

**GREENE COUNTY VOLUNTEER FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION
organized 1889**

MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY MEETING

November 01, 2007

Oak Hill-Durham Volunteer Fire Company

Oak Hill, New York

Quarterly GCVFA Meeting held at the Oak Hill-Durham Fire Station on Thursday, November 01, 2007 was called to order by President Peter Alberti at 2010H (8:10pm). Invocation was made by Chaplain Frederick Van Loan, followed by Sergeant at Arms Garth Walker leading the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Charles Fremgen, 1st Assistant Chief, welcomed all members on behalf of host company Oak Hill-Durham Volunteer Fire Company, indicated emergency exits, and offered an invitation to enjoy refreshments after the meeting.

Peter Bennett, 2nd Vice-President, introduced our Guests: Victoria Dichian, Hudson-Mohawk VFA Director for Rensselaer County, Duncan Wilson - HVVFA Director, James Coons - HVVFA Director, George Harp - HVVFA Past Director, Ernest Dunn - UCVFA Past President, and John Tucker - FASNY Credit Union President.

Guest Speaker

John Tucker, FASNY Credit Union President, distributed folios with membership applications, which highlighted the many services and features offered by the FASNY Credit Union. These included information on assets, loans, benefits, shared branching, expanded Internet tellers, and Platinum Master Card.

Health Updates

Pat Pugsley is doing well and working hard.

Reading of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Minutes of the Annual Meeting held September 07, 2007 at D.M. Hamilton Steamer Co. #2 in Cossackie were read by Secretary Linda Gaeta and amended. Motion to Accept the Minutes as Amended by Harold Riverburgh, 2nd by P.J. Pugsley. All in favor. Carried.

Reading of the Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting

Meeting held October 25, 2007 at the Greene County Emergency Operations Center in Cairo. Minutes read by Secretary Linda Gaeta, with Motion to Accept the Minutes as Read by Bob Darling, 2nd by P.J. Pugsley. All in favor. Carried.

Reports of Committees:

- a. Greene County Day at the Firemen's Home
Athens Volunteer Fire Dept., Chairman Robert Schrader
Sunday June 01, 2008 at the Firemen's Home, Hudson
No report
- b. Greene County Drill Day
West Athens-Lime Street Fire Co. No. 1, Chairman John J. Farrell
Sunday June 08, 2008
No report
- c. 2007 GCVFA 119th Annual Convention
D.M. Hamilton Steamer Co. No. 2, Coxsackie
Dean Campbell not available. Financial report submitted by Bill Bennett, total income \$51,254.72, total expenses \$50,355.95, final report forthcoming.
- d. 2008 GCVFA 120th Annual Convention
West Athens-Lime Street Fire Co. No. 1 and
Athens Volunteer Fire Dept. co-hosting,
Co-Chairmen John J. Farrell (755-2715) and James Robinson III (755-3820)
Tuesday September 02 through Saturday September 06, 2008
At Athens Firehouse

Mike Palmateer reported progress of weekly Pizza Night every Thursday, Pancake Breakfasts, Election Day Spaghetti Dinner, and Chicken BBQs as ongoing fundraisers for the Convention.

- e. 2007 Past Presidents Dinner
Chairperson 1st Vice-President Marilyn Schrader
Sunday November 18, 2007 at 3:00pm
Pegasus Restaurant, Route 9W, Coxsackie

Marilyn reported honorees to be Past Presidents Dave Sherman (GCVFA), Cindy Lampman (GCVFA Ladies Auxiliary), Charlie Fremgen (Fire Chiefs Association), and Garth Walker (GCVFPA). Appetizers and cash bar beginning at 3:00pm; choice of roast sirloin of beef or pork with wine, beer, and soda at 4:00pm dinner. Tickets are \$25 before November 12 and \$27 after. Send checks payable to GCVFA to Marilyn Schrader, (518) 945-1313.

- f. 2008 Past Presidents Dinner
Chairman 2nd Vice-President Peter Bennett

Pete reported, “We’re gonna have one!”

- g. By-Laws & Guidelines
Chairman Gary Goodrich

Gary reports Committee meeting scheduled for Monday January 28, 2008 at 7:00pm at the Emergency Operations Center to review and recommend updates and to address issues that have been referred to Committee.

- h. Steering
Chairman Paul Van Valkenburg
No report

- i. Recruitment, Retention, and Membership
Chairperson Secretary Linda Gaeta

Linda reports ongoing projects of completing Membership Roster with 2008 updates, assembling new publicity and recruitment campaign materials from FASNY and other sources, and looking forward to having tables or booths at fairs and conventions, especially Greene County Youth Fair in conjunction with Fire Prevention Day Committee activities. Volunteers for manpower requested.

- j. Legislative
Chairperson 1st Vice-President Marilyn Schrader

Marilyn attended the 74th FASNY Legislative Conference on October 28 at which a budget was submitted and 5 line items voted upon. She presented a formatted letter to be created on each Department or Company letterhead and sent to our Federal House of Representatives legislators requesting support of H.R. 2160, which creates the Volunteer Emergency Services Recruitment and Retention Act and clarifies tax treatment of LOSAPs. Letters forthcoming.

- k. The Booster Line
Chairperson Dottie Jennings

“Still trying to retire”, outgoing *The Booster Line* Editor Dottie Jennings submitted bills for reimbursement of \$85.66, and requested we assist new Editor Maureen Murphy with news for upcoming deadlines of December 01, 2007, March 01, 2008, and June 01, 2008. Maureen has divided news areas and asks

that items be e-mailed directly to her at sarge31@verizon.net or submitted to Dottie Jennings, Mitzi-Su Fremgen, Marilyn Farrell, Margarete Garvey, George Stacey or Peter Alberti at meetings. *The Booster Line* is e-mailed to all who have requested such and mailed to 70 addresses. Maureen submitted bills for total reimbursement of \$261.49, which will cover cost of several issues. Dottie was made a GCVFA Honorary Member, received a gift certificate for dinner at Red Lobster, said, "You might still see me at meetings." We wish her the best with much gratitude for service.

l. Firemen's Home
Chairman John P. Farrell Jr.

Greene County Emergency Services Coordinator and Firemen's Home Trustee John Farrell expressed thanks for all those who marched and joined the festivities at the Dedication Ceremonies for the new Firemen's Home on September 16, 2007. The old building has been torn down, grounds will look better in the Spring. There are currently 86 residents with 47 applications on the waiting list. Higher wait-list numbers represent numbering of applications issued, not applications received.

John mentioned FASNY 2008 Winter Games February 08-10, 2008 at Greek Peak Mountain Resort in Cortland and plans for Explorer and Junior EMS Weekend and Barbeque at the Home. He will be presenting FASNY 50-year membership certificates to George Harp, whom he said "got me into this 12 years ago", and to James Coons.

m. Resolutions
Chairperson Vicki Dichian
Nothing to report

n. Auditing
Chairperson Dawn Smith
No report

o. Fundraising
Chairman Harold Riverburgh

33 clothing bins in place generate \$400-450 per month "for doing nothing".
More locations needed.

Golf Tournament scheduled for Friday, May 16, 2008 at 9:00am at Windham Country Club. Dave Sherman will help with logistics. Will advertise in *The*

Booster Line, Hudson Valley's Firefighter, send mailings to Fire Companies.
Need donations of door prizes.

- p. History Preservation
Chairman Gene Jennings

Complimented former Secretary Deb Sherman for preserving minutes in leather-bound journal. County Convention Plaque being updated with engraved nameplates for D.M. Hamilton Steamer Co. No.2 and Town of Athens' fire companies. Convention ribbons have been added to displays at Emergency Operations Center, but Gene still needs Cossackie 1948 and 1965, and Hunter 1966. Needs photos of new Officers to be taken after meeting tonight.

- q. Nominations
Chairman Carl Sala
No report

- r. Scholarship
Chairman Robert Schrader
No report

- s. Firefighter of the Year
Chairman George Stacey
Nothing to report

- t. Dress Parade Rules, Regulations, and Parade Counters
Chairman John Gaspar

Judges' reports from 2007 Convention Dress Parade presented for review and delivery to fire companies, with copies to archives. Meeting will be scheduled to review rules.

- u. Drill Day and Rules
Chairman Charles Fremgen

Captains' meeting to be scheduled to review maps of footage at grounds as well as to secure equipment commitments.

- v. Fire Prevention Day
Chairman Charles Fremgen

Meetings to be scheduled beginning December 2007

- w. Ski Competition
Chairman Kevin Lennon
No report

Reports of Officers:

- a. Secretary
Linda Gaeta thanked former Secretary Deb Sherman for job-well-done and for restoring use of historic hardcover leather-bound Journal to record Minutes of Quarterly and Annual Meetings. Will maintain ring binder of minutes for review at meetings. Received also from Deb was the GCVFA Seal, and from past Secretary Greg Orin some older Resolutions and Minutes for filing with more to follow.
- b. Treasurer
Mitzi-Su Fremgen reported prior balance \$12,167.79 as of September 06, 2007; Total Receipts of \$1,185.00; Total Disbursements of \$1,169.12; for Checking Account Balance on Hand \$12,183.67 as of November 01, 2007. A detailed report was filed itemizing \$20,791.27 Total Funds in All Accounts as of November 01, 2007.

Motion to Accept Treasurer's Report by Harold Rivenburgh, 2nd by Robert Darling. All in Favor. Carried.

- c. Financial Secretary
George Stacey pointed out that Drill Day will be on a Sunday (June 08th) in 2008. Motion by George that Dottie Jennings be made GCVFA Honorary Member, 2nd by Harold Riverburgh. All in Favor. Carried. Motion by George that Mark Sheline of New Lebanon, President of Hudson-Mohawk VFA, be appointed Honorary Member, 2nd by Fred Van Loan. All in favor. Carried.
- d. 2nd Vice-President
Peter Bennett had nothing to report.
- e. 1st Vice-President
Marilyn Schrader had nothing to report.
- f. President
Peter Alberti thanked Gene Jennings for joining the line of march at the Firemen's Home Dedication and Parade on September 16, 2007, invited and welcomed all Past Presidents to march with GCVFA Officers at all parades.

Expressed gratitude to Chaplain Frederick Van Loan for an outstanding job on the Fireman's Prayer at the 2007 Convention. Requested that scissors and piece of gold ribbon cut by Betty Stacey at dedication of Greene County's new Room W214 at the Home on September 29, 2007 be mounted onto a plaque with pictures of residents and members from Greene County. Motion by Harold Riverburgh, 2nd by Gary Goodrich. All in Favor. Carried. (Victoria Dichian noted that aquarium on the second floor was donated by Greene County.) Requested that Membership Cards be brought to all meetings, events, especially Annual Convention. Thanked Committees for reports. Read e-mail from Henry Frick, Hunter Fire Secretary, stating request for approval for Town of Hunter's several fire companies (Hunter, Tannersville, Haines Falls, and H.D. Lane) to host 2009 Convention. A separate letter from each Chief will be required, but Motion to Approve As Is by Marilyn Schrader, 2nd by Victoria Dichian. All in Favor. Carried.

Coordinator's Report

John P. Farrell, Greene County Emergency Services Coordinator

Updates on the following issues: Cigarette fire safety program involves reporting structure fires with possible cigarette-related ignition to New York State. Must have 100% accountability at fire scenes -- Linstar county-wide accountability program just signed for with delivery in a few weeks, will require photos of all firefighters and auxiliary members to be taken at forestations. Firefighter I class graduating November 02. Meeting with Chiefs, EMS, and Law Enforcement on November 07 to discuss new SOP's. PSAP communication turnover date is December 03 making EOC the primary call center with State Police second. Burn building and garage have more delays, did not pass (all political), would cost \$350,000 to move. Will put out bids in December to be opened in January, perhaps build burn building in April and add garage later. Fire Advisory Board meeting November 15 with legislators/chairpersons to be there -- attend and speak up. Old Catskill emergency 943 telephone numbers currently rolling over to Cairo will be deleted soon with referral message on old lines for 6 months. Sending letter to new NYS Fire Administrator Floyd Madison inviting him to visit Greene County. Invitation to Dave Shepard of Homeland Security to meet with Chiefs at Greene County Emergency Operations Center.

Training Updates

Gary Goodrich

Deputies attended Battalion meetings last month. Need training requirements a.s.a.p. before December 1. Victoria Dichian questioned if child abuse training seminar will be scheduled. Orientation tonight on "blended learning", online lessons plus 5 or 6

classes at the EOC where instructor can go online to check passing or failing status. 18 will graduate Firefighter I class tomorrow, November 02.

GCFIT

Gary Goodrich reports meeting scheduled for next week.

Haz-Mat Team

No report

Hudson Valley VFA News and Concerns

Duncan Wilson, HVVFA Director, reminded all of the HVVFA Past Presidents Dinner at the Georgian Motel in Lake George on Saturday, January 19, 2008 with meeting at 1:00pm and dinner at 5:00pm. Don Winman warned that hybrid cars can be a “high voltage bad thing”. Victoria Dichian advised that Joe Kelly from Wallkill is running unopposed for HVVFA 2nd Vice-President in 2008, but requested support of John Tucker in 2012.

Communications and Bills

1. Letter from H.W. Roger’s Hose #2 and Columbia County Volunteer Firefighters endorsing James Coons for re-election to HVVFA Board of Directors and requesting endorsement from GCVFA at upcoming HVVFA 2008 Convention in Ulster County. Motion to Endorse James Coons for Re-Election as HVVFA Director by Frederick Van Loan, 2nd by Marilyn Schrader. All in Favor. Carried. Letter of endorsement to be written.
2. Letter from Hudson Valley Volunteer Firemen’s Association requesting purchase of advertising space in the 2008 Convention Journal (“Red Book”). Motion to Purchase Full-Page Ad for \$150 by Harold Riverburgh, 2nd by Charles Fremgen. All in Favor. Carried. Ad to be prepared.
3. Bill submitted to reimburse Dottie Jennings for *The Booster Line* supplies and postage, total due \$85.66.
4. Bill submitted to reimburse Maureen Murphy for *The Booster Line* supplies and postage to cover several issues, total due \$261.49.
5. Motion to Pay Bills by Robert Darling, 2nd by Victoria Dichian. All in Favor. Carried.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

Motion to Endorse Joe Kelly for HVVFA 2nd Vice-President in 2008 by George Stacey, 2nd by Marilyn Schrader. All in Favor. Carried. Letter to be written.

Roll Call

27 Members, 5 Guests, and 5 Honorary Members present, 13 Fire Companies or Departments represented, no Associate Companies or Departments represented, 7 Past Presidents, 3 Fire Police, 8 Fire Chiefs, 9 Blue Vests present.

Past Presidents Present

David Sherman (Hensonville 2007), Harold Rivenburgh (Catskill 2006), C.D. Nicholls (Hunter 2002), Gary Goodrich (Hunter 1994), John P. Farrell (West Athens-Lime Street 1992), Eugene Jennings (Oak Hill-Durham 1980), and Robert Darling (Catskill 1975) present.

Location and Dates of Next Meetings

Jan. 31, 2008 Executive Board Meeting at 7:30pm, Greene County EOC, Cairo
Feb. 07, 2008 Quarterly Meeting at 8:00pm, Catskill Fire Company

County Events

Every Thursday Pizza Night from 5:00pm to 7:30pm at Athens Firehouse, Athens
Oct. 27, 2007 Chicken BBQ from 2:00pm to 6:00pm at Athens Firehouse, Athens
Nov. 06, 2007 Election Day Spaghetti Dinner from 4:00pm to 7:00pm at West Athens Firehouse #2, Leeds-Athens Rd., Athens
Nov. 10, 2007 Antique Snowmobile Show and All-You-Can-Eat Breakfast from 8:00am to 1:00pm at Oak Hill-Durham Firehouse, Oak Hill
Nov. 18, 2007 Pancake Breakfast from 8:00am to 12:00noon at West Athens Firehouse #2, Leeds-Athens Rd., Athens
Nov. 18, 2007 Past Presidents Dinner at 3:00pm at Pegasus Restaurant, Route 9W, Cossackie
Dec. 02, 2007 Greene County Christmas Party at 2:00pm at the Firemen's Home, Hudson, hosted by Greenville Volunteer Fire Co. Auxiliary
Feb. 13, 2008 Greene County Volunteer Firemen's Ski Competition at Hunter Mountain
June 01, 2008 Horseshoe Tournament at 8:00am at the Firemen's Home, Hudson, hosted by Athens Volunteer Fire Dept.
June 01, 2008 Greene County Day at 2:00pm at the Firemen's Home, Hudson, hosted by Athens Volunteer Fire Department
June 08, 2008 Greene County Drill Day at Fire District Headquarters on Schoharie Tpke., West Athens, hosted by West Athens-Lime Street Fire Co.

Sept. 02 through

Sept. 06, 2008

2008 Greene County 120th Annual Convention at Athens Volunteer Fire Dept., co-hosted by West Athens-Lime Street Fire Co. and Athens Volunteer Fire Dept.

50/50 Raffle

\$33 prize to Chaplain Frederick Van Loan

Benediction

Given by Chaplain Frederick Van Loan

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn Meeting by Harold Riverburgh, 2nd by P.J. Pugsley. All in Favor. Carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:10pm. Refreshments served.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda J. Gaeta

GCVFA Secretary

February 07, 2008