

BRIGETTE K. SMITH
Executive Secretary



STATE OF WASHINGTON

BOARD FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS & RESERVE OFFICERS

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The 208th regular meeting of the Board for Volunteer Firefighters and Reserve Officers was convened at 9:00 A.M. in Suite #207 in the James R. Larson Forum Building by Chair Ronald Ayres, with Board Member Ken Boad, Board Member Jay Hughes, Board Member Mark Watenpaugh, Board Member Martin Spani, Chief Stan Loertscher (Mason Co. FPD #13), Chief Jake Doty (East Pierce Fire and Rescue), WFCRA Representative Richard Kistler, President TJ Nedrow (Washington State Firefighters Association), Assistant Attorney General Kyle Crews, Executive Secretary Brigitte Smith, and Confidential Secretary Nicole Stauffer present.

The Board reviewed the June 22, 2007 minutes. It was moved by Boad, seconded by Hughes and carried that the minutes be approved as written.

The agenda was reviewed. Secretary Smith asked to add a discussion regarding the use of Survey Monkey to gather constituent input into a business plan for the Pension and Relief system, a discussion regarding the coverage of urinalysis tests during a physical exam, and consideration of a request to grant service credit for Janet Brown (Klickitat #2).

FIRST HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

Chair Ayres asked that everyone introduce themselves since there were some new people at the meeting. The new Board Members, Mark Watenpaugh and Martin Spani, introduced themselves and said they were looking forward to their time with the Board.

TJ Nedrow from the Washington Firefighters Association asked to speak to the Board. He stated that he was very happy to work with the Board and wanted to encourage the WSFFA and the BVFF & RO to work together. He stated that he felt that the two organizations had been working more cooperatively in the last couple of years and thought that it had benefited the fire service greatly. He stated that his organization is always looking for ways to improve the pension and relief system and is currently looking at the penalty percentages for early retirement rather than lowering the retirement age. He also stated that he felt there was some gray area in coverage for volunteers who helped with calls outside of their home fire departments and travel to and from drill and training.

Secretary Smith explained that there is some confusion in those areas, but that they are clearly outlined in either statute or case law. Larry Buchanan vs. The Washington State Board for Volunteer Firemen set case law that volunteer firefighters can be covered for aid rendered outside of the district so long as they are in an area covered by the BVFF & RO and have been asked to do so by the responding department. All claims would then be managed by the responding department. She also stated that travel to and from drill and training was not covered. RCW 41.24.010 (5) states that members are covered "responding to, working at, or returning from an alarm of fire, emergency call, or law enforcement duties" and that, separately, "drill and training" are covered. There is no provision in law to cover travel to and from training. This is in line with L&I, which only covers a person while they are at a worksite or sent to an alternative worksite by the person in charge. L&I employees are not covered for injuries received while they are on their way to or from work.



President Nedrow stated that this was still an area of concern for him and his organization. He also reiterated that he would really like to arrange a meeting of his Board and the State Board. The State Board members said that they would be open to such a meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Chair Ayres discussed the fact that the Board needs to have an election for a Chair every time there is a new board member. With the addition of two members, Ayres opened up nominations for Board Chair. Ken Boad nominated Ron Ayres, and Jay Hughes seconded the nomination. No other nominations were made, so it was carried that Ron Ayres would be the Board Chair.

The Board reviewed written advice from the Attorney General's Office that stated that the Board should revisit the "Physical Activities Statement". With the passage of the new RCW 41.24.010 language, AAG Kyle Crews thought the statement needed updating. The Board directed Secretary Smith to work with AAG Crews to rework the statement and bring an updated version to the Board for consideration at the October meeting.

The Board reviewed additional written advice from the Attorney General's Office regarding the requirement of a pension payment in the last year that a member was eligible to make a payment as a condition of receiving a vested pension. As a result of the advice, it was moved by Hughes, seconded by Boad, and carried that the staff be directed to cease requiring that a pension payment be made in the last year of service in order to receive a vested pension.

The Board reviewed a request to reimburse vocational rehabilitation costs to Billy Young, Snohomish Co. FPD #26, in accordance with SHB 2147. After reviewing all documentation and receipts, it was moved by Boad, seconded by Spanl, and carried that Firefighter Young be reimbursed the maximum amount allowed, \$4,000, since his actual cost for retraining exceeded the maximum allowed.

Secretary Smith and Member Boad updated the Board on the progress of the Fire Service Leadership Forum Focus Group. That group is working on writing a recommendation for the FSLF to make to the Board regarding the Pension Participation Standards. Secretary Smith stated that she felt the Focus Group was really close to having its recommendation prepared for the Forum at large. It was the Focus Group's goal to have their written recommendation to the Forum group at the September meeting. The main group would then review the Focus Group's work. If approved by the membership, the FSLF would then forward that recommendation to the State Board for their consideration at the October meeting. She stated that no other comments regarding the standards had been received since the July meeting.

Secretary Smith stated that she hadn't received any additional comments regarding the Buy-Back legislation and, in fact, had been referring people to the Fire Commissioner's Association.

Secretary Smith presented the Board with a letter supporting an earlier retirement age from Jefferson County FPD #3. They stated that they had met with their volunteers and that everyone in the district supported the reduced retirement age. Secretary Smith informed the Board that representatives from the Actuary's Office would be attending the next Board meeting in October, and that they had been asked to review the costs vs. benefits of several different benefit enhancement proposals that had been received over the last year.

Secretary Smith informed the Board that she thought the office was running much more efficiently with the new restructuring. Member Boad asked if she had been updating position descriptions with the restructuring and she told him that is was a requirement when reallocating positions. The only reallocation that had not been approved yet was the Benefit Specialist position. However, all of the paperwork had been completed and it was just awaiting approval from the Department of Personnel.

Secretary Smith said that Confidential Secretary Nicole Stauffer had been able to do additional research into using the Survey Monkey tool. She felt that it was easy to use and would be cost

effective. Secretary Smith felt that it would be an excellent way to survey fire service constituents to get input into a 5 year/10 year pension and relief business plan.

TJ Nedrow, WSFFA, stated concerns about how members would be contacted regarding the survey. Smith stated that she would work with the WSFFA, the Fire Commissioners, the Fire Chiefs, the Washington State Reserve Law Enforcement Association, and the Washington Association of Police Chiefs and Sheriffs to get the word out to members to take the survey and a link would be placed on the BVFF & RO website.

Secretary Smith said that the data gathered could be broken down into the duties of the respondent so, for example, the Commissioners could look at only data submitted by Commissioners. She felt that the survey would be a valuable tool for all of the fire service organizations. It is her goal to work with Nicole to develop a survey by the October Board Meeting. The Board could walk through the survey and, if they felt it met their needs, it could be deployed right after the meeting. The survey could then be closed in time for the December meeting, so the Board would have time to make legislative decisions (as would other fire service organizations). The Board directed Secretary Smith to purchase the annual subscription and to prepare a survey in time for the October Board Meeting.

Secretary Smith explained that Benefit Specialist Julie Ikenberry had approached her regarding the payment of urinalyses as part of a new volunteer physical. In the past, most departments reached their maximum reimbursement amount with just the cost of the office visit, so this question hadn't really come before the Board. However, with the increased physical reimbursement rate, some departments were requesting that the Board cover the cost of urinalyses. After some discussion, it was moved by Boad, seconded by Hughes, and carried that the Board cover all or part of the cost of a urinalysis given as part of a physical examination so long as the total reimbursement does not exceed \$100 per new volunteer.

The Board discussed the 3.2% raise being given to classified state employees. Secretary Smith explained that the raise was not automatically given to exempt employees and that it was up to each individual supervisor and Board or Commission to give the increase to the exempt employee under their supervision. Since she is the supervisor for the Confidential Secretary position, she had decided to give the increase to Nicole Staffer. It would be up to the Board to determine whether the increase should also be given to her. At the Board's request, Secretary Smith checked with Cary Randow from the State Committee on Agency Official's Salaries to make sure the increase did not put her over the maximum allowed. It was moved by Watenpaugh, seconded by Hughes, and carried, that Secretary Smith be given a 3.2% raise increase and to review her wages again after the Committee has had a chance to review Agency Official's Salaries and make salary recommendations.

NEW BUSINESS

The Board reviewed a request from Janet Brown, Klickitat #2, to grant service credit for the years 1982 - 1986. After reviewing the evidence submitted, it was moved by Hughes, seconded by Boad, and carried that Janet Brown be granted service credit for the years 1982 - 1986. Secretary Smith was directed to bill Klickitat #2 for the fees plus statutory interest for those years.

The Board reviewed a letter received from Del Mather, widow of Don Mather (Point Roberts Fire). She wanted to let the Board know that she is doing well and works as a volunteer coordinator for the Granville Downtown Policing Centre in Vancouver, BC, Canada. She can't wait to meet all of the staff one day and hopes to do so soon.

The Board reviewed Secretary Smith's leave and pay records.

The Board reviewed and approved (Boad moved, Hughes seconded) the administrative expenditure vouchers numbered and various travel vouchers. Vouchers 1507-1529 and 1553-1552. Numbers 1530-1552 were used out of order and in the July meeting's batch.

There was a motion by Boad, seconded by Hughes, and carried that the retirement pensions and lump-sum settlements listed below be approved effective on the listed dates:

Name	Department	Effective Date	Ret. Type	Amount	
Anderson, Joel	Pacific #1	08/19/07		180.00	@ age 60
Bates, Lawrence	Skagit #10	08/15/07		600.00	
Bayless, William E	Mansfield	06/08/07		300.00	
Beckstead, Vernon	Douglas #1	08/26/07	J/S	300.00	
Berman, Michael	Thurston #7	07/01/07		180.00	
Bodine, David	Thurston #11	04/12/07		3193.72	Lump
Bramstedt, William	Cosmopolis	08/01/07	J/S	250.80	
Brown, Derlyn	Grand Coulee	08/29/07		300.00	
Brown, Francis	King #28	06/11/07		225.00	
Bruns, Gary	Anacortes	08/27/06		5656.63	Lump
Byron, Johannah	Flircrest	06/08/07		2030.65	Lump
Cannon, Lee	Whatcom #14	08/14/07		142.50	@ age 62
Christensen, Stephen	Pierce #8	08/04/07		73.50	
Christensen, Tom	Lewis #12	05/13/07		3300.58	Lump
Coker, Mary	Skagit #3	06/10/07		300.00	
Delzer, Lesle	Yakima #10	08/02/06		81.00	@ age 60
Duke, Stanley	City of Okanogan	08/01/07		73.50	
Ekstrom, Janice	San Juan #5	07/26/07		5425.14	Lump
Emmons, Ron	Orting	04/22/07		3520.62	Lump
Foster, Michael	Kitsap #7	01/01/07		3367.43	Lump
Halbert, Sr, Michael	King #10	07/30/07		80.50	
Hartman, Anthony	Snohomish #21	07/01/07	J/S	253.20	
Holdorph, Francis	Pierce #6	06/20/07		4180.74	Lump
Huntzinger, Jim	Grant #11	08/01/07	J/S	239.31	
Huntzinger, Karen	Grant #11	08/01/07		67.62	@ age 63
Keefe, James	Edmonds	05/11/07		4400.78	Lump
Knorr, John	Milton	09/01/07		300.00	
Lupo, Tony	Cosmopolis	08/01/07		3785.51	Lump
Martuscelli, Dominic	Walla Walla #4	07/22/07		80.50	
Maupin, John	Klickitat #12	06/01/07		5322.87	Lump
Maurer, Rex	Klickitat #7	07/01/07		300.00	
McDowell, Jerry	Whatcom #1	06/10/07	J/S	256.60	
McKeirnan, James	Pomeroy	07/16/07		300.00	
Moore, Florence	Spokane #4	07/16/07		142.50	@ age 62
Morrison, Dick	San Juan #3	04/16/07		3300.58	Lump
Murison, Don	Douglas #5	06/25/07		300.00	
Myers, Pamela	Anacortes	04/14/07	SURV	822.63	Lump
Nash, Michael	Snohomish #28	01/29/07	J/S	108.94	@ age 62
Pierce, Charles	Snohomish #21	11/01/07	J/S	249.30	
Pool, Dennis	Whitman #5	03/26/07	J/S	190.61	
Rainville, Don	Stevens #1	04/01/07		1980.35	Lump
Reld, Michael	King #45	07/03/07		70.00	
Riste, Tad	Roslyn	07/07/07		300.00	
Roberts, Jr, Don	Lewis #5	04/29/07		252.00	@ age 63
Rogers, Dave	Skagit #17	07/19/07		300.00	

Rose, Malcom	Snohomish #28	06/14/07		2610.84	@ age 60
Sams, Steve	Spokane #4	06/17/07		2175.70	@ age 60
Scholl, Frank	Spokane #4	10/10/05		70.00	
Schwieterman, Herbert	Spokane #4	12/31/05		5584.30	Lump
Selzler, Dewaine	Pierce #15	06/30/07		4180.74	Lump
Smith, Linnea	Whatcom #8	07/21/07		80.50	
Spani, Martin	Lynnwood	10/16/07		300.00	
Stoney, Michael	McCleary	07/10/07		180.00	@ age 60
Taylor, Darryl	Clark #3	02/28/03	SURV	2091.57	Lump
Taylor, Rodney	Thurston #8	02/18/04		52.50	
Tiffany, Gene	Snohomish #22	04/05/07		4180.74	Lump
Ulery, Bruce	Lewis #8	01/20/07		228.00	@ age 62
VanLoo, Gerald	Lynden	10/01/07	J/S	245.40	
Wade, Stan	Kittitas Valley F&R	06/01/07	J/S	258.60	
Wahl, Jerome	Davenport	08/23/07		3300.58	Lump
Watson, David	Pierce #5	08/21/07	J/S	257.10	
Willits, Ward	Thurston #13	07/16/07	J/S	131.1	@ age 62
Yager, Duane	Franklin #1	07/17/07		228.00	@ age 62
Young, Robert	Lincoln #7	08/01/07		180.00	
Zorich, Jerome	Long Beach	09/02/07		228.00	@ age 62
Zwiefelhofer, Joe	Snoqualmie	06/05/07		3016.30	@ age 62

SECOND HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

Richard Kistler, WFCAL Legislative Committee, reiterated that the Commissioner's Association would always be willing to help the Board.

TJ Nedrow, WSFFA President, said that his board would like to meet with the BVFF & RO State Board face to face with regards to benefit enhancements. His board feels as though the 8% penalty per year for early retirement is too high and that 5% would be more appropriate.

There was a motion by Boad, seconded by Hughes, and carried that the meeting be adjourned at 10:28 a.m.



Brigette K. Smith, Executive Secretary