



OREGON VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

“Representing Those Who Volunteer”

Minutes

Lebanon Fire District – Lebanon, Oregon
August 8, 2008, 18:00 Hours

CALL TO ORDER:

President Greiner called the meeting to order at 19:10 hours.

ROLL CALL:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tina Greiner, President | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kourosch Modjtabai, Director |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dave Butler, 1 st Vice President | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lori Albert, Director <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Scott Mullen, 2 nd Vice President (via telephone) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rex Parks Sr, Director |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> James Oeder, Secretary/Treasurer | <input type="checkbox"/> Richard Detherage, Chaplain |

GUESTS:

Russell Poppe, Speer Hoyt, Attorneys at Law

STAFF:

Genoa Ingram

Pledge of ALLEGIANCE:

Chair Greiner lead the Board in the pledge of allegiance.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA:

- None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- Approved of Minutes of May 15, 2008 and June 20, 2008 meeting.
Motion: Moved by Rex Parks and seconded by Lori Albert to approve the May 15, 2008 and the June 20, 2008 minutes as amended to reflect correction of a typo on page one of the May 15 minutes. **Motion passed.**

It was noted that staff should create another set of minutes to reflect final action on the settlement.

NEW BUSINESS

- Russell Poppe of the law firm of Speer Hoyt, reviewed the association’s previous history as a 501(c)(3) and offered the option of establishing a new 502(c)(3) and transferring the assets from the previous association. Under that scenario, three steps were outlined in his draft handout (EXHIBIT A):
 1. Obtain a new determination letter from the IRS indicating that OVFA qualifies as a non-profit;
 2. Dissolve the old corporation;
 3. Transfer the assets to the new tax exempt organization.

Russell reported that the Department of Justice was generally supportive of this scenario. In response to questions from Scott Mullen, Russell reported that it may be possible to operate under



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two “umbrellas”: a non-profit and a for-profit corporation. He acknowledged that the Board was looking for some latitude to provide benefits to members, such as death and disability insurance. Tax implications were discussed, along with the ability to provide benefits to some members. Transfer of assets would have to be from a 501(c)(3) to a 501(c)(3). Problems with “The Fund” included providing benefits to members only, when funds had been solicited under the premise that all volunteer firefighters would benefit. Jim Oeder provided a history of the Accidental Death and Disability Fund (AD&D), noting that tobacco settlement money had originally provided funding for training and emergencies. It had since grown into a fire service relief fund. There was discussion regarding the scope of coverage, including whether it would apply to anyone in the fire service and whether coverage should be applied 24/7 or during on the job activity only. Russell suggested calling Elizabeth Grant at the Attorney General’s office for clarification. Russell offered that the working through DOJ issues would not be difficult; the bigger problems will be working through IRS issues and, to a lesser extent, the Oregon Department of Revenue.

Russell suggested that the Association move forward with a 501(c)(3) in a manner that will provide the most latitude for the organization. He suggested a call to Ken Jones, who would then assign it out.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

- Genoa Ingram reviewed the financial report. Jim Oeder commented that Umqua Bank did not provide detailed information on CD accounts. A memo from OVFA staff to the Board regarding banking activities was reviewed. (EXHIBIT B)
- Board members asked that staff research the \$750 bank and Visa charges and send a memo explaining those charges.

STAFF REPORT:

- Review of Ballot Measure Summary.
- Provided a recap of the Joint Fire Legislative Committee.
- Reviewed New York legislation providing health care benefits to volunteer firefighters.
- Reported that a new server had been installed, to keep OVFA records secure.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- a) **Ambassador Program** – No report
- b) **Conference – Tina Greiner**

Tina reported that she and staff had made a trip to Medford and met with members of Jackson County Fire District #3. Jim recalled that the association had tried to stay clear of Father’s Day so schools would not be open. Board members discussed dates for the 2009 Conference and determined that, due to Father’s Day, the Conference would be held on the 25th. Tina will call Barry and Dennis to finalize the date. Tina reported that training will be held at Rogue Community College with morning and most evening activities at the Expo. Goal is to make the 2009 profitable. Tina reported that she would like to pursue the Pendleton area for 2010 and Charleston for 2011.



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- c) **Grants and Scholarships** – No report. Tina suggested setting a deadline for expenditure of funds to make certain funds are spent within the same budget year as awarded.
- d) **EMT Advisory Committee – President Greiner**
The Committee will meet next week.
- e) **Governors Fire Policy – Scott Mullen**
The Committee will not meet again until September.
- f) **Fire Policy Committee**
No report. Jim Whelan has rebuilt his contact information.
- g) **NVFC – Jack Carriger**
Tina will send out dates for the meeting in Grand Rapids. NVFC is implementing a new Health and Wellness program to compliment the Heart Healthy program. Jim Oeder will check the budget to verify that OVFA has budgeted to send someone the week of the 24th.

OLD BUSINESS:

- EF Recovery – The company has offered to pay OVFA half a percent of all sales to our members. Other states have signed on with success. Board members prefer to wait until the 501(c)(3) status is cleared up before entering into a contract with them. Tina will ask that our logo be removed from the company’s promotional literature.
- LOSAP – Jim reported that he had met with the Lyons Department on June 4 and there were positive responses. Will meet with Polk County next week. Transfer of the program continues to be in transition.
- Brochures – Jim Oeder reviewed the OVFA brochure and reported that he had talked with Brian Goodman. He noted that there was an error in the brochure under the section on the Bob Shepherd memorial.

NEW BUSINESS:

- No new business.

BOARD REPORTS

- Jim Oeder provided Board members with calendars with significant dates noted. Other information, such as the Board roster, will be added.
- Dave Butler attended the Annual Steak Feed in Coquille and reported a good turnout.
- Lori Albert reported on recent surgery.
- Rex Parks reported that his Board was considering Police and Fire Benevolent Fund; recipients would be paid staff only. He reported that he will be on vacation to Alaska until September 19.
- Jim reported that the Lebanon Fire golf tournament was scheduled for September 8. OVFA will contribute \$150.
- Tina reported that she had been approached by a supplemental insurance program. She will provide additional information at a later date and will advise company representatives of next meeting. She will be out of state September 7-17.



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FUTURE MEETING/ACTIVITY DATE

- No September meeting. The next meeting was tentative set for October 11 in Sisters.

ADJOURNMENT:

- President Greiner adjourned the meeting at 20:25 hours.

Transcribed by:

Genoa Ingram, OVFA Staff