

The Western Gazette

May 2020

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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:

**May 16, 2020
7:00 p.m.**

**Due to
Pennsylvania
Social Distancing Restrictions
This Meeting
Has Been Canceled**

An Open Letter From President Larry D. Abel

President's Update:

TO ALL WPFA ASSOCIATION MEMBERS,

I want to take this time to inform everyone regarding the status of events that are sponsored by our association. As you know this COVID-19 pandemic has placed a lot of uncertainty on our country. First of all we must take in consideration the health and welfare of everyone.

Our Annual Fire Prevention Essay Contest winners banquet which was originally scheduled for Saturday, March 21, had to be postponed or possibly canceled. Immediately following the banquet, we were going to have a Special Meeting of the Board of Control to discuss the annual convention host and dates for the convention and any other important business that needed to be acted on.

Due to the Stay At Home directive announced by Governor Wolf, we are unable to hold any association meeting while this is in effect. Once we are able to meet, we will have to act on whether to re-schedule or cancel the Essay Winners Banquet. Also, we will have to get their prizes to them. It is getting almost too late to schedule another date for this event with the social hall and caterer.

As for the Annual Convention, we are going to have to make some necessary changes, since it is getting too late for a convention book to be put together with businesses being shuttered and everyone is out of work. This is a fund raiser for the host company.

We may need to have a host company provide a place for our association meetings and possibly have the annual awards banquet. As for our Memorial Service, we might have to have a service in the hall of the host company. These are a few ideas I have come up with for the problems that we are all encountering. I welcome any ideas that anyone has on these issues.

Remember, Stay Home & Stay Safe! We will get through this.

Sincerely,

Larry D. Abel
President

Awards Nominations and Scholarship Applications

Remember that the third Saturday in June (June 20, 2020) 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, 2020, or forfeit the scholarship.

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