Cumberland Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association Booster Meeting May 3, 2009 Hancock Volunteer Fire Department MD

President Daniels called the group together for lunch. Assistant Chaplain James Wharry gave the blessing for the meal. Lunch was provided by the fire company membership. Jerry called the meeting back to order at 12:55 hours. He asked James for the invocation and Bob Cumberland to lead the group in the pledge to the flag. Jerry introduced President Doug Snow who gave a warm welcome. Jerry asked the kitchen crew to come out and thanked them for their hospitality. He then presented the complimentary \$100 check for expenses.

Introduction of Guests – None present

Secretary Worthington took roll call with 86 representatives and delegates being recorded in attendance.

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TITLE	NAME	OCT	BOARD	MARCH	MAY
President	Jerry Daniels	1	1	1	1
1st Vice President	Walter Robertson	1	1	1	1
2nd Vice President	Greg Yost	1	1	1	1
3rd Vice President	Michael Sullivan				1
4th Vice President	Steven Haines	1	1	1	
Treasurer	George Dove	1	1	1	1
Financial Secretary	Stephen McBee		1	1	1
Recording Secretary	Gene Worthington	1	1	1	1
Home Office Manager	Stephen Heefner	1	1	1	1
Publicity Manager	Robert Timko			1	
Chaplain	Charles Barnhart				
Assistant Chaplain	James Wharry		1	1	1
Attorney	Howard Cohen		1		
Pennsylvania Delegate	Charlie Myers	1	1	1	1
Director, Pennsylvania (2009) Rich Bruner		1	1	1	
Director, Pennsylvania (2010) Gerald Holtry		1	1	1	1
Director, Maryland (2009)	Wayne Baker	1	1	1	1
Director, Maryland (2010)	Robert Cumberland		1	1	1
Director, West Virginia (2009)	9) Rodney Kelley				
Director, West Virginia (2010) Harry Alt		1	1		
Director, Delaware (2009)	Harry Balthis	1	1	1	1
Director, Delaware (2010)	Steve Austin	1	1	1	1
Director, Virginia (2009)	Larry Smallwood				
Director, Virginia (2010)	Allen Brennan	1	1		1
Past President	Steve Flickinger	1	1		1
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	Totals	16	20	17	17
Past Presidents		10	11	9	12
Maryland Fire Depts		8	0	7	22
Delaware Fire Depts		6	0	10	9
Virginia Fire Depts		6	0	2	4
West Virginia Fire Depts		10	0	4	2
Pennsylvania Fire Depts		25	0	32	20
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Communications – None

Motion to accept the minutes with any corrections of the March booster meeting as distributed and published on the web site by Bob Cumberland, seconded by Robert Sweetman, no further discussion, voice vote taken, motion passed.

Officers reports -

President Daniels read from his written report. Fellow Officers, Members, and Guests, I welcome you to the May booster meeting here in Hancock, MD. My thanks to the Hancock Fire Department for hosting today's CVVFA meeting. Thank you to everyone for attending today's meeting. I have attended all my company's board of directors and regular business meetings. I attended Fire Police meetings throughout Delaware. I attended the Delaware State Fire Police quarterly meeting held at the Delaware State Fire School in February. I want to thank First VP Walter Robertson for conducting the April 18th Presidents Council meeting while I nursed by wife back to health after her surgery. Thanks to your well wishes and prayers, she is now cancer free. Once again, I'd like to thank the Hancock VFD and Second VP Greg Yost for hosting today's meeting. Have a safe trip home and I look forward to seeing everyone in Newark at our convention. A complete copy of the President's itinerary was attached.

First Vice President Robertson presented his written report and commented from it. Mr. President, Fellow Officers, Members and Guests, I want to thank VP Yost and the members of the Hancock Fire Company for hosting the booster meeting. I have attended my fire company's meetings and all other activities. Also, I have attended my county meeting as well as committee meetings. I have attended all of my state meetings and state committees, and also taught a few EVOC classes. I hope that everyone has a safe trip back home.

Second Vice President Yost submitted a written report and spoke from it. Welcome to Hancock for today's meeting. Sorry for the weather, should have been last weekend. I have attended all my company and county meetings. I have also taken over the county Chief's committee, which has provided some new challenges. I attended the recent President's Council meeting. I am proud to have helped in some small part on the report from the Reputational Management seminar. I have worked on the CVVFA training weekend and will discuss further under the proper report. I am available to work the Responder Safety booth when needed. We had a successful class here yesterday with 30 in attendance. We had 24 new members sign up and 5 renewals.

Third Vice President Sullivan presented his written report. I would like to thank Greg Yost and the membership of Hancock FD for hosting the booster meeting for CVVFA. I am glad to see everyone again. My work schedule has been crazy and makes it difficult to attend meetings. Thankfully, I have changed shifts and made it easier for me to attend things. Hope to see you all at the convention.

Fourth Vice President Haines was absent, however he submitted a written report. Secretary Worthington read the following. President Jerry Daniels, Fellow Officers, Members, and Guests, Good afternoon and welcome to Hancock for today's booster meeting. Please excuse me from today's meeting, for I am attending my nephew's college graduation festivities with my family from Kutztown University. Since our last booster meeting in March, I have attended my company meetings, training sessions and our annual fire company banquet. Also, I have attended New Bloomfield FD meetings and my county association meetings. I attended the Presidents Council meeting that was hosted by MSFA and the Branchville VFC in College Park, MD. It was good seeing everyone that was there in attendance for the meeting and as always, I had an enjoyable time spending with good friends. Also, I have given out order forms for ads in the convention book. I have no report for the audit committee to give at this time. Take care and everybody have a safe trip home and I will see everyone at the convention in Newark.

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

CVVFA #4100840 death 839.67 General Account 6846.18 CVVFA HH bonds 4000.00 CVVFA #236 78711.24 Net Worth 90397.09

George thanked Hancock for hosting the meeting. He also stated that he has attended his fire company meetings and functions. George commented on the Apple Blossom parade.

Financial Secretary McBee nothing to report.

Recording Secretary Worthington stated, Good afternoon, thanks to Hancock for hosting the meeting today. The secretary's office has completed all the tasks requested or required. The minutes from the last meeting were transcribed and distributed for review. I have attended all my company, county and state meetings. We are in receipt of the 50-year memberships for resolutions at convention. Please Directors, if you have text you would like to see within the resolution, please give me that info, if not they will get the generic form. Some time next week, I will have a new email address, glworthington@comcast.net.

Home Office Manager Heefner presented a written report. Officers, Members, and Guests, welcome to the May, 2009, booster meeting with special thanks to 2nd VP and Fire Chief Greg Yost and the Hancock VFD for hosting today's meeting. Since our last meeting, I attended the President's Council meeting in Branchville, MD, the FDIC in Indianapolis and the Apple Blossom Festival in Winchester, VA. I have received membership applications, dues monies and the replacement gold President's badge, all of which have been past on to proper individuals. Information is being gathered and plans are underway for the distribution of the convention newsletter. Anyone with questions or concerns, please contact me. Book early, the March and May 2010 booster meeting dates are still open. If you or a department in your area would like to host a meeting, please contact them and let me know.

Publicity Manager Bob Timko was absent. Please remember that convention book ads are due.

Assistant Chaplain Wharry presented a written report, read the following from it. Thank you to the Hancock VFD for hosting this booster meeting. Since the last meeting, I have sent thinking of you and sympathy cards when notified. Chaplain Barnhart and I are working on plans for the Memorial Service and the Aetna committee is looking for a place for the Saturday prayer breakfast.

Attorney Howard Cohen was absent; however he sent the following email message. Gene, I won't be in attendance at Sunday's booster meeting.

Pennsylvania Delegate Charlie Myers spoke about the quarterly meeting held. He also asked for those coming to convention to please let him know sometime in July. Their program has undergone some time changes. We are looking forward to seeing our out of state guests.

Fire Prevention Queen Erin brought greetings and spoke of her activities. As always, she offered her assistance with our programs.

Directors reports –

Pennsylvania Director Brunner was absent, however he sent a written report. Good afternoon President Daniels and Members of the CVVFA. I would like to first thank the Hancock VFD and all of their staff who helped prepare the meal and make this meeting possible for a wonderful time and an excellent meal. With all that we have to do in our busy lives these days it is the volunteers, such as the members of the Hancock Fire Department, who keep associations such as ours alive and well. Thank you. Since our last meeting, I attended a two-day state certified Rural Water Movement class, more commonly known as a Pump class, facilitated by Mechanicsburg Fire Chief Larry Secrist. It was a very informative class with a lot of hands on training. Unfortunately, Chief Flickinger picked the hottest weekend on

record in April to conduct the class, it hit 92 degrees. In addition, I presided over our annual fire company banquet where our guest speaker was Mr. Dean Fernsler who presented some information on Pennsylvania's Act 7 and more importantly about the recent court ruling regarding the Right To Know Law. This simply states that the courts have decided that any and all records kept by a volunteer fire company are open to public inspection at any time, including audits of funds earned through company functions. While this is probably not a major issue for most, the issue is who will be responsible to copy all of these documents when requested. Just another requirement being placed on the already overburdened volunteer fire service members. I have also attended all my fire company functions including meetings and trainings. Again, thanks to the host company and their members for the meal and preparations for our booster meeting and to President Daniels and the Board and members of the CVVFA. Have a safe trip home.

Pennsylvania Director Holtry brought thanks to our host company.

Maryland Director Wayne Baker spoke about our participation in the Apple Blossom parade. He thanked Hancock for being the host this weekend.

Maryland Director Bob Cumberland presented his written report. He spoke on some highlights. President Daniels, Officers, Directors, and Guest, I want to thank the Hancock Volunteer Fire Department for hosting the Highway Safety Class and the Booster meeting this weekend and I also want to thank Vice President Yost for his hard work on making sure that the Highway Safety class had the needed students to make the class a success. Since the March Booster meeting I have attended all the Carroll county firemen's association meeting. I also attended the Board of Visitor to the National Fire Academy meeting on April 1st and 2nd, along with attending the CFSI dinner in Washington, DC. I attended the Saturday meeting of the NVFC in Alexandria, Va. I attended the FDIC conference in Indianapolis and helped at the ResponderSafety Booth from Wednesday to Friday. I worked on finding two more of our members that we did not have a good address for and was successful in finding their new address and supplying them to Steve Mcbee and Steve Austin so they could up date their directors. I met with the representatives from Emergency Training Associates to add more items to our store. The items that we will be adding is the ResponderSafety Institute patch and new Polo shirt made by 5.11 tactical, these items should go up on the store in the next couple of weeks. Business at the store is starting to pick up and I was told that we have had a couple new members applied for membership on line at the store. Still need all the officers and directors to promote the store and our web page. I am working with Steve Austin in setting up the schedule for members to help manning the ResponderSafety booth at the following shows, Harrisburg Expo, MSFA Convention, South Eastern Fire Chief Conference in Myrtle Beach and Firehouse Expo in Baltimore that we will be attending. I would ask those that can help to sign up on the list that I have, please see me after the meeting to sign up.

West Virginia Directors Harry Alt and Rodney Kelly were not in attendance. Steve Heefner called Harry during the lunch break. He provided some comments from Harry. We wish Harry well and ask all to keep him on the prayer list.

Virginia Director Larry Smallwood was not in attendance.

Virginia Director Allen Brennan submitted a written report. Thanks to the Hancock FD for hosting the booster meeting. I attended the CFSI dinner in Washington and also attended the NVFC spring meeting in Alexandria, VA. I have attended all of my fire company meetings. Thank you to the CVVFA Ministerial committee for the well wishes card they sent me. I am looking forward to the convention. The Virginia State convention is August 12-15 at the Hampton convention center, come visit us at the convention. Allen then spoke on his medical condition, he also needs our prayers.

Delaware Director Harry Balthis read from his written report. I would like to thank the Hancock VFD for hosting the May booster meeting. I have attended my company's meetings and continue to work on the 2009 annual convention in Newark. I also attended the President's Council meeting in April. I have chaired and worked with the Scholarship committee and will give a report under the committee.

Delaware Director Austin spoke about the training class held on Saturday, thanks to VP Yost for his tireless effort. Steve then spoke on a meeting with the fire prevention queen from Indiana and her activities. Steve showed by video the music sheet for a march during the parade. Hopefully, this can be played at our parade. Guy Flory provided some comments about the origin of the music.

Past President Flickinger stated he had no report as PP, would bring comments during convention committee reporting.

Committees -

Archives – Guy talked about the convention ribbons on display. He would appreciate anyone having some of these old ones to allow the committee to review them for historical significance. Guy continued talking about the archives at the museum. Ray Mowen continued talking on the lack of material during the WWII era. Steve Austin spoke about making contact with the college for assistance in the preservation of our books. President Daniels thanked all who are working to keep our history.

Auditing – no report

Budget & Finance – no report

Business & Ops Plan – no report

Constitution & By-Laws – no report

Convention – Steve Flickinger reported that we have two new parade trophy sponsors this year. We also have a new award best appearing privately owned antique apparatus to be sponsored by Bob Romig. All the sponsorship letters have been mailed, hopefully all will send in their money. Our committee has a minimal amount of work except to keep in touch with the Aetna group. We have been in contact with the Harrisburg committee for next year. The CVVFA sponsors an award in memory of Louise Dell, hat was passed for donations to cover this cost. Hope to see everyone at convention. A question was asked about some publicity in the PA Fireman. Steve Austin continued with the report. All the convention information is on the web page. The parade registration was mailed last week to the entire state of MD, state of DE, counties within PA and New Jersey. Also all companies belonging to CVVFA should have received copies. Anyone needing additional forms, see Steve. Aetna is underwriting the total cost for the convention activities, however everyone needs to register for proper accountability. Hats, shirts and mugs will be for sale.

Credentials – no report

Emergency Responder Safety Institute – Steve Austin reported on the FDIC show, made some great contacts. He further talked about the folks stopping at the booth and their comments. With our next funding, we will be looking at fire apparatus lighting. He spoke about the upcoming National Highway Summit in June to update our white paper on highway safety. We have assembled what we believe are the best and brightest folks in the country, not just in the fire service, but in public safety for highway scene safety. He further spoke on the logistics of the meetings and break out sessions. Steve thanked Howard for all the time he uses to search the web pertaining to highway strikes. This effort could not be duplicated even with paid staff.

Fire Person of the Year – no report

Fire Prevention – no report

Grants – Steve Austin gave an update on the grants. The updates included the MDOT grant, FEMA, and the status on the current grants. As always, thanks to Joe for keeping the books.

Legislative – Bob Cumberland first spoke about the Fire House Expo registration and help needed for our shows. He then spoke about the NVFC junior scholarship program. I think we need to get our member companies to sign the seat belt pledge, this can be accomplished with better publicity. Bob continued to talk on the PA right to know ruling. Possibly all companies should establish a records retention policy. Bob continued with his report. President Daniels, Officers, Directors, and Guest, the following report is legislation from the Maryland State Firemen's Association and the Pennsylvania on

items that will affect the Fire and EMS service in Maryland. I am sure that the other states have legislation that will affect their emergency service and would ask the other Directors to share them with the member of the association.

MARYLAND

The 2009 Maryland Legislative Session concluded at midnight on April 13. There were several bills introduced that would have had a serious impact on the Medevac the Office of Open Records fleet. We were able to defeat these bills. Funding for three new Medevac helicopters was included in the Capital Bond Budget. We were also able to maintain our current level of the MSFA funding. We had the help of several legislators in our efforts to defeat the helicopter bills. Overall there were 2654 bills introduced this year, with the MSFA watching 76. We supported 21 opposed 8 monitored 20 and 27 were local bills. All the bills that we opposed were either defeated or withdrawn. SB 1041 "Maryland Health Care Commission – State Police – Helicopter Emergency Medical Services" failed second reader on the Senate Floor and SB649 "Transportation – Maryland Emergency Medical System Operations Fund – Transport by Privately Owned Helicopter" failed third reader on the Senate Floor. One helicopter bill that we supported (SB1063 – Joint Emergency Medical Services Oversight Committee) died in conference committee.

The legislative committee of the MSFA would like to thank everyone that took the time to attend the rally in Annapolis opposing HB 649, SB650, and SB764 on March 4, 2009. Thanks to those that made the effort to phone, fax, or e-mail their Senator when requested. Our actions where well noted in Annapolis. Those bills that passed still need to be signed by Governor O'Malley.

PENNSYLVANIA

The PA Uniform Construction Code Advisory Board met and formally recommended sprinkler systems be required in new homes and townhouses starting in 2011.

Bills Introduced:

SB 773 Amends the Tax Reform Code establishing a tax credit for employers of volunteer firefighters and emergency medical services workers. An employer would be eligible if it employs an active volunteer, implements a policy that permits an active volunteer to be absent from work, without penalty, for the purpose of responding to a duty call, and the volunteers provide the taxpayer with a statement from the supervisor or chief stating that the volunteer responded to a duty call. The credit would be \$1,000 per volunteer employed; up to \$5,000 in a tax year. The Department of Revenue would annually report to the General Assembly on the tax credit.

SB 775 Amends the Fireworks Law providing a 25% sales tax on consumer fireworks; requiring 75% of the money collected to be remitted to the Volunteer Fire and Emergency Services Retention Program Fund. The remaining 25% shall be remitted to the county treasurer which will distribute it to the fire department that has jurisdiction over the facility that sold the fireworks.

HB 1256 Amends the Administrative Code, in Department of Community and Economic Development, further providing for powers and duties in general by adding that in any case in which an economic and community development program funded by the Commonwealth, is established for, or gives priority to joint applications from, two or more volunteer fire departments, a volunteer fire department that has been formed in accordance with 53 Pa.C.S. Ch. 23 Subch. A (relating to intergovernmental cooperation) shall, after the consolidation or merger, qualify to be given the priority for the economic and community

development program in the same manner as if the application had been made jointly by the two or more volunteer fire departments that had merged or consolidated.

HB 169 Amends Local Option Small Games of Chance Act increasing prize limits; providing guidelines for the proceeds of games of chance; requiring a maximum of \$50,000 in cash or merchandise may be awarded in any calendar month for monthly drawings; and requiring a licensed distributor to pay a 1% surcharge on the amount of all games sales, to be paid directly to the General Fund. There was a request submitted by individual to a fire department and township for 5 types documents related to the operation of the fire company pursuant to the Right-to-Know Law and the Township denied the request based on non-possession, and the Fire Company denied access alleging that it is not subject to the Right-to-Know Law. The individual filed an appeal to the Office of Open Records and his appeal was granted in part and denied in part as to the Fire Company which was required to take action as directed and denied as to the Township. Would recommend that all departments look at this and get more information so that you don't have problem in the future and protect your Rights. (Maybe someone from Pennsylvania can comment more on this problem and outcome).

The following information is legislation that is pending on Capital Hill with the 111th Congress and information about the up coming SAFER grant and Stimulus program.

Volunteer Firefighter and EMS Personnel Job Protection Act

The Volunteer Firefighter and EMS Personnel Job Protection Act, which would protect the jobs of volunteer emergency services personnel responding to a Presidentially-declared national disaster for up to 14 days. Currently, volunteer firefighters and emergency medical services personnel are not protected from termination or demotion by their employers should they miss work when asked to respond to a national emergency. This protection is similar to that provided to members of the National Guard. The following bill from last year H.R. 1643 and S. 2240 expired at the end of the 110th Congress and will be reintroduced early in the 111th Congress.

Supporting Emergency Responders Volunteer Efforts (SERVE) Act

Supporting Emergency Responders Volunteer Efforts (SERVE) Act, which would provide a \$1,000 annual tax credit for active members of volunteer fire and EMS organizations this \$1,000 tax credit for volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel can serve as an important recruitment and retention tool for local volunteer fire departments who are struggling to meet increased demands placed on them. With the ranks of the volunteer fire service decreasing over ten percent in the last 20 years, the Federal government should provide a small incentive to these brave men and women who risk their lives for little or no compensation to help reverse this trend. In fact, the cost of this tax incentive to the Federal government would be quite small compared to the estimated \$37.2 billion annual cost savings provided by the volunteer emergency services. The following bills H.R. 5700 and S. 2846 expired at the end of the 110th Congress and will be reintroduced early in the 111th Congress.

U.S. Fire Administration

USFA was reauthorized by Congress in September of 2008. The House and Senate help develop and ensure final passage of the reauthorization, which runs through 2012 and contains several important provisions, including: an increase in authorized funding for USFA;

establishes that activities in wildland fire, emergency medical services, urban search and rescue and hazardous materials are core elements of USFA's mission; and updates the National Fire Incident Reporting System. USFA received \$44.98 million in FY 2009, much lower than the \$70 million authorized but more than the \$40.9 million the President had requested and a \$1.6 million increase from FY 2008. \$500,000 of that increase was specifically targeted towards annual deferred maintenance at the National Emergency Training Center (NETC), USFA's main campus in Emmitsburg, MD.

Information on the SAFER grant period, along with the Wildland and Fire Station stimulus program is that the tentative availability of the program guidance and application period will open some time after the 4th of July. The AFG application period is open now until May 20, 2009 with the peer review period starting around the first week of July. It looks like the peer review for AFG will not take place at the Fire

Academy in Emmitsburg but not sure where. The 2008 Fire Prevention & Safety grant program peer review just completed on Friday May 1, 2009 and it took place in Towson, Maryland. Bob continued to talk on the NFA grant program along with some other federal grants.

Scholarship – Harry Balthis reported the CVVFA had 9 students apply for the JR Haines scholarship and 7 for the Kenneth E. Butts scholarship. The committee reviewed all the applications and makes the following recommendation to select Adam Waugh for the 2009 JR Haines and Timothy Colclough for the Butts scholarships.

Motion that the Association accept the recommendation of the scholarship committee by Walter Robertson, seconded by Robert Sweetman, no further discussion, voice vote taken, motion passed.

Sergeant at Arms – no report

Training – Greg Yost presented a written report. Greg spoke from the report stating the 3rd annual CVVFA training weekend will be held on June 27 and it will be held in two locations. The flaggers course, in its entirety will be offered at the Washington County Sheriffs Department. County Fire Police who could not attend yesterday will attend that day. Those who attended yesterday's session will attend the practical part only. The second training class will begin right here in this room, beginning at 8:30am. After a lecture session covering the topics, we will break to the former Fleetwood Manufacturing plant. This is a former travel trailer plant, which has closed. At that location, stations will be set up to work on the following skill areas: rapid intervention team, accountability, NIMS and large area search and rescue. We can accommodate up to 50 people. MFRI will be our teaching partner.

Topics – no report Web Page – no report

Unfinished business

Reputational Management Seminar update - Steve Austin stated that we now have a final draft. We gathered comments from many during the review by folks that did not participate. Oklahoma State University will do the final document both in print form and electronic format. Firehouse has established the web site. Our goal is to assist the members with situations they encounter in the management of their respective departments. Chief Ringer gave an example on a membership problem they had at Halfway. Many entered into the discussion on various topics that will be addressed on this site.

SOG for the web site e-mail addresses – Steve Austin read the policy as shown on the web site if you desire to have an email account with CVVFA.

Motion that the Association accept the policy presented to the floor by Steve Austin, seconded by Walter Robertson, further discussion, voice vote taken, motion passed.

President Daniels opened the floor for discussion reference the decanter given at the last meeting. After several comments the following motion was made.

Motion that the Association present the decanter to the convention committee and be used as a raffle item during the convention by Bob Cumberland, seconded by Walter Robertson, no further discussion, voice vote taken, motion passed.

Steve Austin commented on the corporate agent from Delaware and the cost associated with this registration. The value of having this was questioned and determined that there is no need at this time.

Motion that the Association does not seek renewal of this corporate registration for the state of Delaware by Steve Austin, seconded by James Wharry, no further discussion, voice vote taken, motion passed.

Steve continued his discussion about the IRS tax status of the Association. We will look into changing our status by resubmitting a new application. We are seeking assistance with this, if you know of any paralegals who might want to help, please contact President Daniels. Discussion continued by several on their experiences with this matter.

Roby was in attendance and addressed the group with an update on the National Heritage Center. He spoke about their tax status and the problems encountered. After contacting Congressman Bartlett's office, the matter was resolved in three days.

New business

No matters were brought forward.

Good of the Association -

Roby spoke about his visit with PP Diehl, again he also needs to be on the prayer list.

Ray Mowen spoke about the importance of maintaining your history and the proper storage of such materials.

Greg Yost talked about the problems encountered with hosting the Saturday training class. He suggested we put together a promotional package to assist and possibly an agreement signed outlining the requirements by both parties. More discussion ensued by many to better address the problem.

Assistant Chaplain Wharry gave the benediction, meeting adjourned at 3pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Gene Worthington Recording Secretary