

The Western Gazette

February 2019

Volume 30 Number 2

A Publication of the Western Pennsylvania Firemen's Association Secretary's Office
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Wayne Harris
President

John Charles Tedorski
Executive Director -Secretary

Meeting Notice

The next Western Meeting will be:

February 16, 2019
7:00 p.m.

Pioneer Hose Co.
Brackenridge, PA

Physical Address:
122 Morgan Street
Brackenridge, PA 15014

From Rt. 28, take Exit 14 to 366 South through two lights. On Tarentum Bridge approach follow First Avenue exit (right lane) to the fourth stop sign and turn left. The firehall is approximately 1 block on the right.

Dues Notices Included With This Month's Newsletter

Included with this month's edition of *The Western Gazette* is your company's annual dues notice. 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 is 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. *This information is NEVER provided to salespeople or vendors.* It will only be used by our office staff, officers, or members of other fire companies when specifically requested by them.

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 16, 2019, at 6 p.m. (one hour before regular meeting) at Pioneer Hose Brackenridge. The topic this year will be ***PennFIRS – Eliminating Common Reporting Errors***. The workshop will be led by Kraig Herman, Public Education Specialist and PennFIRS Program Manager from the Office of the State Fire Commissioner. Some of the issues discussed will be:

- É How the PennFIRS reporting system works and how your department should be reporting
- É Common reporting errors that cause reports to be inaccurate
- É How data and statistics are used by the Office of the State Fire Commissioner

This workshop is an excellent opportunity to assure that your organization is up-to-date with the latest information about the state reporting system. The officers in your company in department who are responsible for fire reports should attend this workshop.

Convention Schedule Announced

Arnold Fire Department, our hosts for the 2019 Annual Convention, have announced the schedule of activities for the convention this year. Below is a brief summary of those activities. A full schedule is posted online now, and will be included with a future edition of *The Western Gazette*.

Dates of Convention: Thursday, August 8 to Wednesday, August 14

Battle of Barrel: Saturday, August 10 at 9 a.m.

Parade: Sunday, August 11 at 6 p.m. (Prejudging 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.)

Memorial Service: Saturday, August 10 at 3:30 p.m.

Past President's Banquet: Saturday, August 10 at 5 p.m.

Golf Tournament: Monday, August 12 at 9 a.m.

Business Meetings and Annual Elections: Tuesday, August 13

Awards Banquet: Tuesday, August 13 at 5 p.m.

Board of Control Reorganization Meeting: Wednesday, August 14 at 10 a.m.

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, 2019, at the Allegheny Valley Volunteer Fire Company (Allegheny County) hall. This is the night of our monthly meeting.

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. A very abbreviated meeting is held at the end of the banquet to transact any vital association business.

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 2**. 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 16, 2019

Annual Association Seminar at 6 p.m.
in Brackenridge before regular meeting

March 2 and 3, 2019

31st Annual Pittsburgh Fire, Rescue, and EMS Expo
Monroeville Convention Center

March 16, 2019

Essay Contest Winners Banquet

July 31, 2019

Deadline for Payment of 2019-2020 Dues

August 8 through 14, 2019

Annual Convention in Arnold
Westmoreland County, PA

Did you know. . .

The Western is a distributor of both

**Brady Pearson and Jones and Bartlett
Emergency Services Training Manuals**

We also have the IFSTA 6th Edition Manual that includes chapters on
Hazardous Materials Response.

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