

Minnesota State Fire Chiefs Association Public Education Committee Meeting of July 23, 2009

Attending the meeting

Mick Niess	West Metro Fire District	Nyle Zikmund	SBM Fire
Chuck Schaitberg	Eden Prairie Fire	James VanEyll	Long Lake Fire
Jim Rogers	FITOAM	Tracy Zarembinski	Centennial Fire District
Tom Brace	MSFCA Executive Director	Jeanenne Rausch	White Bear Lake Fire
Frank Langer	MNSCU	Dan Bernardy	Inver Grove Heights Fire
Jon Nisja	State Fire Marshal Division	Shelby Wolf	West Metro Fire District
Tom Pitschneider	Shakopee Fire	Marty Scheerer	Edina Fire
Kellie Murphy-Ringate	Excelsior Fire District	George Magdal	1-800-Boardup/ Retired Hopkins Fire
John Babin	Savage Fire	Tim Farmer	Retired Firefighter
Connie Forster	SBM Fire		

Conference Discussion

Jimmy Rogers spoke about the Fire Instructors and Training Officers Association of Minnesota (FITOAM) organization. They are interested in partnering in the future regarding a conference.

- They have their conference scheduled for January 29 – 31, 2010.
- 156 people attended their conference last year.
- Tim Sendelbach will be the keynote speaker next year.
- Certification tests might be a possibility.
- They have 200 rooms reserved at a cost of \$75.00 per night.
- The conference should make money, but the MSFCA would only be sponsoring a limited number of courses in the conference, and not necessarily sharing in any profit made.
- The site of the conference will be held at the Kelly Inn in St. Cloud Minnesota.
- The Pub Ed Committee will establish a sub-committee to work with the FITOAM group on the potential partnership.
- The conference fee last year was \$125.00 and has not been set for 2010.
- They are set up for three – three hour breakout session in addition to the featured speaker.

The committee discussed some possible courses which we would like to offer. The Pub Ed Committee will establish a sub-committee to work with the FITOAM group on the potential partnership. Jim Rogers asked that the Public Education Committee make a list of suggested courses and supply it to FITOAM by the end of August.

Minutes Approval

Copies of the April 9, 2009 committee meeting were distributed and reviewed. *Mick Niess made a motion, seconded by Nyle Zikmund, to accept the minutes as printed. The motion passed.*

Committee Reports

Kitchen Fire Simulation Trailer - The cooking fire trailer committee has attempted to identify the causes of the kitchen fires; i.e. immigrants, young people, etc. They have looked at the last two years of "Fire In Minnesota" and the reports are not detailed enough to allow any definitive conclusions. How would a fire simulator work with a group of, for example, Somali residents? The committee also discussed the logistics of owning a trailer such as maintenance, towing, storage, etc. The committee is not in a position to make a recommendation at this time. The original request came from the St. Paul Fire Department, to the MSFCA Board of Directors, whom had committed to maintenance, storage, and staffing a kitchen fire simulator if the MSFCA found financing for the unit. The committee will follow-up with the St. Paul Fire Department. The committee will have a recommendation for the project ready for the MSFCA Board at their October 14, 2009 meeting.

Original MSFCA Board direction to the Public Education Committee

11. Kitchen Fire Education Trailers.

At the board meeting the previous day, Jamie Novack, St. Paul Fire Department, presented information, and made a request for support to fund a kitchen fire demonstration trailer. The board supported the need, and effectiveness of the trailer, however, with the present economic situation was not ready to commit association funds at this time. The Public Education Committee will be asked to study the proposal further, and attempt to identify alternative funding. The recommendations to the board should include ownership of a trailer, and how it would be made available throughout the state.

Timeline: The Committee should report its finding to the board at their June 2009 meeting.

Responsibility: The Public Education Committee.

Safety Hopper – Mick Niess spoke about the Safety Hopper and noted that the rentals are coming in fairly regularly. Fire safety Day at the Minnesota State Fair will be held on August 28th – 6:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. SBM is providing a number of people to assist in the operations through the use of their FIRE Corps program. Mick distributed a sign-up list for committee members to sign up for the day. state.

Get Your Butt Outside Program – Dan Bernardy reported that the program is in its second year and will have a presence at the Fire Service Day at the State Fair. Fire departments can request ash trays through Dan, and some departments are distributing them in apartment buildings and other locations in their cities. Commercials are being played in movie theaters prior to the showing of the latest Harry Potter movies. *(There are two dates established to survey people exiting the theater to measure the effectiveness of the program, & Dan welcomes people who wish to assist in the surveying)* The billboard campaign will begin on August 1st, and run through October. Dan noted that the Minnesota FAIR Plan is very pleased with the program. It was noted that the Get Your Butt Outside Program was a three year program when it was originally approved by the MSFCA Board of Directors. The program has given away over 30,000 ash trays, and there are an estimated one million smokers in the state.

Nyle Zikmund suggested that all possible ideas seeking Minnesota FAIR Plan funding be submitted in a written form to be distributed to the Public Education Committee for further discussion and to prioritize suggested projects for funding.

A motion by Mick Niess, and seconded by Tim Farmer, to forward a letter of support, authored by Dan Bernardy, indicating that the MSFCA Public Education Committee recommends continuing support for the Get Your Butt Outside Program for the next year. There was discussion on the motion and the motion was approved by the committee on a vote of 13 in support, and 2 opposed.

A motion was made by Jon Nisja, and was seconded by Dan Bernardy, that the MSFCA Public Education Committee recommends to the Board of Directors, that the association seek up to \$50,000 in seed money from the Minnesota FAIR Plan to establish a program regarding residential sprinkler systems. The motion passed unanimously.

Continuing Education Opportunities

Nyle Zikmund reported that Paul Schwartzman will be making a presentation in the northern suburbs (most likely SBM) regarding Vision 2020 (the next generation of America Burning) and Juvenile Firesetting on Wednesday, October 14th, 2004. A small cost will be charged-possibly \$20 to help cover expenses. He will also present at the MSFCA conference. *A motion was made by Frank Langer, seconded by Nyle Zikmund, to accept Nyle Zikmund's report, and to recommend the association spend up to \$750 to provide a one day seminar by Paul Schwartzman.*

Public Education Awards

The committee discussed seeking nominations for the annual MSFCA Public Safety Education Awards. Tim Farmer will include the information and application

Minnesota Fire Chief Magazine

There is a new Editor-In-Chief for the Minnesota Fire Chief Magazine Editor-In-Chief, Jena Noah. Connie will contact Jena and coordinate a column in each magazine regarding new issues and resources for public education.

Annual Conference

Mick Niess requested room for the Safety Hopper at the MSFCA conference. The committee is willing to staff a booth (should be near the Fire Sprinkler Association, and Dan Bernardy's booth).

Memorial Floats

The committee recommended to the MSFCA Board that the two floats be retired. It was uncertain if the board actually acted on the recommendation. The trailer was donated for the expressed use for the 911 Memorial Float – it is recommended that the trailer (if discontinued) be used for the Safety Hopper. There was some discussion regarding reconsideration of retiring the float by some of the committee members.

Group Purchasing

No new information at this time.

Newsletter

Tim Farmer is willing to produce an electronic newsletter, but would need other on the committee to produce articles and other information for the publication.

Information Sharing

Connie Forster noted that the NFPA will be making information available regarding proper installation, operation, and maintenance of smoke detectors. This information will be free of charge to the fire service and downloadable from their website. Connie also reminded the committee that Fire Prevention and Safety Grant applications will be open in September. There is also a "Remembering When," a safety program for senior citizens, grant available.

Connie Forster has been approached by the MN Lynx Basketball Team regarding partnering on fire prevention messages for their next season.

Jon Nisja announced that the SFMO has hired a Fire Prevention Specialist who should be starting in mid August. Jon could not announce the name pending the background search. They will also be advertising in the near future for a State Fire Data Administrator position, and a Fire Code Adoption and Training Administrator position.

Chuck Schaitberg suggested that public education training programs be more extensively advertised.

Jeanenne Rausch suggested that "Training on a Shoestring" ideas should be shared during the committee meetings.

Frank Langer distributed a list of possible funding sources which he developed by searching the internet. Frank also distributed information regarding Stovetop Firestop® extinguishers which are now required to be installed, by ordinance, in the City of Shreveport, Louisiana.

Future Meeting: September 10 and November 12, 2009.