

AVERY FIRE ASSOCIATION

Green Valley Fire Station - February 5th, 2015

The regular monthly meeting of the Avery Fire Association was called to order by President Paul Buchanan. Paul thanked the Green Valley Department for preparing the meal. The minutes of the January meeting were approved as posted on the web site. Bobby Powell called the roll and all departments were represented except Elk Park and Fall Creek.

Recently elected District Attorney Seth Banks addressed the meeting.

David Hughes, past President of the Western NC Fire Association was recognized. He thanked the Association for hosting the Fall meeting and said that the Fall meeting made a big impression on the Western Association members. He also noted that the 1st report from the Western Association at the State Association "Summit" meeting in Charlotte - addressed the success of the Fall meeting.

He covered the high points of the January Western meeting: new law allowing UTV's in addition to ATV's on public right of ways during emergencies, new definition of "eligible firefighters" - for benefits, new law making it legal for VFD's to run background checks, 2015 Scholarships are on the state website (\$ 250,000), March 1st deadline for up to \$ 500 per department grant for training from the State Association, 2016 and 2017 State Conference moved to Charlotte, 2017 State Conference will coincide with the International Association of Fire Chief's - Fire & Rescue International Conference, all members of the State Association are now automatically members of the Western Association and ten \$500 to \$1,500 scholarships available from the Western Association.

The next Western Association meeting was scheduled for Jonathon's Creek VFD off of I-40 West on April 15th. The next two meetings would be held in Wilkes County and Taylorsville. John Hall was also recognized.

David Charles was not able to attend. The current bank balance for the Association was \$ 32,452.00 with all bills paid.

The following training classes were announced:

Life Safety - Frank Fire Station - February 16th, Hazmat - Seven Devils (will email dates), NIMS 300 - Linville - February 16th, Maps - Mayland Tech - Newland - February 21st, and Chief's 101 - New Class (come 1st 4 hours to update) Parkway Station 2 - April with Kevin Gordon.

Charlie Franklin reviewed the "Earth Quake Part III" training exercise in the Parkway/Green Valley area. Table-top pre-planning will be held on February 24th at Mayland. He also noted that Unimin Corporation wanted to do a simple exercise similar to the Red Hill call the end of February.

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

Dale Laws reminded members that winters with light snows usually lead to bad spring brush fires.

Members asked the Fire Commission to consider meeting earlier to accommodate the State Grant deadline.

Members discussed fire call pictures on social media. John Hall agreed to see if VFIS has a resource for a county wide policy.

Paul Buchanan reminded members that budgets were due. He also noted that he was checking with David Charles to see if his budget would allow for the purchase of a ceremonial bell and black bunting for two trucks. He was also going to check with Woodman of The World and the Beech Mountain Metric for donations towards this project.

The next meeting was scheduled for March 5th at the Elk Park Fire Station at 6:30 pm. The next Fire Commission meeting was set for: February 12th at 7:00 pm

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

-- Jim Brooks, Secretary