

## Centennial Committee Minutes

September 21, 2020

Chairman Wuckovich called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Members present: John Bem, Darryl Bodenschatz, Tom Bracken, John Gromley, John Hawksworth, Paul Kundrod, James McCann, Mike Petrisko, and Nick Wuckovich

There were no errors or corrections of the previous meeting and the minutes stand approved.

The chairman went over the various projects that the committee was involved with and they were broken down of projects completed, projects pending, and projects that need to be addressed.

He reported that the three projects that have been completed are the name change for the association and training center, tuition assistance program, and the creation of the Steve Unger Outstanding Achievement Award.

The projects that are pending are: The video of the past presidents and this will be completed by September 23, 2020. Paul Kundrod asked how many past presidents were left and the chairman reported that a little over a half dozen more needed to be completed. The Challenge Coin/Ribbon orders will be completed by December 31, 2020. Question was asked how many orders we have. As of the committee meeting there are 200 orders so far. It was suggested to send a letter to fire companies reminding them of the deadline and to put it on Facebook and the web site to get the word out that only a short time remains.

The other pending project that was discussed was the Open Membership starting at the Patton and Conemaugh Conventions. John Bem asked if there was a form that could be created for new members to fill out and if it could be available on line. Discussion followed. Secretary John Gromley said one could be developed. There was concern aired about that an online form would need to clearly state that this is for only member companies within the association. Further thoughts were to have the form list a sponsor member from the association would have to sign to help ensure members from within the association apply. It was felt that this could be added to the letter going to departments as well.

The other project was about the marching units at the Patton Convention. The chairman asked John Bem if he would check with Mr. Friedo to see if he would take the pictures of the marching groups. John said he would check with him. John also asked if at our next meeting we could get a representative from Patton to answer questions about the activities as it relates to the Centennial Committee.

The chairman asked John Gromley to give a report on the plaques with convention towns and past presidents to be placed at the fire school. John said there would be two plaques for each the convention towns one under the old name and the other under the new name. This would also be true of the past presidents. John Bem asked John Gromley asked if the honorary Past Presidents would be put on the plaque and John Gromley felt they could be worked into the plaque. John presented a timeline for this project to be completed by April 2021. He also reported that the Steve Unger plaque winners would also be completed as well.

The banquet was discussed with some concerns as it pertains to the Covid Virus that perhaps we should wait till our January meeting to see at that time to make a call whether to hold the banquet on the set date of October 9, 2021 or to move it to 2022 if it would become necessary depending on how things pan out with the virus. The chairman asked the body if there would be any objections to form a banquet committee so that if decisions needed to be made in the planning stages a smaller group could take action as required. Eric Miler would serve as chairman along with members John Hawksworth and Jim McCann would be a part of the committee. The body agree with breaking out a banquet committee. Paul Kundrod brought up to the committee that members think on what vendors or businesses we should send letters to for the ads in the banquet book along with looking at some insurance vendors to help fund and support the tuition assistance program. Discussion followed with some potential ideas

The Picnic/Reunion is set for June 2022.

John Hawksworth gave a report on the time capsule providing details of how the materials would be preserved and the location of where the time capsule was to be placed.

The action needed projects were the picture collogue of conventions. John Hawksworth wanted to get more recent conventions to display at the fire school site. The chairman asked John Hawksworth to take charge of this project and contact folks of recent convention for pictures. He agreed to take on that project.

The other action needed project was the antique fire apparatus parade and the chairman said the Conemaugh Convention for 2022 expressed interest. John Gromley suggested that we could put that thought in a letter as well to make departments aware of this possibility. The Chairman expressed that he felt it was important to get commitments from department who had antique apparatus that they would commit to bring them to such as parade.

The last action that was needed was to discuss what could be done to recognize Lilly as being the first convention town. Discussion followed with some ideas and the Chairman asked Jim McCann to look into this possibility. John Gromley also offered to assist Jim with this project.

New Business: none

Old Business: none

Good of the Order:

The chairman indicated that it appeared that at this point in time that we have a good handle on the various projects and most have established time frames as they fall into place. He asked the body if they felt comfortable to dispense with monthly meetings until January 2021. All committee members agreed that this made sense so the next meeting will be set for Monday, January 20, 2021 at St. Michael Fire Station. Tom Bracken offered to the committee the Nanty Glo fire station as well if the committee needed an additional meeting place. The chairman thanked Tom and further said should there be an uptick with the virus then the committee would go to use the teleconference through the EMA office.

John Hawksworth brought up that we need to look at the memorial bell and have it brought up to date. He said there were some names which were missing and would like to get names that belonged on it. There was discussion as to whether the bell should include living members names. John Gromley felt why not have the bell reflect members who are currently living as well. Paul Kundrod felt there should be some guidelines as to whose name goes on the bell. The idea was for the bell for members who contributed to the fire school over the years. The committee members agreed and the chairman asked Paul to come up with a set of guidelines for this and he agreed to do that. Discussion also was discussed how to expand the memorial bell's base since there would be a lot more names added and current space on the base of the bell was limited. The chairman mentioned to John Hawksworth to perhaps bring this up to the body at the county meeting under the historical committee since this seemed like a good project for that committee.

Jim McCann felt that it was important for either the Historical or Centennial Committee to remain in place even after the projects were completed. Items like the above often come up and this is important for that group to stay active with the historical events of the association.

Motion by Darrin Smith to adjourn seconded by Darryl Bodenschatz motion passed all in favor.