

Volunteer Firemen's Association of Cambria County & Vicinity

The 97th Annual Firemen's Convention meeting of the Volunteer Firemen's Association of Cambria County and Vicinity was hosted by the Gallitzin Volunteer Fire Company in Gallitzin, PA. on August 3, 2018 with the President Joseph D. Burns II presiding.

President Burns called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m.

Members in attendance stood for the pledge of allegiance.

President Burns asked for the minutes of the previous meeting to be read and with no errors or corrections. President Burns ask for a motion to accept the previous meetings minutes as read. Jeff Lees from Oakland made a motion to accept the previous minutes and with a proper 2nd by George Popson of Patton the motion was carried.

Communications: None

Reading of the Monthly Bills:

General Fund

Gallitzin Fire Company	\$	President Meal & Banquet
VFA of CC&V	\$2,200.00	Death Fund Transfer
VFA of CC&V	\$2,750.00	Fire School Transfer
Joseph "JD" Burns	\$ 150.00	Presidents Fee
John Gromley	\$ 750.00	Secretary Fee
Paul Kundrod	\$ 750.00	Treasurer Fee
Delegate to State Convention	\$ 250.00	Delegate Fee
Laurel Insurance Management	\$ 469.00	3-year Fidelity Bond
Precision Business Solutions	\$ 96.20	Web Updates
John Gromley	\$ 128.46	Printing Expenses

Fire School

PA State Fire Academy	\$ 250.00	Flashover Simulator Rental
Penelec	\$ 160.42	Site Electric
Damin Printing Co.	\$ 389.00	Brick Wall Brochures
Personalized 4 You	\$ 68.00	Emeritus Jacket for Jim Bloom

5K/10K Race Expenses

Damin Printing	\$ 162.00	Race Signage
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CCCRA	\$ 84.00	On-Line Reg Fees
<u>Death Fund</u>		
Shirley Lees	\$ 275.00	Benefit for Paul Lees "Belmont" Member at Large
Brian Maines	\$ 275.00	Benefit for Cody Maines Station (60)
Total Expenses:	\$10,452.08	

Motion by George Popson of Patton to pay the monthly bills, with a proper 2nd by John Bem of Hastings motion was carried.

Treasurer Report: Treasurer Paul Kundrod of St. Michael read the Treasurer's report with a copy on file with the Secretary. Motion by Mark Coleman of Beaverdale to accept the Treasurer's report with a proper 2nd by George Popson of Patton. Motion was carried.

Committee Reports:

Law & Legislative: Steve Unger reported that in the latest PA Firemen that you as a fire fighter may not only have to be on the scene of a fire ground operation to be covered through insurances being paid for by the relief association's but there are some relief being given with things fire fighters maybe doing around the fire stations as well. The state assembly will be back in session in late September and there are around fifty plus Representatives on the State and Federal leaving office this coming December.

Fire School: Joe Adams of Cresson reported that his report was in the convention report in written form, and that there is a planned scheduled meeting for August 12, 2018 at the St. Michael fire station.

Fire School Site: John Hawksworth reported that there needs to be one hundred and twenty-five (125) more bricks that need sold for the second wall to be completed. We made approximately five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) on the first wall that has been completed.

Certification: Eric Miller of Johnstown reported that he and William Cornell of West Hills Regional report was in the convention report in written form.

Historical: Nick Wuckovich of Conemaugh report was in the convention report in written form. Joe Adams of Cresson made a motion to purchase twenty-five (25) extra copies to be stored in the fire proof safe and sold at requested until they are gone properly 2nd by William Cornell of West Hills Regional.

911 EMA: The last radio meeting will be held in Cresson at the Fire Station next Thursday August 9, 2018. If any fire department has not attended they are urged to attended. The county is working very hard to get the questionnaires out for all the fire departments to be completed and turned back in so that county officials can go over them and make the best decisions for the new radio project.

Fire Advisory Board: Steve Verbosky of Colver reported that there was no report.

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Resolutions: Chaplin Drew Walther of Jackson Township read the names of Paul Lees of "Belmont" Member at Large, Cody Mainer of Ashville Station "60", and William Layton Richland Station "3". All members in attendance stood in one minute of silence for the departed members.

County Convention: 1st Vice President Christopher Cox reported that the Past Presidents banquet, Memorial Service and all other activities have been going well. The only issue is the weather does not seemed to want to cooperate with Gallitzin's plans to put together a dry convention. Chris mentioned that he will be bringing extra Memorial Service programs with him to the next regular meeting of the association for anyone that may not have received one that wanted one.

Delegates Report: No report at this meeting.

Web Site: William Cornell of West Hills Regional reported that the website is updated.

Roll Call of Officers: President Joseph D. Burns II, 1st Vice President Christopher Cox, 2nd Vice President Darrin Smith, Treasurer Paul Kundrod, Assistant Treasurer Eric Miller, Secretary John C. Gromley were all present. Assistant Secretary Jeff Gromley was absent due to work.

Roll Call of Companies: 25 Total Companies Present; Ashville, Beaverdale, Cherry Tree, City of Johnstown, Clymer, Colver, Conemaugh, Cover Hill, Cresson, Dauntless, Gallitzin, Hastings, Jackson Township, Nanty Glo, Nicktown, Oakland-Lorain, Patton, Revloc, Richland Township, Spangler, St. Michael, Summerhill Borough, Upper Yoder Twp., West Hills Regional and West Taylor Twp.

Old Business: President Burns made mention that he has purchased a safe and optioned for a lift gate drop off fee attached for a total of \$2,391.00. The safe will be delivered to the fire school site in the very near future.

It has been made mentioned that the secretary must follow the by-laws and according to Article I Section 8 which reads Any Company not paying dues for a period of two (2) years in succession shall receive a letter from the Association Secretary notifying them of their status. If the organization still has not paid their dues they shall be dropped and shall be permitted to be readmitted upon complying with the provisions of Article 1 Section 3 and 4. The Secretary will be dropping the following companies from the rolls of our association as of this meeting. Duncansville, Geeseytown, Phoenix. Companies in jeopardy if not paid by next year are Cherry Tree, Lower Yoder, Westover, Windber.

New Business: President Burns mentioned that he has been working with the Altoona Curve Baseball on a group outing and that he has set up a night at the ball park for anyone interested on Thursday evening August 30. Tickets will be \$24.00 dollars. This will be for food along third base line before the game and then the game anyone interested please see JD so he can get a count on how many would like to attend.

At this time President Burns called for a motion for a recess of the meeting for lunch meeting will reconvene at 2 p.m. Motion by Joe Adams of Cresson to recess and properly 2nd by Ed Hudak of Beaverdale Motion was Carried.

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The Afternoon Business Session was called to Order by President Burns at 2:00 p.m.

At this time First Vice President Chris Cox made note and handed out certificates of thanks and appreciation to three business that helped the Gallitzin Volunteer Fire Company restore the bell that has been owed by the fire company for many years.

Ladies Auxiliary Member Girty Farbaugh presented Fire School Site Director John Hawksworth with a check from the ladies auxiliary in the amount of three thousand dollars (\$3,000.00) and one really big hug for all he and his committee has done to keep the fire school up and running.

Commissioner Tom Chernisky presented a check to Fire School Site Director and other members in the amount of five thousand nine hundred and forty-one dollars (\$5,941.00) from the proceeds of the Chernisky 5k/ 10k race and walk.

At this time Tom Bracken of Nanty Glo Fire Company presented Four (4) Valor Awards and Nine (9) Life Saver Awards;

Valor Award for Mr. Brian Berry Submitted by Adams Township Volunteer Fire Co. #2 (ST. Michael) Fire Chief Paul Kundrod for his Life Saving Actions at a vehicle accident where Mr. Brian Berry put his own life in jeopardy well running down a car and stopping it that had wrecked on the busy route 219 trying to rescue the victim in the car from further injuries that she had already suffered on the morning of January 10,2018.

Valor Award for Somerset County, Conemaugh Township, Police Sargent James McKnight, Sargent Vince Zangaglia and Police Officer Angie Hutchison. submitted by Jerome Volunteer Fire Company Fire Chief Russell J. Miller, for their Life Saving Actions of entering a burning structure fire with entrapment to save the life of the resident that was inside being overcome with smoke on April 24, 2018.

Life Saver Award for Nanty Glo Fire Fighter Thomas A. Bracken. Submitted by Nanty Glo Fire Chief Joseph LaMantia for his Life Saving Actions of his neighbor that had slipped on ice, was unable to get to his feet, and was also being overcome with hypothermia on the very cold evening. As Thomas returned home in the early morning hours of January 2,2018 he heard his neighbors cries for help summoned for help.

Life Saver Award for Gallitzin Fire Captain Gregory Patterson. Submitted by Gallitzin Fire Chief Donny Miller for his Life Saving Actions of a Restaurant patron on Saturday, December 30, 2017. Captain Patterson noticed a patron in the same restaurant he and his family happened to be patronizing seemed to be in distress and choking on their food. Without hesitation Captain Patterson began life saving techniques that turned into the administering of the Heimlich Maneuver on the victim which dislodged the piece of food from their airway.

Life Saver Award for Ms. Sabrina Bukowski. Submitted by Gallitzin Fire Chief Donny Miller for her Life Saving Actions on Saturday, November 11, 2017 of a patron that had collapsed to the floor of the establishment that she worked at. Ms. Bukowski without hesitation started to perform chest compressions on the victim until the ambulance crew arrived. The victim had regained consciousness before the ambulance crew left the establishment for the hospital.

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Life Saver Award for; Staff Sargent Benjamin Turgeon, Pilot Chief Warrant Officer 4 Keith Hogan, Pilot Chief Warrant Officer 3 James Menoher, Civilian Rescue Technician Rickey Price, and Civilian Rescue Technician Scott Grahn. Submitted by Reade Township Fire Chief Randell J. Wilson, for the Life Saving Actions on Saturday, November 22, 2017. This PA HART Rescue Crew performed Life Saving Acts to save the life of a hunter that was deep in the woods with rough terrain, falling temperatures, and darkness fast approached. The crews quick action without hesitation is credited for saving the hunters life. This was the PA HARTS first in-state rescue of its kind.

President Joseph D. Burns II presented Commissioner Tom Chernisky with a Life Time Delegate Card for all the time and effort that he has giving to our association.

President Joseph D. Burns II presented the President's Award to John Hawksworth Jr. for all his hard work and time that he has put into our county fire school.

First Vice President Chris Cox had the honor of presenting the first every Cliff Cherico Fire Prevention Award hand out by the association to the Adams Township Volunteer Fire Company #2 ST. Michael.

Presentation by Fire School Director Joe Adams of an Emeritus Jacket to Fire School Director James Bloom.

Election Results submitted by the Election committee for the Officers of the 2018-2019 year

- **2nd Vice President:** Jim McCann
- **Treasurer:** Paul Kundrod
- **Assistant Treasurer:** Eric Miller
- **Secretary:** John C. Gromley
- **Assistant Secretary:** Jeff Gromley
- **Fire School Site Directors:** J.D. Burns, Brian Feist, Byron Bishop Sr.
- **2020 Convention Town:** Conemaugh
- **Fire Advisory Board:** Joe Bock
- **Delegate to State, Western, and Central:** Paul Sklodowski

Motion by Ed Hudak of Beaverdale to destroy the ballots properly 2nd by George Popson of Patton

At this time Newly Elected President Christopher Cox presented Past President Joseph D. Burns II with His Gold Card of Membership and Presidential Pin.

At this Time Thomas Bracken of Nanty Glo was called upon to Swear in the Officers of the 2018-2019 year.

President Cox introduced Billie Kockara to talk about adult degrees that are being offered by St. Francis College to Volunteer Fire Personal.

Good of the Order: Bernie Blazosky has asked if it would be possible to put all Valor and Life Saver Award winners on the Web Site. Web Master William Cornell will put this information up as the Secretary gets this information to him according to the years they were given out.

At this Time Joseph D. Burns II asked for the Membership to give a rising vote of thanks for the Gallitzin Fire Company for Hosting the 97th annual convention.

**Volunteer Firemen's Association of
Cambria County & Vicinity**

Next Meeting will be held in East Taylor on September, 27, 2018

President Cox called for a Motion to Adjourn, the Motion was made by Joe Adams of Cresson and with a proper 2nd by Ed Hudak of Beaverdale. Motion was Carried at 2:50p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

John C. Gromley

Assn. Secretary