

**Cumberland Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association
 Convention August 1 – 4 2012
 Berkeley Springs Volunteer Fire Company, West Virginia
 Proceedings and Minutes**

President Mike Sullivan called the 111th annual convention to order at 9am. He asked for the invocation from Chaplain Barnhart. The Chaplain brought greetings, offered the prayer giving thanks for those in attendance and the Officers of the Association for a successful year. This was followed by the pledge to the flag led by the Chaplain. All remained standing as the national anthem was played.

President Sullivan gave the host company welcome. Mike reminded everyone that t-shirts are on sale in the back and ticket sales for the events. If you did not pre-register, I would ask that you pay cash at the picnic. Again, I will be happy to help anyone with their needs.

Mike then appointed the following special committees for convention.

Sergeants-at-Arms -

- Wayne Baker - chair
- Jeff Ringer
- Robert Sweetman

Election Committee -

- Charlie Myers– Judge
- Bob Cumberland - Teller
- Bob Trace - Teller

Installing Officer – Steve Austin

Recording secretary Gene Worthington took roll call as follows: We had 104 representatives in attendance. We also had attendees from New York and New Jersey which were not recorded on the rolls. This will be corrected for next year.

TITLE	NAME	OCT	BOARD	MARCH	MAY	BOARD	CONV
President	Michael Sullivan	1	1	1	1	1	1
1st Vice President	Steven Haines	1				1	1
2nd Vice President	James Watson	1	1	1		1	1
3rd Vice President	Walter Robertson	1		1	1	1	1
4th Vice President	Hoby Howell	1		1	1	1	1
Treasurer	George Dove	1	1	1	1	1	1
Financial Secretary	Stephen McBee	1	1	1	1	1	1
Recording Secretary	Gene Worthington	1	1	1	1	1	1
Home Office Manager	Stephen Heefner	1	1	1	1	1	1
Publicity Manager	Robert Timko			1			1
Chaplain	Charles Barnhart					1	1
Assistant Chaplain	James Wharry	1	1	1	1	1	1
Attorney	Howard Cohen		1				1
Pennsylvania Delegate	Charlie Myers	1		1	1		1
Director, Pennsylvania (2013)	Rich Bruner			1		1	1
Director, Pennsylvania (2012)	Curtis Alleman		1		1		1

Director, Maryland (2013)	Wayne Baker	1	1	1	1	1	1
Director, Maryland (2012)	Robert Cumberland	1	1	1	1	1	1
Director, West Virginia (2013)	Bill Keller	1	1	1	1	1	1
Director, West Virginia (2012)	Brett Bittle	1					
Director, Delaware (2013)	Harry Balthis	1	1	1	1	1	1
Director, Delaware (2012)	Steve Austin	1	1		1	1	1
Director, Virginia (2013)	Kevin Wilkes		1				
Director, Virginia (2012)	Allen Brennan	1	1	1	1	1	1
Past President	Greg Yost	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Totals	19	17	18	17	19	23
Past Presidents		13	11	13	14	12	16
Maryland Fire Depts		12	0	12	10	0	15
Delaware Fire Depts		9	0	8	7	0	18
Virginia Fire Depts		3	0	7	9	0	6
West Virginia Fire Depts		6	0	5	8	0	5
Pennsylvania Fire Depts		16	0	22	25	0	21
	Grand Totals	78	28	85	90	31	104

Recording Secretary Worthington then read the minutes from the Board of Directors meeting held August 1, 2012. *“President Sullivan called the meeting to order at 7:05pm. Opening prayer was given by Chaplain Barnhart followed by the pledge to the flag. The welcome was given by Mike from the host company. He spoke on some of the logistics for convention and was honored to be the host. There were no guests in attendance. PP Flickinger presented the convention plaque to the host company. Roll call was taken with 19 Officers and 12 Past Presidents in attendance. The Secretary reported we have some correspondence which will be read during convention. President Sullivan asked if any Officers needed to report.*

Chaplain Barnhart spoke about the memorial service, we are ready. The prayer breakfast will be at Maria’s Garden in town starting at 8:30am, please sign up.

Steve Heefner has the wreath in his possession. The shadow box will be delivered Thursday morning. Some discussion ensued about the storage of the memorial items. Several members are sick, will have cards tomorrow.

Steve Austin spoke about having a talk session tomorrow after the business meeting, Harvey Eisner will host, starting at 4:30 at the hotel hospitality room. We have some special speakers, would like to provide complimentary event tickets, Steve McBee will sponsor.

Bob Cumberland spoke about the lack of sales on our store website. We need to review our current level of support and better promote or we may lose. I am looking at a pewter medallion to be used for many of our items. A concern was raised about the visibility of the site. Another concern was raised about the items for sale. A suggestion was made that if the host convention committee could purchase some of the items via our store, more profitable for the vendor and us.

Wayne Baker spoke about storm damage to our sign, needs permission to have redone. Motion was made to give Wayne the authority to have the sign repaired by Bill Keller, seconded by Steve Flickinger, verbal vote taken, motion passed.

Wayne was approached by Berkeley Springs who would like to have the top board from the sign, motion was made to accept their request and donate the board by Bill Keller, seconded by Hoby Howell, verbal vote taken, motion passed.

Rich Brunner spoke about the sale of classified ads posting on our web. He had some suggestions as to what items to be sold, cost, length of ad, etc. This is food for thought, will bring up during proper order of business at convention for action.

Steve Flickinger gave the convention report. All but two sponsors have paid for the plaques. We have \$3085 in income. There was much discussion reference those plaques not being awarded. Steve also has the special awards for the banquet. Discussion continued about the lack of pre-registration for parade. Several gave suggestions on how to improve the process.

President continued to speak about the host company convention committee, really had a lack of support for personnel. Registration will begin tomorrow morning, you can pick up your event tickets tonight. We have items for sale, please buy. Morgan County Fair is also this weekend. Since the fair is being conducted with us, there will be no refreshments after the parade, please support the fair committee.

Greg Yost spoke about an activity to be held Thursday night after the picnic at the hotel hospitality room.

Bob Timko was absent, Gene read his report reference the convention book. The books are here. Our vendor provided a great discount for the printing. There are some grammatical errors, we apologize for them.

Steven Haines gave the report for the audit committee, after reviewing the records, all were found to be in good standing, motion to accept the audit committee report by James Watson, seconded by Bill Keller, verbal vote taken, motion passed.

Motion was made to pay all convention expenses by Steve McBee, seconded by Walter Robertson, verbal vote taken, motion passed.

A concern was raised about the email messages on vendor space at convention, this will be discussed in proper order of business at convention.

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned at 8:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,

President Sullivan asked for a motion to accept the Board of Directors minutes, **MOTION** to accept by Bill Keller, seconded by James Watson, no further discussion, verbal vote taken, motion carried.

President Sullivan asked for a motion to approve the May booster meeting minutes that had already been posted on the web. **MOTION** to accept as printed by Walter Robertson, seconded by Bob Cumberland, no further discussion, verbal vote taken, motion carried.

Secretary Worthington reported on the communications received. Gene read a card received from the city of Philadelphia regarding a sympathy card that was sent by the Chaplain's office to honor the two LODDs. He also read a letter from Delaware City reference showing the PSA on highway safety be shown at the Delaware service plaza.

There were no fire prevention queens in attendance.

OFFICERS REPORTS:

President's Report – Michael Sullivan

Fellow members, officers and guests, welcome to Berkeley Springs for the annual CVVFA Convention. Since the last booster meeting in Keyser I have attended all my company's regular meetings and functions. I also attended the funeral/memorial service for lifetime member Dave Duncan of Berkeley Springs. Other than that I have been busy with work and family functions. Again welcome to Berkeley Springs, I hope everyone enjoys themselves and has a great time.

First Vice President's Report – Steven Haines

President Mike Sullivan, fellow officers, members and guests, welcome to Berkeley Springs, WV for the 111th annual CVVFA convention. A special thanks to the Berkeley Springs VFC for hosting this year's convention. I know that I have missed the last 2 booster meetings due to work, but when duty calls, well, what do you do? Anyway, I have attended my own fire company meetings and our own in-house training sessions. Well, Mike, your year is coming to a close. Congratulations to you on a successful year, looking forward on continuing the success of this Association for the coming year. Good seeing everyone, enjoy the rest of the convention and have fun. Take care and have a safe trip home.

Second Vice President's Report – James Watson

I'd like to thank the Officers and members of the Berkeley Springs VFC for hosting the 111th annual convention. Since our last meeting in Keyser, WV, I've attended my company meetings, Board of Director's meeting, county meetings, county Fire Chief's meetings and state Fire Chief's Association meetings and the Eastern Chiefs Conference in Trevous, PA and the CFSI dinner in DC. I also attended the dedication of our new fire boat FB 15. And I conducted several training classes in my department and attended several classes and have given out a number of applications to new members and have encouraged other organizations to join our group.

Third Vice President's Report – Walter Robertson

I want to thank Berkeley Springs Fire Company for hosting our annual convention. This has been a busy spring and summer, teaching EVOC classes and attending fire carnivals. Also I have attended all of my fire companies meeting, fund raising activities. I have attended all of my county officers meetings, & committee meeting & state meetings.

Fourth Vice President's Report – Hoby Howell

We would like to thank our host President Mike Sullivan's home company Berkeley Springs VFC, WV for your hospitality in having our annual CVVFA convention here today at your facility. We appreciate your dedication to your community and our Association. Since our last meeting in May, I have attended my company's regular scheduled meetings and drills. I attended on May 11 the Harford Cecil Volunteer Firemen's Association meeting, assisted with our booth May 18 at Harrisburg Fire Expo, May 19 held our annual Harford Cecil basket bingo fundraiser at Level VFC, attended the MSFA convention in Ocean City June 16-21 working with the Safety committee to which I'm Vice Chair and awarded the Smith N. Stathem PP Memorial Safety Award to a member of my company, Fallston VFAC, assisted the Harford Cecil with the transportation of their trailer to and from the beach and attended the Fire House Expo July 20 briefly with my shift.

Treasurer's Report – George J. Dove

George provided the following account balances:

ENDING BALANCES

General Account	8754.32
Death Benefit Account	800.00
CD	90000.00
NET WORTH	99554.32

Financial Secretary's Report – Stephen C. McBee

Welcome to Berkeley Springs for our Annual Convention. If anyone needs assistance, please contact any member of Berkeley Springs Volunteer Fire Company. Over 500 dues notices went out to individuals and member-company dues are current for the year. As always, I will update mailing addresses and e-mail addresses for our members. Thank you for allowing me to serve you as Financial Secretary.

Recording Secretary's Report – Gene Worthington

Good morning, Mr. President, members and guests, I would like to start by thanking Berkeley Springs and Mike for hosting the convention. The secretary's office has completed all the tasks required or asked to do throughout the year. All correspondence has been addressed and responded to. All minutes from the meetings have been transcribed and forwarded to the web for posting. I remain very active back home at the local, county and state levels making meetings and my required training. The agenda for the convention was sent to the President, all resolutions will be completed and ready for presentation. We still have copies of the proceedings book from last convention, this is the last time you will see them. The Office assisted with the IRS tax status change request. As always, I am requesting to further update the mailing lists, if you are not receiving mail from me, either by postage or e-mail, please add your name to the list or if there are any corrections from the printing in the convention book, please let me know. Congratulations to President Sullivan on his year and we look forward to assisting Steven in the coming year. As always the office stands ready to support the CVVFA.

Home Office Manager's Report – Stephen E. Heefner

Mr. President, Officers, members and guests, welcome to the 111th annual convention to the CVVFA and thanks to President Mike Sullivan and the Berkeley Springs VFC for hosting our annual convention. During the past year, I attended all CVVFA scheduled meetings, processed and mailed the yearly postcards and the annual convention newsletter to over 900 members and member companies. Please update your mailing address, had over 25 returned. I assisted the Officers and members with motel accommodations when requested and other activities. I secured future booster and convention dates. Anyone interested, please see me for the next available dates. President Sullivan and fellow Officers, thank you for leading us through another successful year. Finally, if elected, I look forward to serving another year.

Publicity Manager's Report – Robert Timko

Thanks to Berkeley Springs for assisting with the ads, we have two outstanding invoices. Our profit will be \$1,077 for the book.

Chaplain's Report – Charles E. Barnhart, Jr.

Chaplain Charlie spoke about the memorial service, thanked Berkeley Springs for having us again. We have a sign-up sheet going around for the prayer breakfast Saturday morning at Maria's. We will meet there at 8:30 and order from the menu separately. We have some cards here for those who are ill, please sign them and keep them in your prayers.

Assistant Chaplain – James J. Wharry

Since the last meeting, I have sent cards when requested, attended my own company meetings and assisted the Chaplain in getting ready for the memorial service. Thank you to the Berkeley Springs VFC for hosting this convention. Please contact me if you need a sympathy card or thinking of you card sent for one of our members. I have a get well card for John Fox for everyone to sign.

Attorney – Howard S. Cohen

Mr. President, Mr. Secretary, officers, members, and guests, thank you for being here, and thank you to the Berkeley Springs Volunteer Fire Company for hosting the CVVFA's 111th annual convention. Our organization continues to be at the forefront of topical issues. Just in the past couple weeks, a Massachusetts police officer, a tower in Texas, and a courtesy patrol driver right here in West Virginia have been struck and killed on the roadways. As bad as the situation on the roadways continues to be, it is worth keeping in mind they could always be worse and they are perhaps better than they might have been due to our efforts. Our Emergency Responder Safety Institute (ERSI) Director of Training Jack Sullivan recently sent me a story from Fire Apparatus magazine. The words of the author resonated deeply in me -- both because they're true and they make me feel really old! He said:

“As I researched this column, I was surprised that it has already been 13 years since the Cumberland Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association (CVVFA) produced its white paper titled "Protecting Emergency Responders on the Highways." In March 1999, more than 125 representatives from fire, police, EMS, and other organizations met in Halfway, Maryland, to identify the scope of the problem. This led to a meeting at the National Fire Academy of 29 subject matter experts in October 1999 to produce the white paper. Produced by a grant from the United States Fire Administration (USFA), the paper became the cornerstone of the knowledge base we have today. Without a doubt, there are several firefighters alive today because of their diligent work.”

And this year continued to be an important one, perhaps the most important yet, for our ERSI, with the launch of the ResponderSafety Training Network, enabling responders everywhere to train anywhere they can access an internet-enabled computer. This milestone will vastly expand our safety message's reach. Meanwhile, issues surrounding our newer effort, Reputation Management, seem to routinely be making not just the fire service press, but, for better or worse, the press writ large. In just the Baltimore area over the past few weeks there have been numerous stories of firefighters “acting badly” on their Facebook or Twitter accounts, complaining about a chief's pay raise and about not being offered restaurant bargains to which they thought they were entitled. Again, we were ahead of the pack recognizing this was going to be a problem. We also achieved an important organizational milestone this year, receiving a 501(c)(3) tax status determination from the IRS, which will be beneficial as we continue to seek grants and donations. I'm very appreciative that skilled outside legal and accounting experts guided us through that very specialized process. There otherwise, fortunately, continue not to be any significant matters of which I'm aware. I hope you all enjoy this convention and, at its conclusion, have safe journeys home.

Delegate to Pennsylvania – Charlie Myers

Charlie reported on the hotel accommodations for the PA convention in September, will distribute.

Board of Directors

Pennsylvania State Director – Rich Brunner

"President Sullivan, Officer's, members and guests of the Cumberland Valley Volunteer Fireman's Association, welcome to the annual convention here in Berkeley Springs, West Virginia. A big thank you goes to the officers and members of the Berkeley Springs Fire Company for hosting the convention and thanks for a job well done. A special thanks to Greg Yost for his work on coordinating the annual gala parade, another job well done. Since our last meeting, I have attended all of my fire company meetings, training and fundraisers, our county association meetings and assorted other activities as needed. I am excited to be working on the potential web sales posting for members and non-members as a potential source of revenue and another service that we can provide to our members, more about that later in the meeting. Thanks to President Sullivan for a great year and I am sure that our new President Haines will work diligently to maintain the traditions and integrity of the CVVFA. Thanks to all and have a safe trip home.

Pennsylvania State Director – Curtis Alleman

Good morning Officers, Members and guests of the Cumberland Valley Volunteer Fireman's Association. I wish to thank Berkeley Springs for being a wonderful host to CVVFA for the 2012 convention. I know we have several nice events planned for the weekend and look forward to participating in these events. Since our May meeting I have found myself with very little free time. I've attended some of my monthly company meetings but was unable to attend all of them due to my work schedule. I did attend my county and state association meetings along with continuing my activity with PFESI and the Firemen's Legislative Federation of PA. In PA we did see some productivity toward the end of June with the passage of our Fire/EMS Grant Bill that was increased by 5 million dollars and also the passage of permanent tax exemption for fireman's relief association in PA. We also saw the passage of the Cancer Presumption Bill for emergency responders. The State Wide Advisory Board will be meeting on August 11 in Harrisburg to discuss our legislative priorities for the 2013-2014 Legislative Session. If anyone from PA has any suggestions on legislation they would like to see brought forward please see myself, Tom Savage, Mike Whitzel, or Bob Timko. This year Bob Cumberland and Bob Timko continued the tradition and great relationship we established a couple years ago by having the responder safety booth at the PA Welcome Center on Interstate 81 Northbound at the PA/MD line. This event took place on Friday May 11, 2012 during PA Tourism Month. It was another successful event and Bob Timko is currently working on getting us some additional exposure throughout the state through the statewide director who was at the welcome center when our booth was there. This is a great opportunity for us and we wish other statewide directors would reach out to their local welcome centers in their states to consider doing an event like this. We will be doing this again during Fire Prevention Week in October. I will have the information emailed out to everyone once the date is confirmed. I attended the PA Fire Expo May 18-20 at the PA Farm Show Complex. Attendance was down this year but it was another successful show overall and was a great opportunity to speak to the visitors about the CVVFA and Responder Safety. I was not able to work the booth but did speak to several people about the Association and our responder safety group and directed them to the booth. During the week of May 21-25 was National EMS Week. I participated in several events in the South Central PA area and took some literature for the Responder Safety with me to hand out. It's good to see more and more EMS companies in PA using the safety vest and being very safety oriented when operating on the busy highways in the Harrisburg Region. On June 2

I participated in the Shiremanstown Community FD Public Safety Fair. I was present with our highway safety material along with my county firefighter's association fire prevention materials. A good turnout for this event and was another great opportunity for us to get our message out on responder safety. I had the chance to speak with one of the local funeral directors and we had a very good conversation on highway safety and the safety vest and he was going to be looking to incorporate some of our information into his policies for his employees who are out on the streets at funerals. On June 8th I was invited to speak at the Dauphin County Firefighters Association Convention and gave information out on our responder safety programs along with our firefighter behavior website and code of ethic program that was recently released.

On June 10th I traveled to MD and met up with Secretary Gene Worthington to pick up gear from his county haz-mat team. This gear was given to the Lawn Fire and EMS Company in Lebanon County PA. This organization did not have gear for its EMS responders and this company is a service that runs many busy highways to include the PA Turnpike. The officers and members were very thankful for the gear and it has been put to good use for the department. On June 16th I had the privilege of attending the closing of the old Vigilant Hose Co station on King Street in Shippensburg and participating in the opening of the new station that is located at the corner of East Orange Street and Walnut Bottom Road in Shippensburg. The Vigilant Hose Company is our host for next year's convention and if this event is any sign of what we have in store I can say we will have a great convention to look forward to. On June 20th I attended the MSFA Convention in OCMD. I assisted Bob Cumberland at the responder safety booth some and was also a judge of the annual convention parade. MSFA put on another great convention and the hospitality that was shown was great as always also. On June 29th Mike Whitzel and I attended the Six-County Convention meeting in Mt. Carmel PA. This was another great opportunity for us to get our information out on the responder safety programs and also the firefighter behavior website. On July 21 Mike Whitzel, Bob Timko, and myself traveled to Baltimore to assist at the booth for the Firehouse Expo. This was a great time by all of us and some new networking was done along with getting several people signed up for the on line learning network. On July 22, I participated in the FDNY Bus trip that was sponsored by my County Firefighters Association. A great day was had by all as 53 individuals traveled to NY to visit the FDNY Fire Museum, Ground Zero, and FDNY Boat 343 along with a few FNDY Stations. I think this would be a great event for the CVVFA to consider planning in the future for a social gathering of the members. On July 30 Bob Timko and I had a meeting with an individual from our area who we thought would be a great individual to get involved with our Association and the responder safety program. He is retired from the PA Turnpike in risk management and is interested in getting involved. In closing I would like to thank the members and officers of this association for their support over the past two years as I've been in the position of PA Director. I unfortunately will be stepping down from this position this year due to my busy schedule and also due to my work load I currently have. I hope to still stay active with the Association and continue to serve on the convention committee and still be involved with the responder safety group.

Maryland State Director – Wayne Baker

It was a pleasure to serve as Director for CVVFA. I attended all Board and booster meetings. I attended the Apple Blossom Festival, Delaware state convention and funeral services for Goss of Taneytown FD, a life member. Thanks to everyone for the support and hope that it will continue this coming year.

Maryland State Director – Bob Cumberland

Bob started his remarks by speaking about a discount coupon for the store and then followed with his report. President Sullivan, Officers, Directors, and Guest, I want to congratulate you on a successful year as President of the CVVFA and for your support in promoting the Association and ResponderSafety Institute along with Firefighter Behavior. Since the Convention I attended all my fire department meetings, and Carroll County Volunteer Emergency Services Association meetings. I also attended the following State Conventions; Virginia, West Virginia, the Delaware Volunteer Firefighters Association Conference and the State of Pennsylvania Firemen's Association Convention. As a member of the Maryland Fire Rescue Education Training Commission I attended the commission's quarterly meetings. As a Board member of the Board of Visitors to the National Fire Academy I attended the Boards annual meeting and also attended the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial weekend programs. I attended the Grand Opening of MFRI's North East Regional Training Center at APG in Edgewood, Maryland. I also attended the Memorial Service for Howard Welty a member of the Taneytown Fire Department and past member the CVVFA. I had the opportunity along with the President and Vice Presidents of the MSFA to meeting with the United States Fire Administrator Chief Ernest Mitchell at his office in Emmitsburg at NFA. I also attended the Maryland Fire Chief's Seminar. 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. I represented the association and ResponderSafety Institute in staffing the booth at the I-81 Visitors Center in Greencastle, Pa., Fire Expo in Harrisburg, Pa., FDIC in Indianapolis, MSFA Conference/Convention in Ocean City and Firehouse Expo in Baltimore, Md. I would like to thank all members that help staff the booth at the different events. On September 8, 2011, I was notified by NFPA that I was accepted as a committee member to the NFPA technical committee 1091 Traffic Control Incident Management Professional Qualifications. At the following conventions or conference we set up the Booster for ResponderSafety and discuss the NUG program, Virginia Firemen's Association, Delaware Firefighters Association and the Firemen's Association State of Pennsylvania. The Association received a total of \$78.50 for the months of April, May, and June. From last year's convention until June of 2012 we have received a total of \$338.70 from the website store with the majority of the funds coming from membership renewals or new applications. I continue to look at items to add to the store to improve our sales and hope to have some new items available for approval at the October Booster meeting. The Emergency Training Associates and the CVVFA is offering a special on all Cumberland Valley merchandise with a 10% off coupon, pick up your coupon here at the convention. The coupons can only be used at the website www.organizationshops.com with a coupon code that is on the coupon. We still need the officers and directors to help and continue to promote the association web page and the store to increase our sales and the funding coming into the association. After discussion with Lou and Joe Jordan if we can not produce more interest in the use of the store on the web page we will probably discontinue the store as the association and emergency training associates are not making any money of the sale of merchandise. The only money we are getting from the store as I said before is from membership applications. I want to thank all the Officers and Directors for their support the past two years in my term as one of the Maryland Directors. As the elections for Officers and Directors come this week at the convention I would ask you for your support in nominating and electing me to another term as the Maryland Director.

West Virginia Director – Bill Keller

I would like to thank Berkeley Springs VFD for hosting the CVVFA 111th Annual Convention. The Officers and Members of Berkeley Springs VFD have done a great job of setting everything up for this year's convention. Over the past year I have attended Booster Meetings in October hosted by J.H. Enders VFC, Berryville, VA. March hosted by Irishtown VFC, New Oxford, PA. May hosted by Keyser VFD, Keyser, WV. I attended the Board of Directors Meeting in January held at The Vol. Fire Company of Halfway, Hagerstown, MD. I helped set up the First 15 Minutes training class at Keyser, WV before the May booster meeting. I have been busy teaching Fire and EMS classes since the last Convention. I have taught Truck Company Operations, ICS, NIMS 300 & 400, EMT recertification, Live Fire Burn, Fire Officer 1 and 2, EVOC, CPR Instructor and EMTB. I have been involved in planning a full scale drill that will include 7 counties in West Virginia, which will be held in September. I have enjoyed being able to help the Cumberland Valley Volunteer Fireman's Association this past year. The Association really has done a great job this year as always, helping keep the fire service safe and educated. A big thank you for President Sullivan who has done an outstanding job this year as our leader and to all of the other Officers and Board of Directors you all have been great to work with.

West Virginia Director – Brett Bittle was absent.

Virginia Director – Kevin Wilkes was absent.

Virginia Director – Allen Brennan

Thank you to the Berkeley Springs VFC for hosting the 111th annual convention. I have attended all meetings of the CVVFA in the past year. I attended the NVFC spring meeting in Alexandria, VA, attended all meetings I could with the VA State Firefighters Association this year, attended the MSFA convention in Ocean City. I am looking forward to the coming year.

Delaware Director – Harry Balthis

I would like to thank Berkeley Springs VFC for hosting the 111th annual convention. During the past year, I have attended all the CVVFA booster meetings and Board of Directors meeting. I attended the Presidents Council meeting in Cordova, MD. I attended Delaware's conference in September and my home fire company's meetings and functions. I worked the ResponderSafety booth in Harrisburg and Baltimore. I also chaired the Scholarship committee.

Delaware Director – Steve Austin

I did submit my written report, however would like to report on two additional items. The future of our Association is younger folks, we all need to recruit some younger and have them be part of our group. I would ask that each and every one of you make a pledge for the coming year to go out and recruit a younger member. Second, I would like to recognize the President of FASNY Dave Jacobowitz. A delegation will be heading to Syracuse to celebrate with him as he finishes his term of office. Dave was asked to bring comments on behalf of FASNY. "Good morning delegates, it is an honor to be here, driving 10 hours down and joining you. I hear the same complaints as we have. I just attended the West New York convention and they said the same thing, younger people, younger people. We just can't wish it, we have to do it. How can we do, I don't know, let me know and can we do a program on it. We have been pushing recruitment and retention. Those receiving our magazine can see we are working very hard to get the younger ones to join our service. The numbers are sliding the wrong way and we are trying to make changes. By doing what we have done, Recruit New York with our SAFER grant is definitely making a difference. Thanks for allowing me to attend and stating a few words."

Steve's written report as follows: Mr. President this has been another busy year. I will be presenting several reports under the proper order of business. As I have pointed out several times this year I believe our greatest challenge is to bring younger members in to our Association to continue our work into future generation. A personal challenge for each of our over 1,000 members is to sign up a new member in the coming year. I join with my fellow officers and directors and offer my thanks to the Berkeley Springs Volunteer Fire Company for hosting our organization. Berkeley Springs has long been a place that has generated great leadership for the CVVFA. I wish my fellow members a successful convention.

Past President – Greg Yost

I want to thank President Mike for a successful year. Also thanks to Mike for planning what will be a successful convention. Hope everyone enjoys the open house tonight at the motel. I am completing a very exhausting year as Past President, good luck Mike. I have enjoyed for the betterment of the organization and doing what I can for ERSI.

President Sullivan announced we would take a short recess allowing time for those to get their wares and purchase tickets for the events.

RECESS

President Sullivan called the convention back to order and asked for some committee reports. We will have a few for the next twenty minutes and then I will have some comments to make about lunch plans.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Archives and Historical Committee – Guy Flory

No report

Audit Committee – Steven Haines

As you heard the minutes from the Board meeting last night, we found the Treasurer's books in good standing. We also find the ERSI books in good standing.

Budget and Finance – George Dove

Everything is in order.

Business & Ops Plan – Greg Yost

No report, the plan needs to be updated, up to the new President.

Constitution and By-Laws Committee – Bob Cumberland

We have no by-laws to vote on, unless someone wants to make a change.

Convention Committee – Steve Flickinger

Steve spoke about the special awards to be given this year. He asked for clarification about the submittal address for the Bukowski award. Steve Austin responded that this address is monitored by him, goes directly to him. We have met with Charlie Myers and Steve Heefner for next year's convention and will meet with them again in October. Hopefully we can get more organization with the host company and their activities.

Credentials Committee – Jeff Ringer

Nothing Mr. President, the secretary took the roll earlier.

Fire Person of the Year Committee – George Dove

Everything is under control, ready for the presentation at banquet.

Fire Prevention and Education Committee – Erin Drumheller

Absent.

Legislative – Bob Cumberland

We are following a couple of things. First, some of our folks supported the amended bill for highway trailers going to 96,000lbs. He spoke about S1315/HR1348 the Fire Police Fairness Act to extend public safety officers benefits to fire police. He continued to talk on S1035/HR1792 the Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act giving property owners a taxable break if they meet the code requirements. We are also following S932/HR2488 Supporting Emergency Responders Volunteer Efforts Act giving you a \$1,000 refundable credit for volunteer firefighters. We continue to monitor all bills related to our service.

Parliamentarian – Howard Cohen

No report, here to serve.

Public Relations – Rich Toulson

No report.

Publicity Committee – Bob Timko

Nothing further to report, thank you for the ones who paid for their ads.

Recruitment and Retention Committee – Allen Brennan

No report at this time.

Resolutions Committee – Jerry Daniels

We do have some resolutions to be presented during the convention activities.

Scholarship Committee – Harry Balthis

This year CVVFA received 11 applications for the two scholarships. The committee decided to divide the Kenneth E. Butts Memorial Scholarship into two \$500 scholarships, awarded to Subramanyir Chockalingam and Casey Osborne. A \$1,000 J. R. Haines Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Kyle R. Mellon. These awards were approved by the membership of the CVVFA at the May booster meeting. Rich Brunner provided some additional comments.

Sergeant at Arms – Wayne Baker

No report.

Training Weekend – Grey Yost

We are working on a project, should have a formal presentation at the January Board meeting.

Topics – Steve Austin

Steve reported that this afternoon we will have a guest speaker at the happy hour. Chief Harvey Eisner will be speaking about some of his life experiences covering fire service experiences. He will also be speaking at the Presidents Council and our keynote speaker at banquet.

Youth Leadership – Erin Drumheller

Absent, will report on Friday.

President Sullivan announced we will break at this time for the memorial service. He gave some recommendations for lunch and directions to the church. We will reconvene shortly after 1pm.

Memorial Service

The annual memorial service was held at the Saint Vincent de Paul Catholic Church. The organist was Mrs. Shirley Hillgren from the church. The service started with singing and readings by all in attendance. The memorial message was titled “Our Times Are In His Hand” and was given by Charlie. Roll call of honored deceased CVVFA members consisted of:

Tom Altman

Gary W. Barnes

Clear Spring Volunteer Fire Company

Truck & Hose Company #2 Chambersburg

John N. Beatty, II
Bruce W. Clark
Thomas Cormany
Ronnie Parrill
John W. "Jack" Staub, Jr.
Brian Yoder

West Virginia Firemen's Association
Westphal Hose Company
Truck & Hose Company #2 Chambersburg
Berkeley Springs Volunteer Fire Company
Union Hose Company
Shillington Volunteer Fire Department

President Sullivan read the names as the memorial flowers were being placed in the vase. The service concluded with Charlie's singing of the Lord's Prayer, just outstanding as always. At the end of the service, President Sullivan presented flowers to the CVVFA personnel who would carry back to the families. Below is copy of the bulletin provided of the service.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

**CUMBERLAND VALLEY FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION
MEMORIAL SERVICE**

THURSDAY, AUGUST 2, 2012

SAINT VINCENT de PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH

BERKLEY SPRINGS, WEST VIRGINIA

The Organ Prelude

Welcome and Statement of Purpose

*The Opening Hymn – “Christ Is Alive!”

*Invocation – CCVFA Chaplain – Deacon Charles Barnhart, Jr.

**Deacon* – Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the source of all mercy and the God of all consolation. He comforts us in all our sorrows with the consolation we ourselves received from God.

*CONGREGATION – “Thanks be to God!”

**Deacon* – When we were baptized in Christ Jesus, we were baptized into his death. We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live a new life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall be certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

A LITANY OF FAITH AND HOPE

D – Our commonwealth is in heaven,

**C – AND FROM IT WE AWAIT A SAVIOR, THE LORD
JESUS CHRIST.**

D – Jesus Christ is the Light of the World.

C – THE LIGHT NO DARKNESS CAN OVERCOME.

D – Stay with us Lord, and remind us of your promise.

**C – THAT WHERE WE ARE, THERE YOU ARE ALSO TO
BE FOUND.**

D – Let your Light scatter the darkness of our mourning.

**C – AND ILLUMINE OUR LIVES WITH YOUR HOPE AND
PRESENCE.**

D – The Lord be with you!

C – And also with you

*Let us Pray (together)

Almighty God, those who die in the Lord still live with you in joy and blessedness. We give you heartfelt thanks for the grace you have bestowed upon your servants who have finished their labors. May we, with all who have died in the true faith, have perfect fulfillment and joy in your eternal and everlasting glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Scripture Readings

The Old Testament – *Ecclesiastes 3:1-8*

The Psalm – *Psalm 23 – (Spoken)*

The New Testament – *1 Corinthians 15:51-57*

*The Holy Gospel – *Saint John 14:1-6*

The Memorial Message “*Our Times Are In His Hand!*”

Deacon Charles E. Barnhart, Jr. - Chaplain

*The Hymn of the Day – “O Jesus, I Have Promised!”

Roll Call of Honored Deceased CVVFA Members

Presentation of Flower(s) to Family Members – President Mike Sullivan

*Prayers of the People

Each petition by the Chaplain will end in “Lord in your Mercy”

The Congregation will respond – “*Hear Our Prayer*”

“*The Lord’s Prayer*” - (Sung) – Deacon Charles Barnhart, Jr.

*The Benediction & Sung Response

*The Closing Hymn “*Lift High the Cross*”

*The Postlude

* = *Congregation Standing*

President Sullivan called the convention back to order at 13:30pm. He asked Steve Austin to address the group. Steve introduced Tracie Young-Brungard who will be our keynote speaker for the convention. Steve gave some background info on Tracie and welcomed her to our convention. She is the certification manager for PA. Tracie brought greetings and spoke from a power point presentation. She highlighted the certification program within PA and their

procedures in working with the ProBoard. We are looking at ways whereby we can take a firefighter's experience and prior training towards college credits. She spoke much about the structure of the ProBoard and their policies. We are being held accountable more and more for our actions. She also spoke about the credentials for firefighters. Peer recognition is important. She covered many of the NFPA standards in relation to safety for responders. She gave some LODD figures on a national level and spoke about them. Tracie continued her talk and spoke on some specifics about our highway safety program, this is where she learned of the CVVFA. This organization has really accomplished many milestones. You need to ask yourself "Are we producing better emergency responders by having standardized training and certification?" She then played a short video to conclude her program presentation.

President Sullivan thanked Tracie for her remarks and asked Steve Austin to give his reports for the convention.

Steve grouped his reports into a power point presentation and remarked from it. First, we are pleased to get some new personnel on board with ERSI. Retired Captain Tom Martin from VA will be volunteering his efforts in the production series. We have a big operation going right now as we speak at the Fire Rescue International in Denver with Harry, Crawford and Jack running the trade show booth and being presenters. I just came back from the IFSTA Executive Board meeting in Tulsa where I represented you there. We have a seat there and that is great. We continue to be active in the NTIMC in Washington, thanks to Rich Toulson for filling in at some of those meetings. In the era of big government there are many who feel that organizations such as ours should not belong. We know that public safety begins locally up and not down from the government. We went to the FDIC with a delegation, spoke with special thanks to many individuals who make this happen. We went to the WV Chiefs, the Expo, MSFA convention, Dover, western WV conference, FASNY, and others. We did a class in Florida and they put it to use in less than 24 hours during the flooding at the gulf. We have been doing classes for the I81 corridor from Tennessee and north. Steve read a comment posted on our web from Ontario, Canada. He continued to speak on the social media with over a 1,000 contacts weekly. He gave numbers on followers on Twitter and Facebook. The Learning Network now has over 1,600 registered, this is our future. He updated the grants, USFA from 2010 expiring in September, looks like they are going to fund this again. We are finishing up the federal highway contract for PSA's. We have a purchase order for \$2,800 from the NFA to do a program on non-fire apparatus rear marking, Ron Moore is working on. We have a Fire grant pending to continue on the learning network. Steve spoke some on the contract with ITERIS, has not been awarded to date.

Greg Yost then addressed the delegates by speaking on funding balances of the grants. Steve continued that all of these funds are audited. Some have requested new equipment, will look at what we can purchase.

Steve then spoke about the web sites. Rich Brunner gave an oversight of a new classified ad section whereby member companies could advertise their equipment for free. Others would be charged a nominal fee. This has a potential to raise some money for the Association. We have many details to work out.

Steve thanked Jerry Daniels for all his work with ERSI and his continued friendship. He then asked Tom Savage to update the Reputation Management web site. Tom provided handouts and highlighted some of the specifics from the data for the first 7 months. He showed a power point presentation with statistics. He encouraged all to visit the web and review the cases. We have been able to introduce the national firefighter code of ethics which is now displayed at the

NFA in all of the classrooms. All IFSTA manuals will include the code. He spoke about a specific article on a recent purchase, questions usage of federal funds. For 2013, we need some additional folks to work with the site, need some additional funding for future activities, need to expand awareness and training opportunities and develop an action plan. I will be stepping down as the webmaster at the end of the year. Tom continued by thanking some people who make it happen.

Steve continued with his remarks by thanking Tom for his work. Claudia Garner will take over the reign. This concluded his remarks and we took a short break before nominations.

NOMINATION OF OFFICERS

MOTION to open nominations for the Association Officers from the floor by Bill Keller, seconded by James Watson, no further discussion, verbal vote taken, motion passed.

President – Steven Haines nominated by Steve Flickinger who read a letter of nomination from Newport, seconded by Rich Bruner, motion to close nominations by James Watson, seconded by Bill Keller

First Vice President – James Watson nominated by Michael supported with a nomination letter from Delaware City, seconded by Larry Mergenthaler, motion to close nominations by Bill Keller, seconded by Curtis Alleman

Second Vice President – Walter Robertson nominated by Allen Brennan, seconded by Bill Keller, motion to close nominations by Marshall Younker, seconded by Bill Keller

Third Vice President – Hoby Howell nominated by Gene Worthington, seconded by Bob Trace, motion to close nominations by Marshall Younker, seconded by Walter Robertson

Fourth Vice President – Bill Keller nominated by Steve Austin, seconded by Marshall Younker, motion to close nominations by Marshall Younker, seconded by Walter Robertson

Treasurer – George Dove nominated by Marshall Younker, seconded by Curtis Alleman, motion to close nominations by Marshall Younker, seconded by Bill Mortimer

Financial Secretary – Steve McBee nominated by Steve Flickinger, seconded by Bill Keller, motion to close nominations by Marshall Younker, seconded by Bill Keller

Recording Secretary – Gene Worthington nominated by Bob Cumberland, seconded by Hoby Howell, motion to close nominations by Marshall Younker, seconded by Walter Robertson

Home Office Manager – Steve Heefner nominated by Jeff Ringer, seconded by Robert Sweetman, motion to close nominations by Hoby Howell, seconded by James Watson

Publicity Manager – Robert Timko nominated by Steve Flickinger, seconded by Curtis Alleman, motion to close nominations by Bill Keller, seconded by Marshall Younker

Chaplain – Charles Barnhart nominated by Bob Cumberland, seconded by Walter Robertson, motion to close nominations by Walter Robertson, seconded by Hoby Howell

Assistant Chaplain – James Wharry nominated by Robert Sweetman, seconded by Bill Mortimer, motion to close nominations by Marshall Younker, seconded by Walter Robertson

Attorney – Howard Cohen nominated by Marshall Younker, seconded by Bill Keller, motion to close nominations by Walter Robertson, seconded by Hoby Howell

Delegate to PA – Charles Myers nominated by Bob Trace, seconded by Curtis Alleman, motion to close nominations by Marshall Younker, seconded by Walter Robertson

Director Pennsylvania (2014) – Mike Whitzel nominated by Steve Flickinger, seconded by Curtis Alleman, with a nomination letter, motion to close nominations by Marshall Younker, seconded by Hoby Howell

Director Maryland (2014) – Bob Cumberland nominated by Hoby Howell, seconded by Bill Keller, motion to close nominations by Hoby Howell, seconded by Walter Robertson

Director West Virginia (2014) – Mike Sullivan nominated by Bill Keller, seconded by Marshall Younker, along with a nomination letter, motion to close nominations by Hoby Howell, seconded by Walter Robertson

Since Bill Keller was elected as 4th Vice President, this leaves a vacant Director position for WV, floor is open for nominations to fill the vacant position for a term of one year.

Director West Virginia (2013) – Fred Bragg nominated by Marshall Younker, seconded by Bill Keller, along with a nomination letter, question was asked about the election of Mike Sullivan since he is the immediate Past President. Per the Parliamentarian, since the by-laws do not address this specifically, I suggest we come to the same conclusion as we did previously, motion to close nominations by Bill Keller, seconded by Hoby Howell

Director Virginia (2014) – Allen Brennan nominated by Walter Robertson, seconded by Robert Sweetman, motion to close nominations by Walter Robertson, seconded by Marshall Younker

Director Delaware (2014) – Steve Austin nominated by Harry Balthis, seconded by Howard Cohen, motion to close nominations by Hoby Howell, seconded by Walter Robertson

MOTION was made to close the nominations by Walter Robertson, seconded by Bill Mortimer, verbal vote taken, motion passed.

MOTION was made to cast a ballot for all uncontested Offices by Bill Keller, seconded by Marshall Younker, no discussion, verbal vote taken, motion passed. This concludes the election for the Officers of the coming year. Congratulations to all.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Promotional package and agreement with booster meeting partners - Heefner

Progress

CanAm games – Alleman

Nothing further to report at this time.

ITERIS contract – Austin

Already reported

Classified ads for the web site – Bruner

This was reported on earlier, **MOTION** that the Association approve the concept of advertising fire matic and EMS related equipment on the web site by Rich Bruner, seconded by Walter Robertson, verbal vote taken, motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Steve Austin presented a draft vendor policy for adoption to deal fairly with our vendors or partners. He showed the policy on the screen for all to view and read from it. “Our purpose is to establish consistent policy with vendors and others to display at CVVFA events. The Board believes that all reputable enterprises should be given the opportunity to exhibit. The President, the topic committee and the convention committee shall prior to the start of convention or booster meeting determine if vendor may address the convention or booster meeting. To the extent that a vendor is permitted to address the meeting sales presentations shall be avoided. The President or other presiding Officer may elect to recognize the vendor during the meeting. On a space available basis, the Association in conjuncture with the host may make available one 6x8 foot table for each vendor. Vendors requesting a larger space may contact the convention committee chairman, the home office manager or the host company to determine such case

exists. Vendors may relocate throughout the convention to off-site events such as the picnic, etc. if permissible by the host convention company.” Steve continued to give a more specific explanation on the policy categories. He continued “Vendors and other organizations fees would be set by the convention committee prior to the May booster meeting. The convention committee may elect to select a variable fee structure, for example, previous vendors may be eligible for discount rates or not for profits may be entitled for complimentary displays.” We are asking today for you to approve this policy. Mr. President, I make the motion to accept this policy just read for our vendors by Steve Austin, seconded by Bill Keller, voice vote taken, motion passed.

Steve announced from our Partners in Progress we have Chief Harvey Eisner and Ed Nichols from Firehouse. Starting at about 4:15 we will be hosting a talk session with them back at the hotel. Harvey gave some comments at this time to set the stage for the later discussions.

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION

Ray Mowen requested to meet with the Board of Directors for a few minutes following this business session.

Steve Heefner reminded everyone of the next booster meeting in October to be held at the Adams County Training Center. You should be receiving the post card for the yearly meetings before then.

President Sullivan spoke about the picnic starting at 6:30pm. He provided directions to the site. Also tomorrow morning we will host the Five States President Council meeting here. The banquet will start at 6:30pm with dinner and an awards ceremony afterwards here at the Legion. The meeting was recessed.

President Mike Sullivan called to order a special Board meeting at the request of PP Ray Mowen to discuss a proposal from the Franklin County Firemen’s Association, a PA Association from Franklin, Fulton and Adams Counties. We have about 75 members, however we are having problems getting members out to the meetings, therefore we have decided to dissolve the organization. In order to do this, we are required to go through the State of PA who decides the fate of our money. Currently, we have about \$16,000 in the treasury. It appears to us that the easiest solution is to have another organization absorb us. This is why I am appearing before you today, to see if the CVVFA would absorb us. In order to do that, we would need a simple agreement defining the terms. We picked the CVVFA because you have a scholarship program and this money would go into that account to be used for future scholarships. This would have to be stated within the agreement. What we need today is, are you favorable to this? If so, we would like to have a contact person to work with and hopefully we could finalize this by the next Board meeting. Motion was made to accept the generous proposal and proceed with the concept and move forward with establishing the formal agreement by Steve Austin, seconded by Bill Keller, further discussion, verbal vote taken, motion passed. The special Board meeting was adjourned.

President Sullivan reconvened the convention Friday morning at 9am for the Presidents Council meeting. Chaplain Barnhart gave the invocation, followed by the pledge to the flag. Charlie spoke about the prayer breakfast Saturday morning at Maria’s, sign-up sheet back on the table. President Sullivan offered the welcome on behalf of the CVVFA and asked for any announcements to be made. Mike gave some additional comments about the activities during

the day and then turned the session over to PP Steve Austin to facilitate the Council. Steve added his personal welcome and gave an update on what is going on within Cumberland Valley. We have reached some significant milestones this year, the code of ethics and reputation management. Steve asked Ron to give an overview on the Learning Network. Ron showed some inserts from the video and made some comments. Steve then asked for the first report. No further minutes were recorded. Lunch was provided at noon by the Legion auxiliary.

President Sullivan reconvened the CVVFA convention back to order for some additional comments. Mike thanked all the participants at the Council. The President asked for a motion to go back into session, motion by James Watson, seconded by Walter Robertson for same. Mike asked Gene to read the minutes from the special Board meeting. Gene read the minutes, same as above. Motion was made to accept the Board minutes by Walter Robertson, seconded by Bill Keller, verbal vote taken, motion passed. Mike asked for any other business or good of the order to be heard. Hearing none, he made some comments about the banquet, prayer breakfast and the parade. **MOTION** was made for adjournment by all.

The banquet program was held Friday evening, August 3, 2012, at the Berkeley Springs American Legion hall. Mike welcomed all to the annual awards banquet and installation. He thanked all for their attendance and asked Chaplain Charlie to give the blessing. The Chaplain gave the prayer and led the group in the pledge to the flag. Mike read the host company resolution and presented it to them along with the host company check. The program was recessed for dinner.

President Sullivan called the banquet program back to order and asked PP Steve Austin to introduce our guest speaker for the evening. Steve gave some background intro on Chief Harvey Eisner. Harvey brought greetings and thanked the Association for the invitation. He continued to speak on many of the major fires or disasters he covered in his many years working for Fire House. A tremendous applause was given in recognition of his remarks.

President Sullivan thanked our guest speaker and again asked for a round of applause. He asked for the kitchen staff to come out for recognition. Mike thanked those assisting him from Berkeley Springs in hosting our convention. Mike asked Harry Balthis to give the names of our scholarship winners.

President Sullivan then asked for the 50-year resolutions to be presented. Secretary Worthington read the resolution as Mike presented this special recognition to PP Ray Mowen. This was followed by presenting some special resolutions to various individuals who have supported the President over the past year.

The next award presented was the E. Wade Thomas Member of the Year award presented to Secretary Gene Worthington. Gene was presented the plaque from the Association. Next was the PP Joe Bukowski Responder Safety Award presented by Steve Flickinger to Allen Baldwin, unfortunately Allen was not able to attend.

President Sullivan gave his farewell speech speaking about his last five years serving through the chairs. He thanked his wife, Marshall and Dennis, along with some others. It has been a great train ride and now has come to the station. They tell me that I was the youngest President and the only President to have a child born during my term. In years to come, I plan on doing this again, maybe next time without the birth. Again, I met some great people and thanks. Mike read the names of the newly elected Officers and asked them to line up in front of the stage for the swearing in ceremony. He asked PP Steve Austin to come to the podium for the

installation. Steve gave the oath followed by congratulatory comments. A picture was taken for the archives and badges given.

Immediate Past President Sullivan asked for PP Steve Flickinger and Director Rich Bruner to come forward. Rich made some comments and presented Steven with a gag gift. In all seriousness, we are extremely proud of him and on behalf of the Citizens of Newport, we wish you the best in the coming year. Bob Cumberland presented Steven with the traditional shirt depicting him as President of CVVFA. Mike presented the gavel to President Steven Haines.

President Haines gave his acceptance speech and pledged his dedication to the Association during the year. Steven presented Mike his PP badge and read a resolution recognizing his term as President. Steven asked if there was any other business that needed to be conducted for this convention. He asked Mike to give some specifics about the parade with the awards to be given out shortly thereafter. Steven gave thanks again, special thanks to my second family Newport, to all of you my friends, I appreciate your help. Steven asked the Chaplain for the benediction. Charlie gave some comments reference the prayer breakfast Saturday morning followed by the benediction. President Haines announced the adjournment of convention.

Saturday morning we met at the restaurant for the prayer breakfast. Some 20 folks were in attendance to enjoy the great hospitality and a message from the Chaplain. Saturday afternoon, we all gathered at the Legion parking lot for the lineup of the parade. The parade kicked off at 1pm and was followed by the awarding of the trophies. This ended the convention for August 1-4, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,

Gene Worthington, Recording Secretary