

AVERY FIRE ASSOCIATION

February 6, 2025 - Avery County Agricultural Extension Center

President Mike Richardson called the Annual Awards meeting to order. Minutes of the January meeting were approved by a unanimous vote. Treasurer Stephen McClellan reported a bank balance of \$10,278.00.

Mike Richardson announced that the association had received a \$ 4,000 donation from the Wicomico County, Maryland Fire Association. He asked members to bring ideas for the use of these monies to the next association meeting.

Cody Laws reported on the radio problems. He was told that the Green Valley radio problem was fixed - but the Linville radio problems were still ongoing. He was trying to get a meeting with the County Commissioners regarding the problems

A Haz Mat tabletop exercise was announced for February 18th at Mayland Tech.

Mike Richardson recognized Kennie McFee and noted that he joined the Green Valley Department in 1976, became chief in 1989 and retired in 2024. Mike presented him with a gold presentation axe & plaque. He also noted that Kennie had agreed to be the Green Valley safety officer.

Mike addressed the membership noting that this was an odd year with the hurricane, a new association president, a new vice president - Robbie Calloway and a new treasurer - Stephen McClellan. They committed to bringing the association back to it's previous level. Mike explained that there would not be a firefighter or 1st responder of the year award as there were too many deserving people with all the efforts made during the hurricane and without help from the county for several weeks. He also noted that our efforts took care of the county. Each department and the County dispatch center were presented a plaque for efforts made this year on behalf of Avery County.

Lifetime Achievement awards were given to: Jim Taylor, Linville Central Rescue, Mitch Banner, Linville Volunteer Fire Department and Neal Reese, Elk Park Volunteer Fire Department . They were recognized for their lifetime of service.

President Mike Richardson thanked Loretta Taylor for the meal that she provided and the meeting was adjourned.