

## Dec 5<sup>th</sup> 2011 Minutes R.F.A.

President Butch called the Dec 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the R.F.A. to order at 2015 hours with 34 members present.

**Deceased members** - There have been 2 deceased members since our November 7<sup>th</sup> meeting; John Bartlett and William F. McCloskey. A moment of silence was held for them and our troops serving overseas.

**The minutes of the November 7<sup>th</sup> meeting** – George Kenney: Read, motion made to accept, seconded and approved.

**Applications for membership** – George Kenney: John Pignataro. Motion made, seconded and approved.

**The Secretary/Treasurer report** – George Kenney: November 7<sup>th</sup> Treasury report was read, motion made to accept, seconded and approved.

**Sick Committee** – Ed Flynn: Steve Adams, Hugh Barnes, Joe Bateman, Ed Beller, Jim Bojalad, Mickey Bridgett, Pat Capps, Moose Cavanaugh, Joe Cocimano, Ralph Creel, Jerry Deere, Jim Eschbacher, Jim Greco, Keith Grimes, Hunter Hetzel, Jim McIlvaine, Robert McIlwraith, Dan Norman, Mike Page, Melvin Page, Wade Pollard, Ken Propst, Charlie Rogers, Kenneth R Stevens, Bob Talbert, Dick Twigger, William Van Fossen, Jim Vessels, Johnny Ward and Dennis Watley.

**Vocal Alarm** – Joe Healy: Is thinking about working on the next issue of the Vocal Alarm. Any pics or items of interest please email them to him.

**Honor Guard** - Joe O'Neil: Joe mentioned how we had approximately 20 of our members at William McCloskey's funeral. John Bartlett had a service in Florida and will have one up here at Sacred Heart Chapel, 651 Annapolis Rd in Bowie on December 14<sup>th</sup>. See <http://WashingtonEmeralds.org/testpage1.htm> for more details.

**Entertainment Committee** – Ben Self and Joe Healy: Members that attended the RFA's Florida reunion said that they had a good turn out and everyone enjoyed themselves. Our thanks go out to Wally Adkinson and his helpers for running this yearly event. He is now turning over his reins to A.J. Winterwerp for the future reunions.

The Emerald Society's Christmas Party is scheduled for December 17<sup>th</sup> at RFD, #810 7<sup>th</sup> St NW at 1900 hours. So get your snow shovels prepared! Contact Wally Gooding @ Engine 27#2 for further details.

**Local 36** - Ben Self: Ben has a special on L-36 DCFD's 2011 work schedules. The 2012 schedules will be at our next meeting. He had plenty of car decals on hand. Ben also said we should go to the Union Hall and see what a great job retired member Frances Flaherty did on the building's stairway handrail. It's a (medal) hose line complete with nozzle. It's amazing what talent can produce.

Cigna is still in the process of re-bidding their program for L-36 (and obviously the RFA). Depending on the outcome, our dental contract supplier may change for next year. Check out [www.IAFFLocal36.org](http://www.IAFFLocal36.org) for L-36 news and updates.

Butch read L-36's President Ed Smith's response letter addressing the Fire Chief's plan to drop about 425 firefighters and go to a 3, 3 and 3 shift.

At the last L-36 Meeting, Butch and Ben on our behalf presented Ken Cox a plaque in recognition of Ken's help and guidance for so many years.

Butch reminded our members that on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month, we are more than welcomed to attend the regular meeting at L-36's hall.

**Members attending their first meeting** – None.

**Old business** – Marion Sanchez has been elected President and Joe O’Neil 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President for the 2012 and 2013 term.

The Cancer Presumptive Bill is still being worked on with 70 plus members giving their names to work up a database to help justify the legislation. 42 states now have some sort of a cancer presumptive bill on their books. Notify Butch if you have any information to add.

**New Business** – All active and retired members are encouraged to participate in the Army/Navy Blood Drive on Thursday Dec 8, 2011 at the Washington Navy Yard. See [www.DCFD.com](http://www.DCFD.com). This Blood Drive is to help our Wounded Warriors.

Motion made, seconded and passed that Christmas Poinsettias be purchased and given to some people that have helped us over the years.

**Comments that brought a tear to our eye** - Eddie Flynn said a heartfelt thanks to all our members who have helped him over the last 10 or so years being our 2nd VP. He said he was honored to be able to help our RFA. Not to be outdone, Butch Oliff expressed his sentiments about his 6 years as President and additional years on the Board. Truth be known, we as an organization have benefited greatly by having this duo in helping the RFA and leading us through a lot of trials and tribulations. Next time you see or talk to either, give them your thanks!

**Good & welfare** – Congrats to Jim Embrey on his wedding tomorrow! We couldn’t find out if it’s going to be held at the Fire Museum?!?

The District of Columbia Retirement Board’s (DCRB) 2011 election for the retired Firefighter election is over. The DC Retirement Board isn’t smart enough to post the results on their website, but if you can figure out how to get the DC Register, the results were published there on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. FYI: There were 10% of present members last month that didn’t receive a ballot.

Open Season for any member wishing to change health plans is now going on. [The Office of Personnel Management](#) and Local 36 has worked together to help us with the [Open Season](#) process. Several plans have been dropped or discontinued. If yours is one that’s no longer available and you fail to pick a new plan, they will do it for you! This year's open season runs from Nov.14 > Dec. 12, 2011, when we can update our health plan. Sign up for information and email updates on L-36’s website. [www.IAFFLocal36.org](http://www.IAFFLocal36.org).

Elliott Goodman’s new hard cover book should go to the publisher next April and should be available next September. It will be approximately 200 pages and cover 1970 to present. Check [www.DCFD.com](http://www.DCFD.com) for updated info.

Butch wished all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. A big thanks and a round of applause was given to Rex Schroyer for bringing and setting up food for our meeting!

There being no further old or new business we’ll see you at our Jan 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting. For his final time as Preident, Butch adjourned the meeting at 2048 hours. The gavel was then passed to our new El Presidantee, Marion Sanchez, who promptly dropped it on the floor.

Here the 2012 RFA meeting dates.

Jan 2	Feb 6	Mar 5	Apr 2	May 7	June 4	Oct 1	Nov 5	Dec 3
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Doug

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Don't forget the weekly "Board of Director's" Meeting at Edgewater's Green Turtle, 4:00ish on Fridays. Stop by and enjoy the evening. Contact Butch for any other details.

If you're in the Myrtle Beach SC area on Dec 5<sup>th</sup>, contact Richard Hunley at [ItsMerhh@yahoo.com](mailto:ItsMerhh@yahoo.com) for updates. Their monthly luncheon will be held at Calli Bakers Restaurant in the Myrtle Beach Mall at 11:30. It's kinda hard to believe, but it's next door to Hooters! Their meeting is held on the **first Monday** of the month.

Don't forget the monthly luncheon held on the **first Wednesday** (Dec 7<sup>th</sup>) of each month, at 12 o'clock at Station 7 Restaurant, Pittsville, MD. For a head count, let Bob Gilbert know that you're coming - [RPGilbert1@mchsi.com](mailto:RPGilbert1@mchsi.com). Check the menu and for directions - [www.Station7Restaurant.com/](http://www.Station7Restaurant.com/).

Another monthly luncheon is held at Champion Billiards Sports Cafe, 5205 Buckeystown Pike, Frederick, Maryland at noon on the **second Tuesday** (Dec 13<sup>th</sup>) of the month. [www.FrederickChampions.com/home.html](http://www.FrederickChampions.com/home.html). Call Paul Stottlemeyer for further details. Or you're welcomed to just show up as there is plenty of room.

The Guns and Hoses crew in Ocean City MD meet normally the **fourth Saturday** of the month (Dec 24<sup>th</sup>?) at the Elks Lodge. The address is 13708 Sinepuxent Ave (adjacent to the Fenwick Inn) 1 block off Coastal Highway at 138<sup>th</sup> St. Call Pat Johnson for further details for December's meeting.

The Southern Maryland Area Firefighters Luncheon will be on the **last Wednesday** of the month (December 28<sup>th</sup>) at the American Legion Post 238, 6265 Brandywine Rd, Hughesville, MD 20637. Call Cash McCall for further details. <http://washingtonemeralds.org/Testpage1.htm>