

# Cambria County Regional Fire Fighters Association

The 99<sup>th</sup> convention meeting of the Cambria County Regional Fire Fighters Association was held in Conemaugh, PA by the Conemaugh Volunteer Fire Company on Saturday August 22, 2020, with President Darrin Smith presiding.

President Smith called the morning business session to order at 11:00 a.m.

President Smith called for members in attendance to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Smith asked for the minutes of the previous meeting be read. Motion from the floor to accept the last meeting minutes as read by Eric Miller of Johnstown and with a proper 2<sup>nd</sup> by James Nagle of Gallitzin the motion was carried.

Communications: Delegate and Fire company dues.

**Monthly Bill's:** Reading of the Monthly Bills by Treasurer Paul Kundrod. A copy of the monthly bill's is on file with the Secretary. Motion by William Cornell of West Hills to pay the monthly bills, and with a proper 2<sup>nd</sup> by Frank Hribar of St. Michael motion was carried.

**Treasurer Report:** Treasurer Paul Kundrod read the Treasurer's Report. A copy is on file with the Secretary. Motion by John Bem of Hastings to accept the Treasurer's report as read, and with a proper 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tom Bracken of Nanty Glo, motion was carried.

## **Committee Reports:**

**Law & Legislative:** Steve Unger of Conemaugh reported, that the House and the Senate have been back in session but not much new to report. John Bem of Hastings mentioned that Act 26 was passed to help fire companies offset losses throughout the pandemic. The fire companies that fill out an application like the State Firefighters assistant grant would receive this money. John also talked about the Act 66 real estate tax and how this tax can help the fire companies that operate firemen clubs.

**Fire School:** Jim McCann of Johnstown reported that all five essentials classes have finally been finished up. Also mentioned that the committee plans to have a few Fall classes since the pandemic forced the committee to cancel the Spring fire school.

**Fire School Site:** John Hawkworth of Dauntless reported that the site is up ready for use as soon as its allowed. He mentioned that the site committee will be following the State rules very closely. He also mentioned he is still selling bricks for the wall.

**Certification:** Eric Miller reported that the certification report is in the convention report.

**Web Site:** William Cornell of West Hills reported that everything on the website that he has at this time has been posted, and that he will keep posting things about the Centennial, and the upcoming Fall fire school classes.

**Centennial:** Nick Wuckovich of Conemaugh reported that next year at the 100<sup>th</sup> convention in Patton every fire company that marches through the parade will receive a photo of their group to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> convention. Nick also mentioned that at the beginning of the convention next year and going through the 101<sup>st</sup> convention the delegate membership will be open to anyone wishing to become a delegate of our Association that belongs to or has belonged to one of our membered Association company. John Hawksworth of Dauntless went over the Time Capsule that will be placed at the fire school site. John covered a few things that you may be thinking of putting in your envelope, photos, patches, list of fire company officers, past presidents and chiefs of your department for just an example of things you may want to put in your fire company envelope.

**Tuition Assistance:** John Bem of Hastings handed out applications and guidelines that will be used for the first tuitions assistance grant which will be given out at the 100<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention that will be held in Patton.

**911:** No Report Given

**EMA:** No Report Given

**Fire Advisory Board:** It was mentioned that there was no meeting held.

**County Convention:** No Report Given.

**Delegates Report:** Paul Sklodowski of Keystone Regional reported that Central District held a one- day social distancing event also this year. This meeting was held on August 16<sup>th</sup> in Lewistown and their membership awarded their 2024 convention to Lewistown.

**Roll Call of Officers:** President Darrin Smith, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Jim McCann, Treasurer Paul Kundrod, Assistant Treasurer Eric Miller, Secretary John C. Gromley, all were present. 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President was absent and Assistant Secretary was excused by President Smith due to illness.

**Roll Call of Companies:** 19 Total Companies Present; Beaverdale, City of Johnstown, Clymer, Colver, Conemaugh, Cover Hill, Dauntless, East Taylor, Gallitzin, Hastings, Hope, Jackson Twp., Keystone Regional, Nanty Glo, Nicktown, Spangler, St. Michael, Summerhill Borough, West Hills.

**Old Business:** Nothing for this meeting

**New Business:** Nothing for this meeting

**At this Time President Darrin Smith called for a recess for lunch.**

**Afternoon Business Session:** President Darrin Smith called the afternoon business session to order at 2:05 p.m.

President Smith at this time Awarded the Annual Presidents award to Delegate Dean Smith of Patton, this is for all the hard work he has put into our county fire school over his years of service from an Instructure to help he has been to the day to day operations for many years to the fire school site.

President Smith called upon Awards Chairman Tom Bracken of Nanty Glo to present the next awards. At this time Mr. Bracken called for all the Past Presidents of the association that are members of the Conemaugh Fire Company to come forward to help present the next award. Mr. Bracken explained the next award will be a new award that will be presented to a member of the association for his or her outstanding service to our association.

At this time with the help of the Conemaugh Past Presidents Mr. Bracken proudly announced the first recipient of the Out-Standing Service Award is Steve Unger of Conemaugh. The Award will from this day forward be named the Steve Unger Out-Standing Service Award.

The Next Awards to be given out by the membership and the Cambria County Commissioners would be Life Saver Awards to: Alexandria Block, Sydney Lenhart, Fire Fighter Lucas Smay all of St. Michael, Frank Keifer of Johnstown, Jocelyn Divido of Nanty Glo, Patrolman Travis Shilling, and Fred Shilling both of Patton. Valor Awards where given to Patrolman Jared Shope of St. Michael, and First Assistant Fire Chief Brandon Younkin of Nanty Glo.

The next Award that was given out was to Delegate Past Fire Chief Ted Partch of Cover Hill. The association executive committee and Awards Committee voted unanimously to give Chief Ted Partch the Honor of the fifth ever Honorary Past President of the Cambria County Regional Fire Fighters Association. Mr. Partch was Chief of Cover Hill Fire Company for 35 years, Chief Partch has been a member of Cover Hill for over 70 years. Most notable Chief Partch became a Fire Fighter 1 at our Fire Academy at the age of 80 years old. In Chief Partch very own words "How could I ask my Fire Fighters to become a Fire Fighter 1 if I didn't lead by example".

With the end of the awards Mr. Bracken turned the floor back over to President Smith to announce the election results for 2020 / 2021. President Smith called upon Election Committee Chairman John Bem of Hastings to announce the results.

Mr. Bem reported that there were 78 Ballots cast with these individuals being declared the winners.

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Mike Petrisko of Hope.

Treasurer: Paul Kundrod of St. Michael.

Assistant Treasurer: Eric Miller of Johnstown.

Secretary: John C. Gromley of Clymer.

Assistant Secretary: Brett Gromley of Clymer.

Fire Advisory Board Member: Joe Bock of Ferndale.

Fire School Site Directors: Frank Hribar of St. Michael, Joe Bock of Ferndale, and Roger Bock of Ferndale.

Delegate to Other Associations: Paul Sklodowski of Keystone Regional.

Convention Town 2022: Conemaugh Fire Company.

Mr. Bem turned over the full report to Secretary John C. Gromley to keep on file.

President Smith at this time ask for a Motion to destroy the Ballots, with a Motion by Ed Hudak of Beaverdale and a proper 2<sup>nd</sup> by Byron Bishop Sr. of Nanty Glo the Motion was Carried.

At this time Mr. Tom Bracken was called back to the floor to swear the new officers into office.

Newly Elected President Jim McCann had the honor to pin Past President Darrin Smith with his Past Presidents Pin and give him his Life Membership Gold Card.

President Jim McCann asked Art Martynuska to give an EMA Report due to his absence at the morning business session. Art mentioned that they are still actively deconning fire stations at the request of the fire company officers. Also mentioned that EMA are looking into an all-county wide accountability system.

Eric Miller of Johnstown made a Motion to purchase a Bronze package from Bucks County Community College, with a proper 2<sup>nd</sup> by Nick Wuckovich of Conemaugh the Motion was Carried.

President McCann announced the Steve Unger Out-Standing Award Committee.

Tom Bracken of Nanty Glo, Chairman. Darrin Smith of St. Michael, Paul Kundrod of St. Michael, John Gromley of Clymer, Eric Miller of Johnstown, Bruce Moriconi of Hope, Charlie Moyer of Dauntless.

Rising Vote of Thanks for the members of the Conemaugh Fire Company for Hosting the One Day Convention called for by Delegate Ed Hudak.

The next meeting will be held in Summer Hill on September 24, 2020.

Motion to adjourn called for by President McCann with Christopher Cox of Gallitzin making the Motion and a proper 2<sup>nd</sup> from the floor by Darrin Smith the Motion was Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

John C. Gromley

Assn. Secretary