

Cumberland Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association  
 Booster Meeting May 6, 2012  
 Keyser VFC  
 Keyser, West Virginia

President Sullivan called the group together for lunch. Assistant Chaplain Jim Wharry gave the blessing for the meal. Lunch was served by the host company, hot chili. Mike called the meeting to order at 13:05 hours. He asked Assistant Chaplain Wharry to give the invocation and lead the group into the pledge. He asked Chief Hatezel to give the welcome from the host company. The Chief made some comments reference the rows of helmets on display, donated by the family of a former Secretary of State who recently died. Mike asked for our kitchen hosts to be acknowledged by applause. Mike presented the complimentary check to the Chief for their hosting and fine hospitality for the meeting.

**Introduction of Guests** – VP Robertson introduced a couple traveling with him Steve and Nancy Sweitzer who were acknowledged.

Secretary Worthington took roll call with 90 representatives and delegates being recorded in attendance.

TITLE	NAME	OCT	BOARD	MARCH	MAY
President	Michael Sullivan	1	1	1	1
1st Vice President	Steven Haines	1			
2nd Vice President	James Watson	1	1	1	
3rd Vice President	Walter Robertson	1		1	1
4th Vice President	Hoby Howell	1		1	1
Treasurer	George Dove	1	1	1	1
Financial Secretary	Stephen McBee	1	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	1
Attorney	Howard Cohen		1		
Pennsylvania Delegate	Charlie Myers	1		1	1
Director, Pennsylvania (2013)	Rich Bruner			1	
Director, Pennsylvania (2012)	Curtis Alleman		1		1
Director, Maryland (2013)	Wayne Baker	1	1	1	1
Director, Maryland (2012)	Robert Cumberland	1	1	1	1
Director, West Virginia (2013)	Bill Keller	1	1	1	1
Director, West Virginia (2012)	Brett Bittle	1			
Director, Delaware (2013)	Harry Balthis	1	1	1	1
Director, Delaware (2012)	Steve Austin	1	1		1
Director, Virginia (2013)	Kevin Wilkes		1		
Director, Virginia (2012)	Allen Brennan	1	1	1	1
Past President	Greg Yost	1	1	1	1
	Totals	19	17	18	17
Past Presidents		13	11	13	14
Maryland Fire Depts		12	0	12	10
Delaware Fire Depts		9	0	8	7
Virginia Fire Depts		3	0	7	9

West Virginia Fire Depts	6	0	5	8
Pennsylvania Fire Depts	16	0	22	25
Grand Totals	78	28	85	90

**Communications** – The Secretary read an email message from Bob Romig who sent his regards and stated he hoped to see many in Harrisburg later this month.

**Motion** to accept the minutes from the March booster meeting as posted on the web page and distributed via email by Walter Robertson, seconded by George Dove, no further discussion, verbal vote taken, motion passed.

**Officers reports:**

President Sullivan welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming. Fellow members and guests, welcome to Keyser for the May booster meeting. I would like to thank the Keyser Volunteer Fire Co 2 for hosting the event and the hospitality. Since the last booster meeting in March, I have attended most of my home companies meetings. Other than that I'm sure everyone has already heard what else I have been busy with, Saturday, 21 April 2012, my wife gave birth to our third child at first everything was good but the second day we ended up in ICU with him but all is good now and everyone is at home. Again thanks for coming and everyone have a safe trip home. See you all in Berkeley Springs.

First Vice President Haines submitted the following report, once again as luck would have it, I have to work and will not be able to attend today's booster meeting, but here is my report. Hello everyone and welcome to Keyser, WV, for today's booster meeting. A special thanks to the Keyser VFC for hosting the meeting. Since I last wrote from the previous booster meeting in which I was not present, I was able to attend the President's Council meeting in Cordova, MD. It was good seeing some of you there and I had a good time. Also, I have attended my own fire company meetings and in-house training sessions and our annual banquet in which we had the honor of Jeff Ringer and Steve Heefner being in attendance. Looking forward to the convention in August. Take care, have a safe trip home and I'll see everyone in Berkeley Springs.

Second Vice President Jim Watson was absent.

Third Vice President Robertson stated I want to thank Keyser VFC for hosting the meeting. Since our last meeting, I have attended all my fire company meetings and fundraising activities, also attended the President's Council and state meetings along with the committees I am on. Glad to see everyone and have a safe trip home.

Fourth Vice President Hoby Howell read from his written report, We would like to thank Keyser VFC, here in WV for your hospitality in having our May booster meeting today at your facility. We appreciate your dedication to the community and our Association. Since our last meeting, I have attended my company's regularly scheduled meetings and drills. I attended the March Harford/Cecil meeting, to include President's Volunteer Assistance committee, attended the MSFA safety committee meeting. During the last couple of months, I'm putting together our annual fundraiser as our Ways & Means chairman, to be held this month May 19<sup>th</sup> at Level. I attended the MSFA convention committee, will be attending the Safety committee in Chesapeake City next week.

Treasurer Dove provided some oral comments and presented the following report.

CVVFA #4100840 death	800.00
General Account	9559.29
CVVFA cd	90000.00
Net Worth	100359.29

George reported on the loss of his mother-in-law last month, thanks to all those who attended her service.

Financial Secretary McBee stated he had no report at this time.

Recording Secretary Worthington stated, the minutes from the March booster meeting were transcribed and sent to the webmaster for posting. Thanks to Keyser for being our host. I prepared the Delaware City ad and forwarded from motion at last meeting. I also have the FASNY ad proposal, looking for any suggestions as to its

content. I have attended many meetings throughout the fire service and kept up with the training classes. The Office stands ready to support the Association as the Secretary's office.

Home Office Manager Heefner presented a written report. Officers, Members, and Guests, welcome to Keyser, WV and the May booster meeting today at the Keyser VFC. I would like to thank those who attended last night's social. What a great weekend we had celebrating the Apple Blossom, Cinco DeMayo and the Kentucky Derby all in the same weekend. Congratulations to President Mike Sullivan and wife on the birth of their son Maddix "MadDog" Sullivan. Since our last booster meeting, I attended the President's Council meeting in Cordova, MD and have been in contact with several Officers and members with regards to future booster and convention meeting dates. Everyone's response is greatly appreciated. The 2012 convention is fast approaching, host hotel information is available on the head table. As always, I enjoy serving the CVVFA. Any questions or comments?

Publicity Manager Timko was absent.

Chaplain Barnhart was absent.

Assistant Chaplain Wharry read from his written report. Chaplain Charlie sends his regards. Since the last meeting, I have sent cards when requested, attended my own company meetings and attended the President's Council meeting. Thank you to Keyser VFC of Keyser, WV, for hosting this meeting. Please contact me if you need a sympathy card or thinking of you sent for one of our members.

Attorney Howard Cohen was absent, sent an email stating he would not be in attendance, he is at a funeral service for a longtime Pikesville VFC member who succumbed to a battle with cancer.

Pennsylvania Delegate Charlie Myers spoke about the recent state meeting in Lewistown, went very well. We do have some changes coming up to our by-laws. We are in need on a state chaplain who has resigned and moved to Florida. He gave some dates for future meetings with convention in September. Charlie provided info on the Fire Expo handout. Again, there should be a lot of people there this year.

### **Directors' reports**

Pennsylvania Director Rich Brunner was absent, however sent a written report. Good day CVVFA Officers, State Directors, members and distinguished guests. I would like to thank the Keyser Fire Company for hosting the 2012 May Booster Meeting. Thanks to all those involved in the planning and implementation of this meeting, a job well done. I apologize for not making the meeting but I am visiting my son who is in the Navy and currently stationed in San Diego prior to his next overseas deployment. Since our last meeting I have attended all of my fire company meetings, training sessions and fund raising activities. I have also attended the Perry County Fireman's Association meetings. As I reported last meeting the Newport Fire Department was hosting the Perry County presentation of the training session "Everybody Goes Home". This program was a first of its kind in our area and was presented through the PA Fire Commissioner's Office. I am happy to report that the program was a real success with 64 participants attending representing 8 of the 12 companies in our county. Also this month we have begun our weekly training program and we conducted our annual banquet. This year's speaker was Mr. Tom Bell, Perry County's new Emergency Management Director. Mr. Bell provided a lot of information on his plans for improving our 911 center and emergency management in general. We are hopeful that this will be a sign of much needed improvements. Thank you and I hope everyone has a safe trip home.

Pennsylvania Director Curtis Alleman presented a written report and spoke from it. I want to thank Keyser VFC for being our host today. I apologize for missing our last meeting. Since the March meeting, I have found myself being busy with multiple items both at a local, county, state and regional level. He reported on a recent Reputation Management seminar held, have been invited next month to northern PA to give a presentation on CVVFA and highway safety program. I have been working with Linda Hoover to again do the PA Welcome Center highway safety display. We are also working on doing Fire Prevention Week in conjunction with Rescue Hose in October. I look forward to our convention, hope all of you have a safe trip home. He also provided an itinerary of his activities.

Maryland Director Wayne Baker thanked Keyser for hosting the meeting, spoke about his activities for the CVVFA. The sign was updated this year by Shannan Baum Signs at no cost, the Secretary will send a thank you letter on same.

Maryland Director Bob Cumberland read from his written report. First, I would like to thank Keyser VFC for hosting our Responder Safety class yesterday. There were 25 in attendance, also thank them for hosting the meeting today and the fine meals they served both days. President Sullivan, Officers, Directors, and Guests, since the March Booster meeting I continue to lead the Westminster Fire Department as their President and attend the Carroll County Volunteer Emergency Services Association meetings as a delegate for the Westminster Fire Department. I also attended the two monthly meetings of the Westminster City Council representing the Westminster Fire Department making reports to the Mayor and City Council about the activities of the fire department. I represented the Association and Responder Safety Institute in staffing the booth at FDIC in Indianapolis. I attended the National Fire Academy Board of Visitors meeting at the campus in Emmitsburg, MD and also attended the CFSI dinner in Washington, DC. I attended the President's Council meeting in Cordova, Maryland. As a member of the Maryland Fire Rescue Education Training Commission we held our quarterly meeting at the Anne Arundel County Fire Department training academy. The CVVFA booth will need staffing for the following events. Next Friday May 11, 2012 we will have the booth at the I-81 North Visitors Center with Curtis Alleman, Mick Whitzel, and I will be staffing it from 10 AM till 2 PM. There is a sign-up sheet for the Fire Expo at Harrisburg for May 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, & 20<sup>th</sup>. Please sign up for the time you can help and the date. Steve, Barry and I will help staff the booth on Sunday May 20, 2012 and take it down after the show. Rich Toulson and Jack Sullivan will be staffing the booth at the South Carolina Firemen's Convention in Myrtle Beach, SC the first of June. We will need help at the Maryland State Firemen's Association Conference in June at Ocean City, MD the date is June 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> please let me know if you are available. For the month of March we have received \$24.00 and we could be making more if we promote the store more as Directors of the Association. All of the funds came from new or renewed membership. The pre-registration being used seems to be working better for our Saturday classes. 24 of the 25 attendees were not members of the CVVFA.

West Virginia Director Keller thanked Keyser for hosting the meeting today and the training class on Saturday. I have changed positions at work since our last meeting and have kept me very busy. I have taught some training classes and hope to see you all in Berkeley Springs.

West Virginia Director Bittle was absent

Virginia Director Kevin Wilkes was absent

Virginia Director Allen Brennan presented a written report, Officers, members of the CVVFA, thanks to the Keyser VFC for hosting the booster meeting. I attended the booster meeting at Irishtown VFD, attended the Presidents Council meeting Cordova, attended an awards banquet at Riva VFD in Culpeper, attended the NVFC meeting in Alexandria. I am looking forward to the convention in Berkeley Springs.

Delaware Director Harry Balthis thanked Keyser VFC for hosting the meeting. Since the last booster meeting, I have attended my home fire company meetings and the Presidents Council meeting.

Delaware Director Steve Austin stated he has the 501c3 papers in hand that we so long sought and turned them over to the Secretary. A copy of the document is on the web site along with our original charter and all the documents that the CVVFA abides by. Therefore, if you need any of these documents, they can be quickly downloaded and printed out. This should be very helpful for us. Also there is a copy of our conflict of interest statement. Steve continued to speak about our direction forward, need to raise your awareness level of where are the other 1,000 members that we seldom see. We have an issue about succession of our leadership. We need some younger members to get engaged as many of us did years ago. We have known this as a problem and now is the time to do something about it. We cannot pretend nothing will happen. As an example, Tom Savage has decided to retire from our Reputational Management web. We need someone to take this over, looking for a young person to do. Please go back to your company and recruit some members who want to get involved and make a difference to be part of something much bigger than themselves. This concludes my sermon for Sunday.

PP Greg Yost thanked Keyser for hosting today.

#### **Committees –**

Archives – Guy Flory had no report.

Auditing – Steve Haines was absent.

Budget & Finance – George Dove no report.

Business & Operations Plan – Greg Yost no report.

Constitution & By-laws – Bob Cumberland reported that he has not received any changes.

Convention – Steve Flickinger reported that Best Western will again be our host hotel, please make your reservations early, flyers on the table. Our meetings will be held at the American Legion, memorial service at the Catholic Church in downtown, picnic Thursday night, Friday night banquet at Legion. There will be no training class on Friday since we saturated that area with our training. The parade on Saturday will begin at 1pm. Bob Trace has worked with Ernie on getting some publicity in the PA Fireman. The parade sponsorship forms have gone out with a few returned, need them back by June 15. Steve passed the hat for donations for the Louise Dell memorial trophy sponsorship. Mike commented on some of his activities regarding the planning for convention.

Credentials – Jeff Ringer no report.

Emergency Responder Institute – Steve Austin asked how many are registered for the Learning Network, how many are going to do, all raised their hands. Every member of CVVFA needs to be. We have just launched the network and have requested a follow up grant to provide the most advanced highway scene safety training anywhere. The modules are half an hour or less and you are provided a certificate. Cards were passed out with the info, create your own password and start. If you get interrupted, simply close out and you can restart where you left off when signing on. This is our #1 priority of anything we are doing. As of Friday, we had over 700 folks signed up from around the world. Please highlight the network back home at your association meetings. We just took delivery of 1,000 dvd's on the First 15 Minutes. Our plans are to transfer this to the Learning Network. Our future is about on-line training. Steve announced that retired Captain Tom Martin from the VA State Police will be a new member of ERSI, many remember Tom as the master of changing his hats. We have completed the driver behavior program with VFIS, as you reminder we had the driving simulators measuring their reaction times to emergency personnel along the roadway. This information should be available soon for evaluation. We also got a mini grant to do a study for marking of vehicles. As a last reminder, please get your folks signed up for the Network and let us know what you think. A question was asked about the fire police PSOB problem, Steve announced that a meeting was held with folks from across the Eastern US to discuss the program. We are going to be providing the first required training classes for fire police in the country. There will be two modules on the Learning Network with extensive training starting with the beginner. Hopefully we can get some other groups to assist in the future as they learn more about the training.

Fire Person of the Year – George Dove reported everything is under control.

Fire Prevention – Erin Drumheller reported on the update to the site, asked for anyone having fires in their areas or articles in the papers, please forward them onto her for posting. A statement was made reference EMS week and some info could be used.

Grants – Steve reported on the Iteris contract, we have not heard since the Federal Highway has not awarded. If they are successful, the Association could benefit financially for our sub-contract work. We reviewed the RFP from the National Academy of Sciences, after some consideration it was decided we just could not meet the time requirements and possibly could be in competition with our own Learning Network. We do have pending a request to refund our cooperative agreement with DOJ and the USFA, hoping to hear something by the end of May.

Legislative – Bob Cumberland reported on the peer review for SAFER is this month. They are looking at bringing in 300 to 500 folks to review these along with the AFG grants which should open in June. Hopefully we can get back on track with the timeline, not spending your appropriation makes it difficult for future funding needs. This all depends on the program office, nothing official.

Memorial – Chaplain Barnhart was absent, Jim Wharry stated they have not received any requests.

Parliamentarian – Howard was absent.

Public Relations – Rich Toulson no report.

Publicity – Bob Timko was absent.

Recruitment & Retention – Allen Brennan no report

Resolutions – Jerry reported he has not received anything, if anyone has resolution requests for convention, please forward them.

Scholarship – Harry Balthis reported they received 11 applications for the 2 scholarships. Each one of the applicants is very qualified, therefore the selection process was difficult. The committee recommends Kyle Mellon of Media, PA, he is a member of Middletown FC. He has been accepted to the University of New Haven to

study Fire Science and Administration for the JR Haines Memorial scholarship. As for the Kenneth Butts memorial scholarship, the committee recommends we split the award into 2 \$500 awards. One would be for Subranyir Chockalingam of Westhampton Beach FD in New York, he plans to study pre-Med. The other is Casey Osborne of Williamsport, MD, she is a member of Williamsport VFD and plans to attend Mount St Mary's to study Pre-Med, Biology and Spanish.

Sergeant at Arms – no report

Training – Greg is looking for someone to host the weekend.

Topics – Steve reported we will have something ready for convention.

Web Page – Steve's reported on this earlier, reminder just need someone to give some time to do the FirefighterBehavior site.

Youth Leadership – Erin stated that we need some recommendations for the award. We currently have one for consideration. We are looking for active youngsters.

Mike asked for any other committee announcements. Steve Flickinger asked if anyone needing plaques for the convention, please let him know by July 1 to give the vendor adequate time for completion.

### **Unfinished business**

Charitable tax status – Steve reported that he covered this earlier and can remove from this order of business.

Promotional package and agreement with booster meeting partners – Steve Heefner reported progress.

CanAm games in York County – Alleman stated they are still reviewing the program and are not ready with a recommendation at this time.

Veridian utility proposal – Curtis reported that we discussed at the Board meeting and was decided not to be a partner in this. This item will also be deleted from unfinished business.

ITERIS contract – Steve Austin stated same as reported on earlier, nothing to add.

Classified ads on the web page – Rich Bruner was absent, however Steve had spoken with him and thought this was a good idea, however will need someone to administer. Since Rich has retired, it is highly recommended by his Fire Chief that he proceed with the concept and develop the criteria to proceed.

Oriole baseball game – Greg proposed several dates with no preferences given. He is working on some better seats and better prices. Some discussion continued, appears June 23 is the preference for planning.

FASNY convention book ad – Gene is looking for some suggestion as to the content. He suggested a promo on the Learning Network, seemed to be favorable by all.

### **New business –**

Motion was made to accept the committee recommendations for the scholarship nominees by Harry Balthis, seconded by Bill Keller, verbal vote taken, motion passed. Harry will notify them of the requirements and invite all to convention.

### **Good of the Association**

Erin talked about the trip to Pittsburgh and her teaching class was a great success. She then spoke about another hat she wears promoting the Children's Miracle Network. She plans to set up a fire prevention booth within Johns Hopkins hospital during fire prevention week.

Steve Flickinger announced we collected \$135 towards the Louise Dell memorial trophy award.

Steve Heefner stated he is accepting convention applications for 2017 and booster meetings for May 2014.

Assistant Chaplain Wharry gave the benediction, meeting was adjourned at 2:35pm.

Respectfully submitted

Gene Worthington  
Recording Secretary