*The Cumberland Evening Times June 11, 1948*

**Volunteer Firemen Support Defibaugh for Local Chief**

Captain J. T. Defibaugh, Sr., of the Cumberland Fire Department received strong backing for the position of fire chief of this city in a resolution passed by the Allegany Garrett County Volunteer Firemen’s Association yesterday at their convention in Bloomington.

The action was taken after delegates were told he had finished first in the Civil Service examinations for the appointment. The delegates ordered a letter of endorsement drawn.

Urging the appointment for Defibaugh, it will be sent to the Cumberland Mayor and Council.

The letter states in part that the association knowns Captain Defibaugh to be trained and skilled in the work and duties of a firemen, and “he has attended numerus schools and training conferences of fire prevention and firefighting.” The convention declared, “We consider him the most qualified for the position of fire chief in Cumberland.

A resolution on a state bonus for veterans of World War II has been referred to the Volunteer Firemen’s Association by Faraday Post No. 24, American Legion of Frostburg. It proposed a referendum on a bonus plan for Maryland veterans of World War II, and urges the state Legislature to take appropriate action.

Among guest who addressed the convention were three candidates for state office. Spencer H. Brown, Sandy Springs, and E. Landon Walston, Preston, candidates for state president and David Tohey, Cabin John, candidate for first vice president, spoke but no formal endorsements were made.

Rev. G. Stanley Schwind, association chaplain, conducted a memorial service in honor of sec members who died during the past year. The members honored included Ralph Ravenscroft, Midland; Courtney Andrews and David Robertson, Barton; Philip Miller, LaVale; Wilbert V. Tighe, Clarysville, and Alex Hesen, Oakland.

Announcement was made that the next executive meeting will be held Sunday, July 11, at Baltimore Pike Volunteer Fire Company Hall.

Joseph Wenrich, Cresaptown, was elected president of the association. Wenrich succeeds William Chappel, Barton. Wenrich was vice president during the past term and was named president yesterday without opposition.

The only contest in the election was for recording secretary. Joseph Stuckey, Corriganville, opposed Chester W. Shimer, Westernport, Incumbent with Shimer being re-elected.

Also re-elected without opposition was L. E. Workman, Luke, treasurer; Rev. G. Stanley Schwind, pastor of St. James Episcopal Church, Westernport, was elected chaplain, while Cromwell Zembower, LaVale, was named vice president.

Lonaconing will be the scene of next year’s convention, although invitations were also extended by Barton, McCoole and Midland.

Following the election, Chappel installed Wenrich who installed the other officers. One of Wenrich’s first actions was to appoint a committee to plan for the annual firemen’s picnic. It was proposed that consideration be given to holding the annual outing in Garrett County this year.

Members of the picnic committee include Harry Wilson, Baltimore Pike; Earl Twigg, Bowling Green; Harry C. Walters, Corriganville; Nelson W. Russler, this city; and Bruce Long, LaVale.

Member so a publicity committee also appointed by Wenrich include Chester Shimer, Westernport; Cromwell Zembower, LaVale; and David Robinson, Bowman’s Addition.

Russler, a past president of the association, presented a past president’s pin to Chappel.

Cash prizes totaling $125 were awarded to seven of the 21 units in the parade.

The Frostburg Fire Company copped a $25 award for having the largest unit with band in the parade while Potomac Fire Company, Westernport, received second prize of $15.

Good Will Fire Company, Lonaconing, was given $20 for having the largest unit in line without a band and Grantsville received $15 for coming the longest distance.

The Midland Volunteer Fire Department won $20 for having the best drilled unit and Corriganville received $20 for the best appearing unit.

The Barton Fire Company Auxiliary received $10 for having the largest auxiliary unit in the parade.

Judges for the affair were Mr. Schwind, Captain Defibaugh, John Prichard, Grantsville, Russler, and Lawrence Fraley, Oakland.

Prior to the parade the auxiliary unit completed its final business meeting and elected Mrs. Margaret Bittner president. Other officers who were elected and installed are: Mrs. Mae Capel, Friendsville, vice president; Mrs. Laura Shuhart, Barton, secretary; Mrs. Edna Engle, Frostburg, treasurer; Mrs. Joseph Carter, Mt. Savage, chaplain; Kitty Baker, Midland, guard; and Mrs. Ellsworth Rizer, Corriganville, color bearer.

Gifts were presented to Mrs. Juanita Hendley, Frostburg, state association president, Mrs. Lela Henry, McCoole, retiring president of the dual-county organization, and Mrs. Margaret Devlin, Barton, retiring secretary who completed five years of service.

The auxiliary accepted two new units into the organization. They are Friendsville and Cresaptown.