

Vermont State Firefighters' Association
Executive Board Minutes
Pittsford, Vermont
June 1, 2008

Meeting called to order by First Vice President Kristy Oxholm at 9:30 AM.
All in attendance stood for Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
A moment of silence for all deceased members was observed.
Roll call was taken by the Secretary.

Members Present: Kristy Oxholm, Timothy Girard, Kevin Goodhue, Roger Young, Robert Arnebold, Charles Becker, Jim Breur, Fran Buck, Timothy Burgess, Matt Callaghan, Brad Carriere, Bernard Dubois, Terry Farr, Dean Gilmore, Richard Harrison, Ted Hopkins, Ralph Jackman, Robert Kilpeck, Richard King, Jim Larrow, H. Glenn Nicholson, Edward Paige, Gene Perkins, Allen Pike, Henry Prehemo (arrived 10:15 AM), Steve Revell, Alan Ridlon, Alan Ridlon, Jr., John Savage, Michael Taylor, and Debbie Tumielewicz.

Members Excused: George Gibby, Michael Greenia, Jake Hart, Fred Jackman, Keith Ploof, Walter Reed, Robert Schlachter, Michael Skaza and Ray St. Onge.

Introduction of Guest: No guest present.

Correspondence: No correspondence.

Minutes: M/M by Robert Arnebold and seconded by Steve Revell to accept the minutes of April 6, 2008. Motion passed by voice vote.

Officer's Report:

President- Excused from meeting. No report.

First Vice-President- VP Oxholm reported that she has been working close with the 2008 VSFA Cadet Academy. They are doing a great job. She also talked about the great successes with the Coalition and the Government Affairs Committee.

Second Vice President- She attached.

Financial Report: See attached. There was a question on the Grant Money. Phase two of the grant should be received in July. Another question regarding mileage deducted from the Coalition. It was explained that a member put in for mileage while attending the meeting so the mileage money had to be deducted from that account. M/M by Richard King and seconded by Tim Burgess to accept the financial report with the explanations. *Motion passed by a voice vote.*

County Reports: Bennington County stated that they are co-sponsoring the Southern Vermont Regional Fire School with Rutland County in September.

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Franklin County- Richard King attended the funeral of Lucien P. Lapierre former Fire Chief of Georgia who passed away May 22, 2008.

Windham County- Fundraising by phone was briefly discussed. They said they have two career departments- Brattleboro and Bellows Falls who said they would go to the press for a statement.

Windsor County- Ed Paige said that Isabelle Mackel received her \$2,000.00 death benefit.

No other county reports were received.

Standing Committees:

Awards: It was stated that the committee is still waiting for applications. Dean Gilmore asked who the chair is. It is Randy Cary. It was asked if the applications were mailed to all the departments. No, the applications are on our web site. Kristy e-mailed every department who is on her e-mail list. Although she is not on the committee she did this on her own to try to get the word out.

-Charlie Becker stated that not everyone has a computer.

-Terry Farr said we need to go with the flow. Rutland County stepped up to the plate to put this convention on. It is not their responsibility to mail out the applications.

M/M by Bob Arnebold seconded by Ed Paige to extend the deadline to July 1, 2008.

-Ted Hopkins feels the date should stay at June 1, 2008.

-Dick Harrison agrees with Ted.

-Steve Revell respects their comments but since the convention is very late this year he feels we should extend the deadline to July 1, 2008.

-Dean Gilmore agrees with the June 1, 2008 deadline as long as our members received the information.

-Dick King feels we should extend the deadline for this year only.

-Dick Harrison asked how long it would take to do the plaques, letters etc. It is very time consuming. Kristy felt that there still would be plenty of time.

-Kevin Goodhue asked whose responsibility is it to mail out the applications to each department. It was stated it was up to the committee to mail out the applications.

Motion passed by a voice vote with one no vote counted. The Secretary will include the applications in his convention mailing.

Benefits: Please read the Government Affairs report.

Budget and Finance: Treasurer Young said everything is all set on his end.

By-Laws: No report.

Conference: Kevin Goodhue stated that Rutland County is on track.

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The committee plans to have the muster events at the Diamond Run Mall. Plenty of parking and plenty of room for all the events. Want to have the vendors set up in a vacant store front. This would add security at night, air conditioning for all the vendors and shoppers plus the public who may be shopping at the mall may buy from the vendors. Kevin said bands are an issue. They are very costly. Might have to hire one band and have them at the reviewing stand to play when marchers march by the judges to be reviewed. The headquarters is at the Holiday Inn as well as all the meetings, breakfast, lunches, dinners and banquets. The memorial service will be there as well.

George S. Gibby Scholarship: Dick Harrison said that the recipient from last year, Hanna Slack has received her money. Dick said the committee met this morning. Two applications were received with one being accepted. The award will be given out at this year's banquet.

Judges Committee: No report.

Membership: See attached.

Newsletter: Matt Callaghan reported that it is at the printers. He has been doing the layout. It was held up for awhile waiting for articles. He said that the committee needs more people to help. Please read the front page article. The committee desperately needs articles.

Nominating Committee: No report.

Public Fire Safety Education Committee: No report.

Sports Committee: Terry Farr stated that the Sport Committee will meet soon. They will be contacting Bob soon as well. The Cadet Academy will be using some of the equipment for their water games.

Temporary/Special/Active Projects Committees:

Government Affairs: See attached. Dean Gilmore wants officers to work on an e-mail list. He said that Senator Sanders is doing a lot of things for us.

George S. Gibby Resource Library: Chair Dick Harrison stated that the library is done. Over with.

Dick would like to get involved with FETN. Will have more info at the next meeting. This involves taking courses on line. Right now it cost \$24.00 per member. Dick will try to get the price down to \$10.00 per member. Dick wants our three congressional leaders to help us with this. Dick will mail us more info on this new concept. Bob Kilpeck said the NVFC does this also and it's free. This industry is growing fast.

Technology: Don't forget our web site address is www.vtfirefighters.org. It was reported that Mike Skaza will stay on to do the web site.

Training Committee: No report.

VSFA Vermont Fire Cadet Fire Academy: See attached.

VSFA Chaplains: No report.

VSFA Historians: No report.

VSFA VT Fire Service R & R project: No report.

Reports of Representatives, Delegates or Department Reports:

Coalition of Fire & Rescue Services: Report attached. Steve Revell said he loves the involvement of other committees and officers. Kristy asked for a copy of the Coalition Budget. No problem, we will get one to you.

It was reported that there was no reception this year, everyone was real busy.

-Bernie Dubois said that Steve Revell will be the Chair of the Coalition starting in October of 2008.

-Steve Revell said we still need better communication.

-Bob Kilpeck would like to see on the agenda for next year an opt out mutual aid plan. This would help departments who have no mutual aid plan on paper or self dispatch problems at major events.

Division of Fire Safety: Terry Farr reported that the current curriculum is IFSTA. This might be changing and if it the council goes to a different curriculum all the instructors will have to be retrained.

Please call should you have a course request.

Officers One and Two are being reworked.

Flashover is being reworked. This course cost \$2,000.00 a day although it is free to the departments. The state is looking for some federal funding for this course.

The pump course is now underway.

As always the state is looking for more instructors.

E-911: No report.

Homeland Security Grant Advisory Committee: No report.

Memorial Advisory: Kristy said the memorial service has been postponed. A candle light service will take place on 9/11/08.

Ted Hopkins reported that we still need money.

National Volunteer Fire Council: See attached. Jim Larrow asked if there was any feed back with the secretary working with department heads who are not members. Bob said that everyone is working well together.

Bob said to go on the NVFC web site and you can down load tons of information, polices procedures etc.

-Dean Gilmore said we should all take advantage of that information.

-Bob Kilpeck said the R/R course offered in Burlington was attended by 24 firefighters. A good mix from the state. Would have liked more. It was short notice.

Bob said that a Heart Healthy program was presented.

-Bob Kilpeck said a \$1,500.00 death benefit is offered to each member for \$10.00 person. Must sign up the whole department.

_VSFA medical advisor is Dr. Levitt.

State VCOMM: No report.

Vermont Fire Service Training Council: No report.

VSFA Auxiliary Report: Deb Tumielewicz stated that they currently have 23 members. This is a major election year. Most of the officers will be stepping down. They need new members. The dues are only \$2.00 per year.

Unfinished/Open Business: Lamoille County (John Savage) reminded everyone that September 20-21, 2008 Cambridge will be sponsoring the County fire school.

New Business: Jim Larrow asked the members present where do you want the Coalition to go in the next year?

-Dean Gilmore said that President Greenia wants to do a questionnaire at the August convention in Rutland.

This was the short list of suggestions-

- 1- Addition to the new administration building.
- 2- Insurance company funding. Must have a yearly percentage increase to come automatically.
- 3- Other funding sources.
- 4- Recruitment and retention.

-M/M by Dean Gilmore and seconded by Ed Paige to support the first four listed in the Government Affairs Committee (See attached) as well as the dry hydrant program, Fire academy addition and insurance contribution increase after the two covered years.

Motion passed by a voice vote.

The next Coalition meeting is August 26, 2008.

-Dean Gilmore said don't forget to thank your legislators. They did work hard for us.

-January 15, 2009 is the Coalition luncheon in Montpelier.

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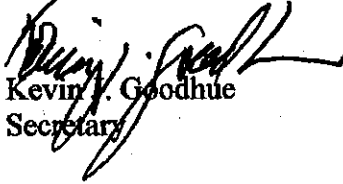
-Bob Kilpeck thought we should do the R/R seminar from VFIS for our members in late fall or early winter. Its just a one day seminar. We can also talk about the Fire Corp. program.

-Rural Task Force will be hosting a ISO workshop June 21, 2008 at a cost of \$15.00 per person.

Other Business: Jim Bruer stated that Dean Gilmore will be a candidate for Second Vice President in August.

Motion made and seconded to adjourn at 11:55 AM.

Respectfully submitted


Kevin J. Goodhue
Secretary

**The Executive Board
Dinner/Meeting is
Friday Night
August 8, 2008
At the Holiday Inn in Rutland, VT**

**The annual meeting is in Rutland
Vermont at the Holiday Inn, Saturday
August 9th, 2008.
Hope to see you there.**

VSFA Cadet Academy 2008

The VSFA Academy Cadet Board held it's meeting in Pittsford on May 28th at 7p.m. We had an overwhelming 61 Junior Firefighters apply for the Academy this year. The board, after much thought, accepted 48 Juniors to attend the Academy in 2008. This will consist of 14 female and 34 male Cadets.

The officers, staff and instructors are all in place and we have a very well rounded group of instructors.

Our field trip will be in Rutland this year under the direction of Chief Bob Schlachter which will take place on Wednesday.

I would like to thank the Cadet Board of directors for the great job they are doing and look forward to a very successful week.

Respectfully Submitted

Fran Buck

Committee Chairman

VSFA Governmental Affairs Committee Report
June 1st 2008

The VSFA Governmental Affairs Committee met last on May 12th at the Vergennes Fire Station. The committee went over the fire service bills that we have been working on in the legislature. It was decided that we would list all senate and house committee members that these bills went to and write thank you letters for each one. The fire service had a tremendous amount of support this year from our legislative body and I hope you all will take the time to personally thank them.

The committee set an agenda for the next legislative session as the Fire and Rescue Coalition is already putting together their agenda and we felt strongly that VSFA should be a part of this from the beginning stages. The list that the committee put together was from input at many meetings. The list being.


1. H.112 was passed this year but as the coalition will report, we need to make some changes and hope we can make that happen next year. H.112 was the communicable disease bill.
2. Recruitment and Retention, this is something VSFA Benefits committee has been trying to get for much to long. We are also working on this on the Federal level.
3. Taxes, looking for some sort of tax break for volunteers (most likely income related). This also is being pursued on the Federal level, which if gotten will be a benefit on the state level.
4. Leaving work for emergencies, we are looking into protection of volunteers jobs when they are called to an emergency as well as maybe getting some benefits for those employers that allow and encourage their employees to be volunteers.

Myself and our benefits committee chair Bernard Dubois has been working with Senator Sanders office to introduce a bill on the federal level that will give volunteer fire and ems people some benefits that should help us all with recruitment and retention. We had a conference meeting with Peter Tyler from Senator Sanders DC. office last week and we should have a final draft very soon. The changes that need to be made are mostly wording. Senator Sanders wants to make this public here in Vermont and has Bernard and myself if we would help set this up, so we will be calling on you people to show our support by attending this event . We will keep you informed.

It has been a very busy year and we should take a moment to thank our coalition members . There has been some ups and downs but in the end we had a great year in Montpelier. The committee worked hard at making sure the coalition had the support and help that was needed to get bills passed. Although we don't always agree , we come together and make things happen. As I have said many times before at these meetings, communications is our biggest hurdle. At one point our stable funding for training was in trouble to the tune of \$100,000.00 and I was asked by one of our coalition reps to make some contacts. I sent out one e-mail asking people to contact their legislative body. I asked Addison county to contact Senator Ayres as she was co-chair of Finance committee which held the Misc. Tax Bill. I received the first call she made the next morning at 7:00 am. She had already received over forty messages to call people to talk about support for stable funding. On top of that she received many e-mails and messages throughout the day. We had to send out an e-mail asking people to hold off on sending any more. We got our point across and I knew that at 7:00 am when the Senator called me. So this system does work !!

So again I ask that our officers get an e-mail list done so we can distribute the information when it needs to be done.

Thank you
Respectfully


Dean j. Gilmore
Chair

Report To: VSFA Executive Board

From: Steve Revell, Vice Chair, Coalition of Fire & Rescue Services and VSFA Representative to the Coalition

Re: End of Legislative Season Report

Date: May 30, 2008

I've just returned from the signing of S226, the Photoelectric Smoke Alarm Bill. The signing was well attended by legislators, the news media, and fire service personnel. I spoke with and thanked many legislators and the Governor for their support this session. It was a very busy session and we accomplished as much as we could have hoped for. Each legislator indicated we achieved these successes because we present unified messages and requests and we respect the political process in Montpelier. In these regards, Jim Larrow and I thank everyone for their support, interest and response (especially the last day or two of the session) because we would not have accomplished anything without it.

The following is a summary of fire service related accomplishments this year in the legislature.

- Photoelectric smoke alarms, senate bill S226, passed and requires that single-family owner occupied homes have a photoelectric smoke detector on each floor and outside any bedrooms. Combination photoelectric and ionization smoke detectors cannot be used as an alternative for these locations because of the false alarms that are more common with ionization. People disarm the detectors. 38% of the smoke detectors in fatal fires had smoke that had been disarmed by the occupant. These detectors must be photoelectric only. Ionization smoke detectors or combination ionization and photoelectric smoke detectors can be used in addition to the photoelectric that are required, but must be separate. The governor is signing the bill at the Barre City Fire Department May 29, 2008 at 11:30. Vermont is the first State to adopt this legislation. Other States are considering it. We strongly believe that many lives will be saved by this technology.
- The governor put \$2.5 million in the budget for the fire academy at Pittsford, but the final amount approved is \$2 million. The square footage of the new building will be reduced to meet the budget. We expect to break ground on this project this fall.
- The legislators approved \$240,000 to match the \$406,000 the Vermont Technical College is receiving from federal money for the new burn facility. This project must be complete no later than December 31, 2008 and is moving forward at this time.
- There is an increase of \$200,000 from the special funds received by the insurance companies for operating the fire academy classes. This money will provide for a "firefighter one" class in each county and help with providing additional classes such as "firefighter two", "flashover", and other training needs. We will need additional instructors to meet all the needs of the fire service, so if you're interested in becoming an instructor, contact the fire academy.

- There is a committee being formed to develop a program with the \$60,000 for Candidates Physical Agility Testing for those interested in becoming a career firefighter (CPAT). This will be a standard for entry-level firefighters.
- The legislators put \$100,000 in the rural task force for the dry hydrant program and increased the amount of money from \$50,000 to \$55,000 for engineering and design work.

Additionally, we accomplished:

H.112 Infectious Disease Protections

As you are aware we have been working on this Legislation for the past two years. We had a strong opponent working hard against us that did not want any compromise in this process or this legislation. There was an eleventh hour attempt on the third reading in the Senate to kill this legislation by adding a study that would have sent the Bill to the Appropriations Committee and it could have been in trouble. We ensured that was not the case and it passed the Senate, the House concurred with a minor amendment and it is on to the Governor.

S.306 – Assaults on EMTs, Firefighters

This Law will not provide increased penalties to any person that assaults a firefighter or EMT. The bill also added emergency room personnel. The most significant piece of the legislation added that if, in the course of our work, a person throws or intentionally subjects us to blood and all body fluids that harms a firefighter or EMT, they could be prosecuted for this crime.

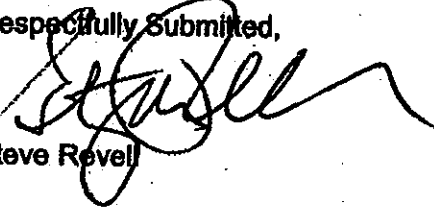
As noted above, the additional \$200,000 from the Insurance Companies will be spent on:

1. A firefighter one class in every county,
2. Firefighter two classes,
3. A couple of firefighter one equipment trailer, and
4. Taking modular programs out to the firefighters.

Now, the Coalition is in the process of moving forward to establish next year's agenda. We have just begun to be heard by the Governor and Legislative Body and we are not in a position to relax. If we do, we will lose momentum and again return to status quo which previously was no growth for the Fire Service.

Jim Larrow and I look for input from the Executive Board regarding agenda items for next year's session. Again, thank you for your support, response and hard work. Please do not forget to thank your local legislators; they are/were really there for us this year.

Respectfully Submitted,


Steve Revell



National Volunteer Fire Council

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TO: VSFA Executive Board

FROM: Robert Kilpeck
NVFC Director

DATE: June 1, 2008

I attended the Spring NVFC Meeting April 2-6, 2008 in Arlington, VA. There were 40 States represented at this meeting. The meeting focused on topics of critical importance to the fire and emergency services. The Legislative Committee reviewed the legislative issues that have an impact on the fire service. The Council will continue to push for funding for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program.

Chief Greg Cade, Administrator of the U.S. Fire Administration gave the keynote address at the Chairman's Luncheon. He emphasized the need to work together in order to make a difference and the importance of gaining support from the local level. Chief Cade thanked the NVFC on behalf of the President, DHS Secretary Chertoff and FEMA Director Paulison for all the support and hard work representing the Volunteer Fire and EMS Services across the country here in Washington.

Cade stressed the importance of starting the process to select a new Fire Administrator now so that the job can be filled when the new Administration takes office. He encouraged the NVFC Board to create a list of qualified candidates and present this to the final presidential nominees to make sure the right person is in place February 1, 2009. He also spoke on issues such as residential sprinklers, the AFG program, disaster reserve work force, the National Incident Reporting System, the National Response Framework, and getting fire prevention messages out to the public.

In addition to Chief Cade, several prominent speakers addressed the NVFC Board during the meeting. Dr. Dennis Oniel, Supt. of the National Fire Academy spoke about the training offered by the NEA. Brock Bierman Director of the Community Preparedness Division of FEMA talked about Citizen Corps program that connects community members with their local fire/EMS departments to assist with non-emergency tasks.

We had two representatives from the AFG grants program within DHS present to talk with the Board about the program and answered questions from the Board members present regarding which departments are receiving these grants. The Board expressed concern regarding small rural fire departments not receiving AFG awards.

Drew Dawson, Chief of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration spoke to the Board. There is a new Federal Mandate out that will take effect Nov. 24, 2008 requiring everyone, including emergency workers to be wearing the new safety vest when they are working on any highway that receives federal funding. To many emergency service workers are being injured and killed on the highway.

The Council also recognized the Dunkins' Brands Community Foundation with a special appreciation award for its support of the National Junior Firefighter Program. The Foundation recently awarded the NVFC a \$389,000. Grant to help build the Program and provide scholarships and grants to outstanding junior firefighters and their departments.

Thursday April 3 was a day set aside for the Directors to spend up on Capital Hill meeting with their Legislators to talk about legislative issues that impact the emergency services and funding for some of the grant programs.

I spent all day on the Hill, I had a very nice meeting with Senator Leahy's staff, and the Senator had been called to a hearing and was unable to be there. I had met with Senator Sanders and his staff the week before in his Burlington Office. Because of time constraints I was not able to make it to Rep. Welch's Office. I was able to make it to a number of the workshops that were hosted by the CFSI. I was unable to, but many of the Directors did attend the CFSI Dinner that night.

The Fall Meeting of the Council will be held in September in Grand Rapids, MI.

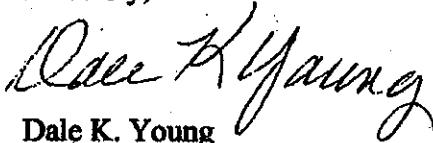
I will be returning to the National Fallen Firefighter Memorial Service in October at the NFA. I am returning as the Family Escort Coordinator again this year.

VSFA MEMBERSHIP REPORT

June 1, 2008

To date the membership for the VSFA is 4,275 members for an income total of \$51,300.00. This represents a decrease of 308 members from last years final tally. I received membership applications for 2 departments since Roger printed his report and I have one more department that I am waiting for a check. We are still going to be down from last year unless we pick up some more members before the annual conference. The membership has purchased 3,122 decals and 69 patches this year to date.

Sincerely,



Dale K. Young
Membership Chair

Vermont State Firefighters' Association



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June 1, 2008

Hello,

These past couple of months have been working with the legislative committee and the collation on issues concerning us as Firefighters. The two committees chairs will give their reports later this meeting. I want to thank both committees for the hard work and sometimes difficult times that you have gone through out the session.

I have been working with Kristy on the order adds to put together a pricing scheme for advertisements. I want to thank Mike Hart for giving me his info for when he use to take care of the response for.

Sincerely submitted by,

Timothy Girard
Second Vice President, VSEA

