

TBFAS Meeting Minutes

Date: July 12, 2022

Meeting was called to order at 19:32 by Gayle Dunlap, President with a salute to the flag followed by an inspirational quote read by Anish Kuriachen. Roll call taken by Rania Amir. Motion to accept minutes by Mary Hall, seconded by Leslie Graf, motion carried.

**Treasurer’s Report**: Joyce Reyes

Beginning Balance: 92,510.07

Deposits: 32,728.48

Expenses: 15,298.25

Balance: 110,300.90

Fund Drive to Date: 74,369.19

**Gold Cross:** Dee Dunlap-Dean:meeting was held in Wayne. Low attendance, discussed new mental health system 988, will send out a screener first to meet and have a transport unit. Butler & Kinnelon are part of the 988 system, Passaic County is not yet taking part. Looking into Narcan, have to talk to Chilton. Convention will be in Oct. 14-16.There will be a statewide medical director for OEM. There is a bill that is being voted on where the Paramedics would be licensed instead of certified. They are trying to make the Paramedic trucks allowed to respond with an EMT and one medic or a MICN and EMT.Emphasis we should be talking about ourselves and awards due by Aug. 15, list on website.

**Health & Welfare:** Leslie Graf:sent get well flowers to John Futcher & Dianne Boylan for recent surgeries, both doing well.

**Special Events:** Patti Tabler:our dinner is booked for Jan. 21st.

**Loan Outs:** Michael Johnston:no report

**Teen Squad:** Patti Tabler:have 2 teens in EMT class, washed rigs last week, training on car accidents, another EMT fairly new, will be mentoring him for an internship.

**By Laws:** Linda McKnight:committee met will propose 2 new by-laws tonight, first reading will be tonight, next meeting we will vote on them, there is a copy in everyone’s mailbox. These additions were at the request of the current officers. They are for two new officers: Section 7 – Assistant Treasurer, the duties of the Assistant Treasurer shall be assigned by the Treasurer; Section 10 – Assistant Captain, the duties of the Assistant Captain shall be assigned by the Captain.

**Publicity:** Buzz Warren: Patti Table has pictures of recent events covered; safety town, nursery school, will post pix

**Refreshments:** Amanda LoCicero:thank you for having food at the meeting

**Uniforms:** Alysha Futcher:a list will be on the table tonight, need everyone’s locker numbers. If you do not give her the number your lock will be cut off. There are too many lockers that are unclaimed. Uniform company we used, retired, waiting on quote from a company in Clifton, quotes for winter hats and baseball caps, also can do patches. Will put in order for new member uniforms. This effects the yellow and blue duty shirts, not the Turn out jackets.

**Radios:** John Futcher: handing out 2 pagers tonight

**I & G:** Dee Dunlap Dean: two new members, Chris Worden, EMR and Daniel Sadikoski, driver

**Oxygen:** George Chernetz:no report

**Membership:** Dee Dunlap Dean:2 new members and bringing on 2 EMTs on in August.

**Building & Grounds:** Dean Marletta:floor is almost finished, got a hold of new Lowes manager, will give him the list of material for deck and we should have an answer by this week with the quote.

**Ways & Means:** Patti Tabler:psychic booked. Annette Vanderhoff brought up Giving Tuesday to see if there was still an interest to run it, it was suggested that we do a coin shake during the September town wide garage sale instead of the winter and just make Giving Tuesday an online event.

**Insurance:** Skip Mullin:no report

**Health & Safety:** George Chernetz: no report

**Ad Hoc Tablets:** Patti Tabler: in progress, getting quotes

**Ad Hoc Rig:** Mary Hall: met with Wheel Coach and PL and waiting on quotes, will be meeting with Braun shortly. Wait time can be 18 months once chassis is here, chassis could go up by 1 or 2 grand by the time of availability.

**Captain’s Report:** Bill Dunlap: 165 calls, Morris County took 80, we were toned out for 95 covered 82, 86% coverage. The rip in the seat of 37 was fixed for free by Creative Auto Interiors, seat is a little bit darker, heavier material, donated time & material. Door on 38 has to go back to be finished, he is donating his time to fix it. It is better and putting in straps so wind won’t take it, will flip decal over also. Bought a case of oil, should be between the 2 dots, do not go above or below. 36 will go down Saturday for inspection, all will then be inspected. Battery was dead on a stretcher, medic pad fell onto where the battery charges, also batteries are at end of life, picked up two for now, will get more soon.Gayle Dunlap: Wanaque his having issues getting batteries for a part you pull out, took forever to get, came from Australia. John will call and ask Wanaque tomorrow what batteries they are referring to. Our service rep from Stryker left, we have a new rep, Angel lives in Pompton Lakes and comes quickly for our service.

**Lt’s Report:** Anish, even though our call rate was 86%, that is not a true representation, due to Morris County covering 80 calls, so we basically covered 50%, Monday’s evenings are not filled and daytime is not filled. Sign on where there are no crew members, when new members come can we request they ride on days that aren’t filled?

**Chief Instructor:** Gayle Dunlap:no training this month, cancelled last Saturday’s drill, didn’t have enough lifeguards, this Monday, 7/18, car accident w/ impaled object, 6:30 starts drill at FD. They will run two one in driver seat, one in passenger seat. Mid-September, Mon & Wed EMR class, e-book $43 or buy book $140. Squad pays for the card. After probation they have to stay on 1 yr to then turn in the request for book fee reimbursement.

**President’s Report:** Gayle Dunlap:Mike Masselli, from town is trying to set up an event calendar so we do not overlap and take away from other groups. In summer please take some all calls, especially on weekends. Morris County is spread out more and having staff issues. We are working on Narcan and getting in touch with Chilton.

**Correspondence:** Annette Vanderhoff:read thank you letters from Dianne Boylan and John Futcher. Dianne Boylan asked for a three month medical leave. Liz Szymanski will be returning to scheduled duty as of August 1, 2022 and submitted her doctor note. Will be sending Gift In Kind thank you to Creative Auto Interiors for their donation. Read absences: June business meeting, Dianne Boylan, surgery; June instructional meeting, Annette Vanderhoff, family obligation, Dianne Boylan, surgery, Justin Hill, covering an event Kinnelon graduation, Crystal Aprile, taking EMT refresher C; July business meeting, Dianne Boylan, doctors’ orders, Justin Hill, taking Fire 1 class; August business meeting, Anish Kuriachen, on vacation.

**Presentation of Bills:** Joyce Reyes:Motion to accept the bills by Dee Dunlap Dean, seconded by Patti Tabler, motion carried. If you are purchasing a squad approved purchase, please talk to Joyce to use the tax exempt form to save us the tax.

**Old Business:**

Helen Wyckoff: found some disturbing news on Facebook, Jerry Schlett losing battle w/health, please remember him in your prayers. If you get a message, let Helen know, so she can give him her number.

Read a letter – see Helen’s letter attached to these minutes.

Joyce Reyes – a few things to add to Helen’s comments – rig committee working hard, can’t man 1 let alone 3, all calls don’t get answered, why are we putting $250k into a new rig. People are not signing on duty sheet. People have new uniforms and aren’t wearing them.

Patti Tabler – final weigh in – 10 members started 3 months ago, 85 pounds lost by the 10 members; The winner lost 12.2 % of body weight, $250 for Dean Marletta, the winner. Maybe Sept run the challenge again.

Brian Teppe – referring to Helen’s and Joyce’s comments: bothering me too for a while. Heed what they say.

Nomination forms are in the mailboxes, make sure you are eligible for what you are running for, vote will be in Nov., nominations in Oct.

Leslie Graf – month after month 17 district meetings, reach out to your town, get your name out there etc. Memorial Day parade, both Bloomingdale and Butler, never welcomed Tri-Boro. We don’t belong to any specific town, up to us to get out there. John will get Leslie the call numbers and she will report to all 3 towns call numbers, and special events covered.

Dean Marletta - doing grants, spoke to all towns to get covid money, they stated they don’t have any left. Dean heard there should be a new round coming end of summer, would be a good time to make those reports to the towns.

**New Business:**

Emily Thomson - National license needs more training will members be reimbursed for taking additional CEUs on their own. National is every 2 years, state is every 3 yrs. 24 CEUs is state requirement, but there are a lot other specific ones we do not offer that are needed for the National recert. Gayle Dunlap will ask Melissa and Gold Cross about it. Training fund has 5.6 million. Emily to get a list to Gayle of what is needed for the national recert.

John Futcher - Katelyn Magano, looking for patches, Montville first aid squad. Alysha will send her an old one.

Dean Marletta – how often is there a squad photo? Team building committee formed after Annette Vanderhoff brought up the fact that we do nothing to build our team moral and perhaps that is leading to some of the tension in the squad. Asked for people to join a team building committee to come up with some fun events to hold for all squad members to attend. Team building committee members are: Amanda LoCicero, Emily Thomson, Danielle Arndt, Crystal Aprile and Annette Vanderhoff

Amanda LoCicero – the vents in the building are terribly dirty, Dean Marletta said he has bids out to clean all vents and big vac and suck it all out, Dean has 2 quotes waiting for 1 more.

Amanda LoCicero – bathroom is gross – please clean up after yourself if you have a blowout.

Patti Tabler made a motion to have a toilet brush and bleach in all bathrooms, Amanda LoCicero second, motion carried.

John Futcher – would like to use the building Sunday 8/28 for granddaughter’s birthday; Butler FD is having a casino run in October.

Amanda LoCicero – can we get a new grill it is so rusted and should not be used. Dean Marletta will ask Lowes.

Gayle Dunlap – gave a birthday cake to Linda McKnight

Motion to adjourn by Bill Dunlap, seconded by Mary Hall, motion carried 21:20

Respectfully submitted, Annette Vanderhoff, EMR, Squad Secretary

***Letter from Helen Wyckoff***

Let me begin by saying that I will be on the squad 50 year’s this January. I felt I had to write this letter mainly for the benefit of the newer members who I fell should know the history of the squad.

A group of men who were members of the Pompton Lakes FAS felt that they saw a need for emergency services for our three communities. The left Pompton Lakes and in 1939 formed Tri-Boro FAS. Pompton Lakes is referred to as our mother squad. I was privileged to have known some of our founding fathers. Floyd Decker, William Schultz, Jerome Whritenour, Ross Yeisley and William Snyder.

Our first ambulance was donated by Bob Demarest and it was housed in the Royal Pontiac Dealership which was located were the Quick Check now stands. Our first headquarters was located on Carey Ave in the old Elks Hall. Our present building was built in the mid 60’s and the members sold bricks to help to defray the expense of that endeavor.

The women’s division was formed in 1958 and again I was privileged to have known some of those women, Kay Yeisley, Ginny Brennan, Millie Kayhart, Mayona Cahill and Mary Snyder. When I joined the squad in 1973 we were two separate divisions. The men and women had their separate meetings. Bill Willis was liaison to the women’s meeting and Charlotte Soules was liaison to the men’s meetings.

The women were not permitted to vote. All decisions were made by the men. Also, women were not permitted to ride after 6:00 pm. In the mid 70’s Marion Bloomquist and Linda Marcescelli began the movement to combine both divisions into one squad.

The women walked into the men’s meeting and presented our proposal. All the men except for Vic Ahlfeld and Ross Yeisley picked up their toys and took their meeting to Carey Ave. However, after much discussion we did become on squad. The women were then permitted to ride until midnight but as the men realized our contribution and availability, we then began to ride all night.

When I first joined the squad I had the greatest respect for those members who had been on the squad for 10-15 years and oh my goodness 20 years. I thought what they must have done, what they must have seen and how much I could learn from these people.

Leslie and I were talking one day and she said that when she first came on the squad she didn’t say a word at the meetings for the first five years. We felt we were there to listen and to learn, and that we did from some of the most wonderful people I was fortunate enough to have known.

As you know every year we have our dinner but when I came on the squad and for many years before me, sold ads and boosters for our ad book to help to defray the cost of the dinner. We had to work for what we got.

When I was President in 1985 I received a phone call from Gordon & bonnie Steinmetz who were residents of Smoke Rise. Gordon invited me to his home stating he wished to discuss with me his plan to donate a fully equipped ambulance to Tri-Boro FAS. Not only did he donate one ambulance but the following year I received a call and Bonnie & Gordon donated another fully equipped ambulance. Due to the generosity of this beautiful couple, we were put in a better financial position for when we had to purchase rigs in the future. Bonnie, Gordon & I remained close friends up until the time of their passing. I was so blessed to have had them in my life.

Years ago, we did day and nighttime transportations. Being a lieutenant back then involved much more work. They were responsible for setting up the transports and having a back up crew. Daytime transport many times could take the entire day. We did transports as far as Delaware, Massachusetts, Binghamton and more. Let me tell you there was nothing greater of a reward then taking a patient from a hospital or nursing home back to their families on Christmas or Thanksgiving. Seeing the families being reunited with their loved ones was one of my greatest joys. Also, transports were a large part of our donations.

On our 50th Anniversary we had a huge parage which was 2 years in the making.

Every memorial Day we placed a Gold Cross Flag on the graves of our deceased members. Walt and I did this for many years and since Walt’s passing in 2015, Leslie stepped in and took his place. It is our way of showing respect to our members and their families.

I just want to add a personal note. I have been blessed to have made lifelong friendships with fellow squad members. I treasure these friendships and hold them dear to my heart. This brings us up to what is happening on the squad today, and I find it very sad. The cursing and foul language exhibited in this meeting room would have been and should never be tolerated. Respect throughout the years we have had our disagreements and discussions but never have I witnessed the viciousness and disrespect shown toward fellow squad members today. Again, never would have been and should ever be tolerated.

To the newer members, perhaps if you took the time to look at the trophies, plaques and pictures throughout the building you would have had a better understanding of what has been accomplished through the years.

If I might advise anyone running for an office, please make sure that you are eligible to run for office. Secondly, read the by-laws to see what is required of the position and be certain that you are able to fulfill those duties. It will save you and the squad a lot of grief.

People we are all in this together. We joined because we wanted to help others and yet we cannot help one another. We have the right to our different opinions, but we do not have the right to be disrespectful to one another. We are better than this. Let us strive to be more kind. It breaks my heart to see what is happening

I saw a post on Facebook yesterday that was beautiful.

Manners, Kindness, Compassion and Respect are the signs of a true human being.