

The Western Gazette

February 2023

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A Publication of the Western Pennsylvania Firemen's Association Secretary's Office
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Donald Ferrante
President

John Charles Tedorski
Executive Director -Secretary

Meeting Notice

The next Western Meeting will be:

February 18, 2023
7:00 p.m.

Washington Township VFC
Westmoreland County

4078 PA Rt 66
Apollo, PA

Directions to the meeting:

Washington Township (Westmoreland) fire hall is located very near the intersection of Rts. 66 and 380. From Greensburg, take Rt. 66 north into Washington Township. The firehall will be on your left just prior to the intersection of Rt. 380.

Dues Notices Being Mailed March 1, 2023

The annual dues notices will be mailed to companies in a separate mailing on March 1, 2023. 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 18, 2023, at 6 p.m. (one hour before regular meeting) at Washington Township VFC. The topic this year will be ***A Town Hall Discussion of Fire Service Issues***. The workshop will be led by Jerry Ozog, MPA, EFO, CAE, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Fire and Emergency Services Institute. Included in the discussion will be issues such as:

- Act 91
- Junior Firefighting
- Relief Association Modernization
- Fire Training and Education
- Recruitment & Retention
- Open Discussion

Tom Cook named Acting Fire Commissioner

Governor Josh Shapiro has named Tom Cook the Acting Fire Commissioner for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Tom has strong roots in western Pennsylvania, having volunteered with the Monroeville Fire Department, served as a career firefighter and officer with the Mt. Lebanon Fire Department, and as an Assistant Chief with the Pittsburgh Bureau of Fire before taking a position as the Assistant Administrator at the Pennsylvania Fire Academy in Lewistown.

Tom will serve as the Acting Fire Commissioner until he is confirmed by the state Senate. Over the past several years, Tom has served in several state-wide roles, including both the Assistant Administrator and Administrator of the State Fire Academy, and a brief stint as Acting Fire Commissioner after the retirement of Bruce Trego.

Essay Contest Winners To Be Awarded Prizes at March 18 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 18, 2023, 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 4**. 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 18, 2023

Annual Association Seminar at 6 p.m.
at Washington Township (Westmoreland) before regular meeting

March 4 and 5, 2023

3rd Annual Monroeville Fire and EMS Show
Monroeville Convention Center

March 18, 2023

Essay Contest Winners Banquet

May 13, 2023

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

May 19 and 20, 2023

Harrisburg Fire Expo
PA Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg, PA

July 31, 2023

Deadline for Payment of 2023-2024 Dues