



Cumberland Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association

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CVVFA Annual Convention

Franklin Fire Company #4: Chambersburg, Pennsylvania

August 2-4, 2001

Download: [2001 CVVFA Convention Meeting Minutes](#) (Word DOC)

The meeting was called to order by **President Stephen E. Heefner** at 10 a.m. President Heefner welcomed the Officers, Delegates, Members and Guests to Chambersburg, PA, and to the Annual Convention of the Cumberland Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association as we celebrate the 100th Anniversary of this great Association. He sincerely hoped that all attending this Convention will learn from the meetings and the Keynote Addresses, enjoy the gatherings, dinners and socials, and be a part of the parade on Saturday.

Invocation was given by **Chaplain Charles E. Barnhart, Jr.**

The colors were presented by the Charles Netterhouse VFW Post 1599 Honor Guard, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Guests presented were Mayor Robert Morris, and Convention Chairman Richard Hershey. They welcomed everyone to Chambersburg and hoped our Convention was successful.

Chief William Dubbs made the following remarks: "Good morning and welcome to Chambersburg. It is an honor to stand here before you, as you celebrate the 100th anniversary of this organization. It is my understanding that this organization's existence came about, to provide mutual-aid to our brother and sister firefighters in the surrounding states. Today, 100 years later, we continue to rely more than ever on the basic foundation of your organization, mutual-aid.

"In April of this year, shortly after taking over as Emergency Services Chief, our community experienced a basement fire in a six story, former ice and cold storage building which was being used as a warehouse. Fortunately, there were no injuries. Our county had expended all of its resources. We utilized our brother and sister firefighters from Maryland and surrounding counties to help extinguishing this stubborn fire.

"The foundation your organization has laid in establishing mutual-aid is as critical now as it was 100 years ago.



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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

"I wish your organization much success as you celebrate this historic occasion in Chambersburg. I welcome you to stop at any of our fire stations for a visit. I hope all of you enjoy your stay in Chambersburg and have a safe trip home to your families. Thank you and may GOD Bless."

Also introduced were Dr. Harry Carter, who will give a presentation in the afternoon; Gene Worthington, First Vice President of the Maryland State Firemen's Association; and Charles Myers, President of the Pennsylvania Firemen's Association.

President Heefner appointed the following Convention committees: Sergeant-of-Arms - Jeff Ringer, Election Committee - Marshall Bricker and Robert Trace, and Installing Officer Stephen Austin.

It was announced that lunch would be served at the fire house after the Memorial Service.

The meeting recessed at 10:15 a.m. so everyone could adjourn to the Church for Memorial Service.

The Memorial Service was held at the Falling Springs Presbyterian Church. Pastor Linda Harter welcomed every to the Church. Chaplain Charles E. Barnhart, Jr., Assistant Chaplain Ray W. Mowen, and President Stephen E. Heefner conducted the beautiful Memorial Service for the six deceased members. Organ music was furnished by Mrs. Joan Sach. At the conclusion of the service everyone in attendance adjourned to the cemetery where a wreath was placed on the grave of the CVVFA founder General Joseph F. Boyd.

Following the Memorial Service, a delicious lunch was served by the members of the Franklin Fire Co. #4.

The Convention meeting reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

The attendees thanked the fire company for the delicious lunch and a basket was passed to take up a collection to help defray the cost of the lunch.

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

OFFICERS

- President Stephen E. Heefner - present
- First Vice President Stephen C. McBee - present
- Second Vice President Charles "C.J." Bens, Jr. - present
- Third Vice President Wm. Dean Simpson - present
- Fourth Vice President J. Allen Brennan - to arrive later in the day
- Financial Secretary James J. Wharry - present
- Treasurer - George J. Dove - present
- Recording Secretary Louise E. Dell - present
- Home Office Manager Robin G. Hinchey - present
- Advertising Manager Ronald L. Royer - present
- Chaplain Charles E. Barnhart, Jr. - present
- Assistant Chaplain Ray W. Mowen - present
- Attorney Howard S. Cohen - present

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Guy M. Flory (PA) - present
- Richard P. Jones (PA) - present
- Wilbur F. Miller (MD) - present

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](#)



Firehouse.Com Ticker

Ticker provided by our friends at Firehouse

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- Wayne A. Baker (MD) - present
- Hugh M. Harris (WV) - present
- Timothy L. Harper (WV) - absent
- James M. Stokely (VA) - absent
- Larry W. Smallwood (VA) - present
- Claude Ray Johnson (DE) - present
- John L. Mitchell (DE) - present
- Lee C. Holler - PP - present

PAST PRESIDENTS IN ATTENDANCE

- Wilbur F. Miller (1962)
- George J. Dove (1965)
- Larry W. Smallwood (1977)
- 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)
- Lee C. Holler (1999)

Roll call of the general membership was taken. Once again, 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 52 members and 15 guests present for a total of 67 persons in attendance representing 27 companies.

The membership was advised that **Recording Secretary Louise Dell** and **Financial Secretary James Wharry** had gone through the list of paid-up membership dues and all the companies who were two years in arrears had been removed from the roll call list. If anyone had any questions regarding a company which had been removed from the list they were advised to check with Financial Secretary James Wharry.

President Heefner called for the reading of the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting.

Board of Directors Meeting August 1, 2001

The Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 9:10 p.m., with 19 Officers and Board members in attendance. The meeting was opened with prayer by Chaplain Barnhart.

Recording Secretary Louise Dell read a note from Attorney Cohen stating that he would not be able to attend the Board meeting but would be at Convention. Also, a note had been received from Past President James Werner asking about his membership status and Convention information. Financial Secretary James Wharry is responding to the question regarding membership and his questions regarding the Convention were answered by Secretary Dell.

President Heefner stated that he had attended a Convention meeting in Chambersburg and found everything to be progressing.

Recording Secretary Louise Dell suggested that a "Certificate of Appreciation" be printed. There are three speakers at this Convention and two of them are members of the Association. The third speaker will receive an "Honorary Membership Certificate" but this

would not be appropriate for the other two speakers.

She also requested permission to purchase a new program for her computer--Microsoft Word Professional--costing approximately \$350, which will give her greater capability with the computer.

Home Office Manager Robin Hinchey reported she had received two letters from the Post Office in Westminster in regard to the missing Newsletters which she had mailed. She will report on this further in her report at the Convention meeting.

Advertising Manager Ronald Royer reported that there are several errors in the Convention Book and apologized for them. He said that the book cost less this year to print. He suggested that we might want to consider reducing the page size of the book to help cut down on printing costs.

Chaplain Charles E. Barnhart reported that everything is ready for the Memorial Service. We only have six deceased members to be recognized so he will not need as many Directors to assist as ushers for the families. Assistant Chaplain Ray W. Mowen will participate in the Service as will President Stephen Heefner.

The rest of the Officers and Board members will give their reports at the regular Convention meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

The donations for the various Officers were discussed. **MOTION BY DEAN SIMPSON, SECOND BY RAY JOHNSON, TO KEEP THE DONATIONS THE SAME AS THEY HAVE BEEN IN THE PAST. MOTION CARRIED.** (Financial Secretary, \$350; Recording Secretary, \$250; Home Office Manager, \$250; Treasurer, \$250; Advertising Manager, \$200; Chaplain and Assistant Chaplain, \$25 each; and Auditing Committee [4 members], \$25 each.)

MOTION BY JOHN MITCHELL, SECOND BY RONALD ROYER, TO HAVE A "CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION" PRINTED. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY RAY JOHNSON, SECOND BY JAMES WHARRY, TO ALLOW THE RECORDING SECRETARY TO PURCHASE THE NEW PROGRAM "MICROSOFT WORD PROFESSIONAL" FOR HER COMPUTER. MOTION CARRIED.

Joseph Bukowski reported that the Scholarship Raffle tickets need to be turned in by Friday, either the money and stubs, or the unsold tickets. The drawing will be at the banquet on Friday night.

A question was raised as to James Stokely being elected as a Director from Virginia when he is only an honorary member of the Association. All he has to do is pay \$5.00 dues and become an active member of the Association.

Ronald Royer raised a question as to an individual holding an elected office when his fire company is no longer a member of the Association. As long as his company was a member of the Association when he was elected to office, the individual is still entitled to hold office.

Dean Simpson questioned the progress of the CVVFA web site. Steve Austin will give an update at the Convention meeting on Thursday. The web site is presently on line through a firehouse.com address.

**MOTION BY LARRY SMALLWOOD, SECOND BY WILBUR MILLER, TO ADJOURN.
MOTION CARRIED.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

**MOTION BY CHARLES BARNHART, SECOND BY RONALD ROYER, TO ACCEPT THE
MINUTES AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED.**

Reading of Communications - None

OFFICERS REPORTS

President Stephen E. Heefner - It has been my pleasure and honor to serve you this year as President of the CVVFA. Since being installed as President, I have attended all Booster and Executive meetings of this Association. Among the many functions that I attended was the trip to Chicago, Illinois, to kick of the National Emergency Responders Safety Institute and this was the highlight of my year. I have carried the name of the CVVFA to many events. Thanks to everyone for making my year as your President a success.

First Vice President Stephen C. McBee - Thanks to Chambersburg for hosting the 100th Anniversary Convention. During the past year I attended several company banquets, the CFSI Banquet in Washington, D.C., and the Maryland State Firemen's Association Convention. I now know how Harold Shockey felt when he was signing up new members to the CVVFA 25 years ago. I thank you for allowing me to serve you and look forward to the upcoming year with CVVFA.

Second Vice President Charles "C.J." Bens - It is an honor to be a part of this Association as it celebrates its 100th Anniversary. I hope that we all can continue to lead this Association into its next hundred years.

Since the meeting in Shippensburg, which I was not able to attend, I have attended the Maryland State Firemen's Association Convention, and the Allegany & Garret County, MD, Convention in Lonaconing, MD.

Many thanks to our host company and may we have a successful and blessed Convention. I look forward to serving this Association as First Vice President this year, if elected.

Third Vice President Wm. Dean Simpson - This has been a great year and a very fast one. It is hard to believe that it was about this time last year when we left Newport, PA, at our 99th Convention. Well, let's face it, years are like months anymore and weeks some time aren't long enough to get everything done. So what we all have to do now is to do a little more today because tomorrow might not have the time to finish what we are to get done.

I attended all but one Booster meeting this year, the Board of Directors meeting in January in Halfway, Md, my company meetings and Directors meetings, the DVFA State meetings, New Castle County meetings, Delaware State Conference in Dover, DE, DelMarVa Convention in Chincoteague, VA, Maryland State Firemen's Association Convention in Ocean City, MD, and chaired the Five States Presidents meeting in Taneytown, MD.

As you can see by looking at this attendance, it shows that my heart is in the fire service. I would like to thank my home company, Mill Creek Fire Company, for the support and the use of its transportation to attend these functions.

It was a pleasure serving as your Third Vice President this past year. I hope this next year will be another great year celebrating our 100 years of service. Special thanks to our host company for hosting this Convention.

Fourth Vice President J. Allen Brennan - Absent. No report.

Treasurer George J. Dove - My books as Treasurer were in order for the audit. We have a new checking account which is the CVVFA Fire Grant Account, thanks to Steve Austin and Joe Bukowski, Assistant Treasurer.

I attended all the Booster meetings, the Five States Presidents meeting in Taneytown, MD, and the Shenandoah Apple Blossom Festival. The Association was well represented thanks to Wayne Baker, Steve Austin and Mr. Kimble. I attended several funerals of our fallen firefighters as well as several parades.

The highlight of my past year was serving with over 250 firefighters on the Fire Grant 2001 Making History Board at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, MD. During my week, we had members from over 25 states on the board.

To the members of the Junior Hose & Truck Co. #2 and Franklin Fire Co. #4 of Chambersburg, PA, I want to say thank you for the 100th Anniversary Annual Convention.

As we leave here Saturday to return home, turn around, shake Chaplain Barnhart's hand, and say thank you for a job well done.

Good luck, God Speed and have a safe trip home. You know it is hard to believe that I've been around these Conventions for over 47 years.

Financial Secretary James J. Wharry - Since the last Booster meeting, all dues notices have been mailed to both Members and Companies. Dues payments are coming in. All have been posted into the computer and membership cards mailed back.

We have 1,123 members and 106 member companies.

I continue to work on the conversion of the data base into the new system. This is very time consuming since it is a manual operation as the old data base could not be transferred into the new system automatically. I continue to respond to requests for information.

I would like to thank my home company, the Aetna Hose, Hook and Ladder Company, for their support and my wife, Diane, and my daughter, Leanna, for their understanding about the time spent doing this job.

Recording Secretary Louise E. Dell - My report is the usual--took the minutes, took them home, transcribed them, typed them up and mailed them out, along with some special notices. On the last notice I said to get off at exit 5 to get to the motel. ONLY, Pennsylvania changed the exit numbers and I had every one going to Greencastle instead of here. But no one told me. It is now exit 14.

I did get approval from the Board to purchase the new program for the computer so I will be more up to date.

Home Office Manager Robin G. Hinchey - To start my report, I wish to congratulate this Association on celebrating a milestone of 100 years. I would like to thank Guy Flory and the Chambersburg Fire Companies for hosting for 100th Anniversary Convention.

Since the May Booster meeting, I have started the process of two deceased members, Vance J. Magonel, Citizens Hose Company #1, New Cumberland, PA, and Melvin C. Eisenhart, Liberty Fire Co. #1. This brings the total number of death claims from August 2000 to Convention 2001 to seven. I would like to express my sympathy to these members families, as well as Alice Ringer on the loss of her daughter, and Donna Hartman on the loss of her Mother. I attended the viewing for Donna Hartman's Mother.

I received a Booster meeting application from the West Lanham Hills Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department, Inc., to host the October 28, 2001, Booster meeting. West Lanham Hills is located in Lanham, MD. A road map and directions are available. If you would like to receive information on motels in Lanham, please contact Hugh Harris as this is his home company or please let the Home Office Manager know. We still need a host for the March 17, 2002, Booster meeting; May 19, 2002, Booster meeting, and a host for the 2002 Convention. Please see me or the incoming Home Office Manager if your company is interested.

I compiled and submitted an audit report to the Audit Committee. The checking account balance as of July 31, 2001, is \$9.17. I received a working fund of \$400 and total expenses were \$661. The amount due me is zero.

I attended all Booster meetings, Board meeting, and the Five States Presidents meeting in April. I mailed out a total of 14 letters to deceased members families, and 1,800 Newsletters. To the questions on where the Convention Newsletter is--your guess is as good as mine. I have two pieces of correspondence from the Westminster Postmaster. Our newsletters are in the U.S. Postal Service cyberspace.

I am sorry for this event of lost mailings. However, to those who are openly attacking me, you may be upset but no one is more upset than myself. This turn of events is not something I could control. If I could, I would have. The mailing for the past year was approximately 1,900 pieces of mail.

I would to thank the members for their cards of sympathy at the time of my Grandmother's death.

Thank you to President Steve Heefner for serving as President of the CVVFA this past year. Best wishes to all of the incoming Officers, Directors, and President-Elect Steve McBee. If I can be of any assistance to any of the Officers, Directors, or committees of this Association, please let me know. I plan to stay active and assist in any way I can for the betterment of the Association.

As always, thank you to all our members for the friendship shown throughout these past years. I have enjoyed serving this Association as Home Office Manager and will continue to give all of my support.

Advertising Manager Ronald L. Royer - I attended all the 2000-2001 Booster meetings of the CVVFA. Letters were sent to all member fire departments and businesses soliciting ads for this year's Convention book. I also attended Convention meetings at Chambersburg.

I contacted the Oak Printing of Funkstown, MD, to print 500 copies of the book with 72 pages, for a price of \$2,141. I collected \$1,609 for ads and patron ads featured in the book.

I would ask that delegates present take a Convention book back to their home companies and any others they can deliver. The books left will be mailed to the other companies after the Convention.

I would like to thank the President, Officers and committees for their support this past year. I would like to thank Chambersburg for hosting the 100th Anniversary Convention.

Chaplain Charles E. Barnhart, Jr. - Usually I stand up here and tell you that it has been a bad year and that I have had the usual health problems. This year I don't have to tell you that, praise God. Things are well with me and, of course, things are well with you too because I haven't gotten many phone calls. The ones that I do receive I try to get back to as soon as I can. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to again serve as your Chaplain. I hope that you enjoyed the Memorial Service today--I was tickled to death with the organist. I thought she was fantastic. If there is anything you would like for us to do differently for the Memorial Service in the future, let me know. Again, I am glad to serve. It is good to be here in Chambersburg. Thank you for all that you have done for me.

Assistant Chaplain Ray W. Mowen - It has been a privilege to serve as your Assistant Chaplain for the past year and I thank you for this honor.

During the past year I attended the Director's meeting, all Booster meetings and the Five States Presidents meeting in Taneytown. Also, because of this organization I, along with Guy Flory and George Dove, spent a week at Emmitsburg as an evaluator for the firefighters grant program. What a unique experience, which was quite a learning experience also. The fire service pulled off something that has never done before as far as evaluating grant requests. The fruits of this process will be announced within the next two months.

Since I am filling in for Alice Ringer, who was very diligent in sending out Sympathy and Thinking of You cards, I ask that each of you who know of the illness or death of members please contact me so that the appropriate cards can be sent. I do not have an e-mail address so I will have to be contacted by phone.

My thanks to the Chambersburg area fire departments for hosting this 100th Anniversary Convention. Also thanks to the Falling Springs Presbyterian Church for allowing us to use their splendid facilities.

Again, thank you for allowing me to serve as Assistant Chaplain and I am looking forward to serving this Association in the year to come. Happy 100th Anniversary CVVFA!

Attorney Howard S. Cohen - It is a continuing honor to serve this Association as it moves into its 100th year. I want to thank Chambersburg for hosting this Convention and this is the Association's founding city. My activities over the past year, with regards to the Association have been relatively limited because my time and attention have largely been focused on raising a young child. But, with regards to what I have done, I have spent some time focusing on the Emergency Responder Initiatives, helping out as best I could. I have discussed with some folks the issue of revising some By-Laws. Today, we will propose a couple of changes, nothing of significant magnitude--just some minor changes. I finally revised the Convention Contract Agreement.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORTS

Richard P. Jones, Pennsylvania - I attended all Booster meetings, and helped with the fund raisers. I am trying my best to keep up with the membership in my Company, Always There Hook & Ladder Co. #1, and MSF&E Hose Co. #1.

I would like to thank the Chambersburg fire departments and the committees for hosting the 2001 Convention.

Guy M. Flory, Pennsylvania - I served on the local Convention Committee as an advisor. I worked in helping to help get the firemen's museum set up, did not get up and

running for the Convention; and attended all Booster meetings.

I continue to promote the Convention parade trophy program, gained two new sponsors and lost two. We still need six sponsors. If your company does not sponsor a trophy, ask them to consider taking one of the openings.

I worked on some of the history of the CVVFA but was not really able to get settled in to getting things done like I would have liked to. I worked on getting the Memorial Program for the grave side service for the founder of the CVVFA, General Joseph F. Boyd.

I helped the "Gazette" (local weekly newspaper) prepare a special edition for the Convention. I had a painting of General Boyd preserved and framed for the Chambersburg Fire Museum.

I worked a total of eight days (six in Emmitsburg and two in Rockville) on evaluating requests for grant money put out by the Federal Government.

I want to thank the eight companies that worked on putting on this Convention.

Wilbur F. Miller, Maryland - I was able to attend the Booster meetings at Shippensburg and Chambersburg, PA. I could not attend the Keyser, WV, meeting due to health problems.

It is for this reason that I feel I can no longer serve as a Director and do the job as it should be done for the good of the Association. This is the right time for me to thank all of the Officers and members for allowing me to serve as a Director from the state of Maryland for so many years, and also to be a Past President. My 50 years with the Cumberland Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association have been a real pleasure. I have met many good firemen and their wives.

With regret, I submit my resignation. Thanks to everyone.

Wayne A. Baker, Maryland - It was a pleasure to serve as a member of the Board of Directors. I attended all meetings of the CVVFA, county conventions, Apple Blossom Festival, Five States Presidents meeting, banquet at Halfway, MD, Fallen Fire Fighters Memorial Service in Emmitsburg, and the Delaware State Convention. Thanks to everyone for their support and hope that it will continue this coming year.

Timothy Harper, West Virginia - Absent. No report.

Hugh M. Harris, West Virginia - This year, due to much improved health, I was able to attend the Booster meetings in October 2000 and May 2001. I missed the March meeting in Keyser, WV, due to the Eastern Panhandle Fire School. I also attended the Five States Presidents meeting in Taneytown, MD.

In January 2001 I represented the Association at the annual banquets of Westphal Hose Co. #5, West Lanham Hills VFD, and the Carroll Manor Fire Co. in April 2001.

Also during the year I attended many local and state fire schools and seminars, where I presented information about the CVVFA. I wish I could report many new members but it has been a struggle just to get the ones that have joined to stay in. I don't know what to do to retain these organizations.

I am proud to announce that the West Lanham Hills (MD) VFD will host the October Booster meeting, since I've been with the organization for 31 years. We look forward to seeing you there.

It has been a pleasure to serve the Association for another year and I look forward to serving in the future.

Larry W. Smallwood, Virginia - August 20, 2000 - My wife and I arrived in Newport, PA, for Newport Volunteer Fire Department's 75th Anniversary. We attended the opening ceremony in Newport Square.

August 21-23 - Attended weekly events for the celebration.

August 22 - Mrs. Flickinger and I placed a "Firefighter's Memorial Flag" on past Chief's grave.

August 24-26 - Attended the CVVFA Convention in Newport, PA.

October 6-8 - 19th Annual National Fallen Fire Fighters Memorial Service, Emmitsburg, MD.

October 22 - Attended Booster meeting in Chambersburg, PA.

November 18 - Attended funeral service for firefighter Michael "Mike" Lynn Cooper, member of the Capon Springs Volunteer Fire Department, Capon Springs, WV.

December 2 - Christmas parades, 10 a.m. Winchester, VA; 12 noon Berryville, VA; and 2 p.m. Charles Town, WV. (I wish I had wings that day.)

January 6, 2001 - Attended South End Fire Department Annual Banquet.

January 7 - Unable to attend January Booster meeting because of work schedule.

March 18 - Attended Booster meeting in Keyser, WV.

March 31 - Attended Five States Presidents meeting in Taneytown, MD.

May 3-6 - Apple Blossom Festival - attended all events.

May 18 - Fire Expo, Harrisburg, PA.

May 20 - Attended Booster meeting in Shippensburg, PA.

May 24 - Almost got killed by a reckless driver while I was assisting in a wreck, in Frederick County, VA, on Route 50 west of Winchester.

June 2 - Stephens City (VA) parade.

June 27 - Attended funeral service for James W. Kincaid, 94 years old, retired Virginia State Police.

July 4 - Fourth of July parades, Winchester and Strasburg, VA.

July 13 - Parade, Strasburg, VA

July 14 - Pennsylvania Pump Primers, Harrisburg, PA

July 15 - Visited the grave of Michael Cooper and placed a fire and rescue memorial flag on grave, and visited Capon Springs VFD and talked with the Chief and President of the company about CVVFA.

July 18 - Parade, Front Royal, VA

James M. Stokely, Virginia - Absent. No report.

John L. Mitchell, Delaware - I attended the following meetings this year: Six of my company meetings, three DVFA Executive meetings, DVFA State Conference, CVVFA Convention, Newport, PA, three CVVFA Booster meetings and Board meetings, three DelMarVa Volunteer Firemen's Association Booster meetings, DelMarVa Volunteer Firemen's Convention, and worked with DVFA Officers on the last day at Legislative Hall in Dover.

Claude Ray Johnson, Delaware - No report.

Lee C. Holler, Past President - I would like to thank the Chambersburg, PA, Fire Companies for hosting the 100th Anniversary Convention. I'm sure that this Convention will be something to remember, as this is where it all started.

I have attended fire companies meetings and have met with fire officials about our White Paper on the Fire Police Summit.

Attended the Booster meetings in Chambersburg, PA, October 2000; Keyser, WV, March 2001; and Shippensburg, PA, May 2001.

I have met with the local Fire and Rescue Coordinators on what the CVVFA is all about and how to become a member of the Association.

Attended the Board of Directors meeting of the Shenandoah Apple Blossom Firefighters Activities. This coming year we hope to celebrate the 75th Anniversary with the largest Firefighters Parade of all times. We hope to have 350 companies. I hope most of the CVVFA companies will attend.

I would like to thank President Steve Heefner for a job well done.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Archives/Historical - Don M. Ringer - Guy M. Flory - Don Ringer thanked the Advertising Manager for using material out of the paper he presented to the Historical Society. He was glad to be here after undergoing several surgeries.

Guy Flory reported that he has all artifacts and memorabilia in his garage for safe keeping. It is all filed away and he hopes to be able to sit down with somebody here in the near future and start to write the 100 year history of the Association. He has tried to preserve everything that he could.

Auditing Committee - Gerald L. Holtry - The books of the various Officers were audited and found to be in good order.

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

Constitution & By-Laws Committee - Wm. Dean Simpson - There are a couple of By-Law changes which will be discussed later. Other than that, everything is in order.

Convention Committee - Richard L. Hershey - No report.

Credential Committee - Marshall E. Bricker - No report.

Cumberland Valley 2001 - Howard S. Cohen - Welcome to Convention 2001.

Fire Prevention Committee - Thomas W. Dell - Charles E. Myers - No report.

Legislative Committee - Stephen P. Austin - The Five States Presidents meeting will be held on Friday.

Membership Committee - Stephen E. Heefner - No report.

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

Parliamentarian - Howard S. Cohen - No report.

Pennsylvania Delegate - Charles E. Myers - This report will be as Delegate to the Firemen's Association of the State of Pennsylvania, and also as the Statewide Advisory Board member of the Pennsylvania Fire and Emergency Services Institute.

I would like to start by thanking the Greater Chambersburg Area Volunteer Firemen's Association for hosting the 100th Anniversary Celebration of the CVVFA.

Since our last Convention in Newport, PA, where we all had a great time, it has been a very busy year.

September 20-23, 2000, Vivian and I attended the 121st FASP Convention in King of Prussia, PA, at the Holiday Inn, where I was installed as President for the year 2001. Vivian was installed as First Vice President of the Ladies Auxiliary for the year 2000-2001. King of Prussia Fire Company also celebrated 50 years of service to their community.

September 27-30, we attended the Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association (DVFA) Conference in Dover, DE.

October 6-8, I attended the Pennsylvania Forest Fire Museum Annual meeting at Penn State University--Mont Alto Campus.

October 8, we attended the 19th Annual National Fallen Fire Fighters Memorial Service in Emmitsburg, MD.

October 19, we attended the Southeastern Firemen's Association meeting at New Cumberland Fire Department.

October 22, we attended the CVVFA Booster meeting in Chambersburg, PA, at Franklin Fire Company Station #4.

November 17-18, I attended the Keystone State Fire Chiefs Association Annual Fall meeting in St. Thomas, PA.

November 19, we attended the fall meeting of the Pennsylvania Fire Police at Shermans Dale in Perry County. Also that same day we attended the SWAB meeting of the PFESI at Camp Hill, PA.

November 20, I attended the 10th Annual Pennsylvania Fire and Emergency Services Dinner at Camp Hill.

January 19-20, 2001, I attended the Executive Board and Quarterly meetings of the FASP at the Clarion Motel in Carlisle, PA. I also attended the Legislative Workshop on the 20th.

February 3, I attended the SWAB meeting of the PFESI at the Delaware County Emergency Training Center at Sharon Hill, PA.

February 7, I attended a program called "Get Out and Stay Live" for college students at Shippensburg University presented by the Masons of Pennsylvania and ACACIA Fraternity.

February 13, I attended the funeral of David Buskey in Harrisburg, PA. David was a retired city fire fighter and one of the Founders of the Harrisburg Fire Museum and Pennsylvania Pump Primers.

February 22, Vivian and I attended the funeral of Charles E. Mouer, Past Chief and 73 year member of our Fire Company, Vigilant Hose Company, where I was also a Pallbearer.

February 27, I retired as President of the Cumberland County Fire Chiefs after 18 years of service.

March 18, we could not attend the CVVFA Booster meeting in Keyser, WV, because we were asked, as representatives of the FASP, to be Greeters at the Pennsylvania Emergency Services Week Church Service at the Zion Lutheran Church in Enola. FASP Chaplain Rev. Winfield Engler, and Harrisburg City Firefighters Chaplain Dennis Snyder were speakers for the service.

March 22, I traveled to Harrisburg for Pennsylvania Emergency Services Week Program for Legislators, Staff and Media. The program was called "Behind the Lights and Siren."

March 31, I attended the Five States Presidents meeting in Taneytown, MD.

April 20-21, we attended the Executive Board and Quarterly meeting of the FASP in my hometown, Shippensburg, PA, hosted by my company, Vigilant Hose Company #1 and Cumberland Valley Hose Company, at the Fire Fighters Activity Center.

April 25, I attended the 13th Annual National Fire and Emergency Services Dinner at the Hilton in Washington, DC.

April 28, Vivian and I represented the FASP at "Operation Jump Start" sponsored by two Masonic Lodges and the Heart Association in Lebanon to raise money for AEDs. It was a very nice evening with good food and entertainment.

May 5-6, we traveled to Tamaqua, PA, for the 123rd Anniversary Banquet of American Hose Co. #1, and the retirement of Chief Art Connely, where I was guest speaker and presented Chief Connely with a plaque.

May 18, we spent most of the day at Fire Expo in Harrisburg, PA.

May 19, as representatives of the FASP, we were guests of the South Newton Township Fire Company's 25th Anniversary Celebration, and new engine dedication and housing.

We each received a nice plaque for attending.

May 20, we attended the Booster meeting of the CVVFA at the Firefighters Activity Center in Shippensburg, hosted by the Vigilant Hose Company.

June 9, we attended the Annual PFESI Picnic and Senators Baseball Game at City Island, Harrisburg, where a good time was had by all.

June 16-21, we traveled to Ocean City, MD, for the 109th Annual Convention of the Maryland State Firemen's Association (MSFA). We had a wonderful five days in Ocean City, being involved with the Convention activities.

June 23, I traveled to Emmitsburg, MD, for a seminar by the National Fallen Fire Fighters Foundation called "Taking Care of our Own," a guide to prepare for a line of duty death.

June 30, I attended the SWAB meeting of the PFESI at Murrysville, PA, at the MSA plant where we had a tour of the plant and saw them make self-contained breathing apparatus and hard hats.

July 13-14, we attended the Executive Board and Quarterly meeting of the FASP in Somerset, PA, at the Ramada Inn.

July 21, was Pennsylvania Weekend at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, MD. I attended the Memorial Service for Line of Duty Deaths in Pennsylvania from July 2000 to this date. There were 10 names read.

This report only highlights the major events of the FASP and PFESI. There were many banquets and other events that we attended. On the local level I have been active with my company, the Fire Police, and Fire Prevention Committee, and with the County Firefighters, Fire Chiefs, and Fire Police organizations. As a Forest Fire Warden I have been busy attending meetings, trainings, and fires, and being on the committee for the Annual Forest Fire Museum meeting to be held October 19-21 at Mont Alto.

I am looking forward to serving as your representative to the FASP and PFESI again next year.

Publicity Committee - Robin G. Hinchey - No report.

Public Relations Committee - Stephen E. Heefner - No report.

Resolutions Committee - Joseph W. Bukowski - Resolutions and presentation of the Fire Person of the Year for this Association will be presented Friday night at the Banquet. This Committee thanks those Directors who submitted names and for their help in choosing the Fire Person of the Year.

It is the recommendation of this Committee to continue having State Directors submit names of individuals for Resolutions again next year. The selection of the Fire Person of the Year will then be done by the past two recipients along with this year's recipient.

Scholarship Committee - Joseph W. Bukowski - Scholarship applications are now going to be available for downloading from the CVVFA Web Page. Completed applications will be sent to the Financial Secretary who will then forward them to the Scholarship Chairperson.

We will have the 50/50 drawing the night of the banquet. Reminder to all Officers and members to turn in ticket stubs and money.

Topics Committee - Stephen P. Austin - No report. The information is printed in the Convention program.

Web Page Committee - Thomas W. Dell - Stephen P. Austin - Steve Austin reported that he would combine his presentation with that of Dr. Harry Carter later in the day.

President Stephen E. Heefner called for nomination of Officers and Board members.

President - **Stephen C. McBee** (West Virginia)
Nominated by Charles "C.J." Bens
Nominations for President were closed.

First Vice President - Charles "C.J." Bens (Pennsylvania)

Nominated by Stephen C. McBee
Nominations for First Vice President were closed.

Second Vice President - Wm. Dean Simpson (Delaware)

Nominated by Lawrence E. Mergenthaler
Nominations for Second Vice President were closed.

Third Vice President - J. Allen Brennan (Virginia)

Nominated by Charles "C.J." Bens
Nominations for Third Vice President were closed.

Candidate for Third Vice President, J. Allen Brennan, was not present but had called to say that he would be arriving late.

A letter from the Hancock Rescue Squad was read nominating Stephen A. Barnhart for the office of Fourth Vice President. A letter was also received from Stephen A. Barnhart accepting the nomination. According to CVVFA By-Laws, "No member shall be nominated for any office, except Attorney, unless he/she is in attendance or unavoidably prevented from attending and is in good standing in the books of the CVVFA." Since he was not present and had not sent a letter explaining his absence, the nomination was not acceptable. Also his name was not found on the membership rolls.

Fourth Vice President - Ronald L. Royer (Maryland)
Nominated by Charles E. Barnhart, Jr.
Nominations for Fourth Vice President were closed.

Treasurer - George J. Dove
Nominated by Lee C. Holler
Nominations for Treasurer were closed.

Financial Secretary - James J. Wharry
Nominated by Aetna Hose, Hook & Ladder Company (by letter)
Nominations for Financial Secretary were closed.

Recording Secretary - Louise E. Dell

Nominated by Charles E. Myers
Nominations for Recording Secretary were closed.

Home Office Manager - Stephen E. Heefner

Nominated by Louise E. Dell
Hugh M. Harris - Declined the nomination
Nominations for Home Office Manager were closed.

Advertising Manager - Robin G. Hinchey

Nominated by Hugh M. Harris
Nominations for Advertising Manager were closed.

Chaplain - Charles E. Barnhart, Jr.

Nominated by Hugh M. Harris
Nominations for Chaplain were closed.

Assistant Chaplain - Ray W. Mowen

Nominated by Guy M. Flory
Nominations for Assistant Chaplain were closed.

Attorney - Howard S. Cohen

Nominated by Aetna Hose, Hook & Ladder Company (by letter)
Nominations for Attorney were closed.

Pennsylvania Board of Directors - 2 year term

Richard P. Jones
Nominated by Guy M. Flory
Nominations for Pennsylvania Board member were closed.

Maryland Board of Directors

Robert Kefauver - Declined the nomination.
Robert P. Cumberland - 1 year term (due to Wilbur Miller resignation)
Nominated by Wilbur F. Miller
Wayne A. Baker - 2 year term
Nominated by Charles E. Barnhart, Jr.
Nominations for Maryland Board members were closed.

Virginia Board of Directors - 2 year term

Larry W. Smallwood
Nominated by Hugh M. Harris
Nominations for Virginia Board member were closed.

Question was raised as to whether James Stokely was an Honorary member of the Association or a regular member and whether he is eligible to hold office. It was decided at the Board meeting that if he pays his dues upon his arrival, he will be a regular member in good standing. Since he was not up for election this year, and will not be arriving until Friday due to work responsibilities, the question was tabled until Friday.

West Virginia Board of Directors - 2 year term
Harry C. Alt

Nominated by Hugh M. Harris
Nominations for West Virginia Board member were closed.

Delaware Board of Directors - 2 year term

John L. Mitchell, Sr.
Nominated by John Fox
Nominations for Delaware Board member were closed.

Delegate to Pennsylvania State

Charles E. Myers
Nominated by Robert W. Trace
Nominations for Pennsylvania State Delegate were closed.

MOTION BY LEE C. HOLLER, SECOND BY HUGH M. HARRIS, THAT THE SECRETARY CAST A UNANIMOUS BALLOT FOR ALL UNCONTESTED OFFICES. MOTION CARRIED.

I, Louise E. Dell, cast a unanimous ballot for all uncontested offices.

Board of Directors continuing for another year:

- Pennsylvania - Guy M. Flory
- West Virginia - Hugh M. Harris
- Virginia - James M. Stokely
- Delaware - Claude Ray Johnson

Stephen P. Austin gave a very interesting and informative presentation on the new CVVFA web page.

Steve introduced the Keynote Speaker - **Dr. Harry Carter** who gave a very rousing and interesting presentation. He was presented with an Honorary Membership Certificate.

Robert P. Cumberland presented a proposal on a joint program with the CVVFA, National Volunteer Fire Council, and Operation Respond. A copy of the proposal is attached. He encouraged everyone to give favorable consideration to the proposal.

MOTION BY DEAN SIMPSON, SECOND BY HUGH HARRIS, TO RECESS UNTIL FRIDAY MORNING. MOTION CARRIED.

The meeting recessed at 3:45 p.m.

Friday Morning
August 3, 2001

The meeting was called to order at 9 a.m. by President Heefner. Invocation was given by Chaplain Barnhart.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None.

Report on Election of Officers - Virginia Director James Stokely has paid his dues and is now a member in good standing. Therefore, all other offices stand as elected.

NEW BUSINESS

The Secretary read the proposal presented by **Robert P. Cumberland** at the meeting on Thursday. A copy is attached to these minutes.

MOTION BY HUGH HARRIS, SECOND BY GUY FLORY, TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL. MOTION CARRIED.

Question was raised as to how many motor carriers respond--Yellow Freight is the only one at present.

Financial Secretary James Wharry reported that \$10 of each company's dues goes to the Scholarship Committee and, as of yesterday, we have 78 companies. He turned \$780 over to the Scholarship Committee.

By-Laws Committee - Wm. Dean Simpson. Second reading for the following:

Article VII - Meetings, Section 1. Now reads: The Annual Convention shall be held Thursday, Friday, and Saturday during the third full week of August.

Amend to read:

Article VII - Meetings, Section 1. The Annual Convention shall be held Thursday, Friday and Saturday during the **month of August, as long as it does not interfere with any of the member State Association Conventions.**

MOTION BY DEAN SIMPSON, SECOND BY ROBERT CUMBERLAND, THAT THE AMENDMENT BE ACCEPTED FOR THE SECOND READING.

Parliamentarian Cohen stated that a better definition is to be presented today. **THE MOTION AS MADE AND SECONDED WAS WITHDRAWN.**

Article VII - Meetings, Section 3. Now reads: Three (3) Booster Meetings shall be held each year on the Fourth Sunday of October, and the Third Sunday of March and May. Booster Meetings, etc.

Amend to read:

Article VII - Meetings, Section 3. Three (3) Booster Meetings shall be held each year, **on a Sunday in** in October, March, and May. Booster Meetings, etc.

MOTION BY DEAN SIMPSON, AND SECONDED, TO ACCEPT THE AMENDMENT FOR THE SECOND READING. MOTION CARRIED.

Parliamentarian Howard Cohen presented several new proposed amendments as follows:

Article I - Membership, Section 3. Now reads: Active members shall consist of two classes: active and active beneficial.

A. Active members are those members in good standing of any duly recognized Volunteer Fire or Rescue Company, Department, or Association who: etc.

Amend to read:

Article I - Membership, Section 3. Active members shall consist of two classes: active and active beneficial.

A. Active members are those members in good standing in any duly recognized Volunteer Fire, Rescue, or **Emergency Services** Company, Department, **Organization**, or Association who: etc.

Rationale - The Responder Safety initiative brings in to the CVVFA fold responders from other aspects of the emergency services world, most notably law enforcement.

Article III - Duties of Officers, Section 1. Now reads: The President shall preside at the annual and special meetings of the CVVFA, be an Ex-officio member of all committees, provide order and decorum; countersign all orders drawn on the Treasurer; etc.

Amend to read:

Article III - Duties of Officers, Section 1. The President shall preside at the annual and special meetings of the CVVFA, be an Ex-officio member of all committees, provide order and decorum; etc.

Rationale - This is already being done but the change was needed in the By-Laws.

Article IV - Duties of the Board of Directors and Committees, Section 1. Now reads: The Board of Directors shall direct the contracting of bills and their payment through the proper vouchers. It shall have charge of the investments of surplus monies and shall fill vacancies for the unexpired terms of office. etc.

Amend to read:

Article IV - Duties of the Board of Directors and Committees, Section 1. The Board of Directors shall direct the contracting of bills and their payment through the proper vouchers. It shall have charge of the investments of surplus monies and shall fill vacancies for the unexpired terms of office. **It shall have authority to establish scholarship award programs and total dollar amounts that may be awarded. etc.**

Rationale - Adds flexibility to establish scholarship programs and/or change the dollar amounts that may be awarded.

Article VII - Section 1. Now reads: The Annual Convention shall be held Thursday, Friday and Saturday during the third full week of August. etc.

Amend to read:

Article VII - Section 1. The Annual Convention shall be held **on the** Thursday, Friday, and Saturday **beginning on the Thursday preceding the first Saturday in** August.

Rationale - For a number of reasons it has been proposed to fix the Annual Convention at an earlier date. A primary reason is that school and university semesters have been opening earlier and earlier, causing conflicts both with members (in the case of teachers) or their families schedules, or with Convention host cities, where college or university opening may preclude parades or other activities, or lead to unavailability of hotel space (i.e., in the case of Newark several years ago, had that date not been moved). Another reason is to prevent conflicts with other association's conventions.

Article VII - Section 3. Now reads: Three (3) Booster meetings shall be held each year on the Fourth Sunday of October, and the Third Sunday of March and May. Booster meeting

dates are subject to change at the call of the President provided the Board of Directors approves at the meeting immediately preceding said proposed change. The Board of Directors shall meet prior to each Booster Meeting. etc.

Amend to read:

Article VII - Section 3. Three (3) Booster meetings shall be held each year, on a Sunday in October, March and May. Booster meeting dates are subject to change at the call of the President provided the Board of Directors approves at the meeting immediately preceding said proposed change. **Subject to the provisions of Article III, Section 1, the Board of Directors may** meet prior to each Booster Meeting. etc.

Rationale - The Board has found that Board meetings are not always necessary prior to the Booster meetings, so this change permits the Board to meet when necessary, under the provisions of Article III, Section 1 which speaks to how Board of Directors meetings are called.

MOTION BY WM. DEAN SIMPSON, SECOND BY CHARLES "C.J." BENS, TO ACCEPT THESE AMENDMENTS AS THE FIRST READING. MOTION CARRIED.

John Beaty, Secretary, Virginia State Firemen's Association, reported that Virginia has a problem in that their By-Laws states that they cannot hold their Convention during the third week of August when the Cumberland Valley meets. He said that he is in hot water right now because he changed the date of the Convention. He asked for something in writing so he can take it back to his Convention to be held next week. (He was furnished with a copy of the change.)

President Heefner recognized Wilbur F. "Mose" Miller who is retiring as a Maryland Director after many years of service. Mose was recognized with a standing ovation.

President Heefner reported that lunch would be served across the hall in the room where registration had been held. Space was also available for eating in the same room.

At 9:30 a.m., the meeting was turned over to Steve Austin for the Five States Presidents meeting to be held.

The Five States Presidents Meeting adjourned at 2 p.m.

The Convention meeting was reconvened. The E. Wade Thomas Memorial Fire Prevention Program was given by **Stephen P. Austin** who spoke on "Fire Prevention and the CVVFA, An Historical Perspective."

MOTION BY GEORGE J. DOVE, SECOND BY CHARLES E. MYERS, TO PAY BILLS.
Following discussion, **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION BY JOSEPH BUKOWSKI, SECOND BY ROBERT GEARHART, TO PAY THE HOST COMPANY \$400 TO HELP WITH CONVENTION EXPENSES. MOTION CARRIED.

Good of the Association - None.

MOTION BY RICHARD P. JONES, SECOND BY ROBERT KEFAUVER, TO ADJOURN. MOTION CARRIED.

The meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

Friday Evening August 3, 2001

The banquet started at 6 p.m. Prayer was given by Chaplain Barnhart followed by a delicious dinner.

Richard Hershey introduced the entertainment for the evening. " Lou Costello and Bud Abbott" paid a visit and did some hilarious skits, including their baseball skit. Everyone really enjoyed the comedy act.

President Heefner introduced Robert Bietsch, 92 years of age, who is a 50-year life member of the Association. Mr. Beach was the oldest person in attendance at the Convention. His father was President of the CVVFA in 1924. Mr. Beach received a rousing hand of applause.

Richard Hershey was presented with the \$400 check to help defray Convention costs. Richard thanked his committee members and everyone else who had helped to put the Convention together. He presented a pink rose and a T-shirt to the five ladies, and T-shirts to the fourteen men. These individuals represented all the fire companies in Chambersburg.

President Heefner presented a Resolution to the Chambersburg Fire Company.

Richard Hershey then recognized his wife and daughter with flowers and thanked them for their patience with him for being away from home so much.

Joseph Bukowski presented Resolutions to the individuals whose names had been recommended by the State Directors and others. Copies of the Resolutions are attached.

The **Fire Person of the Year** of the Cumberland Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association is Stephen P. Austin. This was the unanimous decision of the State Directors.

James Wharry presented 50-year life membership cards. List of recipients attached.

Joseph Bukowski presented a check for \$500 to the winner of the Kenneth E. Butts Memorial Scholarship--Jimmy D. Pearce.

The Scholarship 50-50 drawing was held and the winner of \$374 was Joseph Bukowski.

Keynote speaker for the evening, **John Brenner**, spoke on "Our Second Century, Where Do We Go From Here." The speech was very enlightening and was enjoyed by all.

President Heefner gave his final remarks, as follows:

"I would like to thank everyone for attending this banquet and ceremonies. We're not just friends. We here tonight are family.

"As my year as President of this organization comes to an end, I would like to thank everyone for giving me the opportunity to serve as the 99th President of this Association. It has been a great honor and privilege for me to serve as your President for the past year and to promote this organization for the past five years as I proceeded through the chairs. This was an experience that I will never forget.

"I want to thank the Officers, Committees, Chairpersons, Past Presidents, and everyone who has supported and helped during the past year. A special "Thank You" to the

Convention Committee for all the hard work they have done this year.

Working together can never be a policy,
It can only be a practice.
It can never be a code of rules.
It can only be a way of looking at the world.
We can say, "This is mine," and be good,
or we can add, "This is ours," and become better.
We can think, "I do my share," and be satisfied,
or we can ask, "Can I do more?" and become prosperous.
We can work alongside each other and function,
or we can work with each other and grow.

"Our history makes it clear that combining all efforts into one has been the only way to achieve that progress and that strength we take such pride in knowing that we've achieved it together, with our own work and our visions. That's really the key. Because when all is said and done, working together doesn't only bring out the best in all of us, it brings out the best in each of us.

"A special 'Thank You' to The Volunteer Fire Company of Halfway for their continued support in so many ways. Also to my family for their help and support. My daughter, Rebecca, read a story at the beginning of school back in September about a famous person named 'Suds.' Her assignment was to write a story about someone famous that she knew. Here is what she wrote:

'Just like Suds was famous my Dad was to. My Dad is the president of Five States. He was in the paper for this because it just happen this year. He was elected in the year 2000. He has been a fireman for a long time. Now he is very busy. I'm very proud of him. And I know he is proud of his self.'

"And a very special thanks to my First Lady, Anita, who answered a lot of calls, helped write speeches, reminded me of meetings, always made sure I had clean underwear packed when I was out of town and never lost her crown.

"In closing, I wish the incoming Officers the best of luck and hope their term is as memorable and rewarding as it has been for me. I pledge my continued support to the Association."

President Heefner then presented roses to his wife, Anita, and daughter, Rebecca.

Past President Stephen P. Austin gave the oath of office to the newly elected Officers and Board Members.

Newly elected and installed **President Stephen C. McBee** presented Past President Heefner with his Past President's Pin and a Resolution from the Association.

Halfway Chief Joseph Kroboth, Jeffrey Ringer, and James Kimble presented Past President Heefner with a plaque from the Halfway Volunteer Fire Department.

Charles "C.J." Bens presented Past President Heefner with a pewter fireman statue from the Provident Insurance Company.

President Stephen C. McBee gave his remarks as follows:

OYSTERS & PEARLS

'Some people love to lead and some refuse to dance,

Some play it safely, others take a chance.
Still it's a mystery,
This place we call the world
Where most live as oysters
While some become pearls.'

"Oysters are rather homely looking shell fish. Some people can't stand the sight of seeing them on a plate, much less devouring them, but oysters have great potential. A small particle will cause an irritation and over a period of time, a beautiful pearl is formed. Some are more exquisite than others, but all are valuable.

"One hundred years ago a group of firemen in the Cumberland Valley became irritated because there were no standard hose connections. After a couple of meetings, they came up with a solution, but more importantly for us, they came up with the Cumberland Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association.

"With foresight and determination, a chance was taken and a handful of pearls made changes in the fire service.

"Since 1901, the fire service has seen its share of oysters. You know them as people that stay in their own station or home. When begged, coerced, or badgered, they will assist with projects.

"They are quite content to mind their own business and not venture into controversial situations. Eventually they drift from the fire service and never leave that safe shell for the challenges faced by many. Every now and then, another irritant produces another pearl.

"Several years ago, the leaders of the CVVFA became concerned about the future of the organization.

"After much discussion, the direction was going to be education and information for the fire service

"Respondersafety.com is the latest pearl provided by the irritation of the members of this Association, the Fire Service, EMS, and Police.

"As an Association, we have the opportunity to continue the work started 100 years ago and push the fire service.

"As the fire service changes we will need to keep ever watchful and choose our battles wisely.

"We need to get younger members active in Association activities so we don't become the Jurassic Park edition of the CVVFA.

"A leader is only as good as the team they direct. I couldn't ask for better people to work with and as President Heefner said, any accomplishments are because of your work.

"I may get to stand in front for a year, but it takes all of us to keep the CVVFA a strong advocate for the fire service.

'Some never fade away, some crash and burn,
Some make the world go round,
Others watch it turn.
Still it's a mystery,

This place we call the world
Most are fine as oysters
While some become pearls.'

"Every one of our members is a pearl and I thank you for allowing me to irritate you."

The banquet was over at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Louise E. Dell, Recording Secretary

REMINDER:

The October Booster meeting will be held on Sunday, October 28, 2001, at the West Lanham Hills Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department, Inc. The fire house is located at 8501 Good Luck Road, Lanham, MD. The phone number there is 301-577-0777. The meeting starts at 1:30 p.m.

Download:

- [2001 CVVFA Annual Convention Meeting Minutes](#) (Word DOC)

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