



# Cumberland Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association WWW.CVVFA.ORG

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## CVVFA March 16, 2003 Booster Meeting

Newport, Pennsylvania

March 16, 2003

The meeting was called to order by **President C. J. Bens** at 1:30 p.m. The Invocation was given by **Assistant Chaplain Ray W. Mowen**, followed by the Pledge to the Flag.

We were welcomed to Newport by **Steve Flickinger** who introduced Newport VFD **President Rich Brunner**.

**President Bens** introduced **Maryland State Firemen's Association President Gene Worthington** and **Second Vice President Robert Jacobs**. Also introduced was **Don Moss** from **VFIS**.

Roll call of the general membership was taken. Those members representing one or more companies were asked to respond to only one company with the number of delegates and guests present, and to respond "here" or "present" to the other companies they represent. There were 48 members and 10 guests for a total of 48 persons in attendance, representing 26 companies.

**Recording Secretary Louise Dell** read e-mails from **First Vice President Wm. Dean Simpson**, **Treasurer George J. Dove**, **Advertising Manager Bob Romig**, and **Attorney Howard S. Cohen** stating their reasons for being absent from the meeting. Their written reports are given in the appropriate place. **Pennsylvania Director Guy M. Flory** advised that he was not present due to his incapacity due to back and his problems. He was scheduled for knee surgery on March 19.

### OFFICERS REPORTS

**President Charles "C. J." Bens** - Members and guests - welcome to our March Booster meeting. What a beautiful day we have been blessed with today. Let's take care of our business so we can enjoy it.

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

### OFFICERS

- President Charles "C.J." Bens - present
- First Vice President Wm. Dean Simpson - **excused**
- Second Vice President J. Allen Brennan - present
- Third Vice President Hugh M. Harris - present
- Fourth Vice President Marshall N. Younker II - present
- Treasurer George J. Dove - **excused**
- Financial Secretary James J. Wharry - present
- Recording Secretary Louise E. Dell - present
- Home Office Manager Stephen E. Heefner -



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### CVVFA Scholarships

If you are enrolled or accepted to a two or four year college or university and are a pursuing degree in Fire Science, Emergency Medical Services or a related field such as fire investigation or research you may be eligible for a CVVFA Scholarship.

DOWNLOAD APPLICATIONS (DOC)

>> [Kenneth E. Butts Memorial Scholarships](#)

>> [J.R. Haines Memorial Scholarship](#)

### CVVFA Downloads

Here you will find all forms, applications and information related to the CVVFA

### CVVFA Links

A gracious thank you to our hosts here in Newport. As is usually the case, they have treated us quite well. It's good to have Larry Mergenthaler and John Mitchell with us today.

Since our Board of Directors meeting I have been in hibernation. Actually I attended the Virginia Fire Chiefs Convention in Virginia Beach last month.

I trust that we will have a productive meeting today.

**First Vice President Wm. Dean Simpson** - Excused. I'm sorry I will not be able to attend next week's Booster meeting in Newport, PA. I'm finishing up my new beach house and will be going for inspection next Friday and settlement the following Friday. I see the end of the tunnel and there is a lot of daylight and warmer weather coming. It has been a long and cold journey but it will be well worth it in a few months.

I have just a few things to report on. First we lost a member Paul Logan. We will sadly miss Paul. He loved coming to meetings and seeing everyone. We attended his services.

I attended our State Chiefs meeting along with my home company meetings. I have sold a few bears so far and will push them at our company meeting next week.

Hope everybody is doing fine. I look forward to seeing you all on May 16 in Level, MD. Hope you have a good meeting in Newport.

**Second Vice President J. Allen Brennan** - No report.

**Third Vice President Hugh M. Harris** - Attended several Fire Commission meetings, Prince George's County Association meetings and a couple of banquets.

**Fourth Vice President Marshall Younker** - Since the last meeting I have been attending my home company and County meetings. I am planning to make the May Booster meeting as well. I am having some luck with our bears. I look forward to seeing everyone in May.

**Treasurer George J. Dove** - Excused. Written report furnished as follows: I will not be attending the Booster meeting this weekend as I have just finished a sixty (60) hour work week. Me and the ticker had a problem Friday night--you know radiation in the chest. It was suggested that I stay home because of the stress. I know one thing I had here running for the rescue squad but I told her no, just get my medicine and the blood pressure cup.

Here is my report. Tell Joe I sold the bears (12) and have check for same.

- Death Benefit Account - \$1,079.88

There are fourteen (14) outstanding checks, which as of the January meeting our

present  
Advertising Manager  
Robert C. Romig - **excused**  
Chaplain Charles E.  
Barnhart, Jr. - **excused**  
Assistant Chaplain Ray W.  
Mowen - present  
Attorney Howard S. Cohen  
- **excused**

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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

#### **PAST PRESIDENTS IN ATTENDANCE**

Larry W. Smallwood (1977)  
Carol R. Hawbaker (1980)  
Wayne A. Baker (1982,  
1990)  
Harry C. Alt (1983, 1991)  
Charles E. Myers (1988,  
1992)  
Stephen P. Austin (1993)  
Robert P. Cumberland  
(1995)  
Ray W. Mowen (1997)  
Joseph W. Bukowski (1998)  
Stephen E. Heefner (2000)  
Stephen C. McBee (2001)

Here are a list of helpful links!

- >> [Congressional Fire Services Institute](#)
- >> [Delaware Volunteer Firemens Assoc.](#)
- >> [Firehouse.Com](#)
- >> [Firemen's Association State of NY](#)
- >> [Maryland State Firemens Assoc.](#)
- >> [National Volunteer Fire Council](#)
- >> [Pennsylvania Fire Institute](#)
- >> [ResponderSafety.Com](#)
- >> [United States Fire Administration](#)
- >> [Virginia State Firefighters Assoc.](#)
- >> [West Virginia State Firemens Association](#)



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Financial Secretary had not sent out. He did give Harry Alt the check for Mr. Imhoff of Keyser.

- General Fund Account - \$1,155.27

This means if anyone needs any money, there is none.

- Savings - \$64,865.83
- 6,644.07

I am not going to take any more money from these accounts as they are making 5.5% interest. In the past few years we have pulled just about \$45,000 from these accounts.

Tell Newport I am sorry I am not with them because the wife and I had plans of being with them.

**Financial Secretary James J. Wharry** - Since the last meeting I have been having a continuing struggle with the bank that took over our bank. They have finally given me deposit tickets and I am still waiting for checks. When this takeover occurred I was told that we would be using the old forms for up to two years. They changed that in midstream. During this period they refused to accept deposits on the old bank's form. They also started sending me warnings that they would not honor the checks on the old bank. Now the checks that I have to deposit will not be honored because of stale dates. I will start to send them back for an updated check.

I have also run into a situation since the Convention where I have not been able to work on things at my work place. I was always allowed to do that before. We are being reorganized and transferring a part of our jobs to a site in Canada, which will be finalized on Friday, March 21. I have been told that I will be able to go back to doing things after this is finalized. I have also been doing a lot of overtime in the reorganization.

We have 1,090 members in our database and 112 companies.

I apologize for my inability to perform in the usual manner. I will endeavor to finish and get everything up to date when given the time at work to perform those duties that I am unable to accomplish at home, so that everything will be up to date and current at the next meeting, or at the latest at Convention.

**Recording Secretary Louise E. Dell** - My report is the usual. The minutes are taken at the meeting, transcribed, and mailed to those individuals on our mailing list.

**Home Office Manager Stephen E. Heefner** - Welcome everyone. I hope everyone enjoyed their drive here today. To the many who arrived last night, there was lots of food and fellowship with some new faces and old familiar faces. Thanks for supporting the Saturday evening events that we had planned. Thanks to the Citizens Fire Company #1 of Newport, PA, for hosting today's meeting.

The May Booster meeting (May 18) at the Level Fire Department, home of Maryland State President Gene Worthington, is starting to take shape. There will be more information, along with Convention news, in my Spring Newsletter.

I continue to work closely with the Officers of this Association. Several Convention and Booster meeting dates are still available. As always, I am only a phone call, or e-mail, away.

**Advertising Manager Robert Romig** - Excused. Written report as follows: Please accept my regrets on not being able to attend our Booster meeting, but my family comes

first. I traveled to North Carolina on March 13 to be with family, and returned to Delaware on March 22.

The ad book is not going as well as I expected at this point. I mailed George Dove two batches of checks totaling about \$710 for seven (7) ads so far. The inside front cover is cold, inside back cover is sold and a few other full page ads and a couple of other ads. Steve McBee stated he wanted the outside back cover but at this time he has not sent any art work or money. I will try to call him.

I was hoping that we would have a lot more ads in by this time. I sent out over 100 ad packages to vendors that I saw in trade magazines. Hope some of our Officers can pull down some ads from their local vendors. Also, I thought that I would have some of our member's departments place ads by this time.

Suggestion--how about a full page ad from all the Past Presidents that are still around? We do this in Delaware for the County and State Chiefs Association. If anyone has ad money or copy please forward to me.

I also sent out over 200 letters to fire departments that are not members of the Association in hopes of recruiting some of them. Possibly Jim Wharry could report whether or not we received any new members from this mailing. It will be easy to tell as it should be the \$15 departmental fee that we should have been using.

I will need the schedule of activities for the Convention, the parade route, prizes, etc., and any letters that the Association wants to include in the book.

We are only going to print about 250 of the books. That will give us one for each member company, and about 100 for the Convention and guests. Steve Heefner and I spoke and sort of agreed that every member (1,000+) does not need a book. This will save us money and postage (something I hope Treasurer Dove wants to hear).

Louise, thanks for all the information that you have sent to me. My set-up man and I will start to put things together once I get some more ads and the info on the Association to go in the book.

If anyone has anything to report they can e-mail me or send it to me.

**Chaplain Charles E. Barnhart** - Excused. No report.

**Assistant Chaplain Ray W. Mowen** - No report.

**Attorney Howard S. Cohen** - Excused. Written report as follows: Due to family obligations, I won't be able to attend the upcoming Booster meeting in Newport. I tentatively plan to attend both the President's Council meeting and the May Booster meeting.

I have not done any further work on my Bylaw update project, for I am comfortable that where I left this around the time of the October Booster meeting I had identified the discrepancies between how the Bylaws now read, how they should read had they been appropriately updated, and what we need to do so reconcile the discrepancies. I plan to act on this at Convention in Taneytown. I would, however, still invite anyone who has ideas to modify the Bylaws to contact me.

Over the past several months I have, in my dual capacity as counsel to CVVFA and our Emergency Responder Safety Institute, drafted several articles to our ResponderSafety.com web page. These items include a summary of state "move over" laws, a Model "Move Over" Act, and an article about "move over" laws. By the date of the Booster

meeting, each of these three items should be posted to the site.

## **COMMITTEE REPORT**

**Archives/Historical Committee** - Don M. Ringer - Guy M. Flory - Excused. No report..

**Auditing Committee** - Gerald L. Holtry - No report.

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

**Constitution & By-Laws Committee** - Wm. Dean Simpson - Excused. No report.

**Convention Committee** - Wayne A. Baker - Everything is progressing pretty good. All of our stuff pretty well came in and is on sale. The next Newsletter that goes out will have the schedule, times, etc. Registration forms will be included. On the day of Convention the ladies will have soup and sandwiches for us at the hall. The picnic will be the first night and the banquet will be the second night. If you don't want soup and sandwiches, there are a couple of restaurants in town.

**Steve Heefner** - I have visited the Sleep Inn in Emmitsburg. We have 50 rooms reserved, 30 rooms for the Officers, Board of Directors, and special guests. There are 20 room available for the general public. The motel has approximately 74 rooms and they will me have 50 rooms for our reservations. We can, and probably will, book the whole motel. Just because you hear the number 50 rooms don't panic. Continue to call and make your reservations. I have papers with the telephone number, and I see there a few papers up front--the pink ones--with the address and phone number for the motel. Once our reservations are full, they will continue to make reservations until the motel is full. There are some individuals staying there on a monthly basis which is why they won't let me book the whole hotel now because they don't know when those people will be leaving.

Wednesday night we have reserved their Board Room to have both the Board of Directors meeting and the audit. The Audit Committee will meet first and we will use the same room for the Board of Directors meeting.

I went to the next closest motels, continuing north on 15 into the Gettysburg area. I have a list of those hotels for the "overflow" in the event we totally book the Sleep Inn. I will include the list in the next Newsletter which will go out before the May Booster meeting.

The Newsletter will have the information on the May Booster meeting and, as Wayne suggested, the pre-registration forms and information on Convention. There are a lot of places in the near area that have things that will be of interest to the ladies.

**Credential Committee** - Marshall E. Bricker - No report.

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

**Legislative Committee** - Stephen P. Austin. Expecting a large crowd at the President's Council Meeting next Saturday at MFRI. The Fire Grant Program is in the application period. Thank those who volunteered in this Association to be grant evaluators. If you are interested in become an evaluator please see me. There has been little movement on the Two Hatter Issue other than the charges brought against the Washington DC Firefighters that volunteer on their off time have been reinstated by the Prince George's County Firefighter's Union.

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

**Parliamentarian Howard S. Cohen** - Excused. No report.

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

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

**Respondersafety.com** - Stephen P. Austin. I work on this page business day. Sometimes it is just an e-mail or two, often it is something more complicated. We have calls from government officials, news media, concerned public safety officials, etc.

CVVFA is holding it's first Emergency Responder Safety Institute meeting at the FDIC on April 2, 2003, hosted by Indiana State Fire Marshal Tracy Boatwright. The U.S. Fire Administrator Chief Dave Paulison has indicated his intention to attend. Thanks to Volunteer Fire Company of Halfway and VFIS for transporting our booth and supplies.

This grant expires May 15th. Frankly we need to take this program to the next level. We have several pending requests for programs including Jackson, MS, for Congressman Bennie Thompson. I am pleased to announce that Mike Chiaramonte of NY and Joe Bukowski, licensed educators, have indicated that they are prepared to volunteer to help teach these classes. I have asked Jack Sullivan to set up a certification program for instructors so we can guarantee quality instructors.

Our tape program is up and running thanks to Mike Dillon at Firefighter Advantage. We soon will be accepting requests via e-mail. We are taking bids on 2,000 more tapes.

Joe Bukowski, our financial officer, is keeping excellent records of all expenditures. As authorized as Convention, I have asked Mary Lou Cyper CPA, wife of Honorary Member Ben Cyper of Saxonburg, PA, to conduct a financial review of the Respondersafety grant. Upon her completion of that project, again as authorized, we will get a price on a financial review of the Association's books.

I want to apologize to those who got incorrect business cards. I will work to correct those problems and get out new cards.

**Resolutions Committee** - Joseph W. Bukowski - Resolutions by State Directors are due by the next meeting. I have received two so far--from Steve McBee and Harry Alt. I would like to remind the Directors that the intent of the Resolution is to recognize someone in your State, who belongs to the CVVFA, who has done something that they should be recognized for. It seems like some of the Directors feel that whatever Resolution they submit, just because it is going to the selection committee for Fire Person of the Year, say I don't have anybody that deserves that recognition. I am sure that there is someone in your State who has made a heroic rescue, a good stop on a fire, working at your fire department constantly as a volunteer, etc. I am sure there must be someone you can submit their name for a Resolution. I really ask you to try to do a little soul searching on this. All submissions are reviewed and referred to the selection committee and from all those they will pick someone who sort of stands heads above the others. I encourage you to do that.

**Scholarship Committee** - Joseph W. Bukowski - Today was the deadline for applications for our scholarship. Unfortunately, we had no submissions. We did have a request for two applications that arrived during the past couple of weeks so I will be mailing those out. Unfortunately, both the individuals in these requests are not associated with the CVVFA. We will see what we can do for the coming year.

**Topics Committee** - Stephen P. Austin - No report.

**Web Page, CVVFA.org** - Stephen P. Austin - There have been no articles submitted since the last Booster meeting. Thank you, Louise Dell, for getting the minutes to Firehouse.com for posting. I have not had the time to write up any new articles for the page. I will do so as time permits. I have been focusing my efforts on Respondersafety.com.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Joe Bukowski** reported that all bears have been distributed for sale. We had 500 EMT bears and 500 fire bears. They have been distributed among all the elected Officers. If you run out of bears please contact one of the Vice Presidents from your State, check with your State Directors, check with the Home Office Manager, it is possible that they may possibly have some on hand. I have made a list of those receiving bears for accountability. If you trade off, that's fine, as long as the money is accounted for. To date, we have collected \$1,830. I did send two checks to George Dove back in February, and then followed up with a third check. I was given some money today and have two other checks which I will mail. Right now, of the \$5,000 outlay, we have taken in \$1,830. Remember we will be making \$5,000 for the Association when this is all done.

**Robert Cumberland** stated that the October minutes had Emmitsburg in Pennsylvania rather than in Maryland. **MOTION BY ROBERT P. CUMBERLAND, SECOND BY THOMAS W. DELL, TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER BOOSTER MEETING AND JANUARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, WITH ANY CORRECTIONS. MOTION CARRIED.**

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Steve Heefner** - I have an update on the May Booster meeting in Level, MD. The May itinerary is as follows. Those arriving on Saturday will stay at the Sleep Inn in Edgewood. There will be a Hospitality Room set up at the Sleep Inn that will open at 2 p.m. At 3 p.m. a bus will arrive to take us to the Ripkin Stadium--about a 45 minute tour. From there we will go to the Ripkin Museum which is a few miles away for another, approximately 45 minute, tour. We will then travel by bus to the Golden Corral Steak House where we will have dinner. Then we will return to the motel which has an indoor pool. The hospitality room will reopen and will be open until 11 p.m. that evening.

It is also horse race week and the Preakness will be in town. Rooms are at a premium. Gene Worthington has 10 rooms reserved and I already took those. Gene knows he can get five more. Deadline for reservations is April 24. Please see me after the meeting for Registration forms. We would like to see a large group at this event. This information will be included in the next Newsletter.

**President Bens** - A copy of information from the Convention Committee regarding guidelines and checklist for Convention Host Companies is attached to these minutes.

**Steve Austin** - **MOTION TO SEND THE PRESIDENT OR HIS DESIGNEE TO THE CFSI DINNER IN WASHINGTON, D.C., ON APRIL 30. ALSO TO APPROPRIATE THE ANNUAL FEE OF \$50 TO BE SENT TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE OF DELAWARE TO CONTINUE REGISTRATION. SECOND BY LARRY MERGENTHALER. MOTION CARRIED.**

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

**John Mitchell** stated that it is good to be back and thanked everyone for their cards. They were very much appreciated.

**Bob Cumberland** - reported that the Maryland State Firemen's Association is working on

a Fire and Rescue Memorial in Annapolis. We are selling bricks for \$100 for the walk around the monument. If anyone is interested please see Bob for a brochure. The cost of the monument is \$600,000+.

**Wayne Baker** - Raised the question re two families in Taneytown not receiving their Death Benefit checks yet. Upon investigation, I was informed that the checks were being written. To date they have not been received. I would like to know the answer of why they have not been received.

**Jim Wharry** - I have the checks but they have stale dates. They were stale when I received them. The checks will be returned to Treasurer Dove for correction.

**Joe Bukowski** - Question as to whether Treasurer Dove will have to mail the checks back to Jim Wharry. MOTION BY JOE BUKOWSKI, AND SECONDED, THAT THE TREASURER BE INSTRUCTED TO MAIL THE CHECKS TO THE RECIPIENTS. MOTION CARRIED.

The Benediction was given by **Assistant Chaplain Ray W. Mowen**.

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Louise E. Dell**  
*Recording Secretary*

**REMINDER - Get those ads in to Bob Romig**

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