

Cumberland Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association  
 Board of Directors meeting  
 Halfway, MD  
 January 11, 2010

Vice President Greg Yost called the meeting to order at 12:20pm in the absence of the President. Lunch was served at noon for all to enjoy. Greg made some comments reference the illness of President Robertson. Walter has injured his knee and will be going to the doctor on Monday. Charlie Myers gave the opening prayer and led the group in the pledge to the flag. Greg called on Steve Heefner to offer the welcome from the host company Halfway. Steve invited all to their facility, offered assistance to any needing anything.

**Introduction of Guests – None**

Secretary Worthington took roll call with 16 Officers being recorded in attendance.

TITLE	NAME	OCT	BOARD
President	Walter Robertson	1	
1st Vice President	Greg Yost	1	1
2nd Vice President	Michael Sullivan		1
3rd Vice President	Steven Haines	1	1
4th Vice President	Rich Toulson	1	1
Treasurer	George Dove	1	1
Financial Secretary	Stephen McBee	1	1
Recording Secretary	Gene Worthington	1	1
Home Office Manager	Stephen Heefner	1	1
Publicity Manager	Robert Timko	1	1
Chaplain	Charles Barnhart	1	
Assistant Chaplain	James Wharry	1	
Attorney	Howard Cohen		
Pennsylvania Delegate	Charlie Myers	1	1
Director, Pennsylvania (2011)	Rich Bruner	1	
Director, Pennsylvania (2010)	Gerald Holtry	1	1
Director, Maryland (2011)	Wayne Baker	1	1
Director, Maryland (2010)	Robert Cumberland		1
Director, West Virginia (2011)	Bill Keller		
Director, West Virginia (2010)	Harry Alt		
Director, Delaware (2011)	Harry Balthis		1
Director, Delaware (2010)	Steve Austin	1	1
Director, Virginia (2011)	Kevin Piatt	1	
Director, Virginia (2010)	Allen Brennan	1	
Past President	Jerry Daniels	1	1
	Totals	19	16
Past Presidents		11	10

**Communications – None**

## Officers reports –

Secretary Worthington read a message from Walter, sorry I cannot be there with you all there in Halfway, when I woke up Saturday morning my knee would not cooperate. It will not straighten out or let me put any weight on it. I will be seeing my doctor Monday morning about it. I hope everyone had a good holiday, also have recovered from all the snow. Since our last meeting I have attended all my fire company meetings and fund raisers, also all of the county and state meetings. Have a good meeting and I will let you all know what happens with my knee. If Harry Alt is there, let him know I am sorry that I missed him. And to the members of Halfway, thank you for hosting the Board meeting. Take care everyone and have a safe trip home.

First Vice President Yost stated he had no formal report at this time, thanks to Halfway for hosting the meeting.

Second Vice President Michael Sullivan submitted a written report and spoke from it. Mr. Vice President, Fellow Officers, members and guests, welcome. Thanks to Volunteer Fire Company of Halfway for hosting the meeting today. Since the convention I have attended all my company's regular meetings and attended our annual awards banquet last night. I also attended for lifetime member, of over 50 years, Lee Fox's funeral. I hope to be able to make it to the March meeting at Blue Ridge.

Third Vice President Steve Haines submitted a written report and spoke from it. First Vice President Greg Yost, Fellow Officers, members and guests, good afternoon and Happy New Year. Welcome to Halfway and I would like to thank the Volunteer Fire Company of Halfway for once again hosting today's Board of Directors meeting. Since our last booster meeting, I have attended my own fire company meetings and New Bloomfield FC meetings. Also, I attended a convention meeting along with PP Steve Flickinger in Harrisburg to review the events for this year's convention. I hoped that everyone had a good holiday, looking forward to another successful year and convention. I hope to see everyone at the next booster meeting to be hosted by the Blue Ridge Fire & Rescue Squad in March. Take care and have a safe trip home.

Fourth Vice President Rich Toulson brought greetings, would like to thank Halfway for hosting the meeting. Since our last meeting I have attended my state and county meetings, also attended one national conference and look forward to a successful year.

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

CVVFA #4100840 death	839.67
General Account	13980.77
CVVFA HH bonds	2000.00
CVVFA #236	78711.24
Net Worth	95571.68

Financial Secretary McBee stated that dues are coming in and membership cards are going out.

Recording Secretary Worthington reported on the activities of his office. Happy New Year to all. All minutes from the last booster meeting were transcribed, mailed and posted on the web by the webmaster. The agenda was prepared for this meeting and forwarded to President Robertson for his action. I have received several messages from our Officers and have copies with me today reference the meeting. There are additional copies of the proceedings from convention at the front table, please help yourself to a copy. Thanks to Halfway for hosting the meeting as always. The Office remains ready to assist the Association.

Home Office Manager Heefner presented a written report. Mr. President, Officers and Guests, welcome to the VFC of Halfway. Thanks to everyone who braved the frigid temperatures to attend today's Board meeting. Since the October booster meeting, I attended the viewing for dearly departed and Past President Larry Smallwood in Winchester. Also, I met with PP Charlie Myers, Gerald Holtry and the committee from Vigilant Hose of Shippensburg to further discuss their upcoming convention. I received and distributed all correspondence to the proper offices. It's shaping up to be another busy

spring for the CVVFA. I hope everyone continues to have a safe rest of the winter, look forward to seeing everyone in March.

Publicity Manager Timko started his comments by stating that he had the pleasure of delivering one of the 50-year resolutions. I have been working with the group at Harrisburg in prep for the convention. As you know, they have a new mayor and hopefully he will be as supportive. We continue to work on some businesses for fundraising and ads for the book. I updated the letter to be sent out; a challenge is set forth to all to acquire ads. Please send out the requests to your email addresses. I have extra convention books for those desiring.

Assistant Chaplain Wharry sent the following message. Due to some scheduling changes, I will not be able to attend the Directors meeting on Sunday. I could not get a replacement at Church and all the Aetna members are going on Saturday. I will be at the rest of the meetings.

Attorney Howard Cohen sent the following message. Gene, I won't be able to attend Sunday's Executive meeting due to a family matter and likely won't get to the 2 upcoming booster meetings. I do plan to make convention in Harrisburg and hope to see everyone there.

Pennsylvania Delegate Charlie Myers spoke on the meeting held last Friday night. We had quite a discussion on how to get more folks to attend our functions and meetings. The PA convention will be held on September 22-25 at Hanover Township with the headquarters hotel at Ramada in Wilkes Barre. I will be working with the coordinators.

### **Directors reports –**

Pennsylvania Director Brunner sent the following report. Gene attached please find my Director's Report for January 2010. I am hoping to make the meeting however due to an emergency in one of our facilities I am not sure if I will make the meeting. I am leaving Saturday morning for one of our facilities in the western part of the state and depending on what happens once we are there I do not know when I will be returning home. If you do not read my report, and that is okay, please extend my appreciation to all those that sent cards and other expressions of sympathy and support during the time of the death of my mother. It was greatly appreciated and helped us through our time of grief. I apologize and please give my best to all of my CVVFA friends if I do not make the meeting. Good afternoon President Robertson and members of the Cumberland Valley Volunteer Fireman's Association. I would like to first thank the Halfway Fire Company for hosting this annual Board of Director's Meeting. With all that we have to do in our busy lives these days it is the volunteer who keep associations such as ours alive and well. Thank you. Since our last meeting in October I have unfortunately not been very involved in any activities outside of my local company as my work has required me to travel quite a bit. In addition I lost my mother the first week in November very suddenly. She was a very healthy 89 years old, still driving and living alone, and that has been a set back for our family. Fortunately due to loved ones, family and friends we have been able to get through these tough and trying times. Please extend my thanks to all who sent cards or other expressions of sympathy and support. They were all greatly appreciated and helped us through our time of grief. I have been involved in attending my fire company meetings and training. In addition I have assisted at our fund raisers and the major event of the year our Company Annual Election. I can just imagine what you are all thinking, boy the guys in Newport must be old, but it is actually the town Christmas tree that we erect and decorate on the town square every year. I was also elected to President of my company for the 20<sup>th</sup> year, a position I am very proud to serve in. I am so fortunate to have such a great bunch of fellow firefighters to work with. I will continue to work on making our fire company and the CVVFA the best organizations possible and one's that are responsive to today's needs. Again, thanks to the host company and their members for hosting this meeting and to President Robertson and the board and members of the CVVFA. Have a safe trip home.

Pennsylvania Director Holtry presented a written report. Good afternoon to all. Happy New Year. It's good to see you all today. Hope you're not too cold. It's only 84 days until Easter, 70 days until spring and 42 days until Daytona. Sounds like Joe Bukowski can get frozen orange juice off the tree

today. It's going to warm up. We all lost a very good friend this past year Larry Smallwood, may he rest in peace. I'll cherish the moment while in Shippensburg in the 80's for a booster meeting at the Vigilant Hose Company, I gave Larry a ride on our 1969 open cab Seagraves. Ringing the bell and taking pictures, well Larry is gone and so is the 69 Seagraves. But we are going to host the 2013 convention. We are hoping to have a new fire station built. We'll have our 1963, 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary open cab Seagraves pumper completely rebuilt. It will be sixty years old. If you were to see it a year ago, it was a basket case. Things are going slow for me with gout in my foot and back problems. I'm pretty much picking the calls I go on. So, drive safely, be careful, there are people out there trying to run over you. Hope to see you in Blue Ridge Summit in March.

Maryland Director Wayne Baker thanked Halfway for hosting the meeting. Wayne further spoke about the convention trailer and the letter from the Apple Blossom reference the parade, he will mail in the reservation. He also spoke about attending the funeral service for PP Smallwood.

Maryland Director Bob Cumberland presented the following report. President Robertson Officers, Directors, I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year and successful year. Since the October Booster meeting I attended my own company meeting and my county association meeting representing my department as one of the delegates. I also attended two meetings of the Maryland Fire Rescue Education Training Commission where I serve as one of the commissioners. In October I joined the Westminster Fire Police and took training through the Westminster City Police department to be able to operate on the highways within the City of Westminster. In December I was again elected to the position of President of the Westminster Fire Engine and Hose Company No. 1 for the year of 2010. I continue to work on peer review of the AFG grants and will be working on the SAFER grant program after the grant period closes on January 15, 2010. We could be doing peer review of those grants sometime in February 2010. At the October Booster meeting I was in Duluth Minnesota working the ResponderSafety booth at the Minnesota Fire Chiefs Conference, which was a very successful conference for Responder Safety. In November I had the opportunity to attend the Pennsylvania Fire Services Institute Dinner and the Statewide Advisory Board meeting to make a presentation on ResponderSafety and the CVVFA on behalf of Past President Steve Austin on where the organizations are going this was very successful. I also presented Dr. Bill Jenaway with his resolution of Appreciation for facilitating the meeting at St. Joe University in Philadelphia for the "Fire Service Reputation Management" workshop. I am providing an up date on the CVVFA store that the items we have ask for except for the 511 shirts are all on the web page for the store, I will continue to work with Lou on getting the shirts up and anything else that we can provide to the membership. We have received from sales and membership due for November \$28.80, and for December \$43.60, which gives us a total of \$72.40 for those two months. There is money to be made from the store but we need the Directors to promote the store and get our members to visit the web site, this is easy money for the association to improve our budget.

Delaware Director Harry Balthis presented this report. Since the October booster meeting, it has been a slow time in regards to the fire service. I attended my fire company meetings, a meeting in October on the upcoming Highway Safety PSA, and the Holiday Safe Driving Forum in November where Representative Castle of Delaware announced his sponsorship for Congress to enact stronger traffic safety laws with the enactment of the National Standup Act and to accelerate state passage of the graduated driver licensing laws for novice teen drivers.

Delaware Director Austin spoke stated he has attended a few meetings over the last few months. First, something from PP Bukowski, he has the tax forms ready 10-99's required for those receiving compensation. He will mail them out when received back from the CPA firm. He wants everyone to know that he stays on top of the financial requirements for all the grants and everything is in order, which is verified by the auditors. He reminds every Director about the request forms for resolutions. Remember the Fire Person of the Year is separate from the normal resolutions. If you would like to nominate someone for the E Wade Thomas Award, that goes separately to PP Dove. We are asking that every

Director submit at least one resolution request to be awarded at convention. I will discuss further matters during the proper order of business.

Secretary Worthington further spoke about the resolution process. This year we have 50 years service by the following members.

Robert L. Bolin	Irishtown VFD
Harry E. Daveler	Antietam FC
David R. Monn	Mont Alto FD
Joseph C. Naples	Liberty FC
Roger R. Ramey	Citizens FC
Malcolm E. Ridgely	Adams FC
Richard G. Spickler	Westphal Hose Co
C. L. Wysong	Independent FC

Past President Daniels stated it was a pleasure to be here. I do not have anything further but to thank Halfway for hosting the meeting.

Fire Prevention Queen Erin Drumheller thanked all for the involvement with CVVFA over the past year. This year the statewide fire prevention queens have a team that will be doing the Polar Bear Plunge on January 30. We are requesting any kind of hand outs for give aways that day.

**MOTION** to re-designate the funding approved from the Garcia money approved at last meeting and appropriate \$100 donation to be used for fire prevention materials, booth, and whatever else is needed by Steve Austin, seconded by Bob Cumberland, no further discussion, voice vote taken, motion passed.

Vice President Yost asked for committee reports

#### **Committees –**

Convention – PP Flickinger reported on the activities for convention. We have met with the folks at Harrisburg in December. Everything seems to be on track. Steve asked a question about the funding for the host company of \$800. He spoke about the draft agenda at this time, which hopefully will have final approval at their next meeting. Some of the events will include a golf tournament, a visit at the fire museum, hospitality picnic, the Senator Baseball game, night cruise on the Susquehanna River, dance after the banquet, parade, along with the business meetings. Their representatives will be at the March booster meeting for further discussion. Hotel reservations will not be accepted until the May timeline. Steve further spoke about a problem with last year's parade prizes, hopefully this should be resolved soon, this company is willing to do the prizes again this year. He then talked about the existing categories and felt we should stay with the same. If the host company wants to add some categories, they can do, however they must provide the prizes. There was a concern about the wrong date in the PA Fireman, an email will be sent to Ernie and the gals by Bob Timko for clarification.

Emergency Responder Safety Institute – Steve Austin spoke about his most recent meeting on the PSOB program as it related to the issue in PA fire police. Several attended the meeting with the Commissioner. There has been much confusion that spread all over the state. It was made very clear that there has never been a fire police claim turned down for procedural reasons. Apparently there are some murky areas within PA code as to definitions of fire police arresting powers. After some discussion, they will be writing an official letter to Commissioner Mann that PSOB will consider fire police claims like any other claim. Basically this issue is now put to bed. This document will be printed on the ERSI web site when available. Thanks to Commissioner Mann for his action reference this. It only applied to PA because of the arresting powers, it can be fixed by changing some of the language within the state laws reference fire police. Some additional questions were asked along with discussion, we consider this a closed issue. Steve continued talking about a meeting with the Federal Highway Administration. They have approached us about teaching for federal highway folks. We supplied them with all our teaching materials in advance of the meeting. Discussions will continue, possibly a contract in the future. We don't know where it is going at this time, hopefully trainers on the road all the time. His next topic was the invitation to Georgia conference. Steve talked about some of the specifics on the conference. While

there, they made contact with the I95 Corridor Coalition and discussed some future mutual planning. The next topic was reference a volunteer squad in Alexandria, VA for traffic safety. We offered our assistance in establishing a fire police program. Steve continued by updating all on the development of the PSA. The script has been written, a 30 second PSA, and it will be shot in Delaware City this spring. Steve spoke some more about the MDOT contract photo shoot. VP Toulson spoke further about the photo shoot giving some specifics about the scenarios. We have another segment shooting in Newark in a few weeks. Jerry Daniels continued to speak on the photo shoot. Steve continued his talk reference Clear Channel offering some space on their billboards. They will be installing fire messages on 10 of their display units to include the electronic billboard for a nominal sum. Steve talked about his trip to Orlando, FL on the new professional qualification standard for highway incident management. He spoke on the steps to final approval by the NFPA. The new manual for highway control devices was issued as expected in late December. This information is posted on the ERSI website. He further spoke on our current grants, have not heard anything on this year's grant for distance learning. Stay tuned for the NIOSH report on the LODD who was struck in Illinois, I was asked to do a review and this was done.

A question was asked about the uniform signing in PA, response was given, and "Our mission is to make our folks safer on the highway." A follow up comment was made as to why the media doesn't cover the actions of the fire service, additional comments were made by others reference same.

Web Page – Steve Austin reported on the twitter account on Face Book by Jack Sullivan. Jack has done an incredible job with this setting a goal of 1,000 fans and has reached nearly 900 to date. More publicity will be done to advertise this type of communication. We want everyone from across the nation to be more aware. Additional comments were made by others reference the local medias.

Legislation – Bob Cumberland stated health care. We need to keep an eye on SB1611 and HB 413, the Public Safety Employer Employee Cooperation Act of 2009 having to do with mutual aid compacts and agreements.

Scholarship – One application has been received to date.

### **Unfinished business –**

Reputational Management Seminar update - Austin

Paper done, Oklahoma University is doing the final editing. There is much interest from the NFA. Our main concern is how to launch this site.

IRS charitable tax status - Austin

Met with PA lawyers, moving forth, all work done to date has been pro bono.

Scholarship publicity brochures for colleges – Bruner was absent, no update.

Delinquent memberships – McBee

OK presently, no action needed, will remove this action from the unfinished business.

Promotional package and agreement with booster meeting partners – Heefner

Progress

### **New business**

Treasurer Dove introduced a proposal of a draft budget. He read from it and made some explanations about the numbers. Numerous comments and suggestions were given during the discussion process. The following budget was approved by **MOTION** from Charlie Myers, seconded by Steven Haines, no further discussion, voice vote taken, motion passed.

