



Lake Region Firefighters Association

July 15, 2013 Lake Region Meeting Minutes

President Scott Schaefer called the meeting of the Lake Region Firefighters Association to order at 7:34 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 Morris by Fire Chief Dave Dybdal who thanked everybody that showed up and recognized two council members, Jeff Miller and Bill Storck, for the City of Morris. Roll call was taken showing 77 firefighters representing 20 fire departments. There were 13 agency representatives and vendors present for a total attendance of 90.

Minutes from the April quarterly meeting were emailed. Reading of April quarterly meeting minutes were waived with a motion made by Forada and second by Albany to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

The treasurer's report was presented.

Type	Date	Num	Name	Memo	Amount	Balance
Plaza Park Bank						\$6,184.42
Check	05/12/2013	5023	Iceberg Web Design	Online directory editing feature	-525.00	\$5,659.42
Deposit	6/24/2013			Deposit - Dues 4 checks	\$200.00	\$5,859.42
Total						\$5,859.42

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

REPORTS

IAFC - Great Lakes Division - George Esbensen

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

- Talked about membership to IAFC, 40% off for the first year.
- Any cities with 10,000 people or less can get a departmental membership for the cost of a single membership. – State and Great Lakes Division deal only.
- MN Fallen Firefighter Memorial Ceremony will be Final Sunday in September.

Minnesota State Fire Department Association Lobbyist – Sherry Munyon

smunyon@capitolaccess.us

- Very good year at the legislature. Important to get to know your area legislative representative. They need to hear from area departments what is important to the fire service and how funding helps.
- Fire Safety Account – In the past as legislators were trying to balance the budget they would “reallocate” money from the Fire Safety Account. This year adjustments were made at how much was collected and the full amount of the Fire Safety Account has been allocated for fire service.

- Audits for Fire Relief have been changed from \$200,000 threshold for an audit to \$500,000.
- Increase of the pension payment (2%) increased by 31% for the next 10 years. The basically restores what has been lost over the years. Payment starts this year.
- Other issues passed this year wild fire arsons, hazardous substances releases notification
- Issues not passed prohibiting fire sprinklers in residential structures. This was opposed by the fire service but will keep coming back. Expansion of fireworks was bill was not passed. Retired firefighter plates did not pass. \$500 tax credit for firefighters was introduced but was not voted on.
- George Esbensen explained the lobbying effort required for the restoration of the 2% pension payment and how it cost an extra \$40,000 for lobbyists. The cost was shared by the fire associations. A letter from chiefs association to relief associations to request money to offset the lobbying effort.

MSFDA – Dave Yurczyk

<http://www.msfd.org>

- Summer board meeting in Bemidji.
- FITOAM conference will be in January at Camp Ripley.
- California Casualty is offering insurance for firefighters. Contact Dave for more information.
- The MSFDA has decided to go with Blaze publications as the official publication the name selected for the publication will be Minnesota Firefighter. A copy of the publication was available at the meeting.
- Discussed the joint venture with the MSFCA for shared services to reduce costs.
- New schedule of dues, small increase for smaller departments.
- Elections of officers, Mark Rosenblum – Vice President, Ed Hoffman – Secretary were reelected.
- Went over the conference.
- Firefighter of the Year: Bill Thoennes, Alexandria FD

Shane Schmitt – MSFDA President

- Talked about the Minnesota Firefighter magazine, replaces SmokeEater.
- Discussed more how the MSFDA can be more of a benefit for the members.

MSFCA – Bill Thoennes

<http://msfca.org>

- MSFCA is surveying members how to improve communication with the members. Can do the survey on the website also.
- Bylaw changes – mainly dealing with electronic voting.
- MSFCA Conference – Rochester October 17 – 19.
- Next year's school will be at the Arrowwood in Alexandria February 8th & 9th. Book rooms early.

State Fire Marshal - Jerry Rosendahl

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

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

- Commended how thorough MSFDA and MSFCA reports were.
- 16 fire deaths so far in 2013, 31 deaths at the same time last year.
 - Blood alcohol level on 2 of those were .30 or higher, average age was 56.
- In 2012 the fire marshal's inspectors did over 5,000 fire code inspections.
- Last Lake Region Meeting Jerry will be at, he is retiring December 3rd.

Scott Radke (scott.radke@state.mn.us)

- Call if you need help with reporting.
- A few new modules in ImageTrend (<http://www.mnfirereport.net/>) Scheduler which is like a log book. New training area and checklist module.
- Send info to get event on the State Training Calendar.

Bruce Roed (bruce.roed@state.mn.us)

- Discussed the shared services grant. Stevens County had two grants awarded to study various ways to reduce costs.
- Kathi Osmonson, Youth Firesetter Prevention/Intervention specialist, is working on setting up regional teams to provide service.

Technical College

Ridgewater College / Alexandria Technical College – Mike Roe

<http://www.ridgewater.edu>

- FFI/II training ongoing.
- Combat drill trainer. Confined space trailer which is setup to allow students to do forcible entry through two doors and allows breaching a sheetrock wall.
- Live LP burn trailer available.
- Farm Extrication, goes through entanglements and extrication from farm equipment.
- Incident Safety Officer, (Firefighter Rehab), new NFPA standard
- Ridgewater fit testing equipment for SCBA.
- September 28 & 29, managing common tanker operations @ Alexandria
- November 16th, grain elevator fires & grain bin rescue. Ethanol fires.

St. Cloud Technical and Community College – Adam Gordon

<http://www.sctcc.edu>

- Same props available through St. Cloud Technical & Community College.
- State Fire School – September 21 & 22
 - Some of the new classes offered
 - Open water rescue
 - Basic ropes class
 - Firefighter rehab
 - Through the smoke, effects of smoke during overhaul
 - Fire truck on CEVO course
 - Highway safety incident class

Fire Training Coordinator at MnSCU – Marv Calvin

<http://www.mnscu.edu>

marv.calvin@ridgewater.edu

(320) 212-7462

- If you have any issues with any trainings coming up contact Marv.
- Still some voucher dollars available. Campuses will be holding free trainings throughout the year, contact your local schools if you have ideas.

MN Board of Firefighter Training & Education – Bruce West

www.mbfte.state.mn.us

bruce.west@state.mn.us

(651) 201-7258

- Reminder that MBFTE training reimbursement requests must be submitted no later than August 1, 2013
- Still have over 100 fire departments that did not take advantage of the free training dollars.
- 1,700 firefighter students took advantage of the free NFPA 1001 Firefighter I/II + HazMat operations in the 2013 award period.
- Incident safety officer 1st year of a 4 year programs.
- Mass & Gross Decon Training – Contact Chip Lohmiller with F-I-R-E @ (612) 868-6744 to get this free training scheduled.
- Working with Moorhead to develop a Leadership Training for Chief Fire Officers around MN
- Fire Safety account had \$11,766,508.50 transferred into the account. Changes for Fiscal Year 2014, the Fire Safety Surcharge were lowered to .50% (½ percent) For FY2014 & FY2015 \$2.368 million will be transferred from the Fire Safety Account to the State of Minnesota General Fund. (This is money that was collected for the fire service and used by the state to balance their budget.)
- Fiscal Year 2014, good possibility that some previously funded programs will be reduced or eliminated for FY2014.
- Award letters will be mailed to all 785 fire departments by the end of August 2013. Round 6 will once again be based on a per firefighter rate. The rate will not be known until later. To find out how many firefighters MBFTE has recorded for you go to:
<http://mn.gov/mbfte/documents/Reimbursement%20Awards.pdf>
- A very good resource for free training is the Rural Domestic Preparedness Consortium (RDPC) they are offering “Rail Incident Response for Rural Areas”
<https://www.ruraltraining.org/training/request/>

Certification Board – Dean Wrobbel

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

Dean.Wrobbel@ci.stcloud.mn.us

- With all the FFI/II students going through there was a corresponding increase in the number of certifications.
- Next board meeting on July 17, 2013
- MBFTE funds initial certifications
- Any question about certification or MBFTE contact Dean
- Certification schedule is available on the mfscb.org web site.

Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) – Kevin Reed

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

kevin.reed@state.mn.us

(651) 201-7425

- Gross & Mass Decon training money comes from HSEM
- Looking at HSEM paying for the HazMat Ops portion of the FFI training.
- Works with the CAT team, bomb squads.
- Whenever you call the state duty officer you work with HSEM.
- Might start getting questions about oil moving through the area on train cars (850,000 train cars moving through MN with about 80 different products)

VFBA – Steve Spaeth & Barry Nelson

<http://www.vfbaofmn.com>

- No report

DNR

www.dnr.state.mn.us

- No Report

Old Business

- None

New Business

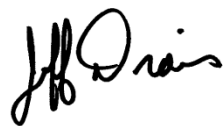
- Bill Thoennes's wife is completing the paperwork to help the region get setup as a 501c(6). We need to do this to get an EIN for banks.
- Bylaw change – first reading: The change allows for if an officer reaches their term limit and nobody steps up to take the position the officer can serve one more three year term. No questions or comments.
- Request for a printed agenda from Evansville.

Good of the Region

- Albany waterball fight August 3rd.
- Starbuck golf tournament August 17th.
- Morris July 31st annual waterball fight
- Request for updating department information.

Next meeting will be October 21, 2013 – Albany @ Paul's Pair-a-dice.

Motion to adjourn was made by Forada seconded by Albany. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 9:12 PM.



Jeff Draais, Secretary/Treasurer