



May 17, 2020

To All CCVFA Members:

A meeting of the Directors, Officers, and Past Presidents took place via Zoom Video Conference on Wednesday, May 13. Although it was a regular business meeting, the focus was to discuss plans and activities for the summer and early fall. Minutes for the meeting will be published soon.

Due to the ongoing situation with the Covid-19 pandemic, the Board voted unanimously to cancel this year's convention and parade in Chatham. There will be a business meeting conducted on Saturday, July 25. Details regarding the time and location of the meeting will be determined and announced as we get closer to the date.

As part of the Capital District Region, for the purpose of New York's phased reopening, we are not yet eligible for phase 1 of the reopening process. Phase 1 will start when all Counties in our region meet the criteria. There is then a two-week period minimum to progress to phase 2, then another 2 weeks to phase 3, and still another 2 weeks to phase 4. During each phase all criteria must be met to advance to the next phase. Any one or more phases could very possibly last more than 2 weeks. The point of this information is to reinforce the unlikelihood of Columbia County successfully arriving at phase 4 by the last weekend of July. Phase 4 is when limited mass gatherings could start to happen.

The following information contains a tentative plan to move our Association forward. It is not a final plan, but it is a solid framework from which to operate. All dates and events noted are still subject to change based on the ever-changing status and guidelines created by the pandemic.

- CCVFA Business Meeting to be held, using the agenda of the Saturday Convention Meeting, on July 25. Time and Location to be Determined and Announced. The full agenda can be found on page six of the 2019 Yearbook. Highlights include:
 - Treasurer's Report
 - Reports of All Committees (see last year's yearbook for a list of committees)
 - Annual Reports – Treasurer, Red Hat, Financial Secretary, and Board of Directors
 - Unfinished Business
 - New Business
 - Includes Motion to Pay Financial Secretary, Recording Secretary, and Treasurer
 - **Election of Officers**
 - Includes new Director for 2027 and a new Financial Secretary
 - Installation of Officers
- Director's Meeting to be *tentatively* held on September 9, 2020 at Stuyvesant Falls
- Quarterly Meeting to be *tentatively* held on October 14, 2020 at Stuyvesant Falls
- A larger event for the entire Association will be held, if regulations allow, sometime in October where we can gather as an Association and honor our Firefighter of the Year and/or Lifetime Achievement awardees as well as remember our fallen brother and sister firefighters with a memorial service. The exact nature, time, and location of the event will be discussed, and plans announced at some point in the future. Profits from the 2019 yearbook which were not used for this year's convention will be used to subsidize this event.



Here is some additional important information from the May 13 Director's Meeting:

- We are looking for a **new Director** whose Company would host the Convention in 2027.
- We are looking for a **new Financial Secretary**
 - Our current Financial Secretary, Frank Bevens, will be stepping down after ten years of service to the Association
- We are hoping to have a **proposed bylaws revision**, reducing the size of the Board and other minor changes, out to all the fire companies in time to vote on the change at the July 25th meeting. If that does not happen by then, it will be addressed in September.
- 1st Vice President Trowbridge will be reaching out to **all Committee members** to ascertain their desire to remain on or be removed from any Committees to which they are appointed.
- **Souvenirs** already purchased for the 2020 convention will be sold at or just above cost so that the Association can recoup the money expended for them. Various methods and locations for selling the **shirts, mason jars, challenge coins, and more** are being determined and may include Facebook and other Social Media outlets as well as at the fall meetings and event. Directors, Officers, and all members are encouraged to help with the sales.
- The **Steak Roast Raffle** is still on and the drawing will tentatively be held at the October event, giving people more time during this period of social distancing to sell the raffle tickets.
- Stuyvesant Falls is still selling **advertisements in the 2020 yearbook**. The yearbook will be distributed to each fire company by hand and/or at the fall event, ensuring complete coverage, the same as at any convention. Members of Stuyvesant Falls has been hampered selling the book due to the shutdown, so the deadline will be extended, giving them more time to obtain ads. The yearbook will be published around September 1 at the latest.
- Directors and Officers will need to obtain letters of endorsement from their respective Fire Companies for the office they are seeking in 2020-2021 by the July 25 meeting.

This is uncharted territory for all of us. Your Officers and Directors are doing the best they can to maintain and advance our great Association. There are many decisions to be made, many with no history of what is best or not nor what has worked or not worked. Please be assured that no decision is taken lightly by your Board of Directors. There has been thoughtful discussion and, I am happy to report, not just a vote but a consensus of all Board members on decisions being made. Our agenda going forward must meet the needs of the Association and all its members while still protecting the health and safety of our members and of the communities that we have all sworn to serve.

If anyone has any questions, comments, or concerns, please email, call, or text us or any Board Member or Officer.

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