

AVERY FIRE ASSOCIATION
September 5, 2013, Banner Elk Fire Station

The regular monthly meeting of the Avery Fire Association was called to order by President Paul Buchanan at the Banner Elk Fire Station .

Paul thanked Chief Gary Miller for the meal.

Bob Garland moved that "the minutes be accepted as posted". Kennie McFee seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Bobby Powell called the roll and all departments except Elk Park were represented.

Reo Griffith was introduced and he told members it was time to get to their business instead of attending meetings.

Gil Adams representing the Blood, Sweat & Gears bicycle race organizing committee was recognized. He announced a new race called the Beech Mtn Metric to be held May 17th, 2014. The race would pass thru the Banner Elk, Fall Creek, Cove Creek, Beaver Dam and Beech Mountain fire districts. As with the Blood, Sweat, & Gears race - departments helping with the race would receive donations.

Charlie Franklin reported a balance of \$25,408.04 in the Association treasury. He also announced that the six man cooling vests would be stored on the county air truck to respond to all structure calls. He also reported that David Charles was arranging a state to state drill on the Watauga River in the spring. He plans to involve Avery, Watauga, Carter & Johnson Counties. A Hazmat Grant will cover the costs. All departments will be invited to a tabletop class and then a full scale drill would be held the following year in the spring. He reminded members that School Fire Prevention would start in October and that the Fire Safety House was in Avery County. Volunteers would be needed.

Bob Garland gave a report from the Chief's Committee.

Joe Shoupe announced that the Forest Service had purchased a new helicopter that would carry 12 men or 350 gallons of water. He reminded members not to be complacent with all of the summer rain. He hoped every department had applied for the Forestry Grant. He will be offering a refresher class at Green Valley in January asked that all Strike Team members attend.

Members were reminded that noon Friday after the Association meeting is the deadline for the Fire Commission meeting agenda and that the agenda would be out the following Monday before the Commission meeting.

The Secretary was asked to update the Chief's information on the website.

The next Fire Commission meeting was set for September 12th. Members discussed candidates for the 5th spot on the Fire Commission. Dennis Aldridge, Mike Hayes and Gary Miller were

nominated. Members decided to let the representatives decide.

Charlie Franklin asked if he could move his office to the Gwaltney station at Linville Ridge. Bob Garland said the ladder company would be fine with the move.

Upcoming classes were announced:

PPE I & II Banner Elk Sept 30th, Linville Oct 5th, Elk Park Oct 7th, Linville Oct 8th
Fire Streams & Appliances - Bobby Powell

Junior Sluder announced that the Burn Building was being repaired.

Paul Buchanan announced that the Avery County Fair would be September 10th thru the 14th and that the Fire Association and Emergency Management would have a booth with a Fire Prevention theme. Paul asked for ideas & volunteers.

Paul set up a committee to look at the Fire Commission Memorandum of Understanding, the State Statute, each department's Contract and the Bylaws. Members appointed were: Bob Pudney, Mike Johnson & Levin Sudderth. He asked the Chief's of each department to submit ideas and requested changes.

Paul reminded members that the awards meeting would be at the Linville station the end of November. He asked members to consider a fireman of the year and an officer of the year. Charlie Franklin, Gary Miller and David Cornett were appointed to the Awards Selection Committee.

The next meeting was set for the Gwaltney Station at Linville Ridge on Thursday, October 3rd. Chief's will meet at 6:30 pm and the Association at 7:00 pm.

The next Western NC Fire Association meeting will be at the Skyline Fire Department on October 16th.