

Vermont State Firefighters' Association
Executive Board Minutes
Pittsford, Vermont
January 11, 2009

Meeting called to order by President Kristy Oxholm at 9:46 AM due to the snow storm.
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, Fran Buck, Kevin Goodhue, Roger Young, Robert Arnebold, Charles Becker, Jim Breur, Timothy Burgess, Ray Bushey, Bernard Dubois, James Ford, Richard Harrison, Jake Hart, Ted Hopkins, Donald Howard, Ralph Jackman, Robert Kilpeck, Richard King, H. Glenn Nicholson (Late), Edward Paige, Gene Perkins (Late), Henry Prehemo, Robert Schlachter, and Michael Taylor.

Members Excused: Al Barber, Matt Callaghan, Terry Farr, Norman Flanders, George Gibby, Dean Gilmore, Jim Larrow, Allen Pike, Keith Ploof, Walter Reed, Steve Revell, and Michael Skaza.

Introduction of Guest: No guest present.

Correspondence: None at this time.

Minutes: M/M by Ray Bushey and seconded by Bernie Dubois to accept the minutes of October 5, 2008 meeting. *Motion passed by voice vote.*

Officer's Report:

President- President Oxholm thanked everyone who attended the many wakes and funerals since our last meeting. A special thank you to Bob Kilpeck and Terry Farr who gave advice and transported the funeral kits to the departments who requested them. -She is very disappointed in the participation in the president's challenge. It's on our web site, please report in.

-Also, a big thank you to Mike Skaza who is doing a great job on our web page.

-To all members who are on boards or committees-you must represent the position of VSFA not your personal position. Please keep the president informed of all meetings and what is being discussed in the committees.

First Vice-President- See attached.

Second Vice President- She attached.

Motion made and seconded to accept the Officers reports. *Motion passed by voice vote.*

Financial Report: See attached. M/M by Bob Schlachter and seconded by Tim Burgess to accept the financial report as printed. *Motion passed by a voice vote.*

VFSA Meeting January 11, 2009- page 2

County Reports: Bennington County- Vice President Buck and County Rep. Tim Burgess stopped by the Peru Fire Department to discuss membership and no one was at the station.

Rutland County- Bob Schlachter stated that the 2009 Southern Vermont Regional Fire School will be held on May 2 and 3.

No other county reports were received.

Standing Committees:

Awards: President Oxholm said that she has appointed Cary White and Craig Robideau as co-chairs of this committee.

Benefits: See unfinished business.

Budget and Finance: See new business.

By-Laws: See attached. Charlie Becker passed out the proposed change that will be voted on in Bennington at the annual meeting. M/M by Bernie Dubois and seconded by James Ford to support the recommendation of the By-Law committee. *Motion passed by a voice vote.*

Conference: Kevin Goodhue asked if the group still wants a Friday night dinner. After much discussion a M/M by Dick King and seconded by Ted Hopkins to continue the Friday night dinner. *Motion passed by a voice vote.*

George S. Gibby Scholarship: Dick Harrison was pleased to announce that Ben completed his first year of college with excellent grades.

Judges Committee: No report.

Membership: See attached. Roger reported that the new 2009 decals go on the outside of the window not on the inside.

Newsletter: It was reported that the 4th quarter did not go out due to lack of information. It is being put together now and should be out in a week or two.

Nominating Committee: No report.

Public Fire Safety Education Committee: No report.

VFSA Meeting January 11, 2009- page 3

Sports Committee: The committee would like to replace some of the equipment.

Yearbook Committee: Kevin Goodhue stated that the yearbook will be completed soon and passed out at the March meeting.

Temporary/Special/Active Projects Committees:

George S. Gibby Resource Library: Dick Harrison reported that the committee is back to square one since the company who he was working with went out of business.

Government Affairs: The luncheon will be January 15, 2009 at 11:30 AM.

Technology: The web site www.vtfirefighters.org is up to date. The committee is still looking into a way to notify all members via e-mail, cell phone or whatever.

Training Committee: No report.

VSFA Vermont Fire Cadet Fire Academy: See attached. Fran Buck stated that this year's academy is July 11 to July 18, 2009. Mailings will go out next week.

VSFA Chaplains: The Reverend Joy Toll-Chandler has moved out of the state and The Reverend William Elwell of Bristol will take over the chaplain responsibilities.

VSFA Historians: Past President Mike Greenia is the new historian.

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

Reports of Representatives, Delegates or Department Reports:

Coalition of Fire & Rescue Services: No report.

Division of Fire Safety: No report.

E-911: The state wants to balance the budget from the 911 charge fund. We are the first state in the country with voice override.

Homeland Security Grant Advisory Committee: No report.

Memorial Advisory: No report.

National Volunteer Fire Council: See attached.

State VCOMM: No report.

Vermont Fire Service Training Council: No report.

VSFA Auxiliary Report: No report.

M/M by Ray Bushey and seconded by Ed Paige to accept all committee reports. *Motion carried by a voice vote.*

Unfinished/Open Business: The 1-800-fireline was discussed again. It was decided to have President Oxholm appoint a committee and have the committee look into all the facts so that this group can make an informed decision.

The VFIS Recruitment and Retention seminar is full.

Heart Fund CD- Treasurer Roger Young stated he took all the paperwork to a lawyer to get his opinion on combining the heart fund money with the benefit money into one account. Roger reported \$6142.70 in the benefit fund and \$34,618.76 in the heart fund. The lawyer reported that since the account had many different names over the years that the executive board could vote to approve the joining of the two funds. M/M by Ray Bushey and seconded by Bob Schlachter to combine the two funds into one and call the fund the Benefit Fund. *Motion carried by a voice vote.*

M/M by Ray Bushey and seconded by Bob Schlachter to let the old CD mature and if a benefit had to be paid to take the money out of the VSFA funds to be repaid once the CD matures. *Motion carried by a voice vote.*

M/M by Dick King and seconded by Bob Schlachter to support the Fire Safety Calendar by donating \$1000.00 and to have this part of next year's budget. *Motion carried by a voice vote.*


New Business: M/M by Bob Schlachter and seconded by Bob Arnebold to approve the 2009 budget as printed. *Motion carried by a voice vote.*

President Oxholm discussed the Marrow Donor Registry in Vermont. We need to have firefighters register and tested. There already is a registry in South Burlington. The goal is to have a few more throughout the state. Chris Fedder is a brother firefighter and is in remission.

Other Business: Ted Hopkins said that not everyone has e-mail and that we must do a better job of notifying members of the executive board of deaths and other events. Secretary Goodhue said that there are 20 members without e-mail addresses. He will do another phone tree.

Motion made and seconded to adjourn at 11:23 AM.

Respectfully submitted


Kevin J. Goodhue
Secretary

The Executive Board Meeting is March 29, 2009 at 9:30 AM.



N.V.F.C.
hearthealthy
FIREFIGHTER



FIRE
CORPS



NVFC
EMS

7852 Walker Drive, Suite 450, Greenbelt, MD 20770

TO: VSFA
Executive Board

FROM: Robert Kilpeck
NVFC Director

DATE: January 11, 2009

I represented the VSFA at the Spring 08 meeting in Washington, DC and the Fall 08 meeting in Grand Rapids, MI. As President of the NVFC Foundation Board of Directors I attended both of the NVFC Executive Committees held between the spring and fall meetings.

I also represented the VSFA at the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial weekend Oct. 3-4, 2008. As a member of the weekend staff I was in Emmitsburg for six days. That weekend we honored the 118 Firefighter who died in the line of duty in 2007. In 2008 this nation lost 114 Firefighters in the line of duty. At this time I do plan to return to the NFA to attend the 2009 memorial weekend service. I would like very much to see other Vermont fire service personnel get involved and attend the weekend and represent the VSFA. For those that go to serve as family escorts, or workers it involves only three days, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. We need to have folks ready to attend and serve as family escorts for when we do have a Vermont firefighter killed in the line of duty.

Now that the new 111th Congress has convened the legislation is going to start gearing up I believe once they get through this economic stimulus effort, what ever it may be.

The Volunteer Responder Incentive Protection Act has been signed into law and is in effect for the tax years 2008-2010. This Act prohibits the federal government from taxing any property tax benefits and up to \$360 per year of any other type of benefit provided to volunteer firefighter and EMS personnel by a state or local unit of government. Passage of the VRIPA was a top priority for the NVFC in the 110th Congress.

At the Fall Meeting in Grand Rapids, MI the Council adopted a resolution calling on Congress to extend the VRIPA beyond 2010 and increase the ceiling on tax-free benefits for volunteer first responders from \$360 to \$600 per year.

On November 24, 2008, a provision in the manual on Uniform Traffic Control that is administered by the Federal Highway Administration went into effect requiring all public safety officers, including fire and EMS personnel working at an incident scene on any highway that gets federal aid to wear a safety vest.

In July, the NVFC submitted public comment to FHWA requesting that an allowance be made for firefighters exposed to fire or flame, as these vest could catch fire or melt. On November 21, FHWA issued an interim final rule that "allows firefighters or other emergency responders working at one of these scenes, and engaged in emergency operations that directly expose them to flame, fire, heat, and or hazardous materials to wear reflective turn-out gear that is specified and regulated by other organizations, such as NFPA.

In 2008, the 114 firefighters killed in the line of duty, were from 34 states and one from the Virgin Islands. North Carolina had the most LODD's, with the lost of 11. There were seven other states that lost more than five firefighters. Vermont has not lost a firefighter in the past five years, thank God.

Heart attacks and strokes were responsible for the deaths of 50 firefighters, (43.8%). Wildland fires accounted for 26 LODD.

Fifteen firefighters died in motor vehicle crashes. Six firefighters were killed in crashes involving their personal vehicles. Speed and the lack of seat belt use historically contribute to these incidents. Just in the last few days we lost a Boston fire Lt. in an apparatus accident when they were returning from a call.

The NVFC has joined the U.S. Fire Administration in asking all U.S. residents to install, maintain, and test their smoke alarms. This campaign is a result of one of the deadliest holiday seasons in recent memory and several significant fires in the first days of 2009. Since Thanksgiving 2008, there have been more than 158 fatal fires in the United States resulting in over 200 fire fatalities.

I will be attending the Winter Executive Committee Meeting this next weekend in Baltimore, MD.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

January 10, 2009

The VSFA membership is currently 485 members with \$6426.25 going to the General Fund in the membership category. The members have purchased 256 decals for \$128.00 and the balance, as was voted on at the annual conference, is going into the Cadet Academy. The amount going into the cadet account is \$606.25. I received the majority of the forms the last 2 days. Hopefully, this trend will keep up.

Sincerely,


Dale K. Young
Membership Chair

January 11, 2009

**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
VICE PRESIDENT REPORT**

Since our last Executive Board meeting we have had a very busy time. I have attended meetings for the SVRFS Travelers Ins. Co. on ISO ratings, Budget and Officers meetings, wakes and funerals for VSFA past chiefs and members and started a membership drive to increase the VSFA membership. I have also started planning for the 2009 Cadet Academy.

*Respectfully Submitted
Zion Buck
Vice President*

January 11, 2009

I hope everyone had a great holiday and now are ready to get back to work for 2009.

I have been working with the legislative affairs committee and the Coalition on what our goals are for this up coming Legislative year at the State House.

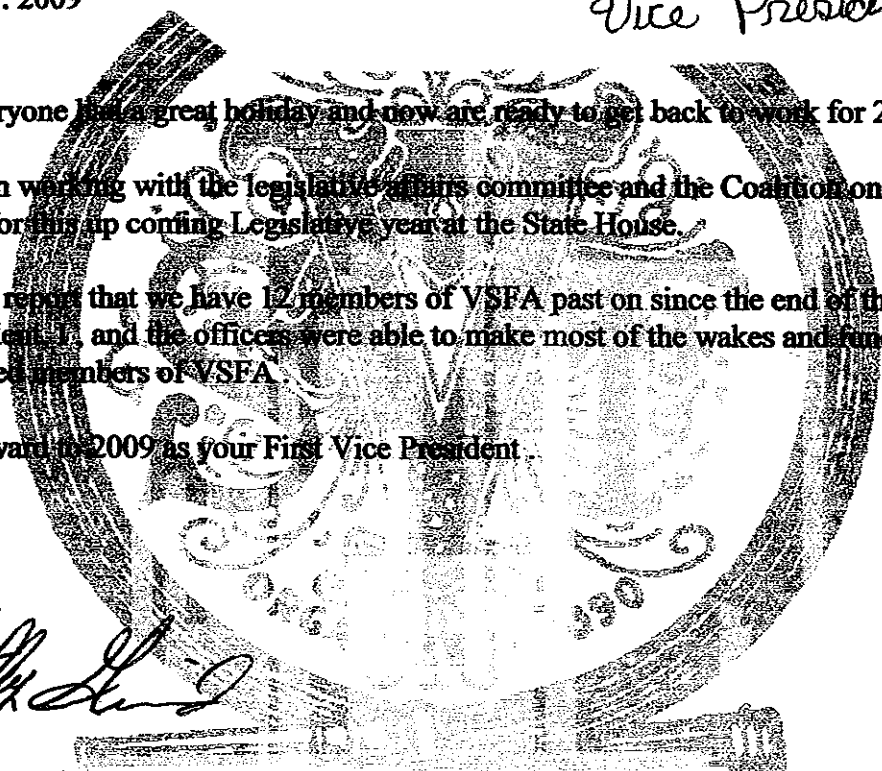
It is sad to report that we have 12 members of VSFA past on since the end of the summer. The President, I, and the officers were able to make most of the wakes and funerals for these valued members of VSFA.

I look forward to 2009 as your First Vice President.

Sincerely,



Timothy Girard
First Vice President
VSFA



1/11/09

Constitution Revision Article III D

Life membership shall be conferred on all Past Presidents of the Association upon completion of the first term of office and shall become delegates at large with voting privileges.

Life membership is given in recognition of outstanding service to the ASSOCIATION and may be conferred upon a firefighter, rescue or ambulance squad member. The applicant must have attained at least 15 years of membership in the ASSOCIATION and at least 20 years of membership in an organized fire dept, rescue or ambulance squad.

Delete everything above in the circle

Delete all of the following paragraph

A qualifying member may be nominated by his/her department or squad in writing to the Secretary of the ASSOCIATION, stating the nominee's qualifications which will be verified by record, reviewed by and approved at a meeting of the Executive Board. A majority vote of those present at meeting of the Executive Board shall be required. Life membership shall retain all the privileges of active membership without the requirement of dues.

This paragraph will replace the one directly above

An Outstanding Service Award may be presented to a member for outstanding service to his/her Fire Dept., Rescue or Ambulance Squad and/or VSFA. The Applicant must have attained at least 15 years in the ASSOCIATION and at least 20 years in an organized Fire Dept., Rescue or Ambulance Squad. This award shall not carry voting privileges in the Association and dues will remain the same as active members

2009 Cadet Academy

The 2009 Cadet Academy will be held July 11-18th with up to 48 Cadets being accepted. Our first committee meeting is scheduled for January 28th at 7:00p.m. in Pittsford.

The application is on the web site and can be downloaded from there.

Respectfully Submitted

Fran Buck

Vice President

From the Constitution;

Voting priviliges are spelled out for Past Presidents, only. Other Life Members shall retain all the priviliges of active membership without the requirement of dues. No mention of voting privilige. Active VSFA members do not have voting privilige at Executive Board Meetings.

From the By-Laws;

Article IIA

The eXecutive Board shall consist of the President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary and Treasurerof the Association, two Representatives from each County, the Past Presidents, voting Life Members, and Committee Chairs. We don't have any Voting Life Members.

Committee Chairs have voting rights. Co-chairs would allow both to have voting rights. Vice Chairs would Hve voting privilige only if the Chair was not present.

Our suggesstion to add to the amendmentthat is laid on the table. It should actually replace the section in the circle on page 1.

After completion of a term of 6 yrs., a Secretary and/or Treas. may become LIFE MEMBERSwith voting priviliges and without the requirement of dues. A majority vote of those present at a meeting of the Executive Board Meeting shall be required.

Other members who has served with outstanding service and distinction may be honored by recieving Life Membership without the requirement of dues. Life membership shall retain all the priviliges of active membership. A majority of those present at a meeting of the Execuctive Board shall be required.

D. Life membership shall be conferred on all Past Presidents of the ASSOCIATION upon completion of the first term of office and shall become delegates-at-large with voting priviliges.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

E. Annual dues for active and associate members will be established by vote of the ASSOCIATION. No dues will be assessed to honorary or life members.

F. Rescission of Membership: The Board of Review may, by a two-thirds affirmative vote, rescind any membership for any reason deemed by the Board of Review not to be in the best interest of the ASSOCIATION, after a hearing, if requested. The member involved shall have the right of appeal to the Executive board at its next meeting.

A Board of Review appointed by the President

Respectfully Submitted

Ted Hopkins
Charles Becker, Chair