

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

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John Charles Tedorski, Executive Director

126th Annual Convention
Arnold, PA

Tuesday, August 13, 2019

The 126th Annual Convention of the Western PA Firemen's Association was called to order by President Wayne Harris and the 82th annual convention of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Western Pennsylvania Firemen's Association was called to order by President Jill Harris.

Opening prayer by Chaplain James Bowser followed by the presentation of colors by the color guard of Arnold Fire Department followed by the pledge of allegiance to the flag. President Harris introduced Ladies Auxiliary President Jill Harris who introduced the officers of the ladies auxiliary.

Local welcome was given by Christopher O'Leath of Arnold No. 2 Fire Dept. Response for the Western was given by Past President John Bem. Appointment of Sergeants at Arms: Martin Wetmore and Wilford Torrence.

Mayor Karen Peconni of Arnold was introduced and welcomed everyone to Arnold.

Kathy Snauffer, President of the Firemen's Association of the State of Pennsylvania, was introduced and made remarks concerning the work being done by that Association.

State Senator James Brewster was introduced and made remarks. He spoke on SR6 and the progress being made on the proposals presented by that group. He encouraged everyone to contact their state legislators to get things moving on these proposals.

State Representative Frank Dermody was introduced and made remarks. He said that the state legislators are busy working hard on issues of importance to the fire service.

President Harris opened nominations. The following nominations were made:

Harold Whyel nominated Larry Doug Abel for President

Tommy Shank nominated Bruce Davis for 1st Vice President

Wilford Torrence nominated James Bungard for 2nd Vice President

Christopher O'Leath nominated Donald Ferrante for 3rd Vice President

Harold Whyel nominated the following to a two-year term on the Executive Committee: James Palcsey, Robert Patterson, Ryan Hess, Kim Carlisle, and James Eley

Thomas Schaeffer nominated JC Tedorski for Executive Director/Secretary for a four-year term

President Harris appointed the following to the election board ó Chairman Tom Shank, Richard Grove, Martin Wetmore, Wilford Torrence, Tim Gorencic and Harold Whyel.

The election will be held in the social hall from noon to 1 p.m.

President Harris appointed the following Resolution Committee ó Chairman James Bowser, Tom Foster, and Rip Jenkins. Ladies Auxiliary members of the committee are Jill Harris, Cheryl Weber, and Cheryl Ferrante.

President Harris announced a recess until 2 p.m.

Tuesday PM Session, August 13, 2019 at 2 p.m.

President Harris called the afternoon session to order at 2 p.m. Roll call of officers was taken by Executive Director/Secretary Tedorski.

Report of the Election Committee

Chairmen of the Election Committee, Tom Shank, read the results of the annual election.

A total of 939 votes were cast. President, Larry Abelô 939; First Vice President, Bruce Davis--939; Second Vice President, Jim Bungardô 939; Third Vice President, Donald Ferranteô 939; Executive Committee, James Palcsey--914, Robert Pattersonô 928, Ryan Hessô 904, Kim Carlisleô 562, James Eleyô 878, Tim Gorencicô 1; Executive Director/Secretary, J.C. Tedorskiô 939; Place of Convention 2020, Natrona Heightsô 110, Natronaô 142, Jeffersonô 24.

Motion by Harold Whyel and Richard Grove that the results of the election be accepted and that the ballots be destroyed. Motion carried.

Executive Director/Secretary's Report

Executive Director/Secretary Tedorski presented the following report:

Executive Director/Secretary's Report

2019-2020 Dues as of 8-1-19		2018-2019 Dues Paid After 8-1-18	
Companies	311	Companies	76
Members @ \$6	<u>4,416</u>	Members @ \$6	<u>686</u>
	4,727		762

Total 2018-2019 Company Membership: 390 Individual Membership: 5,373

Investment Balances as of July 31, 2019

Benjamin F. Edwards	
Jennison Utilities Fund Class A	\$ 103,680.51
Jennison Natural Resources Class A	45,000.27
Invesco American Franchise	77,480.56
Dow Target 10 9/18	42,972.83
Aerospace and Defense Portfolio	10,306.34
Dow Target 10 6/19	51,107.84
Jennison Value	112,194.47
Franklin Income Fund	98,527.24
Franklin Rising Dividends	143,688.74
First Trust Select DSIP Port 2Q19	53,981.70

First Trust Select DSIP Port 4Q18	74,411.68	
Prudential Global Real Estate (Dryden Global)	27,770.59	
Jennison 20/20 Fund	35,215.22	
Pacific Life Income Fund	72,018.67	
Money Market	52,263.78	
Jennison Money Market	<u>5,338.04</u>	
		\$1,005,958.48
Washington Mutual Investors Fund		283,590.81
PNC Checking		<u>25,445.53</u>
TOTAL		\$1,314,994.82

Motion by William Weber and John Bem to accept the Executive Director/Secretary's report. Motion carried.

Western PA Firemen's Association
Book Sales Income Statement
8-1-2018 to 7-31-2019

Revenue:		
Book Sales		15,858.33
Expenses:		
COGS	19,750.79	
Refunds	0.00	
Credit Card Fees	325.12	
Sales Tax	<u>0.00</u>	
		<u>20,075.91</u>
Net Profit		<u><u>-4,217.58</u></u>

Executive Director/Secretary Tedorski noted that even though it appears we took a loss on book sales this year, he had to place several large orders to replenish stock in the past month. This money will be coming in making the program actually break even for the year. He recommended continuing the program.

The Executive Director also reported on talks with the Ladies Auxiliary concerning their plans to dissolve their organization. He attended their meeting last night and presented a proposal to absorb the Ladies Auxiliary organization into the Western Association. He explained the details of his proposal to the membership so that everyone was aware. No official action has yet been taken by the Ladies. The Executive Director asked that the Board of Control consider this proposal tomorrow and act on it so that the Ladies can plan accordingly based on the outcome of that vote.

Motion by William Weber and Harold Whyel that we do a straw vote of the general membership on this topic so that the Board of Control knows the feeling of the body when they act on this tomorrow. Motion carried.

President Harris called for a standing vote which resulted in 44 yes votes and zero no votes. The vote was unanimous in favor of the proposal.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Schaeffer read the monthly Treasurer's Report. Motion by Leroy Whitlinger and Donald Ferrante to accept the report and refer it to audit. Motion carried. He then introduced Michelle Stuban of Benjamin F. Edwards to make comments on our investment account.

Payment of Bills

Executive Director/Secretary Tedorski presented the following bills. Motion by Pete Barnhart and James Bowser that the bills be paid. Motion carried.

Monthly Expense Listing 7-15-19 to 8-13-19

August Office Rent		750.00
August Secretary's Salary		835.00
Treasurer Travel Expense		500.00
3 Death Claims		750.00
Telephone - Verizon		
Past President's Gift		300.00
Election Board Expense		60.00
Parade Judge Expense		600.00
Tom Reigard, Jr.	60.00	
Tim James	60.00	
Ron Henry	60.00	
Tom Brinkley	60.00	
Matt Bressler	60.00	
Chris Whiteford	60.00	
Eldon Michel	60.00	
James Ferguson	60.00	
Brad Harbaugh	60.00	
John Bem	60.00	
Tee-N-Tops Invoice 2003		21.20
Past Pres Plaque & Wallet Card		
McIntyre Awards - Three Places		850.00
Fire Prevention Awards - Three Places		850.00
Awards Production Sew Ya Need A		1,186.36
Varine Slavin		2,626.00
Convention Insurance Invoice 1415	2,099.00	
Bond Invoice 1397	527.00	
Toshiba Financial Services invoice336394671		353.80
Copier Service Contract		
	Total	9,682.36

Vice President's Reports

The Vice Presidents each gave reports of their recent activities.

Law and Legislative Committee

Harold Whyel reported that they will be attending the SWAB meeting this Saturday, and will have updates at the next meeting. Executive Director/Secretary Tedorski reported that the State Fire Commissioner was unable to attend the convention and sent his regards.

Publicity Committee

Executive Director/Secretary Tedorski reported that Arnold has gotten good convention coverage from the local news outlets.

Topic Committee

William Weber introduced Christian Peck of AT&T who spoke on FirstNet, a wireless plan for first responders.

Fire Prevention

Chairman Martin Wetmore encouraged the membership to get into the schools to push the program.

Membership Committee

Chairman Tom Foster reported receiving applications for 254 new members. Motion by Tom Foster and James Bowser that they all be made members of the association. Motion carried.

Scholarship Committee

Chairman John Palcsey reported that the scholarships have been selected and are ready to be awarded at the banquet this evening. There will be 23 scholarships presented worth \$14,650.

Camp Committee

William Weber said that the camp met all of the requirements for payment. He also said that all equipment must be off the campgrounds by August 30.

Memorial Committee

Chaplain James Bowser reported that the memorial service was held on Saturday afternoon with good attendance. He said that all of the chaplains participated, and he has had a lot of positive comments.

Sports Committee

Don Ferrante reported that eight teams competed in battle of the barrel. He also thanked and recognized the members of the committee. He said that there was no golf outing due to no interest.

Parade Committee

Chris O'Leath reported that the parade went very well. He thanked everyone from the Arnold companies and the Western Association who helped.

Awards Committee

Bruce Davis reported that everything is ready to go for the awards and scholarship banquet and program which will be held this evening beginning with dinner at 5 p.m.

Finance and Investment Committee

Executive Director/Secretary Tedorski presented the proposed budget for the 2019-2020 fiscal year. Motion by JC Tedorski and Chris O'Leath that the budget be adopted as presented. Motion carried.

Bylaw Committee

Chairman Harold Whyel reported that the committee will be meeting soon.

New Business

Executive Director/Secretary read letters from the New Kensington Bureau of Fire, the City of New Kensington, offering to host the 2021 convention of the Association.

The Board of Control meeting will be held at 10 a.m. tomorrow morning in the council chambers of the Arnold No. 1 station.

President Harris recessed the meeting until 5 p.m.

Tuesday Evening Session, Tuesday, August 13, 2019, 5:30 p.m.

President Harris called the session to order at 5:30 p.m. He introduced Association Chaplain James Bowser who offered the opening prayer and led the pledge of allegiance to the flag. He then introduced Association Chaplain Michael Palcsey who offered the invocation followed by dinner.

President Harris introduced Jill Harris, President of the Ladies Auxiliary, who introduced the officers of the Auxiliary.

President Harris introduced Executive Director/Secretary Tedorski who introduced the members of the office staff.

President Harris introduced Cindy Davis, Chairperson of the Awards Committee, who introduced the members of the awards program. President Harris then introduced Past-President Tom Shank who presented the awards.

Awards were presented to the following individuals:

The Russell Davis Valor Award was presented to Chief Matthew Williams of Peebles Volunteer Fire Company. The T.F. Hereda Valor Award was presented to Murrysville Medic One Director Darrick Gerano and Washington Township Police Officer Ken Hollis. The J.Edward Saliba Valor Award was presented to Assistant Chief Tony Manley and President Rick Steele of the Greensburg Fire Department. The Western Pennsylvania Firemens Association Valor Award was presented to Firefighter Wayne Erb of New Kensington Fire Company No. 4 and Assistant Chief Cliff Rearic from the North Apollo Fire Department for separate incidents. The Awards Committee Choice Valor Award was presented to Lt. Tom Shaw of the City of Duquesne Police Department and Cody White of Jefferson for separate incidents. The Provident Agency Valor Award was presented to Captain Bobby Kiger and Firefighter Michael Adamson from Wayesburg Franklin Twp. Fire Company. A second Provident Agency Valor Award was presented to EMS Southwest Medics Scott Ullom and Zachary McDowell. The Nova Insurance Valor Award was presented to Hyde Park Chief John Howell, Jeannette Fire Department Chief Bill Frye, Harrison City Fire Department Lt. Zach LaVelle and Penn Borough Captain Carl J. Watson for their activity in one incident. The WPGA Ladies Auxiliary Award was presented to President Jill Harris. The Albert E. Wicks Service Award was presented to Christopher Gilmer of Arnold No. 2. The WPGA Political Award was presented to Arnold Councilman Anthony "Butch" Sgalio. The Harry "Leonard" Lynch Service Award was presented to New Kensington Firefighter Todd Mentecki. The Ruth N. Hereda Service Award was presented to Curt Hager of the Markelysburg-Henry Clay Fire Company. The Bender-Weber Service Award was presented to Assistant Chief Brian Gouza of Arnold No. 1. The Russell Davis Service Award was presented to Albert Wells of Vandergrift No. 2. The "Big Jim" McKelvey Campers Award was presented to Redmac McKelvey of Dravosburg Fire Department. WPGA Service Awards were given to Scott Held from Washington Township Westmoreland and Joe Petek from Jefferson VFC, Greene County. Fire Prevention Education Awards were presented to George G. McMurtry Vandergrift No. 1, Hastings Fire Company, and Cranberry Township Fire Company. The Don "Shorty" McEntire Awards were presented to Glassport Fire Company, Arnold Fire Department, and Vandergrift No. 2. The WPGA Member Award was presented to Present Wayne Harris. The Fireperson of the Year was presented to John Palcsey of Dravosburg.

President Harris introduced John Palcsey, Chairman of the Scholarship Committee who introduced the members of the committee. The following scholarship recipients were recognized.

Scholarships were presented to:

Degree	Award	Name	Course of Study
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Four Year	\$650	Nathan Callahan	Mechanical Engineering
Four Year	\$650	Jessie Clark	Accounting
Four Year	\$650	Alexandra Corna	Healthcare Management
Four Year	\$650	Brianna Cornell	Nursing
Four Year	\$650	Nathaniel Cumer	Cyber Security
Four Year	\$650	Karli Davis	Public Health
Four Year	\$650	Rebecca Duncan	Social Work
Four Year	\$650	Ashley Eley	Athletic Training
Four Year	\$1,000	Zachary Evans	Criminal Justice
Four Year	\$650	Brooke Gromley	Business Management
Four Year	\$650	Brett Gromley	Business Management
Four Year	\$1,000	Patrick Huber	Pharmacy
Four Year	\$650	Jonathan Kirk	Education
Four Year	\$650	Noah Quattro	Environmental Science
Four Year	\$650	Faith Remich	Economics
Four Year	\$650	Brigette Rogers	Marketing
Four Year	\$650	Brianna Scanga	Nursing
Four Year	\$650	Olivia Stone	Early Childhood/Special Ed
Four Year	\$650	Kristin Wineland	Elementary Education
Four Year	\$650	Breanna Wuckovich	Pharmacy
Two Year	\$350	Josiah Conner	Liberal Studies
Two Year	\$300	Tyler Huber	Criminal Justice
Two Year	\$300	Zoey Snauffer	Massage Therapy

President Harris gave a short address where he thanked everyone for their help throughout his term as President.

President Harris declared a short recess to give all guests a chance to exit the banquet hall.

President Harris called on the chairman of the Resolution Committee, James Bowser, who read the resolution. Motion by Richard Grove and Tom Shank that the resolution be adopted. Motion carried.

At this time, all newly-elected officers were sworn in by local District Magistrate Frank Pallone. President Larry Abel presented Past-President Wayne Harris with his past-president gifts.

New Business

William Weber readdressed the problem with tent city. He said that nothing has changed as promised last year. All of the equipment issues listed last year still exist. The level of participation this year is the same as last year. He said that a decision on what to do with the camp has to be made. Willie reported that the Camp Committee has \$23,000 in their accounts. Motion by Willie Weber and Chris O'Leath that when we adjourn this convention that this be the final convention for tent city and that the current camp committee be given permission to begin dissolution. Motion carried. If a local host wanted to provide camping facilities, they would still be able to do that on their own.

Closing prayer by Chaplain Harold Whyel.

Motion by Chris O'Leath and Martin Wetmore that we adjourn sine die. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Wednesday Morning Session, August 14, 2019, Board of Control

Past President Wayne Harris opened the meeting at 10 a.m. Opening prayer by Chaplain Christopher O'Leath followed by the pledge of allegiance to the flag. Appointment of Sergeants at Arms: Martin Wetmore and Ed Carlisle. Officers roll call by Assistant Treasurer Harold Whyel.

Approval of Convention Payments

Treasurer Schaeffer presented the following convention expenses totaling \$15,000.00.

Monthly Expense Listing
2018 Convention Board Meeting

Convention Expenses		12,000.00
Tent City	4,000.00	
Meetings	4,000.00	
Parade Bands	4,000.00	
Banquet Catering	5,721.50	
	Total	17,721.50

Motion by William Cornell and Pete Barnhart that all convention expenses, including banquet, be approved for payment. Motion carried.

Motion by William Cornell and Gene Walker that the Board approve the proposal concerning the dissolution of the Ladies Auxiliary as presented by Executive Director/Secretary Tedorski at yesterday's meeting. Motion carried.

Motion by Pete Barnhart and Wilford Torrence that the Board approve the proposal concerning the dissolution of the Camp Committee and Tent City as presented at last night's meeting. Motion carried.

Motion by Tom Schaeffer and Jim Norton that we transfer the Washington Mutual Fund into our Benjamin F. Edwards account. Motion carried.

Motion by Tim Gorencic and Wilford Torrence that the Executive Director/Secretary be authorized to purchase a single-axel trailer to store and transport the battle of the barrel and other convention-related equipment. Motion carried.

Christopher O'Leath commented on the work that Willie Weber and Tim Gorencic have done with the camp over the years and said that the Association owes them a vote of thanks. Motion by John Palcsey and William Cornell that both individuals be made life members of the Association as a gesture to show our appreciation. Motion carried. It was noted that Tim is already a life member being a past-president.

Willie Weber said that the Board should decide what will happen with the \$4,000 that was allocated to the convention host for the camp. After discussion, there was a motion by Jim Norton and Tim Gorencic that the total allocation be left at \$12,000 and that the convention guidelines be amended to determine how those funds are to be allocated. Motion carried.

Wilford Torrence questioned why we need to continue to have the February workshop/meeting at Pioneer Hose in Brackenridge every year. He suggested that we give other interested companies a chance to host.

Also, concerning meetings, there was a motion by Wilford Torrence and Don Ferrante that the May meeting be moved to the second Saturday of the month instead of the third to avoid the conflict with the Harrisburg Expo. Motion carried. This change to take effect with the May 2020 meeting with the Bylaw Committee agreeing to submit a proposed change to the bylaws to make the change permanent.

Reorganization

Past President Harris turned the meeting over to newly-elected President Larry Abel who conducted the annual reorganization of committees and other appointments.

It was reported that Natrona is still interested in the 2020 convention. Bruce Davis said that New Kensington is willing to move to next year if they need to. Natrona said that they are still interested, but they will not know for sure for a couple of weeks.

Motion by Gene Walker and Martin Wetmore that we adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:54 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Charles Tedorski". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

John Charles Tedorski
Executive Director - Secretary