



Lake Region Firefighters Association

January 13, 2014 Lake Region Meeting Minutes

Vice-President Bill Thoennes called the meeting of the Lake Region Firefighters Association to order at 7:33 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 St. Martin by Fire Chief Mark Osendorf who thanked everybody for coming to St. Martin and wished them a safe trip home. Roll call was taken showing 72 firefighters representing 20 fire departments. There were 9 agency representatives and vendors present for a total attendance of 81.

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 St. John's to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

The treasurer's report was presented.

Type	Date	Num	Name	Memo	Amount	Balance
Plaza Park Bank						\$5,116.58
Check	10/21/2013	5027	Scott Schaefer	2013 Salary	-\$200.00	\$4,916.58
Check	10/21/2013	5028	Jeff Drais	2013 Salary	-\$599.00	\$4,317.58
Check	12/30/2013	5029	Jeff Drais	Postage 7/18 - 12/30/2013 & Bylaw copies	-\$142.54	\$4,175.04
Check	12/30/2013	5030	Iceberg Web Design	Website work	-\$50.00	\$4,125.04
Check	12/30/2013	5031	MSFDA	2014 Dues	-\$100.00	\$4,025.04
Deposit	1/11/2014		New Munich Fire Department	2014 Dues	\$40.00	\$4,065.04
			Melrose Fire Department	2014 Dues	\$40.00	\$4,105.04
			Sunburg Fire Department	2014 Dues	\$40.00	\$4,145.04
			Kandiyohi Fire Department	2014 Dues	\$40.00	\$4,185.04
			Cyrus Fire Department	Dues 2013/2014	\$80.00	\$4,265.04
			St. John's Fire Department	2014 Dues	\$40.00	\$4,305.04
			Albany Fire Department	2014 Dues	\$40.00	\$4,345.04
			Royalton Fire Department	2014 Dues	\$40.00	\$4,385.04
			Belgrade Fire Department	2014 Dues	\$40.00	\$4,425.04
			St. Stephen Fire & Rescue	2014 Dues	\$40.00	\$4,465.04
Total					-\$651.54	\$4,465.04

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

REPORTS

MSFDA – Dave Yurczyk

dave@davescustom.com
<http://www.msfd.org>

- Firefighter Night with Minnesota Wild was a success.
- 2014 dues are due by February 1st, send back roster.
- MSFDA is recruiting for various committees, contact Dave or DeeDee (<mailto:deedee@msfda.org>) if you want more information or want to volunteer.
- President and treasurer positions are up for election at the next MSFDA state conference. Must submit application at least 45 days before the convention. Earlier the better.
- 2014 MSFDA conference will be in Owatonna, June 11 – 14 2014
- Accepting nominations for Fire Fighter of the Year, Fire Department of the Year, Rookie of the Year and Prevention/Community Awareness. Dues May 20th. Nomination forms are available at http://l.b5z.net/i/u/10139957/f/Nomination_Form.pdf
- Be sure to sign up for the Minnesota Firefighter subscription are \$7 per person. If you have any articles or pictures make sure you contact DeeDee. Minnesota Firefighter replaces the SmokeEater.
- MSFDA Board meeting will take place Saturday January 18, 2014 in St. Cloud.
- Fire Service Day at the Capitol is Wednesday March 12, 2014.

Shane Schmitt – MSFDA President

shanes@protainer.com

- Talked a little about upcoming board meetings.

MSFCA – Bill Thoennes

parkdept@rea-alp.com
<http://msfca.org>

- 3rd Annual Fire Officers School at the Arrowwood in Alexandria February 8th & 9th. Book rooms early.
 - [http://msfca.org/fire_officers_school/assets/Fire Officers 2014 Flyer & Descriptions.pdf](http://msfca.org/fire_officers_school/assets/Fire_Officers_2014_Flyer_&_Descriptions.pdf)
 - [http://msfca.org/fire_officers_school/assets/Officers 2014 Registration.pdf](http://msfca.org/fire_officers_school/assets/Officers_2014_Registration.pdf)
- FITOAM conference will be at Alexandria Technical College at the same time. Combined conference.
- NFIRS reports, 8 departments in the region that did not submit their reports. The departments will be contacted and offered help getting their reports submitted, if needed.
- New E-Newsletter going out. The newsletter will go out opposite months of the Fire Chiefs Magazine.
- Membership invoices went out.
- Twins day is back, will be Saturday July 26, 2014 against the Chicago White Sox. Evening game.
- 2014 conference will be in St. Cloud. October 16 – 18th at Rivers Edge Convention Center.

Bill Mund – MSFCA President

- Tom Brace, executive director will be retiring. Searching for a new director.
- Completely redo the MSFCA web site. Should be done by end of June to early July.
- Lexipol (<http://www.lexipol.com>) – company from California which is owned by Gordon Graham. Will help come up with written policy manuals that can be used by Fire Departments. Will make sure the policies comply with state and federal laws.

State Fire Marshal – Bruce West

<https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/sfm/>
<https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/sfm/about/Pages/message-from-fire-marshal.aspx>

John Steinbach - Deputy State Fire Marshal and Investigator

John.Steinbach@state.mn.us

- Introduced new Fire Marshal – Bruce West.

Bruce West – Fire Marshal

- John has been named Interim Chief Investigator.
- Fire Code hearing held in December. Still working on the 2007 fire code, will be moving to the 2012 version. Most of the hearing dealt with the adoption of the residential sprinklers. The home-building industry is opposed. Mainly they don't want the expense of the sprinklers. Current proposal for sprinklers are all multi-family residences of two or more units or single family dwellings in excess of 4,500 square feet in size. February 2014 will be the earliest that a decision will be made by the administrative law judge about the proposals.
- Winter Fire Safety
 - Space Heaters
 - Keep the heater three feet away from drapes, furniture or other flammable materials.
 - Place it on a level surfaced where no one can bump it, knock it over or place items on top of it.
 - Candles
 - Encourage the use of flameless candles.
 - Use candles in the center of an area clear of anything that could burn for one-foot in every direction.
 - Keep decorations, napkins, curtains and other items at least 12 inches away.
 - Keep matches and lighters out of reach of children. Store them in a high cabinet – preferable a locked one.
 - Chimney / Wood Stove
 - Many chimney fires occur due to a buildup of creosote, a tarry by-product of burning wood. Have your chimney flue professionally inspected every year and cleaned as necessary. Burn only dry, well-seasoned hardwood to reduce creosote accumulation.
 - Ashes that are cleaned out of a wood-burning stove or fireplace should be shoveled into a metal bucket with a metal lid and placed outside, on the ground, several feet from any building or wall.
 - Do not place ashes in a paper bag or cardboard box, or place them in a garage. Ashes and embers can stay hot for days and ignite combustibles even after you think they are cold.
 - Smoke & CO Alarms
 - Carbon Monoxide alarms are required within 10 feet of all sleeping areas.
 - Smoke alarms should be installed on every level of the home and in each sleeping area.
 - Replace smoke alarms after 10 years and CO alarms after seven years or per manufacturer's instructions.
- On December 9, 2013, Rice Lake Township Fire Chief Matt Frantz passed away. Chief Frantz had been on two fires the night before (December 8th) and then passed away in the morning. A line of duty death is considered a death occurs within 24 hours of a call. A bill is being presented in the legislature to require all firefighter deaths be reported to the state level in order to determine if it falls under a line of duty death.
- A handout is available which describes the Fire Marshal Division's Fire Investigative unit with deals with fire, arson and explosion.
- MBFTE – in the process of interviewing for the executive director position.
- Minnesota Office of Pipeline Safety and Farm Taps. A farm tap consists of equipment provided by the gas company, located at the property line, allowing a rural private resident (often a farmer) to "tap

into” a natural gas transmission line so they can receive gas where they otherwise couldn’t. Sounds great, but the issue is that the transmission line often is not located near the resident’s home, it occurs out at the property line. The rural customer is the one held responsible for installing and maintaining the gas line from the “tap location” to their home or end use. Since many who have farm taps are not the original property owners, they often are not aware of the requirements and responsibilities. To make matters worse, when an excavation is going to take place on the resident’s property, it is their responsibility to mark or otherwise make the excavator aware of the underground gas line. Trying to get the meter moved from the field, up to the house or farmstead which will allow locating a gas line easier.

- Kevin Reed HSEM has been appointed the Homeland Security Brand Director.

Technical College

Ridgewater College / Alexandria Technical College – Mike Roe

<http://www.ridgewater.edu>

St. Cloud Technical and Community College – Adam Gordon

<http://www.sctcc.edu>

- The technical colleges can help people get their paperwork filled out for live burns.
- FFII class in Foley starting January 28th.
- 1001 FFI/FFII class will be starting in St. Augusta / Rockville in March 11.
- ISO (Incident Safety Officer) classes are available free of charge, just need to schedule them.
- Fire Instructor I class starting Wednesday January, 15th at the SCTCC campus.
- Dräger has a smoke recognition trailer available through the school. Demonstrates the signs and symptoms of a flashover. Also at the FITOAM conference.
- Through the Smoke, covers what hazards of offgassing in a fire and what chemicals you will encounter.
- Wildland urban interface training.
- EMR initial classes starting the St. Joseph.
- EMT initial classes starting at Becker.
- National Fire Academy (NFA) classes at Camp Ripley. No fee for these classes. Just have to pay for lodging with is \$25 a night at Camp Ripley and food.
- Inter-Professional Simulation Conference, May 31st Any mass casualty event and major disaster will require the assistance of health care staff, first responders, and other emergency response workers. What is often overlooked is the role of ambulatory care centers and those who work at them. This conference allows an opportunity for health care workers across the spectrum of health care, EMS, and disaster personnel to train on various topics that are key when responding to mass casualty incident. (<http://www.sctcc.edu/sim-conference>)

Fire Training Coordinator at MnSCU – Marv Calvin

<http://www.mnscu.edu>

marv.calvin@ridgewater.edu

(320) 212-7462

- Willmar will be hosting a leadership class in April, contact Mike Roe if interested.
- Alex Fire School in March.
- Live burns, issue of fire departments burning without permits. DNR wants the fire departments to continue to burn. A few departments not following the rules are going to get everyone “whacked with the same stick”. The decision makers on live burns are the Department of Health, which do not understand the value of live burns.

MN Board of Firefighter Training & Education – TBD

www.mbfte.state.mn.us

- 6 months into the current fiscal year.
- 2014 per firefighter allocation is \$80 per firefighter. Remember there may be additional allocation or redistribution.
- Live burns – make sure you are following the rules. Some departments have decided to just burn structures themselves. Departments are getting reported and people need to realize that an agency that does not understand the need for live burns can get this discontinued. MPCA would love to have live burns go away.

Certification Board – Dean Wrobbel

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

Dean.Wrobbel@ci.stcloud.mn.us

- No report

IAFC - Great Lakes Division - George Esbensen

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

- No report

Minnesota State Fire Department Association Lobbyist – Sherry Munyon

smunyon@capitolaccess.us

- Representative Shannon Savick introduced a bill (HF – 1985) which allows for volunteer firefighter tax credit. The bill allows for a \$500 per firefighter tax credit which works out to \$10 million per fiscal year.

Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) – Kevin Reed

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

kevin.reed@state.mn.us

(651) 201-7425

- No report

VFBA – Steve Spaeth & Barry Nelson

<http://www.vfbaofmn.com>

- No report

DNR

www.dnr.state.mn.us

- No Report

Old Business

- Joe Lembcke – District 4 is working on a meeting location for October and also January. He will let us know the location at the next meeting.

New Business

- **27th Annual Lake Region Firefighters Association Bowling Tournament**
 - 1st – Alex Fire
 - 2nd – Starbuck Fire #2
 - 3rd – Freeport Fire
 - 4th – Brooten Fire #1

5th – Richmond Fire

High Game – Bob Britton, Forada 218

High Series – Schott Hoeschen, Freeport 586

- If you have any officer changes get the information to Jeff Drais so we can update the directory. Email addresses are real important due to most of our information is transmitted by email.

Good of the Region

Next meeting will be April 21st – Holdingford – Fire Station

Motion to adjourn was made by Albany seconded by Long Prairie. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 8:31 PM.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Drais". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jeff Drais, Secretary/Treasurer