

Meeting Minutes

Joint Executive Committees MSFDA/MSFCA

Friday, September 19, 2008

Kelly Inn, Room 246, St. Cloud, Minnesota

11 a.m.

In attendance were: MSFDA President Dan Winkel; MSFCA President Bob Brown; MSFCA Executive Director Tom Brace; MSFDA Executive Board Members Doug Noah, Shane Schmidt, and Mike Schroeder, MSFCA Executive Board Members Marty Scheerer Jeff Anderson, Randy Polzin, Jeff Swanson, and Tom Cvar (Guest).

1. Presidents Brown & Winkel- Welcome

President Dan Winkel (MSFDA) and President Bob Brown (MSFCA) welcomed their respective executive boards to the meeting at 11:00 a.m. Friday, September 19, 2008 in St. Cloud.

2. NVFC Update and Report

Winkel reported a number of representatives are heading to Grand Rapids, Michigan this week for the fall meeting of the National Volunteer Fire Council. Ulie Seal, Dan Winkel and Shane Schmidt are going, and a replacement is being sought for Tony Bronk who has been deployed as part of FEMA. The goal is to start the planning process for the 2010 conference which will be held in Minnesota. Dates were discussed for the 2010 fall conference and the Chiefs representatives stated the more distance between its conference in the middle of October would be best. A decision was made to form an ad-hoc committee at the joint executive meeting in December to start planning for this fall conference. Winkel also reported that a by-law change has been presented that would allow other fire organizations to represent each state. Our representatives have written letters expressing concern with this proposal, stating a real need to have some accountability. It will be watched closely at the Grand Rapids meetings.

3. MnFAC Update

The MnFAC committee presented a list of legislative issues for the 2009 session and asked each director to present the list to their respective regions and have the members rank them in order of importance. Winkel explained that out of the whole list, protecting the money from Fire Safety Advisory Account appears to be the most important. There was just over \$2 million collected per quarter, despite the fact the legislature took \$2 million from it to cover budget short fall. The Fire Safety Advisory Committee was able to make a recommendation to the commissioner of public safety to cover the fire marshal's budget and to send \$1.2 million to training board. There is an expected \$2 - \$3 billion shortfall this year and it should be made known to legislators this money must not be touched again. A bill is being drafted for the voluntary state pension plan, and that a committee has met twice. The organization is currently soliciting input on how to judge years of service and good standing requirements. A committee that studied MPFF's plan for licensing full time firefighters met three times and the committee came to the conclusion not to support the current draft by the MPFF. Also discussed was a letter MSFCA President Brown and MSFDA President Winkel will be putting forward asking regions again to consider donating funds to help pay for our legislative lobbyist. The new contract signed with lobbyist has increased by 9% (approximately \$3,500) and past efforts from regions have helped offset this cost. MSFCA Executive Director Brace and MSFDA Secretary Noah will send the letters to the respective regional directors to discuss at upcoming region meetings.

4. Fire Service Foundation

The new members of the foundation board are currently changing the by-laws, and the focus of the group is funding the scholarships. Coins were discussed. In the past, each organization ordered coins for their respective conferences, than were able to return the unused amount for a credit. That policy is being changed and each organization was given the direction on how to address this new policy of unused coins. In brief, if you ordered the coins, they are yours.

5. Fire Service Advisory Committee

The next meeting of the organization is December 4, 2008.

6. Training Board

The board has hired executive directors Nancy Frank-Wilson and Barbara Warren. Their office is to be located in Elk River, Minnesota. The training board was recently funded with \$1.2 million from the fire safety account and will continue working on its plan for training firefighters throughout the state. The new executive directors will be attending the upcoming chiefs conference as guests.

7. MSFCA Conference Update

Executive Director Brace noted that the rooms have been reserved for the MSFDA executive board at the Kelly Inn in St. Cloud and extended an invitation to the board to attend the MSFCA board meeting starting at 11 AM on Wednesday, October 15. Registration is down almost 100 delegates from the same time a year ago, but vendor reservations are sold out.

8. FAST team

The MSFDA executive board explained that at its June conference, its board had declared interest in joining forces with the MSFCA's FAST team. Several options and ideas were discussed by the joint boards. One area of agreement was to have the region reps from the MSFCA and MSFDA contacted when a disaster occurs in the state. From that point, the appropriate FAST team members would be dispatched. The MSFDA and MSFCA boards will discuss these ideas further at their respective board meetings.

9. Other business

A joint meeting of the MSFDA and MSFCA Boards will be held on Saturday, February 28, 2009 and regional presidents will again be invited to attend. No facilitator will be needed, hot button issues around the state will be discussed. The executive boards of the MSFCA and MSFDA will meet again on December 11 at 11 AM in St. Cloud.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

Minutes were taken by Doug Noah of MSFDA and reviewed and edited by Tom Brace MSFCA.