WASHINGTON COUNTY VOLUNTEER FIRE AND RESCUE ASSOCIATION

The regular monthly meeting of the Association was held January 15th 2015 at Station 5-South Hagerstown.

The meeting was called to order by President Dale Hill. Chaplain Leonard Horst led the Prayer and the Pledge to the flag.

All Companies except Hancock Ambulance and Mt. Aetna Fire were present. All officers except the Secretary were in attendance.

Guest- Dave Keller –President of MSFA- Dave announced that the next Executive Meeting will be in Sudlersville on February 7-8. This year he will be working on the Bessie Marshall Fund. The Legislative Committee will contact County Representatives soon regarding the upcoming Session. We need to reach out to all elected officials to keep up with the local bills so that we can help out where and when needed. Dave asked that we be sure to get our 2014 Statistical Reports in ASAP. In addition, the State Fire Reports need to be submitted by the 10th of each month. If this is not complied with, starting in October, this will affect the Senator Amos 508 monies for the County. He reminded us that the Convention packets have been sent out. The Opening Ceremonies will be changed this year. It is likely that the Speaker will be a survivor of texting and driving. Lastly, he stated that the Memorial and Award Lists are due.

Charlie Summers- The Rip and Run is still not working. It should be corrected by Tuesday, January 20th. The amplifiers and pagers are out. If you wish to purchase these on your own, contact Pete for perhaps a better price.

The minutes were approved.

Treasurer’s Report- In the packet

Chaplain’s Report- The Chaplain’s Training on “When A Child Dies” will be held at Ryan’s on January 17th at 8:30.

Chief Officer- In the packet. Next meeting January 28 at DES.
Career Tech- Will likely move into the new facility on Frederick Street the week of January 19th. Enrollment is on the increase.

Computer Technology- Rick Hemphill stated that he will be upgrading Fire House. He will start with the smaller Companies and move onto the others. He is hopeful that all will be up and running by March 1st. He needs a list from each company of all authorized users.

EMS- Next meeting January 28th.

Emergency Service Advisory Council- Richard Hopkins was confirmed as a member. Next meeting February 5th at DES. There will now be monthly meetings.

Fire Police- In the packets.

Losap- Skip thanked all Companies for having their reports in on time for the last 2 months. Losap reports and tax modification forms are out. In the packet-page 32- Changes noted have been corrected.

Safety- The committee met and had a good turnout. They are requesting a representative from every Company be at the meetings. Doc Prather will continue to preside as the Chairman.

Standards- The Engine Standards and Engine Tanker Standard were both passed.

Recruitment and Retention- See page 65 in the packet. The radio ads are in place and the Billboards are being put up. Check Facebook and the Website for information. There will be a free ticket night to the Sun’s Game on Friday August 7th. A booth will be set up at the Stadium once a month for June, July and August for recruitment prospects. See page 31 in the Packet.

Training- In the packet.

Rehab- Jim Sprecher was appointed Executive Director. He plans to move forward with new ideas.

Emergency Service Advisory – Kingsley Poole is the new Chairman of the Committee.
Old Business- Company 75 would like to drop the grievance filed against Company 27. Company 7 will wait until next month to make a decision. The Standard violation against 27 was brought before them by Community Rescue. A motion made to delay any action until next month’s meeting was made by Skip Menzies Co.2 and seconded by Butch Bloom of Co9.

The James Miller issue has been resolved with no violations on his record.

New Business- The distribution of Fairplay’s monies was discussed. Vice President Moncrief suggested that the monies be put into a special fund to be used to help companies with unexpected expenses. A motion to delay any action until next month’s meeting was made by Vernon Brown- Co.6- and seconded by Dan Grove- Co.9. The motion passed.

The County Commissioners were very pleased with the new insurance rates. We will see an approximate reduction of $400,000 from last year’s costs. Physicals and Safety implementations helped to reduce the amount.

All insurance forms can be seen on the website. Please use only the new information. Get the completed forms to Rick Hemphill and he will send them to the Company. Insurance Company reps will be coming around to all Companies. Be sure that all volunteers are in LOSAP in order to be covered. In regards to Cadet Programs, the Company’s by-laws must state the Cadet’s membership status. There has to be a list of names, their SS# and when they became a member, in order to be covered.

Any Company having an event elsewhere from their Station, must contact Rick for liability insurance “Certificate of Location”.

President Hill stated that it is more cost effective to rent a pumper for training in the amount of $75 rather than running our fire apparatus to Allegheny County.

Clear Spring Ambulance will host the next meeting at the Clear Spring Special Events Building. Food will be served.

Lynn Hunsberger-Assistant Secretary
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