

This Meeting
Was
Dedicated
To The
Memory of
Ivan Meeker

Firemen's Legislative Federation of Pennsylvania
Saturday April 22, 2006

President Mike Whitzel called the meeting to order at 9:15 AM.

The invocation was given by Robin Johnson, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call of officers was taken.

Mike Liles made a motion to dedicate this meeting to the memory of Ivan Meeker; Dale Myers seconded the motion. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

Copies of the minutes from the last meeting were handed out and everyone was given time to review them. Chuck Murphy made a motion to accept the minutes; Dale Myers seconded the motion. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

Officers Reports:

2nd Vice President, Mike Liles. Mike attended the Congressional Dinner and he is currently working on the by-laws.

1st Vice President, Robin Johnson. Robin also attended the dinner and went to see some of the legislators while there.

Directors Reports:

Chairman of the Board of Directors Fred McCutcheon: Fred recommended that the motion that was made at the Board of Directors meeting to diversify the current investment account to 30% Income, 50% Balanced and 20% to Growth Income be accepted. Robin Johnson made a motion to accept the recommendation; Tom Savage seconded the motion. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

At the recommendation of Treasurer, Pierre Kline, Fred McCutcheon made a motion that the current IRS gas mileage rate be used to reimburse people for trips; the motion was seconded by Joe Deeney. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

Fred McCutcheon made a motion to change the fiscal year from June to January; the motion was seconded by Joe Deeney. It was noted that additional cost will be incurred because two audits will have to be done the first year. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

Tom Savage made a motion to pay Fred McCutcheon's expenses for the CFSI Dinner; the motion was seconded by Robin Johnson. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

Robin Johnson made a motion to pay Miles Dooley's expenses for the CFSI Dinner; the motion was seconded by Ed Kipp. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

Fred McCutcheon made a motion to change the by-laws to read that the organization will hold a minimum of three meetings per year, one to be the Annual meeting in the late fall and the meeting dates to be set at the discretion of the Board; Tom Savage seconded the motion. Question on the motion; could the meeting notice be sent out at least 60 days in advance so that people who do not have access to the web-site will have time to make their reservations 30 days in advance. It was noted that the meeting dates for 2006 have already been set and you may make your reservations for the meetings now. The meeting dates for 2007 will be set by the end of the year and people can make their reservations as soon as the dates are announced. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

Fred McCutcheon made a motion to pay for the Hotel and dinner for the people attending the Strategic Planning meeting this weekend; Robin Johnson seconded the motion. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

Ed Kipp told the group he went to the CFSI dinner and people should not be going just for the dinner, but should be meeting with the legislators while they are there.

President's Report:

Mike Whitzel reported that he has been in contact with Penny and Tom regarding the service with the Institute. The officers of the Federation need to be sure to get information to Penny. Mike attended Fire Company Banquets.

Delegates Reports:

Fred McCutcheon gave the report for Ernie Rojahn. Fred reported that the Federal Grant Program has been drastically cut because of bureaucracy issues. Senators Santorum and Specter need to be contacted as well as each Congressman from Pennsylvania. If some action is not taken by the fire service the grant program will eventually come to an end. There was some discussion on what the Federal Grant money is being spent on. Fred made the suggestion that the SR60 petitions be taken to the voting poles to be signed by the voters.

Mike Whitzel gave the report for Robert Timko, NVFC. Mike reported that the NVFC has set their priority list for 2006. It consists of the grant program, Safers grant program, volunteer and EMS personnel job protection Act, US Fire Administrative funding, tax incentives for volunteer fire and EMS personnel, Good Samaritan volunteer assistance act, cigarette fire safety act, and fire sprinkler retro fitting. Bob Timko will be at the next meeting and will give a detailed report then.

Tom Savage, PFESI. Tom reminded everyone of the Fraternity program, the Golf Tournament on May 17, and the Baseball/Picnic on June 10th. If anyone is interested in working at the Fire Expo in May they should contact Tom. The SR60 packet has been out for some time now. There is a need to get the information to the local level. It needs public support. Tom told the group that the fire caucus has not been meeting and nothing is being done for the fire service.

A handout of the SR60 supported bills was given out. Tom reviewed the bills with the group. Tom told the group that some of the bills are being passed by the House or by the Senate, but not by both so they never get to the Governor to be signed into law and if they don't get passed by both the House and Senate they mean nothing. Tom went on to review the handout of House and Senate bills of interest. Tom told the group if there is a bill that is of interest to them and they want to have it tracked please let him know. There are at least 300 plus bills that relate to fire and EMS issues and it is a waste of time for him to track all of those bills when they are going nowhere. He does have the system set up so that if there is any movement on bills he will be notified. Tom pointed out HB 881; a modification of the UCC code that would virtually eliminate sprinklers in residential structures. He said this is a bill that should be opposed by the fire service. The builders association wants to have this bill passed.

Tom went on to talk about what Curt Weldon has done for the fire service and what the organization might be willing to do to keep Weldon in office. Tom stated that it would be wise for the fire service to support someone who is supporting them.

Old Business:

The ruling of the Department of Justice was overturned by the court of appeals regarding the Chris Kangas issue. The Department of Justice has 60 days to appeal the decision to the full court.

Committee Reports:

Management and Budget: Joe Deeney was appointed the new chairman of the committee, and Terry Sheetz has been added.

New Business:

It was suggested that a credit card be issued for the treasurer so if a situation comes up where funds are needed immediate it can be taken care of. Joe Deeney made a motion to get a credit card for the treasurer of the organization; Robin Johnson seconded the motion. Question on the motion: Some discussion took place on whether the card should be a credit card or a debit card. It was decided that it should be a credit card. Will the card have a limit? The bank will set the limit on the card. There was a recommendation that when the card is used it be paid in full in the 30 day time period so as not to incur any late fees or interest. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

Mike Liles read the suggested change to the by-laws regarding the change of meetings. A notice will be sent out to the membership and the change will be voted on at the next meeting.

Mike Whitzel asked for help at the Harrisburg Expo. Anyone who wants to help may call Penny at the office with the time they will be available. Fred McCutcheon will take care of getting the help he needs for the Pittsburgh Expo.

Joe Deeney made a motion to pay for the table at the PFESI Annual Conference; it was seconded by Ed Kipp. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

Robin Johnson made a motion to send a letter in support of Dave Paulison as the PEMA Director; the motion was seconded by Ed Kipp. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

Mike Whitzel suggested that the Legislative Federation buy lunch for the Fire Caucus Co-Chairs and discuss important issues. Mike asked that the Institute facilitate the meeting. Ed Kipp made a motion that the Federation work with the Institute to arrange a meeting with the Fire Caucus Co-Chairs; Robin Johnson seconded the motion. **Motion Carried Unanimously.** Tom suggested that a list of who will be at the meeting from the Legislative Federation be given to Penny.

Fred McCutcheon made a motion to send a letter to Representative Allen to oppose HB 881; Robin Johnson seconded the motion. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

Situations have come up when a decision needs to be made and it cannot be done because it has to be approved by the Board and there is not enough time to get everyone together. There was discussion that the officers have a certain dollar limit on which they can act for the good of the organization. Tom Savage also informed the group that the Institute can do conference calls and the Federation can use the phone system. This will also be discussed at the strategic planning meeting this afternoon.

Mike Whitzel would like to start a leadership award and name it in memory of Ivan Meeker. Tom Savage made a motion to establish a leadership award and name it the Ivan Meeker Leadership Award.; Robin Johnson seconded the motion. **Motion Carried Unanimously.** It was noted that a criteria for the award needs to be established and well organized. The committee named to draw up the criteria for the award is: Robin Johnson, Chairman, Terry Sheetz, Tom Savage and Joe Deeney.

Financial Secretary's Report:

Joe Schmitt suggested that the dues go to a standard fee instead of \$1.00 per member as it is now. Joe went on to give his report. A list of the bills paid since the last meeting, bills to be paid today, and the auditors report is attached.

The Investments of the organization was discussed and the Invest Program. Tom Savage made a motion that the Legislative Federation join the Invest Program; Dale Myers seconded the motion. Question on the motion: Will the treasurer know what to do? The treasurer will be put in touch with the correct people to put the process into motion. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

Discussion took place on the Treasury Notes and whether it might be a good idea to put them into the Invest Program. The question was asked whether there is a penalty to get out early or not? Joe did not know. Tom Savage made a motion to have Joe Schmitt and Pierre Kline look at the Treasury Notes to see if the organization can get out of them with a reasonable penalty and put them into the Invest Program; Chuck Murphy seconded the motion. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

It was suggested that an automatic transfer of funds be sent to the checking account at pertinent times of the year instead of Pierre having to call every time he needs to have money moved.

Fred McCutcheon made a motion to pay the bills for today and outstanding bills; Joe Deeney seconded the motion. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

Good of the Order:

The officers of the organization need to be reminded of their obligations and Directors need to attend meetings. A letter will be sent to the Officers and Directors telling them the date of the next strategic planning meeting and re-enforcing the importance of the meeting.

Robin Johnson thanked President Mike Whitzel for doing an excellent job in trying to steer the organization in the right direction.

Mike Whitzel thanked everyone for attending and told the group that attendance is dwindling and needs to be addressed.

A motion was made by Tom Savage that the Officers and Directors be empowered to operate and execute for the organization between now and the next meeting; Dale Myers seconded the motion. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

After discussion of whether the motion for the officers and directors to be empowered to operate for the organization between meeting needed to be in the by-laws, it was determined that the motion did not need to be in the by-laws, but if an amendment is made to the by-laws it will not be necessary for a motion to be made at every meeting. Chuck Murphy made a motion that the by-laws be amended to reflect that the Officers and Directors be empowered to operate and execute for the organization between meetings; Fred McCutcheon seconded the motion. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

Fred McCutcheon made a motion to adjourn; Dale Myers seconded the motion. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted

Penny Biter
Recording Secretary