



Lake Region Firefighters Association

April 18, 2011 Lake Region Meeting Minutes

President Doug Storck called the meeting of the Lake Region Firefighters Association to order at 7:41 PM. The pledge of allegiance to the U.S. flag was said. A moment of silence was observed for all fallen firefighters. We were welcomed to Freeport by host chief Noah Van Beck. Chief Noah Van Beck thanked everyone for coming. Freeport Mayor, Matt Worms, addressed the group and thanked everybody for showing up and thanked the fire departments for the job they do. Roll call was taken by the Freeport Fire Dept. at the registration table showing 123 firefighters representing 38 fire departments. There were 5 guests and vendors present. Minutes from the January quarterly meeting were emailed. Reading of January quarterly meeting minutes were waived with a motion made by Willmar and seconded by St. Cloud to approve the minutes. The treasurer's report was presented.

Type	Date	Num	Name	Memo	Amount	Balance
						\$2,405.66
Check	01/11/2011	2110	MSFDA	Dues	(\$72.00)	\$2,333.66
Deposit	01/14/2011			Deposit	\$720.00	\$3,053.66
Deposit	01/14/2011			Deposit	\$280.00	\$3,333.66
Bill Pmt -Check	01/25/2011	2111	Iceberg Web Design	Web Hosting - January 2011	(\$19.99)	\$3,313.67
Bill Pmt -Check	01/25/2011	2112	Jeff Drais - Secretary	Office supplies and postage	(\$160.86)	\$3,152.81
Deposit	01/27/2011			Deposit	\$600.00	\$3,752.81
Bill Pmt -Check	01/28/2011	EFT-1-28	Plaza Park Bank	Checks	(\$13.00)	\$3,739.81
Deposit	02/08/2011			Deposit	\$356.61	\$4,096.42
Bill Pmt -Check	02/17/2011	2113	Iceberg Web Design	Annual web hosting	(\$241.40)	\$3,855.02
Deposit	02/17/2011			Deposit	\$280.00	\$4,135.02
Deposit	03/22/2011			Deposit	\$120.00	\$4,255.02
Deposit	04/05/2011			Deposit	\$160.00	\$4,415.02
Deposit	04/14/2011			Deposit	\$80.00	\$4,495.02
					\$2,089.36	\$4,495.02

Motion was made by Sartell and second by Alexandria to accept the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Secretary Jeff Drais reminded everybody to sign up their email address on the Lake Region website, www.lakeregionfire.com. Go to the minutes tab and enter your email. Your email will be verified and then added to the mailing list. This is only open to Lake Region members.

REPORTS

MSFDA – Mike “Spanky” Schroeder, Acting MSFDA representative

<http://www.msfd.org>

- The MSFDA state conference is coming up in June 1st through the 4th in Detroit Lakes. Registration deadline is April 30, 2011. Full conference registration is available on our website at

<http://www.msfd.org>. A change for the conferences this year is four additional classes have been added for Thursday afternoon, which brings the total amount of training available to 11 hours for the conference. At the conference there will be also some bylaw changes everybody should have received the bylaws in the mail. A reminder for those planning on attending you must be a member of the MSFDA. 32 departments in the Lake Region have not renewed or are not members of the MSFDA.

- The board meeting took place on Friday, January 21 and Saturday, January 22 in St. Cloud. The board discussed of 40 ideas and came up with 9 goals they felt were the most important.
 - ❖ Better communication within and outside the organization
 - ❖ Increase membership through benefits
 - ❖ Increase conference attendance
 - ❖ Identify areas of expertise for the association
 - ❖ Review the mission statement
 - ❖ Help regions increase attendance
 - ❖ Finalize the administrative assistant position
 - ❖ Make small departments aware of the value of the MSFDA
 - ❖ Evaluate conference financial model
- The Fire Safety Account is about to be raided by people down St. Paul. This account funds the Fire Marshal's office, training and money for the regional hazmat teams. The proposal has been made to take 8 ½ million dollars out of the fire safety account over the next biennium. Also want to take 5 million out of the AMAR plan. It is important to get a hold of your legislature and get them to know the importance and how the fire safety account works.
- The bit of legislation was introduced by the house to repeal all state aid which included 2% money; this was determined to be at some point more of a message bill to let everybody know that everything is on the table.
- Talk about the IRS 990 filing forms MSFDA is working with the MSFCA about this issue and talk will with the IRS to determine how to resolve this. It was stressed to not ignore these requests or significant fines may result.
- As of June 30, 2011 we will longer getting voucher dollars for MNSCU classes. Voucher dollars must be used by June 30, 2013.
- **MSFDA Website:**
<http://msfda.org>

MSFDA President – Shane Schmidt

- Shane Schmidt talked a little bit more about the IRS form 990. This came along because corporations found out that you could create nonprofit and hide money which is causing everybody to prove they are an actual non-profit. MSFDA and MFSCA are working together to get fire departments exempt from this 990. Until that time, just fill out the form and send it in.
- Shane was out in Washington DC for the National Volunteer Fire Conference.
- Talk about the need for SOPs for social media basically some people put pictures from calls and fire department event online and the saying stuff about calls that shouldn't be talked about. There are 813,000 firefighters that can be accounted for on Facebook.
- Need to start doing background checks and drug testing. Unfortunately there are people out there that apply that shouldn't be on a department.

- Duracell is doing a program where people buy batteries and register online and local fire departments will get batteries.
- The Texas A&M scholarship there were 16 people that applied for that there were four from the region.

MSFCA Report – Bill Thoennes

<http://msfca.org>

- Bill congratulated the region for having 100% of the members submitting MFIRS reports to the state
- The state MSFCA conference will be held in St. Cloud on October 20 – 22nd 2011 at the St. Cloud Civic Center.
- The Chiefs Association had a retreat in Brainard. One item that was discussed was the attendance at the region meetings and how they've been declining over the years. Looking at doing a possible spring mini conference for outstate members.
- The MSFCA website is to have a facelift done.

Certification Board – Dean Wrobbel

<http://www.mfscb.org/>

- Recertification forms should be sent out soon just a reminder that if you have more than three certification that is capped at three per person.
- Recertification can be done on the website so you don't have to fill a paper copies.
- Added a local hazard zone certification which basically follows the blue card system.
- The certification board will be hosting the annual IFSAC meeting April 11 through 14th 2012 in Bloomington.
- Currently testing for Haz-Mat Operations and Haz-Mat Technician.

State Fire Marshal - Jerry Rosendahl & John Steinbach

<https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/sfm/>

- Talked about the attendance of some of the regional meetings and mentioned that some of these meetings you have just chief show up and at other meetings you have a lot of people show up and it just depends where half the room did not even pay attention to what was going on any complemented the Lake region for having both quality and quantity at the meeting.
- Complemented our reps for their reports which are far more detailed than some other regions give.
- A new Commissioner for the Department of Public Safety has been appointed, she is Ramona Dohman.
- Collections for the fire safety account are 1 ½ million ahead of last year at this time. But it can't be spent yet because legislature has not appropriated any of the money.
- 284 fire departments that have never applied for the fire safety account money.
- Lobbied a little that if the fire departments don't use the money for training that does fire marshal office could put it to use.
- 9 Fire Deaths so far this year.
- Donated equipment bill, since 2007, might go through this year.
- A trooper stopped a person was returned for a parade and drive in an antique fire vehicle and was given a ticket for having red lights on this vehicle which according the state law is illegal if it isn't an emergency vehicle. Working to change the law to allow for these types of vehicles to be operated in parades and other civic events.
- Anybody doing public education for their fire department needs to get on the Fire Marshal's Office mailing list run by Betty White. Contact the Fire Marshal's office to get on the list.

VFBA – Steve Spaeth or Barry Nelson

<http://www.vfbaofmn.com>

- No Report

DNR

www.dnr.state.mn.us

- No Report

IAFC - Great Lakes Division - Bill Mund

<http://www.gld-iafc.org/>

- The division is looking at going to a full time executive director.
- FireRescue-GPO (www.firerescue-gpo.com) allows fire departments to participate in group purchase. Sign up on the site membership is free. One service provided by FireRescue GPO is the ability to get background checks for your firefighters. They are working with a company called TalentWise which can provide a base background check for \$19.95 and a full federal background check for \$39.95.
- On the IAFC website there is a sample document for a policy for social media just downloaded and enter your fire department name. Requires membership. <http://iafc.org>
- Blue card certification for type 4 & 5 incidents \$10,000 for Command Training Center in a box, all the computers and everything need. Go online to take the online portion of the blue card then get the CTC shipped to you and arrange for a qualified instructor. Rather sending people to other areas.
- Working on a wildland policy committee, Ready Set Go, to help people prepare to protect their properties better, to prepare to get ready to go, how to get out safely. This is available to everybody not just IAFC members.

Technical College

Alex Technical College -

- After July 1, 2011 Alexander Technical College will be taking more regionalized approach and will be working with Ridgewater College to provide training.

Ridgewater College – Mike Roe

<http://www.ridgewater.edu>

- With the discontinuation of vulture but dollars starting June 2011 and disappearing in June 2013 it is more important than ever to have our member departments take part in the fire safety account grants.
- Will be offering FFI & FFII classes coming up.
- Some course available, electrical safety, grain bin, positive attack, first officer on scene, arson preservation in conjunction with the fire marshal's office.
- MPCA has people come out and give a 3 hour program on what to do with various types of spills. This is free, check with your local college.

St. Cloud Technical and Community College – Chad Steffens

<http://www.sctcc.edu>

- No Report

MN Board of Firefighter Training & Education – Marv Calvin

www.mbfte.state.mn.us

- No money has gone out for live burn training due to not having an adequate curriculum.
- Signing up for the fire safety account grant take about 5 minutes. Some fire departments are passing up on an opportunity to get some valuable training dollars.

- Licensing under the training board. Talked how it got under the Board of Firefighter Training.
- Marv expressed his opinion that the board needs an executive director accountable to the state.
- \$4 million should be available for training, depending on the legislature.

Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) – Bruce West

<https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/hsem>

- The Decon trailers was a very hot topic, the study is complete and on the website. Beginning to roll out a new strategy for the Decon program. Bruce pointed out that there is a lack of mass and gross decon training throughout the state. Looking at providing free 3 hour training for each department in the state.
- Spring flooding State EOC starting to stand down on the flooding in the Red River Area.
- Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) grant, money is still available. Full scale hazard exercises always ends up having money left at the end of the fiscal year. Hold a regional exercise and receive funding for the training. Ask your local technical college for help in filling this out.
- IDE awareness course for first responders is available. Take the class into a fire station and adjust to your time frame. This is free also.
- One hour online training available for response to suspicious letters and packages.
- Talked about the “See Something Say Something” program for reporting suspicious activities at airports. Program through the Department of Homeland Security. If you see something in your community you should report it. It may be a part of a preoperational planning. Now more worried about the lone person wanting to cause damage.
- Cyber security – 100 billion emails every day. Need to watch what you are doing online. New program called “Stop, Think, Connect” to help you be more secure online.
- Homeland Defense Equipment Reuse (HDER) Program is to provide emergency responder agencies nationwide access to an inventory of items that are no longer needed by the Federal Government.
<http://hder.oro.doe.gov/>

2012 Can Am Police & Fire Games

- <http://stcloudcanam.com>
- June 24th-July 1st 2012, St. Cloud
- Any profits from the games will go to The Brian Klinefelter Foundation and Muscular Dystrophy Association – MDA.

Minnesota Pride and Honor

- <http://www.mnprideandhonor.com>
- Ken Prillaman, Fire Chief Brooklyn Park gave a presentation.
- Minnesota State Fire Chiefs Association’s Ceremonies and Protocols Committee. Charged with developing a set of recommendations to be utilized by the Minnesota fire service in the form of a Ceremonies and Protocols Guidebook.
- There have never been any clear guidelines and ceremonies for funerals for non-line of duty death.
- Have not found any state which has a comprehensive approach to ceremonies and protocols.
- Objective to have a guide book for various situations where fire departments have question on how to handle different situations.
- Pointed out that this is a resource and local fire departments are free to do what they feel it correct.
- Members are encouraged to join the discussion on the webs site and provide input.
- Will have the draft available at the MSFCA convention in St. Cloud in October.

Old Business

- www.lakeregionfire.com is our website.
- Looking for somebody to be our MSFDA representative. Spanky will help the person transition to the position. Anybody interested should contact Doug or a board member.

New Business

- Spanky made a motion and seconded by Doug Storck and carried for the Lake Region to send a letter of support to reappoint Jerry Rosendahl as the State Fire Marshall to the Department of Public Safety Commissioner, Ramona Dohman.

Good of the Region

- Chief Noah Van Beck stated Freeport has purchased a new brush truck and their DNR truck, 1977 Dodge, can be sold. See Noah if you are interested in the truck.

Next meeting will be July 18, 2011 – St. John’s University in the Alumni Lounge, Quadrangle Building.

Motion to adjourn was made by Saint Cloud second by Willmar. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 9:38 PM.



Jeff Draais, Secretary/Treasurer