

Minutes for the March 1, 2017 - LGA Monthly Meeting - (FINAL)

At 9:30 AM President Bill Heflin called the regularity scheduled meeting to order. Bill led those in attendance with the Pledge of Allegiance and then requested a moment of silence. Bill requested a motion to approve the agenda which was seconded and passed.

In attendance were Vice President Mazine Lowe, Directors' Al Potter, John Cataldo, Jeff Dowhan, Carol Warfel, Tony Moran, Jack Saunders, Don Carson, Brian Goldsworthy and Executive Director Moira Underwood. Also participating were approximately 40 members, guests, first responders from fire, police and EMS and one member of the press.

Bill introduced our two featured speakers; Fire Chief Lorenzo Wilkins and Deputy Chief Erick Bowen, both with the Roanoke-Wildwood VFD. We were treated to an informative presentation about the fire department which was formed in 1979. They stressed the department is 100% volunteer and the training is on par with paid fire departments. On average the department responds to 80-100 calls for service per year.

We enjoyed an active Q&A with the speakers asking the audience questions about fire prevention. Stressed were the need for smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors. Did you know smoke detectors older than 10 years should be replaced? Chief Wilkins also reminded everyone if you call 911 with a cell phone, you need to tell the operator which county you live in to expedite first responder response. This is not necessary with a land line but it is always a good practice to first state the county where help is needed.

All present were very appreciative of the level of professionalism and response from the RWVFD.

As reported in the local paper, there have been a recent rash of burglaries at lakefront properties. Our hats off to Sheriff Wes Tripp, Halifax County, as well as detectives with Halifax (Joe Sealy), Northampton (Captain Patrick Jacobs) and Warren (Lieutenant John Branche and Detective Marcus West) for reaching out to the LGA and requesting they attend our meeting to provide a first person update about the mini crime spree.

The good news is thanks to some good old fashioned detective work, two persons are in custody and two others have been identified. Burglaries are crimes of opportunity. Don't make your home an attractive target.

Advice shared by the officers included:

- Know your neighbors.
- Trim shrubs around doors and windows to avoid a place of concealment.
- Use motion activated flood lights-use the LED bulbs.
- Use timers inside the residence that go on and off at different times.

- Don't let mail accumulate in the mailbox.
- Consider an alarm system and security cameras.
- Record serial numbers and/or take photos of high value items left at the house. If an item doesn't have a serial number, etch a personal identifier on the item.
- If you have a vacation home that is vacant for months on end, let your sheriff's office know so periodic house checks can be completed.

Most importantly, if something doesn't look right in your neighborhood, call the police.

Our thanks to our professional law enforcement representatives for proactively reaching out to us.

Don Carson, Chair of the Government Relations Committee, reminded everyone the Five County Forum will be on March 16 at the Lake Gaston Lions Club. The meeting begins at 9 and concludes at noon. This is an opportunity to meet your county commissioners and managers. You don't have to be an LGA member to attend.

Jeff Dowhan, Education Chair, advised 3 Lakeside Learning sessions for 6th graders are scheduled for March 20, April 6 and May 4.

Treasurer Jack Saunders reviewed the 2017 budget which was distributed at the meeting. Jack also commented the Community Shred event, sponsored by the Safety Committee, will be held on Saturday, April 15, 2017 from 10:00 AM until 1:00 PM. This is an easy way to fight identity theft.

Come and watch as your confidential documents are turned into confetti right before your very eyes. The shred truck will be parked at the Roanoke-Wildwood Volunteer Fire Department, 790 Lizard Creek Road, Littleton. Although the free shred event is open to all, donations are welcome to help defray the cost of this event.

With no further comments, Bill closed the meeting at approximately 10:55 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Goldsworthy, Secretary