



# FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA

Firemen's Association of the State of Pennsylvania  
Minutes of the January 17, 2009—Regular Quarterly Meeting  
Radisson Penn Harris—Camp Hill, PA

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am by the President, James Mullane. The President requested that all cell phones be placed into either the vibrate or silent mode. Jim also announced that there were exactly 50 members who had signed in. Charles Myers gave the invocation and asked that everyone please keep in mind the following people: Bucky Lutch, Larry Madera, Joan Bleistine and Steve Waybrant in the loss of his mother. The group then recited the pledge to the flag in unison.

The Secretary, Larry Baughman then called the roll, with the following officers present:

President James Mullane	Sr. Vice-President Donald Snauffer	Cent. Vice-Pres. Richard Snively
Western Vice-Pres. Verne Horan	Eastern Vice-Pres. Richard Blosky	Secretary Larry Baughman
Fin. Sect'y. Kim Costello	Treasurer Richard Bleistine	Board Chair Tom Cullen
N.W. Dir. (E) Sandra Cullen	N. W. Dir. (A) Bill Knox	S. W. Dir. (E) Glenn Thomas
N. C. Dir. (E) Bob Snauffer	N. E. Dir. (A) Stephen Lilick	S. E. Dir. (E) Steve Shenk
S.E. Dir. (A) Jay Reigh		

Past Presidents: Richard Bleistine, Charles Myers, Larry Baughman, Ernest Rojahn, Allen Steele, Tom Cullen and John Reilly.

The following officers and Past-Presidents were excused from the meeting: Elmer Bailey, Ron Hereda, George Coleman, James McCusker, Steve Waybrant and Sandy Waybrant.

## Officer's Reports

President Jim Mullane reported that he will be attending a Memorial Service in Albrightsville on Sunday, January 18, at the request of the Albrightsville Fire Company. His main goal is to unite the fire service and to work as a team with other organizations so we can accomplish more. Jim asked everyone to work along with him.

Senior Vice President Donald Snauffer reported that he had attended the PA Fire and Emergency Services Institute Dinner in November and also had attended the Central District Fall Board of Control meeting.

The Secretary, Larry Baughman then read the excuses for the following members who were not in attendance: Guido Chierchi, Henry Mink, Alan Jenkins, Robert Timko, Bob Fisher, John Bem, Francis Lutch, Ray Burkhart, Walter Valasek and Richard Grove. Larry then went over a punch list of issues that remain on the agenda as well as a lot of items that continue to be worked on out of his office. Among those issues were: the need for a Chaplain in the Albrightsville area, the need for new membership applications with Kim Costello's information, Columbia Gas Scholarship, CDG contract, the Emmitsburg brick program (bricks are only ordered in January and June and any bricks purchased from PA fire companies will go into the PA section of the walk), a new two year lease for the office, ordering of name badges and the vacancy in the South Central Director position. Larry also noted that the new website is

[www.pafirefighters.org](http://www.pafirefighters.org)

Larry also stated that he had written a letter to Chester FC regarding the convention they will be hosting at the request of Jim Mullane. He also sent letters to the bank and the credit card company at the request of Kim Costello.

Treasurer Richard Bleistine distributed copies of his report and he explained the reason why there was such a high balance in the checking account. Since the market has not been doing so well, he is looking at some other options for

some of our money. He reviewed the current fund, death fund, and scholarship funds as well as our investments for those accounts. As of December 31, 2008 we were under budget. There have been 21 deaths for a total death benefit payout of \$10,500.00. Richard also thanked everyone for their concerns for him and his wife Joan. He will be eternally grateful for the support being shown. The camaraderie in the fire service and the veterans groups are amazing.

Financial Secretary Kim Costello reported on the finances in the three accounts as of the end of 2008. Kim also reported on the significant losses experienced in our investments. **Steve Shenk made a motion to approve the financial reports as presented, Charles Myers 2<sup>nd</sup> and the motion was approved.**

Executive Board Chair Tom Cullen thanked all of the officers and members for allowing him to serve as their President. He stated he had a lot of help and he is hopeful that he did a satisfactory job as President. He then wished Jim Mullane well in his Presidency.

### **Executive Board report**

Tom Cullen reported on the following motions made at the Executive Board meeting held on Friday, January 16.

**-A motion was made by Red Flegal to adopt a resolution authorizing Kimberly Costello, the elected Financial Secretary of the FASP, to make the necessary changes to the financial accounts of the Association. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ray Scheeler and the motion was approved.**

**-A motion was made by Glenn Thomas and seconded by John Reilly that the FASP work in conjunction with the PA. Fire and Emergency Services Institute on stated and agreed upon legislative issues, via our lobbyist. It was approved.**

**-A motion was made by Steve Shenk that the FASP Convention Committee abides by a policy whereby as many as possible convention dinners will be held at convention headquarters so as to keep costs down. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Larry Madera and approved by the floor vote.**

**-Allen Steele made a motion to authorize Jim Mullane as Convention Committee Co-Chair, to sign all contracts with convention hotels, representing the FASP. Bill Jenaway 2<sup>nd</sup> and the motion was approved.**

**-Mark Ross made a motion to utilize the fire training committee budget of \$5000.00 for two convention speakers at the King of Prussia convention. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kevin Katarynick and approved.**

**-Kathie Snauffer made a motion that the Secretary send a letter of recommendation to Al Belmont for his magic performance at the 2008 convention in Gettysburg. It was seconded by Red Flegal and the motion was approved.**

**-Bill Bader made a motion that we approve the rental of a booth at Fire Expo in Harrisburg at a cost of \$630.00. Ed Kipp 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and it was approved.**

**-A motion was made by Red Flegal to pay the usual and customary bills as presented for payment. Glenn Thomas 2<sup>nd</sup> and the motion was carried.**

There were no other reports by any of the Executive officers.

Jim Mullane then announced that he just remembered that the new FASP medals are at his house on the porch.

### **Director's Reports**

-South East Director Steve Shenk turned in a written report to the Secretary.

There were no other Director reports given.

President Mullane then introduced Tom Savage of the PFESI and Tom gave the following report. He stated that in the early sessions of the legislature 21 bills were introduced and most of them dealt with administrative operational type issues. The State-wide Advisory Board met on December 13 with a good turnout. They had two focus groups that looked at legislative priorities for the next two year session. They will list everything, push for everything, but understand that they will go for things that don't need a lot of money. They decided to continue to seriously look at the Volunteer Loan program and the relief funding process. They are still going to push for cancer presumption, educational tax credits, and the EMS re-write. The grant program is a five year deal and that is good for the fire service. Keith McCall is the new Speaker of the House and the State has a huge shortfall of 1.7 billion dollars. Tom outlined the budget constraints and their effect on the Fire commissioner's budget and specifically the Academy. The Institute is continuing with PESLA and is also looking at the new open records law and the issues that go along with it. It was pointed out by Red Flegal that it has always been a part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Township code for municipalities to look at the records of the fire company. There are different interpretations of the law and how it applies. Donald Konkle recently retired as Chief of the Harrisburg FD on January 16, 2009, after 26 years of being Chief. He is working with Tom Savage very closely and will transition over to the position as Executive Director of the Institute during this year. There was a question on the specifics of the VLAP program. Tom mentioned the past push for mergers and consolidations. Ernie Rojahn brought up a situation with review

of loan applications etc. It seems there is an issue with the volunteer loan program. Due to the Federal grant program, requests for loans in PA have dropped off some. Also, if the Federal money dries up, then the loan applications will pick up and that may cause a backlog. There was a lot of discussion on the loan program and some of the issues happening with the program. Jay Reigh asked about the issue of paid men volunteering. It is a local union issue and not a state law. Tom Savage read a statement of suggested policy from the union's (IAFF) by-laws on that very issue. Ernie Rojahn mentioned about the distribution of the relief funds and the need for minimum payments to relief organizations. He recommended a position be taken on having a fixed payment go to all relief associations, before they use the formula. Ed Kipp also mentioned he had heard of a proposed change in the required number of meetings for the Relief Associations to eight a year. Jim Mullane then offered some comments on the 2 hat issue with paid men volunteering and the union issues involved.

### **Committee Reports**

There were no reports from Executive Planning, Law & Legislative, Awards, EMS, Fire Training, Memorial or Resolutions.

**By-Laws**—Larry Baughman reported for the committee in saying that they are looking at a suggested by-law change on the number of and distribution of Sergeant at Arms. It is being worked on and will be voted on at the convention in King of Prussia.

**Credentials**—It was announced that 53 members had signed in and the Secretary requested e-mail or regular mail information on four members that were not on his list.

**Fire Safety—Kathie Snauffer** Kathie reported progress for the committee.

**Membership**—Jim Mullane stated that help will be needed for the booth at the Expo to recruit members and provide information.

**Scholarship Committee—Larry Madara**—Larry reported that the applications are due by June 15 and the application is on the website.

**Publicity Committee**—Steve Shenk mentioned again that help is needed at the Expo booth in May. Steve also stated that Bill Twilley of the Membership Committee had some medical problems and does not want to continue as chairman of membership. Steve Shenk has the tee shirts for the Expo and help will be needed on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Steve requested that information needs to get to Ernie Rojahn in a timely fashion so it can be published in the PA Fireman. The March issue will be the Directory issue and it is important that it is up to date. Ernie Rojahn then reported that post cards had been sent out to all County Associations for their current information. Representatives Solobay and Gillespie sent out letters inviting PA Representatives to get involved in the Fire Caucus and to re-energize that group. Ernie suggested checking the web-sites and see who is on the PA Caucus and the Congressional Caucus. Thank your representatives if they belong and encourage them to join if they do not belong. Ernie also spoke about the Reputation Management Seminar which will produce a manual. It will deal with managing computers and a lot of other related issues in the fire service. A white paper will also be presented for continued discussion.

**Convention – Jim Mullane & Glenn Thomas**- Glenn Thomas reported on the convention book and the solicitation program. The donations are slower than normal due to the economy. So far \$6,700.00 has been collected. Jim Mullane reported that he will be signing the contracts with New Hanover Township and Split Rock in the near future. Jim Mullane introduced Bill Jenaway, the King of Prussia FD Convention Chairman. Bill then spoke about the 2009 convention scheduled for King of Prussia, where headquarters will be at the Crown Plaza, formerly the Holiday Inn. The hotels are filling fast and there is plenty of convention information on the King of Prussia website. Registration forms are being accepted. The Memorial service will be held in Thursday afternoon, followed by Thursday's speaker John Sulka, a Battalion Chief of New York City Fire Department. Friday's speaker will be the Charleston sofa factory fire investigator, Gordon Routley. The social club will be open for convention. There will be 600 rooms available at 5 different hotels. The parade route will be similar to the one held in 2000 and format changes to the convention are being looked at. There will be training classes available in NIMS and HazMat. There will be a Friday night social activity at the fire station. Exhibits will be open from 12 pm until 7 pm on Friday at the "Learning Center". There were questions on the Ladies Auxiliary registration and also parade prizes. Bill mentioned that they will be meeting with the judge's group to standardize the judging. They will post the parade prizes online. A current listing of member fire companies is required so the committee can be sure to award the State Association prizes only to member companies. Jim Mullane mentioned that the conventions of the future will be as follows:

2009	King of Prussia	2010	Wilkes Barre area	2011	Albrightsville & Lake Harmony
2012	Marcus Hook	2013	West Chester		

**President's Dinner—Kathie Snauffer**—Kathie Snauffer reported that things are progressing.

**Delegate's Reports:**

**Keystone Chief's**-No report

**National Volunteer Fire Council**—Paul Lukus read his report from the fall meeting in Michigan. A copy of his written report was presented to the Secretary. The spring meeting will be held March 31 to April 4 in Alexandria, Virginia. The fall meeting will be September 23-26 in Iowa. A lot of controversy is happening regarding the two hat issue as previously discussed. They passed a resolution and encouraged all States to pass a similar resolution. After further consideration by the Council, things are on hold on that topic for now. He covered the legislative priorities of the NVFC as well. He also requested volunteers for the federal grant review positions that start in May, the first three weeks. They meet at Emmitsburg for a week at a time and the lodging and travel is reimbursed. The junior firefighter program has been funded again this year. Ed Kipp then brought up the issue of novelty lighters. He feels that the lighters are not as prevalent as they once were but he asked to be kept informed of any movement on the lighter issue. Tom Savage then asked if NVFC is working on the Ryan White legislation screw-up. Paul stated that it will require legislative change and they are working on it. It was also announced that VFIS recruitment and retention programs are available and one has been allocated for PA, the same weekend as the Expo. Mike Lyles said that the NVFC is sponsoring two hour grant writing workshops and that a recruitment and retention workshop will be the thrust of the NVFC booth at the Fire Expo. He feels that the State Association should be mentioned as a host and that we should work together to do a workshop and make it look good. Mark Ross then made a motion that the State Association join the Legislative Federation for a recruitment and retention seminar to be held in PA. Larry Madera 2<sup>nd</sup> and the motion was approved.

**Legislative Federation**—No report, but they will meet on April 24 & 25, the same time as the Association's quarterly meeting. Ed Kipp will attend the Federation meeting.

**Congressional Institute & PA Fire & Emergency Services Institute**—Jim Mullane reported that the Congressional Fire Service Institute Dinner will be held in Washington, D.C. on April 1, 2 & 3. Jim Mullane, Don Snauffer and Kim Costello will attend, along with their spouses.

**PEHSC**—No report

**Unfinished Business:**

--Tom Savage reported that PEHSC was doing a survey to come up with a flag or emblem to represent EMS. They are asking for votes on the new emblem/flag and you can vote on their website.

**New Business**

--Bill Jenaway asked if Civic Development Group could be asked to be a sponsor of the convention. Larry Baughman reported that he did not feel this was a good year to be asking them for that due to the downturn in the business. If the contract is extended for another year then it might be more appropriate to ask. Larry did not recommend approaching them this year. There was limited discussion on the matter.

--It was announced that the SWAB will meet at Lionville Fire Co., on March 21.

--Ed Kipp then stated that Tom Savage was stepping down as head of the Institute and Don Konkle will be taking over. Mike Lyles is the President of the Federation.

**Good of the Association**

--The Treasurer, Richard Bleistine then read the bills against the Association. They are as follows:

Verizon (Fin. Secty.)	\$ 37.63
Verizon (Secretary)	\$ 66.06
PA Fireman (legislator's subscriptions)	\$1,020.00
PFESI (sponsorship & table)	\$16,000.00
Tracy Wingenroth	\$1,915.17
Connie McCarthy (auditor)	\$ 100.00
Expo booth	\$ 630.00

There will be a bill coming for the tables, chairs and carpets for the Expo as well.

There was a question on the lobbyist bills. We have expended \$22,572.94 and only budgeted \$20,000.00. Also it was announced that our assets were down a quarter of a million dollars.

Ken Beam was then called upon to give a closing prayer.

Jim Mullane then reminded everyone that the April meeting will be held April 24 & 25 at the Hancock Fire Company in Norristown. Use the hotel information as provided by the King of Prussia Fire Company on their website. Refreshments and lunch will be provided.

Jim thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve as the President and he stated it is a real honor as part of his fire service career.

Jim also announced that the Executive Planning Committee would meet at 5:30 pm, before the Friday night meeting in April. The meeting will be held at the Hancock Fire Co. as well.

In that there was no further business to come before this meeting, **the quarterly meeting of the Firemen's Association of the State of Pennsylvania was adjourned at 10:40 am, on a motion by Robert Kerns and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Steve Shenk.**

Respectfully submitted,

Larry J. Baughman, Secretary