

September 22, 2010 Lake Region Board Meeting

President Doug Storck called the annual Lake Region Board of Directors meeting to order at 7:00 PM. The meeting was held at Gerard's in Sauk Centre. Members present were: Past-President Howard Swensted, President Doug Storck, Vice-President Scott Schaefer, Secretary/Treasurer Tom Zabinski, District #2 Jeff Drais, District #3 Max Radil, District #4 Tom Grover, MSFDA Vice-President/Representative Mike Schroeder, and MSFCA Representative Bill Thoennes. District #1 Loren Pelzer and MFSCB Representative Dean Wrobbel were unable to attend the meeting.

The treasurer's report was presented showing a balance of \$4,357.76 at this time. A motion was made by Mike Schroeder and second by Max Radil to have the District Reps. conduct an internal audit of the check book prior to the January 2011 meeting. Motion carried. Outstanding dues were discussed and noted with 13 departments yet to pay their 2010 dues. These departments were mailed invoices with the District directors to follow-up on collection of dues.

Motion was made by Bill Thoennes and second by Tom Grover to pay the meal expense that evening excluding any alcoholic beverages. Motion carried.

Meeting attendance was discussed briefly with both Mike and Bill noting that all regions in the State are facing the same problem.

The review of the bylaws was discussed with final approval scheduled for the annual meeting in Hoffman. There will be three roll call votes taken at the meeting. The first vote will be on the proposed increase in the President's annual salary from \$120 to \$200. The second vote will be on the proposed new bylaw language. And the third vote will be on the proposed new "Associate Membership" language that was proposed at a prior meeting in 2010. A draft of the proposed bylaw language changes will be mailed to all departments in the region prior to the meeting in Hoffman. Mike Schroeder moved to keep the annual Lake Region Firefighters Association dues at \$40, second by Jeff Drais. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Lake Region Directory/Web site. President Storck assisted by Jeff Drais explained specifics of a proposal by Iceberg Web Design to develop a Lake Region Firefighters Association website. After considerable discussion, a motion was made by Mike Schroeder to accept a contract with Iceberg for development of the website to commence after January of 2011, second by Tom Grover. Estimated costs of this project are \$1,085 plus maintenance costs. Past-President Swensted suggested phone calling each member department to get the most accurate information relating to current officers and include this in the website directory. Discussion also centered on the fact that there may be some changes in officers on some fire departments and whether to wait until after the New Year. Motion carried. President Storck and Jeff Drais will work with Iceberg on this project and seek answers to questions that were raised at the meeting.

The location of the De-Con trailer was discussed. The trailer is currently stationed in Willmar. MSFCA Rep. Thoennes noted that the State is evaluating the current use of the De-Con trailers with a report due later this year. The board decided to leave the trailer in its present location unless there was objection from Willmar Fire Department.

The restructuring of the quarterly meetings with the meal being served prior to the start of the meeting was discussed. The board felt that this was working well and should be continued. An education program of 15 to 20 minutes at the quarterly meetings except for the annual meeting will be planned if possible.

The use of voucher dollars for firefighter training should be promoted with possible changes coming which could signal the loss of this source of funding.

NEW BUSINESS

The Eugene L. Weber Lake Region School was discussed, with no fire departments showing any interest in hosting the school at this time. This will be addressed again at the annual meeting in Hoffman.

The allowance for conference expenses for the MSFCA and MSFDA representatives currently not to exceed \$600 was discussed briefly. The board decided to leave this the same for next year.

Upcoming elections were discussed. There will be elections to fill the following positions:

- a. Secretary/Treasurer (3 year term). Current Secretary/Treasurer Zabinski will not be seeking re-election. Jeff Drais,

St. Stephen has expressed interest in seeking this position. A district #2 director would be needed to complete the remaining term if Jeff was elected.

- b. MSFDA Representative (2 year term). Current MSFDA Rep. Schroeder will not be seeking re-election. Gary Anderson, Parkers Prairie has expressed interest in this position to a board member.
- c. MFSCB Representative (2 year term). Current MFSCB Rep. Dean Wrobbel is expected to seek re-election.

Caucuses will need to be held to determine 2011 meeting sites as well as selection of a new District #1 director. Current someone from District #3 steps forward. Depending on other elections, there may be a need to fill remaining terms of other directors.

The board discussed the appropriate time to invite State Legislators and Senators to a Lake Region quarterly meeting for legislative input. It was concluded that the January meeting would be the most appropriate time with the legislative session starting in early February. Some legislative issues were discussed briefly with training funding being a key issue to try to protect the next session. Mike noted that there will be legislative surveys available at the next meeting in Hoffman to help identify the top five issues to address in the next legislative session.

A motion to adjourn was made by Howard Swensted to adjourn, second by Jeff Drais. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 PM.

Tom Zabinski

Secretary/Treasurer