

The Western Gazette

October 2019

Volume 31 Number 1

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

P. O. Box 504, New Kensington, PA 15068-0504

E-Mail: office@wpfa.org Homepage: <http://www.wpfa.org/wpfa>

Voice: (724) 339-1017 Fax: (724) 339-0445

John Charles Tedorski, Executive Director

Larry "Doug" Abel, President

Meeting Notice

The next Western Meeting will be:

**October 19, 2019
7:00 p.m.**

**Perryopolis Fire Department
Fayette County
206 Liberty Street
Perryopolis, PA 15473**

Directions to the meeting:

Take the Pennsylvania Turnpike to New Stanton, then take I-70 west to Exit 46A Rostraver. Take Rt. 51 South to Perryopolis, making a left onto Independence Street (at the Community Bank). Follow Independence Street to the circle in town, and make a right onto Liberty Street. Follow to the fire hall.

2019 Annual Convention at Arnold, Westmoreland Co. Brings Major Changes to Association

The annual convention, hosted by Arnold Volunteer Fire Department in Westmoreland County, was another successful annual convention. Our friends in Arnold worked very hard to make sure the week was both productive and fun.

The convention this year brought major changes to the organization. At the closing session of the convention Tuesday evening, a motion was made and passed to dissolve the tent city operation. The motion gives the local host the option to have a tent city, but the host will be responsible for all arrangements on their own, with no support from the association in the form of equipment. All equipment used for tent city is to be liquidated. The Board of Control discussed this at their reorganization meeting on Wednesday and directed the bylaw committee that the funding for convention is to remain at \$12,000, with the bylaw committee presenting the appropriate change to the bylaws to split up the \$4,000 that was allotted for tent city.

In accordance with the recent bylaw changes, a copy of the convention synopsis will no longer be mailed to each company. It is available from the association website under the "Burning Issues" section of the main page of the association website at www.wpfa.org.

Ladies Auxiliary Dissolves and Members Accepted into Association

Over the past year, Executive Director/Secretary Tedorski has been meeting with the leadership of the Ladies Auxiliary concerning their wish to disband. He attended the Ladies Auxiliary meeting at convention and presented a plan to them that would allow them to dissolve as an organization and have their members become members of the association. The proposal included using the savings of the Ladies Auxiliary to create a dues payment fund for each current member until age 80, with the dues after age 80 being absorbed by the association. The ladies that transfer into the association will be regular members and entitled to all rights and privileges, including the \$250 death benefit.

Once the dues fund is created, the ladies will direct the association as to how their monies are to be used by the association going forward. This will create board restricted funds to place the monies into to fund whatever projects the ladies determine at the time of dissolution. The proposal was approved by straw vote in the membership meeting and then formally approved by our Board of Control in their reorganization meeting. Ladies Auxiliary members should be looking for correspondence from their organization about the transfer of membership, as they approved it at their convention meeting.

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

PRESORTED
STANDARD
US POSTAGE PAID
New Kensington PA
15068
Permit No. 652

Dues Collection Deadlines for Delinquent Dues

The association bylaws now have a grace period for the payment of dues that are delinquent. This grace period extends to January 31 of the following year, at which time members who have not paid their dues will be dropped from the rolls of the association.

Along with this grace period come penalties for late payment of dues. Members who pay their \$6 dues individually will be assessed a \$1 late fee. Companies or Relief Associations who pay dues for all of their members will be assessed a \$25 late payment fee. If the company or department belongs as a \$10 member and is late in dues payment, they will be assessed a \$2 late fee.

The Board of Control has taken the position that this grace period for late payment of dues will be the final option for members and appeals for death benefits when dues are paid after January 31 will be denied. A list of delinquent companies will be posted on the association website. Individuals and company members will be notified by letter by November. An additional mailing to delinquent companies will be made in January to account for the change in officers that occurs in many organizations at that time.

Fire Prevention Essay Contest Applications Included with this Newsletter

The Fire Prevention Essay Contest this year includes the ability for fifth, sixth and seventh graders to submit essays. Due to changes in the rules, the committee is now also accepting typed essays, provided they follow the guidelines outlined on the entry form.

Included with this newsletter is a copy of the official application for the association's Fire Prevention Essay Contest. Use this application to submit essays from your local schools to the association for judging in our contest. You can make copies of this document for distribution to your schools. Fire companies should collect essays from the schools, judge them internally, and then submit their best three essays from each grade level.

Committee Chairman Martin Wetmore reminds all companies to stress the fact that the official application must be on the front of all submissions. Submissions with application sheets from other organizations (such as county association contests) will not be accepted.