



# Lake Region Firefighters Association

## January 10, 2011 Lake Region Meeting Minutes

President Doug Storck called the meeting of the Lake Region Firefighters Association to order at 7:35 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 Elbow Lake by host chief Jason Lindquist. Chief Jason Lindquist thanked everyone for coming and thanked his staff for preparations for the meeting. Elbow Lake Mayor, Jay McNamar, addressed the group and thanked everybody for showing up despite the weather. Roll call was taken by the Elbow Lake Fire Dept. at the registration table showing 67 firefighters representing 17 fire departments. There were 4 guests and vendors present. Minutes from the October quarterly meeting were emailed. Reading of October quarterly meeting minutes were waived with a motion made by Albany and second by Holdingford to approve the minutes. The treasurer's report was presented.

Type	Date	Num	Name	Memo	Amount	Balance	
						<b>\$3,726.36</b>	<b>18-Oct-10</b>
Deposit	11/26/2010		Dues	Deposit	\$200.00	\$3,926.36	
Check	10/18/2010	2196	Tom Zabinski	2010 Salary	(\$599.00)	\$3,327.36	
Check	10/18/2010	2197	Doug Storck	2010 Salary	(\$200.00)	\$3,127.36	
Check	10/18/2010	2198	Jeff Drais	Reimbursement	(\$76.70)	\$3,050.66	
Check	12/8/2010	2199	Iceberg Web Design	2nd Pmt - Web site	(\$645.00)	\$2,405.66	
						<b>\$2,405.66</b>	<b>10-Jan-11</b>

Motion was made by Albany and second by Benson to accept the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

## REPORTS

**MSFDA Report** - Mike "Spanky" Schroeder, Acting MSFDA representative

The board will meet January 22, 2011 in St. Cloud. They will be meeting January 21, 2011 to discuss long and short range planning. Mike asked for input from the group for anything that the MSFDA should address.

March 10, 2011 (Thursday) – Fire Service Day at the Capital. Members are encouraged to attend due to legislative issues and budget concerns. You must fill out an application to attend: applications are available at on <http://www.msfd.org> or [http://www.msfd.org/Committees/FireServiceDay/FSD\\_2011/FSD\\_2011\\_Registration.pdf](http://www.msfd.org/Committees/FireServiceDay/FSD_2011/FSD_2011_Registration.pdf). This is combined event between MSFDA, MSFCA and MPFF. Attendee will be matched up with their respective representative and have an opportunity to discuss the legislative needs of the fire service.

- **Legislative issues:**

MSFDA is a member of MnFAC (Minnesota Fire Association Coalition) which is the fire services voice (lobbyist) in the legislature.

Mike stated that he feels we are going to have to watch the Fire Safety Account to make sure the funds aren't used to fix the budget problems. Money came in for the fiscal has surpassed the last fiscal session. This is good if we can keep the legislature from moving the money elsewhere. Governor Dayton has stated during the election that he felt the Fire Safety Account should not be used for the state budget. What actually happens remains to be seen. The Fire Safety Account funds the fire marshal's office and fire department training. Every department is encouraged to request the money. Every department that made a request last year received a grant. Our goal is to watch the account and make sure we don't lose the account

Spoke on Civil Immunity for fire departments that donate used public safety equipment to other departments. This is opposed by the trial lawyers for some reason.

Other issues Mike touched on were Competitive Bidding, Exception for purchases of used equipment, Individual Contributions to Volunteer Pension Plans, Tax relief for volunteer firefighter (probably not going to go anywhere since it reduces tax revenue), Looking at potentially getting tax credit for employers for allowing people to be a firefighter or EMT, Subsidies health care for paid on call volunteer firefighters, Oppose expansion of fireworks. Support building code. (Housing sprinkler codes are being battled)

- **2011 Conference:**

The 2011 conference will be held in Detroit Lake, June 1 – 4 2011. Wednesday – board meeting, Thursday is when the conference begins. Training will be on Friday morning. Friday afternoon is the symposium; Seattle Fire Department will be talking about tactics on structural firefighting. Two positions open: Vice President, Spanky was appointed last to fill out the remainder of the term. Secretary position. April 16 is the deadline to submit applications. Packets are mailed out at the middle or end of January. Departments are responsible for booking their own room.

2011 Conference Registration Information  
2011 Conference Dates: June 2-3-4, 2011  
Brady Markuson, Detroit Lakes Fire Department  
16519 Elmwood Dr.  
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501  
Cell: 218-234-6086  
[brady.mbi@arvig.net](mailto:brady.mbi@arvig.net)

2012 conference will be in Alexandria

- **MSFDA Website:**

<http://msfda.org>

- **Training Grant:**

Two training grants for the 2011 Municipal Fire School at Texas A & M University, College Station, Texas will be opened for applications from January 1, 2011 until March 31, 2011. The two grants will be awarded no later than May 15, 2011 by the Minnesota State Fire Department Training Committee and Executive Board.

The Municipal Fire School offers 40 plus courses that are available during the week of the school. Courses range from Executive Officers courses to live fire training FF/3, FF/4, FF/5, hose, ropes, rescue, confined space, auto extrication, etc. Winners will be required to write an article for the MSFCA magazine and speak to the MSFDA board about the experience. Go to the MSFDA website for requirement and an application.

- **Shared Services:**

8 grants were issued to hire a consultant to study the feasibility for shared services. Benson and Morris are looking into this. More information is available on the MSFCA site and the Fire Marshal's site.

- **Other news:**

MSFDA was asked to be part of a committee started by MSFCA that is looking into protocol for uniforms, line of duty deaths and non-line of duty death or retired firefighters. Document should be available by the chiefs' conference in October.

- **Death by Hazmat:**

Happening more, firefighters need to be aware of the situation. A class will be available during the 2011 conference.

- **Expanded coverage for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder:**

The League of MN Cities has now expanded coverage for certain costs for treatment and wage loss for emergency response personnel. More information provided by MSFCA Rep Bill Thoennes

### **MSFDA Report** - Mike "Spanky" Schroeder for Bill Thoennes

- **Expanded coverage for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder:** Responding to member needs, the LMCIT Board of Trustees expanded coverage for certain costs of treatment and wage loss for emergency response personnel affected by post-traumatic stress disorder. Coverage for certain costs of treatment and wage loss for emergency response personnel affected by PTSD after a traumatic emergency call now is automatic for members. Examples of the types of employees covered by this expansion include paid and volunteer firefighters, EMTs and ambulance attendants, First Responders that belong to a City Owned Service. There is no added cost to city for this change in coverage and this coverage is only if your City is a member of the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust. This change stemmed from issues that arose after calls from a department right here in our region. This is an example that it is very important to bring concern forward to see if other departments are having the same issue or concerns. With the right people and information things can get changed or improved for the better. There will be an article in the upcoming Fire Chiefs Magazine with some coverage details.

- **The MSFCA Membership** forms for 2011 have been mailed out. Memberships into the organization is for Chiefs or any Officer of your department. It is the goal of the MSFCA to have at least one member from every department as a member of the MSFCA. If you have not received your Renewal in the mail, you can go to our website at [www.MSFCA.org](http://www.MSFCA.org) for this and other information related to the fire service. If you become a member you will also receive the Fire Chiefs Magazine. You can get the magazine for your whole department for \$8 per subscription and it is published bi-monthly.

- If you have a death of an active or retired member of your department, please let me or any of the Lake Region Officers know. This way we can get them the recognition that deserve at the MSFDA Conference in June or if they were a Chief or Assistant Chief we can recognize them at the MSFCA Conference in October.
- The next MSFCA board meeting will be held in St Cloud on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. If you have any thing that you would like Bill to forward on or bring up, please let him know.

**Certification Board – Dean Wrobbel**

- Had a meeting in October to discuss certification.
- Had about 10 certification test during the month of December
- Hosting the IFSAC annual meeting in the Twin Cities this spring.
- Accredited by IFSAC and Pro Board.
- Fire Investigator – last test October 15, 2011
- Looking at Fire Officer III & IV

**State Fire Marshal - Rick Kleis & John Steinbach**

- Fire Safety account last year brought in \$13 million of which \$8.5 million was allocated. The remaining \$4.5 million was used by the legislature for other budget items. Next session will be dealing with the next two year.
- 37 fire death for 2010 as of December, these numbers may increase by a few depending on how people in the hospital do.
- Fire Code Specialist position was offered recently.
- Fire Investigator position available in the Arrowhead Region. Closing date
- All requests for Fire Investigator should go through the state duty officer. An example of an investigator was on vacation and somebody left a message
- State Patrol has developed
- Fire EMS / Safety center has been cut back, the status is up in the air.
- 1102 brand of approved fire standard compliant cigarettes in the state of Minnesota.
- 7.8 million Issued for training grants.
- The Fire Marshal has not been reappointed yet by Governor Dayton.
- 2 classes for BCA State Fire Marshal BCA arson series, basic fire class Thief River Falls February 23-25 2011 Advance d in Thief River Falls April 11 – 14. Classes also available in Mankato.
- 16 lifesaving initiative, pamphlets are available.

**VFBA – Steve Spaeth or Barry Nelson**

- No Report

**DNR**

- No Report

**IAFC - Bill Mund**

- No Report

**Technical College**

**St. Cloud Technical and Community College - Larry Rieber**

- St. Cloud Fire School April 9 – 10 in Brainerd

- Grain Bin Training
- Confined Space Training from Hennepin Tech
- FFII – Holdingford – Feb 16 Melrose March 14
- FFI Richmond Feb 278
- Fire Inspector - Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Fire Officer I – Avon 6:30 – 9:30
- EVOC – March 7
- FITOAM conference in St Cloud, January 28 – 30
- Larry is retiring at the end of January.

**MN Board of Firefighter Training & Education – Marv Calvin**

- Need to get out more and talk to the regions
- Firefighter Licensure – grandfather period is closing after July 1<sup>st</sup>.

**HSEM – Bruce West**

- No Report

**Old Business**

- Still looking for the rep for the MSFDA to take Spanky’s position
- Directory – <http://lakeregionfire.com> it is a start, more work is continuing. Make sure your information is correct on the site. This is how we know how to communicate with members.
- Looking for associate members: An Associate Member shall be an emergency service provider that is associated with fire and rescue operations. Such organizations shall include but are not limited to...
  - Law Enforcement Agencies
  - EMS Providers including Hospitals and Ambulance Services
  - Towing Agencies
  - Fire and Rescue Equipment Vendors

**New Business**

- There was no interest in hosting the Eugene L. Weber Lake Region School at this time. Discussion held on finding somebody to host the school. It is open and the area technical colleges will help put on the schools.

Next meeting will be in April 18th - Freeport at the Community Center

Motion to adjourn was made by Hoffman second by Saint Cloud. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 8:49 PM.

Jeff Drais, Secretary/Treasurer