

**Columbia County Fire Chief's Association**

**General Meeting**

**January 21, 2014**

**Meeting was brought to order by President: Mark Sheline.**

**Members were welcomed by Ghent Fire Chief Daryl Garafalo.**

**Reading of the Minutes: Motion by Wally Engel/Bill Hunt to accept the reading of the previous general meeting minutes – Carried. December Directors' meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather, therefore there are no minutes.**

**Treasurer's Report: Motion by Tom Rector/Jose Oritz to accept the treasurers' reports for the months of November and December as read by Russ Wheeler – Carried. Copies of these reports are attached to these minutes.**

**Coordinator's Report: John Howe stated that in the year 2013 there were 3,472 fire dispatches county wide. The Fire Coordinators' Office responded to 72 incidents requiring 21 C&O investigations and 5 Haz-Mat responses. Assistance was rendered to 2 police agencies for suspicious packages. The Coordinator's Office was present at 215 meetings and other special functions. The 6 Battalion meetings conducted were attended by 184 Fire Officers. There were 2 boater safety courses co-sponsored with the Sheriff's Office. A seminar featuring Billy Goldfeder co-sponsored with the Chatham Fire Department, raised \$1,000 for the Burned Out Victims' Fund. The Intelligence Liaison Program was instituted with 4 training programs presented by Chief Mike Cozzolino. This program has already proved its worth in the county. The C&O Team stands at 18 members and is currently working on a training program to be offered to all departments in the field. The Haz-Mat Team now stands at 14 members. They recently received new turn-out gear at a cost of \$28,000. This was funded through a joint grant with Greene County to support our current Haz-Mat equipment.**

**Work has begun with the contractor, Needham Risk Management, to gather information on all Hazardous Material sites in Columbia and**

**Greene Counties. The information is to be up-loaded into a CAMEO program which will be available at a moment's notice should the need arise. This program is supported by a grant of \$53,000.**

**There were 28 fire schools conducted during 2013 with 474 students graduating, representing 12,572 student hours, an increase of 2,286 over 2012. Requests forms for 2014-2015 schools have been sent out. We are looking at late February to set the schedules for the next year's schools.**

**The Annual Haz-Mat Seminar in Montour Falls will be attended by 8 team members. There is no cost for this program due to Columbia County having been awarded a \$1,000 Scholarship at the Fire Academy for its 100% Fire Reporting.**

**The radio tower is moving forward and the acquisition of detailed radio information has begun.**

**Reports of Committees: Mark presented a new list of committees and their members.**

**Haz-Mat: Had 1 call and there will be a seminar in February.**

**J-Fire: Has 1 possible referral.**

**Fire Safety & Prevention: Tom Rector is working with Columbia-Greene Community College to set a date for the safety trailer.**

**Legislative: Various smaller bills will be introduced under the heading United Concerns as 1 larger and better bill.**

**Communications: A thank you note has been sent to Chatham Fire Company for the donation to the Burned out Victims' Fund.**

**The names of the 2 representatives to the advisory board have been sent. The Ad for this year's yearbook has been sent.**

**The secretary noted that a sympathy card was sent to the family of Foster Hettesheimer, but no donation has been made in his name and no information appeared in the obituary. Jim Van Deusen asked the**

**secretary to contact Mrs. Hettesheimer at the Health Department. Bill Hunt made a motion we donate \$50 to the organization chosen by the family. Tom Rector second the motion. – Carried. The information will be passed on to the Treasurer.**

**John Howe presented a donation of \$250 from the Columbia County Dispatchers toward the Burned Out Victims' Fund and asked the secretary to send a thank you note. John also noted the passing of Marvin Rowe.**

**Bills: Daryl Garafalo donated the night's refreshments.**

**Unfinished Business: Mark stated that the remaining \$3,300 of the grant must be used by July of 2014. A large number of smoke detectors were never distributed and are now expired. He has applied for free 10-year detectors. The grant money should be used. Russ Wheeler stated he had not prepared the proposal to amend the by-laws stating the automatic upward movement of the election of Directors. He will have it for the next general meeting. He also reported on the status of an inheritance to be donated to the Burned Out Victim's Fund. George Huston/Bill Hunt made a motion not to sign any papers until either the Assistant Attorney General or the Court makes a decision. –Carried.**

**Guide lines for the Sunshine Fund will be worked on.**

**Wally reported a correction of the raffle recites to \$2,591 and the winner of \$50 for most tickets sold was Paul Hoffman.**

**A proposal to amend the By-Laws (Membership) was presented as follows: Article III – Membership Sec. a – There shall be three classes of members - Active, Lifetime and Honorary Sec. e – Members who currently hold or have held an elected office or have been a member in good standing for a minimum of 15 years may be awarded a lifetime membership by a  $\frac{3}{4}$  majority vote. A lifetime member shall maintain their voting privilege as long as their membership remains in good standing. A lifetime member will also be allowed to maintain an elected office if holding one until that term expires. However, once that term expires they will not be allowed to run for another office. A**

**lifetime member will also be allowed to maintain membership without a current fire department affiliation.**

**John Howe moved we accept the amendment as read. George Huston second the motion – Carried.**

**50/50: Was won by Ben Wheeler.**

**For the good of the Association: Hudson-Mohawk is raising funds to replace the Bus for the home. They are currently selling pins for \$10. See Dick Howard for shirts.**

**Ancram will be celebrating their 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a parade and open house July 12<sup>th</sup>.**

**Next Directors' meeting: February 18<sup>th</sup> at the Vander Built in Philmont. Next General meeting: March 18<sup>th</sup> at the Philmont Fire Station.**

**Adjournment: Motion by Wally Engel/Greg Gilliland – Carried.**

**Secretary**

**Irene Huston**