

Minutes of the Kentucky Firefighters Association

85th Annual Conference

July 30-August 2, 2005

Corbin, KY

The Conference started off with the Annual Olympic Competition held at the Corbin Civic Center on Saturday, July 30. In the senior competition the Faubush team finished 1st overall. Somerset took 2nd place while Southgate Fire Department finished third over all. The judges awarded the Sportsmanship award to the team from Somerset.

In the Explorer Division, Faubush finished 1st followed by Nancy & then Southgate. The Sportsmanship award went to the team from Union KY.

Once again this year, Mr. Steve Siereveld of VFIS Insurance donated the trophies. Many thanks to Steve who has graciously done this for many years.

During the Competition an antique and modern fire apparatus muster also took place.

On Sunday morning, July 31, a Worship Service was held at the Corbin Tech Center. At 1:00PM the Governors Fire Commission met at the Tech Center. Later on Sunday afternoon the annual Memorial Service was conducted at the First United Methodist Church. The names of nine firefighters who passed away in the Line of Duty since the 84th Annual Conference were read. Families were on hand and were presented with a US flag folded inside a flag case by President Bill Robbins Jr. There were also two firefighters who while serving in the military in Iraq were killed protecting our freedom. Their families were also present and received the flag and case. In addition to those killed in the line of duty seventy plus names was read who have passed away in the last year.

Sunday evening a welcome party was held at the Corbin City Pool. President Robbins entertained us with his graceful abilities on the diving board, which made the evening a memorable event.

Monday morning, August 1, 2005 the audience gathered in the Tech Center. President Trish Morgan of the Southeastern Firefighters Association led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chaplain John Bofman presented the Invocation.

Whitley Co. Judge Executive Mike Patrick welcomed everyone to the community. Corbin City Councilman Allen Onkst welcomed us to the City of Corbin. Mr. Bob Terrell, the Economic Development Director for the City of Corbin, followed him. Southeastern FF President Trish Morgan also welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the conference, as did Fire Chief Gary Disney of the Corbin Fire Department.

1st Vice President Allen Johnson followed with a response to the welcome.

Following the welcomes, Mr. Ronnie Day, Executive Director of the Fire Commission gave a report from the Commission & KCTCS. In the past year over \$500,000.00 has been given to KCTCS to help the instructors deliver the training to the firefighters throughout the state. Five new staff members or being added to the office and seven new programs are being developed. These consist of Health & Wellness, EMS, Mobile Training Facilities, PPE, WMD, and Homeland Security & Technical Innovations. Mr. Bob Hammonds has been appointed Director of Homeland Security for the Commission. In the last year Wayne has visited 129 Departments throughout the state conducting his audits.

Following Mr. Day, the new Assistant State Fire Marshal gave a report. 11 Thermal Imagers will be given to 11 departments in the state who cannot afford to purchase one. The General Inspection staff is up to full staff. Soon the Deputized Departments will be able to up load their inspection information to the office via computers instead of mailing hard copies of inspections.

Following the reports, President Robbins, Jr. announced the formal opening of the business session. Chief Michael Hulsey, acting as Parliamentarian, in the absence of Gerald Stewart read the Rules of the Conference. Rusty Todd made a motion to accept the rules as read. Ronnie Mayfield seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

Mark Luckett was called on to present the non-prefiled resolutions. Each one required a 2/3rd vote of the delegates seated in order to bring the resolution to the floor.

The resolve for each one was read. The first dealt with the KFA Scholarship Program to allow an applicant to attend any University offering accredited courses and degrees in the fire service disciplines. Motion by Jim Herman & second by Jeff Puhlman to accept the resolution for consideration. Motion carried. The second resolution presented dealt with the scheduling of social events at the annual conference so as not to interfere with the business to be conducted. Rusty Todd made a motion to present it to the floor. Bill Leslie seconded this. Motion carried. The third non-prefiled resolution dealt with legislation that will withdrawal the mandate that any fire department be required to be enrolled in the state health insurance plan when entering or continuing in the CERS Hazardous Duty pension plan. Mike Hulsey made a motion to bring it to the floor. Mike Giordano seconded this. Motion Carried. The fourth proposed resolution called for the KFA to go on record in support of Don Oliver for 2nd Vice President of the Southeastern Association of Fire Chiefs. Motion by John Daley & 2nd by Mike O'Day Jr. to bring it to the floor. Motion carried.

Following the non-prefiled resolutions, President Robbins, Jr. entertained a motion for the placement of the memorial wreath. Trish Morgan moved that the wreath be placed at the gravesite of Donnie Owens. Woody Will seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Ronnie Day gave the preliminary credentials report. There were 52 departments for a total of 104 votes.

David Jackson made a motion that the names of the two firefighters killed while serving in the military be placed on the Wall of Honor in Frankfort. Everyone seconded this motion.

Treasurer Keller collected over \$ 600.00 from the audience to purchase two pavers for the two firefighters killed in the military.

A ten- minute recess was called.

Following the recess, President Robbins Jr., called for a report from each of the Executive Board members. Allen Johnson commented on the funerals he has attended, in addition to fire schools and preparing for his conference next year. 2nd VP Troy Newcomb has also attended several funerals representing the KFA in addition to numerous fire schools. 3rd VP John Daley gave a report on the funerals he has attended and explained the tri-fold brochure that was produced explaining the KFA and the benefits of being a member. VP @ Large Bob Newman reported on his activity that included funerals & fire school attendance. Treasurer Keller & Secretary Jansing prepared a written report of their activities that was read.

Report from the Directors: Bud Lederer stated that we needed to look at ways to increase the overall attendance at the annual conferences. David McCrady thanked everyone for his or her support of the Green River Fire Schools.

Secretary Jansing announced the Conference Committees for President Robbins Jr.

Finance- Shawn Bixler, Mike O'Day, Jim Baker, Joe Turner

Conference City- Allen Johnson & Bill Hall

Nominations- Marc Muench, Bryant Stiles, Kendall Steele, & Ronnie Mayfield.

Woody Will presented a non-prefiled resolution for consideration. The resolve was read and called for an increase in money to the KCTCS to make sure their instructors can deliver the 20 hours required for certification of volunteers. A motion was made by Rusty Todd & seconded by Ronnie Mayfield to bring it to the floor. Motion carried.

Larry Moore asked the delegates to consider the artwork on the t-shirts at the conference to be added to the KFA logo.

On Monday afternoon a golf outing was held in addition to a Ladies Luncheon.

On Monday evening a “ Hillbilly Night” Dinner was held.

On Tuesday morning, August 2, the business session reconvened at 8:00AM

President Trish Morgan led the Pledge and Fireman Joe Stambush gave the invocation.

The final credentials report was received. 66 departments were represented for a total of 132 votes. There were 86 Delegates.

Reports from the Standing Committees from the Chairman present:

Advisory- Mike O'Day- No Report

Public Fire Education- Fireman Joe Stambush read his prepared report. A copy is on file with the Secretary.

State Fire School- Ronnie Day gave the report. There were 618 students registered while 531 completed. 26 classes were offered. Ronnie stated that Homeland Security wants to be involved. Ronnie yielded his time to Chief Bob Hendricks of the Lexington FD. The fire school committee including moving the school headquarters from the Holiday Inn North to the convention center at Rupp Arena is considering several ideas, and the Hyatt Regency would become the headquarters. The idea is to move it to a four- day school to allow for the NFA to come in and teach 40-hour courses for a certificate. The dates will be June 8-11th of 2006. The fire school committee is meeting again on August 9th, 2005. President Johnson will be attending the meeting as the KFA has always been a partner in the State School and wishes to remain in the future. The idea of moving the school is to allow for all the classes to be “under one roof” to hopefully increase the enrollment. This would also allow for the vendors to be inside and be able to meet with the Chief Officers from the various departments.

NVFC- Ken Knipper gave a report on the numerous committees that he sits on representing the KFA. Ken also reported on the LOSAP program. It was announced by Secretary Jansing that the E-Board has submitted a resolution (prefiled) to go on record in support of a LOSAP for volunteers on a statewide level with the use of state money. The resolution is in the hands of the Legislative Committee. Bryant Stiles who serves as the alternate from Kentucky works on the funding for VFD’s & training committees. He reported that this year there is 65 million dollars in the SAFER program and next year there needs to be 100 million.

Legislative Committee- David Jackson stated they are working on a bill to raise state aid. He is also working on a bill to allow the death benefit to go to the estate if there is no living beneficiary.

Scholarship- Paul Billings reported that we currently have two scholarships. One is to Amanda Smith at Northern KY University & the other is to Adam Day at Eastern KY University. There were 12 sets of prints sold at the 2004 conference.

Ethics- Ronnie Mayfield reported that no issues were raised.

PAC- Larry Moore stated the committee hasn’t done too much due to health issues and change of employment.

Hall of Fame- John Daley announced the inductees for the 2005 Conference. They are Sie Jewell, Woody Will, Philmore Bowen & Russell Dyche. John also thanked his committee.

Report of the Resolutions Committee:

Resolution # 1- the resolve was that the KFA support Don Oliver for 2nd VP in the SEAF. Rick Larkin made a motion that we not support Don Oliver. This motion was seconded. The motion carried. Resolution # 1 did not pass.

Resolution # 2- The resolve was to allow applicants to attend any college, not just in the state of KY as long as they are pursuing a degree in a fire science discipline. After several delegates spoke, it was explained that this has never been a problem. Jeff Polhman made the motion that was seconded by Mike O'Day Jr. Motion carried.

Resolution # 3- the resolve dealt with social events interfering with business to be conducted at the conference. Motion by Mark Lockett & seconded by Woody Will. There was considerable discussion. John Beatsch made a motion for a roll call vote. Mike Giordano seconded this. There were 51 in favor and 65 against the resolution. The resolution failed.

Resolution # 4- Dealt with the CERS Hazardous Health plan. John Daley made a motion to send it to the Legislative Committee. David Jackson seconded it. Motion carried.

Resolution # 5- the resolve ask that additional funding be made available to KCTCS to allow the instructors to deliver the required 20 hours of training to the firefighters in the state. Motion 7 a second to adopt the resolution. Motion carried. Turn over to the Legislative Committee.

Resolution # 6- Submitted by Larry Moore- Be it resolved that the KFA adopt the 85th Conference logo and that a letter of thanks be sent. The resolution was not passed on the floor. A letter of thanks will be sent.

Chapter 75 Fire Districts- Mike Giordano reported that during the 2001 Conference a resolution was presented that would allow District Board members to earn up to \$ 100.00 per meeting, with a one meeting per month cap. That resolution passed and was turned over to the Legislative Committee for follow up. The bill was introduced and was met with opposition during the session. It will be addressed again during the 2006 session.

SOP- Bryant Stiles gave a report on the activity of the committee.

It was announced that due to a medical emergency Sylvan Smith (Smitty) had to return home from the Conference. He has two prefiled resolutions in his possession. The Dixie Firefighters dealing with an increase in funding for KCTCS to provide the classes submitted the first one. Dixie withdrew the resolution because it was identical to the one submitted by Woody Will at the Conference. The Dixie Firefighters Assn also submitted the second resolution. It would allow retired volunteer firefighters, in good standing to be able to retain a volunteer firefighters license plate if they so choose, with the permission of the chief. Woody Will made a motion to accept the resolution in concept. Shawn Bixler seconded the motion. Motion carried.

By-Laws- Michael Hulsey- one resolution was submitted dealing with a by-laws amendment. The resolve stated that Article 7, Section 2 of the KFA Constitution be amended to read. The standing committees to include Legislative, Constitution & By Laws, Advisory, Public Safety & Education, Resolutions, Parliamentarian, Ethics, Credentials, Special Events, be designated as standing committees with the chair appointed by and reporting to the Executive Committee.

Discussion followed. A motion was made by Allen Johnson and seconded by Rusty Todd, the section be amended to read: add Hall of Fame to the list, and be appointed by the President. The motion carried. The amended by-law was written by Chairman Hulsey for the vote to be taken.

Conference Committees:

Treasurer Keller stated we have 417 dues paying departments. There are 32 Sustaining Members and 21 personal memberships.

Shawn Bixler gave the Finance report- Bryant Stiles made a motion to adopt the proposed budget. Scott Lewis seconded the motion. Motion Carried. Ronnie Mayfield made motion to accept the Finance Report. Mike O'Day seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Conference City- the dates for the 2006 Conference will be August 5,6,7, & 8. It will be at the Embassy Suites on Newtown Road in Lexington.

Nominations- Marc Muench gave the report. The committee recommendation is that each Vice President moves up one position, with Allen Johnson becoming President. The new incoming 3rd Vice President will be Randy Courtney of Pikeville, KY. Paul Billings made a motion to accept the committee report. Rusty Todd seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

Nominations were taken from the floor for the position of Vice President at Large. Bob Newman was nominated. There were no other nominations received with the question being asked twice. Nominations were taken from the floor for the position of Treasurer. Terry Keller was nominated. There were no other nominations received with the question being asked twice. A motion was made that Nominations be closed. The Secretary was instructed to cast one vote for the office of Vice President at Large & One vote for the Office of Treasurer. Votes were cast.

Following the election, President Robbins Jr. thanked everyone for all the hard work during his 20-month term.

The meeting was recessed until the banquet.

KY State Treasurer Jonathon Miller was the keynote speaker and swore in the new officers.

The KFA Hall of Fame Induction ceremony took place

The new officers were sworn in.

The new committees were announced.

President Allen Johnson adjourned the Conference.

Respectfully submitted:

David E. Jansing, Secretary