

The Western Gazette

May 2019

Volume 30 Number 3

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:

May 18, 2019
7:00 p.m.

Hastings VFC
Hastings, PA
(Cambria County)
Physical Address:
211 Fifth Avenue
Hastings, PA

From Route 22, take Route 219 North to Carrolltown. In Carrolltown, bear right onto Sunset Road. In 1.1 miles, make a left onto Tower Road (SR 4019) and follow 2.8 miles until you reach Spangler St. (SR 4021). Make a right onto Spangler Street and follow to Fifth Avenue in town, where you will make a right. Continue three blocks to the firehall.

Camp Lot Picking Meeting
Sunday, June 2, 2019, at 2 p.m.
at Arnold No. 1, Westmoreland County
601 Drey Street, Arnold, PA 15068

Association Recognizes Fire Prevention Essay Contest Winners

The Association recognized winners of its Fire Prevention Essay Contest at a special banquet on March 16, 2019. The event was held at the Allegheny Valley Fire Department in Springdale Township, PA. The keynote speaker, Mr. Mike Krzeminski, Resident Instructor at the Allegheny County Fire Academy, commended the contest winners for their hard work and commitment to fire prevention.

The essay contest is held each year to encourage fifth, sixth, and seventh grade students to take an interest in fire prevention. The prizes for the winners are sponsored by both the association and California Casualty Insurance Company. Their support makes the event and prize packages truly something special for the winners.

Students in your jurisdiction can submit an essay each year they are in an eligible grade level. Essays are due by the third Saturday in January each year. Rules for the contest are published in October in the newsletter and on the association website.

Association Welcomes Jerry Ozog to Executive Director Role at PFESI

The association looks forward to working with the new Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Fire and Emergency Services Institute, Mr. Jerry Ozog. Jerry is no stranger to the fire service in Pennsylvania, having worked as an Education Specialist for VFIS. He has also served as the Director of Fire and EMS Training at Harrisburg Area Community College, Executive Director of the former EMMCO East Regional EMS Council, and a Paramedic for Bradford Regional Medical Center and Citizens Ambulance Service of Indiana County.

We look forward to his education and experience helping lead the fire service in Pennsylvania and hope to enjoy the same great working relationship we had with the retiring Executive Director, Don Konkle.

Awards Nominations and Scholarship Applications

Remember that the third Saturday in June (June 20, 2019) is the deadline for nominating someone for an award from the association. Awards are made for acts of valor and for service to your fire companies. This is an excellent way to recognize members who have gone the extra mile for their community. Specific awards are also available for members with less than five years of service, members of your ladies auxiliary, and certificates are presented to members of the general public for acts of valor.

That same date is also the deadline for applying for the tuition assistance program. Members, their children, and their grandchildren are eligible to apply for tuition assistance for post-secondary education. Rules and the application form are posted on the association website or are available by calling the office at 724-339-1017. Members who received a scholarship last year are required to submit documentation for payment by May 31, 2019, or forfeit the scholarship.

CONVENTION BATTLE OF THE BARREL APPLICATION INCLUDED WITH THIS NEWSLETTER

Western Pennsylvania Firemen's Association
P. O. Box 504
New Kensington PA 15068-0504

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DATES TO REMEMBER:

May 31, 2019

Deadline to submit for reimbursement for Scholarships awarded at the 2018 annual convention.

June 2, 2019

Camp Lot Picking at 2 p.m. at Arnold No. 1

June 20, 2019

Deadline to apply for a 2019 Scholarship
Deadline to nominate for awards presented at the 2019 Convention

July 31, 2019

Deadline for Payment of 2019-2020 Dues

August 8 through 14, 2019

Annual Convention in Arnold
Westmoreland County, PA

Association Wishes a Happy Retirement to Don Konkle

The association would like to wish Chief Don Konkle, who served from 2010 to 2019 as the Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Fire and Emergency Services Institute a happy retirement. Chief Konkle took on the Executive Director role after retiring as the Fire Chief of the City of Harrisburg.

Over his time with the Institute, Don worked tirelessly to forge relationships in the state capitol and across the commonwealth, taking an active role in leading the SR6 process. We will miss his friendship and wisdom as a leader. Hopefully he will stay active in the fire service and keep giving us those great stories that help put the state of the fire service in perspective.

Enjoy your retirement in good health, Don!!

