

The Western Gazette

February 2024

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A Publication of the Western Pennsylvania Firemen's Association Secretary's Office
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James Eley
President

Thomas Shank
Executive Director -Secretary

Meeting Notice

The next Western Meeting will be:

February 17, 2024
7:00 p.m.

Greensburg #7 VFC

625 E Pittsburgh Street
Greensburg, PA

Directions to the meeting:

Greensburg #7 VFC is located very near the Westmoreland Mall. From Main Street in Greensburg, turn left on to East Pittsburgh Street coming from Delmont and right coming from Youngwood. The firehall will be on your left across the street from Flynn Tire.

Dues Notices Being Mailed March 1, 2024

The annual dues notices will be mailed to companies in a separate mailing on March 1, 2024. We are hoping this method of sending dues notices, marked to the attention of the Treasurer, will make it easier for your organization to have this important piece of mail directed to the appropriate person. In the past, dues notices were included with this newsletter and many were lost, causing companies to miss the dues notice or request duplicate copies.

Dues for company members are \$10 per year. Companies who participate as one hundred percent companies are also receiving a roster of members currently on our rolls. **Please check the membership rosters carefully.** Each year we spend many hours attempting to correct oversights made by companies when verifying their roster. **You must return the roster generated from our computer. We cannot accept membership lists generated from your computer.**

Also included will be a company information sheet. **Please complete the company information sheet.** This information is not only very useful if we have questions related to your returned roster, but also comes in handy throughout the year should we, or another member, need to contact someone from your company. The individual officer information is not shared with anyone. Your general company address and phone number is all that would be provided to another member wishing to contact your organization.

Remember that your company and members' dues must be paid by July 31 to remain a member in good standing. You must be a member in good standing to be eligible to receive any association services, including the death benefit. If your officers have any questions or need assistance in completing the roster and dues payment information, please contact the office by the methods listed at the top of this newsletter. Our office staff will be most happy to assist. Clearing up misunderstandings at the beginning is always easier than clearing them up later.

Special Events This Month

Annual Association Workshop February 17, 2024, at 6 p.m. (one hour before regular meeting) at Greensburg #7 VFC. The topic this year will be **about Burn Survival by Michele Buraczewski.**

Michele is a Specialist from UPMC Mercy Hospital Burn Center.

Western Pennsylvania Firemen's Association
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Essay Contest Winners To Be Awarded Prizes at March 16 Banquet (R.S.V.P. Required)

The winners of the association's annual Fire Prevention Essay Contest will be presented their prizes at a special banquet/meeting held March 16, 2024, at the Parkview VFD. Parkview VFD Social hall 726 Midway Drive, Pittsburgh Pa 15215
The event is held in a "Banquet" format in which the meal is served first and the prizes are awarded after the meal. This format allows the winners to interact with the officers and members of our organization, the representatives of the various fire departments, family, friends, and teachers who are attending the banquet. The entire focus of the evening is honoring the winners.

The winners of the contest will be notified by letter in the near future. Also, the fire chief of each sponsoring department will be notified by letter so that he or she, or a delegate, can attend to help congratulate the child. It is important to note that neither the winners, nor the chiefs, are notified of exactly what prize has been won. Our office will also not release this information. We hope this will encourage everyone to attend. Remember that your company does not have to have a winner to have a representative attend the banquet. The more firefighters we can have on hand to help congratulate the winners, the more enjoyable the evening will be.

We are asking persons planning to attend the banquet to **R.S.V.P.** to the association offices **by March 7**. Please call the office at **724-339-1017** and leave your name, fire company name, and the number attending with you so that we can give our hosts an accurate count of the number of meals necessary. We will be unable to take additional reservations for meals after this date. You can also e-mail your R.S.V.P. to office@wpfa.org.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

February 17, 2024

Annual Association Seminar at 6 p.m.
at Greensburg #7 VD before regular meeting

March 2 and 3, 2024

3rd Annual Monroeville Fire and EMS Show
Monroeville Convention Center

March 16, 2024

Essay Contest Winners Banquet

May 11, 2024

Monthly Association Meeting
(Moved to Second Saturday because of the Harrisburg Fire Expo)

May 17 and 18, 2024

Harrisburg Fire Expo
PA Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg, PA