



Northeast Texas Forest Landowners Association Newsletter

October 2011

Published by the Northeast Texas Forest Landowners Association

Vol. 26 Issue 4

Texans on the Fire Line

from “Fiscal Notes”, September, 2011, Texas State Comptroller’s Office,
<http://www.window.state.tx.us/comptrol/fnotes/fnhome.html>.

The tinder-dry conditions gripping Texas in 2011 have put firefighting and fire prevention efforts at the fore of public and political attention. At the end of June, the federal government acceded to Texas’ request for disaster status, in response to more than 3 million acres burned during the previous seven months.

Texas emergency response, including firefighting, is achieved through a complex patchwork of professional and volunteer resources comprising tens of thousands of men and women. And during the headline-grabbing wildfires that indiscriminately burn thousands of acres for days or weeks, it’s often volunteers who risk their lives to protect their neighbors’ property and homes.

Stretched Resources

At Possum Kingdom in Palo Pinto County, the “PK Complex” fire charred more than 126,000 acres over a three-week period before firefighters contained the blaze on April 28, according to Texas Forest Service (TFS) reports. More than 160 homes and two churches burned.

Mineral Wells Volunteer Fire Department (MWVFD) personnel were among the hundreds of firefighters deployed at Possum Kingdom.

“We pretty well had a truck out there every day for 12 to 14 hours or longer,” says Palo Pinto County Fire Marshal Steve Perdue, a retired schoolteacher who has served as MWVFD Chief for 15 of the 35 years he has been a firefighter. MWVFD is among 11 volunteer and combined volunteer and professional departments protecting Palo Pinto County.

“Everybody in this county was pulled down to just the bare basics of covering their home territory in terms of equipment and people,” Perdue says. “When I put three brush trucks on the PK fire, I had only one covering my area.”

The emergency also limited the volunteers’ ability to provide support for the city of Mineral Wells’ paid fire and emergency medical services (EMS). Chief Robin Allen says that the two departments share facilities, but have separate service responsibilities, budgets, equipment, leadership structure and training requirements.

“When a structure fire comes in, we are very lucky to have the volunteers to call on,” she says. “And part of our paid staff is considered volunteer when they are off-duty [and respond with the volunteers to calls].”

Being tax-supported, the city’s fire department is better situated to buy specialist equipment. Allen said her department responded to Chief Perdue’s request to deploy the city’s command center, a support trailer that could refill air tanks for firefighters tackling the many structure fires at the massive PK blaze.

Funding for Firefighting

The cost of fire prevention in Texas would be much higher without the efforts of almost 35,000 Texans who are members of the state’s 1,497 fully volunteer fire departments (VFDs) and 292 combined volunteer and paid departments. Those combination departments have about 6,200 paid firefighters, while the state’s 139 fully paid departments have more than 19,500 firefighters primarily focused on protecting the state’s municipalities, according to Texas Forest Service records.

While some state and federal grant funding is available for fire departments, most fire protection is funded at a local level through taxation or donations.

Funding for fire protection varies widely across the state, although the proliferation of VFDs serving rural communities, particularly in sparsely populated regions, means that almost all areas across the state have at least basic firefighting equipment— and firefighters willing to use it.

And that’s despite the fact Texas has no legal requirement for cities or counties to provide fire protection, according to Russell Gallahan, a regional economic development specialist for the Comptroller’s office. State law permits cities and counties to provide fire protection and either levy a tax to pay for it or contract with an emergency services district (ESD), and/or fire department, he adds.

Since 2007, moreover, the Texas Intrastate Fire Mutual Aid System (TIFMAS) has provided a voluntary assistance system that allows fire departments to call for help from other areas of Texas when they need it; says Texas Forest Service spokeswoman Linda Moon.

“In the first six months of 2011, 354 fire trucks and 918 firefighters— constituting 142 fire departments — have participated in the mutual aid response effort,” she says.

Firefighting Network

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FROM THE FOREST



Here we are at the end of another year, and what a year it has been. The housing slump continues and wood prices are down. Many of us have experienced the driest and hottest year on record, with a constant threat of losing our trees to wildfires and drought. Burn bans continue in our counties. We must be diligent and do what we can to protect our forests.

Several governmental issues that may have an impact on your business need attention before the end of the year. In case you are not aware, farm, ranch and timber operators who produce products for sale will need a special Registration Number beginning on January 1, 2012 to claim a sales tax exemption for products purchased to be used in your business. You will be required to show retailers a Registration Number instead of simply signing an exemption certificate at the time of purchase as in the past. Products include items such as machinery, equipment, parts, motor oil and lubricants, herbicides, insecticides, fertilizer, irrigation equipment, and off-road vehicles. The application form to obtain a Registration Number via mail can be requested through the Texas Comptroller at 1-800-252-5555. You can also apply online at www.GetReadyTexas.org, and you will receive a Registration Number immediately. There are no fees associated with registration. The goal of this new registration process is to 1) take the burden off retailers to verify whether a purchaser is eligible for an exemption, and 2) prevent abuse by narrowing the pool of purchasers claiming the sales tax exemption to those actually involved in production of agriculture or timber products for sale.

Bottom line, if you want to claim agriculture or timber exemption from Texas sales tax on items you purchase to be used in your business, take the time to register before January 1, 2012. Get a Registration Number that you can show to retailers. The actual Registration Number card is the size of a credit card and is similar to the Private Pesticide Applicator License card that many of you carry.

Secondly, if you have a tree planting contract with NRCS for the upcoming planting season, talk to your local NRCS office. Drought conditions will inhibit planting, and waivers to delay planting will be approved with drought documentation from your TFS Forester.

Glenn Weiss



Program and Meeting Notes

Everyone seemed to like meeting at the Pittsburg Pizza Inn in August, so the directors decided to do it once again. Lunch afterward is Dutch treat, but as we found out, there is more at this restaurant than pizza, including sandwiches and a great salad bar. We'll be welcome to use the meeting room for lunch.

We will have our biannual elections during the business part of the meeting, and those who cannot attend are encouraged to make use of the ballot on the back page. We are still looking for directors from Titus and Morris counties. Directors must be current on their dues, voting members of the association, and own forest land in the county they represent, although not necessarily live there. In practice, they meet four times a year and serve as an informal program and budget committee; they also handle other business matters, such as swapping stories and drinking coffee.

Ron Hufford, executive vice president of the Texas Forestry Association, will be our speaker. He will have an update on the last legislative session and perhaps other political matters affecting Texas Forestry, and will answer your questions. We hope to have some of our Texas Forest Service people with us as well who can give us a little insight on the incendiary outlook.

One of the teachers we sponsored to the Texas Conservation Institute this past summer, Julie Malewska, will be with us at the meeting and, hopefully, share some of her experiences and comment on her busy week and the program.. As most of you know, TCI is an intensive five-day teacher workshop in modern forestry and best management practices for classroom teachers. It's a fun week and helps get our message of sustainable forestry and good conservation practices out to the urban classrooms so often haunted by environmental fictions.

See you at the meeting—bring a guest and bring some rain! —Bill

2011 PROGRAM CALENDAR

Saturday, Nov. 12, 10:00 AM

**TFA's Ron Hufford:
Legislative Update
NETFLA Biannual Elections
Pizza Inn
Pittsburg, Texas**

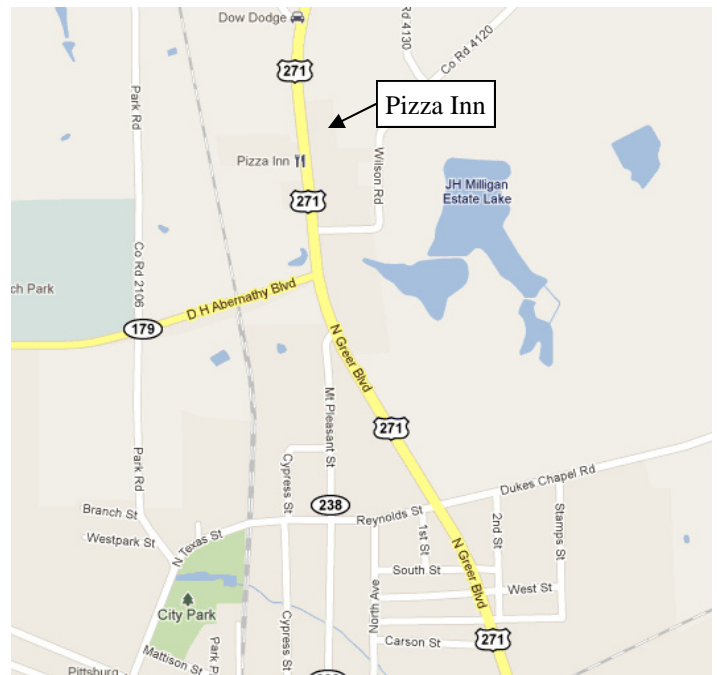
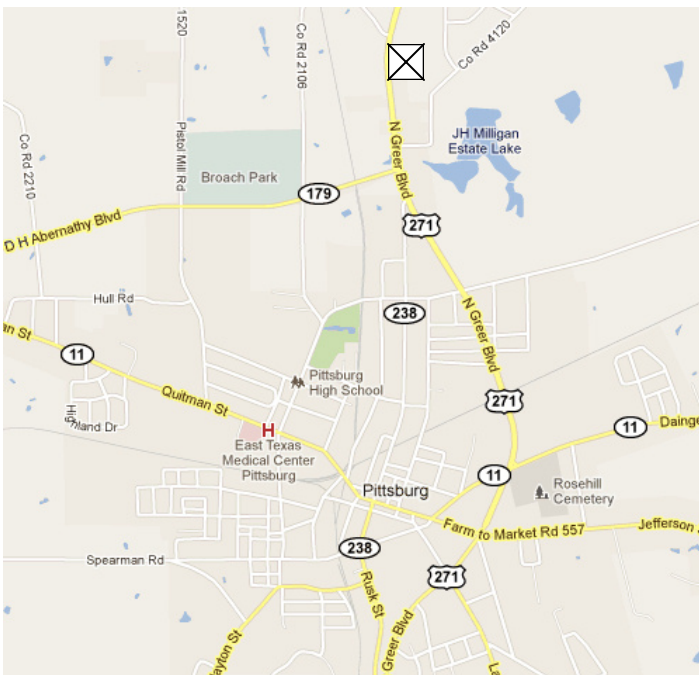
**Financial mailing address for
\$15 annual dues and other
questions is:**

**NETFLA
PO Box 642
Mt. Vernon, TX 75457**

**Contact Blanche Handy-
Sparks
(903) 860-2507
bhandy@peoplescom.net**

**Please do not send cash. Your
check is your receipt for mailed
funds. Make checks payable to
NETFLA, and THANKS!**

**Remember, new members paying
dues from this point on in 2011
will have them credited to 2012!**



Texans on the Fire Line

—cont. from page 1

Although fire protection is each community's responsibility, the Legislature has long recognized the contribution departments can make outside their own service areas, and the need to help firefighters obtain better equipment.

"One of the main duties and roles the TFS plays is to build the capacity of others," Moon says. "With fire, that [involves] talking with a lot of communities and building the capacity of first responders, volunteers and fire departments."

Since 2002, the Rural Volunteer Fire Department Assistance Program has funded more than 1,400 fire trucks, more than 50,000 sets of protective gear and more than 38,000 places in training courses.

Mineral Wells VFD obtained a brush truck this way, very helpful for a department of its size, Perdue says.

"[Our] other three trucks are a 1976 and a 1984 held together with Band-Aids and baling wire, and a tender we bought seven years ago on a 'sweet-heart deal,'" he says.

"[Neighboring] Parker County was buying 23 [trucks]; we tagged on with them and got what should have been a \$210,000 vehicle for \$185,000. We're paying \$15,500 every year on a bank loan for it. It will be paid in nine more years."

"Local fire departments are the first responders," Moon says. "When their capacity is exceeded because fires are too big or are threatening homes and communities, the state steps in to help. And once the state's resources are exceeded, we pull in federal help."

Beginning this year, the TIFMAS program has been allocating trucks to communities around the state in exchange for their departments' assistance in responding to large fires.

Joe Florentino is the Texas Forest Service's TIFMAS coordinator, as well as fire chief in the North Texas town of Little Elm.

"We're setting up a cadre of departments that can send personnel, typically for a seven-day response," he says.

TIFMAS delivered 16 brush trucks in the first six months of 2011, each costing about \$100,000.

According to Florentino, the first eight trucks delivered in February were used extensively during the spring fire season; some departments were surprised by how quickly they were called upon to hold up their end of the arrangement.

Local VFD's will gladly accept donations, or, if you wish you may make tax deductible donations to the VFD Emergency Assistance Fund. Information can be found at: <http://texasforests.tamu.edu/main/article.aspx?id=13348&terms=donate%20to%20vfd>.

Visit the Texas Forest Service website for ongoing updates on Texas wildfires at <http://txforests.tamu.edu>.

Save the Date -

2012 Texas Timber Tax Workshop

Dr. Yanshu Li, Forest Economist, Texas Forest Service

Time & Location: Friday, February 17, 2012, 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Lottie & Arthur Temple Civic Center, 601 Dennis St., Diboll, Texas

Many landowners [pay] more than their fair share of taxes on their timber income. Even forest landowners who use accountants need to understand how timber expenses and income are taxed, since some tax preparers are not well versed in special tax treatment for forestry.

Knowing the tax laws will give you an advantage in planning your forest management activities.

The daylong workshop will provide an understanding of timber tax including basics about timber taxation and the latest changes to tax laws and rules for 2010 tax return preparations. Topics will focus on federal timber income tax issues for private forest owners with a refresher on local timberland property tax incentives. Participants will gain a clear understanding of commonly misunderstood timber tax issues.

For individuals who have had timber losses due to wildfires and other casualties, this course can explain who can take a casualty loss deduction, determination of allowable loss deduction and how to claim the loss.

The workshop is designed for forest landowners, consulting foresters, accountants, attorneys, and others who work with forest landowners in matters pertaining to timber taxes.

Speakers:

Dr. Deborah Gaddis Gunter

She is a retired Mississippi State University Extension Tax Specialist in Forestry. A former industrial forester, Debbie has been teaching landowners, tax preparers and foresters about forest taxation since 1999. She is the author of the Timber Tax Fundamentals Short Course and numerous tax articles and publications. She has lectured across the United States on the subject of forest taxation. Currently she is Visiting Assistant Professor at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale Department of Forestry.

Dr. Yanshu Li

Forest Economist, Texas Forest Service, College Station, TX

Continuing Education Credits

The workshop qualifies for Continuing Education Credits: CFE (Foresters) 7.0 hours, CLE (Loggers) 6.0 hours and CPE (CPAs) 8.0 hours.

For more information, please contact Monica Jadowski at (979) 458-6630 or mjadowski@tfs.tamu.edu. Online updates and registration will be available on the Texas Forest Service website (<http://texasforests.tamu.edu>)

Two Inducted Into Texas Forestry Hall of Fame

—*Crosscut*, pub. by the Texas Forestry Museum

Two men who were instrumental to forestry education in Texas were inducted into the Texas Forestry Hall of Fame at this year's TREEmendous Celebration. Melvin Kurth helped create the Texas Forestry Museum and Jim Webster brought Project Learning Tree to Texas. Plaques for each man, which include a photograph and biography, have been installed in the museum. Here is the text from the plaques:

"Melvin E. Kurth, Jr., was born in 1931. After growing up in Houston, he received a mechanical engineering degree from Southern Methodist University in 1955. After working as a consulting engineer in Houston, he went to work for Southland Paper Mills in 1957, eventually rising to President and CEO prior to leaving the company in 1978. He served as President of the Angelina & Neches River Railroad from 1974 to 1980. Beginning in 1968, he served as a director of Lufkin Industries. He also has served as a director of St. Regis Paper Company, First City National Bank of Houston, and Lufkin National Bank.

"In 1975, he served as chair of the fund raising drive committee for the creation of the Texas Forestry Museum and as chair of the Air and Water Conservation Committee of the Houston Chamber of Commerce. In 1976, he was president of the Southern Forest Institute. In 1977, he was chair of the Newsprint Division of the American Paper Institute. In 1979, he served as board president of Memorial Hospital in Lufkin. He also has served as a director of the East Texas Chamber of Commerce, Memorial Hospital System of Houston, and Southwestern University of Georgetown. He currently serves as a director of the Pineywoods Foundation in Lufkin. Since retiring, he has operated a hunting and fishing ranch with his wife, Paula, near Chama, New Mexico."

"Jim Webster was born in 1926 and passed away in 1993. Born in Bryan, Texas, he received his BS in Forestry at the University of Michigan in 1949. A second-generation forester, he worked for the Texas Forest Service as a district forester from 1949 to 1959. In 1959, he became chief forester for the Foster Lumber Company. In 1962, he went to the Kirby Lumber Company as manager of corporate relations. He retired from the company as director of governmental relations in 1986. As a member of the Society of American Foresters, he served as the Texas chapter chair in 1957 and 1958, he was awarded the Gulf States Distinguished Service Award in 1974, and he was honored as a Fellow in 1984.

"While serving on the American Forest Institute board of directors, Jim Webster was responsible for bringing Project Learning Tree to Texas. The program has trained thousands of educators through the years. He was President of Texas Forestry Association in 1973 and 1974, and served as the first chair and founding member of the Texas Forestry Association's Forestry Political Action Committee. He also served on the board of directors at the Louisiana Forestry Association. He was active in several other forestry organizations. Upon his retirement, he was elected Conroe Municipal Judge in 1992 and held that position until his death in December of 1993."

The plaques will hang permanently alongside those of the other members of the Texas Forestry Hall of Fame. This is a fitting tribute to two great men in Texas Forestry!

Stop by the Museum to See Two New Mini-Exhibits

By Rick Bray, Museum Director

The Texas Forestry Museum has two new mini exhibits on display.

The first exhibit is: Story of an East Texas Muleskinner. Set up on the wall next to the Martin eight-wheel wagon, this exhibit tells the story of Henry Kilgore, who was one of the last muleskinners for the Southern Pine Lumber Company. The exhibit includes photographs and a short whip that Kilgore carried, but rarely used. This is a great reminder of the days when men and animals did the work now performed by heavy machinery. Several members of Kilgore's family have been to the museum to see the exhibit.

The second exhibit is: One-Man Crosscut Saw. Set up in the sawmill town section of the history wing, this one-artifact exhibit tells the story of James Edward Jones and his one-man crosscut saw. Jones was an inventor who ran away from home and worked his way up to becoming master mechanic for a local sawmill. This is a great story of East Texas ingenuity. The saw is on loan to the museum from the Jones family.

'Sawdust Memories' explores town history of Camden

Sawmill towns were scattered all over East Texas in the early 1900s. "Sawdust Memories — a History of Camden, Texas" by Norma Hammond McLoughlin tells the story of a small company-owned town the way it was before the town buildings were sold and moved.

Camden, located in Polk County, was one of the last company-owned towns. The W.T. Carter and Brother lumber mill was started in 1898 and continued to operate under W.T. Carter ownership until 1968 when it was sold to U.S. Plywood-Champion Papers. The book contains stories of day-to-day life in Camden from the early days of its creation until its last days as a company-owned town. This book is full of personal memories, photographs and an extensive list of mill workers and their duties.

In addition to Sawdust Memories, the Company Store also carries DVD copies of a documentary film about Camden that was produced by James Bryan in 1968 while he was a student at the UCLA film school. In addition to footage of the town, it contains interviews with various people of Camden, such as the train engineer, mill workers, and the company doctor. It is sure to bring back memories of a simpler time.

For more information about these items or other merchandise and programs, please contact the Museum at:

1905 Atkinson Drive Lufkin, Texas 75901
(936) 632-9535 www.treetexas.com
Mon. - Sat.: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Texas Ag/Timber Laws and Forms Available Online

– *Texas Forestry Association Newsletter, September 23, 2011.*

The Texas Comptroller's office has developed a web page that provides important information regarding new laws for the agricultural and timber industries. Included are up-to-the-minute details about House Bill 268, which requires commercial producers to have an Ag/Timber Registration Number for sales tax exemptions on eligible purchases beginning Jan. 1, 2012.

In addition to other items, the site offers the following new downloadable application and forms.

- (1) AP-228 Application for Texas Agricultural and Timber Exemption Registration Number
- (2) 01-924 Texas Agricultural Sales and Use Tax Exemption Certification
- (3) 01-925 Texas Timber Operations Sales and Use Tax Exemption Certification

The online application for an Ag/Timber Registration Number and other new and updated publications, rules, FAQs, etc., can be found at <http://www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/agriculture/index.html>.

Websites of Interest

NEW - *Texas Taxes for Agriculture and Timber Industries* - <http://www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/agriculture/>

Tax Tips for Forest Landowners, 2011 - <http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/programs/loa/tax.shtml>

Conducting a Simple Timber Inventory – <https://utextension.tennessee.edu/publications/Documents/PB1780.pdf>

A Management Guide for Invasive Plants in Southern Forests (132 pages – long download time) - <http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/36915>

A Field Guide for the Identification of Invasive Plants in Southern Forests (information on this subject is more easily downloadable than the previous website) - <http://wiki.bugwood.org/Archive:IPSE>

Home Page of the Texas Forestry Museum - <http://www.treetexas.com>

Market Report – July/August, 2011

Product	Statewide Ave. Price		Previous Ave. Price		Price/Ton Difference
	Weight	Volume	Weight	Volume	
Pine-Sawlogs	\$24.91/ton	\$191.05/ mbf	\$22.66/ton	\$175.09/ mbf	+10%
Pine-Pulpwood	\$5.49/ton	\$14.80/cord	\$5.47/ton	\$14.77/cord	0%
Pine-Chip'n'Saw	\$8.99/ton	\$24.28/cord	\$9.05/ton	\$24.45/cord	-1%
Mixed Hardwood-Sawlogs	\$26.34/ton	\$240.94/ mbf	\$25.99/ton	\$235.49/ mbf	+1%
Hardwood-Pulpwood	\$5.96/ton	\$16.74/cord	\$5.42/ton	\$15.22/cord	+10%

Texas Timber Price Trends is a bimonthly publication reporting average prices paid for standing timber in Texas. *This report is intended only as a guide to general price levels.* It should not be used to judge the fair market value of a specific timber sale, which may vary considerably due to many factors. It is recommended that you use the services of a professional consulting forester in managing any timber sale. Important factors affecting timber prices include the type, quality and volume of timber for sale, accessibility, distance to mills/markets, weather conditions, economy/market conditions, who is handling the sale or is buying the timber, and contract requirements by the landowner. Hard copies of this publication can be purchased by contacting Monica Jadlofski at (979)458-6630. The complete Texas Timber Price Trends can be viewed at <http://texasforestservicetamu.edu/main/article.aspx?id=145>.

Conversion factors between volume and weight vary from sale to sale, so the differences in volume prices above may not equal differences in weight prices. Stumpage price statistics include gateway sales (estimated by subtracting cut-and-haul costs, other expenses and profits provided by reporter). Statewide data excludes U.S. Forest Service sales.

Price calculated from specific conversion factor reported for each sale if available; otherwise, average conversion factors listed on page 4 of *Texas Timber Price Trends* (<http://texasforestservicetamu.edu/main/article.aspx?id=145>) are used. MBF = thousand board feet. Doyle Scale used for board foot measurements.

NORTHEAST TEXAS FOREST LANDOWNERS ASSOCIATION BALLOT FOR OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR 2012 AND 2013

If you are unable to attend the meeting but would like to vote (full members only), use this ballot and return to the PO Box on the back of this form. Those attending will vote at the meeting.
Please check or X the box next to the candidate for whom you are voting.

PRESIDENT

- GLENN WEISS
 WRITE-IN _____

VICE PRESIDENT

- WAYNE ARNOLD
 WRITE-IN _____

SECRETARY/TREASURER

- BLANCHE HANDY-SPARKS
 WRITE-IN _____

DIRECTOR FROM CAMP COUNTY

- BOB TURNER
 WRITE-IN _____

DIRECTOR FROM FRANKLIN COUNTY

- HARRY EARL
 WRITE-IN _____

DIRECTOR FROM MORRIS COUNTY

- WRITE-IN _____

DIRECTOR FROM TITUS COUNTY

- WRITE-IN _____

DIRECTOR FROM UPSHUR COUNTY

- KEN STEWART
 WRITE-IN _____

DIRECTOR FROM WOOD COUNTY

- LARRY HOFFMAN
 WRITE-IN _____

According to the Bylaws, only FULL members WHOSE DUES ARE CURRENT may vote in this election, and the person submitting an absentee ballot must sign and date the ballot so their dues status may be verified. If you wish to get current, enclose a check for \$15 with your ballot.

Signature _____

Date: _____

Printed Signature _____