

Dixie Firefighters Association
Official Business Meeting Minutes
New Haven/Rolling Fork Fire Department
May 26th, 2016

Members Present: 29

Guests Present: 2

Officers Attending

- | | |
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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dale Dobson- President | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steve Sheets– Treasurer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mike Cottrell – Vice President | <input type="checkbox"/> Froman Peters– Sgt. at Arms |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bill Mullins– Vice President | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Absence |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scott Thompson – Secretary | |

Secretary's & Treasurer's Report

- Motion to approve Secretary's Report, by Chris Crawford, 2nd Scott Lawson, motion passed
- Motion to approve Treasurer's Report, by Steve Lowery, 2nd Scott Lawson, motion passed

Branch Directors Report

- **Fire:** (Scott Lawson) State Fire School coming up next week, specialized training available soon from Bardstown Fire Department. Bardstown Fire issued a challenge to Law Enforcement challenging them to a blood drive with the Red Cross. (Guns & Hoses)
- **Industry:** No Report
- **Farm:** (Joe Hart) Ground is wet, 80% of the corn is planted and 25% of soybeans planted, very little hay has been harvested, everyone is behind due to the recent wet weather. Dale: The wet weather forcing to be behind of course puts everyone at risk for more injuries, shortcuts can be taken and this leads to a more dangerous work environment so first responders, be ready in case the need arises. Also, The Ky. Department of Ag. Is looking at ways to make the grain rescue program faster, better, faster and more Efficient by placing the farmers and the firefighters training together, the Marion county incident was Where the farmers and rescue personnel weren't able to work together to achieve their goal. There is a Very good possibility that Dixie will have influence in this.
- **Rescue:** No report
- **EMS:** (Bill Mullins) The Mackey bill passed and is law now. This law gives EMS personnel the rights to the same line of duty death benefits that Firefighters get.
- **Red Cross:** (Laurie Jagers) Home Fire Safety campaign, Red cross working with local fire departments installing smoke detectors in target areas. Success story: a family that had a smoke detector installed had a house fire and the smoke detector worked well and alerted them of the fire. Red Cross will definitely have volunteers at the 2017 Dixie School.
- **Ham Radio:** (Steve Sheets) Steve belongs to the Aries Ham Radio club in Hardin County and they are more than Willing to help with communications if needed. Freddie Dewitt added that there are HAM radio Operators in Nelson County as well, Jim Brooks, Gary Holt, these guys need to be contacted as well. Scott Lawson added that Joe Prewitt is working through Nelson County EMA to help establish this and Setting up a trailer for them. They need to be at the next Dixie Meeting.
- **State Fire Marshall:** (Chris Crawford) The fire marshalls office is looking over things that need to be improved From the past administration. If there is a department in need of the fire marshalls office Please call the Emergency operations center in Frankfort: 1-800-255-2587 and someone Will be dispatched. Don't call KSP post 4, the Fire Marshall will contact KSP if needed.
- **Ky. State Police:** (Steve Lowery) No report prepared but if a department would like for Steve to come to their department for a visit to discuss things please contact post 4 and ask for him, he and Chris will come together to talk and answer questions if need be. Freddie Dewitt asked about a meth lab awareness class Steve said to just call him, his cell phone number is 1-270-304-7669, if he doesn't have the resources he will get someone who does.

Standing Reports

- SFRT Area 5 (Rusty Todd) We have 61 active fire departments in Area 5 and we are only teaching in 47 of those departments, the remaining 14 departments need to be reached out to, need contact information. If you know of any changes that are made within the department, Chief officers, training officer's etc. please let Area 5 know so that the contact info can be updated. Instructors have had to give classes back etc. due to negative contact at a department that they were assigned to teach at. Rusty hopes to be in attendance at each County Chief's meeting and would like to know from each county when their meetings are held. In the next fiscal year coming up as the 30 hour request forms are getting ready to be mailed out some of the class options are being updated. Some things will be changed, focus will be on the some of the basic 20 courses; anything not on the list can be requested to SFRT Area 5. Rusty handed out brochures and info on the upcoming fire schools, State, Mountain Fire School etc. Training facility, new carpet is being installed at the Area 5 office. One thing that is up and coming will be on-line 30 hour request forms. One thing that has been a consistent question is about attendance to trainings and instructors teaching: for the initial 20 hours, we want to teach the class no matter the amount of firefighters in attendance unless specified by a member of that department in charge. If they decide to reschedule to get the most out of their requested time then the class can be rescheduled.
- Ky. Fire Commission: (Scott Lawson) State Aid for the next period will be \$11,000.00, this is up from \$8250.00. This has not been put into law as of yet and should be done at the next session. Full time incentive pay went from \$3100.00 to \$4000.00. For Volunteer recruitment and retention there are ideas in the works to get something going for each individual volunteer to help with recruitment and retention.
- Kentucky Fire Chiefs: No Report
- Ky. Firefighters Assoc.: They had a great legislative session, a lot of the items asked for were granted: Incentive pay was raised, state aid was raised and the cancer presumption bill was passed. We are hoping that the State-Aid will be put into law as \$11,000.00 but could possibly raise to more, currently to new amount is put into the budget but needs to be put in to KRS as law but that will be worked on next year, for now we can enjoy the \$11,000.00. KFA Conference is coming up at the first of August, it's not too late to pre-file a resolution for the conference. Chris mentioned that if we want to pre-file a resolution that we should do it tonight in order to get it on the agenda. The Saturday of Fire School is the KFA meeting which is also Crusade Weekend. Also at State Fire School will be a human fire truck pull so anyone wishing to get a team together can do so.

Unfinished Business

- *President Dobson discussed the need to grow Dixie and how we can accomplish this as an association. Some of the ideas are as follows: Offer assistance in times of need to Dixie Members, ie: fatality at an assoc. member department, \$500.00 to the family, if attended 25% of the meetings, that goes to a \$1000.00 payment, if a member has a house fire, \$500.00 benefit etc. There is a definite concern on this to make sure there is no issue with the Association status as a 501-3-C, this will be followed up on to ensure there are no violations. Chris Crawford will talk to the Fire Commission on their life insurance benefit that they have. **UPDATE: Chris hasn't had a chance to talk with American Income Life however their meeting is next week and he will discuss it then. Dale is still working on what we can do as an association, if anyone has any ideas of suggestions, please let us know. For the 5013C information, Steve Sheets will talk to the tax people*
- *Another item that was discussed was Dixie Firefighters Assoc. purchasing and maintaining a child's safety house. Membership departments could use this for their fire prevention/public education events. There is grant money available out there for the funding of these type projects; we believe the IAFC has this. Dale will contact Mike Hulsey to help follow up on this. **Update: Dale hasn't had the opportunity to discuss this with Mike as of yet but he will.*
- *Reviewing feedback from the Dixie Fire School some are to offer 2 basic 20 classes due to how quickly this class fills up, and change some of the curriculum to offer more and different classes. In thoughts of how this can be done logistically we would have to drop some classes. Dale offered the idea of doing the EMS lecture at the regular Spring Dixie school but then offer a more hands-on EMS school later in the year, just an idea like the previous ideas everyone attending this meeting has been challenged to think about these suggestions and come up with ideas on their own and bring back to the May meeting. **Update: Dale: still having the discussion on the possibility of an EMS Dixie School where the focus will be on EMS. Mike Cottrell has had some discussions with the Air Ambulance*

companies and they are willing to support by providing all the staff necessary, they really like the idea. There will still be some EMS classes at Dixie Fire School but it would be more lecture based with the hands on focused at the EMS Dixie Weekend.

- *Ashley brought up that we should show some appreciation and support those that help us at Dixie Fire School each year, the college, Doug's towing, the internet service, and we need to send them donuts and a fruit arrangement. Ashley with help from Dale have been approved for \$300.00 to make this happen. **Update: Ashley reported that the baskets were delivered to the KCTCS staff and the college, on the day that these were delivered was the same day that 9 of the KCTCS staff were let go, so, it was a small token of appreciation from us to them on an already bad day as several of the ones let go were ones that worked with us at Dixie School. It was asked if the loss of the KCTCS staff would affect us at the 2017 Dixie Fire School. Ashley explained that we are under the same umbrella but we have different budgets, theirs is not ours. Across our organizations we need to work together, there will be a new President at Elizabethtown, also there could be some changes upcoming due to them getting an audit from the government so next January things could potentially be different. If we are going to have to look at funding then we are going to have to set a budget for the Fire School. There will be further discussion on this topic at the upcoming school committee meetings.*
- *Lastly Dale brought up the success of the gun raffle that we did before Dixie Fire School and he wishes to do another one for the 2017 Fire School. We all agreed to proceed with this and to add to it this time there will be 3 guns purchased and 2 people will win the guns under the "buddy gun" format however this time, to improve ticket sales, the seller of the ticket will also get a gun. Steve Sheets will take care of getting the tickets configured and printed (1000 total) Dale will meet with different gun dealers to see who can offer the best price on the guns. Carol Thompson suggested Bourbon City Firearms in Bardstown as well. **Update: The guns haven't been purchased but Steve does have the tickets printed so that selling can begin.*
- *There was discussion on combining dues with the KFA, some departments who are members of Dixie don't want to join the KFA, a lot of departments are members of both. This will be brought back up at the May meeting. **Update: Discussion on this is now for the logistics, some feel that it would be like the departments are being forced to join both organizations, some departments are members of Dixie but not KFA. Would it be possible to give discounts for joining both? We have 14 departments out of 61 that we can't even get free training to and they aren't likely to join either. To change the KFA it would take a lot to change their fees, it's set in their by-laws what the membership fees are and it would take a resolution to accomplish this. For Dixie we could possibly lower our membership fees, would we gain more members? Rusty could discuss this with the Chiefs when he attends their meetings, this will also be important because Rusty can give more insight on one of our problems and that is; what does Dixie Firefighters Association do? What's in it for me? It would be good to also attend their business/Board meetings due to the fact that if the Chief is the cause of the communication breakdown then the information will not get back to the department. Chris Crawford noted that he would like to see a Department that is in good standing with Dixie go to the KFA Conference sponsored by Dixie. Dale feels like we can discuss it now and plan for it for the 2017 conference; it's too late at this point. Ashley noted that the majority of our income for Dixie comes from the fire school, not so much from the dues so could we gain more members by lowering our membership dues, Freddie agrees. Membership is \$10.00 for individual and \$50.00 for Department for Dixie, KFA is 85.00 for Department and \$25.00 for individual. Rusty feels that we need to make sure that we are engaging the young people within our association; it's not just for the older folks in the fire service and the decision makers. Bill Mullins brought up an excellent point: With State Aid and Incentive pay increasing, let the departments know that we had a hand in that, let them know that this is what we are doing, we are a voice for them. This issue will be tabled until Rusty can attend the Chief's meetings and bring back some much needed feedback. On a side note Rusty asked for a fact sheet on the Dixie Firefighters Assoc. or a brochure about Dixie, we need to market ourselves.*

New Business

- Per the KFA Report it was discussed that we need to pre-file a resolution for the KFA convention. A motion has been made by Scott Lawson to have the State Aid set into KRS as law for the \$11,000.00 as a priority, 2nd made by Karl Lusk, Motion carried. Dale mentioned that last year a resolution was sent from Dixie and it was never presented to the floor, it was for the Department of Agriculture to have a representative sit on the Ky. Fire Commission Board, it was discussed but was never brought to the floor.

- Request from Treasurer Steve Sheets, We have a CD that needs to be added to to on-line banking and we need to name Steve Sheets as the Authorized person to take care of this. Motion made to have this done by Freddie Dewitt, 2nd by Bill Mullins, all in favor, motion carried.
- For the KFA convention we need to place an ad in the brochure, the ad had been prepared. Chris Crawford made a motion to place the ad, full page for the amount of \$300.00, second by Steve Lowery, all in favor, motion carried.
- Rusty Todd mentioned that not everyone may be aware that Bill Mullins is now part of the Area 5 SFRT staff. Dale also mentioned that Bill, Scott and Dale will be teaching at State Fire School and there are a lot of Area 5 instructors teaching at State Fire School.
- Bill Mullins reported that as of this meeting which is the close of this Paul Banse Scholarship period we have received 3 scholarship applications and they will be awarded at the July Dixie Firefighters Assoc. meeting. The time periods for the scholarships are: Spring Semester: Turn in at the September meeting, awarded at the November meeting, Fall Semester: Turn in at the May meeting, Awarded at the July meeting.
- Dale announced that there is a new Agriculture Commissioner and he has explained to him how everything has worked in the past with the partnership at the State Fair. He is being very supportive of this. Dale requested to the membership body anyone that wants to work the State Fair please see him to sign up to work our booth. You get a nice shirt and free passes to work with the Department of Agriculture, Kentucky Fire Commission and Dixie Firefighters Assoc. The dates are August 18th ~ the 28th. Dale asked if we could make a couple extra shirts to give to the Governor etc. Motion made by Scott Lawson to get as many shirts made up as necessary for positive public relations, 2nd made by Frank Hall, all in favor, motion carried.
- Scott made the announcement that the new Dixie Firefighters Assoc. Facebook page is now up and running and the old page is still open due to the large amount of pictures that are on the old site. Please go to facebook and type in Dixie Firefighters Association and look for the current logo, the old site has the maltese cross with the black drape on it. He also mentioned that the website www.dixiefirefighters.com has been updated and the calendar is up to date and encourages everyone to check it out, we have almost 500 likes on the new page and would like to see a lot more.

Announcement

- **Next meeting: July 28th, Bardstown City Fire Department, 1900 hours.**

Adjournment

Motion made to adjourn by Ashley McWaters, second by Chris Crawford, motion carried unanimous at the recorded time of 2050 hours.