended with a Q & A time.

President Robertson thanked Mr. Gibson for his remarks and presentation and stated that we would now go into the election. President Robertson requested a MOTION to open nominations for our elected officers for the upcoming year, which was given by Hugh Harris and seconded by Steven Haines, verbal vote taken, motion passed. Walter stated that each office

would be announced at least 3 times, if only one candidate was nominated, no additional action is required.

NOMINATION OF OFFICERS

President – Greg Yost nominated by Seven Haines, seconded by Harry Balthis

First Vice President – Michael Sullivan nominated by Bill Keller, seconded by Harry Carter

Second Vice President – Steven Haines nominated by Steve Flickinger, seconded by Rich Bruner

Third Vice President – Rich Toulson nominated by Steven Haines, seconded by Jerry Daniels

Fourth Vice President – Walter Robertson nominated by George Dove, seconded by Larry Mergenthaler

Treasurer – George Dove nominated by Bill Keller, seconded by Michael Sullivan

Financial Secretary – Steve McBee nominated by Steve Flickinger, seconded by Rich Bruner

Recording Secretary – Gene Worthington nominated by Charlie Myers, seconded by Robert Sweetman

Home Office Manager – Steve Heefner nominated by Hugh Harris, seconded by Larry Mergenthaler

Publicity Manager – Robert Timko nominated by Allen Brennan, seconded by Harry Carter

Chaplain – Charles Barnhart nominated by Charlie Myer, seconded by Robert Sweetman

Assistant Chaplain – James Wharry nominated by Hugh Harris, seconded by Robert Sweetman

Attorney – Howard Cohen nominated by Michael Sullivan, seconded by Larry Mergenthaler

Delegate to PA – Charles Myers nominated by Hugh Harris, seconded by Steven Haines

PA Director – Bob Timko nominated by Curtis, seconded by Michael Sullivan

MD Director – Bob Cumberland nominated by Hugh Harris, seconded by Allen Brennan

WV Director – Brett Biddle nominated by Bill Keller, seconded by Hugh Harris

VA Director – Allen Brennan nominated by Bob Cumberland, seconded by Robert Sweetman

President Robertson announced that Kevin Piatt has resigned his office of VA Director which opens that office for nomination at this time for a one year term.

VA Director – Kevin Wilkes nominated by Bill Keller, seconded by Bob Cumberland, Kevin was absent, however a letter of acceptance was presented.

DE Director – Steve Austin nominated by Harry Balthis, seconded by Charlie Myers

The President asked for a motion to close the nominations, motion was made by Hugh Harris, seconded by Bill Keller, no further discussion, voice vote taken, motion passed.

The President asked for a motion to cast a ballot for all uncontested offices, motion was made by Charlie Myers, seconded by Hugh Harris, no further discussion, voice vote taken, motion passed.

A concern was raised about Bob Timko being nominated for two Offices. The Parliamentarian was asked to review the concern and respond back later in the meeting or the matter would be taken up the next day.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Archives and Historical Committee – Guy Flory was absent.

Ray Mowen gave the report previously.

Audit Committee – Steven Haines

As reported at the Board of Directors meeting last night, all books were accepted as in good standing, therefore no further report is necessary.

Budget and Finance – George Dove

No report.

Business & Ops Plan – Greg Yost

Greg reported on the survey started from last convention, he reviewed those responses. We used a grading schedule from A to F. He reviewed the various sections of the plan.

Constitution and By-Laws Committee – Bob Cumberland

We have no changes for this year. Bob then spoke on the section of the by laws reference the election process, no member can be nominated or elected to more than one elected office.

Convention Committee – Steve Flickinger stated that Hancock came through and filled the shoes necessary on a short timeline to make the convention happen. We owe them thanks followed by applause. We are looking forward to working with McConnellsburg next year. Steve has \$2328 of money brought in by parade sponsorship for the Treasurer. We have one outstanding sponsor which should be in shortly.

Credentials Committee – Jeff Ringer

No report.

Emergency Responder – Steve Austin

Thank you Mr. President I will give you a quick rundown on where we have been, where we are going and where we want to go. He followed those comments with an audio visual presentation. We are wrapping up the cooperative agreement soon with only a minimal balance of funds. We will launch the PSA in Delaware City on August 17. This is a 30 second spot that will go national by several federal agencies. We can have copies made for you to give to any local TV/cable companies for their showing. We also use this money to keep the ResponderSafety web site active. Our fire prevention safety grant Phase II has been extended allowing completion of some programs. We have not finished the update on the Emergency ResponderSafety paper “Protecting First Responders On The Road”, had some issues. Steve continued by speaking on the near miss reporting system. Chief Ron Moore has reviewed and we have lots of raw data that needs to be analyzed. We got a grant to do a brand new Essentials manual on the new MUTCD. This is about two thirds done to date and needs to be completed this fall. We have been working on public safety flagging over the past year. We had a problem when MDOT reneged on the funding for this project. We just reached an agreement with NFFF for a grant to do a program with them on advanced warning. We will start with a focus group soon. Montgomery County, MD will be selected as the test site working with the fire service. A video will be produced later. OSHA has a grant program from DOL and we have committed a program request for \$250K to reduce roadway accidents via long distance learning computer modules. This would absolutely be huge for us to be awarded this grant. Steve updated the work with the Federal Highway Administration on the National Unified Goal. This should help us on class instruction funding. We did not get a FEMA Fire Prevention Safety Grant last year. We are looking into applying again this year, hopefully better results. The NFPA has approved our request for a Professional Qualifications document on incident management for people controlling traffic. They requested Steve to chair a new committee to develop this standard. The briefing concluded with a Q&A time.

Secretary Worthington read an email message received from the I95 coalition reference training for highway safety personnel.

Fire Person of the Year Committee – George Dove

The award was presented earlier in the meeting to Ray Mowen.

Fire Prevention and Education Committee – Kevin Piatt was absent.

Grants – Steve Austin

The report was covered within the ResponderSafety report.

Legislative Committee – Bob Cumberland

Progress.

Memorial – Chaplain Barnhart

Nothing further to report, all went well at the service.

Parliamentarian – Howard Cohen

After reviewing the by-laws we need to correct an election wrongdoing. Bob Timko could not be nominated for two positions. After discussion with Bob, he will remain in the current position as Publicity Manager, therefore leaving a vacancy as PA Director. We could presumably reopen the nominations for that position. Motion was made to reopen the nominations for the office of PA Director by Bill Keller, seconded by Harry Carter, no further discussion, verbal vote taken, motion carried. Motion was made to nominate Curtis Alleman by Steve Heefner, seconded by Bob Timko, motion passed. Motion was made to close all nominations by Bill Keller, seconded by Steven Haines, no further discussion, verbal vote taken, motion passed.

Public Relations – Rich Toulson

Rich was contacted by a firm in Washington wanting to have a meeting.

Publicity Committee – Bob Timko

We are down to one outstanding check for ads in the book.

Recruitment and Retention Committee – Allen Brennan

No report at this time.

Resolutions Committee – Jerry Daniels

All resolution requests have been forwarded to the Secretary's office.

Scholarship Committee – Harry Balthis

We had 25 applications from 16 students apply for the two scholarships which were awarded at \$1,000 each to William Ball and Lindsay Carns. Rich Brunner presented a selection criteria for consideration to be used for selection of the scholarship candidates. Points would be earned via various categories. Applications come from all across the country. Rich read the proposal. A discussion ensued about the process of selection. The committee is recommending this criteria be accepted. Motion to accept the criteria presented as guidelines for the selection process by Dean Simpson, seconded by Bob Cumberland, further discussion, motion was made to table the previous motion for further work within the scholarship committee by Howard Cohen, seconded by Allen Brennan, motion approved for table.

Sergeant at Arms – Wayne Baker

No report.

Training – Greg Yost

We are working on a program for October.

Topics – Steve Austin

Nothing further to report.

Web page – Steve Austin

Steve updated on the web sites. We still need some folks to send info to post. Out of our 1200 members, we only have about 360 email addresses. We encourage all to get those addresses to us. Cutting down on mailing cuts down on expenses. Steve spoke about the facebook account. Jack Sullivan has done a tremendous job with this facebook page now in

excess of 3000. He also spoke about the Twitter progress. We would love to have someone to twit for us all the time.

Youth Leadership – Marshall Younker/Michael Sullivan

The award will be presented Friday night at the banquet.

This concludes the committee reports for this year's convention.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Reputational Management Seminar – Steve Austin

We have released the White Paper. We picked up some national coverage within magazines and national web sites. Steve did a tool box on the paper at the Fire Expo and also a presentation with Bill Jenaway. We met with the senior staff at the NFA to discuss the whole issue with another meeting forthcoming. We are looking into publishing in the private sector. He continued to talk about contacts made who do background checks for civic organizations. These can be done on-line for a nominal cost. Possibly a partner in progress can be formed. A discussion is happening within the group reference how much info should be put up on the web. We need to figure out how to best utilize the data gathered and distribute. Too much negative is not good. He gave some examples of bad behavior news received.

IRS tax submittal status – Steve Austin

Steve stated that we now have a law firm out of Philly that has agreed to represent us at no cost for reclassification of our tax status. Special thanks to Barry, CJ and Bob for their assistance in procuring the firm. By our next reporting time, things should be progressing.

Scholarship publicity brochures for colleges – Rich Bruner

No action until we get the application process completed.

Promotional package and agreement with booster meeting partners - Heefner

Steve has asked for an extension till October for some necessary changes that need to be made.

President Robertson stated there was no further old business on the agenda, asked again for old business from the audience. President Robertson then opened the floor for new business.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION

VP Yost provided comments on the activities for the evening. The training class set for Friday morning is a go with 26 students registered. The practical session will be held in the parking lot. The Presidents Council will be here Friday morning.

Steve Flickinger reported on the new Joe Bukowski award guidelines for presentation and approval at the October booster meeting.

Steve Heefner reminded all that the October booster meeting will be held at Frederick Township in northern York County, just off I83 at the PA turnpike.

Dean Simpson reported on the Delaware Valley Fire Chiefs Association has adopted the white paper.

Bob Cumberland reported on the Carroll County Association.

Motion was made to recess the convention business meeting until Friday morning.

President Robertson reconvened the convention Friday morning at 9am for the Presidents Council meeting. Chaplain Barnhart gave the invocation, followed by the pledge to the flag. Chief Yost from the host company gave the opening welcome. President Robertson offered the welcome on behalf of the CVVFA. Walter asked all to self introduce themselves. MSFA President Doyle Cox introduced the Maryland guests with us. Other guests were introduced from the audience. Walter made some additional comments about the activities for the day. He then handed the session off to PP Steve Austin to facilitate the Presidents Council meeting.

Steve added his personal welcome and asked if there was anyone who was not a member of the CVVFA, applications were provided to those. He asked those who were present at the first Council meeting to please stand for recognition. Steve then asked for a report from the Congressional Fire Services Institute. No further minutes were recorded. The states of West Virginia, Virginia, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Maryland, New Jersey and New York gave respective comments. Lunch was provided at noon for both the council members and the highway safety training students. An offer was made from West Virginia to host the next meeting.

President Robertson reconvened the CVVFA convention back to order for some additional business to be conducted. Walter thanked all the participants at the Council for some very informative information. Walter asked Greg some additional announcements reference the banquet later this evening. Chaplain Charley gave the blessing for the lunch meal. There being no further business to be conducted, meeting was adjourned at 12:45pm.

The banquet program was held Friday evening August 6, 2010, at the Park & Dine Restaurant in Hancock. President Robertson asked the Chaplain to come forward and give the blessing for the meal and in the invocation for this evening. Chaplain Charley provided some comments and finished with the prayer followed by the pledge to the flag. Walter asked Greg to give the welcome from the host company. Greg provided comments and thanked his company membership for their work to make the convention a success. Walter presented the host company check from the CVVFA to the Hancock treasurer. Dinner was served buffet style under the leadership of the staff at the Park & Dine.

President Robertson reconvened the program and asked Steve Austin to introduce our keynote speaker. Steve introduced Chief Eddie Buchanan of Hanover, VA. The Chief made introductory remarks and thanked the CVVFA for inviting him to address the group. He used the topic of leadership to speak on. We are all challenged with a lot of similar issues. He gave various examples of those issues. Everyone enjoyed the Chief's comments and showed their appreciation with an extended applause.

Walter expressed his appreciation to Chief Buchanan and presented him with a personal memento. Walter stated that we need to reconvene the business meeting. John Ashcraft motioned that the President cast a ballot for all unopposed Offices and the Secretary cast a ballot for the 4th Vice President, seconded by Robert Sweetman, no further discussion, verbal vote taken, motion passed.

Walter then asked Steve Flickinger for some comments. Steve introduced our scholarship winners for the year. He asked Mrs. Butts to assist with the award presentation. Lindsay Carns our recipient brought comments. Lindsay was awarded additional scholarships from Newport Fire Company. William Ball, our other scholarship recipient thanked the CVVFA for his award.

Walter asked PP Flickinger to present the Joe Bukowski award based on the criteria of outstanding efforts in highway safety. The first award is given in honor of Joe for his many years of assistance with the ResponderSafety program. Steve asked Karen to accept the award in Joe's memory. President Robertson read a CVVFA resolution prepared for the award.

President Robertson then presented resolutions for our deceased Past Presidents Robert Diehl, Harry Alt, Larry Smallwood, Lee Holler and Joe Bukowski. He then presented two life membership awards to Attorney Howard Cohen and Chaplain Charles Barnhart.

President Robertson asked Steve Austin to present the Youth Leadership Award. Steve asked Mrs. Easton to assist with the presentation. After some comments, Steve announced Erin Drumheller, our fire prevention queen, as our recipient. A resolution was read on her behalf. A fire helmet was given to her. Erin gave comments and thanked the CVVFA.

President Robertson continued by recognizing the E. Wade Thomas award recipient Ray Mowen who could not be with us this evening. The presentation was made Thursday morning during the business meeting.

Walter continued with the 50-year resolutions. Unfortunately, none of those gentleman was in attendance to receive them.

Robert L. Bolin	Irishtown VFD
Harry E. Daveler	Antietam FC
David R. Monn	Mont Alto FD
Joseph C. Naples	Liberty FC
Roger R. Ramey	Citizens FC
Malcolm E. Ridgely	Adams FC
Richard G. Spickler	Westphal Hose Co
C. L. Wysong	Independent FC

Walter presented resolutions to VP Yost, VP Haines, VP Sullivan, VP Toulson and Treasurer Dove. He then presented resolutions to the following for their work with ResponderSafety during the year: Jerry Daniels, Steven Haines, Rich Toulson, Steve Austin, Bob Cumberland, Greg Yost, Jack Sullivan, Harry Carter and Allen Baldwin.

President Walter Robertson gave his personal comments, his last speech as President of CVVFA. Ladies and Gentlemen it has been an enjoyable year to serve as your President and I thank you very much for the opportunity. He asked installing Officer Steve Austin to conduct the installation of the newly elected Officers. He asked Gerald Holtry to assist with the installation. Secretary Worthington read the names of the new Officers and asked them to come forward and take their respective position at the front of the room. The oath of office was given followed by the presenting of the badges and congratulations were offered to all. A group picture of the Officers was taken.

Immediate Past President Robertson presented the gavel to President Greg Yost along with some shirts. Greg presented Walter his PP badge and read a resolution recognizing his term as President. President Yost thanked all for the opportunity to serve as President. Please let me know of your activities that I can assist with. He concluded with some additional comments reference the convention. Thanks for coming and he made some additional comments on the logistics for the parade starting at noon. There will be a breakfast in the park to benefit the fire company. President Yost announced adjournment of the 109th annual convention.

Saturday afternoon, we all enjoyed the firefighter's parade, the food and the awarding of the trophies. This ended the convention for August 2010.

Respectfully submitted, Gene Worthington, Recording Secretary