

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

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John Charles Tedorski, Executive Director

128th Annual Convention
New Kensington, PA

Tuesday, August 10, 2021

The 128th Annual Convention of the Western PA Firemen's Association was called to order by President Bruce Davis. An opening prayer was conducted by Chaplain James Bowser followed by the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Local welcome was given by Ed Saliba, Chief of New Kensington Fire Dept. Response for the Western was given by Past President John Bem. Appointment of Sergeants at Arms: Martin Wetmore and Wilford Torrence.

President Davis opened nominations. The following nominations were made:

Wilford Torrence nominated James Bungard for President
James Norton nominated Donald Ferrante for 1st Vice President
Harold Whyel nominated James Eley for 2nd Vice President
Tim Gorencic nominated Dennis Remich for 3rd Vice President
JC Tedorski nominated Thomas M. Schaeffer for Treasurer

Tom Shank nominated the following to a two-year term on the Executive Committee: Robert Paterson, James Potlas, F. Christopher O'Leath, Amy Shank, and Cindy Davis.

Pete Barnhart nominated Somerset to host the 2022 Convention.

President Harris appointed the following to the election board – Chairman Tom Shank, Wayne Harris, Wilford Torrence, Tim Gorencic and Harold Whyel.

President Davis appointed the following Resolution Committee: James Bowser, Tom Foster, and Martin Wetmore.

President Davis introduced Tom Cook, Administrator at the PA State Fire Academy, who was the main speaker.

The election will be held in the basement of the fire hall beginning at 10 a.m.

President Davis announced a recess until 2 p.m.

Tuesday PM Session, August 10, 2021 at 2 p.m.

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

Executive Director/Secretary's Report

Executive Director/Secretary Tedorski presented the following report:

Executive Director/Secretary's Report

August 10, 2021

Secretary's Report

2021-2022 Dues as of 8-1-20

2020-2021 Dues Paid After 8-1-19

Companies	295	Companies	32
Members @ \$6	<u>4,009</u>	Members @ \$6	<u>1,113</u>
	4,304		1,145

Total 2020-2021 Company Membership: 344 Individual Membership: 5,075

Investment Balances as of July 31, 2020

Benjamin F. Edwards

Jennison Utilities Fund Class A	\$ 116,008.59
Jennison Natural Resources Class A	59,840.94
Invesco American Franchise	115,425.79
Dow Target 10 8764	56,474.73
Dow Target 10 8981	47,840.15
Jennison Value	129,307.90
Franklin Income Fund	107,057.73
Franklin Rising Dividends	207,717.06
First Trust DSIP 8810	68,117.24
First Trust DSIP 9301	96,345.27
Prudential Global Real Estate (Dryden Global)	29,275.88
Jennison 20/20 Fund	48,014.22
Pacific Life Income Fund	76,353.12
Washington Mutual Investor Fund	346,428.45
Money Market	108,135.90
Jennison Money Market	<u>5,386.64</u>

\$1,617,726.61

PNC Checking

46,505.46

TOTAL

\$1,664,232.07

Motion by Harold Whyel and Wayne Harris to accept the Executive Director/Secretary's report. Motion carried.

Executive Director/Secretary Tedorski also reported that the office was shut down for several months this past year due to COVID. He thanked Kourtney Brown and Tom Shank for their help in the office.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Schaeffer read the monthly Treasurer's Report for July. Motion by John Bem and Wilford Torrence 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 Wilford Torrence and Jim Bowser that the bills be paid. Motion carried.

Monthly Expense Listing 7-15-21 to 8-10-21

August Office Rent		750.00
August Secretary's Salary		835.00
Treasurer Travel Expense		500.00
Telephone - Verizon		183.22
Past President's Gift		300.00
Election Board Expense		50.00
Parade Judge Expense		600.00
Tee-N-Tops		25.00
Past Pres Plaque & Wallet Card		
Fire Prevention Awards - Three Places		500.00
Awards Production Sew Ya Need A		
Varine Slavin		527.00
Bond Invoice 1397	527.00	
Toshiba Financial Services invoice336394671		353.80
Copier Service Contract		
Parade Committee Expense -- Magnetic Signs		200.00
	Total	4,824.02

Vice President's Reports

The Vice Presidents each gave reports of their recent activities.

Law and Legislative Report

Harold Whyel said that Tom Cook from the PA Fire Academy did an excellent job this morning covering current legislation.

Publicity Committee

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

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 Pete Barnhart that they all be made members of the association. Motion carried.

Scholarship Committee

Chairman John Bem reported that the scholarships have been selected and are ready to be awarded at the banquet this evening. There will be 16 scholarships presented.

Memorial Committee

Chaplain Harold Whyel thanked everyone involved with the memorial service.

Sports Committee

Bob Paterson reported on the battle of the barrel event which was a big success. He also said that the golf outing was very well attended and a success. He also thanked and recognized the members of the committee.

Parade Committee

Chairman Chris O'Leath reported that the parade went very well. He thanked everyone from New Kensington and the Western Association who helped. Chris also reported that the President's trophy has gone missing. The committee is investigating. He asked that the Awards Committee work with the Parade Committee and have a plaque available for the company that returns the trophy after one year.

Awards Committee

Tom Shank 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 5:30 p.m.

Finance and Investment Committee

Executive Director/Secretary Tedorski presented the proposed budget for the 2021-22 fiscal year. Motion by Chris O'Leath and Ray Burkhart that the budget be adopted as presented. Motion carried.

Bylaw Committee

Motion by William Weber and Tim Gorencic that the proposed bylaw changes be presented by title only since everyone has a copy. Motion carried.

Chairman Harold Whyel and John Bem presented the second readings of the following bylaw amendments:

Amendment P – Motion by Chris O’Leath and Ray Burkhart that this be considered the second reading. Motion carried.

Amendment R – Motion by Chris O’Leath and Wayne Harris that this be considered the second reading. Motion carried.

Amendment S – Motion by Chris O’Leath and Tom Shank that this be considered the second reading. Motion carried.

William Weber suggested that guidelines be developed to establish what is expected for the banquet.

Amendment T – Motion by Chris O’Leath and Ray Burkhart that this be considered the second reading. Motion carried. The increase in the death benefit, if passed in October, will take effect retroactive to September 1, the beginning of our fiscal year.

Report of the Election Committee

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

A total of 683 votes were cast. President, Jim Bungard—683; First Vice President, Donald Ferrante—683; Second Vice President, James Eley—682; Third Vice President, Dennis Remich—682; Executive Committee, Robert Paterson—683, James Potlas—682, Amy Shank—683, Cindy Davis—683; Treasurer, Thomas M. Schaeffer—683; Place of Convention 2022, Somerset—681.

Motion by Wayne Harris and Harold Whyel that we accept the report of the election board and destroy the ballots. Motion carried.

New Business

The Board of Control meeting will be held at 10 a.m. tomorrow morning in the New Kensington No. 3 station.

President Davis recessed the meeting until 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday Evening Session, Tuesday, August 10, 2021, 5:30 p.m.

President Davis welcomed everyone and asked Chaplain Doug Abel to present the invocation.

A delicious meal was served.

Vice President Bungard introduced John Bem who presented the following scholarships:

Tyler Andrew Metz, New Kensington #2, Safety and Environmental Science, \$800; Sierra Patterson, Dayton District VFC, Nursing, \$800; Brode Moriconi, Hope VFC Northern Cambria, Culinary Arts, \$800; Pat Huber, Hastings VFC, Pharmacy, \$1000; Nathan Callahan, Ashville VFC, Mechanical Engineering, \$800; Kari Davis, Alum Bank FC, Nursing, \$800; Ashley Scanga, Vandergrift #1, Chemical Engineering, \$800; Brianna Scanga, Vandergrift #1, Nursing, \$800; Breanna Wuckovich, East Conemaugh VFC, Psychology, \$800; Madison Corna, Vandergrift #1, Occupational Therapy, \$800; Alexandria Corna, Vandergrift #1, Psychology, \$800; Trey Rainey, Cherryhill Twp. VFC, Accounting, \$800; Jessie Clark, Somerset VFC, Accounting, \$800; Faith Remich, New Kensington #3, Economics, \$800; Paige Remich, New Kensington # 3, Accounting, \$800; Tyler Charney, Hastings VFC, Information Tech (two year program), \$750.

Vice President Bungard introduced Tom Shank who presented the following awards:

The Russell Davis Service Award was presented to Asst. Chief Matthew Sobecki of New Kensington No. 1, the WPFPA Political Award was given to Mayor Tom Guzzo of New Kensington, the Albert E. Wicks Service Award was presented to Adam Bettinelli of Lower Burrell #3, the Bender-Weber Service Award was presented to Frank Lemon of New Kensington No. 5, the T.F. Hereda Service Award was presented to Jerry Chusak from North Union VFD, the Harry "Leonard" Lynch Service Award was presented to Harold Whyel of Point Marion, the Awards Committee Choice Service Award was presented to Chief Clayton Murphy of Washington Township Westmoreland VFD, the Ruth N. Hereda Valor Award was presented to Paramedic Richard Heidelmeier and EMT Holly Walker of New Kensington Fire Department EMS, the Provident Agency Valor Award was presented to Detective Sgt. Matt Saxman of the New Kensington Police Department, the Nova Insurance Valor Award was presented to Firefighter John Uskuraitis and Eric Sorrels of Vandergrift No. 1 and Sgt. Anthony Depanicis and Patrolmen Jerrod Thompson and Nathaniel Rigatti of the Vandergrift Police Department, The Fire Prevention and Education Award was presented to Hastings VFC, and the Fireperson of the Year Award was presented to Thomas Shank.

President Davis called on the chairman of the Resolution Committee, James Bowser, who read the resolution. Motion by Harold Whyel and Ray Burkhart that the resolution be adopted. Motion carried.

President Davis gave a short address where he thanked everyone for their help throughout his term as President. Vice President Bungard presented Bruce Davis with his past-president gifts.

At this time, all newly-elected officers were sworn in by local District Magistrate Frank Pallone.

Motion by Tom Foster and Jim Boswer that we give New Kensington a rising vote of thank for their hospitality. Motion carried.

Closing prayer by Chaplain Jim Bowser.

Motion by Harold Whyel and Wayne Harris move that we adjourn sine die. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Wednesday Morning Session, August 10, 2021, Board of Control

The meeting was called to order with the opening prayer by Chaplain Harold Whyel, followed by the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Bills were read for the convention. The bills were as follows:

Monthly Expense Listing 2021 Convention Board Meeting

Convention Expenses		12,370.00
Banquet Expenses	4,000.00	
Meetings	4,000.00	
Parade Bands	4,000.00	
Banquet Overage	370.00	
Additional Office Staff (Exec Director)		5,000.00
	Total	17,370.00

C. O'Leath stated that New Kensington made all the requirements for the parade. Past camp boss William Weber stated that New Kensington made all the requirement for payment for meetings and other activities. Motion by Harold Whyel and Wayne Harris that all convention expenses, including banquet, be approved for payment. Motion carried.

Reorganization

The meeting was then turned the meeting over to newly-elected President Jim Bungard who conducted the annual reorganization of committees and other appointments.

C. O'Leath asked about replacing Joan Tedorski as Assistant Secretary. A discussion was held and T. Shank stated that J.C. Tedorski will let us know when that position needs to be replaced.

Motion by W. Weber and Dennis Remich that we adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:45 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