

**Cumberland Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association
 Convention July 29 – August 1, 2015
 Delaware City VFD Delaware
 Proceedings and Minutes**

President Walter Robertson called the 114th annual convention to order at 9:00am. He asked for the invocation from Chaplain Barnhart. The Chaplain offered the prayer giving thanks for those in attendance and the Officers of the Association for a successful year. President Robertson asked for the colors to be presented by the Dover Air Force Honor Guard with vocalist Barb Taylor singing the anthem. After the colors were presented, President Robertson led the group in the pledge to our flag. The Honor Guard retired, Walter thanked those assisting with the opening and everyone was seated. He then introduced Jim Watson to give the welcome from the host company.

Jim made some brief comments concerning the logistics of the facility and the activities for the day. Jim then introduced Chief James Rossel and President Wiley Poppy for remarks. Both welcomed the CVVFA to Delaware City and spoke about the planning for convention to make enjoyable and profitable for the delegates. Walter presented both with his challenge coins. PP Watson then asked some of our other special guests for remarks to include the Mayor, Town Manager and Police Chief.

We then had remarks from Senators Bruce Ennis and Nicole Porre, Representative Valerie Longhurst and the State Fire Marshal Grover Ingle.

Walter gave some remarks and asked all to enjoy themselves while here as he presented the check for host company. He then asked Steve Austin to address the group. Steve spoke about our PSA and asked Ron from Stone House Media to show the video. Ron was very grateful in the production of this PSA and remarked that it has received the Telly award, recognition from the peers within the industry. He gave some personal comments and thanked many for their assistance. Ron announced that Stone House Media would be donating a recruitment video to Delaware City, thanking them for support. Ron presented the Telly award trophy to President Robertson, looks like an emmy.

Our special guests included Sandra Cullen and her husband from PA and Les Warrick from DE.

Walter then appointed the following special committees for convention.

Sergeants-at-Arms -

- Wayne Baker - chair
- Robert Sweetman
- Jeff Ringer

Election Committee -

- Charlie Myers– Judge
- Steve Sweitzer- Teller
- Dave Lewis – Teller
- Jerry Daniels - Clerk

Installing Officer – Steve Austin

Recording Secretary Gene Worthington took roll call as follows: We had 105 representatives in attendance for convention.

TITLE	NAME	OCT	BOARD	MARCH	MAY	BOARD	CONV
President	Walter Robertson	1	1	1	1	1	1
1st Vice President	Hoby Howell	1	1	1		1	1
2nd Vice President	Bill Keller	1	1		1		
3rd Vice President	Rich Brunner	1	1		1		
4th Vice President	Richard Toulson		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	Bob Timko	1			1	1	1
Chaplain	Charles Barnhart					1	1
Assistant Chaplain	James Wharry	1	1		1	1	1
Attorney	Howard Cohen						1
Pennsylvania Delegate	Charlie Myers		1		1		1
Director, Pennsylvania (2015)	Donna Welsh	1	1	1	1	1	1
Director, Pennsylvania (2016)	Mike Whitzel	1	1		1		
Director, Maryland (2015)	Dave Lewis	1				1	1
Director, Maryland (2016)	Robert Cumberland	1			1	1	1
Director, West Virginia (2015)	Dustin Amtower						
Director, West Virginia (2016)	Randy James						
Director, Delaware (2015)	Harry Balthis		1		1	1	1
Director, Delaware (2016)	Steve Austin	1			1	1	1
Director, Virginia (2015)	Steve Switzer	1	1	1	1	1	1
Director, Virginia (2016)	Allen Brennan	1			1		
Director, New York	Dave Jacobowitz	1	1	1		1	1
Past President	James Watson	1	1		1	1	1
	Totals	19	17	9	18	17	20
Past Presidents		13	12	6	14	12	15
Maryland Fire Depts		10	0	3	7	0	12
Delaware Fire Depts		9	0	0	9	0	29
Virginia Fire Depts		8	0	11	10	0	9
West Virginia Fire Depts		2	0	1	2	0	1
Pennsylvania Fire Depts		14	0	2	24		15
Others		1	0	1	0	4	4
	Grand Totals	76	29	33	84	33	105

Recording Secretary Worthington then read the minutes from the Board of Directors meeting held July 31, 2015.

“The meeting was called to order by Vice President Howell at 8:03, Chaplain Barnhart led the group in prayer followed by the pledge. PP James Watson gave the welcome. Roll call was taken of the Officers and Past Presidents. Communications will be read at convention.

COMMITTEES

Auditing – Jerry Daniels

The books were found to be exceptional order, ResponderSafety books are with the auditor. Motion to accept the auditing report by Watson, seconded by Haines, verbal vote taken, motion passed.

Constitution & ByLaws – Bob Cumberland

The committee has proposed a complete re-write of the by-laws for voting this year. Copies are available at the front table for review.

Convention – Steve Flickinger

Steve reported on the parade sponsorships with financial \$2996, 3 outstanding for payment. One of our sponsors desires to withdraw his sponsorship. Heefner commented on a phone call from Allen Brennan with proposal for convention 2018, joint with VA in Hampton. Discussion ensued, thought we should wait on a formal response from them. Jimmy Watson gave comments on the logistics of the activities over the next 3 days. We look forward to hosting the convention.

Memorial – Charlie Barnhart

Charlie stated dress will be casual for the service, looking forward to a good turnout. We have 32 to be honored at the service. We are catching up on some of the prior year's deaths. Heefner comments from Joyce Strock, appreciate the CVVFA attendance on behalf of Don.

Publicity – Bob Timko

Bob spoke about the convention book, \$2000 profit, thanks to those helping, mailed out copies to member companies. Discussion ensued about the mailing and the benefits.

Resolutions – Jerry Daniels

Jerry reported all requests for resolutions were forwarded to the Secretary, 34 were completed.

New Business

Motion was made to pay the convention expenses by Steve Flickinger, seconded by Steven Haines, verbal vote taken, motion passed. McBee commented on a CVVFA member with 75 years of service, currently lives in Ohio. We will look into some type of recognition. Motion was made to recognize the gentleman with authority given to the financial secretary by Austin, seconded by Cumberland, verbal vote taken, motion passed.

Wharry resolutions for deceased, concern of copy for fire company, pervue of the chaplains office to proceed.

Assistant Chaplain Wharry gave the benediction.

Motion was made for adjournment at 8:35pm by McBee, seconded by Haines, motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Gene Worthington

Recording Secretary

President Robertson asked for a motion to accept the Board of Directors minutes, **MOTION** to accept by Dave Jacobowitz, seconded by Steve Sweitzer, no further discussion, verbal vote taken, motion carried.

President Robertson asked for a motion to approve the May booster meeting minutes that had already been posted on the web. **MOTION** to accept as posted by James Watson, seconded by Hoby Howell, no further discussion, verbal vote taken, motion carried.

Secretary Worthington read a note from Joyce Strock for thanks on Don's service. A program of the service was attached to the note.

There were no fire prevention queens in attendance.

Walter asked for the report of the Chaplain. Charlie had already left for the memorial service, report to be given after lunch. PP Watson gave some comments about the church location, vans out front to transport.

OFFICERS REPORTS:

President's Report – Walter Robertson

Welcome to Delaware City, I want to thank Delaware City FD and the convention committee on a job well done. You all have worked hard to make our stay a good one. Also, I hope everyone enjoys their stay and takes time to explore the area. It has been good year serving as President of the CVVFA. We are constantly working on ways to make things safer on the highway for all responders. Since our convention last year in Chambersburg, I attended our annual Board of Directors meeting and all of our booster meetings. Using our ResponderSafety booth, I attended the I8a coalition meeting in Roanoke, VA., the FDIC in Indianapolis, and the Fire Expo in Harrisburg. These were great opportunities for questions and meeting responders from all over. As a further avenue for educating I was able to attend fire company banquets here in VA. I also taught EVOC classes around the state and have included a lot of our material. As we end our time here, I want to say congratulation to our new Officers and I hope that everyone has a safe trip home.

First Vice President's Report – Hoby Howell

Thanks to the Delaware City FD for hosting our annual convention for 2015. We appreciate Jim Watson and his committee for their hospitality to our Association this year. I've attended my home town company meetings, drills, etc., provided safety and gave morning safety tips on stage for the MSFA while in Ocean City. I gave support, what little I could for our booth, supported various PA company functions last couple weeks, Hellerstown and Trexletown.

Second Vice President's Report – Bill Keller

Bill was absent, forwarded the following report. I would like to thank The Delaware City Fire Company for hosting the CVVFA 114th Annual Convention. The Delaware City Fire Company has done a great job of setting everything up for this year's convention. Over the past year I have attended Booster Meetings. I attended the Board of Directors Meeting in January held at The Vol. Fire Company of Halfway, Hagerstown, MD. I have been busy teaching Fire and EMS classes since the last Convention. I have taught ICS, NIMS 300 & 400, EMT recertification, Fire Officer 1 and 2, EVOC, CPR Instructor and EMTB. I am sorry I cannot be in attendance at the convention due to work. 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 Robertson 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. I look forward to working with the incoming President and Officers for the coming year. If nominated I would accept the nomination for 1st Vice President.

Third Vice President's Report – Rich Brunner

Rich was absent, forwarded the following report. Good afternoon President Robertson, CVVFA Officers, members and guests and welcome to the CVVFA Convention meeting here in Delaware City. A special thank you to all the members of Delaware City Fire Co. who have spent their valuable time in hosting this meeting and preparing the food that you have enjoyed. As usual the hospitality of our hosts is second to none and very indicative of the member companies of the CVVFA. I am sorry and regret not being able to attend this year's convention as we are currently in San Diego visiting our son who has just returned from another military deployment. His schedule was limited and this was one of the few times he would be available for us to visit. I will miss seeing all of you and being involved in the business of CVVFA. I know you will have a good convention and that you will all have allot of fun. Since our last meeting I have attended all of our company meetings, training and functions. I have attended two training sessions on forest fire ignition identification and incident command. I have also been involved in Newport's 175th Anniversary Celebration including being on the parade committee and emcee for Emergency Services Night during the celebration. I have also been involved in the installation and dedication ceremony of three historical plaques in front of our station, which describe the history of our fire company, as part of Perry County's upcoming anniversary celebration. I have also had the opportunity to speak with our local Representative and Senator regarding issues with the longevity of the volunteer fire service and possible changes to the distribution of gaming funds. Additional meetings are planned. Again, thanks to all involved for making today's meeting a success and wish that everyone enjoys the convention and that everyone has a safe trip home.

Fourth Vice President's Report – Rich Toulson

Mr. President, fellow Officers, members and guests, welcome to Delaware City for the 144th annual convention. A very special thank you goes out to Delaware City for hosting this year's convention. Delaware City is very much in tuned with their community and involved. Since our last booster meeting, I have attended my fire company meetings and training classes, also attended state and county association meetings. I have also taught flagger and highway safety classes. President Robertson, congratulations on a successful year, I am looking forward to working with Hoby. I hope that all of you have an enjoyable time at this year's convention. Again, thank you to the Officers and members for hosting this year's convention.

Treasurer's Report – George J. Dove

George reported on attending meetings and the Apple Blossom Festival. He provided the following account balances:

ENDING BALANCES

General Account	34800.51
Death Benefit Account	600.00
CD	91170.79
NET WORTH	126571.30

This concludes my report and I have been your Treasurer for 32 years.

Financial Secretary's Report – Stephen C. McBee

Thanks to Delaware City Fire Department for hosting this year's convention. I would also like to thank the members of CVVFA for allowing me to serve as your Financial Secretary. If elected, I will serve one more term as Financial Secretary, but that will be my last. During the past year, I have mailed dues notices to member companies and individual members. All dues payments have been turned over to the treasurer. As always, members can pay their dues at the convention and receive a new membership card. With the help of a couple members, the membership list has been updated to reflect member deaths. There are still quite a few life-time members with no valid address. As they are beneficial life-time members, I have not deleted them from our roster.

Recording Secretary's Report – Gene Worthington

Good morning, Mr. President, members and guests, let me start by thanking many for their well wishes for my family. I would like to say thanks to our host Delaware City for the convention. It is obvious that much planning has gone into this convention which we appreciate. The office remains active as the booster meeting minutes were transcribed and distributed. All resolution requests submitted have been completed. Personally, I have attended most of my county and state meetings along with some training sessions. The agenda was forwarded onto the President. As always the office stands ready to support the Association.

Home Office Manager's Report – Stephen E. Heefner

Mr. President, Officers, members and guests, welcome to the 114th annual convention. I would like to thank the Officers, members and convention committee of the Delaware City FD for hosting this year's events. As I finish my 14th year of HMO, I wish to thank all the Officers, members and fire departments for all your help throughout the past year who assisted with meeting locations, lodging and convention venues. I attended all scheduled meetings of the CVVFA, mailed postcards and convention newsletter to approximately 800 members. I received address changes, death notices, dues monies and scholarship applications, all of which I turned over to the proper office and committees. I attended the MSFA convention and the Baltimore Fire Expo along with my wife Anita. We both assisted with the operation of the ResponderSafety booth. Both of us are looking forward to assisting whenever possible. As in the past if nominated, I will accept the office of Home Office Manager for the 2015-2016 year. It will be my 15th and final year. A commitment I made to incoming President Hoby Howell from my state of MD. Anyone wishing to learn the ropes of HOM, please see me after the meeting. I continue to seek out willing companies to host our fall & spring booster meetings and conventions. Again, see me for our current open dates. Again, I would like to thank PP Jimmy Watson for volunteering Delaware City to host this year's convention. To all of our out of town guests, I hope your accommodations are suitable. I have arranged for the pool to remain open past the 9pm hour and I invite everyone to join us afterwards at the Iron Hill hospitality suite @ the Red Roof Inn on S. College Avenue. May everyone be safe in your travels, remember everybody goes home.

Attorney – Howard S. Cohen

Mr. President, Mr. Secretary, officers, members, and guests, welcome to, and thanks for attending, this exciting convention. And thank you to the Delaware City Fire Company for hosting the CVVFA's 114th annual convention. I think the CVVFA is really at a crossroads. Last December, this organization was admitted to the CFSI's National Advisory Committee. At this convention, we'll be voting on bylaw

changes that would fundamentally reform the organization's governance as well as a revised logo that, we're told, better reflects today's CVVFA. But where will this organization be 20 years from now? Not only does this nation's volunteer fire service resemble very little of what it was like 100 years ago, but, in fact, it barely resembles the volunteer fire service most of us grew up with and so fondly remember from a mere 40, 30, or even just 20 years ago. There's very little pure volunteerism left, with most "volunteers" these days receiving at least some degree of pay-per-call, stipend, incentive, or other form of payment. Nor are many of the services we're rendering any longer free to the recipients of our aid as they were up until very recently, with many, if not most, volunteer fire companies billing health insurers for EMS transports, and, sometimes, even property and casualty insurers for rendering fire and rescue services. And with EMS calls now constituting 75% + of most departments' calls, and the recipients of our aid no longer standing for protracted response times (which just don't work in the EMS arena anyway) the traditional responses from home to a station that were so much a part of volunteer fire history are, more and more, relegated to history, as stations need to be continually staffed. So it's no longer not just not "our father's fire service," but it's rapidly no longer the volunteer fire service we grew up with and loved. Added to that, strong doses of reality these days are quickly bursting the bubble of "romanticism" about firefighting. The cover story in this month's issue of FASNY's "The Volunteer Firefighter" reports that, over just a 3 year period from 2008-2010, nearly 1/3 of the active members of a large metropolitan career department were diagnosed with some form of cancer. Not only is there nothing romantic about that, it's simply downright scary. And if the CVVFA expects to survive, it, too, likely can't continue to resemble the organization we so fondly remember. And if it's still around in 20 years, it likely won't bear much of any resemblance to what we see today. On that upbeat note, I hope you all enjoy this convention.

Delegate to Pennsylvania – Charlie Myers

Charlie started his comments by announcing there are 4 PP's from PA with us today, thanks to them for attending. Also, I would like to report it is good to see Jasper again. Charlie further reported on the viewing of Mr. Strock that he attended. He mentioned some items from the last state meeting in July, Heroes Day at Penn State, Pa Fire Emergency Services dinner, \$30K to be presented for scholarships at convention, new web site, need a new Chaplain, legislation. Anyone attending convention, phone number is 570-722-9111 EXT 829 for registration at the resort.

RECESS

President Robertson called the meeting back to order. Attorney Cohen made some additional comments referenced the New York Firefighter magazine article on cancer in the fire service. I encourage all to read and keep in mind when preparing for a fire service career.

Walter then commented on the display of patches at the side of the room.

Board of Directors

Pennsylvania State Director – Donna Welsh

It is good to see everyone in sunny Delaware City, thank you to Delaware City for your hospitality. Since the last booster meeting, I have attended my company meetings and county Emergency Management and local planning meetings. I have met some folks at JLG that are from Pierce and passed on CVVFA material and ResponderSafety information. Rich Brunner contacted me concerning the PA sales tax exemption. He was going to complete it, but he said he could not be here and time did not permit so I have a few questions. I will be seeing people today and tomorrow to complete it. If there is a by-law change, some of the information will change. It is amazing it was just 30 short years ago we were in McConnellsburg waiting for the convention. It was our second convention, but this time people were coming from 5 states for the first Presidents Council meeting, it was the real deal. Well I hope everyone enjoys the convention and we all go home with lots of information. Take care and stay safe.

We will break for the memorial service at this time, lunch to be served when everyone returns. Vans are at the front to take you to the church. BREAK

Memorial Service

The annual memorial service was held at the St. Paul's Roman Catholic Church. Chaplain Barnhart led the group with singing and readings by all in attendance. The memorial message was titled "The Tradition Remains" and was given by Charlie. Roll call of honored deceased CVVFA members was read by President Robertson as Assistant Chaplain Wharry placed flowers in their memory.

Irvin L. Bitler	James R. Bretz	Norman R. Bricker
Julian Cain	Ivy Costango	Douglas Crim
Allen W. Ditto	Howard A. Downey	Walker A. Edmondson
Harvey J. Eisner	Robert H. Ebersole, Jr.	Raymond H. Feeser
Willis Y. Florig	Charles E. Gantz	John W. Glass, Sr.
Clair Harman	Ralph E. Helm, Jr.	Albert S. Hodge, Sr.
Walter Lang	Clyde Mann	Ronald W. Poole
Ted Rosko	John R. Smith	Wayne A. Spaid, Sr.
Donald Strock	Norman Traux	Wilbur R. Truett, Jr.
Richard Vella	Charles Walls	Albert N. Wrightstone

When death occurs, the church shares the grief of those who mourn and remembers the brevity of life on earth. At a memorial service such as this, we give voice to sorrow, thank God for our loved ones, and entrust these companions of ours into the hands of God. Trusting in God's promise in baptism that we are claimed by Christ forever, we rest in the sure hope of the resurrection. When the church gathers to mark the end of a life, Christ crucified and risen is the witness of worship, the strength of mutual consolation, and the hope of healing.

Chaplain Charlie ended the service by his singing of the Lord's Prayer, great as always.

President Robertson called the meeting back to order and asked for the Board reports to continue.

Pennsylvania State Director – Mike Whitzel

Mike was absent, however sent the following report. Good afternoon Officers, Members, and Guest. I would like to thank Delaware City Fire Company for hosting the 114th annual convention. Thank you for your hospitality. Sorry I'm not attending this year's Convention. I started a new job on Monday. I'm working for the Baltimore Fire Protection Equipment. I'm going to be a testing and inspections Tech. I'm glad to stay in the fire protection field. I will have different opportunities with this company and a bright future. The Pennsylvania Fireman's Legislative Federation and the Pennsylvania Fire and Emergency Services institute are still working together to merge. Both groups agreed to move forward, at this time the Federation is drawing up the agreement. This should be finished by the end of the end. If Don Kunckle or Tom Savage is at the meeting they can provide more up to date info for our group. PA Emergency Services has to get background check. There is a lot of questions about how is going to pay the checks. Our legislators waive the fee for the fire service. I attended the Hal Bruno Camp for fallen firefighters kids. The camp is in conjunction with comfort zone camps and it was held in Connecticut this year. It was an honor and privilege to serve as a healing circle helper. This is my 2nd camp I went to. If you have a chance please consider to donate money for the camp. If you need info please contact Linda Hurley at the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation. I attended the PA Weekend at the National Fire Academy for Firefighters protecting Firefighters training class. What a great class. One of the best classes I've taken at NFA. There was good discussion and dialogue between the students and the teacher. I attended the Pump Primers with my Engine 53 and Ladder 57. Engine 53 took a 2nd place 1960-1990 engine. Ladder 57 took 1st in the Aerial truck class. The Pipeline posse took 2nd in spin the barrel. There were about 100 rigs at Pump Primers. I have been attending my Fire Company's meetings, trainings, fundraising, fire prevention programs. I attend 5 Municipality meetings each month to report

on the Company's actives. I've been attending our school safety and security meeting on monthly basis. I attended my fire chief's and Firefighters Relief meetings. The 3 Companies are in talks to do some type of partnership. We started Multi department trainings. We started service testing, group purchasing, testing and inspections of equipment. We are looking at other items down the road. We are taking small step to improve our delivery system to our communities we serve. I've been promoting the Cumberland Valley Fireman's Associations every chance get. I steer them to the learning net, Facebook and Website. I also let them know what the value of becoming a member of our association member. I'm also interested in running for director for Pennsylvania again. Thank you for the votes of confidence.

Maryland State Director – Dave Lewis

Dave made some personal comments and gave the following report. I extend greetings from President John Roth and the other officers from MSFA who will be here tomorrow for the Presidents Council and we look forward to sharing our experiences with the other states. Our convention was back in June, thanks to our out of state partners who came to visit and spent some time at our convention and we look forward to a successful year under John's leadership. We will talk about our legislative session from January to April with some issues we were successful in passing. I am certainly proud of our passage of residential sprinkler legislation during my term; however we continue to face challenges each year. Some of our rural counties desired to opt out, but we stood up and continued to prevail. I want to apologize for my absence for missing some booster meetings; on May 22 I retired which gives me the opportunity to do what I want. I have been teaching at the NFA, one of my loves. I certainly hope to be active for this Association and am excited about the refocus of the new bylaws for consideration. Thanks to Delaware City for their hospitality.

Maryland State Director – Bob Cumberland

President Robertson, Officers, Directors, and Guest, I want to congratulate President Robertson and the other officers for a successful year as leaders of the CVVFA, and working with me on the different committees this past year. I want to thank the Past President James Watson and the members of the Delaware City Fire Company for hosting 114th annual convention along with the President's Council Meeting. Since the convention I have attended my fire department and county association meeting. As a member of the Maryland Fire Rescue Education Training Commission, I attended all of the commission meetings this past year. I also attend the swearing in of the newly elective County Commissioner which one of them is a member of the Carroll County fire service. I had the chance to meet with Carroll County Commissioners and the Delegates for Carroll County to the Maryland general assembly before the 2015 Legislative session. I attended the Virginia, Delaware and the Pennsylvania State Firefighter Convention along with the Officers of the MSFA. I also attended the April Executive Committee of the MSFA held in Urbana, Maryland. I attended the Presidents Council Meeting held at the Lancaster County Firemen's Association Headquarters in Lititz PA. I also completed the Train-the-Trainer course for the Federal Highway Administration SHARP 2, National Traffic Incident Management responder Training Program at the National Fire Academy. On Friday October 10, 2014 Greg Yost, Robert Timko and I set up the ResponderSafety Booth at the I-81 Visitors Center in Greencastle, Pa. We discussed Highway safety items and the move over laws to travelers that visited the center. On April 9, 2015 we had the opportunity to be part of the I-81 visitor center program for Highway Safety Awareness week with the ResponderSafety Booth. I want to thank President Robertson, Greg Yost, and Bob Timko for their help and support in this event. It was a very successful event and we got to talk to many visitor about the move over laws and other highway safety materials. The news media was there to cover the program and interview all of us reference what we do and why we are doing these types of programs. There was a nice article in the Chambersburg Public Opinion where they interviewed Greg Yost. Linda Hoover Tourist Information Supervisor for the Keystone Welcome Center at Dutch Country estimated there was about 1200 to 1300 visitors came through that day. We need to thank Linda Hoover and Tiffany Brown who is the Tourism Services Manager, who is Linda's boss and supports us in allowing us to do our program at the different events. The Fire Service lost a great leader this past year, Deputy Administrator of the USFA Chief Glenn Gaines. This is a great lost to the fire service and would ask that everyone keep

Glenn's family in their prayers. Dr. Denis Onieal was appointed to fill the Deputy Administrator position and there is now a search underway to fill Dr. Onieal's position as superintendent of the National Fire Academy. I represented the CVVFA at the CFSI program, dinner and the National Advisory Committee Meeting as the Primary Contact person for the CVVFA. This was the first meeting since the Association was accepted as a member to the CFSI National Advisory Council. The committee did approve a resolution in support of the James Zadroga 9/11 health and compensation reauthorization act. The committee held the annual election and the following people were elected back to their positions, Chair Jim Dalton and Doug Aiken as Vice Chair. Mr. President, it was great to have worked with you this past year.

West Virginia Director – Dustin Amtower - absent

West Virginia Director – Randy James - absent

Virginia Director – Steve Sweitzer

I would like to thank Delaware City FD for hosting the 114th annual CVVFA convention. Hope everyone has an enjoyable time. I have been working on getting the word out about CVVFA. Safety of all responders should be our top priority.

Virginia Director – Allen Brennan

Allen was absent attending the Virginia State convention, however sent the following report on his activities:

July 30-Aug. 2 - attended the convention activities of the CVVFA held in Chambersburg, PA

Aug. 1 - attended the Presidents Council meeting held in Chambersburg, PA

Aug. 13-16 – attended and participated in activities of the Virginia State Firefighters Association Conference held in Hampton, VA

Oct. 5 – participated in Fire Prevention Week Open House held at Fredericksburg Fire Department Sta. 1 and handed out Fire Prevention material

Oct. 18 – participated in a planning session held at the MFRI Regional Office in Aberdeen, MD on the future of where the CVVFA plans on being and supportive programs we will be focusing on

Oct. 9 – attended the CVVFA Booster held in Fallston, MD

Mar. 21, 2015 – attended banquet of Culpeper Volunteer Fire Dept. in Culpeper, VA

Apr. 10/11 – attended the Auxiliary to the Virginia State Firefighters Assn. Zone Meeting in Strasburg,

Apr. 17/18 – attended the National Volunteer Fire Council Spring meeting held in Alexandria, VA

May 3 – attended the Cumberland Valley Volunteer Fireman's Assn. Booster meeting held in Winchester

I have been unable to attend several functions this year because of health reasons. I have spent several days in the hospital and received a pacemaker on one of these visits. I have attended all meetings of my fire company and participated in all events of the company.

Delaware Director – Harry Balthis

I would like to thank Delaware City FC for hosting the 2015 CVVFA convention. During the past year, I have attended the booster meetings and Director's meeting as well as some of my home fire company meetings and functions. I have attended the President's Council meetings and I served on the scholarship committee.

Delaware Director – Steve Austin

I want to thank Delaware City for their outstanding hospitality and I say that with some prejudice because a number of years ago, I was made an honorary member and I feel like I am coming home. I think the neat thing about Delaware City folks are the members what can we do for you. They have done so much for this Association, whether training upstairs, videoing with Stone House Media, their members out there late helping. Then they feed you when the day is done, above and beyond the call of duty. I am sad to report the untimely death of Michael Logan, son of VSFA Larry Logan. Michael died of a medical condition and his funeral service is today. I request that our Chaplain offer a prayer in Friday's invocation prior to the President's Council meeting seeking comfort for the Logan family. I will have other reports at the proper order of business.

New York Director – Dave Jacobwitz

Good afternoon, as a Yankee, I want to thank Delaware City for being great hosts. I have with me 2 of our Officers in attendance. We will give a full report tomorrow on our activities, very busy. Congratulations Walter on your term.

Past President – Jim Watson

I also attended the booster meetings and have helped Steve with the ResponderSafety displays behind the scene. We have been busy here preparing for convention. Thank you for the support and has been great working with you this year.

Chief Jon Townley addressed the body representing the Eastern Division, IAFC. At our meeting last June, we passed 3 resolutions and I am requesting CVVFA to support them also by resolution. Jon read each for the record.

Chaplain – Charles Barnhart

Charlie thanked all for the attendance at memorial service.

Assistant Chaplain – James Wharry

Nothing further to report.

President Watson asked PP Austin to introduce our keynote speaker Chief Allen Baldwin, Chief Winchester FD. Steve gave some background on Allen's career and assistance over the years to our organization. Allen started his comments by thanking CVVFA for their support over the years who assisted with his career in the fire service. He continued with his address by discussing the major fire from May 30, 2014 in Winchester. This was a 30 hour incident involving many folks with many logistical lessons learned. He recapped the incident to include slides; all in attendance enjoyed the presentation by applause. I personally learned a better way to ventilate such a large building, use an air boat, great idea.

Walter announced a short recess for the attendees.

President Robertson announced that we would now go into the election.

MOTION to open nominations for the Association Officers from the floor by Dean Simpson, seconded by Hoby Howell, no further discussion, verbal vote taken, motion passed.

President – Hoby Howell nominated by Dave Lewis, seconded by Steve Sweitzer, motion to close nominations by George Dove, seconded by Jon Townley

First Vice President – Bill Keller nominated by Steve Sweitzer, seconded by Hoby Howell, motion to close nominations by Jon Townley, seconded by Steve Austin

Second Vice President – Rich Brunner nominated by Hoby Howell, seconded by Dave Klein, motion to close nominations by Jon Townley, seconded by Dave Lewis

Third Vice President – Richard Toulson nominated by Hoby Howell, seconded by Bill Mortimer, motion to close nominations by Steve Sweitzer, seconded by Jon Townley

Fourth Vice President – Steve Sweitzer nominated by Hoby Howell, seconded by Bill Mortimer, motion to close nominations by Hoby Howell, seconded by Dave Lewis

Treasurer – George Dove nominated by Charles Barnhart, seconded by Dave Klein, motion to close nominations by Steve Sweitzer, seconded by Steven Haines

Financial Secretary – Steve McBee nominated by Jim Watson, seconded by Bill Mortimer, motion to close nominations by Steve Sweitzer, seconded by Steven Haines

Recording Secretary – Gene Worthington nominated by Dave Lewis, seconded by Hoby Howell, motion to close nominations by Jon Townley, seconded by Steve Sweitzer

Home Office Manager – Steve Heefner nominated by Charlie Myers, seconded by Bill Mortimer, motion to close nominations by Jon Townley, seconded by Hoby Howell

Publicity Manager – Robert Romig nominated by Jim Watson, seconded by Jon Townley, motion to close nominations by Jon Townley, seconded by Steve Sweitzer

Chaplain – Charles Barnhart nominated by Charlie Myers, seconded by Hoby Howell, motion to close nominations by Steve Sweitzer, seconded by Bill Mortimer
Assistant Chaplain – James Wharry nominated by Robert Sweetman, seconded by Hoby Howell, motion to close nominations by Charlie Myers, seconded by Hoby Howell
Attorney – Howard Cohen nominated by James Watson, seconded by Jon Townley, motion to close nominations by Hoby Howell, seconded by Jon Townley
Delegate to PA – Charles Myers nominated by Charles Barnhart, seconded by Steve Sweitzer, motion to close nominations by James Watson, seconded by Bill Mortimer
Director Pennsylvania (2017) – Donna Welsh nominated by Hoby Howell, seconded by Steve Sweitzer, motion to close nominations by Steve Sweitzer, seconded by Hoby Howell
Director Maryland (2017) – Dave Lewis nominated by Hoby Howell, seconded by Dave Jacobowitz, motion to close nominations by Steve Sweitzer, seconded by Jon Townley
Director West Virginia (2017) – No nominations were received, feeling of group to remain vacant. Motion for same by Steve Austin, seconded by Hoby Howell, question was asked if a member could reside in WVA, however not a member of a company, could he run for Director. Motion and second was withdrawn by sponsors. Motion for Greg Yost by Steve Heefner, seconded by Jon Townley, motion to close nominations by Hoby Howell, seconded by Steve Sweitzer
Director Virginia (2017) – Walter Robertson nominated by Hoby Howell, seconded by Bill Mortimer, concern was raised about Walter being the immediate Past President, motion and second was withdrawn by the sponsors. Motion to nominate Allen Baldwin by Steve Heefner, seconded by Bill Mortimer, motion to close nominations by Hoby Howell, seconded by Bill Mortimer
Director Delaware (2017) – Harry Balthis nominated by Jerry Daniels, seconded by Robert Sweetman, motion to close nominations by Bob Romig, seconded by Steve Sweitzer

MOTION was made to close the nominations by James Watson, seconded by Hoby Howell, verbal vote taken, motion passed.

MOTION was made for the Secretary to cast the ballot for uncontested offices by Dave Lewis, seconded by Dave Jacobowitz, verbal vote taken, motion passed.

President Robertson congratulated all of the new Officers for being elected; you will be sworn in Friday night at the banquet. Please bring badges with you.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Archives and Historical Committee – Guy Flory/Ray Mowen

Absent

Audit Committee – Jerry Daniels

As you heard the minutes from the Board meeting last night, the committee met last night and conducted the audit and found the records to be in proper order.

Budget and Finance – George Dove

No report

Business & Ops Plan – Greg Yost

Nothing to report

Constitution and By-Laws Committee – Bob Cumberland

Bob stated the by-laws have been presented, copies are at the front table. Oral comments were presented followed by motion to accept as presented in its entirety by Dave Lewis, seconded by Harry Carter, comment was made as to timeline response take place at next convention. All nominations for this year's positions are in effect for one year. Attorney Cohen commented further about the nomination process. Several made further comments about the implementation process. Question was called for verbal vote, consensus was that motion passed with one negative vote cast. Bob thanked the members of his committee for their work on the by-laws, also thanked all for the vote. Walter expressed his thanks to the committee. Bob added that are some grammatical errors that needed corrective actions which will not change the intent in anyway. This will be done and forwarded to the webmaster for posting.

Convention Committee – Steve Flickinger

Nothing further to report

Credentials Committee – Dave Lewis

The secretary took the roll earlier with 105 delegates.

Emergency Responder Safety Institute – Steve Austin

Steve stated that we now have 20 modules on the Learning Network with more in the pipeline being worked on. We have 14,500 active users, people that actually registered and got into the system to do something with continued growth and hopefully will be at 20,000 by years end. We continue to negotiate with federal highway administration allowing us to issue a national TIM certificate for students who take a certain number of modules. This could be a huge asset. Example, if you take X number, you successfully pass, the system will print out the certificate. This is going to cost money, who pays. Greg Yost then gave the financial report on all the accounts and contracts. Greg informed that they would be paying for the audit and some publishing items. Steve continued by saying we are always looking for added value to the Association.

Grants – Steve Austin

Steve provided the status on various grants in discussion, Motorola, NVFC, fire prevention and safety, Federal Highway ITERIS, Fire Administration, Department of Justice.

Fire Person of the Year Committee – George Dove

Everything is in proper order, ready for the presentation at banquet.

Fire Prevention and Education Committee – Jamie Watson

She was absent.

Legislative – Bob Cumberland

Bob reported that much of this would be covered tomorrow at the Council meeting when the federal folks will be in attendance.

Parliamentarian – Howard Cohen

Nothing further to report

Public Relations – Rich Toulson

Nothing

Publicity Committee – Bob Timko

Bob was not present during this time of the meeting

Recruitment and Retention Committee – Allen Brennan

Absent

Resolutions Committee – Jerry Daniels

Nothing additional

Scholarship Committee – Harry Balthis

This year CVVFA received 29 applications for scholarships this year. We awarded 3 to the following students: Kyle Melton JR Haines memorial for \$1,000. Kyle is a member of Middletown FC#1. He attends the University of New Haven, studying fire science fire administration. Kyle is a repeat recipient of this scholarship. Bryan Howell received the Kenneth Butts \$1,000 scholarship. Travis Lee Karicofe of Waynesboro, VA received the Harry C. Alt memorial scholarship. These recipients were invited to the banquet.

Sergeant at Arms – Wayne Baker

Everything is going good.

Sign Trailer – Wayne Baker

We need info for the board on next year's convention.

Training Weekend – Grey Yost

We continue to work on something, however nothing definite at this time.

Topics – Steve Austin

Dr. Harry Carter hosted an evening with the masters last evening. You heard Allen Baldwin give the keynote earlier on the Zero Pac fire in Winchester. During the President's Council meeting, we have

arranged for Jim Dalton and Tim Travers here to discuss the politics of sprinkler legislation. Candice will be teaching a Reputation Management class Friday. Dr. Denis Onieal will be conducting a youth in the fire service roundtable Friday afternoon and will be our guest speaker at banquet.

Web Page – Steve Austin

Tomorrow night at 6pm, we will be taking a picture for the new banner for the web. Firefighter Behavior needs some help, getting back to date. We have two new webmasters for fire prevention Kim and Mike O'Malley, look for some movement forward. The new site will include our PayPal account.

Youth Leadership – Jamie Watson

The Secretary advised that he received a Youth Leadership Award nomination from Delaware City for Nicholas Neel, same was forwarded onto committee.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Sales Tax exemption for PA – Directors

Donna reported progress.

Challenge coin sales – Hoby Howell

Coins are here for sale, have 33 remaining in my possession. If you have money, please forward to George.

Dues payment system – Bob Cumberland

We can still purchase from the store.

Classified ads for the web site – Rich

Absent

South East Firemen's Association – Austin

Met with the folks, discussed previous experience, asked to meet again in October

Keystone State Firefighters Conference - Austin

Next week, Bob Romig will be making a presentation tomorrow at the Council meeting. We are excited about being the sponsor.

President's Council meetings – Austin

Now that we passed the by-law change, we have the opportunity to do a spring weekend meeting in concert with the booster meeting.

Logo redesign – Austin

Discussions started on this since the planning meeting, a sample was presented that has been posted for several months. Steve discussed the changes and reasoning for them. At the end of his remarks he moved to adopt the logo as presented, seconded by Dave Kline, discussion on cost, tradition, design. Verbal vote taken, motion passed.

Membership into Florida State Fire Chiefs - Austin

Being in attendance for number of years, receptive to our mission, affiliate member at no cost, awaiting on response from them

Enterprise Rental Car – Robertson

Have a corporate agreement for business and personal use, Walter signed the contract. Those desiring to get an Emerald club card can do so.

NEW BUSINESS

IAFC Jon Townley made a motion that the Association generate three resolutions that I previously spoke on this morning, seconded by James Watson, discussion, verbal vote taken, motion passed. These resolutions were prepared and forwarded to Resolutions chairman Daniels.

Steve Flickinger requested we discuss the convention parade and our discontinuation allowing that function remain with the host company. This generated much discussion. Motion that we do away with sponsorship of the parade after the 2017 convention in McConnellsburg, seconded by Steve Heefner, discussion ensued about the parade categories and cost for host to provide, lack of sponsorships,

capabilities to conduct a parade, motion to table by Steve Austin, seconded by Robert Sweetman, verbal vote taken, motion passed.

Candice McDonald gave a report on reputation management, specifically the grant funding from the NVFC. The good news, with that funding, we have been able to travel and do presentations. She gave some statistics, 74 days to teaching, national publication articles, and the pleasure of participating at two different radio broadcasts. We are also getting requests for 2016, things going really well. Kim O'Malley and Dave Lewis will also be doing some teaching. Thank you guys for allowing me to deliver the message.

PP Watson gave some comments on the activities for this evening, unfortunately some cancellations due to the weather. All inside activities are a go, please enjoy yourselves.

Walter reminded all of the Presidents Council meeting Friday, coffee and donuts starting at 8am. Candice will be doing a training class upstairs, Friday night banquet, will be taking a group picture at 6pm.

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION

Attorney Cohen commented on the by-law amendments that were approved. Obviously the Officer positions will take effect next convention, however others life membership phase down starts this year, committees will effect this year along with the meeting changes.

Assistant Chaplain Wharry gave the closing benediction for the day, will reconvene at the President's Council Friday morning. Motion made to adjourn meeting at 16:05pm.

President Robertson reconvened the convention Friday morning at 9am for the Presidents Council meeting. Chaplain Charlie gave the invocation after some comments, followed by the pledge to the flag. President Robertson offered the welcome on behalf of the CVVFA and asked for any announcements to be made. He then introduced PP Watson on behalf of Delaware City who brought greetings. Jim asked for all to be here early tonight for the group picture. Walter provided some additional comments, busy year, many things happening, turned over to Steve Austin to facilitate the meeting. Steve brought greetings on the 30th meeting, made some comments about the original meeting, introduced our charter members Bob Sweetman, George Dove, Lawrence Mergenthaler, Bob Cumberland, Steve Austin, Jim Cabbage, Allen Brennan. Special presentations were presented to each followed by applause.

Steve gave some announcements, showed the Telly award presented to CVVFA, additionally some major changes on the organizational structure of CVVFA to include the newly revised logo. We look forward to our continuation of hosting this Council, our spring meeting to be a weekend to include this meeting. Steve then introduced our host state Delaware for their comments, this started the business part of the meeting and no further minutes were recorded.

President Robertson thanked all of the participants for the informing meeting, gave some closing comments and reconvened the convention to the banquet. Many took advantage of some fine hospitality back at the hotel.

The banquet program was held Friday evening, July 31, 2015, at the Delaware City VFD banquet hall. President Robertson provided some opening remarks, asked the Chaplain the blessing of the food followed by the pledge. Walter asked PP Watson our host to give the official welcome which was followed by the resolution presentation to the host company. MC Steve Austin gave some remarks and asked the audience to show their appreciation for the dinner. Steve then gave the introduction of our keynote speaker Dr. Onieal.

Dr. Onieal thanked the CVVFA for their contributions to the fire service, opened up with some personal jokes, then brought comments. Steve thanked our speaker for his comments; then asked scholarship chairman Balthis for introduction of our scholarship awardees. Bryan Howell was present for introduction along with family members. Bryan thanked the CVVFA for the scholarship.

Steve asked the Secretary to present some resolutions for 50 years of service. Gene read the list as President Robertson made the presentations to a representative to accept.

David G. Alleman	Stephen P. Austin	Dennis E. Beard
Pamela L. Biesecker	Lawrence E. Eversole	Benjamin H. Greenwalt
John C. Mills	Alfred Staub	Paul F. Toms
Earl J. Vandrew	Charles R. Vores	Chester T. Williams

We also have some resolutions as requested for special recognitions that were presented by President Robertson. Continuing with our awards ceremony, the next award presented was the Youth Leadership Award given in the memory of Gary “Happy Jack” Easton. Chairperson Jamie Watson introduced the award and read some inserts from the nomination letter.

PP George Dove presented the E. Wade Thomas Member of the Year Award to HMO Steve Heefner. Steve was very gracious upon receiving this award and thanked the membership. Final remarks were given by President Robertson.

The list of the newly elected Officers was read, followed by the installation with the oath of office given by installing officer Steve Austin. Pictures were taken of the Officers and badges were given. PP Walter presented the gavel to new President Hoby Howell and advised him to use correctly. Hoby gave some comments, presented Walter with his PP badge and read the resolution from CVVFA to the outgoing President. Hoby asked Robyn Hahn, President of Harford Cecil Volunteer Firemen’s Association to accept the plaque for hosting next year’s convention.

PP Watson addressed the group with some reminders about the parade and other activities for Saturday. Door prizes were given by the host company. Chaplain Barnhart was asked to give the closing prayer. Charlie offered some comments, spoke about the prayer breakfast Saturday morning, gave the benediction. The President announced since there being no further business to come before the CVVFA, I would like to have our younger member Colt to close the convention by the gavel.

Saturday morning we met at the restaurant for the prayer breakfast. A large group was in attendance to enjoy the great hospitality and a message from the Chaplain. Following breakfast, we all gathered at the lineup of the parade. The parade kicked off at noon downtown and was followed by the awarding of the trophies. This ended the convention for 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

Gene Worthington, Recording Secretary