

**Cumberland Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association  
 Convention August 3 – 6, 2016  
 Harford/Cecil Counties MD  
 Proceedings and Minutes**

Convention started Wednesday afternoon with a great welcome by our host the Harford/Cecil Volunteer Firemen's Association along with registration. A "Meet the Host" was provided by 18:00 hours and was followed by the Board of Directors meeting at 19:00 hours. The minutes from the Board meeting are printed later in these minutes. At the conclusion of the Board meeting, the delegates enjoyed some fine hospitality.

Thursday morning started with the annual Memorial Service to honor those who have passed during the year at the Hopewell United Methodist Church and Pastor Sarah Elliott. Chaplain Charley led the group with singing and readings by all in attendance.

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>ORDER OF WORSHIP</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>CUMBERLAND VALLEY FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION          MEMORIAL SERVICE</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">THURSDAY, AUGUST 4, 2016</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>HOPEWELL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>HAVRE DE GRACE, MARYLAND</b></p> <p>The Organ Prelude</p> <p>Welcome and Statement of Purpose</p> <p>*The Opening Hymn – 731 <i>"Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken"</i></p> <p>*Invocation – CCVFA Chaplain – Deacon Charles Barnhart, Jr.</p> <p>*<i>Deacon</i> – 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.</p> <p>*<b>CONGREGATION</b> – <i>"Thanks be to God!"</i></p> <p>*<i>Deacon</i> – 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.</p> <p><b>A LITANY OF FAITH AND HOPE</b></p> <p>D – Our commonwealth is in heaven,  <b>C – AND FROM IT WE AWAIT A SAVIOR, THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.</b></p> <p>D – Jesus Christ is the Light of the World.  <b>C – THE LIGHT NO DARKNESS CAN OVERCOME.</b></p> <p>D – Stay with us Lord, and remind us of your promise.  <b>C – THAT WHERE WE ARE, THERE YOU ARE ALSO TO BE FOUND.</b></p>	<p>D – Let your Light scatter the darkness of our mourning.  <b>C – AND ILLUMINE OUR LIVES WITH YOUR HOPE AND PRESENCE.</b></p> <p>D – The Lord be with you!  <b>C – And also with you</b></p> <p><b>*The Prayer of the Day (together)</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>The Scripture Readings      The Old Testament – <i>Ecclesiastes 3:1-8</i>      The Psalm – <i>Psalms 23 – (Spoken)</i>      The New Testament – <i>I Corinthians 15:51-57</i>      *The Holy Gospel – <i>Saint John 14:1-6</i></p> <p>Special Music – Mr. Bill Larkin - Piper</p> <p>The Memorial Message <i>"The Best is Yet to Come!"</i>      Deacon Charles E. Barnhart, Jr. - Chaplain</p> <p>*The Hymn of the Day – 504 <i>"The Old Rugged Cross"</i></p> <p><b>Roll Call of Honored Deceased CVVFA Members</b></p> <p>Special Music – Mr. Bill Larkin - Piper</p> <p>*Prayers of the People      Each petition by the Chaplain will end in "Lord in your Mercy"      The Congregation will respond – <i>"Hear Our Prayer"</i></p> <p><i>"The Lord's Prayer"</i> - (Sung) – Deacon Charles Barnhart, Jr.</p> <p>*The Benediction &amp; Sung Response</p> <p>*The Closing Hymn 318 <i>"Christ Is Alive!"</i></p> <p>*The Postlude</p> <p style="text-align: right;">* = Congregation Standing</p>
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President Howell read the list of deceased members from 2015-2016 as follows.

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|--------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Walter Carpenter   | George Flenner  | Francis Gardine  |
| David Hoover       | Arthur Joliffe  | Richard P. Jones |
| Janet Levan        | Vivian C. Myers | P. L. Schoentube |
| Robert G. Sweetman | Paul F. Toms    | Earl J. Vandrew  |
| James F. Werner    |                 |                  |

Assistant Chaplain James Wharry assisted with the service along with the local church organist Laura Way. Bill Larkin provided some special music with the bagpipes. The memorial message was given in loving memory of Vivian Myers and in honor of long time Treasurer George Dove. Chaplain Charley concluded the service as always with the singing of the Lord's Prayer.

President Hoby Howell called the 115<sup>th</sup> annual convention to order at 10:30. He asked for all to rise for the presentation of the colors. The Harford County Volunteer Firemen's Association Honor Guard presented the colors. The pledge was led by Fire Prevention Ambassador Mariah Maines. The Honor Guard was accompanied by a bagpiper as the colors were retired. Chaplain Barnhart gave the invocation and added some other comments by giving thanks for those in attendance.

Recording Secretary introduced our Officers, 4<sup>th</sup> Vice President Steve Sweitzer who marched up the center aisle, followed by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Rich Brunner and President Hoby Howell. Hoby came to the podium and welcomed all. He then introduced Joe Tolliver, President of the Harford/Cecil Volunteer Firemen's Association who brought greetings and a welcome. Sandi Gallion was then introduced, President of the Level Volunteer Fire Company who also brought greetings and a welcome. Hoby had the pleasure to introduce Harford County Executive Barry Glassman for greetings from the County. Last night I read the history of the CVVFA and certainly congratulate your Association. He made some additional remarks about our history of the county, specifically the Bush Declaration. County Executive Glassman presented President Howell with a proclamation recognizing his term of office. Eddie Hopkins, Director of the Department of Emergency Services was recognized and also brought a welcome. Our final guest introduced was Director Richard Brooks of the Cecil County Department of Emergency Services. All of our special speakers were presented with convention bags. Mariah Maines was again introduced who gave a fire prevention message and a big welcome. President Hoby ended with his personal welcome and comments. He thanked our vendors for their participation and offsetting our expenses, please visit their booths. He concluded his remarks by recognizing the convention committee. Hoby spoke about the fund raiser being held during convention to help with member company Great Cacapon who lost their fire station due to a fire. Allen Steele donated one of his special CVVFA wooden firefighters as the prize. Thanks again, this concludes our opening ceremonies.

Hoby then appointed the following special committees for convention.

Sergeants-at-Arms -

- Wayne Baker - chair
- Jeff Ringer
- David Kline

Election Committee -

- Charlie Myers - Judge
- Frank Underwood - Teller
- Steve Haines - Teller
- Jerry Daniels - Clerk

Installing Officer - Steve Austin

Recording Secretary Gene Worthington took roll call as follows: We had 91 representatives in attendance for convention.

TITLE	NAME	OCT	APRIL	BOARD	CONV
President	Hoby Howell	1	1	1	1
1st Vice President	Bill Keller	1	1		
2nd Vice President	Rich Brunner	1	1	1	1
3rd Vice President	Richard Toulson	1	1		
4th Vice President	Steve Sweitzer	1	1		1
Treasurer	George Dove	1	1	1	1
Financial Secretary	Stephen McBee			1	1

Recording Secretary	Gene Worthington	1	1	1	1
Home Office Manager	Stephen Heefner	1	1	1	1
Publicity Manager	Bob Romig				
Chaplain	Charles Barnhart		1	1	1
Assistant Chaplain	James Wharry			1	1
Attorney	Howard Cohen				
Pennsylvania Delegate	Charlie Myers	1	1	1	1
Director, Pennsylvania (2017)	Donna Welsh	1	1	1	1
Director, Pennsylvania (2016)	Mike Whitzel	1			1
Director, Maryland (2017)	Dave Lewis	1		1	1
Director, Maryland (2016)	Robert Cumberland	1	1	1	1
Director, West Virginia (2017)	Greg Yost	1	1		1
Director, West Virginia (2016)	Randy James		1		1
Director, Delaware (2017)	Harry Balthis	1	1	1	1
Director, Delaware (2016)	Steve Austin	1	1	1	1
Director, Virginia (2017)	Allen Baldwin				
Director, Virginia (2016)	Allen Brennan				
Director, New York	Dave Jacobowitz	1	1	1	1
Past President	Walter Robertson	1	1		1
	Totals	18	18	15	20
Past Presidents		14	11	11	14
Maryland Fire Depts		10	9	0	17
Delaware Fire Depts		11	4	0	17
Virginia Fire Depts		6	5	0	3
West Virginia Fire Depts		0	0	0	2
Pennsylvania Fire Depts		26	15		17
Others		2	3	1	1
	Grand Totals	87	65	27	91

Recording Secretary Worthington then read the minutes from the Board of Directors meeting held on August 3, 2016.

The meeting was called to order at 19:05 hours by President Howell. Hoby asked Chaplain Charley for the invocation. He asked for our fire prevention ambassadors to welcome the group, Sabrina Wainwright and Mariah Maines. Hoby brought greetings and introduced Joe Tolliver, President of the Harford/Cecil Volunteer Firemen's Association for the welcome. Roll call was taken. Communications will be read at convention. Donna asked for prayers for Ray Mowen who was not in attendance due to health reasons.

Hoby asked if there were any Officers or Directors that needed to report, none responded. He asked for specific committees to report.

Convention – Steve Flickinger reported on parade sponsorships approximately 5 not paid for, sent second notices. He will send out another notice after convention. We will discuss again at the October meeting. Constitution & By-Laws – Bob stated this is the first time for elections under the new bylaws. Please be patient with the process.

Memorial – Charley stated they are ready. Thanks to all the committee, will be OK with 14 to honor.

Publicity – Nothing, thanks to Bob for a great convention book.

Auditing – Jerry reported that the ledger of the general account looks good, need the August statement. Tax returns are ready for filing.

New Business – Nothing

Good of the Association – Hoby had challenge coins made for the membership as a way of saying thanks to all, anyone desiring same see him after the meeting.

Steve Heefner – Raised a question about the budget process. Walter Robertson was not in attendance to discuss. Walter sent a draft proposed copy for review. This will be brought for formal presentation on Thursday.

Motion to pay the convention expenses by Heefner, seconded by Mortimer, approved.

Discussion ensued about the costs to upgrade to the new logo for pocket emblems and badges, will further discuss at convention.

Assistant Chaplain Wharry gave the benediction. Motion made to adjourn 19:40.

Motion to accept the Board minutes by Robertson, seconded by Dove, motion passed.

Motion to accept the April booster meeting minutes as posted by Robertson, seconded by Balthis, motion passed.

Reading of Communications – Recording Secretary Worthington

All the communications are directly related to the elections, will be read at the proper time.

## **OFFICERS REPORTS:**

### **President's Report – Hoby Howell**

Welcome, I would like to begin by thanking all you for being here at Level VFC today to celebrate our 115<sup>th</sup> annual CVVFA convention. It's nice to see such a great turn out from all our various states. I want to thank all our vendors who are here today, who supported our convention with their attendance. Please take notice of their products. Thanks to our politicians who took time out of their busy schedules to attend today's opening ceremonies.

### **First Vice President's Report – Bill Keller**

Bill was absent due to the flooding in West Virginia, sent the following report. I would like to thank the Harford/Cecil Volunteer Firemen's Association for hosting the CVVFA 115<sup>th</sup> annual convention. Over the past year, I have attended the booster meetings. I have taught fire and EMS classes, have taught ICS, NIMS 300 & 400, EMT recert, CPR instructor and EMTB. I attended ATSSA flagger instructor course this year. I am sorry I cannot be in attendance at the convention due to work. The floods here in West Virginia have taken up most of my time. I have enjoyed being able to help the CVVFA this past year. The Association really has done a great job this year as always helping keep the fire service safe and educated. A big thank you for President Howell who has done an outstanding job this year as our leader and to all of the other Officers and Board of Directors, you all have been great to work with. I look forward to working with the incoming Officers for the coming year. If nominated, I would accept the nomination for President and work very hard to fulfill the duties of the office.

### **Second Vice President's Report – Rich Brunner**

Good afternoon President Howell, Officers, members and guests and welcome to the CVVFA convention here at Harford/Cecil Volunteer Firemen's Association. A special thank you to all the members who have spent their valuable time in hosting this convention and preparing all of the events we will enjoy over the next few days. As usual the hospitality of our hosts is second to none and very indicative of the member companies of the CVVFA. Since our last meeting, I have attended all of our company meetings, training and functions. I have attended training sessions on traffic control, hazmat awareness and several other topics. I have also had the opportunity to speak again with our local representative and senator regarding issues with the longevity of the volunteer fire service and possible changes to the distribution of gaming funds. I have also attended our county fire association meetings where we continue to encourage folks to become active in the CVVFA. I have also attended some

training sessions sponsored by our EMS office. Again, thanks to all involved for making our convention a success and wish that everyone enjoys the fellowship and that everyone has a safe trip home.

**Third Vice President's Report – Richard Toulson**

President Howell, fellow Officers, members and guests, I would like to thank Harford/Cecil Volunteer Firemen's Association for hosting this convention and Presidents Council for this Association. Since our spring booster meeting, due to health issues, I have not been able to attend many meetings. President Howell, congratulations on a successful year as President of this Association. I hope all of you have an enjoyable convention and I hope to see you at a future booster meeting.

**Fourth Vice President's Report – Steve Sweitzer**

I would like to thank the Harford/Cecil Volunteer Firemen's Association for hosting the 115<sup>th</sup> annual convention. I have continuously worked on getting out the word about ResponderSafety and CVVFA. I hope everyone has a great time at the convention.

**Treasurer's Report – George J. Dove**

George thanked our host and Hoby for a job well done. He provided the following account balances:

ENDING BALANCES

General Account	31278.48
Death Benefit Account	1200.00
CD	91464.15
<b>NET WORTH</b>	<b>123942.63</b>

Time has come for me to say it's time for me to retire. My first meeting started in Keyser, WV 54/55. Ten years later I was going through the chairs and in 64/65 I was your President. In 1970, I served as your Secretary and was elected to Treasurer in 1980 to the present. This day August 4<sup>th</sup> marks a total of 36 years. It's time for someone else to take over. I have the best of times knowing and breaking bread with 65 past Presidents starting with E. Wade Thomas who always took care of his boys of whom I was one. Thanks to all, enjoy your days to come. I want to say thanks to my wife for being with me for over 50 years at these meetings, this was our vacation. A standing ovation was given to George for his dedication to the CVVFA for these many years.

**Financial Secretary's Report – Stephen C. McBee**

I do not have the credentials as George, I would like to thank the Harford/Cecil Volunteer Firemen's Association as our host. I would like to thank the CVVFA for the opportunity to be your financial secretary for the past several years. I'm not sure what I would have done without the family of the CVVFA over the past few years. I will be happy to work with my successor to keep things working as smoothly as possible. We have progressed dramatically since I started this job and with a computer person taking over, it should be more streamlined than before. Thanks you again, and God bless you all.

**Recording Secretary's Report – Gene Worthington**

Good morning, Mr. President, members and guests, let me congratulate Hoby for a very dedicated year as our President. On a personal note, I have also decided to step down. We have worked hard over the past two years in planning this convention, hope everyone enjoys their time with us. The office remains active as the booster meeting minutes were transcribed and distributed. All resolution requests submitted have been completed. Personally, I have attended most of my county and state meetings along with some training sessions. The agenda was forwarded onto the President. As your host, we welcome all and please enjoy yourself. As always the office stands ready to support the Association.

**Home Office Manager's Report – Stephen E. Heefner**

Mr. President, Officers, members and guests, welcome to the 115<sup>th</sup> annual convention. My research indicates that we first met President Hoby Howell in 2006 at Greencastle, PA as a guest and traveling companion of PP Gene Worthington and a friendship was formed. In 2011, when Hoby was elected as 4<sup>th</sup> Vice President, Gene Worthington came to me and said that he would host a convention, location TBA for Hoby at the end of his term and here we are today. So it is with great pleasure to thank the Harford/Cecil Volunteer Firemen's Association, Gene Worthington and the convention committee and

participating companies for hosting this year's convention. Since our spring meeting, I along with my wife Anita attended the MSFA and KFC conferences. We attended funeral services of Robert "Tater" Sweetman. We also mailed over 900 newsletters to member companies and members. I have plans to attend the FASNY, DVFA and the state of PA conferences. As my term of Home Office Manager comes to a close, I would like to personally thank the many Officers, fire companies and most of all friends who have assisted me throughout the last 15 years. It is all of you who made me look great. Once again, thanks to all of you. However, I'm not going anywhere, just turning the page so to speak. It is my desire to help as time permits to assist with the ResponderSafety delivery, setup and operation of the highway safety booth. To all of the incoming Officers, I wish you well in the coming years. Before I sign off, please mark your calendar for next year's convention in McConnellsburg, PA August 3-6, 2017, host hotel will be Sleep Inn & Suites in Clear Spring, MD, room rate \$65 per night, phone 301-842-0290. Again, thanks for allowing me to be your Home Office Manager.

**Publicity Manager's Report** – Bob Romig

Bob was not able to make the trip from Florida to convention, however many thanks were given to him for the outstanding convention book. We look forward to seeing him at a future meeting. President Hoby met with Bob at the Keystone Conference and personally thanked him.

**Chaplain** – Charles Barnhart

It is good to be with you, appreciate all the kind words from the memorial service, please sign the sheet for your planned attendance at prayer breakfast Saturday morning. We will have some fellowship time before the parade. The way the schedule worked, I was happy to attend the spring booster meeting and Presidents Council meetings. Thanks to Jimmie for sending cards for our ill or passing. I try to get in touch with our folks and remind them they are remembered in our prayers. Please let me know of those needing assistance. Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Chaplain, I am here for you.

**Assistant Chaplain** – James Wharry

Thank you to the Harford/Cecil Volunteer Firemen's Association for hosting this convention. In addition to what Charley said, I sent out cards when requested. Thanks to my home company for providing transportation to the meetings.

**Attorney** – Howard S. Cohen

As everyone knows, Howard is having some medical issues and will not be at convention. Please remember him and his family during these times.

**Delegate to Pennsylvania** – Charlie Myers

I bring you greetings from PA and thanks to Harford and Cecil counties for this great conference. PA convention will be September 21 – 24, please provide me your names who will register. At this time, we have 3 PP's from PA with us. Tomorrow at the Presidents Council, Ernie will be our spokesperson. I want to thank my driver my daughter.

**Board of Directors**

**Pennsylvania State Director** – Donna Welsh

Members and guests, I would like to thank the Harford/Cecil Volunteer Firemen's Association and the members and departments that put this year's convention together. It has been an enjoyable time. Since the last meeting, I have been attending my company meetings. I have also been talking to the neighboring departments about the CVVFA in hopes of gaining some new interest before the convention comes to McConnellsburg next year. I also attended the memorial for Guy Flory with a few others. I have been working with my Fire Chief and a couple others to try and get a couple dates Greg Yost has offered to do a ResponderSafety training in our county and we hope that may spark some additional interest in CVVFA. I would also like to thank those that did the fundraising for Great Cacapon. My home department did a bingo for them and they were very appreciative. I was unable to attend the Harrisburg show due to a family wedding. Thanks again and I hope to see everyone in McConnellsburg next year.

**Pennsylvania State Director** – Mike Whitzel

Officers, Members and Guests, I would like to take this time and thank the Harford/Cecil Volunteer Firemen's Association for hosting the 115th Annual Convention. We are looking forward to a great convention and hospitality. Since our meeting, it's been a busy time for me. I attended the PA Fire Emergency Services Institute Board meeting, the Cumberland County Fire Chiefs meeting, and Cumberland County consolidation meeting. I have attended my Fire Company Meetings, Relief Association meetings, trainings, and fundraisers. I also attended the merger meetings with the Cumberland County fire police, firefighters, and the fire chief. More details later. Last Thursday we went over the draft set bylaw to present to the organizations. Most of my time is spent with my fire company merger with our neighboring company. We traveled to some fire companies that went through the same process we are going through. August 9, 2016 will be the final vote to move forward. We will be voting on the new name of organization. We will be hiring an attorney to assist us with the process and an accountant to audit our books. The fire operations sides of both companies are coming up with standard operating guidelines and streamlining operational function of our business.

**Maryland State Director – Dave Lewis**

Let me begin by extending my thanks and appreciation to President Hoby Howell for a job well done this past year, and to the Harford and Cecil County volunteer fire companies for hosting this year's convention. I also extend a thanks to those officers who have chosen to step down from their positions after long tenures. I am certain that these members will continue to support the association in some capacity and help us retain their corporate knowledge. I bring you greetings from the Maryland State Firemen's Association and our new President Mike Davis. I anticipate that he and the other officers will be here tomorrow for the Presidents Council meeting. With us today are five Past Presidents of the MSFA, Bob Cumberland, Gene Worthington, John Denver, Johnie Roth, and myself. All are members of the CVVFA and active in the activities of this association. Our pathway is filled with uncertainty. In the past two years, we have adopted a new strategic vision and modified our bylaws to reflect a new direction. It is time that we now move to implement this new vision under the new organizational structure. I have enjoyed the last six years as Maryland Director to the CVVFA and hope that I have your support to continue as a Director under the new organizational structure. I have served as an advocate for this association as I have traveled across the U.S. teaching classes for the National Fire Academy and promote the resources of the Responder Safety and Reputation Management programs. I also represent this Association on the NVFC Health and Safety Work Group and bring back to many resources of that work group to the members of the CVVFA. Again, my thanks to President Hoby Howell and Harford-Cecil Volunteer Firemen's Association on their hospitality in hosting this convention.

**Maryland State Director – Bob Cumberland**

President Howell, Officers, Directors, and Guests, I want to congratulate President Howell and the other officers for a successful year as leaders of the CVVFA, and working with me on the different committees this past year. I want to thank the Harford and Cecil County Firemen's Association and member companies for hosting 115<sup>th</sup> annual convention along with the President's Council Meeting. Since the convention I have attended my fire department and county association meeting. I attended the Delaware Volunteer Firefighter Association Conference along with the Officers of the MSFA. On Friday October 9, 2015 President Howell, Steve Heffner and I set up the ResponderSafety Booth at the I-81 Visitors Center in Greencastle, PA. On Tuesday May 3, 2016 we represented ResponderSafety with a Booth at the I-81 Visitors Center in Greencastle, PA. On July 22, 2016 we had the opportunity to be part of the I-81 visitor center program for Highway Safety during tourism week with the ResponderSafety booth. They were very successful event and we got to talk to many visitors about the move over laws and other highway safety materials. We need to thank Linda Hoover for the invitation again to put on these programs. We are one of her favor programs as she can count on us being there whenever there are events at the visitor center. I also presented the 50 year Life Membership Resolution to Dennis Beard of the Sykesville-Freedom Volunteer Fire Department on September 21, 2015 and to Alfred Staub of the South Adams Volunteer Emergency Services (SAVES) the former McSherrystown Fire Department on October 6, 2015. As a member of the Maryland Fire Rescue Education Training Commission, I attended

all of the commission meetings this past year, and was reappointed and confirmed to another 4-year term on the commission. As a member of the Board of Visitors to the National Fire Academy we had our fall meeting at the academy on September 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>th</sup> with USFA Deputy Fire Administrator Dr. Dennis Onieal in attendance. On April 7, 2016 I will participate in a phone conference meeting of the Board of Visitors to the National Fire Academy, this will be our spring meeting. I attended the Fallen Firefighters Memorial Program on Sunday October 4<sup>th</sup>, it had to be moved to Mount St. Mary's University due to the weather conditions. My term on the Board will expire in 2016 and I am representing the Cumberland Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association. I attended the MSFA and MFCA annual legislative receptions in Annapolis in January and February. I attended the funeral service for Vivian Myers in Shippensburg. I also attended the viewing for the mother of the President of the LAMSFA Darby Byrd and the viewing and memorial for Past President LAMSFA 1994-1995 Eloise Healy, and Past President MSFA 1986-87 Clarence Carpenter. I had the chance to meet with the Delegation for Carroll County to the Maryland general assembly before the 2016 Legislative session. I attended the Virginia, Delaware Convention along with the Officers of the MSFA. I also attended the Executive Committee of the MSFA held in Level, Maryland. I attended the Presidents Council Meeting and Booster meeting held at the Carroll County Public Safety Training Center in Westminster, Md. I attended the CFSI Christmas reception and National Advisory Committee meeting in December in Washington DC. The following business was discussed at the meeting, a new strategic plan for beyond 2016, looking for a new office for CFSI in Rosslyn and looking to move in April. Looking at the challenges with this year dinner at Congress will not be in session and the members will not be in DC. The present contract with the Hilton takes them through 2018, and they are looking for new venues beyond 2018, more to come on that. The presentation of Legislator of the Year Award was presented to Congressman Steny Hoyer of Maryland. We had two presentations, one from Tom Harbour, US Forest Service Director, Fire & Aviation Management on the wildland fire problem in the United States. The other presentation was an overview of the Fire Service Occupational Cancer Alliance which is looking at the program with firefighter cancer. We also was presented two Resolutions and passed both of them. They were in Support of Federal legislation, funding and policies to address firefighter occupational cancer, and Offering Support for the Maintenance of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). The packet with this information will be given to the Secretary for the records of the association. The CVVFA and Fire Service lost a great leader right here before convention in Guy Flory. This will be a great lost to the CVVFA and the fire service, please everyone keep Guy's family in their prayers. Bob announced that he is seeking re-election.

**West Virginia Director – Greg Yost**

Greg stated that he has no report.

**West Virginia Director – Randy James**

I am very pleased to be here and certainly invite you down sometime. Welcome and thanks to everybody for taking me into your ranks, this is my first convention. Thanks to Harford/Cecil Volunteer Firemen's Association and Level for hosting. Thanks President Howell for welcoming me at the spring meeting. I want to tell you in the past I am an advocate for highway safety, several close calls in my home department. I want to bring West Virginia back into the fold. I do appreciate the fact that CVVFA brought in folks besides the fire service who work on the highway. I am looking forward to the rest of convention.

**Virginia Director – Allen Baldwin**

Allen was absent due to a teaching assignment, sent the following report.

President Howell, Secretary Worthington and distinguished officers, members and guests. First off I apologize for not submitting any previous reports but I was unaware of my board appointment till May of this year. Since last year's convention in Delaware City I have been very active and involved in my department and various commonwealth and regional activities which include:

Appointed to Board of Directors for the Virginia Fire Chiefs Association Director for Region 2.

Attended Both Virginia Fire Officers Academy Graduations.

Attended Virginia Chief Officer Academy Graduation.

Attended Virginia Fire Chiefs Conference.  
Attended Virginia Fire Chiefs Summit.  
Completed Virginia Chief I 01 Course.  
Assisting with National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend Family Support.  
Presented programs on various topics at the MSFA State Convention and the Virginia State Convention.  
Remained active as a peer reviewer for the Center for Public Safety Excellence reviewing Chief Fire Officer, Chief EMS Officer and Chief Training Officer Certifications.  
Participated in various local and regional fire training including department and regional live fire structural training.  
Participated in various Shenandoah Valley Apple Blossom Festival Firefighter Activities.  
Active with department responses, spending time in stations and riding apparatus.  
Authored several articles for Firehouse and other publications.  
Assisted with various ERSI projects.  
Attended various Virginia Department of Fire Programs Meetings and seminars.  
Also instructed several course in Pennsylvania and maintained PA instructor certification.  
Attended annual Executive Fire Officer Symposium at the National Fire Academy.  
Actively participating on the Executive Fire Officer Symposium Planning committee.  
Attended various graduations at the National Fire Academy for department members.

**Virginia Director** – Allen Brennan

Allen was absent due to some health issues.

**Delaware Director** – Harry Balthis

I would like to thank Harford/Cecil MD for hosting the 2016 CVVFA convention. During the past year, I have attended the CVVFA's meetings as well as my home fire company meetings and functions. I have attended the President's Council meetings and I served on the scholarship committee and I also attended the PA State Firemen's Association convention. I would like to thank CVVFA for the opportunity to have served as a Director for the last 8 years, however I am not planning to run for Director this coming year.

**Delaware Director** – Steve Austin

It has been my pleasure to serve as the Delaware Director. I was the first Director from Delaware and now that we elect Directors at Large, I suppose that Griff Balthis and I will be the last official Delaware Directors. I am hopeful that there will always be someone from Delaware on the Executive Committee of the CVVFA. With that in mind I announce that I am a candidate for Director in this year's election. I can honestly say that there is not a day that goes by that I do not provide some service to the Association and I would like to continue at least for another term. I am fully prepared to step aside should there be someone who wishes to assume at least part of my responsibilities. In 1979 I invited 4 members of the Aetna Hose, Hook and Ladder Company to come to the 78th Annual Convention in Waynesboro. Sadly, with the passing of Bob Sweetman this summer, I am the only person left who joined at the convention meeting that year. At every meeting I raise the issue of the importance of recruiting new members. I do my part with this but unfortunately many of you haven't signed up a new member in a long while. To maintain our nationally recognized programs and the 115-year proud history of the CVVFA we will need your help. For all of you that support our mission I thank you and urge you to begin planning for your replacement by bringing in new members and encouraging our older members to give us a hand. For the present I am proud to support Greg Yost's effort to raise funds for Great Cacapon VFC. Please help by buying tickets for the CVVFA Fireman donated by Allen Steele Past President of the FASP. Thanks to our hosts, first class always.

**New York Director** – Dave Jacobwitz

Dave asked to give his report tomorrow at the Council meeting.

**Past President** – Walter Robertson

Congratulate you Hoby on a successful year, thanks Harford/Cecil on a successful convention. Walter provided some comments about his experience during a show. I am sorry that I have to leave after the Council meeting, have family medical issues home.

Hoby announced that this would conclude reports for this morning, since it is close to lunch, we will recess. Chaplain Charley gave the blessing for the lunchtime meal. RECESS

President Hoby called the meeting back to order. First order of business was to thank the ladies for a fantastic lunch provided by the auxiliary followed by applause from the delegates. He then introduced Candice McDonald to share some info on the Reputation Management program progress over the past year. Candice started her remarks by showing a video. We have reached over 1400 participants during the lectures all over the country. She gave a rundown of those conferences. The feedback is the strategies are being implemented. The funding received from the NVFC has made this possible. As we move forward we want to grow the program from the original white paper. We will be doing some strategic planning to make this possible to keep the CVVFA branding. A Q&A period ensued. She concluded her remarks by speaking about her doctorate, hopefully will conclude in December.

President Howell thanked Candice for her last minute stand in as the keynote due to illness.

President Howell announced that we would now go into the election. MOTION to open nominations for the Association Officers from the floor by Haines, seconded by Robertson, no further discussion, verbal vote taken, motion passed.

President – Bill Keller nominated by Whitzel, seconded by Dove, motion to close nominations by Dove, seconded by Haines

First Vice President – Rich Brunner nominated by Flickinger, seconded by Haines, requested to read the letter from Newport which was done

Nomination for Steve Sweitzer, he declined

Nomination for Allen Baldwin by Robertson, seconded by Myers, letter was read from Allen reference nominations

Motion to close nominations by Robertson, seconded by Watson

Second Vice President – George Dove raised a question if the losing candidate for First Vice President could be elected as the Second, response no, they need to be nominated.

Rich Brunner withdrew his nomination as First Vice President. Motion to nominate Rich Brunner by Dove, seconded by Haines

Motion to close nominations by Robertson, seconded by Watson

Treasurer – Jerry Daniels nominated by Austin, seconded by Robertson, motion to close by Haines, seconded by Robertson

Financial Secretary – Greg Yost nominated, he declined, no other nominations received

Recording Secretary – Debbie Watson nominated by Austin, seconded by Mortimer, motion to close by Robertson, seconded by Lewis

Home Office Manager – Greg Yost nominated by Cumberland, seconded by Robertson, motion to close by Dove, seconded by Robertson

Advertising Manager – Robert Romig nominated by Watson, seconded by Townley, motion to close by Robertson, seconded by Townley

Nominations will now be open for three Director positions to serve a two year term

Some discussion ensued about the process, motion to proceed with nominations for the office of Director for a two year term by Lewis, seconded by Carter, verbal vote taken, motion passed

Director 2 year term

Steve Austin nominated by Watson, seconded by Townley

Dave Lewis nominated by Jacobowitz, seconded by Heefner, letter was read from Odenton VFC in support of his nomination

Bob Cumberland nominated by Barnhart, seconded by Townley

Dave Jacobowitz nominated by Watson, he declined

Motion to close nominations by Dove, seconded by Robertson

Director 1 year term

Randy James nominated by Austin, seconded by Balthis

Walter Robertson nominated by Cumberland, seconded by Sweitzer

Dave Jacobowitz nominated by Austin, he declined

Candice McDonald nominated by Jacobowitz, seconded by Townley

Mike Whitzel nominated by Robertson, seconded by Barnhart

Donna Walsh nominated by Yost, seconded by Haines

**MOTION** was made to close the nominations by Robertson, seconded by Haines, verbal vote taken, motion passed.

The election will take place tomorrow morning starting at 8am.

**MOTION** was made for the Secretary to cast the ballot for uncontested offices by Lewis, seconded by Robertson, verbal vote taken, motion passed.

President Howell congratulated all of the new Officers for being elected; you will be sworn in Friday night at the banquet. Please bring badges with you.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **Annual Budget – Walter Robertson**

Walter distributed copies of the proposed budget, sorry could not be present at the Board meeting to present and take action. Thanks to those who served on the committee. He then read line by line the budget figures. After much discussion the following budget was adopted.

#### **INCOME**

Membership dues	1000
Company/Department	1000
Convention	
Book ad sales	3500
Trophy donations	3325
Special donations	100
Responder Safety	10000
Interest	100
Miscellaneous	300
Challenge coins	300
CFSI Adviser BM	2500
Butts	100
Reputation Management	10000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>32225</b>

#### **EXPENSES**

Officer Reimbursement	
Stipends	1300
Home Office Manager	2000
Financial Secretary	500
Treasurer	500
Recording Secretary	200
Chaplain	100
Assistant Chaplain	100
Convention	
Publicity Manager	200
Convention book	2500

Memorial	500
Trailer sign	300
President's lodging	300
Host company donation	800
Parade trophies	750
Parade prize money	1370
Administrative	
E. Wade Thomas	100
Death benefit	1500
Booster meetings	200
President's Council	200
Functions/dues	800
Insurance	800
CVVFA website	570
Reputation website	570
IFire Prevention website	570
CFSI dues/expenses	3975
CFSI BM	2000
Scholarships	3000
Reputation Management	9000
TOTAL	34705

Motion was made to approve the budget as stated by the chair by Austin, seconded by Townley, verbal vote taken, motion passed

**NOTE:** The approved budget motion was for a total of \$31,705 expenses, however the totals approved add up to \$34,705. This will be added to the agenda for the October meeting.

ResponderSafety – Steve Austin

Steve asked to give his report early. He started by thanking all those who worked the booth this past year. He submitted a written report on the activities. With the excellent help of Greg Yost we submitted a Fire Prevention and Safety Grant application for 2015 in the amount of \$ 532,550 to maintain and improve our ResponderSafety Learning Network. This application includes a substantial public education program. No grant awards have been made as of this date.

We are completing a contract for services with the USFA to support the ResponderSafety.com website for \$40,000. Very little profit is in this contract but we do have limited cost recovery for some travel. We did reserve funds to assist in paying for our audit by the CPA firm. We are in hope that we will receive a new contract in the coming year. The RFP has not been published for this opportunity at this time.

We have a contract with the FHWA for \$40000 for the National TIM Equivalency Program. There is no profit for us as this money is being spent of software changes and marketing for the new program.

After over 6 months of red tape we did obtain a new contract to provide services to the FHWA for 12 hours per week until 2017. We are a sub-contractor to ITERIS for whom we have been working with for some time. The hourly cost is lower than in the past by about \$30 per hour at right around \$100. We subcontract with Tim Taylor to provide these services and our profit is \$11 per hour. There are no hours for myself and very few for Greg. This means that there is little income generated as in past contracts where we made about \$10,000 per year or more from services paid for and donated back to the Association. We were able to supply services regarding service patrols through ITERIS using Jack Sullivan and Allen Baldwin. The result was a profit for us of \$1768. This was a one shot deal. We are in constant contact with FHWA about possibilities for other work. This is a top priority for us.

Greg gave the financial report on all the accounts of ERSI grants. We need to be very careful on our spending. We are currently working with Halfway for an agreement whereby they will provide transportation of the displays.

Steve introduced Tim Taylor, our man inside federal highway for some comments. He is under contract for about 12 hours per week. Tim spoke about his work with the FHWA. As a concern, he stressed for each to have a health and wellness program. He continued to speak about highway safety and encourages all to have a TIM training program, consider in making it mandatory. [ttaylor@firehero.org](mailto:ttaylor@firehero.org)

Steve continued by thanking some others working within ERSI. We have several issues pending. We passed 20,000 registered users last week which is quite an accomplishment. We will launch the National TIM Certificate project this month which should give us a tremendous boost. Ed Mann is working with several large entities to register thousands more to provide them with the opportunity to receive their National Certificate. Thanks to Steve Heefner, Jerry Daniels, Harry Carter, Jack Still, Greg Yost, Anita Heefner, Bob Cumberland, Richard Jesch, Bob Romig, Steve Flickinger and anyone else I missed for their help at all the recent trade shows around the country. Finances have reduced our ability to reimburse many expenses. Thanks for recognizing that we are a volunteer organization and please understand we can't pay for expenses when we have no money to do so. We are engaged in studying the impact of Driverless cars on roadway responders. Jack Sullivan, Greg and I are working on this project. Scanner is unable to provide the daily struck by searches we need to update our site. We need volunteers to help us. Tony Correia and Renee Murry have been providing some assistance.

**Archives and Historical Committee** – Guy Flory/Ray Mowen

Absent

**Audit Committee** – Jerry Daniels

The audit committee last night reviewed the books of this organization. We did find that all the books are in order, also received from the accountants a review of our finances from last year. Our tax returns have been reviewed and submitted. Everything appears to be in order. Thank you Mr. President.

**Budget and Finance** – George Dove

No report

**Bukowski Award** – Steve Flickinger

No nominations

**Business & Ops Plan** – Greg Yost

Nothing to report

**Constitution and By-Laws Committee** – Bob Cumberland

Thanks to the committee who established the new by-laws as we are in the transition period.

**Convention Committee** – Steve Flickinger

This has been an easy process this year; Harford/Cecil has done an outstanding job, looking forward to next year's planning.

**Credentials Committee** – Dave Lewis

The secretary took the roll earlier.

**Fire Person of the Year Committee** – George Dove

Everything is in proper order, ready for the presentation at banquet.

**Fire Prevention and Education Committee** – Kim O'Malley

She was absent.

**Legislative** – Bob Cumberland

We need to look at the makeup of this committee.

**Media Communications** – Steve Austin

CVVFA.org is current, however we are waiting for the new Treasurer and Financial Secretary to be installed before we open a Pay Pal account for dues processing. Firefighterbbehavior.com is also current. Thank you Claudia Garner, Candice McDonald and Tom Savage do a great job keeping this page current. I Fire Prevention has been redesigned. Colton Mathew of the R.O.O.M Museum will assume updating this page. We will use this page for our fire prevention efforts and to showcase the museum. Facebook and

Twitter are being maintained by Jack Sullivan, Candice McDonald and myself. Followers and likes are increasing. Our YouTube channel also gets visitors. Rick Best was to be our keynote speaker, however got very sick during the night and had to return home.

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

Nothing further

**Mutual aid response** – Allen Baldwin

Absent

**Parliamentarian** – Howard Cohen

Absent

**Public Relations** – Rich Toulson

Absent

**Publicity Committee** – Bob Romig

Absent

**Recruitment and Retention Committee** – Allen Brennan

Absent

**Reputation Management** – Candice McDonald

Thanks for your continued support, looking to recruit some extra help this year.

**Resolutions Committee** – Jerry Daniels

No report

**Scholarship Committee** – Harry Balthis

This year CVVFA received 14 applications for scholarships this year. We awarded 3 to the following students: Brian Phillip Keszler received the JR Haines memorial for \$1,000. Evan Robert Guin received the Kenneth Butts \$1,000 scholarship. Shane E. Cox received the Harry C. Alt memorial scholarship. These recipients were invited to the banquet.

**Sergeant at Arms** – Wayne Baker

Nothing

**Sign Trailer** – Wayne Baker

We will get ready for next year.

**Training Weekend** – Grey Yost

Nothing

**Youth Leadership** – Kim O'Malley

Mike Whitzel gave the report; we have two nominations and will be presenting them at the banquet.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Classified ads for the web site – Rich Brunner

Nothing

Dues payment system – Bob Cumberland

Will go to the new website via PayPal

Memorial shadow box upgrade -

Completed, Austin and Robertson will pick up

Surplus equipment disposable – Yost

We still have ownership, however Halfway has their space back, remove this item

South East Firemen's Association - Austin

No word to date, meet on October 20

Membership into Florida State Fire Chiefs - Austin

We are a member, remove this item

Unfinished motion on the table (no action required if not motioned to remove)

Motion that the CVVFA not sponsor the convention parade after 2017 and place the holding of any parade to the host company

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Bob Cumberland spoke about groups using our materials, need some way to have this information be branded as CVVFA. A question was asked a trademark, response cannot when funds were received from federal grant as public domain. It is obvious that our materials are being used by others, not sure how to rectify.

## **GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION**

President Howell spoke about the activities for the evening. He also reminded about the Presidents Council and the training class Friday along with the round table with Ernie back at the hotel and the banquet. Voting will start at 8am tomorrow morning. Gene provided some additional comments on the logistics for the activities.

Chaplain Barnhart gave the closing benediction for the day, will reconvene at the President's Council Friday morning. Motion made to adjourn meeting at 15:15.

President Howell reconvened the convention Friday morning at 9am for the Presidents Council meeting. Chaplain Charlie gave the invocation after some comments, followed by the pledge to the flag. President Howell offered the welcome on behalf of the CVVFA and asked for any announcements to be made.

Secretary Worthington introduced our speakers for the morning. At this year's convention we have made a concerted effort to involve our youth as they will have their convention in concert starting at noon. They will be doing some training and hands on evolutions. With us today are two cadets from the Joppa Magnolia VFC program Don Hare and Tyler Dailey who spoke about specifics of their respective program. They currently have 25 cadets enrolled; both are instructors and were previous cadets. They presented a power point presentation as part of their talk. The program is for male and female from ages 12 to 16. A short Q&A concluded the presentation. Hoby thanked the young men for their presentation. He asked Dave Lewis to speak about the training class starting in a few minutes. I invite all not involved in the Council meeting to join me. Hoby made some additional comments, turned the meeting over to Steve Austin for his facilitation of the Council meeting.

Steve gave some announcements, spoke about the fund raising effort for Great Cacapon VFC, please purchase a raffle ticket. We have an ambitious agenda for the meeting. Steve spoke about our grants and programs given by CVVFA. We just passed the 20,000 student registration and we look forward to providing national TIM certification from the Learning Network, take 10 courses. Ed Mann is our continuing education director and will assist you. We are in discussions with many training entities across the country to promote this national certification. We will start with our state reports and ask New Jersey delegate Dr. Harry Carter to report.

No further minutes of the Council meeting were held.

President Howell thanked all of the participants for the informing meeting, gave some additional comments and reconvened the convention. Hoby announced the election results for Director.

Randy James 32

Walter Robertson 28

Donna Welsh 26

Mike Whitzel 25

Candice McDonald 20

Congratulations to our highest 4 vote getters who will assume the Director for one year positions. Motion by Dave Lewis that the election be declared official and the ballots be destroyed, seconded by Steven Haines, verbal vote taken, motion passed.

Steve Heefner spoke about the spring Council meeting and our first attempt of the weekend meeting in concert with the booster meeting. It appears that April 1 and 2 are open for the spring meeting. Much discussion ensued by several. HMO elect Greg Yost will look into the comments made. Location and dates TBA.

We received an email message from VP elect Allen Baldwin. It reads as follows: President Howell and members of the Cumberland Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association, I have had the unique honor and privilege to serve as the Chief of two of the founding departments of the Association and now have the honor, responsibility and privilege to serve the Association and to help lead it into the future while maintaining its history and tradition as the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President. The honor and privilege to help lead the Association means so much to me as the association has provided many opportunities to my family and I both professionally and personally over the years and I would not be where I am today doing a job I love if it wasn't for the Association and its members. My apologies for not being at the convention but there are duties here in Winchester that need attending to. This was a difficult decision for me not to be at the convention as it meant a great deal to me personally with the passing of Guy Flory and George Dove's retirement as treasurer. Again thank you for your trust and allowing me this honor and privilege to serve the Association.

Hoby asked for any other business, read the following: To the members of the CVVFA, I would like to nominate George Dove as CVVFA Treasurer Emeritus by Walter Robertson, seconded by Austin, verbal vote taken, motion passed. Congrats George and very well deserved. No other business was conducted. Meeting was adjourned at 13:30. Many took advantage of some fine hospitality back at the hotel. Vans will be at the hotel for transportation to the banquet leaving at 17:45.

The banquet program was held Friday evening, August 5, 2016, at the Joppa Magnolia VFC banquet hall. President Howell provided some opening remarks, asked the Chaplain for the blessing of the food followed by the pledge. Please be seated and enjoy your meal. Joppa President Bill Lay gave the welcome. Hoby introduced the guests at the head table. We are in recess to enjoy our meal.

President Howell called the group together after dinner and asked President Joe Tolliver of the Harford/Cecil Volunteer Firemen's Association to come forward and receive the host resolution. Joe accepted and stated it was great to host the convention. Hoby asked PP Austin to introduce our speaker for the program.

Steve gave some remarks and introduced Tiger Schmittendorf for comments. Tiger has been instrumental in introducing highway scene safety strategies in western New York. In fact we have one of his modules on the Learning Network. Tiger hosts several web sites which many of you are familiar.

Tiger shared some personal comments about the CVVFA as one of the premier national leaders for highway safety. He went on to talk about his values and experiences over his career. His topic for the evening was based on leadership. He gave some personal experiences of life in the fire service. Tiger concluded his talk by thanking those who stay home while we respond. Stay safe, train often.

Hoby thanked our speaker for his comments and presented him with some convention ware. He invited Chairman Harry Balthis to introduce our scholarship awardees, none of them were present. All of this information is above under the scholarship committee report.

Hoby asked the Secretary to assist with the 50 year resolutions by reading the names; unfortunately no one was present to receive. We also have some resolutions as requested for special recognitions that were presented by President Howell. Gene called our chaplains to come forward to receive resolutions Charles Barnhart and James Wharry. The next recipients were called as a group who are retiring from their respective Officer positions, George Dove, Steve McBee, Gene Worthington and Steve Heefner. All received resolutions along with plaques presented by the President. Hoby spoke about the resolution for the FireStore and Kevin Greenly who supports the CVVFA on-going. The next group was recognized for their work with ResponderSafety; Greg Yost, Jerry Sheard, Walter Robertson, Candice McDonald, Randy James, Diane Howell, Steve Heefner, Aneta Heefner, Jerry Daniels, Bob Cumberland, Harry Balthis and Steve Austin. Hoby gave some special remarks for these individuals and

their dedication to our goals. Hoby presented certificates of recognition from Senator Barbara Mikulski to all of our Officers and awardees. Pictures were taken by Ernie of the group followed by applause.

Continuing with our awards ceremony, the next award presented was the Youth Leadership Award given in the memory of Gary "Happy Jack" Easton. Vice Chair Mike Whitzel introduced the award and read some inserts from the nomination letter. Chair Kim O'Malley read some inserts from a second nomination letter. Our awardees were Patrick Reeder and Jordan Desombre. Both young men received helmets from the FireStore.

PP George Dove presented the E. Wade Thomas Member of the Year Award to PP Steve Flickinger. Steve was very gracious upon receiving this award and thanked the membership and looks forward to many more years of service. Hoby asked for his wife Diane to give some comments reference the ladies activities during convention.

The President asked Attorney Cohen to come forward and receive his convention badge along with the President's coin. Howard has had some medical problems during the year and we wish him the very best in the future. Hoby asked for a motion to nominate Howard as the CVVFA Attorney Emeritus along with his life membership, motion by VP Brunner, many seconds, verbal vote taken, motion passed unanimously.

Final remarks were given by President Howell thanking all for allowing him to serve these many years. I tried to represent CVVFA to my fullest and thanks for everything. He passed the gavel to VP Brunner to carry on the duties of the Office in the absence of Bill Keller.

The list of the newly elected Officers was read, followed by the installation with the oath of office given by installing Officer Steve Austin. Pictures were taken of the Officers and badges were given. A listing of the Officers is above under the elections.

VP Brunner gave some comments, presented Hoby with his PP badge and read the resolution from CVVFA to the out-going President. Rich asked Donna Welsh of McConnellsburg to accept the plaque for hosting next year's convention. Today is Steve and Peg Flinger's anniversary, what a way to celebrate, congratulations.

Greg Yost asked to address the group; he spoke about the fundraiser for Great Cacapon VFC on their fire loss. During the week we have been selling chances on the CVVFA fireman given to us by Alan Steele, receipts totaled \$381. Other raffle tickets were pulled for various fundraisers.

VP Brunner thanked all of the fire companies who hosted our events during convention. The staff at Joppa gathered in the back of the room and was acknowledged for their service. John Denver, chair of the parade gave an update on the parade logistics. Staging will start at 10:00, the order of march will be as the units arrive at Meadow Park, starts at 13:00 through downtown Elkton for a distance of about a mile. Refreshments will be served at the main fire station after the parade, please stay and enjoy, awarding of the plaques to follow. A complete list of the parade winners is posted on the CVVFA web site.

Hoby announced that he and Diane will be holding an open house and hospitality at their residence, open invitation for all to attend Saturday evening.

VP Brunner gave some closing comments, still looking for some folks to step up and fill our vacant positions. Chaplain Barnhart was asked to give the closing prayer. Charlie offered some comments, spoke about the prayer breakfast Saturday morning; gave the benediction. The Vice President announced since there being no further business to come before the CVVFA, he asked for a motion to adjourn the 115<sup>th</sup> annual convention which was done.

Saturday morning we met at the Abingdon Fire Company for the prayer breakfast. A large group was in attendance to enjoy the great hospitality and a message from the Chaplain. Following breakfast, we all gathered at the lineup of the parade. The parade kicked off on time and was followed by the awarding of the trophies. This ended the convention for 2016.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gene Worthington