

AVERY FIRE ASSOCIATION

Elk Park Fire Station - March 1, 2018

The regular monthly meeting of the Avery Fire Association was called to order by President Bobby Powell. Roll was called and all departments were represented. Bobby thanked the Elk Park members for a Ham & Chicken dinner.

Members were addressed by Derek Paduch with the Woodman of the World Life Insurance Society. He offered to help departments with financial services to include: IRA's and Life Insurance. He also offered to help with fund raising.

Steven Beckett with AirMedCare also addressed the group offering medical flight insurance for \$65 per year for the entire household.

The minutes of the February meeting were approved with one change: the system that will reach all phones in a cell tower area - listed, unlisted, cell, permanent residents and travelers alike was changed from: Code Red to: Hyper-Reach.

Paul Buchanan reported an Association bank balance of \$ 46,441.15 with all bills paid. He also discussed recent problems with active shooters and encouraged each department to pre-plan all churches and schools in their districts. He asked that departments call his office to arrange an appointment to do schools. An Active Shooter drill with the sheriff's department would be planned in the future. He reported that Linville Ridge had reached out to his office and requested a table top wildfire drill.

Joe Shoupe explained that Chief Jimmy Isaacs had been part of the Gatlinburg review team and that he offered to do a presentation for the Association. Members agreed to let him come to the Crossnore or Frank meeting and to start the meeting at 6:00 to allow for the 2 hour presentation. Joe also announced that 2 single engine air tankers and a mobile retardant base were now available. The air tankers would have a one hour response time. He announced that the new County Ranger in Watauga County was: Anthony Harmon - previously in Ashe County

Melissa Phillips announced that the daytime classes were well attended. She handed out upcoming class schedules and explained that she met with the committee at 3 mile.

Bobby Powell noted that he was still working on a rating and water hauling class.

There was no Chief's Committee meeting.

Members discussed a group buy on \$2,000 dual band Viper/VHF radios that would be more functional than Viper radios. They also discussed truck mounted systems and systems for dispatch that could patch Viper to VHF frequencies.

Bob Garland thanked Charlie for all his recent efforts.

Brian Bodford reported from the committee that reviewed the Children's Fire Safety House and the offer from Watauga County to sell their 1/2 interest. He said that it wasn't worth much and that they found one for sale online for \$3,500.

Paul Buchanan unveiled the new County Ceremonial Bell mounted on a rolling case built by Jeff Hughes. The bell & case will be on display in the County Commission meeting room. Members voted to send Jeff Hughes, Toe River Cabinet Company a letter of thanks for his donation.

There being further business, the next meeting was set for Thursday, April 5th, 2018 at the Crossnore Fire Station with the Chief's meeting beginning at 6:30 unless Jimmy Isaac's presentation can be scheduled.