

**Cambria County Regional Firefighters' Association**  
**July 2023 Monthly Meeting Minutes**  
**Convention at Conemaugh**  
**July 29, 2022**

- **Call Meeting to Order** – President Nick Wuckovich called the 101<sup>st</sup> Convention Morning Session meeting to order at 11:13 hrs.
- **Pledge of Allegiance** – All members present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance led by President Wuckovich.
- **Reading of Last Meeting's Minutes** – Minutes of the June 23, 2002 meeting at Franklin were read.
  - Additions or corrections – none.
  - With no additions or correction, President Wuckovich declared the minutes approved as read.
- **Communications** –
  - Donation of \$50.00 received in memory of Jim Mitasky – Nicktown.
  - Letter from Pinecroft Vol. Fire Company requesting to join the Association
  - Letter from Madera Volunteer Fire Company requesting to join the Association
  - Received membership card from Western PA Firemen's Association
  - **Year end reports received in booklet**
    - **Financial report**
    - **Fire Training**
    - **Certification**
    - **Fire Site**
- **Reading of Bills** – Treasurer Paul Kundrod read the bills for the month in the amount of \$17,850.28
  - **Motion:** Mike Krug - Keystone
  - **2<sup>nd</sup>:** Tom Reighard - Conemaugh
  - **Question:** \_\_\_\_\_
  - **Vote:** Passed with 0 No Votes
- **Treasurer's Report** – Treasurer Paul Kundrod:

Total Funds in Certificates: \$126,095.24  
Total Funds in Checking Accounts: \$90,851.67  
**TOTAL FUND BALANCES** as of: 07/29/2023: \$216,946.91

- **Motion** to approve Treasurer's Report: Rich Brown, Jr
- **2<sup>nd</sup>**: Bill Claar – Keystone Reg
- **Question:** \_\_\_\_\_
- **Vote:** Passed with 0 No votes

● **Committee Reports:**

- **Law & Legislative** – John Bem – Hastings
  - Not much action
  - Legislative Districts are being realigned effective Jan 1
  - Until December 31, only 12 voting days scheduled – anything not acted on will die and have to be reintroduced.
  - HB2268 – 200-0 vote. Headed to Senate
    - Bill to allow 17 year olds to complete live fire training so on 18<sup>th</sup> birthday they may be interior structural firefighters
- **Fire School** – Jim McCann
  - Meetings have been held to get Fire School planning underway
  - JARI \$25,000.00 grant for EMT training. 23 spots, within 1<sup>st</sup> week had 48 applications. Stopped taking applications at 60 people. Will have to process for background checks, etc to let them make selections and get started.
  - Working for increased funding to get paramedic training
  - Completed NFPA 1403 class training for site instructors.
    - Cambria County has the most 1403 trained instructors for anywhere in PA except Philadelphia
- **Fire School Site** – John Hawksworth - Dauntless
  - The report is in the book – attached for reference
- **Certification** – Eric Miller
  - Report is in the book – attached for reference

● **Other Committee Reports:**

- **Application Review** - None

- **By-Laws** – None
- **Fire Prevention** – John Hawksworth – Dauntless
  - Posting on the site
  
- **Historical** –
  - Nick Wuckovich reported antique parade later today
  - John Hawksworth reported trying to finalize time capsule
    - Ed Hudak will be getting the time capsule vault
  
- **Recruitment & Retention** – Paul Kundrod – St. Michael
  - Afternoon meeting will pull the meeting attendance prize.
  - Provided the membership with an article about Cumberland County offering real estate tax credits for active fire and EMS volunteers. Paul stated he mentioned the idea to Tom Chernisky.
    - **Motion** by Paul Kundrod – St. Michael to send the Commissioners a letter supporting the tax relief for active volunteers
    - **2<sup>nd</sup>** by Jim Nagle – Gallitzin
    - **Question:**
    - **Vote:** Passed with 0 No votes
  
- **Tuition Assistance** – No report
  
- **Website** – Bill Cornell – West Hills Regional
  - Will post Convention Report
  
- **9-1-1 EMA** – Art Martynuska
  - Reported training for Camp Odyssey Peer Counsellors will be held September 16, 17, 18
  
- **Fire Advisory** – none
  
- **Resolutions** – read by Paul Sklodowski – Keystone Regional
  - Michael G. Blazoski – St. Michael Fire Co.
  - James A. Mitasky – Nicktown Fire Co
  - Theodore Beck – Portage FC

Members stood for 1 minute of silence in memory of their departed brothers.

- **County Convention** – Skip Grove – Conemaugh
  - 1 day to go
  - Thanked the Ladies Auxiliary for all their efforts and assistance.
  
- **Other Associations** – Paul Sklodowski
  - Will be attending Western PA FF in Somerset & Central District in Nanty Glo.
  
- **Roll Call of Officers** – All present
  
- **Roll Call of Companies** – Secretary William K. Lehmann
  - Announced that 21 Companies did not make 2 meetings in the previous year to be eligible to vote.
  - 24 Companies present:
    - Altoona, Beaverdale, City of Johnstown, Clymer, Colver, Conemaugh, Cover Hill, Dauntless, East Taylor, Franklin, Gallitzin, Hastings, Hope, Jackson Twp., Keystone Regional, Nanty Glo, Nicktown, Patton, Reade Twp., Richland Twp., St, Michael, Summerhill Borough, West Hills Regional, West Taylor.
  
- **Old and Unfinished Business** – John Hawksworth – Dauntless
  - Expects check from Chernisky runs 5K & 10K
  - Marathon should bring a nice check
  - Potato Fest Sept 24<sup>th</sup> at 1:05 PM – the Couch Potato Run to benefit Parks & Conservation 50/50 split with Association. 0.0K run. Sign up, get t-shirt.
  
- **New Business** –
  - President Wuckovich reported that the Application Review committee completed checks on Pinecroft and Madera with recommendations for membership
    - **Motion** – Jeff Gromley – Clymer – to approve both
    - **2<sup>nd</sup>** – Joe Adams – Keystone Regional
    - **Question** –
    - **Vote** – passed with 0 No votes
  - Discussion about a name tag for chaplain, but already has one, so no need for action
  - Bob Nies – Cover Hill – reported on the new Fire School site sign, showed it to the membership

- Paul Kundrod – St. Michael on behalf of Awards Committee introduced the Unit Citation Award to recognize Fire, Rescue, or EMS teams that go above and beyond in saving a life. Example of a situation where there is a rescue down a cliff where difficult access, using extraordinary means and teamwork to access and remove victim.
  - **Motion** – Ed Hudak – Beaverdale – to approve the Unit Citation Award
  - **2<sup>nd</sup>** – Ray Penatzer – City of Johnstown
  - **Question**
  - **Vote** – Passed with 0 No votes
  
- **Awards & Presentations –**
  - President Wuckovich presented the Presidential Award to John Bem – Hastings for his many years of hard work for the Fire School and the Association including securing the present-day site.

**President Wuckovich then called for a recess at 12:18 hours**

**President Wuckovich then called the meeting back to order for afternoon session at 14:01 hours**

- **Awards & Presentations – continued**
  - Mike Petrisko – 1<sup>st</sup> VP – presentation to the family of Chief Hassen – Hope
  - Ladies Auxiliary presented \$3,000 check to the Fire School
  - Jim McCann – City of Johnstown – presented Steve Unger Award to Tom Bracken – Nanty Glo.
  - 4 year Scholarship – presented to Matt Illig – Patton
  - 2 year Scholarship – presented to Nathan Callahan
  - Valor Awards – neither recipient present so will be given to Nanty Glo Fire Company to present to:
    - Shawn Sevegan
    - Christopher Pavlovich
      - Both of Nanty Glo who used pickup truck bed to access a teenager trapped on the porch roof of a burning dwelling in Nanty Glo Borough. Nominated by Chief Jim Lamantia of Nanty Glo.
  - Steve Verbosky presented with Site Emeritus jacket
  - Vern Fulton presented with Site Emeritus jacket
  - Tom Chernisky presented the Fire School with a check for \$8,207.91
  - Mr. Chernisky was presented with a fire helmet and Honorary Membership in the Association
  - Honorary Memberships in the Association for many years of dedicated support to the Cambria County Regional Firefighters Association were presented to:
    - June Kunia – Cambria EMA
    - Robert Grunmeier – Bucks CCC
  - Fire Prevention Award presented to Hope FC
  - Dallas Kephart presented the Association with his winnings from the 5K in the amount of \$250.00
  - Lenny Whiteford won the meeting attendance award – a grill.
- **50/50 Drawing** – Charles Woodley – Hope

- **Election Results** – Reported by Darrin Smith – St. Michael
  - Proposed amendments to the By-Laws concerning voting for approval by the membership by a simple majority:
    - Yes: 86 No: 53
  - Proposed amendments to the By-Laws concerning voting for approval by the membership by a 2/3 majority:
    - Yes: 48 No: 71

**Adopted:** Amendments to the By-Laws shall be adopted by a simple majority by the members attending the meeting which the proposal is being voted on for said proposal to be enacted as a By-Law.
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Jay Jacobson
  - Secretary – William K. Lehmann
  - Assistant Secretary – Jeff Gromley
  - Treasurer – Paul Kundrod
  - Assistant Treasurer – Daryl Bodenschatz
  - Site Directors –
    - Tony Sestrich
    - Jim McCann
    - Bob Nies
  - Fire Advisory – Rich Brown Jr.
  - Alternate Delegate to the State – Paul Sklodowski
  - Central District Delegate – Paul Sklodowski
  - Western PA Firemen’s Delegate – Paul Sklodowski
  - Convention Host 2024 – Clymer FC
    - **Motion** to accept report – Matt Penatzer – Summerhill Borough
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> – Larry Penatzer – Summerhill Borough
    - **Question** –
    - **Vote** – passed with 0 No votes
  - Ballots
    - **Motion** to destroy ballots – Ed Hudak – Beaverdale
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> – Pat Illig – Patton
    - **Question**
    - **Vote** – passed with 0 No votes
- **Swearing in** – conducted by Andy Kaza – Past President
  - All officers stood and were sworn in
- **Committee Assignments** – Made by President Mike Petrisko

- Attached for reference
- **Presentation of Gold Card to outgoing President Nick Wuckovich** – by President Mike Petrisko
  - Mr. Wuckovich then thanked everyone for their help during his tenure as President.
- **Good of the Association** –
- **Standing Rise for Host Company** – President Petrisko called for a standing rise for the Host Company Conemaugh in recognition of a great Convention.
- **Next Meeting** – Windber – September 22, 2022
- **Adjournment** –
  - **Motion:** Jim Nagle – Gallitzin
  - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Rich Brown, Jr. – Nanty Glo
  - Vote: Passed
  - Time: 14:55 hours \_\_\_\_\_

Respectfully submitted,

William K Lehmann, Secretary