

The Western Gazette

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

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Meeting Notice

The next Western Meeting will be:

**October 16, 2021
7:00 p.m.**

**Ohiopyle-Stewart VFC
Fayette County
15 Sherman St
Ohiopyle, PA**

Directions to the meeting:

From Uniontown, take Rt 40 to Farmington.
Turn Left onto Rt. 381 North. Follow
approximately six miles into Ohiopyle and the fire
station will be one block on your right.

2021 Annual Convention at New Kensington a Success

The annual convention, hosted by New Kensington Fire Department in Westmoreland County, was a huge success. Our friends from New Kensington worked very hard to make sure the week was both productive and fun.

The memorial service was held in the St. Joseph's Church with Father Kenneth G. Zaccagnini officiating. The parade was held on Saturday, and the battle of the barrel along with the memorial service were held on . The elections and business meetings were held Tuesday morning and afternoon. The awards and scholarships were presented at a special banquet Tuesday evening at the Springdale VFW. The officers for the coming year were also sworn in Tuesday evening by District Magistrate Frank Pallone.

Our convention hosts for next year will be Somerset VFD, in Somerset County. We look forward to working with them to hold another annual convention that serves our membership and their families.

Proposed Bylaw Changes on Reverse

A listing of proposed bylaw changes, showing the original bylaw and the proposed changes via strikeout and bold additions, is included on the reverse of this page. The proposed changes were given their second reading at the annual convention and will be given final consideration at the October meeting.

Fire Prevention Essay Contest Applications Included with Newsletter

The Fire Prevention Essay Contest this year includes the ability for fifth, sixth and graders to submit essays.

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.

List of Delinquent Companies

If your company or a company you know is listed as delinquent, please remind the officers to pay the dues as soon as possible.

If your dues are delinquent, anyone who passes away is not eligible for the death benefit.

Allegheny Valley VFC	Fair Oaks VFPA	Library VFC	Seward
Armstrong Co. Fire Assn	Fairchance VFD	Lock Four VFD	Shawnee Valley FC
Beaver County Firemens Relief	Fairview FRA	Marshall Twp VFD	Southwest Greensburg VFD
Beaver VFD	Farmington VFD	McClellandtown VFC	Spangler Fire Co
Blawnox-Glenover	Fayette Co Fire Assn	Middle Road VFD	St Thomas Twp VF&R
Cecil Twp VFC #3	Fayetteville VFD	Mon Yough Fire Defense Council	Sugar Creek Twp VFC
Clarksville & Community	Franklin Park VFC	Monaca VFC #4	Sugar Valley VFCRA
Clymer VFC #1	Gettysburg FD	Monessen FD #1	Summit Twp VFC
Crafton VFD	Glassport #1	Monessen VFD #2	SW Chiefs & Asst Chiefs Assn
Crescent Twp.	Hampton Twp VFD #1	Mt Pleas Twp #1 Kecksburg	Union City VFD
CWH&L Uniontown	Hawley FRA	Mt Pleasant FD	Upper Burrell Twp
Deer Lake & W Brunswick FC	Homesteads VFD-Norvelt	N Hampton VFD	Upper St Clair FRA
Denbo-Vesta Six FC	Ickesburg VFC	New Bethlehem FC	Warren Co Fire School
E McKeesport VFRA	Imperial VFD	Newburg Hopewell VFC	Washington Twp Adrian
Elizabeth Twp FD #1	Jefferson 885	Paintertown VFC	Waynesburg-Franklin Twp VFC
Ellsworth VFC	Jefferson Twp VFD	Penfield VFD	West Deer Twp #1 RA
Evans City Area FD	Keystone Regional FRD	Picture Rocks FD	West Deer VFC #3
Everson VFC	Kittanning HH&L #1	Pleasant Hills VFC	Wilkins Twp VFC #1
	Kittanning Hose #6	Rew VFD	
	Lawrence Co Fire Assn		

PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGES

Items added are underlined, items deleted are crossed out.

ARTICLE X COMMITTEES AND THEIR DUTIES Camp Grounds Committee

Item #1 Camp Grounds Committee Sections 19,20,21,21(a),21(b) on Page 14 of October 2007 and Sections 14,15,16, Page 17 August 2019 By Laws. Are eliminated in its entirety.

Item #2 Elimination of the Auxiliary Committee Auxiliary Committee Section 22, Page 18 August 2019 By Laws. is eliminated in its entirety

Item #3 Addition of former Ladies Auxiliary Members to membership Committee. New Section Numbers will be determined later. New addition is underlined.

Membership Committee Section 13 Page 16 August 2019 To add: "Additionally three (3) former Ladies Auxiliary Members will be part of the Membership Committee to oversee the completion of the Auxiliary Merger Agreement."

ARTICLE V COMMITTEES Page 7, August 2019 By Laws

Section 2. Committee: Auditing, ~~Publicity, Place of Meeting, Exhibits,~~ Law and Legislative, Topics and Educational, Memorial, Parade, Fire Prevention, ~~Ladies Auxiliary,~~ Awards, Fire School, Housing, By-Laws, Finance and Investments, ~~President's Trophy,~~ Membership, Sports, ~~Camp Grounds,~~ County Liaison and Scholarship.

Article X COMMITTEES AND THEIR DUTIES Parade Committee

Section 20. It shall be the duty of the Parade Committee ~~to view the course of the Parade, help the Convention City Committee,~~ to develop and enforce rules and regulations governing the Grand Convention Parade and the Past President's Memorial Trophy Award, to assist the Parade Judges, to assist the Host Company in planning, conducting the parade and to oversee the money given to the Host Town by the Association for use as

Parade Prize Money for Musical Groups, and to give a report the findings to the members of the Convention in session at the Convention Business Session and to the Reorganizational Board of Control Meeting.

~~Delete Section 21. It shall be the responsibility of the Parade Committee to keep and care for the signs for the officers' cars and have them available for use at the Convention Parade.~~

Section 21 (a). The host city will receive from the Association, ~~three One Thousand Dollars (\$3000.00)~~ (\$1000.00) per musical group up to a maximum of Four Thousand Dollars (\$4000.00) for providing a parade with a least three musical marching groups. The definition of a musical group shall be determined as outlined in the convention guidelines approved by the Board of Control. ~~If the host has four (4) or more musical groups the Association shall pay to the host four thousand dollars (\$4000.00);~~ The fees will be paid at the Reorganizational Board of Control meeting when approved by the Parade Committee and the Board of Control. ~~If the host has a parade with less than three (3) musical groups, the fee will not be paid.~~ The Association will also pay for the equipment judges as well as the above aforementioned musical fees. If the host does not have a parade, the fees will not be paid by the Association.

Article VI Meetings

Section 8. The Association for its annual convention shall pay to the host city on the completion of the convention

Four thousand dollars (\$4000.00). This fee will be for providing the business portion of the convention (i.e. meeting rooms, secretary's office space, and the needs of the committees). The Host will also receive a maximum allotment of Four Thousand Dollars (\$4000.00) for hosting the Awards Dinner This fee will be paid at the completion of the Convention Week, when the guidelines are met by the host city on approval of the Officers and Board of Control. Failure to hold the Awards Dinner, the allotment will not be paid.

The Association will maintain and pay for insurance coverage on the annual convention. The Association also will bear the cost of all incidental cost associated with the annual convention as approved by the Officers, Board of Control, and membership as they deem necessary.

Section 1. The Annual Convention Meeting of the Association shall begin at 9:00AM on a day determined by the Host Company, during the week of August starting no earlier than the 7th and no later than the 15th of August of each year, and continue until recess from time to time during the sessions or Signe Die when the entire business has been disposed of. There shall be ~~four (4)~~ three (3) Quarterly Regular meetings on the third Saturday of October, February, ~~May,~~ and The July meeting of each year shall be held by the Convention City Host. The regular meeting in May shall be held on the Second Saturday. The time of the meetings shall be at 7:00PM and to be held within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The Annual Fire Prevention Essay Banquet shall be held in March. The Board of Control shall meet the second Sunday of December at 2:00PM. This by Law change shall take in effect when all current meetings booked are completed.

Article VIII Charges Against Officers or Members (New Name)

Sections are Number Sections 1, Section 2 and Section 3

Section 1: Charges against an officer or a member for misconduct or neglect of duty, fraud, or imposition must be made in writing to the President. Upon presentation of such charges, the President shall appoint a Judicial Committee of five (5) voting members of the Board of Control, designating one of the said Committee as Chairperson. Within thirty (30) days after the officer or member shall have been served with notice of such charges, the Chairperson shall set the date for a hearing within thirty (30) days, at which time both the accuser and the accused shall have full opportunity to present evidence. After due hearing, the Committee shall render a decision and shall make a written report to the Board within thirty (30) days, and if found guilty action shall be taken as per Sections and or such actions as may be deemed necessary by the Board of Control. In the case where the President is involved the First Vice-President shall perform such duties as described in this section as pertaining to the President.

ARTICLE III Membership Section 3 Pages 3-4 August 2019 By Laws

"Shall be paid to the beneficiary so named on the form prescribed by the Board of Control dated last and provided ~~an official~~ a copy of the State Death Certificate is submitted."

ARTICLE III Membership Section 3 Pages 3-4 August 2019 By Laws

Section 3: Active Membership shall be composed of individual members age 14 years and older of any Fire Company, Fire Department, Firemen's Relief Association, and/or Fire- Related Organization, either Paid or Volunteer, which has been duly chartered in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. He/She may become an Active Member upon the payment of Six Dollars (\$6.00) annual dues and approval by motion in a meeting. He/She shall have all the rights and privileges of this Association. Any individual regardless of membership category upon his/her death receive only one death benefit. Death Benefits of ~~Two Hundred Fifty Four Dollars (\$250.00)~~ (\$400.00) shall be paid to the beneficiary so named on the form prescribed by the Board of Control dated last and provided an official State Death Certificate is submitted. When a member is non-beneficial during the grace period as defined in section 4, the death benefit will be paid after payment of dues and any applicable late fees.