

Dixie Firefighters Association

Official Business Meeting Minutes

Leitchfield Fire Department (Joint meeting with the Green River Firefighters Assoc.)

November 17, 2016

Members Present: 27

Guests Present: 2

Officers Attending

Dale Dobson- President

Mike Cottrell – Vice President

Bill Mullins– 2nd Vice President

Scott Thompson – Secretary

Steve Sheets– Treasurer

Froman Peters– Sgt. at Arms

Present Absence

Meeting Called to Order: by President Dale Dobson 1957 hrs.

Meal Blessing: Chaplin Bill Mullins

Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Sgt. at arms Froman Peters

Presentation of certificate of appreciation:

- Presented to Leitchfield Chief of Department Tim Duvall

Recognitions: Our guests for the evening

- James Riddle and Darrel Brown High Tech Rescue
- Red Cross, Fred and Pat Hagan and Vickie Ledford

Secretary's & Treasurer's Report

- Motion to approve Secretary's Report no report given, suspended until January meeting
- Motion to approve Treasurer's Report, no report given, suspended until January meeting

Branch Directors Report

- **Fire:** (Scott Lawson)
- **Industry:** No Report
- **Farm:** (Joe Hart)
- **Rescue:** No report
- **EMS:** No report
- **Red Cross:** no report
- **Ham Radio:** (Steve Sheets) No report
- **State Fire Marshal:** (Chris Crawford)
- **Ky. State Police:** (Steve Lowery)

Standing Reports:

- SFRT Area 5: (Rusty Todd) Planning for The 2017 Dixie Fire School on March 10, 11, 12 2017, we will be sending out the postcard soon and registration will open around January 11~12. We will have a short planning meeting following the joint meeting. Priorities for training being delivered are the fire departments where we have to cover the 50% certification to meet the departments requirements for state aid.
- Ky. Fire Commission: (Scott Lawson) No report

- Kentucky Fire Chiefs: No Report
- Ky. Firefighters Assoc.: (Chris Crawford) Ky. State Fire School for 2017 is in its planning stages currently. The 2017 KFA conference will be held in Ashland Ky. Next year. Membership requests are being sent out, please fill out your membership and get it turned back in asap. The KFA was a big reason that the State Aid went from \$8250.00 to \$11,000.00 and there is a pre-filed bill to make that law in the next legislative session so please, call or email you Senators and Representatives, make your voice heard.

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, UPDATE: Chris Crawford hasn't had the opportunity to speak with the insurance company to see what we can do. Richard Peters mentioned that he spoke with Supporting Heroes and they are a 5013C organization like us and we should be able to follow the same structure when wanting to send assistance, we just have to announce what we are wanting to do. We just need to establish what, how and when to offer assistance. **Update: Chris Crawford has given this information to Dale so we will table this until our next business meeting.***
- *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 Hulseley to help follow up on this. ****Update: Dale has discussed this with Mike Hulseley and he will continue to follow up on this.***
- *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. **UPDATE from the Fire School meetings from Ashley: there will be 2 basic 20 classes this year due to the classes filling up quickly every year. The classes have been selected and there were a couple dropped and a couple added for 2017. Currently we are working the numbers and making sure to cover all of the needed resources. The EMS class idea has been tabled for now due to the fact that there wasn't a representative from EMS at the last meeting, this will be on going. On a side note Froman mentioned that AIR Methods is struggling, when we were at Mountain Fire School in Hazard they shut down the Hazard Air Methods base.***
- *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. Update: Scott is currently working on the new brochure and this item will remain on old business until its completion. **Tabled until the next business meeting**

New Business

- Paul Banse Scholarship: Branden Martin was awarded a \$300.00 scholarship from the Dixie Firefighters Assoc. toward the Spring semester. Applications are now being accepted for the fall semester.
- Motion to suspend all further business of the Dixie Firefighters Association until the January meeting made by Chris Crawford and second by Rhonda Young, unanimously passed.

Time to set the meeting locations for the 2017 Dixie Firefighters Association meetings:

- January: Elizabethtown Fire Department, Station 1
- February: SFRT Area 5 training center
- March: New Haven/Rolling Fork Fire Department
- May: City of Bardstown Fire Department
- July: McDaniels Fire Department
- September: Northeast Nelson Fire Protection District
- November: TBD (joint meeting)

This schedule is tentative as other departments within Area 5 will be contacted to see if they would like to host a Dixie Meeting next year.

Door Prizes: We had a large amount of door prizes from both Green River Firefighters Assoc. as well as Dixie Firefighters Assoc.

Announcement

- **Next meeting: January 26, 2017 at 1900 hrs. There will be a Dixie Fire School planning meeting beginning at 1800 hrs.**

Adjournment

Both Associations adjourned at 2100 hrs. EST.

