



MONTANA CAREER FIRE CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION

President: Brent Christopherson
1st Vice President: Frank Odermann
2nd Vice President: Greg Megaard
Treasurer: Jason Manley
Secretary: Steve Hester

Meeting called to order on January 21, 2010 @ 1030 hours

In Attendance:

Brent Christopherson	Deputy Chief	Missoula Rural Fire Department
Frank Odermann	Assistant Chief	Billings Fire Department
Steve Hester	Assistant Chief	Great Falls Fire Rescue
John Bibler	Fire Chief	Frenchtown Fire Department
Derrick Rogers	Fire Chief	Miles City Fire Department
Randy McCamley	Fire Chief	Great Falls Fire Rescue
Jeff Miller	Fire Chief	Butte Fire Department
Dirk Johnson	Training Officer	Great Falls Fire Rescue
Greg Megaard	Deputy Chief	Bozeman Fire Department
Jason Diehl	Assistant Chief	Missoula City Fire Department
Paul Dextras	Fire Chief	Billings Fire Department
Curt Belts	Fire Chief	Missoula Rural Fire Department
Jason Shrauger	Fire Chief	Bozeman Fire Department
Dan Diehl	Fire Chief	Kalispell Fire Department
Tom Kennely	Fire Chief	Whitefish Fire Department
Bill Colwell	Assistant Chief	Missoula Rural Fire Department
Glenn Davis	Training Officer	Helena Fire Department
J.R. Feucht	Assistant Chief	Helena Fire Department

Visitors:

Tod Miller	Montana State Council of Professional Firefighters
Joel Fassbinder	Montana State Council of Professional Firefighters
Doug J. Lobaugh	Instructor MSU FSTS

MEETING MINUTES

1) Administrative Issues

- a) Meeting called to order by President Christopherson
- b) Pledge of Allegiance
- c) Role call
- d) Approved October 13, 2009 Minutes
 - i) Treasures Report – Manley Absent
 - ii) \$1,016.30 balance
 - iii) 2010 dues invoices sent out to membership and members were asked to solicit for additional members. Estimated that 3,500 will be reaped from membership fees.



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- 2) Tod Miller addressed the members providing support to the organization and providing information of the Council's current/future issues and goals.
 - a) He spoke about common goals and provided the following:
 - i) He discussed the impact to FIRS of the recent Mt supreme court decision that overthrew the minimum age requirement. There has been discussion that a two tiered system may return to keep the retirement system intact.
 - ii) He noted the need for a State Firefighter health presumption law that would address the occupational illnesses associated with firefighting.
 - iii) He noted that the council would be having a Spring seminar May 18/19 in Fairmont and that there would be another joint meeting with Chiefs and the council.
 - iv) Discussion was held regarding the exploration in giving Class I and II Cities the ability to form a Fire District. Tod Miller offered his assistance by providing the membership with recent legislation passed by the State of Washington to allow the formation of Regional Fire Authorities. This information shall be forwarded via email and may be on the next MCFCA agenda.
- 3) MT State Adoption of Residential Sprinkler System: Odermann provided an update regarding the state's adoption of the International Residential Code and Residential Sprinkler system. The following are some key points:
 - a) The Builders Associations will be fighting the adoption of the IRC
 - b) Fire officials must talk with local and county elected officials to dispel anecdotal information provided by organizations opposed to adopting the IRC
 - c) MCFCA may take the initiative to provide information to other organizations like:
 - i) MACO
 - ii) Montana League of Cities and Towns
 - iii) Annual Governor Disaster Preparedness Conference
 - d) **Motion** was made and seconded to establish the Residential Sprinkler System Ad Hoc Committee to coordinate opportunities to provide support to this process.
 - i) Membership passed the motion unanimously
 - ii) *The names of the members assigned was not recorded. Those who were volunteered or who volunteered contact Frank Odermann.*
- 4) Financial Planning Committee:
 - a) The financial planning committee has not had a chance to meet but the following ideas were offered by the membership:



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- i) Charge vendors to use the MCFCA web-site for advertising
 - ii) Sell items with the MCFCA logo
 - iii) License Plates
 - b) The committee were offered the use of the Tele-conference system to meet
- 5) Montana State Fire Chief's Association report:
- a) The next MSFCA meeting is scheduled in Bozeman (Station-3) February 19/20, 2010
 - b) MSFCA applied for a SAFER grant to be used for recruiting firefighters
 - c) It was agreed that there are many issues and goals that are common to both the MSFCA and MCFCA.
 - d) MSFCA has many question regarding the States Radio Interoperability Program. Several Counties, and Fire Departments have a lot of unanswered questions regarding this large program.
 - e) **Motion:** MCFCA shall organize an ad hoc committee to draft a letter asking these questions that will be sent to Montana's Radio Interoperability Program Manager. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved by the membership.
 - f) The following volunteered to be on the committee; D. Diehl, Christopherson, Miller, Shrauger, Logan, McCamley, & Colwell
 - g) The MSFCA was invited to work in collaboration to co-sign the letter with the MCFCA.
- 6) MCFCA Logo presentation:
- a) Two logos were presented to the membership for their consideration. A logo was selected and voted on. This logo that adorns the header of this report was the one selected by the membership.
 - b) D. Johnson will contact a Great Falls business to provide examples of this logo for embroidery and patches.
- 7) MCFCA Web-site:
- a) The Executive Board determined that a web-site was essential to the success of the organization and voted to approve a contract with Glenda Wallace to build and maintain the MCFCA web-site. Discussion was held regarding the format, use and up-keep of this important communication tool.
 - i) Domain: montanacareerchiefs.org was selected
 - ii) The membership wanted to ensure that the web-site was kept current.



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- b) Christopherson and McCamley will work with the web-master to setup the site. The deadline for the first draft is due Feb. 27, 2010.
- c) Odermann will email out the current drafts submitted by some people along with some guidance for writing mission statements (from Wikipedia)

8) MCFCA Fire Marshal's Forum:

- a) The number-one priority for the FMs is the IRC and residential sprinkler system adoption
- b) There were 7 departments represented at the meeting and the goal of the FMs is to have 100% representation from all the members of MCFCA.
- c) The FM's have drafted and reviewed their by-laws, which closely represent the bylaws of the MCFCA.
- d) The FM's requested \$300.00 to get started.
- e) **Motion:** Authorize the expenditure of \$300.00 to be paid as start up money to the FM's Seconded. There was discussion as to why the FMs needed their own bank account if they were a sub-committee to the Association. The motion passed unanimously.

9) MCFCA Mission Statement and Strategic Goals

- a) Members were provided with drafts of the MCFCA Mission Statement and Strategic Goals. Christopherson requested that the members provide critical feedback.
- b) Also, members are welcomed to introduce any other strategic goals and changes to the mission statement. Also, Christopherson thought that if anyone desired they could write a vision statement of MCFCA. Attached are guidelines for drafting mission and vision statements.
- c) One suggestion was to use some of the language already captured in the MCFCA bylaws.
- d) Submit suggestion to Hester no later then Feb 27, 2010.

10) New Business:

- a) Financial outlook and opportunities MCFCA
 - i) Dues will not be enough to sustain the MCFCA organization
 - ii) Other funding opportunities must be sought and procured
 - iii) Raffles were suggested
 - iv) Vendors being charged to use Website to advertise



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- b) Also, a discussion was held regarding changes in State legislation to help the funding of paid/professional fire services. Possibilities are local sales tax, developing Regional Fire Authority models being used elsewhere in the USA.
 - c) This discussion led to the realization that the professional fire service and in particularly the Fire Chiefs must do more to be heard at the state legislative level.
 - i) Having a lobbyist that represents Montana State Fire Chiefs could help keep legislators informed of the concerns and issues of the MCFCA and the communities the members have sworn to protect.
 - ii) Also recommended was that MCFCA should introduce a letter of introduction to the legislators to let them know of the organizations existence and mission.
 - d) **Motion**: To request volunteers to be assigned to the Legislative Committee for the purpose of gathering information and reporting the possibility of a MCFCA lobbyist to the membership. Discussion the Executive Board will serve as a point of contact for legislators until a lobbyist can be appointed. Motion seconded and passed unanimously.

11) Open Discussion:

- a) Helena shall have a Fire Officers I class, Point of Contact shall be Helena TO Glen Davis
 - i) This class is typically 2 weeks long but with the use of the internet and distance learning the time on site could be cut to one week.
- b) Helena plans to conduct a confined space rescue class, April 5 - 16, the cost is \$2,300 per student, if interested contact Glen Davis.
- c) Chief Larson asked (J.R. Feucht) if the group felt that the Montana Mutual Aid law was enough to request paid firefighters to assist Helena should a catastrophic fire occur in Helena's wildland urban interface areas.
 - i) The members of the association stated that if Chief Larson requested assistance it would be provided.

12) Meeting Adjourned 1634 hours;

- a) Next meeting: President Christopherson will send out dates and times for next meeting.