

## **March 2008 Minutes R.F.A.**

President Oliff called the March 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the R.F.A. to order at 2005 hours with 42 members present.

**Deceased members** - Ed Flynn: Eddie reported Paul Hanley. A moment of silence was held for him and our troops in the Armed Forces.

**The minutes of the Feb 4<sup>th</sup> meeting** – George Kenney: Read and approved.

**Applications for membership** – George Kenney: Steve Dove, Bill Kady, Rick Kriner and JT Williams. Voted on and approved.

**The Secretary/Treasurer report** - George Kenney: Read and approved.

**Sick Committee** - Ed Flynn: Ed has added Ed Simms to our sick list of Wendy Baden, Hugh Barnes, Ed Beller, Jim Bojalad, Melvin Carroll, Dan Collins, Tim Connors, William Coughlin, Fred Davis, Ed Dougherty, Jim McIlvaine, Tom O’Conner, George Orme, Irvin Poole, Kenny Propst, Raymond Roberts, John Schellenberg, Walter “Steamboat” Smith, Gerald Tassa and Frank Wise Sr.

**Vocal Alarm** - Joe Healy: Not present. It is currently at the printer. Any articles, pictures or any other items of interest please send to him at [RFANews@comcast.net](mailto:RFANews@comcast.net).

**Entertainment Committee** – Ed Flynn: Eddie talked about the upcoming DCFD Emerald Society’s Pipe and Drum Band performances <http://www.DCFDPipesAndDrums.org/>. March 14<sup>th</sup> is the Savannah Georgia parade. On Sunday March 16<sup>th</sup> the St. Patrick’s Day Parade in D.C. Details see <http://www.DCStPatsParade.com/> and the party at the Hyatt Hotel again this year. Somehow on Monday handle a Pub Crawl in DC. Also the Emerald Society’s Fishing Tournament is Thursday May 1<sup>st</sup>. June 12<sup>th</sup> is the date for the golf tournament, so mark your calendars. Check [WashingtonEmeralds.org/](http://WashingtonEmeralds.org/) or [DCFD.com](http://DCFD.com).

**Safety Committee** - Tom Barnard: No report.

**Honor Guard** - Joe O’Neil: Joe discussed where we had 13 members at Paul Hanley’s funeral. We need different members to act as pall bearers. A thank you letter was received from Paul’s wife Jane.

**Members attending their first meeting:** Wilbur, John Burger and Bill FitzGerald.

**Local 36** - Ben Self: Ben has decals and passed out 2008 work schedules (think we should form a committee to investigate what exactly is a work schedule?). Active members have finally received the long over due Ford and Reagan funeral checks. Appropriate retired members are next.

**Retirement Board** - Tom Tippet: Not present.

**Old business:** Again a discussion on Section 845, “Health Enhancement for Local Public Safety Officers” (HELPS). See IRS publication 575 (pages 1, 5 and 6) which explains how to report the total distributions. Go to [www.IRS.gov](http://www.IRS.gov) and link over to Publication 575 for further details. *TurboTax* already has it on their software. Longevity was then brought up - again. Mayor Fenty pulled his support last month. Butch will schedule a meeting with the Mayor’s representative whenever they return to work. Butch is into his 3<sup>rd</sup> month of trying to work with the Mayor’s representative.

Fire Chief Dennis Rubin is working to get all (active and retired) members ID’s. The “Retired” rocker patch is now in, which will be used by RFA members when they wear the Official DCFD Uniform. Rubin stated that

retired members can now wear the official DCFD dress uniform. Again a sigh of relief was heard from Steve Lamphier. Butch said any member needing same can contact Muscatellos, 900 Rhode Island Ave NE. 202.393.7547/48. Their sack coat is \$178 to \$198. Pants are \$55 and cap is \$36. This is where DCFD obtains their dress uniform. One person picked up his uniform in a week. For badges, contact Commercial Emblem in Brentwood MD 301.779.7300. [www.CommercialEmblem.com/](http://www.CommercialEmblem.com/). As a side note, active member's coat buttons are generic, but at least some of the younger firemen are being issued hat badges that are numbered.

**New Business:** It was brought up that the details for the \$25 k incentive for current eligible employees to retire is on the DCFD official web site. I looked and couldn't find any info. <http://fems.dc.gov/fems/site/default.asp>. Butch said the RFA is working with L-36 on the Dental Plan. Possibly CIGNA? Approximately \$20 per month single and \$35 per month if married. It is tied up in the negotiations with the Local's contract which expired October 2007.

As if there's anyone who didn't already know, Butch said we're getting a 4.1% raise effective March 1<sup>st</sup> payable in our April 1<sup>st</sup> check. Butch also reminded members that when they pay their L-36's dues, to please make an extra contribution for the COPA fund. It would also be nice for everyone to pay their RFA dues for 2008. The form is on the website <http://www.dcfid.com/Forms/RetiredApp.pdf>

**Good & welfare:** Bob Drevo was a committee of one and has made up a booklet on what to do when a RFA member or spouse dies. It has two (2) parts. Part 1 has the appropriate information from the Retirement Board (3 pages). Part 2 has some questions and answers as well as places where the member and spouse can enter personal account numbers, locations, phone numbers and contact information of policies, CD's, savings accounts, wills etc. He wants to fine tune it, so it will not be included in our 2008 Membership and Address Book, but will be out afterwards.

Interested members that want to listen to live DCFD dispatch and fire ground first of all need a computer. That leaves George Bennett out (and a few others). Go to [www.DCFireFeed.com](http://www.DCFireFeed.com) and follow the instructions. For the General, use regular windows and not double hung. Just keep the curtains closed. Please make a nice contribution for this service by making a Paypal donation. The kid (aka POS #1's son) running this service regularly gets a major shortfall in his allowance and needs all our help in paying his related expenses for DCFireFeed. Someone brought up as a polite warning that one of our members might be better off staying away from Prince William County for a while.

There being no further old or new business, President Butch adjourned the meeting at 20:50 hours.  
Typed kinda slow by Doug Wheeler (POS #2)