

Minnesota State Fire Chiefs Association
Public Education Committee Meeting of September 21, 2009

Attending: Connie Forster, Marty Scheerer, Tom Brace, Jon Nisja, Jim Popp, Mike Turnbull, Peg Bohn, Roy Kingsley, Tim Farmer, Terry Iverson, Dan Bernardy, Chuck Schaitberger, James VanEyll, Nyle Zikmund, Becki White and Frank Langer.

Jon Nisja introduced a new member of the committee, Becki White, Public Educator, Minnesota State Fire Marshal Division.

Minutes of the July 23, 2009 committee meeting were approved with two corrections.

Reviewed the committee membership list and made some corrections.

1) A subgroup of the MSFCA Public Education Committee has been meeting with the Fire Instructors and Training Officers Association of Minnesota (FITOAM) to discuss the inclusion of fire and safety education courses during their conference. The conference will be in St. Cloud, Minnesota (Kelly Inn) on January 30-31, 2010.

- a. Tracks: Saturday am: working with the Media, Tips and Tricks for Those in Charge of Everything, Saturday pm: How to teach on Little of No Budget, Best Programming Practices, Sunday am: Public Education Roundtable.
- b. All day Saturday: Public Education I overview to cover the 5 Step Process: Identification Selection, Design, Implementation, Evaluation; Certification test to take place on Sunday afternoon.
- c. Tom Brace indicated that the Public Education Committee should have brochures for the FITOAM/Education conference available to hand out at the MSFCA Annual Conference.
- d. This group will meet to create the format for the round table discussion. Possibly giving conference goers the opportunity to submit questions on Saturday so they would be available for the panel before the round table on Sunday.

2) Committee Reports:

- a. Cooking fires trailer committee – Nyle Zikmund reported on the sub-committee findings. They are looking into two Bullex kitchen trailers and two of the locally made trailers. They are recommending that we request two grants; \$250,000 from the FAIR Plan for media and \$250,000 through a FEMA Fire Prevention Grant. This would include the four units, training for operators, materials and some maintenance. The committee is recommending charging a minimal amount to use the trailers to provide for storage and maintenance long-term, as is currently done with other MSFCA trailers and props.

A motion was made by Nyle Zikmund, and seconded by Jon Nisja, to recommend the MSFCA Board approve submittal of a FEMA Fire Prevention Grant in the amount of \$250,000, to support the purchase and other expenses related to the kitchen safety projects. The motion passed at the last meeting. Marty will present this to the board.

b. Continuing Education:

- i. Dr. Paul Schwartzman will speak on two days covering two different topics; Tuesday, October 13th at Bloomington Fire Station #1 regarding ***Vision 20/20 – The next Generation of America Burning***, and on Wednesday, October 14th, at Spring Lake Park-Blaine-Mounds View Fire Station 3 regarding ***The Future of Fire Prevention & Trends in Juvenile Fire Setting***. People have indicated interest, although registrations are slow in

coming in at this time, however, registrations will also be taken at the door for an additional \$5 fee.

- ii. Minnesota Department of Health – Becki White and Connie Forster attended a seminar where the injury and fire problem in Minnesota was discussed. They have inquired about providing other opportunities to present this information to the committee, and/or throughout the state.
 - iii. Paula Peterson is interested in providing preschool safety and fire prevention education throughout the state. The classes would educate preschool parents and others to provide the education.
 - iv. Dan Bernardy suggested the committee consider providing regular quarterly mini-courses for fire educators with a wide variety of topic designed to assist in coordinating and teaching skills.
 - v. Other topics for education included marketing, mentoring and local event management ideas-how to include pub ed in community events.
 - vi. It was decided that topics would be decided at the November meeting so it could be included in the Chief's magazine.
- c. Minnesota Fire Chief Magazine: Connie is providing information to Jena Noah (msfcaeditor@frontier.com) regarding committee action. (deadlines are the first Friday of the even numbered months)
- i. August issue – Nyle provided an article.
 - ii. October – Jon Nisja will provide information on their new Public Educator, Becki White.
 - iii. December – Dan Bernardy will write an article regarding Dr. Paul Schwartzman's presentations, and possibly information on quarterly educational opportunities.
 - iv. There will be a sign up for articles for the year at the November meeting.
- d. Get Your Butt Outside Program: Dan Bernardy reported on the current status of the program including a successful day at the Governor's Day at the State Fair. A letter of support for the project was not completed; however, he has met with the FAIR Plan and they are happy with the program. Dan will prepare a letter of support for Committee Chair Marty Scheerer's signature.
- Dan reported that their efforts to survey moviegoers, whom viewed the public safety messages prior to the movie, was very sparse as people left in a hurry. They will try to provide a card to the people prior to entering the theater in hopes they will fill it out and give it back after the movie. They have also discussed the option of having the cards mailed back.
- Tom Brace reminded the committee that we will also be approaching the FAIR Plan to provide \$50,000 to support the installation of residential sprinkler systems.
- e. Fire Museum: No action on this item.
- f. MSFCA Conference: Public Education Booth: Jeanenne Rausch is looking for ideas, free stuff or education ideas to be available for giveaways at the booth. A list of websites where resources can be obtained will be provided, along with sample materials. An advertisement for the FITOAM conference should be available. The exhibit hours are Thursday from 1:00-5:00, and from 6:00-8:00 during the President's Reception, and Friday for 8:30-3:30. Dan Bernardy will work with

Tim Farmer to use the MSFCA electronic information systems to survey the membership regarding fire safety props which are available for use statewide, and any costs associated with use.

- g. Governor's Day at the Minnesota State Fair: Was very successful and Connie and Dan thanked those who participated in the event. There were some problems with logistics at the memorial service and Tom Brace plans to be more involved in the future.
- h. Safety Hopper and Floats: The safety hopper will be set up at the conference, and the committee members are requested to be available to help staff the hopper. Connie will follow up with Mick Niess. Frank Langer suggested that the Duluth Fire program Students might be available to assist. The committee previously voted to recommend discontinuing the 911 Float, and Dan Bernardy requested reconsideration of the recommendation based upon great response from citizens who have viewed the float. Connie will follow up with Jim Popp.

Dan Bernardy made a motion, seconded by Terry Iverson, to continue the operation of the 911 Float for a minimum of two additional years, and that the Inver Grove Heights Fire Department will commit to housing and maintaining the Float. The motion passed.

- i. Group purchasing: The Western Division of the International Association of Fire Chiefs has established a Fire/Rescue Group Purchasing Organization (GPO) and is actively seeking items to bid. Nyle Zikmund suggested that this would be a good venue for public education materials and training packages as they are set up with staff to do this already.
- j. Statistical Review: Jon Nisja has been working with the Minnesota Department of Health to compile fire statistics. The Minnesota Fire Marshal Division's online fire data system is capable of producing very current data, and this can be accomplished very quickly. The "2008 Fire in Minnesota" Report will be distributed at the MSFCA Conference.
- k. Public Education Newsletter: The State Fire Marshal Division plans to distribute a public education newsletter in the near future. Becki White reported that their intention is to provide information related to resource gathering. The Committee will provide information to Becki.

3) Public Education Awards for 2009: There are three nominations for 2009 awards. The committee reviewed the three nominations and will ensure the appropriate contacts are made.

4) Good of the Group:

- a. Remembering When Grant: Available through the NFPA until November 2009.
- b. ECHO TV Video – Hennepin County Medical Center has completed a program on burn prevention produced in many languages, for use on the state's public television channels.
- c. Training on a shoestring budget: Click on NFPA website *Partners with Scholastic* for some very good training resources which are available at no cost.
- d. Becki White shared information on a training package, "The Chemistry of Fire" designed for chemistry teachers. This is available through Discovery Education, the Society of Fire Protection Engineers (www.discoveryeducation.com/firechemistry).
- e. FEMA Fire Prevention Grants: Applications are open from September 21st to October 10th. There was discussion on how this program seems to be favoring larger organizations (state fire associations, colleges, etc.) in awarding grants.

- f. Frank Langer reported that he, Tom Brace and Peg Bohn met with Angie White, and some contractors, in St. Paul to gauge interest in retrofitting eleven homes with residential sprinkler systems to help determine the actual cost of retrofitting homes, and to help in promoting retrofits.
- g. Jon Nisja reported that they have a commitment from four sprinkler manufacturers to donate the components for a residential sprinkler system for any Habit for Humanity project.
- h. Frank Langer noted that Hennepin Technical College will be the home of their two year Fire Prevention Degree program. Peg noted that they are also working with a Wisconsin college on a joint Sprinkler Design Degree program.

The next meeting is scheduled on November 12, 2009 at the Fire Museum. (Connie to confirm)