

**South Carolina Fire Academy
Advisory Committee Quarterly Meeting
Meeting Minutes – January 7, 2009**

Members Present: Jonathan Jones, Art Sattler, Phil Elliott, Lavarn Lucas, Dixon Odom, Alan Sistare, Shannon Tanner, Mitch Trammel, Mike Wirt

Members Absent: Bill Addis, Karl Ristow, Bill Streuber, Bryan Beason, and Fred Brandt,

Alternates Present: Rick Dunn, Brian Horton, John L Melton, Jim Still and Eddie Turner

Non-Voting Members Present: Joe Palmer, John Reich and Ed Roper

Visitors Present: John Bowers, Phillip Russell, Cindy Brazell, and Russ Friar

Chairman Jones called the meeting to order. Ed Roper advised that a quorum was present.

Chairman Jones asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the October meeting with the correction of a misspelled word in the third paragraph. Art Sattler made a motion and Alan Sistare seconded. Discussion: none. The motion was passed unanimously.

Chairman Jones welcomed Joe Palmer, Director of the State Firefighters Association to the meeting.

Chairman Jones asked for reports from the different associations:

SC Firefighters Association – Jonathan Jones

Jones stated the next quarterly association meeting will be Jan. 21.

SC Fire Chiefs Association – Alan Sistare

Sistare stated that their next meeting will be Jan. 15 at the Fire Academy. Sistare stated that Wesley Williams from Simpsonville FD will be the new alternate for this association and a letter would follow.

SC Fire Marshal Association – Phil Elliott

Elliott stated that the association had a successful fall conference. It was also noted that Patrick Bradshaw will be the alternate for this association.

Public Education Association – No representative

Industrial Representative – Mike Wirt

Wirt stated that the association had a successful meeting in Nov.

Professional Firefighters – no representative

SC Arson Association – Brian Horton

A letter was presented from the association that Bryan Beason, incoming president, will be the new primary voting member and Brian Horton will serve as his alternate.

Higher Education – no representative

SC Society of Fire Service Instructors – Art Sattler

Their next annual conference will be Feb. 6 – 8, 2009 at the Fire Academy.

Standing committee reports

Curriculum – Eddie Turner

Deferred to Russ Friar's report.

Program Delivery – no rep

Curriculum Report – Russ Friar

Friar handed out and reviewed the curriculum section report.

Superintendent's Report – Ed Roper

Roper stated that the good news was that so far there have been no budget constraints on the agency. LLR is the only agency who has not had to RIF employees yet. The budget is tight however because of so many course deliveries. The bad news is that while we are able to cover courses advertised in our catalog, we need to slow down on requested and training-in-house courses. Our industrial training business has dropped and we expect to see municipal training to slow down. Roper encourages chiefs to look ahead at courses they want offered in the next catalog supplement.

Roper handed out and reviewed the regional report. Roper stated that Keith Minick's slot as the region 7 coordinator in Newberry will be filled since he became chief of the Newberry City FD.

Resident Training – Phillip Russell

Russell handed out and reviewed the resident training report.

Division update - John Reich

Reich noted that the amount of fire deaths in SC has increased to 75 people so far this year. In 2007, the state only had 60 deaths.

Reich commented that much hard work was done to get the new sprinkler law (Act 357) passed.

Reich briefly discussed some work items the facility needs:

- Asphalt coding

- Security issues

- Installing fencing around the facility

- Look at reducing outside civilians who come in to eat at the café to include families of inmates. SCFA will become a closed campus.

Old Business

None

New Business

1 -- Jones read the following motion:

“A motion has been made by the SC State Firefighters Association calling for, through the Fire School Advisory Board and due to the direct recognition of the importance being placed on the issue by the Firefighter’s Association’s 17,411 members, the SC Fire Academy to train 16 and 17 year olds. The desired training classes should include but are not limited to ICS, building construction, hazardous material awareness and operations level, introduction to Wildland fire behavior, and any others that will fully allow the development of what this state’s fire service recognizes to be a valuable recruitment and retention tool in this age bracket for the survival of our volunteer system of firefighters. Further, this motion requests a reply in writing from the Academy offering specific steps it will take to implement these training objectives. Also, this motion will be forwarded to other fire service organizations asking that they pass a similar motion and offer similar direction to the State’s Fire Academy.”

Lavarn Lucas made a motion to forward this request to the Fire Academy for a response. Art Sattler made a 2nd to the motion.

Discussion: Reich stated LLR’s stance as an employment issue, child labor laws, minor custodial issues, supply and demand for classes. This should be a local issue. Firefighting is a dangerous profession and not for children. After LLR’s negative response, the SCFA pursued working with the Boy Scouts of America and the Explorer program to take our 1152 program. Sharon Dantzler states that no laws have changed and LLR has not changed its response.

Jones stated that the Firefighter’s Association wants LLR’s stance in writing. The motion on the table was only to pass the request for a response. This response needs to be specific and include any code of laws, etc.

Jones called for a vote on this motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

2 – Jones handed out a sample of Firefighter I competency sheets that he would like to see a link for on the State Firefighter’s web site.

Discussion: Following Jones’ comments on how this would be helpful to individual departments on drill nights Russ Friar made the following offer. Electronic files of each Performance Task Manual would be forwarded to Joe Palmer for placement on the SC State Firefighters Website or have a link created to the Fire Academy’s Website. Each task manual contains all the required skill sheets and a competency profile sheet for each level. Friar also stated they would be available on the Fire Academy’s Website within a week.

A motion was made by Mitch Trammel that the advisory committee supports moving forward to partnership with the State Firefighter's Association to use as a tool. Eddie Turner made a 2nd to the motion.

Discussion: none

Jones called for a vote on this motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

3 – Retest attempts

Jones had questions concerning the Academy's retest policy and wanted to know if the Academy could increase the number of retest attempts allowed for a student. Roper stated that the committee should suggest what they want SCFA to do as far as request. Challenge exams can go on forever. The SCFA will give due diligence and research how it will effect SCFA training.

Adjourn

The next quarterly committee meeting is scheduled for April 8, 2009 at 10 a.m.

With no other business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectively submitted,

Ed Roper
Recording Secretary