

Avery County Firefighter's Association
Gwaltney Station
4 October 2018

Chiefs' meeting

Chiefs reviewed Minutes from AFCA.
Brooks went over the ACBC and ACFC joint meeting.
Brooks went over the ACFC minutes.
He read Charlie Franklin's memo (see addendum 1.)

The regional grant-

There was difficulty finding departments with a competitive need for radios, airpacks, or turnout gear. Honeywell updates eliminated many departments from applying for airpacks (AFG demands that new packs replace old packs that are two cycles out of compliance.)

Banner Elk will host for Scott Airpacks for federal grant.

Brooks continued by addressing AED pads and drug replacements.

Crossnore has a drone for rescue and search. It is at the disposal of all departments, and crossnore can be dispatched to bring drones and operators.

Discussion about changes to employee policy took place:

Crossnore: Two employees need not be present at station all day. Shifts that overlap only a few hours could extend coverage to high risk times that are currently not covered by employees.

Kenny suggested that chiefs should have discretion for scheduling employees to cover their unique needs. Bodford concurred.

Mark mentioned that employee coverage hurts volunteer response.

Garland suggested that Chiefs submit their ideal plan to fire commission before next ACFC meeting.

General Membership:

Red Cross was in attendance. From the community of Beech Mountain, outlined the services of the American Red Cross.

Bill Beutell visited the ACFA to speak on behalf of Virginia Foxx.
Last months minutes were approved.

Scott read the balance of the Association's account.

No report from fire marshall's office.

Tabletop exercise will take place

Melissa delivered a copy of upcoming classes.

Garland declined to report on the chief's meeting, as most in attendance had also been present for the chief's meeting.

911 committee: Garland reported that Newland's complaints with dispatch resulted in the reprimand of the dispatcher involved. Further incidents should be documented and forwarded to chief Garland. Improvements to cellular geolocation at dispatch have been implemented.

Dale reported that classes at forestry have been rescheduled.

Fire Commission report had been covered at chief's meeting.

New business

Scott spoke about the joint meeting between ACFC and ACBC. He reiterated the importance of attending the regular meetings of the fire commission.

Levin mentioned that the dive tender class scheduled at linville station has been postponed for lack of attendance. It is expected to resume in march and more participants are needed. Interested firefighters should contact linville FD and submit their contact information.

Levin solicited suggestions for the november meeting (ACFA awards) as well as nominations for firefighter of the year.

Scott reported on the Avery Fair. He asked the group to consider spending money on the booth in order to have a more attractive presence. Levin mentioned that the association was offered a larger space. No action was taken.

Bodford suggested that a billboard be rented outside of newland in order to advertise for volunteers.

Bob Pudney suggested a line in the budget for recruitment and retention.

Scott offered to form a committee for recruitment in order to develop a continuing program.

Bodford, Ken Sherrod, and Garland were appointed.

Scott mentioned that the EM festival had not been forgotten.

Scott addressed the AFG discussion that transpired during the chief's meeting. No objections were raised to Banner Elk hosting a regional grant application for SCBA.

Mark wanted to discuss association action on the fire commission and county commission's meeting. It was pointed out that Blake Vance admitted that the proposal (Fall Creek chief's minutes) would not be addressed by the county commission. Scott offered to request another meeting with county commissioners.

Mark suggested that we send a list of non essential services provided by fire departments and use them as leverage to get more representation on fire commission.
No action was taken.

Ken motioned. Brooks seconded.

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Avery County Firefighter's Association 2018-2019 Committees

By-Laws/SOG's Committee: *Bob Pudney, Rob Hancock, Bobby Powell, Mark Taylor

Regional AFG 2018 Committee: *Bobby Powell, Charlie Franklin, Bob Garland

Awards Ceremony Committee: *Levin Sudderth, Dean Gibbs, Mike Ellenburg

Fire Prevention/Ed. Committee: *Paul Buchanan, Brian Bodford, Gary Miller, Levin Sudderth

County Fire Training Committee: *Ken Sherrod, Paul Buchanan, Dean Gibbs, Gary Miller

Scholarship Committee: To be determined

***If your name is first on the list, you are the chair for the committee**