

MARYLAND STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

August 8-9, 1998
Abingdon, Maryland

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MARYLAND STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINTUES

August 8-9, 1998

Abingdon, Maryland

The Executive Committee Meetings were held at the Abingdon Volunteer Fire Company. The meetings were called to order at 0900 hours by President Robert E. Knippenburg. Chaplain Damewood led the invocation and spoke of the members who needed our prayers, followed by leading the group in the pledge to the flag. Welcome was given by President, Louis Espey of Abingdon. President Knippenburg gave his welcome, went over the logistics of the days activities and recognized the following Past Presidents in attendance: D. E. Kirk, 63-64; P. P. Lochery, 68-69; R. L. Wood, 73-74; E. E. Dunn, 76-77; C. B. Burton, 79-80; R. N. Dempsey, 80-81; C. W. Riley, 83-84; L. T. King, 85-86; C. D. Carpenter, 86-87; R. P. Cumberland, 87-88; R. H. Shimer, 88-89; J. R. Robison, 89-90; T. A. Mattingly, 90-91; B. J. Smith, 91-92; P. M. Hurlock, 93-94; R. L. Yinger, 94-95; S. D. Cox, 96-97; and C. D. Davis, 97-98. The President recognized those guests in attendance which included President Joan Cumberland of the Ladies Auxiliary. He then went into reports of the officers.

President - President Knippenburg presented his written report and proceeded to summarize by commenting that it has been with great pride and honor to represent the Association. He thanked the Convention Committee for an outstanding job with the convention. He continued with a review of his goals: 1. Hold a mini retreat, 2. Form a Rescue Committee (done), 3. Marketing Committee to market our Association, 4. Expand meetings with various organizations, some contacts have been made, 5. Bring the Presidents of county and regional associations together for a meeting, 6. Contact non-member departments in attempt to join the ranks, Hancock Rescue Squad has already submitted an application, 7. Hold additional billing seminars, several options have been proposed, 8. Safe Harbor Legislation, it appears that we are in good standing on this matter, 9. MSFA Web Page, will be meeting with the Data Systems Committee. Discussions have taken place on the possibility of computerizing our credentials and registration for the convention. The Directory will be distributed this weekend. The President spoke on meetings held on adoption of NFPA 1500, unsure where this will go. He further spoke on the \$8.00 fee placed on license tags, additional funds will be needed to keep this fund viable. On July 6 and 7, MSFA paid respects to Comptroller Goldstein, he and Leonard King were honorary pallbearers. Congratulations to Jerry Glaubitz on the Morningside station dedication. He spoke on installing several officers at various organization meetings. He attended the funeral services of John Kennedy of Ocean Pines, who died while directing traffic at an accident scene. The President also relayed that he had been guests at the Patuxent River Naval Air Station. He relayed that the officers and Chairman Blanco have in their possession new alpha-numeric pagers, telephones have been ordered. He spoke on his surgery from last year, the August check up was very good. He has traveled 8,049 miles and spent 357 hours performing his duties.

First Vice President - Vice President Edelin presented his written report and commented on its contents. He relayed that he has traveled 6,231 miles and spent 267 hours performing his duties.

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He commented on the recent deaths of Comptroller Goldstein and John Kennedy. The Vice President spoke on the recent meetings with the Department of Labor reference making the NFPA 1500 the standard in Maryland, most of the representatives were not in favor. He further spoke on the workings of the Fire Prevention Committee, some concerns with the queens comments. He also addressed some concerns reference the convention memorial service.

Second Vice President - Vice President Steger presented his written report are reported that he had traveled 2,818 miles and spend 174 hours while performing his duties. He spoke on the monthly meetings with MOSH which he is attending, and thanked everyone for the hospitality and friendship.

Secretary - Secretary King presented his written report, commented on the activities of the office. The office continues the team effort working for the best interest. The assignments are the same as in the past. Minutes of the last Executive Committee meetings in Ocean City have been transcribed, copied and distributed. The mailing lists have been revised to reflect the new officers and committee chairs, all correspondence has been handled properly, notices of meeting mailed. An application for active membership from the Hancock Rescue Squad has been received and forwarded to the Standards Committee for investigation. The updated information has been entered into the directory and sent to the printer, and is being distributed during these meetings. The Secretary requests information from the county and regional associations concerning their new officers and addresses. The Secretary's Office is still assisting the Data Committee and the Treasurer on updating the inventory of equipment and other items owned by the Association. The Convention Proceedings Book work has began with the transcribing of the tapes. Work continues on the listing of various departments joining the Association.

Treasurer - Treasurer Saville presented a computer printout on the financial accounts of the Association. He thanked the Audit Committee for their efforts during the recent audit.

Financial Secretary - Financial Secretary Jacobs presented his written statements and explained that three reports are presented to include ending FY98 and year to date.

Chaplain - Chaplain Damewood stated that is great to be here, thanked all for their cards and calls. He reported on the problems with the memorial service at the convention. He further discussed some recommendations for next year. The cutoff date will be April 1st of each year to get deceased names and pictures to him for inclusion in the program. Some changes for next year will include pictures on the screen and reading of names live. A new form will be prepared in cooperation with the Secretary. A question was asked about the calendar year. He responded that it was not successful, and that the cutoff date will be April 1st. A questions was asked, what would happen if a Past President passes away after April 1st? The reply was that the name would be carried over to the next year. The Convention Committee reported that the same date will also apply to the Program Book due to printing deadlines.

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President Knippenburg announced that the Sergeant At Arms will be Dan Stevens and Skip Massey. Richard Yinger, Bob Collins, and Danny Davis and the Presidents were called forward for a check presentation made on behalf of smoke detectors for the hearing impaired and deaf. Richard Yinger commented about the presentation and program distribution. The meeting was turned over to Executive Committee Chair Blanco.

Chair Blanco opened the meeting by going around the table for comments: Danny Davis commented on an article from a magazine which he distributed; Wylie Donaldson commented on the Anne Arundel Convention, working on a new response procedure, and a grievance procedure for volunteers; Chip Jewell reported that Potomac Valley is breaking ground for a new station, Washington County is reviewing the emergency services contract report, and spoke on workers compensation in responses out of state; John Denver asked that a procedure be established for display of banners at the convention for candidates running in future years; Mark Bilger congratulated Joan Cumberland, county approval to solicit for a liaison position to the county association, also an EMS coordinator, both to be contractual positions, and they will be starting EMS billing; Paul Sterling spoke on the reorganization, thanks to M.S.F.A. for assistance of the sky box for the Maryland Fire Chiefs Association, and reported on the county fair; Lester Downes relayed that Caroline County is requesting drivers for ambulances, and that they are upgrading radio systems; Judy Lau reported that they are updating CAD, personal paging systems, and the Prince George's Convention; Jenks Mattingly relayed that they are looking at communications, and announced that Tom Mattingly is seeking the office of County Commissioner.

Bessie Marshall Fund - Chair Betty Radisch provided a written report and stated that they have received 8 cases in the amount of \$6,000. to date. Again this year the lottery will be the main fundraiser, tickets have been sent to all fire departments.

Attorney - Attorney Powell stated that we have received the quarterly report from MBNA and should receive \$913. for the second quarter. He also discussed the California Casualty letter, reply was negative, will proceed with suit. Question was asked about notification to insurance commissioner, no requirement. Article will be placed in the Trumpet about solicitations of members.

MFRI - Director Edwards presented his written report and spoke on the successful booth at the convention, great opportunity to meet the students. He spoke on the customer survey results, quality of programs 95.6%, attitude of personnel 88.6%, teaching ability of instructors 86.5%, results are very positive. Drill of the Month feature on the web is very successful. He further spoke on the MFRI retest policy, consistent to all classes. Question was asked about pre-testing for classes, no intention. Additional comments were made about the re-testing policy. He continued by updating the regional training centers at Southern Maryland and Upper Eastern Shore. He spoke on the program development completed and future. Director Edwards has been appointed by FEMA to review the USFA and NFA, will serve as vice-chair.

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Training - Chair Fairfax presented his written report, stated a sub-committee has been appointed to review the Zembower Training Award. He spoke on the Ten Year Plan, time now to update the process. He felt it may be beneficial to attend the FDIC. He further commented on the DNR red card, MFRETC task force on training center enhancement and the MFRI re-testing policy.

MFRI Board of Advisors - Charles Wills presented a written report, spoke on minutes from June meeting. He relayed that Dr. Clayton Moore will be the new President of the University of Maryland, spoke on the regional training centers, MFRI instructors received a \$2. per hour increase. Tom Mattingly spoke on the commission task force, expressed some concerns, will be following.

Convention - Chairman King presented his written report, commented the committee is working to finalize all aspects of the 98 convention. Many constructive comments and ideas were discussed, all under consideration. Preliminary plans for the 99 convention are underway. He spoke on the most positive events being the dedication of the facility to the M.S.F.A. and the Past Presidents, the creation of the corporate partnership sponsors, largest number of exhibitors and the combat challenge. Further comments ensued on the parade day, critique group voted by one voter to recommend that the parade remain on Wednesday, some felt it should be placed on the ballot. Final financial picture of convention is not complete, hopefully break even, full report in October. He spoke on some highlights of the convention, corporate partnership program, combat challenge, exhibitors, beach party, parade trophy presentation, food for all of the events. The cooperation again received from all was great, a total team effort, 150 individuals are required to put on the convention, still looking for a few good people. Tom Mattingly reported on the opening ceremonies, some problems concerning the Westminster Band Color Guard, will make a few dollars on the Program Book, golf tournament went well, still looking for hole sponsors, reviewed the convention surveys from the participants. The exhibitors seemed to be very pleased, also reviewed their surveys. Further comments and discussion were made about the concerns of the Westminster Band. Question was asked about the exhibitor survey reference the parade day, recommended Thursday. Question was asked about the combat challenge, will be there next year. Additional comments were made about the parade day and banner placement. G. Blanco asked that the Budget Committee, Officers, and the Convention Committee meet Friday night before the next Executive Committee Meeting.

Five Year Planning - Chair Raley presented a written report, spoke on various topics carried over from last year.

Shock Trauma Center -Director Ashworth spoke on the document handed out, pleasure to sponsor some activities at the convention. He stated that shock trauma would not be seeking any additional state support from the EMS Fund over the next five years. He provided some statistics for planning into 2003. Staffing issues continue to be a major problem due to the variability of admittance's.

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MIEMSS - Dr. Bass presented a written report and reported on the EMS Initiatives in Maryland, rapid sequence intubation, electronic data collection, AED update, weapons of mass destruction, protocol changes, new triage tags, and helicopter acquisition. Dr. Bass also reported on federal level EMS issues. The OIG reviewed the ambulance restocking arrangement, OIG determined that no sanctions would be imposed since this arrangement would likely “have a positive impact on the quality of patient care and result in substantial community benefit consistent with long standing national policy objectives.” He further reported on WEMSAC committees and updated the EMS Board activities. The EMS Board will be reviewing the final draft of regulations developed in accordance with SB764. MIEMSS is in the process of finalizing a quality management employee awareness program.

Transportation - Chair R. Yinger presented a written report and stated that S. Cox has had the tags changed on both MSFA cars. T. Flint is handling data input on certs, M. Soutar is handling the certs. He spoke on a letter from the MVA, stating that they will start this week to flag all of the old black and white FD tags. Question again was asked about non members, departments need to place on letterhead those names to him who are no longer a member so that they can be pulled. T. Flint gave a statistical information on tag certs of 7,936 to date.

Assistant Chaplain Hetz offered the blessing before breaking for lunch. After lunch committee reports were continued.

EMS - Chair Wills presented a handout packet and proceeded to state further on the draft regulation from SB764, all changes have been incorporated. He then presented the new protocol book for review and talked about the goals of the ALS sub-committee, one being funding for the county medical directors. He also talked about a letter he prepared reference the medical planning for weapons of mass destruction. MIEMSS hosted an EMT-B forum, about 20 in attendance. In response to the training committee, all members have been provided a copy of the ten year training plan. Attorney Powell stated that General Quam, Commander of the National Guard, has offered to make a presentation to the MSFA. B. Cumberland spoke on a workshop he attended with the guard.

DNR Forestry - Alan Zentz sent a written report which was distributed.

MFRETC - Chair Shimer spoke on the goals of the commission reference regional training centers which had been spoken about earlier.

State Fire Marshal - B. Shimer presented an oral report for the Fire Marshal. He relayed that Tom Collins has been appointed to the State Fire Prevention Commission, that work continues to comply with HB1399, providing police powers, and that six vacancies have been filled. Several retirements are expected this year, bomb squad has been very active centralized at BWI Airport. He highlighted the annual report, updating the reporting system, weekend training held, money included in the FY00 budget to bring program on line. The office will be reviewing the State

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Fire Code, have recommended to adopt NFPA1001. The Fire and Life Safety Conference will be held at APL on September 23, registration is \$25. Question about the new reporting system, year Y2K compliant.

911 Board - P. Hurlock stated that the Board had met, however no quorum was present.

Rescue - Chair E. Woods presented a written report, discussed priorities for the coming year. They will be gathering a resource book for resources, looked at the NFPA Standards 1006 and 1470 are finished.

Awards - Chair Graf reported that they will put out a new manual this year.

Safety - Chair Balta presented a written report, and reported on the Safety Seminar to be held on April 4, 1999. The pocket mask giveaway was a huge success at the convention, buckle up stickers not being received well. The Smith Stathem Trophy is progressing very well, design waiting approval. The Safety Committee will become more active in having articles in the Trumpet. The safety display at the convention this year was unacceptable, there is no plan to produce a safety video. He requested authorization to use the budgeted money for the video to purchase pocket masks. Question was asked about problems during the parade, not aware of any. The following motion was made by J. Lau and seconded by P. Sterling:

Motion: To authorize the utilization of \$3,000. Of Safety Committee budget for the purchase of pocket masks in lieu of safety video. Voice vote taken. Motion Passed.

Surplus Property - Chair Massey presented a written report and reported on equipment recently received being turnout gear, compressor, pumper, and furniture. Discussion ensued about a location to store equipment.

Board of Review - Chair Moltrup made oral comments. The Board has not had a meeting since convention, meeting scheduled was canceled due to no application. Previous applications approved have received final approval by the Board of Public Works. Question was asked why the 990 form was now required for application, Board felt that it was necessary to better audit the financial status of the company.

Fire Prevention - Chair B. Collins presented a written report and discussed several projects for the year, smoke detectors, conference, seminar, risk watch, placemats, and bill boards. The committee is reviewing present queen contest rules, reviewing the budget and has requested an additional \$7,500 for approval. A budget request was proposed by the queens, however cannot support the requests.

Incentives Programs - Chair Joan Robison presented a written report and highlighted the report. The tax subtraction modification program progressed very well this year. Each county provided their information by May 1, disk to be submitted by October 1 to Comptroller. This year 8,043

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members qualified, up from last year. She then spoke on the two attached reports. Reminder again that \$3,000 is the subtraction for this filing year. The committee continues to monitor the counties for legislative updates in their LOSAP.

Fire Laws - R. Powell stated there would be a Fire Laws Book printed this year. The price will be available at the next meeting.

Historical and Archives - Chair Watkins presented a written report and stated that he is still learning the position. He has received a large box of pictures from the Convention Committee, anyone wanting copies needs to contact him.

Volunteer Firefighter's Room - Chair Watkins presented a written report and stated that the committee is updating the displays, in the process of changing to a marketing tool, and that a new inventory is needed.

Memorial – Chair Mooney presented a written report, some organizational changes made, Bob Ringle is now Vice Chair, Craig Coleman is Secretary, and Robert Wright is Treasurer of the Foundation.

Memorial - Chair Mooney presented a written report, some organizational changes made, Bob Ringle is now Vice Chair, Craig Coleman is Secretary, and Robert Wright is Treasurer of the foundation. The \$4,000 check has been received from the NVFC, asking the Budget Committee to delete their request. We are still in the process of trying to obtain final approval of the site in Annapolis. Data collection letters are in the process of distribution. Robin Browning has been added to the group to represent the ladies. Thanks again to the organizations who daily support the foundation.

Audit - Chair Purdy presented a written report.

Statistical - Chair Worthington presented a written report, commented that 53 departments are remain outstanding. A lot of promises made at the convention did not happen. Thanks to the committee members and the area reps. The official date for acceptance will be September 15, next years packets will go out in December for distribution.

Out of State Coordinator - B. Cumberland spoke on attendance at the convention. Arrangements are being made to go to Virginia. Delaware convention September 24-26, will be attending on the 25th.

National Fire Academy Liaison - B. Cumberland presented a written report and stated that the working group would be organized with Mary Ann Gibbons. R. Petre still in charge of honor guards, still trying to define the role of Frederick county.

NVFC - B. Cumberland presented a written report, updated the activities, Bob, Steve, and Carl will be attending the next meeting. NVFC has a new legislative specialist, Anne Wilson. He continues to work on legislative manners, getting more funding for the Volunteer Assistance Program, and there is a possibility for another \$2MM for forestry. He spoke on the FEPP Program, needs your comments. He had the opportunity to speak at a press conference for the council. He spoke on meetings attended, good discussion at the firehouse expo, programs of FEMS, USFA and NFA. He reported that NIOSH is investigating firefighter fatalities. He is again seeking election to the NVFC Executive Committee. S. Cox provided background information in support of B. Cumberland's position. The following motion was made by J. Denver and seconded by H. Rhue:

Motion: That the M.S.F.A. draft a letter of support for Bob Cumberland to serve on the NVFC Executive Committee. Voice vote taken. Motion Passed.

Legislative - Chair B. Smith presented a written report and reported that the committee continues to monitor the meetings that affect the emergency services. He reported on the Maryland EMS Operation Fund which will be broke by 2003. There will be no pre-filed bills this year due to election year. They request all to contact their legislators, don't let them be a stranger. Reception tentative date is first Monday in February. B. Cumberland reported on federal legislation, and a meeting with Senator Roth's staff reference IRS problems. The five state presidents will be holding their meeting to discuss legislative issues.

Constitution and By-Laws - Chair P. Gordy stated that the committee will be meeting on November 7 in Denton. A request for a budget of \$400. is requested to cover administrative costs.

Special Activities - Chair L. Woods stated that everything is here and for sale. Attorney Powell spoke on some sales by vendors at the convention.

Assistant Chaplain Newman offered the benediction and the meeting was recessed for the evening. President Knippenburg called the meeting back to order and Chaplain Damewood read from scripture, read the prayer list, gave prayer and lead the pledge. President Knippenburg introduced the following Past Presidents who were in attendance: D. E. Kirk, 63-64; R. L. Wood, 73-74; E. E. Dunn, 76-77, C. O. Baker, 78-79; C. B. Burton, 79-80; R. N. Dempsey, 80-81; C. W. Riley, 83-84; L. T. King, 85-86; C. D. Carpenter, 86-87; R. P. Cumberland, 87-88; R. H. Shimer, 88-89; J. R. Robison, 89-90; B. J. Smith, 91-92; F. R. Cross, 96-96; and S. D. Cox, 97-98. He also introduced the guests in attendance which included President Joan Cumberland of the Ladies Auxiliary. The meeting was turned over to Chairman Blanco who continued with reports.

Ways and Means - Chair Means reported the raffle tickets have been ordered, available for ladies fall conference.

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Audit - Chair Purdy addressed the committee again reference some items from his report, Executive Committee is responsible for the inventory and Treasurer's software program needs updating. Discussion progressed about the software program, seems to be some misunderstandings about the data entry procedures. Discussion continued between the audit, budget, and Treasurer, consensus to have this group meet and make recommendations. Another question was asked about the current inventory, discussion, some suggestions given, what is insured. Secretary King spoke on the issues cleared up the insurance, data committee has the most accurate listing of property. Further comments were made by others, VP Edelin will recommend to the President to look into matter and report back in January. Chair Blanco asked all who have equipment that is surplus, report at next meeting with the information.

Scholarship - V. Chair Bender presented a written report, no action required by the Board. The committee has now awarded more scholarships than ever, solicit your continued cooperation.

Sprinkler Technology - Chair Bender spoke on the Omega sprinkler heads, situation is in the hands of the Consumer Product Safety Commission in attempt to reach resolution. Central Sprinkler continues to meet their commitments by replacing in facilities that have been tested and found faulty.

Recruitment and Retention - Chair Ebling presented a written report and reported that the 800-FIRELINE project is progressing well. Videos reference "If no one answered the call" will be mailed out to all the public and private high schools. The mentoring program remains under development, but is much closer to fruition. The committee will again be on the road with some leadership training. He then spoke on a budget request of \$3,950, itemized the request. Question was asked about the availability of video tapes to local TV and radio stations, can but runs about 7 minutes. Question was asked about local contacts, which he has a list.

Firefighter of the Year - J. Gatton, Sr. reported that he had rockers for previous awardees.

Hall of Fame - Chair J. Gatton, Sr. reported that they are still having a problem finding the 1980 inductees and that he will proceed with the regional plaques.

Public Relations and Bulletin - Chair J. Gatton, Jr. sent a written report. The last issue was 36 pages and highlighted the convention activities.

Diversity - Chair Baxter gave an oral report and provided written goals. He stated there are only three people willing to serve and spoke of future activities.

Budget and Revenue - Chair Fabiszak presented a written report and reported on the budget surplus of last year. The committee recommends that \$18,467 and \$5,548 be placed into savings. Several requests have been received being line 87 for additional \$400 to president's vehicle, line 21 funding of \$400 for Constitution and By-Laws, line 54 funding of \$400 for Awards Booklet,

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line 26 additional \$7,500 to fire prevention, line 48 funding of \$3,950 for volunteer recruitment, for total of \$12,650. The Memorial Committee requested that the \$500 be removed from the budget. The Budget Committee recommends approval of all of the requests. The following motion was made by M. Bilger and seconded by C. Jewell:

Motion: That the Budget Committee recommendations be accepted as presented. Voice vote Taken. Motion Passed.

Chair Blanco went into action items for the Executive Committee. He instructed the Convention Committee to come up with a recommendation concerning the issue of banners for candidates running for office in future years being hung in the convention hall. The following motion was made by P. Sterling and seconded by J. Denver:

Motion: That the Executive Committee make the deadline date for the submission of all fire service deaths for the Memorial Book and the Convention Program Book April 1st. Voice vote taken. Motion Passed.

The following motion was made by C. Jewell and seconded by J. Denver:

Motion: That we have a question of intent reference the parade day on the ballot in 1999 for the membership. Hand vote taken. Motion Failed.

The following motion was made by L. Downes and seconded by S. Hales:

Motion: That we move the parade from Wednesday to Thursday and notify all member companies within 30 days. Hand vote taken. 7 Yea and 2 Nea. Motion Passed.

Further discussion ensued about the “in kind services” that are provided to the convention. Several offered opinions about what should be put on paper. Question was asked about the day for the golf tournament, committee discretion.

Fred Cross asked everyone to assist in locating the James Raskin Plaque which has come up missing.

Board of Trustees - Chair Riley presented the report approving \$9,670 in benefits for d30 widows, 1 disabled firefighter, and 7 children. The claim for John Kennedy of Ocean Pines was approved for line of duty death. The Trustees will be working on changing Article VI to have the By-Laws conform to HB433 and to change the forms to reflect the same information.

Discussion held reference the letter sent by the President to the Executive Committee members reference the MFRETC training center issue. Secretary King read the letter and Bob Shimer spoke further on the funding, no intent to take money away from MFRI. A question was

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asked about the source of the funding, submit legislation with funding from state general account. President Knippenburg requested the Executive Committee to take some action on the issue. The following motion was by P. Sterling and seconded by M. Bilger:

Motion: To support the draft of the MFRETC plan, but take no further action until we see the final plan, support the initiative. Voice vote taken. Motion Passed.

The meeting was turned back to President Knippenburg who stated that a presentation of funds will be made to Abingdon after lunch. Assistant Chaplain Newman offered the blessing for the meal and gave the meeting benediction. Their being no further business to come before the Executive Committee, the meetings were adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Office of the Secretary
Leonard T. King, P.P.
J. Edward Cross
Gene Worthington
Charles B. Burton, P.P.

MOTION SUMMARY

Motion: To authorize the utilization of \$3,000 of Safety Committee budget for the purchase of pocket masks in lieu of safety video. Voice vote taken. Motion Passed.

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