

Volunteer Firemen's Association of Cambria County & Vicinity

The 98th Annual Firemen's Convention meeting of the Volunteer Firemen's Association of Cambria County and Vicinity was hosted by the St. Michael Adams Township Volunteer Fire Company #2 in St. Michael, PA August 2, 2019 with the President Christopher Cox presiding.

President Cox called the meeting to order at 11:10 a.m.

Members in attendance stood for the pledge of allegiance. President Cox introduced our new Chaplain Geno Bartoletti from the Nanty Glo Fire Company and asked him to say a prayer to begin the meeting. Also, Cambria County Coroner Jeffrey Lees spoke to the membership and thanked them for their service but also spoke to them in regard to scenes with tragedies involved. He asked to please have the officers of each department to urge members not to release vital information from the scenes. Please leave it up to the correct official to notify family members during these tragedies.

President Cox asked for the minutes of the previous meeting to be read and with no errors or corrections. President Cox asked for a motion to accept the previous meetings minutes as read. George Popson of Patton made a motion to accept the previous minutes and with a proper 2nd by Frank Hribar of St. Michael and the motion was carried.

Communications: Letter of intent to join the Association from the Lakemont Volunteer Fire Company.

Reading of the Monthly Bills:

General Fund

Precision Business Solutions	\$ 116.91	Web Updates
Chris Cox	\$ 150.00	President Fee
John Gromley	\$ 750.00	Secretary Fee
Paul Kundrod	\$ 750.00	Treasurer Fee
Delegate to State Convention	\$ 250.00	Delegate Fee
VFA of CC&V	\$ 2,200.00	Transfer Death Fund
VFA of CC&V	\$ 2,750.00	Transfer to Fire School
Adams Twp. VFC #2	\$ 2,150.00	Del and Pres meals and book page
John Gromley	\$ 114.85	Stationary and Misc Exp

Fire School Fund

Steve Verbosky	\$ 80.00	Facilitator Fee (7/14)
Lowes Charge	\$ 292.83	Misc Site items
Lacues Sunoco	\$ 57.00	Site Fuel

County Convention: 1st Vice President Darrin Smith gave a report on the convention up to date and what will be happening for the duration of the convention. There was a discussion about the rules on the pumping contest. Patton Volunteer Fire Company has introduced a change to the way the pumping contest is currently run. After a long discussion all these ideas have been turned over to the rules committee to look over and report back to the membership with their recommendations.

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 Christopher Cox, 1st Vice President Darrin Smith, 2nd Vice President Jim McCann, 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, Beaverdale, City of Johnstown, Clymer, Colver, Conemaugh, Cover Hill, Cresson, Daisytown, Dauntless, Franklin, Gallitzin, Hastings, Hope, Jackson Township, Lilly, Nanty Glo, Oakland-Lorain, Patton, Portage, Richland Township, Spangler, St. Michael, Summerhill Borough, West Hills Regional and West Taylor Twp.

Old Business: The Cherry Tree Fire Company has been dropped from the roster due to the lack of payment of their dues in accordance to the by-laws.

New Business: President Cox read a letter from Lakemont Volunteer Fire Company and forwarded it on to the membership committee to review. William Cornell of West Hills Regional submitted a proposed by-law change. Article II officers and their elections.

Section 4. The election of officers shall be held on the Thursday of the week of annual convention from seven (7:00 pm) until eight thirty (8:30 pm) and shall be conducted on the day of the annual convention meeting from eight (8:00am) until nine thirty (9:30 am) at a site previously announced. Formerly submitted on August 2, 2019 by William Cornell of West Hill Regional, Steve Verbosky of Colver, Edward Hudak of Beaverdale, John Hawksworth Jr. of Dauntless, and James Bloom of Dauntless. A presentation given by Art Martynuska, Cambria County Deputy Director/EMA Coordinator, on the GIS system with the County drone team and how it can be used for commanders on incidents.

At this time President Cox called for a recess at 2:00 pm.

The Afternoon Business Session was called to Order by President Cox at 2:05 p.m.

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 John Hawksworth and other members in the amount of nine thousand eight hundred and ten dollars (\$9,810.00)/ with three thousand five hundred (\$3,500) of that coming from the Conemaugh Hospital as the biggest corporate sponsor for the Chernisky 5k/10k race and walk. Greg Patterson of the Gallitzin Fire Company presented a check also to the fire school committee in the amount of one hundred dollars (\$100) from a motorcycle ride that was put together to support the fire school.

Cliff Cherico Fire Prevention Award Winner: For the 2018/2019 year was presented by President Cox to the Gallitzin Volunteer Fire Company.

At this time Tom Bracken of Nanty Glo Fire Company presented three (3) Valor Awards and Seven (7) Life Saver Awards;

Valor Award for Spangler Firefighter James Gormish and Hope Firefighter Dave Kelly were submitted by Cambria County Station 50 Hope Fire Company member Bruce A. Marconi for their heroic actions in saving Mrs. Toth and her son Rick from a fully involved house fire on March 5, 2019 at 10:15 am in the morning.

Valor Award for Thomas Long of Clymer, PA was submitted by past Fire Chief Jeffrey Gromley for his heroic action in saving a gentleman trapped in a sinkhole approximately 8 feet under the pavement on the evening of Sept. 11, 2018.

Life Saver Award for Firefighter Brittany D. Trinkley submitted by Fire Chief R. J. Wilson of Reade Volunteer Fire Company for her actions in performing CPR to save a life on February 27, 2019.

Life Saver Award for Fire Police Captain John L Wagner was submitted by Fire Chief R.J. Wilson of the Reade Volunteer Fire Company for his actions in performing CPR to save a life on February 27, 2019.

Life Saver Awards for Wayne "Buck" Himes, Matthew Barczak, Anthony DePetro, Michael Finui, and Rusty Wills submitted by Cambria County Station 50 Hope member Bruce A Marconi for their life saving efforts with an AED and CPR on Sunday, October 28, 2018.

President Cox presented past Chaplain Drew Walther and Assistant Secretary Jeffrey Gromley with plaques recognizing their dedication and years of service to our Association.

President Christopher Cox presented the President's Award to Jim McCann for all his hard work and time that he has put into the training and new ideas he has brought to our Association to make our County Fire School successful.

Election Results submitted by the Election committee for the Officers of the 2019-2020 year

2nd Vice President: Jeremy Glass

Treasurer: Paul Kundrod

Assistant Treasurer: Eric Miller

Secretary: John C. Gromley

Assistant Secretary: Brett Gromley

Fire School Site Directors: Steve Verbosky, Mike Krug, Vern Fulton

2020 Convention Town: Patton

Fire Advisory Board: Chris Cox

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 Darrin Smith presented Past President Christopher Cox 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 2019-2020 year.

Good of the Order: Nothing

At this Time Jim Nagle asked for the Membership to give a rising vote of thanks for the St. Michael Fire Company for hosting the 98th annual convention.

Next Meeting will be held in Lilly on September 26, 2019.

President Darrin Smith called for a Motion to Adjourn, the Motion was made by Jim Nagle of Gallitzin and with a proper 2nd by Ed Hudak of Beaverdale. Motion was carried at 2:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

John C. Gromley

Assn. Secretary