



# ***Professional Fire and Fraud Investigators Association***

## **Meeting of the Officers and Board of Directors**

### **I. Call to Order.**

A meeting of the Officers and Board of Directors of the Professional Fire and Fraud Investigators Association was held February 8, 2008 at the Holiday Inn Select, Columbia, MO. Pres. Mason called the meeting to order at 12:20 pm.

### **II. Roll call of the Officer and Board of Directors.**

Sec. Vanderhoof called the roll of the officers and board of directors. Present were Pres. Russ Mason, Vice Pres. Rob Wylie, Sec. Bruce Vanderhoof, Treas. Bill Zieres, State Fire Marshal Randy Cole, MACAP Chairman Chuck Conyers, Dir. Dave Miller, Dir. Bill Schoffstall, Dir. Tom Jaryno, and Dir. Keith Martin.

Also attending was Dep. Chief Kim Becker of the Division of Fire Safety.

### **III. Approval of the Minutes.**

- A. Pres. Mason called for any changes, corrections or additions to the minutes of the meeting of the Officers and Board of Directors held September 14, 2007 in Maryland Heights, MO. Being none, Vice Pres. Wylie moved to approve the minutes, Dir. Martin seconded, and the motion passed.
  
- B. Pres. Mason called for any changes, corrections or additions to the minutes of the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual General Membership meeting held September 17, 2007 in Maryland Heights, MO. Being none, Dir. Miller moved to approve the minutes, Vice Pres. Wylie seconded, and the motion passed.

### **IV. Financial Report.**

Treas. Zieres reported that beginning September 31, 2007 with a balance of \$18,002.25, having total income of \$23,090.84, and total expenses of \$18,365.27, the balance as of January 31, 2008 was \$22,727.83. The balance includes \$1,782.11 from a NASFM Juvenile Firesetters Grant.

Treas. Zieres also reported the Arson Reward Fund beginning January 30, 2006 with a balance of \$1,000.00, having a total income of \$3,101.50, total expenses of \$1,750.00, the balance as of January 31, 2008 was \$2,351.50.

Dir. Jaryno moved to approve the financial report, Dir. Martin seconded, and the motion passed.

### **V. Reports of the Officers.**

- A. Secretary – Sec. Vanderhoof had nothing to report.



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- B. Treasurer – Treas. Zieres had nothing to report.
- C. Vice President – Vice Pres. Wylie had nothing to report.
- D. President – Pres. Mason said the Department of Public Safety Advisory Committee was discussing several issues involving fire investigations. This is the beginning of open discussion that will assist with this area. Pres. Mason also said Peg Nusbaum is switching the format of the web page to include a chat room. This will be through Google. The membership will be notified when this is running. The new format will allow the membership to communicate with each other much easier.

The Board was addressed by Dave Hedrick, the director of the Missouri Fire and Rescue Training Institute. He gave some very impressive training numbers and the projected numbers for the Winter Fire School. He said he wanted the MFRTI to be a supporting agency with the Division and they are not trying to assume the total training activities for the State. He said funding for training was up and the number of courses is up for the coming year. The Board thanked Mr. Hedrick for stopping by.

#### **VI. Committee Reports.**

- A. Training – Dir. Miller said the Investigator Course was completed in December 2007 in Jefferson City and courses have been scheduled in February 2008 in Kansas City and April 2008 in Joplin. Dep. Chief Becker said she was very thankful to PFFIA for their support and assistance with the training courses and funding provided for these courses, as well as the on-going assistance with major issues in our field in the legislature.
- B. Legislative – State Fire Marshal Cole said two bills had been introduced that raised the statute of limitations on arson. The first was to get the correction made from the error last year to make the statute five years. Another bill makes the statute ten years, which matches the Federal guidelines. A bill has been introduced that addresses mutual aid liability immunity. The private investigator board most likely will not be seated until the funding questions are answered. Other bills are for fire safe cigarettes, a tax credit for firefighters, language for the blasting act, and a bill on line of duty death benefits.
- C. Membership – Sec. Vanderhoof said as of February 7, 2008, there were 10 life members and approximately 300 active members. There are several members being carried on the list from 2007 that have not renewed. Pres Mason asked Treas. Zieres to send the second notices and if we do not hear from those by the next meeting, we will drop them from the membership list.



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- D. Bylaws – There was nothing to report.
- E. MACAP – Chairman Conyers the current bylaws of the program limit rewards from the FAIR Plan for structure fires only. Donations received can be used for vehicle fires but prefer it be used for structure fires. The training course for the county prosecutors is almost ready for delivery. There was discussion on the manor in which to amend the bylaws and get the MACAP plan organized. Vice Pres. Wylie moved to have PFFIA fund the MACAP as a 501-3C Cooperation with the Secretary of State.
- F. Hansen Award – Treas. Zieres said no nominations have been received.
- G. Audit – No activity of the committee.
- H. Nominating – Pres. Mason will appoint a nominating committee at the next meeting. The positions open are President, Secretary, Dir. Fightmaster, and Dir. Martin.
- I. Conference – Pres. Mason said the attendance at the 2007 conference was the best in the past several years. With the problems with the hotel, and the cuts in their costs the Association required and got, the conference made money. Without these reductions, the conference lost money. The registration fee was discussed and it was discussed that the 2008 conference may stay the same, but an increase will be necessary in 2009.

Vice Pres. Wylie said a proposal from the Oasis Hotel and the Clarion Hotel in Springfield had been received. The Clarion has been our home for several years and has been pretty good to us. The age of the facility has been an issue. After discussion, it was decided to give the Oasis a try for the 2008 conference. The conference dates will be September 12<sup>th</sup> to September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Some scheduling of instructors and course materials need work. Suggestions were discussed for the available time slots and the field exercise. If anyone has any suggestions, get them to Dir. Medlin.

Pres. Mason directed Sec. Vanderhoof to check into the small padfolio that is debossed or screen printed for the registration gift. The cost is to be under \$10.00 per unit.

#### **VII. Unfinished Business.**

State Fire Marshal Cole said the Firefighter's Day is scheduled for April 9, 2008 in Jefferson City. Vice Pres. Wylie moved to support this event and the bar-b-q booth with a donation of \$500.00. Dir. Miller seconded, and the motion passed.



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### **VIII. New Business.**

Pres. Mason called for any new business. There was no new business presented.

### **IX. Adjournment.**

Being no further business brought before the Board, Dir. Miller called for the meeting to adjourn and Vice Pres. Wylie seconded. Pres. Mason adjourned the meeting of the Officers and Board of Directors at 1:30 pm.

### **X. Approval.**

A. Minutes approved by the Board of Directors on June 8, 2008.

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Secretary