

COMMUNITY FIREFIGHTERS FUNERAL BENEFIT FUND, INC
1755 ASHLAND AVENUE
HOMEWOOD, IL 60430

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 9, 2017

TOTAL DEPARTMENTS ATTENDING	11
MEMBER DEPARTMENTS ATTENDING	10
ATTENDING MEMBER DEPARTMENTS IN GOOD STANDING	10
(See last page for attendance detail)	

VENUE: Today's meeting was held at the Brian Carey Training Center in Homewood, IL. Our thanks go to Homewood Chief Bob Grabowski for the use of this facility.

Call To Order – 0900 by VP Holdefer

First Roll Call - Secretary Johnson

Reading of Minutes Not yet Approved

- Draft minutes were made available for all in attendance
- Secretary Johnson reviewed the draft of the minutes of the 03-31-2016 Annual Meeting, and no corrections or additions were voiced by the members in attendance
 - Moved by Homewood to approve the minutes as written
 - Seconded by Crete
 - Motion passed by unanimous voice vote

Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Knoll

- Thank you to MABAS 24 for our office space at the HQ building
- All member departments receive a monthly emailed statement from the Fund
- We are using email to correspond with departments for billing and regular correspondence, to save on time and postage – we still do mail benefit payments and honorary certificates, of course
- Our financial report as of 03-06-2017 was made available for all in attendance – Knoll reviewed the numbers
- For calendar year 2016 a total of 19 funeral benefits were paid by the Fund
 - Two were Line of Duty Death benefits at \$2,000 each
 - Three were Active member benefits at \$1,000 each
 - Fourteen were Honorary member benefits at \$1,000 each
- Knoll reviewed the procedure that was followed to re-invest the Fund's corpus to achieve a higher return – four investment firms submitted bids, and Sawyer Falduto Asset Management, Inc was chosen due to their charging the lowest fees
- Knoll reviewed the procedure that was followed to obtain property, liability, and employee dishonesty (\$30,000 for the board members) insurance for the Fund, as required in the by-laws – we pay \$475 per year for this coverage
- Matteson requested that the quarterly investment reports be provided to the membership
 - Knoll will include the reports with the quarterly statement emails

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Secretary's Report – Secretary Johnson

- Again we thank MABAS 24 for providing office space and utilities for the conducting of CFFBF business at their HQ building on Ashland Ave in Homewood.
- We also thank the Homewood FD for providing our annual meeting space here at the BCTC.
- Remember that CFFBF documents are available for download from the www.mabas24.org website home page.
- Within the six eligible MABAS divisions, 77 departments and 2 individuals were notified of today's meeting
- We currently have 33 listed member departments, and 2 individual members, for a total of 1,210 listed active members
- Regarding honorary members:
 - Knoll advised that over the past 2 years, Johnson has researched all Fund files – electronic and physical – and has compiled a master listing of all known honorary member certificates
 - In an attempt to better determine the Fund's funeral benefit liability, in December 2015 each department's honorary member roster was sent to them with a request to review and respond with information about members who may have died, or members they feel should be listed but are not – as of today's meeting only a handful of departments have responded
 - Remember that departments must be in good standing before a funeral benefit claim can be paid, even for honorary members
 - Likewise, honorary applications will not be honored if a department is not in good standing – these rules have been in the by-laws since at least the early 1990s
- Whenever a funeral benefit claim is paid, the Secretary emails to the department contact, images of the benefit check and letter sent to the beneficiary, for the department's records
- Letters were sent to departments who have been non-responsive or are seriously in arrears, advising them that if they do not indicate in writing by 03-31-2017 their desire to remain members, they will be dropped from the membership roll

Communications and Bills – none

Reports of Committees – none

Reports of Officers

- President – Tom Battistella – N/A
- Vice President – Sparky Holdefer – advised that Tom Battistella is back in the hospital, with one kidney gone and the other damaged. He reports that Tom is not doing well. Sparky also advised that he is likely stepping down as VP, due to medical issues being experienced by his wife.
- Secretary – reported above
- Treasurer – reported above

Applications & Memberships

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- Frankfort FPD is represented at today's meeting – they're here gathering information about the Fund, and will contact us if interested in joining, which we encourage

Election of Officers

- Treasurer Knoll proposed maintaining the same officers for the coming year – there was no dissention
- Knoll advised that we will be needing to fill the President and Vice President positions, and asked that anyone interested contact us – these positions require little regular work throughout the year

Unfinished Business – none

New Business, Good of the Order

- East Hazel Crest said that a funeral benefit claim was filed for a member of their department at some time during the last few years when some correspondence may have been mis-directed, and the family in Florida says that they never received it. Details will be provided to the secretary for research and follow-up.
- Secretary Johnson presented proposed changes to the CFFBF by-laws, amending Article II, Sections 1 and 2 as they relate to the annual stipends received by the Fund Secretary and Treasurer. The proposed amendments raise the annual stipends from \$300 to \$450 beginning in 2017, and to \$590 beginning in 2018. This would provide compensation more in line with the amount of work being done throughout the year.
 - VP Holdefer spoke in support of the changes
 - Moved by Crete to approve the proposed amendments to raise the annual stipends for the Fund Secretary and Treasurer to \$450 beginning in 2017 and to \$590 beginning in 2018
 - Seconded by Riverdale
 - Motion passed by unanimous voice vote
- Secretary Johnson discussed the payment of the funeral benefit to the family of President Tom Battistella if he should pass away, regardless of the membership status of the Calumet Park FD.
 - Moved by Hazel Crest to pay the benefit regardless of departmental status
 - Seconded by Peotone
 - Motion passed by unanimous voice vote
- Secretary Johnson discussed honorary member applications for members who may not have been on a department's roster for a period of time
 - If the member already meets the 20 years in the Fund and age 60 criteria at the time of application, no back assessment payments will be required
 - We want to default to the benefit of the member, without "giving away the store" so to speak

Appointment of Committees – none needed at this time.

Resolutions – none at this time.

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Announcements – none

Second Roll Call – Secretary Johnson

Adjournment – There being no further business, Treasurer Knoll requested a motion to adjourn. Motion Crete, seconded Hazel Crest. A unanimous voice vote approved the motion and the meeting adjourned at 0945 hours.

(See following page for attendance detail)

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MEETING ATTENDANCE
03-09-2017

DEPARTMENT	MEMBER?	GOOD STANDING?	REPRESENTATIVE ATTENDING
Alsip			
Aroma			
Bedford Park			
Beran, Don	Y	Y	
Blue Island	Y	Y	R Holdefer
Bourbonnais			
Bradley			
Burbank	Y	N	
Burnham	Y	Y	
Cabery			
Calumet City			
Calumet Park	Y	N	
Central Stickney			
Chebance Township			
Chicago Heights			
Chicago Ridge	Y	N	
Country Club Hills	Y	N	
Crestwood	Y	Y	
Crete	Y	Y	J Sloop
Dolton			
East Hazel Crest	Y	Y	W Vallow
East Joliet			
Elwood			
Essex			
Evergreen Park	Y	Y	R Murphy III
Flossmoor	Y	Y	
Ford Heights			
Frankfort	N		S Fierce
Garden Homes			
Glenwood	Y	Y	K Welsh Jr
Grant Park			
Harvey			
Hazel Crest	Y	Y	J Shields
Homer Township			
Hometown			
Homewood	Y	Y	R Grabowski; C Johnson; G Knoll
Kankakee			
Kankakee Township			
Lansing	Y	Y	
Limestone Township			

DEPARTMENT	MEMBER?	GOOD STANDING?	REPRESENTATIVE ATTENDING
Lockport Township			
Lynwood	Y	Y	
Manhattan	Y	N	
Manteno			
Markham			
Matteson	Y	Y	C Schwalbe
Merrionette Park			
Midlothian	Y	Y	
Momence			
Monee			
New Lenox			
North Palos			
Oak Forest	Y	N	
Oak Lawn	Y	Y	
Otto Township			
Palos FPD	Y	Y	
Papineau			
Park Forest			
Pembroke			
Peotone	Y	Y	W Schreiber; M Sikorski
Phoenix	Y	N	
Pilot Township			
Posen	Y	Y	
Reddick Community			
Richton Park			
Riverdale	Y	Y	JP Muirhead
Robbins	Y	N	
Roberts Park			
Salina Township			
Sauk Village	Y	Y	
Schmitt, Joe	Y	Y	
South Chicago Hts	Y	Y	
South Holland	Y	N	
St Anne			
Steger Estates	Y	Y	
Summit			
Thornton	Y	Y	
Tinley Park	Y		
University Park			



Clint Johnson – Secretary
Community Firefighters Funeral Benefit Fund