

**Kentucky Firefighters Association**  
**Minutes of the 2007 Annual Conference**



**Gilbertsville, KY**

The Olympic competition took place on Saturday July 28, 2007. In the adult sector the Parkers Mill FD took first place for the second year in a row. The Southgate FD took second place and the Faulbush FD came in third. In the adult sector the Sportsmanship Award was given to the Faulbush FD by the judges. In the explorer sector Union #1 took first place while their counterpart Union#2 came in second. The Faulbush Explorers took third place. The Sportsman Award was presented jointly to Union #1 & Union #2.

**Once again this year, our good friend Steve Siereveld of VFIS donated the trophies. Thank you Steve.**

The Kentucky Association of Fire Chiefs met on Sunday morning, followed by the Fire Commission meeting at 12:00Noon. Ronnie Day reported that they would like feedback from the departments that have received exercise equipment from the Commission.

The annual Memorial Service was held on Sunday afternoon. Four Line of Duty Deaths were recognized with three of the four widows being presented. In addition there were seventy- five names recognized who have passed away since the 2006 Conference.

A welcome party was held on Sunday evening.

**MONDAY JULY 30, 2007**

President Troy Newcomb called the delegates to order on Monday morning with Mr. Butch McKinney as the Master of Ceremonies. Brother Mac Walls gave the invocation and led the delegates in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Eddie Sprague addressed the delegates on behalf of Governor Ernie Fletcher and welcomed everyone to Western KY. Grand Rivers Mayor Tom Moodie welcomed everyone to the area. Marshall County Judge Executive Mike Miller and Livingston County Judge Executive Chris Lasher welcomed everyone to their respective counties. KY Dam Village State Park Manager Curtis Gamblin welcomed everyone to KDVSP.

First Vice President John Daley gave a response to the welcome. Following some additional announcements President Newcomb proclaimed the formal opening of business.

Secretary Dave Jansing introduced Ms. Linda Melton of American Income Life Insurance Company. It was announced that effective immediately any active firefighter/EMT who is a member of a fire department, and that fire department is a member of the KFA is hereby eligible at no cost for a \$2,000.00 accidental life and dismemberment insurance

policy. This plan is in effect for as long as the fire department remains a member in good standing of the KFA. Ms. Melton explained the other available benefits. President Newcomb signed an agreement between the KFA & American Income Life.

Ronnie Day gave the preliminary credentials report. There are 66 departments with 99 delegates for a total of 132 votes.

Parliamentarian Gerald Stewart read the Rules for the Conference. M/S Ronnie Mayfield & Rick Larken to accepted as presented. Motion carried.

Placement of the Wreath- M/S Marc Muench & Mark Luckett to place the wreath at the gravesite of Past President Warner Cox of Independence, KY. Motion carried.

Ronnie Day gave the annual report for the Fire Commission & KCTCS. Ronnie's topics included the driver's training simulator (only one in the nation), the Physical Agility Testing (CPAC) and the Health & Wellness program. Ronnie stated that Mike (Howdy) Kirtsinger is now assigned fulltime to the Legislative Branch. The Safe Cigarette Act that was signed by Governor Fletcher was the 8<sup>th</sup> in the Country. Ronnie stated that the Commission operates on \$ 28,000,000.00 each year.

In the SFRT the industrial training is up. There were 84,079 students trained in the fire & EMS programs during the last year. 21 students graduated from the Fire Science Degree Program during the last year. There were 4,700 students receiving the IFSAC training.

State Fire Marshal Rodney Raby introduced his Assistant Director Mr. Richard Pedicord. Rodney thanks everyone for his or her support on the passage of the Fire Safe Cigarette Bill. He stated that KY is currently 9<sup>th</sup> in the nation in Fire Deaths. There are currently 96 employees in the fire marshal's office. Libby Simpson is now the Chief in the Electrical Licensing. Harry Rucker is now over Hazardous Materials, and Dan Chapman is in charge of Manufactured Housing.

**Report of the President-** President Newcomb thanks everyone for his area and the Executive Board for all the support he received over the past year. Troy stated his goal was to bring everyone together in the fire service. He announced that the Fallen Firefighter memorial would be held in Frankfort on Wednesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2007. President then showed the delegates one of the new Firefighter License Plates that will be available in January of 2008.

**Report of 1<sup>st</sup> VP John Daley-** John thanked Troy for all of his hard work during his term as President including the work he did on the new Firefighter License Plate and the formation of the KFA Honor Guard. John attended a LODD in his area and also attended the funeral of Past President Warner Cox. John attended the FF Memorial in October of 2006 along with the four E-Board meetings over the past year. John and Troy attended the Congressional Fire Service Caucus in Washington on March 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> where they met with many of our federal legislators.

**Report of 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Randy Courtney-** Randy attended all the E-Board meeting over the last year including State Fire School. He attended two LODD funerals and presented the bibles. Randy also assisted KY State Police with a Trooper who was killed in the line of duty. Randy stated that the dates for his conference would be August 1-4, 2009.

**Report of 3<sup>rd</sup> VP Bobby Cowherd-** Bobby has also attended each of the E-Board meetings throughout the past year in addition to the Regional Association meetings in his area.

**VP @ Large Bob Newman-** Bob has attended all of the E-Board meetings and assisted the KFA with the meeting held in Owensboro in February. Bob stated that the Green River Association did the cooking for the welcome party on Sunday evening.

**Report of the Secretary-** Dave Jansing reported on his activity since last year's conference and made a type written copy available as per our by-laws. A report was also given as the Representative of the Housing Board for the Fire Service.

**Report of the Treasurer-** Terry Keller reported on all his activities over the past year. A written report is on file with the Secretary.

**Report of the Directors-** The following Directors gave a brief report on the activity in their areas. Bud Lederer- NKFA, Dave McCrady- Green River, Mike Hulsey- Dixie FF, Van Taylor- Central KY, Rick BoBo- Bluegrass, and Bob Frizzel- Jefferson Co.

President Newcomb opened the floor for Nominations for the Office of Vice President @ Large. Bill Robins nominated Mike Hulsey. Mike accepted the nomination. Bill Robins was nominated but declined. With no other nominations received the nominations were closed for the office of VP @ Large.

The floor was then opened for the office of Treasurer. Rick Messingschlager & Jerry Bogenschutz nominated Terry Keller. Terry accepted. With no further nominations received, the nominations were closed for the office of Treasurer.

Three non-prefiled resolutions were presented to the delegates for their vote (2/3<sup>rd</sup>'s required) to send the resolutions to the appropriate committee. All three were accepted and sent to committee for action to be reported on later in the conference.

Bill Martin announced that Steve Siereveld who had fallen in the bathtub and re-injured his vertebrae had spent the night in the hospital. Chief Ross from the Calvert City Fire Department stated with Steve. Chief Ross was recognized and thanked.

Secretary Jansing announced the Conference Committee members selected by President Newcomb. The committees consisted of Finance, Nominating, and Conference City.

President Newcomb recessed the Business Session until 9:00AM on Tuesday, July 31<sup>st</sup>.

## **TUESDAY JULY 31, 2007**

President Newcomb called the delegates to order at 9:05AM. John Daley reported that Past President Sie Jewell was not able to attend this year as his mother is in critical condition. President Newcomb announced that it was Pam Hulsesey's birthday. Everyone sang "Happy Birthday" to Pam.

Three additional non-prefiled resolutions were presents to the delegates for their consideration by 2/3<sup>rd</sup> vote to send them to the appropriate committee for actions later during the conference.

Ronnie Day gave the final Credentials Report. We have 72 departments with 113 delegates for a total of 144 votes.

### **Committee Reports**

**Advisory-** Allen Johnson- No Report. AJ thanked Troy for all his hard work.

**Pub Ed-** Joe Stambush- Gave a prepared report to the delegates. A copy is on file with the Secretary.

**Conference City** – Mike O'Day announced that the 2008 KFA Conference would be at the Drawbridge in Fort Mitchell on August 2-5. The WEB Site is [www.kfa2008.com](http://www.kfa2008.com)

**State Fire School-** Ronnie Day & Bob Hendricks- 313 departments with 797 students registered. 725 students attended. The attendance was up 150 from the 2006 school. 34 classes were held. 119 FF's took part in the Health & Wellness Fit Testing. They reported that the committee is looking at a Fire Officer's training program.

**EMS-** Bob Hendricks- The EMS Conference will be held in Owensboro on September 21-23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Membership-** Terry Keller stated that we have 398 dues paying departments and 48 Sustaining members.

**Special Events-** Charlie Shaw reported on funerals, State Fire School, and the upcoming FF Challenge on August 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>. Charlie stated we are still getting calls on the 800-fire line.

**NVFC-** Ken Knipper & Bryant Stiles- a prepared report was given to the delegates. A copy of the report is on file with the Secretary.

**Scholarship-** Paul Billings reported that we currently have six students receiving the scholarship with an additional one pending approval of the Executive Board. A complete

report is on file with the Secretary. Paul Billings had announced his retirement at the completion of the 2007 Conference. In recognition of his outstanding dedication to the KFA and for a job well done as the Scholarship Chairman, the Executive Board unanimously voted to bestow a Lifetime Membership to Paul Billings. President Newcomb presented Paul with the certificate in front of the delegation.

**Constitution & By Laws-** Mike Hulsey reported on the resolutions dealing with the By-Laws.

**Resolution # 1-**(As amended by the Committee) Resolve- Amend the Constitution & By-Laws to include; The KFA Executive Board by virtue of their office are delegates at large and shall not be a delegate of their individual department.  
M/S Mike Hulsey & Ray Mannes. Motion Carried

**Resolution # 2-** Resolve- Add language to the By-Laws to read the SOG shall be amended by a 2/3 vote of the entire Executive Board or by a majority vote of the members present at the Conference.  
M/S Mike Hulsey & Allen Johnson. Motion Carried

**Resolution # 3-** Resolve- The President to receive \$1,500.00 per year for expenses in addition to all receipts turn in to the Treasurer. The Treasurer to receive \$750.00 per year for expenses in addition to all receipts turned into the Secretary. The Secretary to receive \$750.00 per year for expenses in addition to all receipts turned into the Treasurer.  
M/S Mike Hulsey & Bill Robbins. Motion Carried.

**Resolution # 4-** Resolve- The Constitution and By-Laws be amended to allow the President to assign resolutions to the appropriate committee at least 30 days prior to the conference.  
M/S Mike Hulsey & Bill Robbins. Motion Carried.

**Ethics-** Ronnie Mayfield- Nothing to Report.

**PAC-** Bill Robbins- Bill is starting to get money raised and he now has a committee to work with.

**Hall of Fame-** John Daley. John recognized the Hall of Fame members in the audience- Rick Games, Jimmy Cox & Woody Will. The committee is currently looking into a metal pin that the Hall of Fame Members can wear. This year's inductees are:  
Jim Hogston- Ashland FD, Jim Moore- Hopkinsville FD, John Slaughter- Paducah FD, Gerald Stewart- Paducah FD, and Charles Trodglen- Henderson FD.

**Chapter 75 Fire Districts-** Jack Reckner- There is 174 Special Taxing Districts in KY. The Committee is still working on raising the cap. Some progress has been made in the Senate. They have a hearing scheduled for September 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Fireworks-** Rusty Todd gave a report on the resolution involving fireworks that will be reading during the Legislative Committee report.

**Memorial-** Ronnie Day reported that the monument that was created in Smitty's memory to honor the firefighters killed in the line of duty while serving in the military since 1990 will be completed and in place for the October 3<sup>rd</sup> ceremony. The KFA, KY Chiefs, Fire Commission, and the KPF paid for the monument.

We need to continue to sell pavers to raise money for the upkeep of the monument.

**Legislative-** Gerald Stewart & Dave Jackson- Gerald explained the status of the Blue Ribbon Committee studying the pension and health care issues for the paid firefighters. Dave Jackson presented the Resolutions dealing Legislative Issues for the delegates' consideration.

**Resolution # 5.** Be it resolved that the KFA go on record to support legislation that would amend the current pension laws to prevent follow-up audits for the firefighters on disability.

Be it further resolved that the KFA support legislation to require that firefighters if removed from disability must be reinstated at their previous rank and position.

After the first attempt of passage failed, Mike Hulsey / Terry Keller (M/S) to remove the second resolve. Motion carried. Mike Hulsey/Mike O'Day Jr. (M/S) to adopt as amended by removing the second resolve. Motion carried.

**Resolution # 6-** Fireworks Laws. After much discussion, following by a failed motion to adopt the resolution as originally presented, a suggestion was made by Dave Jansing to remove item # 2 to eliminate "Redefine "consumer fireworks" in current KRS to agree with the Bureau of ATF definition in 27 CFR 550.11. With this item removed the motion and second to adopt the resolution as amended passed. Terry Keller moved to reconsider # 6. Mike Hulsey seconded this. Mike Hulsey made a motion to strike item # 2. John Daly seconded the motion. The motion carried. The final motion and second by Dave Jackson & Jack Reckner passed to accept with Item #2 removed.

**Resolution # 7-** Resolve: the KFA support legislation to permit FD's to be exempt from state fuel taxes or a portion thereof. This same resolution was presented ad passed at the 2006 conference. M/S Dave Jackson & Bill Robbins. Motion carried again.

**Resolution # 8-** Submitted as a committee substitute. Resolve: The KFA support an increase in budget appropriation dollars during the 2008 Legislative Session that would increase the budget for SFRT in the amount of \$ 1 million each year of the bi-annum.

Be it further resolved that the KFA support an increase in the budget during the 2008 session to increase the amount of training hours delivered by SFRT across the state. The additional hours would be delivered only upon request of the fire department and the hours required for recertification will remain unchanged.

Be it further resolved that the KFA request that KCTCS place objectives of this resolution on their legislative priority list for the 2008 session. M/S Dave Jackson & Ronnie Mayfield. Motion carried.

**Resolution # 9** presented as a Committee Amendment. Resolve: The KFA support a regulation for the Fire Commission to create a new support firefighter for departments across the commonwealth and approval by the fire commission. M/S Dave Jackson & Woody Will. Motion carried.

**Resolution # 10** Be it resolved that the hosts, Western Regional Area Associations and the Jackson Purchase Firefighters Association be recognized for their hospitality, and ask to accept our most sincere thank you for a job well done.  
Submitted by the Resolution Committee. Passed Unanimously

**SOP's** M/S by Terry Keller & Allen Johnson to accept the SOG's The motion carried.

**Old Business:** At the request of Mark Luckett at the 2006 Conference the Executive Board examined the books and determined there was no need to raise the membership dues.

**New Business:** The new firefighter license plates were discussed concerning the necessary paperwork to be able to apply for a plate at the County Clerk's office. It was explained that the Fire Chief must give his/her approval. The topic of retired members obtaining a plate was discussed. The first place the retired member should check is with the current chief of the department to see if he/she is agreeable to give the retiree permission. Under current KRS there is no paperwork that the KFA could sign off on for any firefighter to receive a license plate. It must be done at the local level.

The new KFA Honor Guard was discussed. Incoming President John Daley has created an Honor Guard Standing Committee. Troy Newcomb will chair it.

Ken Knipper discussed the Volunteer Responder Incentive Act. Please contact Ken if you request additional information.

**Finance Committee:** Bryant Stiles stated they have met with Terry and reviewed the books. M/S Bryant Stiles & Bill Robbins to approve the books. Motion Carried.  
M/S Bryant Stiles & Allen Johnson to adopt the proposed budget of \$ 106, 400.00 Motion Carried. The committee recommended increasing the NVFC line items from \$ 3,000.00 to \$ 5,000.00.

**Nominations:** A vote of Confidence was received for the Office of President- John Daley,  
1<sup>st</sup> VP- Randy Courtney, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Bobby Cowherd, 3<sup>rd</sup> VP Bob Newman, Treasurer Terry Keller (running unopposed) & VP @ Large Mike Hulsey (running unopposed) The Secretary is entering into the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of a two year term.

**Good & Welfare:** Chief Jack Reckner found a cigarette lighter. If anyone was missing one please see Jack.

The delegates were in recess until the banquet on Tuesday evening. Following dinner the Hall of Fame induction program took place and the new officers were sworn in. The committee assignments and members were announced. President Daley presented Troy Newcomb with the Past President's badges & adjourned the conference.

On behalf of the KY Firefighters Association I wish to thank Troy & Missy Newcomb, along with all the men and women from the Jackson Purchase, Pennyrite, Barren River, and Green River Firefighters Associations who worked very hard to make this conference a huge success. The Western KY Hospitality that was shown to all of us was second to none.

**Congratulations and thanks for a job well done!!!!**

Respectfully submitted,

*David E. Jansing*

Assistant Chief  
Secretary, KFA