

South Central Regional Fire Departments Association

April 19th, 2011

Orchid Inn Sleepy Eye

Meeting minutes

The spring meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by President Dan Cline with the Pledge of Allegiance. Sleepy Eye Fire Chief Tom Moldaschel welcomed everyone to Sleepy Eye. Sleepy Eye mayor Jim Broich entertained everyone with a number of humorous stories.

Roll call was taken with 172 members representing 30 departments in attendance.

The minutes of the January meeting were presented with a motion by Trimont second by Lake Crystal to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

The treasurer's report was presented showing a checkbook balance of \$11095.51. There are 2 departments (Frost and Granada) that are delinquent on dues since 2007. There is one department (Franklin) that still owes 2010 dues. There are 11 departments that still owe 2011 dues. There was a motion by Blue Earth second by Sherburn to approve the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Vice President Brandenburg gave his report. The Safe Escape House is housed in Lake Crystal and is available to any department to rent. Contact the Lake Crystal Fire Department at 726-2440 or at lcfid@hickorytech.net to reserve your date. The LP tank on the truck that pulls the house is going to need some upgrading and repair in the near future.

President Cline thanked everyone for paying their dues in a timely manner and encouraged anyone who has contact with the few delinquent departments to encourage them to become more active in the region. He also talked about possibly updating the truck that pulls the Safe Escape House. He will pursue some options on a different truck.

REPORTS

South Central College—Tim Zehnder reported that 1001 classes will be finishing up in May. 118 students went through the 1001 classes. One of the casualties of all the state budget cuts will be the voucher program. As of June 30, 2011 you will no longer accrue voucher credits. If your voucher credits are not used by June 30, 2013 they will be gone. Tim also mentioned the Everyone Goes Home program and encouraged departments to get on board with this program. He also reported on the State Fire School. There were over 800 students attending.

MSFCA—Tim Pohlman reported that the MSFCA has purchased 2 Cooking Fire Prevention trailers for education purposes. They have also agreed to contribute \$5000 for legal fees for any problems with the IRS 990 filing issues that have come up. They are working on a protocol guideline for funerals, Line of Duty deaths, etc. The website for this is mnprideandhonor.com. Tim will e-mail the proceedings of their upcoming meeting to everyone. Also, the region does not have an alternate director for the MSFCA. If anyone is interested in this please contact Tim.

MSFDA—Ed Hoffman The MSFDA conference is June 2-4 in Detroit Lakes. The 2012 conference will be June 14-16 in Alexandria. He reminded everyone that each department should be paying dues to the MSFDA. If you have any names that you want included in the honorary tribute or as lifelong members please get those names to Ed. The MSFDA is hiring an administrative assistant. The MSFDA is working together with a number of different organizations on the IRS Form 990 issue. The Rep. Cornish-Rep. Morrow debate on the House floor concerning the cuts to the Fire Safety Account was brought up. We need to educate our Representatives on

why we need this money left in the Fire Safety Account and not just e-mail them criticizing their actions. Licensing was also talked about and licensing is optional for volunteer firefighters. To remain licensed there are minimal training requirements that must be fulfilled at this time. Elections are to be held at the conference. At this time Mark Rosenbloom is running for Vice President and Ed Hoffman is running for Secretary.

Fire Training Board—Dan Cline reported that he will no longer be on the training board once the Governor appoints a new member. There could be some leadership changes on the board in the future. If you want to be certified as a licensed firefighter there is a 3 year period where you can be grandfathered in.

Volunteer Firefighters Benefit Association (VFBA)—Scott Windschitl First report of injury claims must be filed within 30 days of injury. There was \$86,215 paid out in claims in 2010. There is an insurance company with a similar name to the VFBA going around trying to sell policies to firemen. They are not associated with the VFBA and the VFBA does not go door to door trying to sell policies so be aware of this.

State Fire Marshal—Steve Kellen He encouraged everyone to get involved with the Everybody Goes Home program. He also talked about the hog barn fire that Sleepy Eye had the night before the meeting and stated that he would put a volunteer department up against a paid department any day.

DNR—Tom Romaine Since the threat of grass fires is very minimal this spring so far, he talked about politics and the way to change things is through your vote come election time.

HSEM—Bruce West He talked about the Decon Program and training that is available to your department. EOCs are starting to wind down due to the decreased risk of more flooding. There are HazMat exercise training grants available through HSEM. There will be an IED training class at the state conference. MnJac is working on an online class on response to suspicious letters and packages. The See Something, Say Something campaign is in place and you should be seeing advertising on this program throughout the state. If you google HDER you should find a website for free training and equipment. He also talked about a DHS campaign called Stop, Think, Connect in regards to cyber security. There are 100 billion e-mails sent each day and of those 90 billion are SPAM.

Old Business

None

New Business

The auditing committee found the treasurer's books in order.

The nominating committee reported that all three officers were willing to run for re-election. There was a motion by North Mankato second by Odin to cast a white ballot for all three current office holders. Motion carried.

Bruce West reported that if you haven't received your 2010 Fire Act grants and have not received a rejection letter to not give up hope yet. With the threat of a government shutdown the committee slowed down their award announcements. They should be meeting more regularly now. There will be only \$405 million in the fund for 2011 as opposed to the \$600 million in the fund for 2010.

The next meeting will be in Springfield on July 19, 2011

There was a motion by Comfrey second by Nicollet to adjourn. Motion carried

Minutes respectfully submitted

Dale Polzin

Sec/Treas SCRFDA