**New Hampshire State Firemen’s Association**

**Meeting Minutes**

**January 25, 2024 NH Fire Academy and via Zoom**

**(Draft)**

**Meeting called to order:** at 18:36 by President Green

**Present:** Tom Green, Chris Wyman, Derek Danis, Cliff Cray, Dan Boynton, John Leonard, Ron Howe, Charles Baraly, and John Lacasse

**Observers:**

**Secretary’s Report:** Minutes from the November 16, 2023 meetings were presented; President Green noted that one change should be made to the minutes.

Motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes and accept the minutes with changes; motion by John Leonard; second by Dan Boynton; motion passed.

**Bills to be Paid:** Eastern Propane bill was paid on this past Monday; bill for O’Keefe Landscaping was paid; it was also noted that a new scanner was purchased for the membership director to use and the Post Office Box was renewed for the year.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Treasurer Danis noted that there were no significant changes to the Association’s finances in the last couple of months; he also noted that the changeover from Putnam to Edward Jones has been completed and is working out well for the organization.

Due to technical difficulties President Green decided to forego the Treasurer’s Report for this meeting. A copy of the Report was sent out to the Board.

**Provident Report:** President Green noted that there still haven’t been a lot of claims over the past couple of months.

**Department Update Reports:**

* **Belknap** (Ron Howe)- reaching out to several departments with no response, in person visits to be scheduled soon.
* **Carrol** (vacant)-
* **Cheshire** (vacant)-
* **Coos** (absent)-
* **Grafton** (Dan Boynton)- nothing currently to report; rumored changes in management at several departments and will be working on verifying changes.
* **Hillsboro** (absent)**-** President Green noted that Manchester Fire has chosen not to renew their membership in the Association.
* **Merrimack** (absent)-
* **Rockingham** (Cliff Cray) – not currently a lot going on; still working on getting the roster from Sandown; Danville still a work in progress.
* **Strafford** (absent)-
* **Sullivan** (Charles Baraly)- nothing to report.
* **2nd Vice President** (Dan Boynton)- hasn’t had any contact with departments in his area; once again offered any help to County Reps should they need it.
* **1st Vice President** (Chris Wyman) **–** nothing to report.
* **President’s Report** (Tom Green) – Amber, the contractor that’s been hired to update the website is making great improvements. Also noted that she has great contacts with the media throughout the region. She has also been very active on our social media accounts and has created a Twitter (X) account for us.
* **Public Relations-** President Green noted that any major events happening with member departments can be sent to Amber for posting on our social media sites.

**Membership Director** (absent)- President Green reported that nothing has been coming in as far as dues and rosters and that the Membership Director and himself are still chasing down departments for them.

Treasurer Danis asked the President to clarify the Association’s position on membership in regards to career departments that are not members of the Association but individual department personnel may be covered as on call firefighter members with another department.

President Green explained that it used to be that if you were employed by a member department as full time but also worked for another department as per diem or on call, each department you worked for had to include you in their membership or roster. This policy was changed such that the department where you worked full time was the department that paid the individual’s dues. As it stands, if an individual is on our list of paid members and files a claim, it will be covered.

**NH Fire Standards & Training Commission:** (absent)– President Green noted that there was no FST Commission meeting this month and there is no report. He also noted that Chief Fraitzl’s term for our seat on the Commission is done in November and he will be refiling for our seat on the Commission in the next couple of days.

**Recruitment and Retention Committee:** no report.

**Committee of Merit** (absent) -

**Memorial Committee:** all bills have been paid; the Association signed up for the Line of Duty Death Fund for the Memorial.

The Committee has also signed up for charitable gaming at the Lucky Moose in Nashua from March 21st to March 31st to benefit the Memorial. The event has been added to our social media to promote the event.

**Legislative Report:** President Green noted that there is currently quite a bit of legislation going on in Concord; HB 182 which prohibits the discharge or discipline of a volunteer firefighter or volunteer medical personnel by their employer when those duties interfere with employment. Bill should pass.

There is a lot of discussion pertaining to amending the retirement rules for firefighters when those firefighters are instructors at the Fire Academy. It will allow retirees to work more hours than currently allowed. This is due to the shortage of Instructors at the Academy.

Derek Danis also mentioned that the Legislature is trying to lower the rates that EMS providers can charge. This will adversely affect many departments around the state.

**Committee Reports:** President Green reported that Larry is working with Chris Wyman on the 125th Anniversary Celebration in conjunction with Merrimack Fire’s 100th Anniversary. Preliminary discussions for the dates are September 6 & 7, 2024 with the 6th being the Annual Meeting and the 7th being a full day starting with a parade followed by vendors and activities at Anheuser Busch in Merrimack. If anyone would like to assist Larry with organizing the Celebration, please contact him.

We’ll also look at new challenge coins for the 125th Celebration. Artwork will be put together and sent out to everyone for their input.

Phone solicitation fundraiser is going well however, it was lower than usual in the previous week’s report. Very few complaints and any complaints or questions about the fundraising come up they are addressed immediately. A discussion followed about the company performing the fundraising and some complaints that the company is going off script. President Green said that he will address this immediately.

**Old Business:** Christmas cards were sent out via email this year.

There was a discussion on changing the name of the Association. History, logistics, and some of the potential pitfalls of any change in name were discussed.

**New Business:** President Green reported that Chris Wyman went before the NH Senate to testify in regards to pre cancer screening for firefighters. It was a very powerful testimony and President Green thanked Chris for his testimony. Chris noted that this will now be presented to the House and to please contact people to support this legislation.

**For the Good of the Order:** nothing to report.

**Next Meeting/Association & Executive Board:** the next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 21, 2024 with the potential location at Epping Fire Department.

**Adjourn:** Motion to adjourn by Chris Wyman; second by Derek Danis; motion passed; meeting was adjourned at 20:18.

Respectfully recorded and submitted by:

John C. Lacasse

Secretary

NHSFA