



# OREGON VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

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“Representing Those Who Volunteer”

## Minutes

Fire Expo – Portland Oregon  
May 15, 2008, 17:00 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"/> Kourosh Modjtabai, Director |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dave Butler, 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nic Granum, Director        |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scott Mullen, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rex Parks Sr, Director      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> James Oeder, Secretary/Treasurer             | <input type="checkbox"/> Richard Detherage, Chaplain            |

### GUESTS:

Rick Dorrell  
Kristina Lindquist  
Jill Dorrell, Historian  
Karrie Oeder

### STAFF:

Genoa Ingram

### INVOCATION:

- Staff lead the Board in opening prayer.

### ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA:

- The following agenda items were added:
  - Safer Grant (Recruitment)
  - Brochure

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- Approved Minutes for April 19, 2008 meeting.  
**Motion:** Moved by Scott Mullen and seconded by Jim Oeder to approve the April 19 14, 2008 minutes as amended to reflect a motion to move forward with the grant as outlined by Rob Carnahan. **Motion passed.**

### FINANCIAL REPORT:

- Jim Oeder provided the financial report. The financial report will be on record in the Salem office. Staff was asked to provide copies of statements from Umpqua Bank regarding the Certificate of Deposits. Board members reviewed the financial report and noted the following:
  - Board members agreed that transferring funds to a money market account would draw more interest than CDs. \$159.00 was received for merchandise and transmitted to staff for deposit.
  - Board members noted that a donation on Profit/Loss Statement reflected \$600 for donations/contributions and noted that the amount should be listed as an expense.



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- Payment of NVFC expenses were discussed. President Greiner explained that OVFA’s representative, Chief Jack Carriger, is moving up the leadership ladder and that OVFA will continue to support him by paying his expenses to attend NVFC events.
- Page 1 of the Profit and Loss Statement reflected \$88,000 higher than the budgeted income and questioned why income and expense did not balance. Jim Oeder explained that a cash carry over of \$64,000 should be reflected. The Board was also expecting a settlement with CDG. Further, there were questions if whether a line is missing for grants and scholarships. Staff was asked to send out modified profit and loss which mirrors the budget. Staff was also asked to verify that conference expenses were being reflected. Either Jim Oeder or President Greiner would be able to supply information regarding donations and contributions. It was also noted that the Profit and Loss Statement indicated that more money had already been spent than was budgeted for Bank/Visa charges.
- President Greiner reported that NVFC questioned check for \$155 which appeared to be a dues payment for a non-member. Staff agreed to research the matter and discovered that the check represented NVFC dues; the OFVA dues will follow.

## **STAFF REPORT:**

- Staff provided an overview of the compromise agreed to by the Special Districts Association (SDAO) and paid union firefighters. Components are as follow:
- No retroactivity. The presumption will apply to cancer claims diagnosed after the effective date of the bill.
- Burden of Proof. Employers will not longer have the burden of proving by “clear and convincing evidence” that the cancer is not related to firefighting activities.
- Cut-off. The presumption will only apply to cancers diagnosed seven years after retirement.
- Smoker Carve-out. Smokers will have a more stringent burden of proof
- Paid vs. volunteer. The presumption will apply only to paid firefighters and will not include volunteers. SDAO has explained that they are reluctant to write policies for all firefighters until they have some indication as to what insurance rates will do. There is a possibility that volunteers can be added at a later date. SDAO has emphasized that volunteer firefighters may still submit cancer claims; the difference is that a presumption of the cause is not there.
- Number of Cancers. Twelve cancers are included: Brain, stomach, prostate, colon, testicular, multiple myeloma, non-Hodgkin’s Lymphoma, chest, throat, rectal, breast and leukemia. There will be an age limitation on prostate.
- Effective date: July 1, 2009 (Applies only to cancers diagnosed on or after the effective date.)

**Motion:** Moved by Nic Granum and seconded by Jim Oeder that the OVFA take no official position on cancer presumption. Following discussion of changing the motion to reflect a position of “no opposition”, the **motion was withdrawn** until such time that OVFA leadership can meet with representatives of SDAO and the firefighters union. This is expected to occur the first week in June.



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## COMMITTEE REPORTS:

### a) Ambassador Program –

Kourosh Modjtabei reported that he and Scott Mullen had taken a trip to Medford, making stops at Halsey-Shedd, South Lane, and Brownsville. Staff was asked to add Mark Stevens of Brownsville and Jason Servatius of Jackson County Fire District #3 to the web site under the Ambassador link. Staff was also asked to add links for local district/department events.

### b) Conference – Tina Greiner

Nic reported that he had spoken with Vikki at Kaiser Renaissance Inn regarding the food requirements and hoped to have a contract soon which reflects need for less food. He reported that NW Innovations needs to know where the classes are going to be held at Chemeketa campus, and Tina added that they oversee the food court and have the ability to set up anywhere since the campus will be closed. Food for vendor night and casino night is being arranged through the hotel. Jill asked if vendor fees will cover food costs for vendor night, and Tina confirmed this. President Greiner asked Nic to forward the contract to the Board as soon as possible. Staff was asked to email registration counts to the Board when available from Chemeketa Community College.

Scott Mullen reported that he had spoken with Barrie at Jackson County regarding the 2009 Conference. President Greiner requested a commitment letter from their Association President. Scott reported that Rogue Community College and White City are accessible for OVFA's use; there is also a Conference center available.

**Motion:** Moved by Nic Granum and seconded by Scott Mullen that, pending a commitment letter, to finalize the agreement with Jackson County 3 to host the 2009 Conference. **Motion passed.**

President Greiner reported that the Conference Coordinator position had not worked out and Chief Carriger would be stepping down. The central point of contact will be Court Street Consulting. Staff was asked to make contact with hotel and with Chemeketa Community College. Scott Mullen expressed concern that Chief Carriger wasn't given the opportunity to be successful. President Greiner asked how many have signed up for classes. Staff was asked to contact CCC and provide registration numbers.

Scott Mullen reported that he had spoken with Bill Kline who indicated that there shouldn't be a problem finding students to drive shuttle from the hotel to the college. Scott had offered to allow students to take a class in exchange for shuttle driving. He reported that there should be three vans available to transport. President Greiner will call Chris James regarding after-hours transportation.



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## c) **Historian**

President Greiner presented the camera to Historian Jill Dorrell, who indicated that there would be six additional seats reserved at the banquet for children from the Burn Center. Jill asked about Past President’s Dinner and was told that Steve Schneiderman and Jack Carriger were working on it. She also asked about expectation other than taking photos during classes and reported that she was preparing easels with photos of previous conferences, along with photo albums. She is also working on display of past presidents. Scott Mullen suggested going back as far as possible to glean information regarding past presidents so OVFA can show a progression and historical timeline. Jim Oeder indicated that a Past President’s plaque is available at the office for comparison purposes. Scott offered photos from Baker to supplement other photographs. Board members also suggested providing historical information on Firefighter of the Year. Jim indicated that there was a plaque available at the office, although it may not have been modified.

Jill questioned the logistics of the conference and confirmed that she would be a conference registrant and would have a hotel room on sight. President Greiner indicated that it was her preference that the entire Board reside on site. Kourosh Modjtabai emphasized the importance of a strong Board presence, given this was the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Scott Mullen reported that he had ordered 350 commemorative conference shirts. Kourosh suggested hats, as well. Jim suggested that Board members have the 50 year logo with something distinguishing them as Board members, perhaps a nice hat with embroidery. Scott will contact the vendor regarding the hat order. Jill agreed to assemble a poster board display. Board members also suggested a mug collection. Scott asked if vendor packets would be available tomorrow. Dave Butler agreed to bring them.

## d) **Grants & Scholarships – Nic Granum**

Nic Granum reported that he had sent out information on grants and scholarships and understood that one had dropped out, leaving a remainder of five awards to be presented. A \$6,500 award was available and \$5,500 award would be available in the fall, but the amounts actually awarded would be less than that, to reflect the low number of applications.. Those requests were still in Committee and he welcomed any feedback.

## e) **EMT Advisory Committee – President Greiner**

President Greiner reported that the Committee had met the previous Friday, although she and Nic were unable to attend.

## f) **Governors Fire Policy – Scott Mullen**

Scott Mullen reported that the Committee had discussed the issue of skinny streets but had abandoned the idea of putting forth a proposal. He also reported that Nancy Orr had announced her plans to retire in December.

## g) **Fire Policy Committee**



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Jim Oeder reported that Jim Whelan’s computer had crashed and he was attempting to reconstruct his information. There will be a teleconference the following week.

**h) NVFC – Jack Carriger**

No Report. Jack continues to forward emails.

**i) OR-OSHA**

No Report.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- Relief Fund Policies – Scott Mullen has provided a PDF to Jim Oeder and President Greiner. There was discussion regarding taking over the 501(c)(3) and Board members acknowledged that there was concern that the Board would abandon relief policy. Scott reminded the Board that there had been discussion the previous month about adopting a policy stipulating that the fund would not be abolished. Staff was asked to email Genesys Conferencing information to Jim Oeder. Staff was also asked to draft a letter from the OVFA Board asking to meet with the Fund Board.
- LOSAP – Staff reported that the agreement has been signed; Jim Oeder will make a presentation on June 4 in Lyons
- Civic Development CDG – President Greiner reported that Jim from Speer Hoyt has contacted her about meeting the first two weeks in June. She and Dave Butler will meet to negotiate a settlement.
- EF Recovery – President Greiner provided an overview of conversations with EF Recovery, explaining that if their product is used, then it is to be reported and EF will replenish the product and bill the insurance company.

**By consensus,** Board members agreed to contact legal counsel for the purpose of discussing the benefits of forming a 501(c)(4) for the purpose of fundraising. Costs to convert should also be addressed.

- Recruitment Grant – Scott Mullen reported that he had spoken with Steve Schneiderman and had asked whether there should be concern that OVFA had received a list of questions several months ago but had not heard anything since. Steve had indicated if we received the questions, we will get the grant. Scott also reported that, with regard to work products produced from the grant, OVFA will have exclusive rights.
- 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:**

- Safety Expo – Scott Mullen clarified that the Safety Expo was not vendor based, but service based. He added that it was important for OVFA to have a presence in order to increase exposure in Southern Oregon. He did not recommend spending \$4,500 since there would be no opportunity for advertisement or a booth; it is more of a public safety fair. He suggested



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providing complimentaries to attract participants and a commercial that could be displayed on a laptop or big screen, in addition to something for children.

- National Benefits – President Greiner reported that next year’s event will be held Midwest.
- Past President Recognition – Jim Oeder suggested it might be nice to recognize past OVFA presidents. He had investigated past president rings at a cost of \$200 each.

## **BOARD REPORTS**

- Rex Parks reported that the Sisters Rodeo is coming up in June and Department will be visible at that event.
- Scott Mullen reported that this coming Sunday was Stayton’s annual pancake feed and the week after Conference was Stayton’s 20<sup>th</sup> annual Golf Tournament to benefit Burn Center
- Kourosch Modjtabai reported on Boring’s barbeque.
- President Greiner reported that the Scio Department will receive a meritorious award in the form of a public service award.

## **FUTURE MEETING/ACTIVITY DATE**

- The June meeting will be held in conjunction with the June Conference.

## **ADJOURNMENT:**

- President Greiner adjourned the meeting at 13:45 hours. (9:40)

Transcribed by:

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Genoa Ingram, OVFA Staff