



MSFCA

Business Session Meeting Minutes Montana State Fire Chiefs Association Montana Fire Alliance Conference Thursday, June 17, 2010, 2:00 pm MST

Called to order by Chairperson Rich Cowger at 2:05 pm MST.

OLD BUSINESS

Update on MSFCA Activities – Chairperson, Rich Cowger – Committees are working on both the MSFCA Strategic Plan, and planning the 2011 conference. Plentywood Chief Curt Petrik who has run the MSFCA Bookstore is retiring from the fire service. The MSFCA Board has decided that it is the best interest of the Association to join forces with the Western Fire Chiefs Fire Service Bookstore. Initially there was concern about the loss of the bookstore's small town feel, but WFCA can do small and big orders. The MSFCA will be presenting Chief Petrik with a plaque and a gift card for his years of dedicated service to both the bookstore and the fire service. The MSFCA has executed a revenue-share agreement with the MSVFFA for license plate sales and will be presenting the Volunteers Association with their first revenue share check later in the conference. The MSFCA continues to meet with other Montana fire service organizations on legislative issues with the desire to set difference aside, and make continued progress. MSFCA is working diligently to add additional incentives to becoming a MSFCA member. The Board is exploring partnering with an insurance company to provide discounts to MSFCA members. The Association has designed a brief questionnaire to gauge interest. Recently the MSFCA applied for a SAFER Grant. The application included funding for an executive director in the state, and the development of a comprehensive Montana fire service database.

NEW BUSINESS

National Fire Academy, Dr. Denis Oneal – Discusses the training opportunities at the National Fire Academy, and how the NFA works with the Montana Fire Services Training School to deliver nine two-day trainings and one one-week course each year. There are 40 courses that FSA instructors can deliver. NFA training and travel is paid for by the federal government, lessening the financial impact to the student.

REPORTS

Emergency Care Committee, Chief Michael Painter – A letter attempting to change data collection rules has been sent out to departments that do EMS services. The state offers free software for data collection. There are two public meetings at the end of this month, June 29th and July 1st.

National Fire Protection Association, Crosby Grindle, NFPA Northwest Regional Manager – NFPA's main initiatives are Wildland Fire Wise and Residential Sprinklers. NFPA is pushing hard for sprinkler legislation and to stop anti-sprinkler legislation, but there is quite a fight. NFPA can help Montana with both sprinkler education and advocacy.

9-1-1 Advisory Council, Joe Calnan, Past Chief of Clancy Fire Department representing the MSVFFA – The 9-1-1 Advisory Council is tasked with deciding where 9-1-1 call money is allocated. Calnan has proposed a resolution that supports the extension of the Sunset Law, MCA 10-4-313, governing the funds in the 911 wireless enhanced account. Consensus from membership is to take it to the MSFCA Board.

PERS Coverage if Hurt/L-O-D-D – Chief Brett Waters discusses the LAST team and how they can help with benefits.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

MSFCA Board Meeting @ Alliance: June 18th, 5-5:30pm in GSA
Next Board Teleconference: July 7th, 10:30 AM MST

There being no further business to come before the meeting, the meeting was adjourned at 3:10 pm MST.

Respectfully submitted,
Jen Winans, Administrative Staff