

Firemen's Legislative Federation  
Meeting  
March 19, 2005

President Mike Whitzel called the meeting to order followed by the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call of Officers was taken. In attendance were: President, Mike Whitzel, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Robin Johnson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Mike Liles, Recording Secretary, Penny Biter. Excused were: Financial Secretary, Joseph Schmitt Jr. and Treasurer, Pierre Klein. Also in attendance were: Three Year Directors: Ron Hereda, John Johnson, Ernie Rojahn and Bill Knox; Two Year Directors: Tom Savage, Dave Anderson, Vaughn Seigworth, and Miles Dooley; One year Directors: Larry Baughman, James Carstater, James Mullane and Chester Seleski; Honorary Directors: Fred McCutcheon.

Everyone received a copy of the minutes. Tom Savage made a motion to accept the minutes; it was seconded by Dave Anderson. **Motion Carried.**

President Mike Whitzel told the group that they would be breaking from the normal order of the meeting to allow Bob Timko to give his report from the NVFC because Bob had to leave as soon as he was finished.

Bob Timko reported on the Fire Grant Program. He also told the group that the PSOB's now included heart attack, but no pay-outs have been made yet. Bob went on to tell the group that legislation is being monitored regarding sprinklers. In the House it is House Resolution 1131 and in the Senate it is Senate Bill 512. Legislation regarding The Good Samaritan Act has been introduced again. The Safer Bill – no money was included for it in the President's budget, but Congress will probably propose funding for the program. The NVFC will again be attending the Fire Expo and pushing the Heart Healthy program. Bob invited everyone to stop by and have their blood pressure and cholesterol checked. The NVFC will be meeting in Reno. Fred McCutcheon made a motion to send a letter from the Legislative Federation to Pennsylvania's Senators encouraging them to support the Hometown Heroes regulations and the PSOB program, and to make payments where appropriate. The motion was seconded by Dale Myers and **Carried.**

### **Officers Reports**

Directors – None

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Mike Liles. He is working on the By-Laws

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Robin Johnson. He is working on the budget. He is addressing the issue of giving people a deduction for staying at the hotel.

President, Mike Whitzel. Mike met with Tom to see what should be done regarding the partnership with PFESI and the Federation.

Treasurer's Report. President Mike Whitzel read the report. A copy is attached. Dave Anderson made a motion to accept the treasurer's report; it was seconded by Robin Johnson. **Motion Carried.**

President Mike Whitzel introduced Dr. William Jenaway. Dr. Jenaway spoke on SR 60. One of the important items that was brought up was that there is no mandatory training requirements in SR60. Dr. Jenaway told the group that the entire package for SR 60 will need to be pushed. No one should pick specific items out of it to push. He also told the group that the Emergency Service Organizations have to stick together. Tom Savage will be monitoring legislation and will know what is introduced and what will be moving. A question was asked about the \$52 tax and whether there is any possibility that volunteers will not have to pay it. At this time there are many rumors regarding the tax and some municipalities have not adopted it so there is no relief at this time. Dave Anderson made a motion to support SR 60 as written; it was seconded by Mark Kramer. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

The group went on to discuss ways to get the word out to the public regarding SR60 and where the funding will come from. Some suggestions were discussed, but the conversation centered on making a video tape and having copies of it made. Fred McCutcheon made a motion to produce a video tape, but not to exceed \$5,000. The motion was seconded by Robin Johnson. Question on the motion. Is \$5,000 enough to produce a good video? Since this is such an important issue corners should not be cut and the video should be a professional one. Discussion followed on the cost to produce the video. It was suggested that other groups help with the cost to produce the video. Ron Hereda told the group if they come up with some figures he would take it to the Firemen's State Association and ask them to help with the cost to produce the video. Fred amended his motion to produce the video but not exceed \$10,000; it was seconded by Robin Johnson. A vote was taken 10 Nay – 9 Yea. **Motion defeated.** More discussion followed. Jim Mullane made a motion that a committee be appointed to obtain prices to produce a professional video; then take that to the Board of Directors and to send a letter to the State Association asking them to help with the cost to produce the video; Steve Shank seconded the motion. Question on the motion; the letter should be sent to other organizations also, not just the State Association. Jim amended his motion to include other associations; it was seconded by Steve Shank. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

President Mike Whitzel appointed Bill Jenaway, Tom Savage and Lori Gillon to the committee to get pricing to produce the video. Bill, Tom and Lori will send the results they get to Penny at the Institute office and Penny will forward it on to Ron Hereda at the State Association.

Mike Whitzel introduced Ray Lonabaugh, National Fire Sprinkler Association. Ray spoke on a residential sprinkler ordinance that was passed in Carroll Valley. The PA Builders Association appealed the ordinance. Carroll Valley won the appeal and the Builders Association is taking the case to the PA Supreme Court. Another township has passed a sprinkler ordinance and the Builders Association is appealing it also. The Builders association wants the building code to be a mini-maxi code so local municipalities cannot amend it. Right now the code is a minimum code, which means local municipalities may amend the code.

Tom Savage, PFESI gave his report. Tom introduced Vince Difilippo, who is the Statewide Advisory Board Chairman. Tom went over several hand outs. He told the group the Institute would not be making copies of the legislative reports any more. The report is getting too long. Right now it is 31 pages and he is tracking over 100 bills. The report will be available on the PFESI website. Tom reported that the Executive Committee of the SWAB met and agreed to champion the cause of SR60. HB599 is the grant bill that passed the House. Tom went on to tell the group that June 11 will be the Institute's Picnic/Ballgame. June 11 is also the next SWAB meeting so for anyone who travels they can go to the SWAB meeting in the morning at 10:00AM, the picnic in the afternoon at 3:30PM and the ballgame in the evening at 6:00PM. Tom encouraged everyone to go the website and sign up for the email distribution list.

Fred McCutcheon gave the Board of Directors report. There was one opening for the CFSI dinner if anyone wanted to attend. Mike Liles will attend. The Board recommended that the organization support the Carroll Valley Ordinance. Steve Shank made a motion to Support the Installation of Sprinklers in all new buildings, both commercial and residential, along with retro fitting any old buildings in the Commonwealth, and support any municipalities in their efforts to achieve this goal; it was seconded by James Mullane. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

The group discussed the National Benefit Summit in New York. Ron Hereda made a motion to support two people to go to the 2005 National Benefit Summit in Albany, New York; it was seconded by Robin Johnson. **Motion Carried Unanimously.** Dave Anderson and Ed Kipp will be going.

The group discussed a 5 year Strategic Plan. Dr. William Jenaway had offered to help put together a strategic plan for the organization. Robin Johnson made a motion to put a committee together to work with Dr. Jenaway on a 5 year strategic plan; it was seconded by John Johnson. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

Ernie Rojahn spoke about endorsing the International Fire Chiefs Training. Irvin Martenas made a motion to support the International Fire Chiefs Unified American Fire Service Position Paper; it was seconded by Dave Anderson. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

### **New Business**

A letter was received from Jim Carstater, raising the question of communications and inter operability. Jim requested to know if there was any interest in addressing the issue. The question was discussed and it was decided that inter operability was more of an operational issue than a legislative issue. It was pointed out that **DEHS** grants required inter operability as part of the grant requirements. The membership decided no to pursue the issue further but stay focused on the existing legislative priorities for the **coming** session.

Tom Savage made a motion to send State Fire Commissioner Ed Mann a thank you letter for everything he does for the Emergency Services; it was seconded by Fred McCutcheon.

**Motion Carried with one person abstaining.**

Mike Whitzel asked the group to consider buying a colored laser jet printer for use at the Institute office. After some discussion Jim Mullane made a motion to pay not more than \$1,000 for a colored laser jet printer; it was seconded by Robin Johnson. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

Ron Hereda made a motion to pay the bills; it was seconded by Irvin Martenas. **Motion Carried.**

### **Good of the Order**

The question was asked if there was anything new regarding the Chris Kangas issue. Tom Savage told the group that Congressman Weldon's people were still working on it but nothing has happened recently.

The organization would like to dedicate this meeting to James Caldwell, who was a member of this organization for a long time. Robin Johnson made a motion to set aside a page in the minutes to the memory of James Caldwell; it was seconded by James Mullane. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

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

**This Meeting  
is dedicated  
to the  
memory of  
James  
Caldwell**