

Cumberland Valley Volunteer Firefighters Association

Archived News 2009

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14 Nov 2009

Past President Larry Smallwood Dies

Chief Larry Smallwood of Frederick County Virginia has died. Larry served as CVVFA President in 1977. Larry had a long career as a volunteer in Winchester and Frederick Counties at both South End Fire Company and Gore V.F.C. Chief Smallwood was a fixture at the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend in Emmitsburg MD. Each year he was given the honor of leading the Color Guard Procession carrying a chiefs trumpet filled with flowers. As a long time member of the CVVFA Larry held offices in the Association for many years making friends all over the mid Atlantic area. Chief Smallwood was an extremely active fireman in his younger years. He exemplified the best in the volunteer fire service. He will be missed by many and his memory will live on in the CVVFA an organization he loved. Arrangements are as followsppTuesday November 17th-Viewing at the Blue Ridge Grace Brethren Church from 2 to 4 and 6 to 9ppWednesday November 18th Funeral at the church 1 PM The church is off of VA Route 37 at 1025 Cedar Creek Grade Winchester VA 540-667-9399 Memorials may be made to the following Gore Fire Company P.O. Box 146 GoreVA 22637 South End Fire Co. 17 W Monmouth St WinchesterVA 22601

23 Oct 2009

Past Presidents and Convention Locations Now Available as a Download

The CVVFA has updated our Past President and Convention Location List and made it available in a PDF download. This year the list appeared in the Convention Book and will become a regular feature there. We are proud of our Past Presidents as well as our convention host cities. Readers who wish to refer to the list on line may now do so. Click on the title of this story to download or click on the Download tab on the left and find the list there.

06 Oct 2009

We Need Your Email Address

If you do not get electronic communication from the CVVFA you are missing out on the latest information about your organization. Email allows us to reach you our members much faster than ever before. The Association sends important and timely updates on the iCVVFA Express. To get your free email newsletter simply fill out the information in the newsletter box on the web page. Or you may advise us of a changenew email address or sign up initially by sending an email with your name address phone and email address to a [hrefmailto:emailcgvfa.org](mailto:emailcgvfa.org)font. Don't have email If you have a computer with a connection to the internet the CVVFA will provide all our members a CVVFA email address at no charge. If you are not on line but have a family member or friend who has a computer we can still help. Contact Steve Austin for more details. Contact information may be found under the leadership tab on the a [hrefhttpwww.cvvfa.org](http://www.cvvfa.org)www.cvvfa.org.div

06 Oct 2009

Safety Whistles Now Available at CVVFA Store

The world's loudest safety whistle is now stocked at the CVVFA Store. Store Manager Bob Cumberland included the whistle in the store inventory after the CVVFA Responder Safety Institute ERSI field tested the whistle. The ERSI lists the use of a warning whistle during traffic control as a best practice. Want to know more about the world's loudest whistle A feature story on the Storm Whistle is in the works and will be published on a <http://www.respondersafety.com> . Get your whistle now by clicking on the store tab on the left side of a <http://www.cvvfa.org>

06 Oct 2009

Presidents Council Meeting Rescheduled to April 10, 2010 in Clayton DE

Presidents Council Meeting Rescheduled to Saturday April 10 2010 in Clayton Delaware. The CVVFA Presidents Council will meet in Clayton Delaware on Saturday April 10. The meeting host is Delaware Volunteer Firefighters Association Kevin Wilson and the Clayton Fire Company. Kevin announced at convention there will be a social event for the Presidents on Friday evening April 9. More information will be forthcoming. Check for updates.

17 Aug 2009

CVVFA Awarded \$94,200 Firefighter Safety Grant

The Federal Emergency Management Agency FEMA announced the CVVFA has been awarded a competitive Firefighter Safety Grant of 94200. Partnering with Fire Service Publications at Oklahoma State University the Association will produce an Essentials Manual for fire and EMS personnel. The manual or training guide will incorporate the material in Chapter 6I of the 2009 Edition of the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices MUTCD due to be published later this year. Jack Sullivan the Director of Training of the CVVFA Emergency Responder Safety Institute is a member of the 6I committee and along with other content experts will contribute to the new training guide.ppThe MUTCD has increased in importance to emergency responders as the Federal Highway Administration the parent agency of the MUTCD continues to place more responsibility for the fire service to better manage traffic incidents. The CVVFA made the case that the fire service is very familiar with Fire Service Publications products having used them for many years in the training environment. It is perfect way to introduce new safety material to emergency responders.ppThis is the third year in a row that the CVVFA has received a competitive grant from the Fire Prevention and Safety program at FEMA.

10 Aug 2009

260 Members Register for 108th Annual Convention in Newark-Largest Crowd in Years

Newark DE July 30. 260 CVVFA Members registered for the 108th Annual Convention the largest crowd in recent history. It was clear the event would be a big one as 150 members arrived Wednesday evening for Meet Your Host Night. A large crowd attended Opening Ceremonies the following morning and a gathering of members and families spread out behind Fire Station 10 for a unique Luau following the business meeting Thursday. 16 members enrolled and passed the Public Safety Flagging Course Friday morning. The Aetna Ladies and a large crew of firemen worked in the kitchen preparing a full luncheon and a delicious banquet Friday night. A well attended Prayer Breakfast took place Saturday morning before the Convention Parade that stepped off at 12 noon. Aetna Hall was packed after the parade where the paraders ate and drank until after the parade prizes were awarded. It was a convention to remember.

8 States Represented at President's Council Meeting

States from Massachusetts to West Virginia were represented at the CVVFA Presidents Council Meeting during the 108th Annual Convention. Most delegations did not paint a pretty picture regarding victories during state legislative session earlier this year. The sole exception to this trend was the Maryland State Firemens Association who succeeded along with its partners defeating an attempt to dismantle the states world class trauma system by replacing MD State Police Med Vac helicopters with a private service. In addition to individual state reports David Finger from the National Volunteer Fire Council and Sean Carroll of the Congressional Fire Services Institute gave updates on the Fire Act Appropriations and the Re-authorization process for Assistance to Fire Firefighters Grants and the SAFER programs. The overall tenor of the session reflected the concerns of shrinking state budgets and the negative impact to the fire service. The CVVFA Presidents Council was founded in 1985 as a forum for various state fire service leaders to exchange information and develop relationships between the states. The Council agreed to meet again in the early spring in Clayton Delaware.

09 Aug 2009

New Castle County Division of the Delaware State Fire Police Open 108th Convention

The New Castle County Division of the Delaware State Fire Police Color Guard posted colors during the opening ceremony of the 108th Annual Convention in Newark DE. 2008 CVVFA President Jerry Daniels is a member of the Color Guard. Their presence at the convention was a tribute to his leadership. Delaware State Fire Police President Bob Stineman also a member of the Color Guard commanded the unit getting the convention off to an excellent start.

09 Aug 2009

Keynote Speaker Warns of Vehicle Dangers-USFA's Troup Lauds CVVFA's Efforts to Promote Safety

Convention Keynote Speaker Bill Troup of the United States Fire Administration reminded members assembled at the 108th Annual Convention of the dangers associated with emergency vehicle operations. He also spoke of the work of the CVVFA in protecting emergency responders on the highway. As a program specialist at the Fire Administrator and a former paramedic and volunteer fire company president Bill isn't a typical government bureaucrat. He is not a stranger to Newark as his son is a student at the University of Delaware. Of particular interest to the attendees was film footage of high tech traffic dummies who were instrumented to measure trauma in an ambulance crash. Unrestrained dummies received impacts that would be fatal to a human in the same type of impact. Bill also reported on a controversial study that indicates blue is the most visible color for apparatus lighting to avoid crashes. More information on all these projects may be found by clicking on the link associated with this story.

09 Aug 2009

Past President Cumberland Receives President's Award for 2009

Past President and MD Director Bob Cumberland received the CVVFA Presidents Award from Jerry Daniels 2009 President at the 108th Annual Convention held in Newark DE. Cumberlands work in 2009 touched every aspect of the Association from operating the online store to assisting in presenting programs in the Emergency Responder Safety Institute. Said President Daniels amazed at the amount of work Bob does day by day for this Association. He is always there when we need him. I'm honored to be able to recognize his commitment with the Presidents Award. Bob is an active member and a Past Chief and Past President of the Westminster Steam Fire Engine and Hose Company. He is also a Past President of the MD State Firemens Association and the MD State Fire Chiefs Association. He is a Member of the Board of Visitors of the National Fire Academy.

09 Aug 2009

CVVFA Officers and Directors Installed at the 108th Annual Convention Newark DE

Chief Greg Yost Hancock MD 1st VP Walter Robertson Wilson VA President Mike Sullivan Berkeley Springs WV 2nd VP Steve Haines Newport PA 3rd VP

Jerry Daniels Newark DE Past President Director Jim Wharry Newark DE Assistant Chaplain Charles Barnhart Taneytown MD Chaplain Steve Heefner Halfway MD Home Office Manager Third row left to right Harry G. Balthis Elkton MD DE Director Wayne Baker Taneytown MD Past President MD Director Rich Brunner Newport PA PA Director Charles Meyers Shippensburg PA Past President Delegate to the Firemens Association State of PA Howard Scanner Cohen Pikesville MD Attorney Robert Timko New Cumberland PA Publicity Manager Steve McBee Berkeley Springs WV Past President Financial Secretary George Dove Winchester VA Past President Treasurer Gene Worthington Level MD Past President Recording Secretary Steve Austin Newark DE Past President DE Director Gerald Holtry Shippensburg PA PA Director Robert Cumberland Westminster MD Past President MD Director Bill Keller Keyser WV WV Director Harry Alt Keyser WV Past President WV Director Kevin Piatt Annandale VA VA Director Allen Brennan Past President VA Director Rich Toulson Seaford DE 4th LEADERSHIP AND EMERGENCY CALL LIST WILL BE UPDATED IN THE NEAR FUTURE

09 Aug 2009

Firefighter/EMT Kyle Sweetman 2009 Recipient of Chief Gary & Happy Jack & Easton Youth Leadership Award

Kyle Sweetman a Firefighter/EMT with the Aetna Hose Hook and Ladder Company of Newark DE and a career EMT was named Recipient of the Chief Gary Happy Jack Easton Youth Leadership Award. Sweetman is a third generation firefighter at Aetna. His Grandfather Bob Tater Sweetman joined the CVVFA in 1979. Tater and Happy Jack were close friends. Kyles father Dusty is also a member as well as his sister a Cadet at Aetna. His Grandmother Joanne Smokey Sweetman is a member of the Ladies Auxiliary. Sweetman was presented a plaque and will receive a fire helmet of his choice from Kevin Greenlee a Vice President of the Fire Store who sponsors the award. In addition to his fire service career as both a volunteer fire captain and career EMT Kyle is active in his church as a lay leader. Sweetman exemplifies the type of young leader that Chief Easton identified and nurtured at the Berkeley Springs Volunteer Fire Company. Upon his death the CVVFA created the award in his name for young CVVFA members under the age of 22 who show leadership potential at an early stage in their fire service career.

09 Aug 2009

CVVFA hosts CFSI Webinar Live During Convention Lou Amabili Interviewed on America Burning

In a first for the Congressional Fire Services Institute and the CVVFA Louis J. Amabili the founding Director of the Delaware State Fire School gave a historical perspective on how the ground breaking document America Burning was written. CFSI Executive Director Bill Webb conducted the interview. Tom Lewis of CFSI was the producer. CFSI invited Amabili to explain President Nixon's Fire Prevention and Control Commission which led to the writing of America Burning. As a result of their work the National Fire Academy and the United States Fire Administration were established. CFSI had never produced a webinar in front of a live audience. Questions were fielded from on line listeners as well as the audience gathered on the CVVFA Convention floor in the Hall of Aetna Hose Hook and Ladder Company Station 8 in Newark Delaware. Notable on line participants included Dr. Denis Onieal and Dr. Burt Clark of the National Fire Academy. Fire Service members across the nation logged in to the production.

09 Aug 2009

Luau Big Hit at Convention

250 members and their families enjoyed an authentic luau at Aetna Station 10 during the 108th Annual Convention. Chief Brian Hendricks made sure that every guest received a straw hat can cooler leis or many other "island gifts". There was plenty of food and cold drinks along with music. Past President Joe Bukowski and Home Office Manager Steve Heefner wore authentic grass skirts. Volunteer Hose Company of Middletown DE displayed their truck and took several guests up on the platform. Several CVVFA members commented it was one of best social events ever held at a convention in recent memory.

Mini Twister Blows Through Convention

A mini-twister struck Newark during the 108th Annual Convention damaging delegates vehicles parked at the headquarters hotel. The storm hit just as convention goers were returning from the last business session to the Sleep Inn Hotel adjacent to the University of Delaware Sports Complex. The most severe damage occurred when a tree snapped during the high winds and fell on J.C. Robbie Robertsons car. Robbie was in the vehicle and miraculously was unhurt even though his car was declared a total loss. Had the tree fallen on the front of the car Robbie could have been seriously injured. McConnellsburg PA FD Medic Unit received minor damage. Past President Charles Meyers van also sustained damage. Robbie was talking on the cell phone when the tree fell. When the storm passed he was able to exit the car without assistance. McConnellsburg PA FD personnel who were staying at the motel were able to clear the debris with the use of a chain saw from the apparatus they had brought to Newark for the Convention Parade. During the storm Aetna answered a number of calls including a large tree that fell on a residence a couple of miles away from the hotel. There were several reports of residents seeing funnel clouds in the area. Robbies insurance company provided him with a rental car and he was able to attend the Annual Banquet only a couple hours after the storm.

08 Aug 2009

Sunny Skies and Fire Companies Cover Main Street in Newark DE

Hundreds of Firemen Apparatus and Ambulances paraded in Newark DE at the 108th Annual Convention Parade. Parade prizes were awarded at a gala party capping the Convention in Aetna Hall. The Cumberland Valley VFA held their 108th Annual convention parade in Newark DE hosted by the Aetna HH & L Co. on Saturday August 1 2009.

Best Appearing Uniformed Fire Co with music - Citizens Fire Co Newport PA

Best Appearing Engine 1250 GPM

1st Place - North East FC North East MD

2nd Place- West Grove FC PA

Best Appearing Engine 1250 GPM or lessd

1st Place - Hancock FC Hancock MD

2nd Place - Cecilton Community FC MD

Best Appearing Aerial Device

1st Place - Volunteer Hose Co Middletown

2nd Place - Citizens Fire Co. Newport PA

Best Appearing Engine Tanker

1st Place - West Grove FC PA

2nd Place - Gibraltar FC Birdsboro PA

Best Appearing Rescue Squad

1st Place - Volunteer Hose Co. Middletown DE

2nd Place - Community Fire Co of Rising Sun MD

Best Appearing Ambulance BLS

1st Place - McConnellsburg VFC PA

Best Appearing Specialized Unit

1st Place - Gettysburg FC Fire Police PA

2nd Place - Pennsburg FC Fire Police PA

Best Appearing Brush Truck

1st Place - Folsom FC PA

2nd Place - Twin Valley FD PA

Best Marked Fire Apparatus for Highway Incident Scene Safety

1st Place - Gettysburg Fire Police Unit Gettysburg PA

Best Marked Ambulance for Highway Incident Scene Safety

1st Place - Volunteer Fire Co of Halfway MD

Best Appearing Antique Engine driven in parade

1st Place - Elverson Twin Valley FD Elverson PA

2nd Place - Hockessin FC DE

Fire Department owned apparatus traveling farthest distance

1st Place - Vienna VFD Vienna WV

Best Appearing Privately Owned FD Antique Apparatus

1st Place - Bill Stroup Paulsboro NJ – 1953 Mack

President's Awards

1st Place - Mill Creek FD Marshallton DE

2nd Place - VFC 1 of Chesapeake City MD

Special Judges Awards

Harrisburg Firemen's Relief Assn - 1988 CF Mack- Training Academy

Twin Valley Fire Dept - 2009 Pierce Ladder

McConnellsburg FD - 1931 & 1941 Chevy Antiques

Steve Austin - 1953 Ford Fire Police

Gibraltar FC - 1979 Jeep CJ-7 Field Piece

Chesapeake City VFC - Durango Command

08 Aug 2009

Meet Your New President

Newark DE July 31 2009. Walter N. Robertson of the Wilson VA Volunteer Fire Company was installed President of the Cumberland Valley Volunteer Firemens Association during the 108th Annual Convention. Walter had previously served as Vice President representing the Commonwealth of Virginia. The President is a retired Juvenile Corrections Officer and a long time member of the Virginia fire service. He is a certified Emergency Vehicle Operators Course instructor. Walter has served on a number of committees of the Virginia State Firefighters Association. He is a regular feature in the Emergency Responder Safety Institute trade show booth interacting with firefighters and EMTs. Walter has already shown his dedication to the CVVFA said Jerry Daniels 2008 President. He'll make a great leader of our Association

01 Jul 2009

CVVFA Member Erin Morgan Drumheller Crowned MSFA Queen

Miss Erin Morgan Drumheller of the Manchester MD VFD won the Queen Contest at the Maryland State Firemens Association Convention in Ocean City in June. Erin reached the pinnacle of wining a state crown only one year after being crowned Queen of the MD State Fire Chiefs Association. She won the grueling contest competing against a field of very qualified candidates. Erin is a college student. She joined the CVVFA in January and supports the CVVFA highway incident scene safety initiatives throughout Maryland. Erin is scheduled to ride in the 108th Convention Parade in Newark Delaware.

22 May 2009

CVVFA Member and Family Open Health Clinic in Cambodia

Paramedic James Garcia from South Carolina could use your help. James was struck and seriously injured while tending to a motor vehicle accident victim in 1994. Given the state of the laws at that time not only was the driver that struck James found not to be at fault but James was found to be at fault for being in the roadway. That life-altering incident sent James on a mission to change the laws and in so doing James became the father of the move-over laws now protecting emergency responders in more than 45 states. These laws spurred on by James persistence have undoubtedly saved the lives of countless emergency responders. James recently set off on a whole new mission. Traveling in 2008 to the jungles of Cambodia James was struck again . . . struck by the Cambodians utter lack of access to any form of modern healthcare. This journey proved just as life-altering as the struck-by incident in 1994 for it inspired James along with his wife Cara a registered nurse and family to literally move to Cambodia where they have opened a free clinic to provide health care services. James and his family gave up literally everything they had and are operating this remarkable effort on less than a shoestring budget. While we are all living through tough times now James has embarked on a truly extraordinary lifesaving endeavor and the tax exempt 501c3 organization he has created could use any assistance you can offer including but not limited to monetary donations in-kind equipment and other donations assistance with grants and on-the-ground volunteers. You can learn more about James and his mission at the following websites

<https://webmail.hhs.gov/exchweb/bin/redir.asp?url=http://www.sharethehealthcambodia.org>
g target=blank

02 May 2009

Music Found From 1914 Convention

Sheet Music performed from the 13th Annual Convention held July 29-31 1914 in Chambersburg PA has been located and placed in the archives of the Association. The Music was penned by George B. Snyder of Chambersburg. The CVVFA is currently researching Mr. Snyder and will report the findings of his contributions to the Association. It was not uncommon for visiting firemen bands to perform in concert during early conventions in addition to playing during the line of march in the annual parade. Chief Steve Flickinger of the Citizens Fire Company of Newport PA is reviewing the music to determine if the Citizens Fire Company Band can play the music during the 108th Annual Convention in Newark DE some 94 years after the first rendition of the Firemens March was played. The CVVFA is also exploring the possibility of having the Music recorded on CVVFA.org where it can be enjoyed world wide on the web. Download a copy of the music from this article or from the History Download section of this page.

30 Apr 2009

Convention Golf Outing Slated For Newark

The CVVFA Official Golf Pro Raymond Streets invites the CVVFA "Duffe't to the first Annual CVVFA Golf Tournament at the beautiful Pike Creek Golf Club near Newark DE. Raymond holds down a part time job as a Course Marshal at the club. He has begun what promises to be a new CVVFA tradition a golf tournament at the Annual convention.ppThe tournament begins with a shotgun start on Wednesday July 29th at 200 PM. Green Fees for CVVFA members are 45 per person. Non member fees are 50 which includes a one year membership in the CVVFA. Join us at the 19th Hole for pizza beer and sodas located at Aetna Hall when your round is finished. Download a copy of the flyer in this article enclose a check payable to AETNA and mail. Should there be questions email Raymond at a hrefmailto:Golfcvvfa.orgGolfcvvfa.org

28 Apr 2009

Booster Meeting This Weekend In Hancock MD

Chief Greg Yost has planned a great weekend of training and fellowship in Hancock MD May 2-3 2009. Public Safety Flagging the CVVFAs new course in cooperation with the MD State Highway Administration kicks off the weekend at 900 AM Saturday morning at the Hancock Fire Station 3 Fulton St. Hancock MD 21750. The course taught by Chief Allen Baldwin the Incident Manager of the PA Turnpike system provides valuable information for all firefighters who receive the order to get traffic upon arrival on the incident scene. Controlling traffic at a roadway incident is part of the NFPA Firefighter 1001 standard and is rarely taught in basic fire training. This will be a tested program with outdoor evaluations. Sunday's activity include a Luncheon at the Hancock VFC at noon followed by the Booster meeting. Come on out and join your fellow members.

Need a map a href[http://www.mapquest.com/maps/city/Hancock & stateMD & address3FultonSt. & zipcode21750](http://www.mapquest.com/maps/city/Hancock&stateMD&address3FultonSt.&zipcode21750)[http://www.mapquest.com/maps/city/Hancock & stateMD & address3FultonSt. & zipcode21750](http://www.mapquest.com/maps/city/Hancock&stateMD&address3FultonSt.&zipcode21750)app

Lodging is available at the Best Western Inn across the river in Berkeley Springs WV on US 522 South. Be sure to mention the CVVFA for a group rate.

26 Feb 2009

Booster Meeting Weekend In Marion PA March 14-15, 2009 Come on Out!

Booster Meeting Weekend Saturday and Sunday March 14-15 2009strongppTraining & Meeting at the Marion Fire Company 5465 Molly Pitcher Highway South Marion PA 17235 Saturday March 14 900 AM-Watch Out Behind You-Chief Allen Baldwin Instructor 300 PM-Work Party-Help Preserve our archives. Chambersburg Fire Museum 441 Broad St Chambersburg PA. Historian Guy Flory requests everyone's help to move our valuable material to another area of the museum Sunday March 15 1200 Noon-Luncheon followed by the Booster Meeting. Join the Cumberland Valley family for a weekend for training service and fraternalism.

19 Jan 2009

A Balanced Budget and a Visit from a Queen and a President Highlight Directors Meeting

Halfway MD January 11-CVVFA President Jerry Daniels welcomed MD State Fire Chief's Miss Fire Prevention Queen Erin Drumheller and her First Runner up Bobbie Utz. The ladies were accompanied by the "Queen Mother" Lori Drumheller Erin's mom. Washington County MD Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association President Glenn Fishack also addressed the assembled Directors Officers and members. He expressed his appreciation for being invited to the meeting and reviewed his continuing discussions with the County Commissioners about the volunteer fire service in Washington County. Queen Erin expressed her interest in the work of the CVVFA and offered to support the highway incident scene safety project Protecting Emergency Responders on the Highway. Erin Bobbie and Lori all joined the CVVFA and left the meeting as members. The Directors and Officers got down to business and adopted a balanced budget for 2009. The revenue side of the budget is based on extra effort by the members to obtain sponsorships for the annual Convention Book. Included in the budget is a new web site for the Reputation Management Project and full funding for the Scholarship Program. The meeting minutes are being prepared and will be posted here in due course.