

The Western Gazette

February 2022

Volume 33 Number 2

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

John Charles Tedorski
Executive Director -Secretary

Meeting Notice

The next Western Meeting will be:

February 19, 2022
7:00 p.m.

Point Marion VFC
Fayette County

1 Cheat Street
Point Marion, PA

Directions to the meeting:

From I-70, take Rt. 119 South through Uniontown. Point Marion is approximately 18 miles past Uniontown. Once you cross the bridge into Point Marion, the fire station will be on your right.

Dues Notices Being Mailed March 1, 2022

The annual dues notices will be mailed to companies in a separate mailing on March 1, 2022. 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 19, 2022, at 6 p.m. (one hour before regular meeting) at Point Marion VFC. The topic this year will be **Recruitment and Retention of Members for Fire Departments**. The workshop will be led by Tracie Young-Brungard, Recruitment and Retention Manager for the Pennsylvania Office of the State Fire Commissioner. She will be outlining best practices for recruitment and retention of members, along with highlighting the services available from her office to assist fire companies.

Association Purchases Trailer to Transport Convention Materials

In a motion made during a 2020 meeting, the association gave the executive officers permission to search for and purchase a utility trailer to store and transport various materials needed to operate our convention activities. The purchase was delayed by the pandemic. Vice President Ferrante took the lead on this project then in November of 2021, he located a used 2021 Homesteader Intrepid 12x7 utility trailer for sale. The association purchased the trailer for \$4,700 from a private owner. The title has been transferred to the association and Lower Burrell No. 3 has agreed to allow us to temporarily store the trailer on their property. Moving forward, the trailer will be taken to the site of the next convention once it is chosen.

The Board of Control, at its December 2021 meeting, approved a proposal to have the trailer lettered with our web address and our logo placed on the sides and back of the trailer. That project was completed by 1Signs of New Kensington at a cost of \$1,185.00. The trailer is now ready for service.

Look for our trailer traversing the roads of Western Pennsylvania to bring the good news and work of the association to your community or a community near you.

Essay Contest Winners To Be Awarded Prizes at March 19 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 19, 2022, at the Allegheny Valley Volunteer Fire Company (Allegheny County) hall.

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 5**. 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 19, 2022

Annual Association Seminar at 6 p.m.
at Point Marion before regular meeting

March 5 and 6, 2022

2nd Annual Monroeville Fire and EMS Show
Monroeville Convention Center

March 19, 2022

Essay Contest Winners Banquet

May 14, 2022

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

May 20, 21, and 22, 2022

Harrisburg Fire Expo
PA Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg, PA

July 31, 2022

Deadline for Payment of 2022-2023 Dues

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P. O. Box 504
New Kensington PA 15068-0504

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