

**South Carolina Fire Academy
Advisory Committee Quarterly Meeting
Meeting Minutes – October 14, 2009**

Members Present: Will Vaigneur, Phil Elliott, Skip Hannon, John L Melton, Chris Nunnery, Karl Ristow, Joel Rogers, Jim Still, Wesley Williams,

Members Absent: Bill Addis, Bryan Beason, Bruce Burding, Shannon Tanner, Mitch Trammel

Alternates Present:

Non-Voting Members Present: John Reich and Ed Roper

Visitors Present: Dixon Odom, Tammy Rowe, Cindy Brazell, and AJ Esposito

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

Chairman Vaigneur asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the July meeting. Karl Ristow made a motion and Wesley Williams seconded. Discussion: none. The motion was passed unanimously.

Chairman Vaigneur stated that a vice chairman needed to be appointed and asked for nominations. Jim Still nominated Shannon Tanner. John Melton seconded the motion. Skip Hannon motioned for the nominations to be closed. Chairman Vaigneur asked for a vote. All members were in favor and none opposed. The motion passed. The new vice chair for the committee is Shannon Tanner.

Chairman Vaigneur asked for reports from the different associations:

SC Firefighters Association – Will Vaigneur

Vaigneur stated that members of the association will be traveling to Baltimore soon for the sprinkler meeting.

SC Fire Chiefs Association – Wesley Williams

The annual conference will be held in October in Greenville.

SC Fire Marshal Association – Phil Elliott

No report

Public Education Association – No representative

Industrial Representative – Joel Rogers

No report.

Professional Firefighters – no representative

SC Arson Association – no representative

Higher Education – Karl Ristow

No report

SC Society of Fire Service Instructors – Skip Hannon

Hannon stated that their next annual conference will in Feb. at the SCFA and they need nominations for awards to be given.

Superintendent's Report – Ed Roper

Roper stated that all SCFA staff reports were emailed to all members prior to this meeting. Vaigneur asked Roper to review the finances.

Roper reviewed the finance report.

A – the 1% money we receive is a fee on homeowner's fire insurance. SCFA gets 64% of this money and the Fire Marshal's Office gets the rest.

B—the .035 money is a tax on homeowners insurance originally used to pay down the bond on new building. This money is still collected to help maintain the facility. Out this money we helped build EdVenture Children's Museum, support Firefighter Mobilization and pay for SLED background checks.

Roper stated that SCFA is good shape, but we do need more staff that we will not get this year. We are able to carry over our money, most agencies cannot.

Other notes from Roper

- a. we bought a used aerial for \$15,000 from Connecticut.
- b. SCFA created a burn bldg for the 2-week arson class.
- c. the next catalog insert should be mailed in the middle of Nov. We have added a 5th recruit school.
- d. SCFA is moving to a 30-day pre-registration cut off effective for classes starting Feb. 1, 2010.
- e. The LLR payroll process will be changing. We will be no longer be using Teaching Agreement for instructors, but eventually we will go to an automated payroll system. This is a State Government mandate and we have no option. The State's finance system is going thru a major overhaul and will not pay any bills for 2 weeks in October as they prepare to launch a new computer system.

Division update - John Reich

- a. The 2012 ICC adoption process is coming. The vote is critical.
- b. The Freddie program was not meeting expectations due to the cost for teachers to reproduce. Fire Dept. can pick up the Freddie program to teach in area schools.
- c. The State Fire Marshal's office picked up SLED responsibility for doing background checks. Background checks should be used as a final screening process.
- d. SAFE cigarette law will be effective Jan. 1, 2010.
- e. Interviews are still ongoing for new fire marshal training coordinator. Position works for John Reich and includes teaching, legislative issues, etc.
- f. There is an open position for NFIRS coordinator and several people have been interviewed.
- g. We have hired Keith Van Ryn as our new IT specialist.

Subcommittee reports

Firefighter Standards --- Jim Still

Still stated that we need to know what are the minimum requirements to be classified as a fire fighter. What do we want the minimum credentialing to be?

One member stated that it was not for this committee to determine the definition of who is a firefighter. We should be concerned with what training is required to fight a fire. Firefighter I and II can make entry from IDLH. We should follow the NFPA as a guideline.

After much roundtable discussion the following motion was made by Chris Nunnery:

Motion: The two sub-committee chairs should bring this issue back to the joint council for an answer and guidance on determining the definition of a firefighter.

John L Melton seconded the motion. After some discussion the vote was 9 – in favor and 1 opposed. The motion passed.

Firefighter Officer Standards – Chris Nunnery

Officer is clearly a post hire issue; however, there are still definitions to be answered. How do we apply? Grandfathering? Time frames? Who administers?

New Business

Ristow: asked about the possibility of scheduling a Fire Officer 3 program next year to allow students to advance with SCFA having to develop a program. We could use the IFSAC instructors. SCFA is already looking into this course offering.

Adjourn

The next quarterly committee meeting is scheduled for Jan. 13, 2010 at 10 a.m.

With no other business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectively submitted,

Ed Roper
Recording Secretary