**LAKE WENATCHEE FIRE AND RESCUE AUXILIARY**

**14193 Chiwawa Loop Road, Box 3**

**(509-763-3034)**

**Membership Meeting Minutes**

**May 8th – 6:00 p.m. at Station 91**

**Board members present**: Dorothy Baker, Liz Gilbertson, Kris King, Audry Henniger, Barb Harris, & Franklin French

**Welcome:** Dorothy Baker

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**LWFR District 9**:

**Chief Walker**:

Chief Walker was unable to attend.

**LWFR Association:**

**Deb Wadkins:**

We held our monthly Firefighters Association (FA) meeting last night, and we have an update on some of our upcoming spending of the funds provided by the Auxiliary:

Josiah Norby (Station 95 Lieutenant) brought in a battery powered, hydraulic spreader tool (“jaws of life”) as an example of what will be purchased for Station 95. Today, there are two sets of tools that reside at Station 91 and 93. By purchasing a third tool (spreader & cutter) and housing at Station 95, the department will have better coverage of the Lake Wenatchee area – particularly the Highway 2 corridor. The tool costs $20,000 and is an invaluable asset when it comes to extricating patients from car wrecks. Last year (2023), the tools were used 3 times to remove patients from vehicles who could not remove themselves, and in 2022 they were used 5-6 times. They are versatile tools (can be used as a jack to lift a car in an emergency situation) and are critical when it comes to safely rescuing patients.

As EVs (electric vehicles) become more prevalent on the road, there are more and more EV accidents. Due to the massive presence of lithium-ion batteries within those vehicles, accidents could result in batteries combusting into an electrical fire. The department will be purchasing a $1,500 blanket (single use) that is used to smother EV fires. Once the blanket is used, the entire scene (car and blanket) becomes a hazardous material situation, and a HazMat team will be called in to clear the scene. (This is not something the department will be handling internally). The blankets not only put out the EV car fire, but also quickly stop the potential wildfire or structure fire risk. The question was asked why an internal combustion car fire is not considered a HazMat situation and it was explained that gas cars have very small batteries and fuel tanks in comparison, and that those fuels usually burn off very quickly and do not amount to the level of HazMat contamination.

Sirens: Kris King has picked up the grant work previously done by Mike Stanford, and with a grant from EMD & FEMA, LWFR is getting 5 evacuation sirens. These sirens will have pre-recorded messages that will be able to be projected throughout the area, up to 1 mile. The sirens will only be used in emergent situations (e.g. evacuate immediately, shelter in place, etc.). They are radio enabled and can function for a certain period without power. Chelan County PUD is donating the poles that the sirens will be going on, and the equipment will weight approximately 1,000lb per pole! These sirens will complement the existing email/text system to inform residents of emergency activity (check out the LWFR website for more information on this system as well). The FA will share more information about the cost of these new sirens as we get more information. Please be aware that there will be a test of the existing evacuation sirens on Wednesday 5/15 at 1pm.

Finally, the FA is looking at ordering two new twin tension systems for low-angle rope rescue. The department primarily uses this for car wrecks that go off an embankment and require stabilization of a patient up a short distance. This can also be used for injured hikers or snowmobile rescues in the winter. At this point, the departments’ ropes are aging out, so this will be something that they look to replace soon.

Deb presented a card from FA to the Auxiliary as a BIG thank you for all the hard work and fundraising efforts. The firefighters appreciate everything the membership does to support them.

**Call to Order:** Dorothy Baker called the meeting to order at 6:17 p.m.

**Attendance:**  37 members in person, 6 via Zoom, 3 new members for a total of 46 in attendance

**New Member Introductions:**

Rene Sumpter, Tolinda Sumpter, & Robert Sumpter

Recently moved from Portland, OR to the area (Shugart Flats) – relations of Sally & Keith Fast.

Welcome Rene, Tolinda, & Robert!

**Approve April Minutes:**

Erin Colwell moved to approve the April meeting minutes, seconded by Fred Guimond, and the motion passed.

**April Treasurer’s Report: (Barbara Harris)**

Memorial Account $30.00

General Account

 Beginning Balance April 1, 2024 $91,387.13

 Transfer from Memorial Account + $200.00

 Square Deposits + $8.04

 Donation to LWFR Association -$81,700.00

Ending Balance as of April 30th 2024 $ 9,895.17

Kelly Kitselman moved to approve the April Treasurer’s report, seconded by Mike Colwell, and the motion passed.

**Old Business:**

**Ratification of New Board of Directors (Officers): Dorothy Baker**

Jennifer Norris put forth a motion to ratify the new Board, seconded by Anita Johnson, and the motion passed.

2024 Board Members are:

Dorothy Baker – President

Liz Gilbertson – Vice President

Barbara Harris – Treasurer

Elizabeth Pollock – Secretary

Audry Henniger – Public Information Officer

Kris King – At Large

Franklin French – At Large

**GoUSA clothing orders: Chris King**

Chris is out of town, a status on the recent orders will be provided at the next Membership meeting.

**Road Clean Up (May 9th at 3:00 pm station 93): Dorothy Baker**

Currently 7-8 people have signed up, but if you are available, feel free to come out and participate. The Auxiliary will be cleaning around Station 93 along 207, while the firefighters will be doing part of Highway 2.

**Tour de Bloom Recap: Marcia Scott**

Big thanks to Marcia for leading the event! Great job to all volunteers who made it possible. The biggest issue/lesson learned was the new addition of the pro race, which was new even to the race organizers. There was some confusion about holding all cars at the top of Beaver Hill during the pro race (typically cars are allowed to come down because non-pro races follow the rules of the road staying in the right lane), but pro races use both lanes. Despite the communication, there were no incidents to report.

This year the race donated $3,500 to the Auxiliary ($1,000 more than last year!) and 60 bike helmets to be given out at Safety Day during the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend.

Marcia is compiling feedback and looking to improve things to make next year bigger and better. One idea is going to be to incorporate other local organizations (the Lake Wenatchee Rec Club, Plain Valley Adventure Women, Plain Community Church, etc.) to include additional volunteers. It’s believed we could have used another 25 volunteers! There has also been some feedback about what to do with cars out by Shugart Flats since there is no place to pull off the road for the pro races, and that cars need to be stopped at Mountain Springs. Marcia also wants to figure out how to recognize the hard work of all the Plain businesses. Send any additional feedback or thoughts to scott.marci21@gmail.com

Also, it was asked that if you go to Plain Brewing or see Mike Buck, be sure to thank him – he was able to park 100 cars on his property to support the influx of people to the downtown Plain area for the races.

**Firefighter Treats: Dorothy**

The Auxiliary provides food/treats to the firefighters at their Firefighter Association meeting, the first Tuesday of the month, which occurs prior to their every other week drill training activities.

With the increase in grocery prices, the increase in firefighters who attend (30-60), and people’s busy schedules, it has been a struggle to get people to sign up to provide food. Next year we are thinking of adding a budget line item to account for this expense to help reimburse people and offset the cost to incentivize more to participate. For this year, the FA has agreed to give back $800 to the Auxiliary to set aside for member reimbursements. It was asked what snacks/treats the firefighters would like to see at the FA meetings and the answer was anything sweet, cheese & crackers, hot dogs, tacos, muffins, etc.

The plan is for people to be reimbursed up to $60 per meeting (about $1/firefighter head). When you sign up, you will be notified of where the meeting will take place (it is not always at Station 93 – depends on what drill activity is occurring afterwards) so you can plan accordingly. Please arrive around 5:45-6pm. The FA meeting starts at 6:30, so this allows everyone to get a bite to eat before the meeting and training starts.

It was asked if the firefighters have time to eat, and the answer was yes – it’s before drill happens at 7:00pm at the Firefighter Association meeting at 6:30. A follow up question was asked about why we need the $800 back versus just using our existing budget, and the answer was we didn’t want to cut our operating budget too close with some of the major expenses that occur prior to our big fundraising events that bring in additional revenue. Finally, it was asked about how many people show up to this meeting, and the recent guess was around 50 firefighters.

**Jerry Jennings Memorial: Dorothy**

The FA is also going to contribute $600 towards the Jerry Jennings Memorial at Station 93 for a memorial plaque and garden. Josiah Norby will be working with 2 Auxiliary members to help plant the garden. It would be ideal for the garden to be planted by 8/10, prior to the August Membership meeting (which will be at Station 93 on Wednesday 8/14) so that we can have a dedication. The two volunteers are Marcia Scott & Jennifer Norris.

**Committee Reports:**

**Audit Committee: Dorothy Baker**

Donna Tobais presented the outcome of the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee met Monday 5/6 and audited all 12 months of the Auxiliary’s prior fiscal year and was comprised of Nancy Salmon, Dorothy Baker, Liz Gilbertson, Donna Tobias, Linda Wood, and Jimi Wilson.

After a review of the bank statements, receipts, and deposit slips provided by the treasurer, we found the LWFR Auxiliary records to be in good order for May 1, 2023 through April 30, 2024. The LWFR 2024 donation of $81,700 did not clear by April 30, 2024, but is expected to clear in the coming fiscal year, which will be verified in next year’s audit.

Many thanks to Barb Harris for her diligent work and incredible organization!

John Tobais moved to approve the Audit Committee report, seconded by Scott Baker, and the motion passed.

**Bylaws Committee: Jimi Wilson**

The Bylaws Committee has a proposal for the updated 2024 bylaws, a process that has been going on for more than 2 years with 2 different attorneys. The committee includes Becky Justus, Chris King, Jim MacMillan, Dorothy Baker, Deb Clark, & Jimi Wilson.

The goal was to simplify the 2020 bylaws in hopes of not having to update the bylaws again for a long while. Below is a summary of the major changes, additional review of items that just moved around & were consolidated can be reviewed between the new 2024 draft bylaws and our current 2020 version – both will be attached to these minutes for review.

Major changes:

* Article 2: Added a legal clarification in the event the LWFRA dissolves
* Article 3: Updated principal office to be located at the homes of the Secretary & Treasurer (vs the Department)
* Article 4: Added teleconferencing option and the requirement of a quorum at the membership meetings, along with clarifying the involuntary termination of a member
* Article 5: Removed the time & place of membership meetings to allow for schedule flexibility and updated quorum to be 25% from 20% of active members (approximately 35 people vs 28)
* Article 6:
	+ Broke out and clarified the Board of Directions nomination & election process
	+ added a section to clarify that Officer positions are elected annually within the Board of Directors
	+ Added sections for Director limitation of liability, no compensation, conflict of interest governance
	+ Clarified Director Duties (key items that were added below):
		- President – to also coordinate with District Commissioners
		- Secretary – serve as Membership Committee Chair
		- Treasurer – serve on Budget Committee
		- Public Information Officer – provided more autonomy to post information without requiring President’s buy-off on everything
		- At-Large – can be delegated to with majority consent of Directors (not just by the President)
		- All – added a bullet that is a catch all for any other duties needed
* Article 7: Added a section detailing our Revenues (in addition to existing Expenditures section)
* Article 8: Added verbiage around the development and general roles of committees, but removed the exact details of the standing committees, instead pointing to an external document to manage “Committee Guidelines”
* Article 9: Added a section that enables the Directors to format the by-laws (no changes, just rearranging/cross-references/grammatical updates, etc.)
* Article 10: updated the indemnification section to align with attorney’s guidance

Please note that we were already doing many of the things that were clarified and added to the new bylaws, and added language to add structure in those instances, while removed details around the aspects that were unnecessarily cumbersome (date and time prescription, committee details, etc.).

Any additional feedback needs to be sent to Jimi Wilson by 5/26/24.

We would like to vote on these new bylaws in the June Membership meeting, but based on the current bylaws in place, we are already past the deadline to do so and if we follow that we are pushed to July. We would like to propose to waive our requirement to align to that schedule so that we can address next meeting.

Jimi Wilson moved to waive the current bylaw amendment schedule and bring the vote to approve in the June Membership meeting, seconded by Erin Colwell, and the motion passed.

**New Business:**

**Upper Wenatchee Pilot Project: Kris King**

On the LWFR website, there is a map of the 2024 Fuels Reduction plan:

<https://www.lwfr.org/copy-of-during-the-fire>

This outlines where there is planned work to be done this season for wildfire mitigation. The Forest Service is hoping to treat 500 acres of public land in our district this year, with a possibility of increasing that in the future. Chief Walker & Jim Passage have been working diligently to bring this plan to fruition.

**Venmo Account: Liz Gilbertson**

In addition to Square, we also have an LWFR Aux Venmo account. It will be available at all events going forward to help with expanding our fundraising efforts beyond our traditional avenues of donations.

You can search for the account in Venmo using the handle @LWFRAuxiliary or search for Chelan County Fire District #9. We will have the QR codes available going forward as well to easily navigate people to our account!

**Women’s Golf League Tournament (July 16th 6:45 – 8:30 am): Dorothy Baker**

Although this event is an early set up, it is a blast to support. Please consider signing up to volunteer if you are interested – we currently have 7 people signed up and are looking for another 3 to help. Please reach out to Elizabeth Pollock if you are interested in signing up either by email (epollock@lwfrauxiliary.org) or in person at the June Membership Meeting.

**Yard Sale Drop Off: Velda Millard**

Velda was unable to attend, but the first Yard Sale drop off day will be June 1st. More details to be provided prior to that date.

**Upcoming Events:**

**Blewett Brewing Benevolent Day (May 15th): Scott Baker**

The first ever benevolent day at Blewett Brewing is happening on Wednesday May 15th. Get out an enjoy a pizza and cold beer – as Blewett will be donating 15% of ALL sales (food & beverages!) from noon-8pm to the Auxiliary! Tell your family, friends, and neighbors so we can support Blewett and our firefighters! For more details, check out the flyer on the LWFRA Facebook page.

**München Haus Benevolent Night: Anita Johnson**

This year’s benevolent day at München Haus will be on Tuesday 7/2 from 4-10pm.

In the past, the Auxiliary has always shared a benevolent event with another organization, but this year we will be the ONLY recipient of that day’s donations. In addition, the folks at München Haus are upping the donation to 25% of the sales! (Anita is going to check if that is just food sales, or beverages as well).

We are going to build on the event last year where we had John Bradwin out in his bunker gear, Firewise materials, and fun kiddo give aways (fire department themed hats, stickers, pencils, etc). Anita is going to ask Deb to see if we can get some more firefighters out in gear to interact with people, and Kim Wiley is going to ensure the department has plenty of giveaway goodies for the kids. Hoping to make this year a bigger and better event, so keep an eye out for a sign-up sheet at the next Membership meeting if you want to help man the table outside the entrance or contact Anita Johnson directly.

**Sunshine Report: Sharyl Nelson**

No requests for cards have come in this past month. Marcia Scott suggested we continue to send cards to Mike Stanford to ensure he knows we are thinking about him.

**Good of the Order**

Franklin French & Dorothy Baker noted that in a future Membership meeting, we will have a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new fire tender truck that the department just received a few weeks ago. There is a decal being made that will read “Purchased in partnership with the LWFR Auxiliary” to recognize the hard work of this community in helping provide the funds needed to execute that grant! More info to come once that date has been established.

**Social Committee**

Shawna Presley from the Social Committee helped us celebrate an early Mother’s Day! She held a drawing of all the mom’s in in-person attendance for a prize of a bouquet of flowers and chocolates. Congrats to Linda Wells who was the lucky mom who was drawn!

The meeting concluded at 7:16 p.m.

Jimi Wilson moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Scott Baker, and the motion passed.

**Next Meeting:**

The next Auxiliary meeting is on Wednesday, June 12, at Station 91 at 6:00 p.m. and a Zoom option will be available.

**Note:** If you want to look at past minutes, they are located online, and the path is below:

LWFR.org: About LWFR: Auxiliary; Member Login (bottom of page); Auxiliary Login; Password is **Auxmember18**; Minutes. It shows minutes since 2010 along with the Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation.