

The Western Gazette

February 2020

Volume 31 Number 2

A Publication of the Western Pennsylvania Firemen's Association Secretary's Office
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Larry "Doug" Abel
President

John Charles Tedorski
Executive Director -Secretary

Meeting Notice

The next Western Meeting will be:

February 15, 2020
7:00 p.m.

North Union VFC
Fayette County

351 Main Street
Lemont Furnace, PA 15456

From the Pennsylvania Turnpike, take the New Stanton Exit and then take Rt. 119 south through Connellsville. You will go past the Penn State campus and take the Connellsville Street exit. Go up the hill past Nickman Plaza and make the first left. Follow to the railroad tracks and make a right.

Dues Notices Being Mailed March 1, 2020

The annual dues notices will be mailed to companies in a separate mailing on March 1, 2020. We are hoping this new 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 15, 2020, at 6 p.m. (one hour before regular meeting) at North Union VFC. The topic this year will be **Mental Health Resources for Fire Departments**. The workshop will be led by Executive Director J.C. Tedorski, who is a member of the P.S.I.T.S.O.K. group and a member of the Pittsburgh CISM Team. Some of the issues discussed will be:

- É What can our organization do to promote the mental health of our members?
- É What mental health resources are available to assist our members and our organization?
- É What are some of the best practices related to mental health and the first responder?

This workshop will inform you about the various resources available to help members of your department deal with the emotional stress of the work we do every day.

Convention Host Still Needed

As of February 1, 2020, we do not have a host for the 2020 convention. The convention is held the second week of August each year. This year is the first year that there is no requirement to host a "tent city" which would make the hosting of the convention much easier. Events held during the convention include a series of business meetings, the annual election, a banquet for approximately 300 people where scholarships and awards for valor and service are presented, and several smaller banquets ranging between 50 and 100 people throughout the week. Activities also include a battle of the barrel contest and a parade. The local host is welcome to run other events, such as a golf outing, horseshoe or corn hole tournament, or whatever other event your organization feels would be fun for attendees.

If your organization is interested in possibly hosting the convention, please contact Executive Director J.C. Tedorski at 412-828-2925 or by e-mailing office@wpfa.org.

Essay Contest Winners To Be Awarded Prizes at March 21 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 21, 2020, 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.

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 6**. 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 15, 2020

Annual Association Seminar at 6 p.m.
at North Union before regular meeting

March 7 and 8, 2020

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

March 21, 2020

Essay Contest Winners Banquet

July 31, 2020

Deadline for Payment of 2020-2021 Dues

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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