

Dixie Firefighters Association

Official Business Meeting Minutes

Bardstown City Fire Department

July 28th, 2016

Members Present: 36

Guests Present: 2

Officers Attending

- | | |
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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dale Dobson- President | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steve Sheets– Treasurer |
| <input checked="" 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 | |

Meeting Called to Order: 1905 hrs. by President Dale Dobson

Meal Blessing: Rev. Eldon Morgan of Bardstown & Northeast Nelson Fire Departments

Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Scott Lawson

Secretary's & Treasurer's Report

- Motion to approve Secretary's Report, by Chris Crawford with one change, Fire Marshall only has one L, it's Fire Marshal, this will be corrected from this point on, 2nd Mark Malone ,motion passed
- Motion to approve Treasurer's Report, by Chris Crawford, 2nd Steve Lowery ,motion passed

Branch Directors Report

- **Fire:** (Scott Lawson) Reports that plans are in the works for the next legislative session to get the State Aid funds set at \$11,000.00 as this is in the current budget but not made into KRS as law as of yet. Also plans in the works for Recruitment and retention for Volunteer Firefighters. Watch for emails from Ronnie Day to come out soon regarding sending Firefighters to the National Fire Academy for training, currently we are sending the State Instructors but it's a possibility to open this up to Firefighters.
- **Industry:** No Report
- **Farm:** (Joe Hart) Reported that the Department of Agriculture will be doing their annual Farm Census in 2017. As of 2012 there were 2.1 million farms in the United States, the average age of farmers in the United States is 58 years old. There are less young farmers coming into farming than are retiring. 55% of the farms in the United States are considered small farms and one of the reasons for this decline in replacement farmers is loss of profit margins, grain prices, cattle prices are all going down and the futures aren't looking good either. Crops in the state look good, haying has been delayed and some crops haven't been planted and won't be. Remember to stop by the State Fair and check out the Agriculture displays as the State Fair is 75~80% Agriculture themed. President Dobson informed everyone the reason why Agriculture is added with Dixie is that Dixie is the home of the Farm Rescue program and also noted that at the Ky. State Fair the Department of Agriculture and The Kentucky Fire Commission would have a joint booth at the Fair. Currently both entities are working on an MOA to promote safety.
- **Rescue:** No report
- **EMS:** No report
- **Red Cross:** No report
- **Ham Radio:** (Steve Sheets) Steve reported that if the HAM radio operators are needed that they are just a phone call away.
- **State Fire Marshal:** (Chris Crawford) Fire Marshal Haney is getting new equipment for the Fire Marshals, most of the vehicles are at least 10 years old, he is looking to upgrade the fleet. The State Fire Marshals Office is still available 24/7. Call if you need them.
- **Ky. State Police:** (Steve Lowery) reported that some of the Arson guys are retiring and if anyone would like the opportunity to work as a State Fire Marshal to contact Steve and he can get you pointed in the right direction for a possible employment opportunity.

Standing Reports

- SFRT Area 5 (Rusty Todd) Currently 12 of the 59 Fire Departments within Area 5 have turned in their 30 hour request forms and these classes are working on being scheduled. This is the beginning of the busy time period for SFRT as we begin training at departments and Fire Schools as well. Meade County Fire School is coming up September 10th and 11th in Brandenburg, on Sunday there will be a propane class and on Sunday the Fire Blast will be offered, both will be live burns, Survival and Rescue will happen both days and Pump ops will happen both days as well, if you plan on having firefighters attend please make sure they are prepared for these classes. There will also be a basic 16 class as well as an EMS refresher. For anyone attending the live fire classes please make sure that everyone attends with NFPA 1403 compliant gear. Marion County Fire School will be on the 22nd and 23rd of October, Jefferson County Fire School September 25th and 26th. Recently it has been discussed that when Area 5 instructors are at a Fire Department there will be if at all possible hands on skills, Classroom is very important but we have to make sure that if there is skills based training that we do the skills. There will be times with certain classes that require more than one instructor, example is drivers training, this requires more than one instructor to perform this class effectively, however if there is an in house qualified instructor then this will work. Rusty and Ashley are fitting the instructors to the class and the class to the instructor. They system has certain percentages that are required and currently SFRT area 5 is at 100%. We would like to get all classes scheduled before April 15th. There is an upcoming HAZMAT class coming up and it on now, there are currently 19 students enrolled and this class will be at Area 5.
- Ky. Fire Commission: (Scott Lawson) Same as Fire branch directors report, see above
- Kentucky Fire Chiefs: No Report
- Ky. Firefighters Assoc.: (Chris Crawford) The KFA Convention is coming up this weekend. The guest speakers are lined up, Fire Commission meeting will be Saturday between the classes. The State Aid will be addressed and the retirement possibility and tax credit for volunteers. When the Governor comes by the booth at the State Fair we will have shirts for him.

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.*
- *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 has discussed this with Mike Hulsey 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.

- *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: Tickets are available for sale and there were only 1000 tickets printed.
- *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.

New Business

- Dale mentioned that the Dixie Firefighters Association Ag Safety team had a team enter in the human fire truck pull competition at State Fire School this year and came in 3rd.
- Dale sends out a thank you to Dixie for continuing their support to the booth at the Kentucky State Fair.
- The Dixie Memorial is coming up on the 4th Thursday of October and we need to get to work on this as soon as possible. A Committee has been appointed for the 2016 memorial and they are: Joe and Roberta Hart to Chair, Jeannie Sheets, and Richard Peters. Scott will begin work on sending the notification letters out to all Departments ASAP as this has to be completed by the end of August. Catering is being discussed and the committee has been given full reign to get who they want for our event with the e-board's support. The Committee will decide the theme for the event. The budget for the Memorial will be set at \$5000.00 per a motion made by Chris Crawford and 2nd by Wade Hibbs, unanimous approval for this amount. Dale addressed Isaac Myers with the Governor's office and told him the importance of this event. He asked Mr. Myers to please ask the Governor to attend and Scott will email him to this effect.

- Joe Hart has brought up discussion on the Hall of Fame members, they get a plaque and honors but he feels that they should receive a lifetime membership to our organization. Ashley put this in form of a motion that if you are a Hall of Fame member that you get a lifetime membership to The Dixie Firefighters association, second by Chris Crawford, motion passed unanimously.
- Dale is asking for a committee for the Hall of Fame for the 2016 Dixie Memorial and he has asked Wade Hibbs to cover this, Wade Hibbs gladly accepted and reported that he doesn't need a committee due to the fact that he has already completed the work necessary for this year's Hall of Fame.
- Bill Mullins reported that the Paul Banse Scholarships are ready to be awarded and the recipients are: Steve Sheets for \$500.00, Ashley McWaters for \$500.00 and Branden Martin for \$400.00, Congratulations for this semesters scholarship winners and we look forward to the next Scholarship period. 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.
- The November 17th meeting will be a joint effort between Dixie Firefighters Association and the Green River Firefighters Association in Leitchfield at their Primary Station. We have confirmed this with Chief Tim Duvall. Ashley made a motion to increase the Joint meeting budget from \$150.00 to \$300.00, second by Scott Lawson, motion unanimously passed.
- We are swearing in all officers of the Dixie Firefighters Association at this point, all officers responded to the oath as administered by Freddie Dewitt.
- There has not been a President for Elizabethtown college as of yet, Rusty feels like there will be an interim appointed around the first 2 weeks of September.
- 2017 Dixie Fire School planning meetings are due to begin around September/October 2016.
- Recently there was a Hodgenville Police Office that lost his home to a fire. Rusty reported that a go fund me page has been set up for him and his family and would like to see The Dixie Firefighters Association send him \$100.00. There was discussion to this effect, Rusty made the motion, 2nd by Rhonda Young.
- There will be a Safety Day for all employees in Loretto on August 12th at Peterson Farms. They have asked for Share the road, Farm Safety and Grain Rescue.
- Next Saturday August 6th will be the 2 year Anniversary for the line of Duty death at Glendale Fire Department, Richard Peters announced that there will be an unveiling of a dedication of a stretch of Highway 222 from New Glendale Road to Roby Drive that will be dedicated Saturday evening at 1800 hrs. all are welcomed to attend. Dale offered the Dixie trailer, canopy, whatever they may need in support of this event.

Door Prizes: We had a large amount of door prizes from several sponsors and they were: RCS Communications, Fire Dept. Service and Supply, Uncle Ham's Bar-b-que and Dixie Firefighters Assoc. all contributed to the door prizes. The following were winners: Joe Barnes, Bill Mullins, Rusty Todd, Jerry Young, Dale Dobson, Joe Hart, Roberta Hart, Scott Thompson, Wally Sparks, Chris Crawford, Scott Lawson, Branden Martin, Kerry Monin, Carol Thompson, James Keith, James Musk, Eldon Morgan, Wade Hibbs, Isaac Myers, Mike Hatfield, Mike Cottrell, Mark Malone, Ashley McWaters, Freddy Dewitt, Brian Carnell, Corey Lanham, and Karl Lusk.

Announcement

- **Next meeting: September 22nd at Northeast Nelson Fire Protection District Station 1 at 1900 hours.**

Adjournment

Motion made to adjourn by Mark Malone, second by Rhonda Young, motion carried unanimous at the recorded time of 2049 hours.