

Dixie Firefighters Association
Official Business Meeting Minutes
SFRT Area 5 Training Center, Elizabethtown, Ky.
February 23, 2017

Members Present: 37

Guests Present: 3

Officers Attending

X Dale Dobson- President

X Mike Cottrell – Vice President

X Bill Mullins– 2nd Vice President

X Scott Thompson – Secretary

X Steve Sheets– Treasurer

X Froman Peters– Sgt. at Arms

X Present Absence

Meeting Called to Order: by President Dale Dobson 1856 hrs.

Meal Blessing: Chaplin Bill Mullins

Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Jeremy Goodman

Presentation of certificate of appreciation:

- Presented to SFRT Area 5 Coordinator Rusty Todd

Recognitions: Our guests for the evening

- Mac Cann, Western Ky. University, Mike and Rhonda Wolford

Secretary's & Treasurer's Report

- Motion to approve Secretary's Report from January 25th meeting, Motion by Scott Lawson, 2nd by Mark Malone, motion carried unanimously.
- Motion to approve Treasurer's Report, Motion made by Steve Lowery, 2nd by Scott Lawson , motion carried unanimously

Branch Directors Report

- **Fire:** (Scott Lawson) Green River Officers school coming up this weekend and Dixie Fire School coming up on the weekend of the 10th. Good turnout at the Firefighters day in Frankfort, good representation, Scott mentioned that if you do not contact your representatives, don't complain about what is going on, you have to make your voice heard. HB 60, reports show that is very positive, Scott doesn't feel like that will be stopped; this will increase incentive pay and make our state aid into law at \$11,000.00. Senate Bill 104 is going to pass; this is for legislator's retirement. HB114 which deals with veterans owned businesses. HB296 which deals with Workman's Comp, they are wanting to put a cap on it, so if a volunteer firefighter gets hurt and paralyzed, within 15 years the funding would be cut off, Scott encourages everyone to please read more about it and make the call to stop this bill. HB190 deals with the Fallen Firefighters memorial license plates, all money from the sale of these plates would go to the Fallen Firefighters Memorial in Frankfort. HB226 which deals with 401 K has passed. Members of the Fire Commission are fighting to get something going for the Volunteer Firefighters to help with recruitment and retention, (**interject Mike Hulsey**) currently there is a bill to give Volunteers a \$1000.00 tax credit that will not pass, However, in September Governor Bevin is calling for a special session to discuss tax reform. Currently we have the Ky. Fire Chiefs Assoc., the Ky Firefighters Assoc. and a couple of Senators that support the credit and at the time of the tax reform the tax credit will go into the tax reform, once this is done then the bill will fly through at the next session so everyone is advised to be patient.
- **Industry:** No Report
- **Farm:** (Joe Hart) February 8th @ 0500 hrs. Clinton Ky, Hickman County Fire Department was called to a working structure fire at the Harper's Hams company. Volunteers from 5 counties, 12 departments battled the blaze for 40 hours on the 100,000 sq. ft. building and it was a total loss. They sold over 200,000 hams a year, several blue

ribbon winners at the State Fair and employed over 60 people who are now out of a job, the fire is still under investigation. In Indiana they had a barn collapse, it was a hoop barn 104' X 60' 12 people were in the barn at the time and 3 were sent to the hospital, this is also under investigation.

- **Rescue:** No report
- **EMS:** No report
- **Red Cross:** No report
- **Ham Radio:** (*Steve Sheets*) Ham Radio operators are ready to respond if needed.
- **State Fire Marshal:** (Chris Crawford) Nothing to report from the State Fire Marshal's office. The agency did speak out against HB228 which would make buildings used for agri-tourism that were previously used for agriculture exempt from required fire protection such as sprinkler systems.
- **Ky. State Police:** (*Steve Lowery*) No report

Standing Reports:

- **SFRT Area 5:** (Rusty Todd) All eyes are on the Dixie Fire School. The delivery of classes to Area 5, all but 2 Fire Departments out of our 59 have had class delivery. Those 2 departments actually did not turn requests in. Some of the 59 departments are near completion. Area 5 is actually adding instructors because we are running behind, this mostly due to the 20 plus 10 hours allowed to each department in which increased the workload by a third. Also with the regular staff having things come up and have pulled back a little but the staff that is active is working very hard, we are lacking a little on the western side of the area ie. Breckenridge, Meade and Grayson county areas. We have 5 new staff members, Frank Garza with Central Hardin FD is our new maintenance person, he just started this week and is doing a great job, one of Frank and Rusty's goals is to treat our training center just like a fire station, get things cleaned up and looking better. 4 new instructors: Billy Keith, also with Central Hardin FD and Hardin County EMS, Todd Spalding with the City of Bardstown Fire Dept., Terry Compton from Meade County Fire Department and Ashley McWaters is also an instructor as well. Rusty has a couple of applications on his desk that he intends to go through the process and a couple more that he is talking to. Scott Lawson reported that Area 5 is #2 in the state out of 15 regions as far as getting classes delivered, Jimmy VanCleves area is in first. Area 5 is at 73%. If you know of anyone that is not getting the emails and communications from Area 5 please let Rusty know as this has been a valuable tool. One example is CPR certifications, a CPR class cannot be held for certification within 3 hours, this takes upwards of 5 hours. To get people certified, there has to be a certain number of students per instructors to receive a quality class. More information about this will be out in the coming weeks.
- **Ky. Fire Commission:** (Scott Lawson) There will be a Fire Commission meeting tomorrow morning at the Green River Officers school, everything is on hold as far as the Fire Commission moving, no one is really clear on anything to do with the move as of yet. There is new gear available for the flashover trailers. Also check out Ky.gov, there are trailers for sale on there for sale. Cribbing is coming in, equipment for the farm trailers has been purchased. More new forcible entry doors, material for the MAX fire box all has been purchased. The Commission is very active, elections will take place at Green River Officers School, possibly a new Chair and or Vice Chair. If you have any needs of questions, please contact one of the Board members. If something illegal happens such as a 1403 violation, the Fire Commission will investigate. Call your area if you are going to do a burn, if there is an issue with a live burn and you haven't done the paperwork, there will be repercussions. If you need help please ask for it.
- **Kentucky Fire Chiefs:** (Mike Hulsey) There will be a meeting tomorrow after the Fire Commission meeting at Green River Officers School. We are keeping a watchful eye on Frankfort, lots of activity there.
 - **Ky. Firefighters Assoc.:** (Chris Crawford) . KFA will have committee meetings Friday night at Green River Officers School. Conference committee meeting also. Saturday morning at 0900 there will be a full KFA meeting; all of these meetings are open meetings to anyone who would like to attend. As Scott and Mike said, there are 2 lobbyists in Frankfort working to keep an eye on things. Scott Lawson mentioned that the biggest thing in Frankfort is holding on to what we have, we may not gain a whole lot but we have to hold on to what we currently have.

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. UPDATE: American income life contacted Steve and the last information that they got was that The Dixie Firefighters Assoc. could offer the same benefits that the KFA are with the 3000.00 accidentla death insurance.*
- *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. UPDATE 1-26-17 Rusty has asked to take this project over and will pursue the Fire Safety House. Rusty is pursuing this through the AFG grant which is a 90/10 grant. He will update as progress is made. Scott Lawson mentioned that local insurance companies like to participate and get their names on things like this, only caution is would the safety house be expected at all of their events where not always trained personnel are there to maintain and operate it. Joe Hart asked whata the rough cost of a safety house would be and Rusty answered with it really depends on what featuers and options it has but roughly 35~40K.*
- *Dixie Fire School update: From the Dixie School meeting held before this meeting, classes are filling up quickly. We are normal for where we are at this time of the year. The tools of the trade class is a little low mostly in part to the class is coded as safety and a lot of students are looking for ventilation and forcible entry. EMS is doing a little something different with the national registry are asking could we do an extra 4 hours of training on Friday night, this is going to happen this year. A PTSD class will be at the training center on Friday night as well so any of the staff that would like to attend they are welcomed to do so, it will be a train the trainer. Within the last few years we have had firefighter suicides. Hotels have been an issue for our school; we really should look into this for next year and contact hotels in advance for the school. Something Dale is doing different this year, he will be giving farmers training hours for the farmers when they attend the Farm Safety Symposium. The insurance companies want farmers to track their training; the push would be for the insurance companies to offer an incentive to the farmers for attending the safety training.*
- *Lori Roberts went to the Fallen Firefighters Memorial in Frankfort and saw that there were some marble benches there. Currently there are 3 benches on display there and there is room for a third. Lori is asking that the Dixie Firefighters Association places a bench there. Motion made by Lori Roberts to purchase the bench for \$3300.00, amended by Scott Lawson with Lori bringing back the design idea for the bench to the February meeting. Seconded by Rhonda Young, Froman asked if the Dixie Counties could be added to the bench with the Dixie logo in the middle. Frank Hall asked if the bench would affect any projects and asked if there was sufficient funds in the bank to cover this, Treasurer Steve Sheets said that after the Dixie School that there definitely would be. Motion going to a vote; motion carried unanimously. UPDATE: Scott Lawson is making a motion to approve the \$3500.00 to Lori for the bench to be purchased for the memorial in Frankfort, let's get this taken care of. The bench will have the Dixie logo iin the center with the county names on each side. Second made by Froman Peters. Lori was supposed to have the idea drawn out and she was supposed to present it at this meeting tonight but she isn't here. We all agree that we will use the old logo. The motion has been amended to first we have to agree to purchase, and then we can approve the design. Amended motion and second are going to vote, motion carried unanimously after discussion.*

- Dixie Paul Banse Scholarships, the scholarships are due as follows: Spring Semester they are due by the September meeting, Fall Semester they are due by the May meeting.

New Business

- Nominating Committee: Chris Crawford reporting: We will be opening the floor for nominations for the eboard of the Dixie Firefighters Association for the next calendar year and these changes will occur after the March Dixie meeting which will be 3/23/17 after the school.

The floor has been opened for a nomination for President of the Dixie Firefighters Association; The nominating committee nominates Bill Mullins as President, current President Dobson has asked for any other nominations twice more, Mike Hulsey made a motion for nominations to cease, second by Rusty Todd, Vote: Bill Mullins for President of Dixie passed unanimously. The Secretary will cast one vote for the President.

The floor is now open for 1st Vice President, the nominating committee nominates Richard Peters for 1st Vice President. Current President Dobson has asked for any other nominations twice and we have a motion to cease nominations by Mike Hulsey, 2nd by Mark Malone. Vote: Richard Peters for 1st Vice President passed unanimously. The Secretary casts one vote for Richard Peters for 1st Vice President

The floor is now open for 2nd Vice President, the nominating committee nominates Martin Bosemer for 2nd Vice President. Current President Dobson has asked for any other nominations twice and we have a motion to cease nominations by Mike Hulsey second by Steve Lowery. Vote: Martin Bosemer for 2nd Vice President passed unanimously. The Secretary casts one vote for Martin Bosemer for 2nd Vice President.

The floor is now open for Secretary, the nominating committee nominates Scott Thompson for Secretary, Current President Dobson has asked for any other nominations twice and we have a motion to cease nominations by Rusty Todd, second by Mike Hulsey. Vote: Scott Thompson for Secretary passed unanimously. The Treasurer casts one vote for Scott Thompson as Secretary.

The floor is now open for Treasurer, the nominating committee nominates Steve Sheets for Treasurer, Current President Dobson has asked for any other nominations twice and we have a motion to cease nominations by Bill Mullins, second by Scott Lawson. Vote: Steve Sheets for Treasurer passed unanimously. The Secretary casts one vote for Steve Sheets as Treasurer.

The floor is now open for Sergeant at Arms, the nominating committee nominates Dale Dobson for Sergeant at Arms, Current President Dobson has asked for any other nominations twice and we have a motion to cease nominations by Mike Hulsey, second by Martin Bosemer. Vote: Dale Dobson for Sergeant at Arms passed unanimously. The Secretary casts one vote for Dale Dobson for Sergeant at Arms.

This concludes the elections for the Officers of the Dixie Firefighters Association, swearing in will occur at the March meeting which will be held at the New Haven/Rolling fork Fire Department. For clarity these offices are elect positions until officially sworn in, current officers will remain in power until the March swearing in ceremony.

The membership would like to thank President Dale Dobson for a job well done in his tenure as President of this association with a round of applause.

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: Joint Meeting with the Green River Firefighters Assoc. location will be at Thruston Philpott Fire Dept.

Door Prizes: Donations from the Dixie Firefighters Assoc. Winners were Mike Hulse, Brittany Blair, Benjamin Hart, Scott Lawson, Bill Mullins, Tim McClure, Wade Hibbs and Mike Cottrell.

Announcement

- **Next meeting: March 23rd at 1900 hrs. at the New Haven/Rolling Fork Fire Department, there will be a Dixie Fire School wrap up meeting beginning at 1800 hrs.**

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned by President Dale Dobson at 2013 hrs. EST.