

## **EVERY FIRE ASSOCIATION**

### **Green Valley Fire Station - February 6, 2014**

The regular monthly meeting of the Avery Fire Association was called to order by President Paul Buchanan. Paul thanked Kennie McFee and the members of the Green Valley Fire Department for the meal. Kennie moved that the minutes of the January meeting be approved as presented. Bob Garland seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously. Roll was called and all were represented except Elk Park and Banner Elk.

Scott Nelson with Blood, Sweat & Gears Bicycle Race addressed the group. The BSG race had been run in Watauga County for 16 years with substantial donations to fire departments and other non-profits. He explained a new race was being planned called the Beech Mtn Metric which would ride thru Banner Elk, Heaton, Fall Creek, Beaver Dam, Cove Creek, Valle Crucis and finish on Beech Mountain. Monies would be donated to departments helping with the race. Paul agreed to do a "Incident Management Team" for the event as training open to all county departments and EMS.

Tony Cook addressed the group and announced that a "Critical Incident Debriefing Team" was forming to serve Avery & Watauga Counties and handed out contact information (Kristin Harmon, 828-263-0121 or [kharmon@apphs.org](mailto:kharmon@apphs.org)). He also discussed the "Parade of Lights" in McDowell County each fall. He offered to head up a group in Avery County to put one together.

No report was received from the treasurer and the Fire Marshal's office.

Members discussed the request to sign a mutual aid agreement between the Avery Fire Association and Mayland Tech when men and equipment are used at classes. The request was approved. Melissa handed out class schedules and asked for training aid ideas for her budget. She also asked if all departments were getting her emails.

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

Joe Shoupe reminded members that fire season would crank up again as soon as the weather breaks. He announced Strike Team training beginning February 20th at his office at 6:00 pm with a Wildland Simulator. Food would be provided.

Paul discussed integrating an Emergency Management Program into our website when it is being re-worked this summer. The software program would allow an inventory of each department's equipment to be loaded into the website as a tool in case of a major incident.

Charlie reminded members that budgets were due by the 15th.

Members discussed the Western North Carolina Fire Association meeting at the Camp at Eseeola Lodge October 15th. Members agreed to put \$ 2,000 in the budget towards the cost of the meeting and to use it if needed.

The Linville fire department announced a full time job opening.

Paul reported that the Glendale Springs department in Ashe County lost a member to a heart attack.

The next meeting was set for March 6th at the Elk Park Station with the Chief's meeting at 6:30 pm and the Association at 7:00 pm.