

Minnesota State Fire Chiefs Association
October 21, 2011 Annual Meeting
St. Cloud, Minnesota

- 1) MSFCA President Marty Scheerer called the membership meeting to order at 1:02 PM.
- 2) President Scheerer led the members in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.
- 3) Welcome – Chief Bill Mund welcomed the membership to the City of St. Cloud.
- 4) Recognize Special Guests
 - a) The MSFCA Board members who were present stood up and were recognized.
 - b) Great Lakes Division - GLD Representative to the IAFC Board - Bill Mund is stepping down from the position as he will be seeking the vice presidency of the MSFCA, and George Esbensen will be filling the vacancy.
 - c) MSFDA Executive Board Members were recognized including; President Shane Schmidt and Vice President Mike Schroeder.
- 5) President's Report – Marty Scheerer spoke about the need for donations for the memorial and ongoing fundraising activities. The Protocols and Ceremonies Committee is continuing their work and early reviews have suggested that the final documents may serve as a possible model for the nation. Ramona Dohman has been appointed as the Minnesota Commissioner of Public Safety, and the associations' officers have had meetings with her. The executive officers met with the Minnesota Fallen Firefighters Memorial Association to clarify responsibilities and other issues when responding to a Line-of Duty-Death. The Legislative Committee has been identifying and prioritizing possible initiatives for the 2012 session, and are also planning Fire Service Day at the State Capitol, preferably earlier in the session in February. The annual financial audit is underway and everything is looking good, and the board approved a longer term investment plan for the associations reserve funds at their board meeting on Wednesday. Two kitchen fire safety trailers have been acquired through grant monies and are now available to fire departments statewide (see www.msfc.org for information). Marty noted that it was his last meeting as president, and thanked a number of people and the membership for their work and support.
- 6) Vice President's Report – Randy Polzin noted the he has attended a lot of meetings along with President Scheerer. The shared services study report is gaining ground and Randy encouraged fire departments to get involved early in any consolidation discussions to ensure that they have a say in the process. An investment policy, goal for 2011, has been acted upon and a longer term investment has been made. The association continues to work closely with the MSFDA, and there have been some bylaw issues regarding attendance at each other's conferences. A policy to clarify these issues with a reciprocity agreement has been approved by the board. Randy attended two funerals for fallen firefighters this year. He noted that firefighters attend in great numbers and he is very proud of the way the fire service members support one another.
- 7) Executive Director's Report – Tom Brace thanked a number of people including; Tim Farmer, Monica Correll, Brian and Wanda Staska, Chad Steffens, June Hirdler, Gunta Brace, Irene Moore and Dan Roeglin for handling logistical and administrative support for the conference. Tom also thanked President Scheerer for his work during the year. The association will be investing some

monies with the Parr McKnight Group since, at the current time, the association is receiving less than one percent interest on the current reserves. The Minnesota Fire Chief Magazine is in great financial shape, and the magazine has increased in quality and content. Tom noted that in his column near the back of each edition of the magazine – Tom’s Trumpet – he has expressed some views which might be “controversial,” and noted that these are personal opinions and he appreciates the feedback that he gets from members. The convention center expansion will be ready for our use next time we come back to St. Cloud, and this will ensure that we can accommodate all of the exhibitors who wish to be a part of the show. Duluth, the site of next year’s conference, has also been expanded and Tom was able to negotiate with them to hold the 2009 pricing for the next two conferences.

- 8) Fire Service Foundation Report & Presentation – George Esbensen gave a presentation on the statewide effort to fund a firefighter memorial in St. Paul. The goal is to raise \$600,000 by the end of the year. If the monies are insufficient and the memorial is not built, all of the money will be refunded beginning the first week of January 2012. Over \$400,000 is in the bank or in “rock solid” commitments to date, and all supplies and services expended to the time have been donated.
- 9) Tom Brace explained the history and purpose of the annual pass the boot tradition, and noted that the funds collected this year will be used for the fire service memorial project and that the boots would be passed during the memorial service.
- 10) Magazine Editor's Report – Jena Noah thanked members who submitted articles and photos, and encouraged all members to submit them. Jena highlighted the annual poster contest and asked all departments to participate.
- 11) IAFC Great Lakes Division Report – Bill Mund announced that this was his last meeting as Minnesota Representative to the Great Lakes Division. Bill noted that most of the GLD board members have changed after Fire-Rescue International was held in Atlanta. The Daily Dispatch on-line daily newsletter is timely and very informative and is available to everyone free of charge. The Fire-Rescue GPO (group purchasing organization) has some very good deals and is a great site to compare pricing. The entire Blue Card Training Program is available through the GLD to train your department once your members have completed the on-line portion (you must pay the shipping costs).
- 12) State Fire Marshal's Report – Chief Deputy Fire Marshal Bob Dahm relayed greetings from State Fire Marshal Rosendahl, and noted that this is the first year since 1978 that Jerry has had to miss the conference. Bob thanked all of the firefighters for their support over the years. The department is up to full staffing in the investigations division, and they are working on replacing some vacant positions (postings on their website). The annual “Fire in Minnesota” report has been distributed at the conference. Minnesota continues to be a leader in the nation with respect to submitting response data. A large amount of training is being offered and conducted, and is free of charge. Bob noted that if you sign up for a course, please let them know if you cannot attend because there have been problems with no-shows in the past. There have been 41 fire deaths so far this year, which compares to a total of 39 fire deaths in 2010.
- 13) Minnesota Board of Firefighter Training and Education – MBFTE Executive Director Bruce West noted that his report could be found on page 33 of the conference guide. Bruce has been getting

warm welcomes at the regional and county fire chiefs meetings, and this continues to be a priority. Bruce noted that the training reimbursement dollars are now credited to every fire department in the state, and he asked the departments to begin using these funds early in the year. Bruce encouraged departments to work closely with their fire training providers to get the training accomplished and the reimbursement submitted. The MBFTE is now under the State Fire Marshal Division. There will be a press release going out to all media outlets throughout the state explaining the training reimbursement funding, and departments may get calls regarding how the department will be using these funds. Contact Bruce with any issues or questions.

- 14) MnSCU Training Report– Dan Roeglin represented the Fire/EMS/Safety Center report and updated the membership on the current status of the fire center, as well as future plans and opportunities. Voucher dollars are no longer being issued, and on June 20, 2013 all vouchers will expire. Dan encouraged all departments with voucher credits to use them.
- 15) Department of Natural Resources – Brian Haugen updated the membership on the grants that were awarded, and on some of the training courses that have been offered. There have been some very large fires this year which are now under control. The Excess Property Program is very popular and Brian encouraged departments to acquire needs through the program.
- 16) Education Committee- President Marty Scheerer thanked the education committee for their work and noted that Brad Emans, the committee chair, is stepping down and has worked very hard on the committee for many years.
- 17) Legislative Committee – Nyle Zikmund spoke about the Fire Safety Account and the Legislative Committee’s strategies for making more funds – which are collected to support fire training – available to local departments. The committee needs help at the local level to educate legislators as to the purpose of the account and the local department training needs. Legislators have been told there is currently adequate funding for training, and therefore, excess funds in the account can be directed to fund other needs.
- 18) Code Committee – Luke Stemmer, Code Committee Chair, noted that the committee reviews codes and makes recommendations to the fire marshal division. The next code adoption is expected to be the 2012 edition. Lightweight construction continues to be a major focus of the committee and a safety issue for firefighters.
- 19) Emergency Management Committee – Scott Gerber reported that the mutual aid plan is now in place, and he asked for assistance from the local departments in getting the database up to date by submitting their equipment and response capabilities. The purpose of the Minnesota Fire Chiefs Assistance and Support Team (FAST) is to have qualified fire officers assisting other departments in their time of need (i.e. a LODD, tornado flood). To get involved go to the MSFCA website and look at the FAST webpage.
- 20) Old/Unfinished Business
 - a) Consideration of the proposed Bylaws change – President Scheerer reviewed the proposed bylaws changes which were published in the July/August Minnesota Fire Chief magazine, and have been recommended for adoption by the MSFCA Board. *A motion was made by Brandon*

Guest, and seconded by Tim Butler, to accept the proposed bylaws changes. The motion carried.

b) Call for any other old/unfinished business – None

21) New Business

a) A fire officer's training school is being planned for February 11-12, 2012 in the Alexandria area and President Scheerer encouraged all members to attend. More information will be sent out as the details are finalized.

b) President Scheerer reported that life memberships were approved for Bob Brown, Tom Cvar, Jerry Pawelk, Jeff Swanson, Bruce West, Jerry Rosendahl, Richard Rock, and Mike Anderson

22) Elections of officers

a) Vice President's position – Parliamentarian Ulie Seal announced that Bill Mund had been nominated for the vice president's position, and asked if there were any other nominations from the floor. There were no other nominations. *A motion to cast a white ballot for Bill Mund for vice president of the MSFCA was made by Luke Stemmer, and seconded by Tom Cvar. The motion carried.*

b) President's position – Parliamentarian Ulie Seal announced that Randy Polzin had been nominated for the president's position, and asked if there were any other nominations from the floor. There were no other nominations. *A motion to cast a white ballot for Randy Polzin for president of the MSFCA was made by John Strongitharm, and seconded by Tom Cvar. The motion carried.*

23) Good of the Association

a) President Scheerer asked if anyone had anything else to bring before the meeting and there were no other issues brought forward.

b) President Scheerer reminded the members of the 2012 Conference in Duluth, October 18-20, 2012 at the Duluth Entertainment & Convention Center.

24) Adjournment – *A motion was made by Tim Butler, and seconded by Joel McColl to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 2:40 PM.*