

Legislative Report

November 29, 2016

Fire Fighter Organizations - Legislative Meeting

Attending;

1. Jack Reckner Kentucky Association of Fire Chiefs
2. Ronnie Day and Bruce Roberts Fire Commission
3. Wayne Briscoe Central Kentucky Fire Chiefs
4. Chuck O'Neal and Mike Poynter KBEMS
5. Pat Walsh Jefferson Co. Chiefs and KFA
6. Bruce Smith Northern Kentucky Firefighters Association
7. Jeff Pohlman, Duane Suttles and Steve Rath KFA
8. Joe Baer, Chris Bartley and Brian O'Neil KPFF

Opened the meeting with a silent moment of prayer for all those that we have lost this year.

On behalf of the Kentucky Firefighters Association I went over the resolutions from this year's conference;

- Support for an option to increase the salaries of board members for a Fire Taxing District Board Member from \$25.00 to \$50.00.
- Create a PTSD Task Force made up from all the Fire Organizations. KFA, KPFF, KAFC, Kentucky Fire Commission and KBEMS. During the meeting KBEMS ask to be added to the Task Force and the members agreed. The Task Force will explore funding and legislation to support all members with their struggles with PTSD.
- Support legislation to keep the current increases in Incentive Pay and State Aid that the Governor's Budget included in his budget that passed this year.
- Oppose any changes in legislation in 2017 that would include the changes from HB 496 in 2016 legislative session.
- Support legislation to allow reemployment for retired firefighters.
- Support legislation to increase the fire tax for Taxing District Fire Departments form 10 cents to 15 cents per \$100.00. or eliminate the cap completely.

After the reading of the resolutions I ask each group to provide a member for the task force. So far I only have the KFA member and that is Jeff Pohlman.

KPFF supports all the KFA Legislation and has the following:

- Support along with the KLC in changes that would remove the CERS pension system from under the KRS. Legislation would establish that the CERS would be set up as a board only for CERS members. Discussion of issues and position of Governor at this time is unknown.
- Support legislation to remove the spiking language from the pension KRS to help Cities, counties and Taxing District Fire Departments.
- Cancer Legislation from Rep. Butler and discussion.

Also discussed retirement, tax reform legislation with impact of the fire service and cancer legislation on the causes of cancer.

KAFC support for all legislation but have not had much input from members on spiking. Discussed the effect that spiking on departments and the cost.

KBEMS is looking at first responder's legislation and possible Constitutional Amendment to require County to provide EMS.

Had discussion on National Registry and problems. Ronnie stated that Rep. Meredith had discussed the issue with him. KBEMS would not want to move away from National Registry.

Jeff Pohlman stated that Rep. Fischer was looking at possible legislation that would allow for friendly mergers of Fire Districts. Discussion on friendly mergers and not taking any position at this time until we see language of the legislation.

Meeting concluded with request that all groups work together because of the change in Frankfort, we need to be together or we all lose!