

Membership Meeting Minutes - April 8, 2008

The Flame, Countryside

WELCOME/ INTRODUCTION/ ROLL CALL

Meeting called to order at 11:28 a.m.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Michael Figolah

Juvenile Fire Setter Intervention Programs: The IFSA has taken over B.E.A.R.S. and ICFIRES. A Strategic Planning seminar has already taken place. As a result of that seminar, an Advisory Board and Task Force will be established. Currently, a team is working on putting together criteria for the hiring of a coordinator as well as criteria for the program.

Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives: Mary Werderitch and I attended this forum in Washington D.C. last year. There are 16 initiatives to reduce injuries to firefighters and others; prevention is a big component. The Illinois Fire Chiefs Association has formed a Committee to address the initiatives. The Illinois Fire Safety Alliance is represented on that committee.

TREASURER'S REPORT - Jill Friedrichs

To date the total income is \$751,160.40 while the total expense is \$561,991.30. The net income of the Illinois Fire Safety Alliance is \$189,169.10. On the back of the profit and loss statement are the general and administrative expenses. With the Quickbook accounting program that we use, it is very easy to track income and expenses. A current look at what is happening within our organization financially: from January 2007 through March 2007 total donations were \$141,627.07, the bulk of which, \$127,214, were donations to Burn Camp. From January 2008 to March 2008 total donations were \$60,117.37 (\$40,372.37 to Burn Camp). When comparing 2008 to 2007, donations are down \$81,509.70. Dottie Ahbe made the motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, Paul Valentine seconded the motion. Verbal vote was taken and the report was approved unanimously.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT - Mary Werderitch

Fire Prevention Luncheon:

October 9, 2008 at Navy Pier, Chicago. Our keynote speaker will be Kim Phuc. Mrs. Phuc survived a napalm bomb attack in the Vietnam village of Trang Bang.

A Momentary Touch That Will Last A Lifetime/A Sparkler Story: The membership was encouraged to obtain a copy of this DVD if they don't already have one. It was suggested that they view it and then pass it on. The idea is to educate as many people as possible.

In A Flash Kiosk: A description of the kiosk was given as to it's purpose and mission. Call the office to receive information on how to reserve it.

Neighbor to Neighbor Showcase 2008: This event will be held on September 19th and 20th in Springfield. It will be a good opportunity to network with other public educators and receive outlines on best practices at a cost of only \$15 (registration fee). The Route 66 Hotel was chosen purposely to keep down costs to the departments sending personnel to attend.

Illinois State Fair: The State Fair will be August 15, 2008. The IFSA is looking for volunteers to man the Office of the State Fire Marshal tent at the fair. Groups such as C.E.R.T. or Explorer members, as well as individuals, are asked to contact the IFSA for more information.

Vision 20/20: The Institute of Fire Engineers US Branch was awarded a Fire Prevention and Safety Grant by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to develop a comprehensive national strategy for fire prevention. This is a project with the goal of helping to bring together fire prevention efforts and focus everyone's efforts collectively to effectively address the fire problem in the United States. Thirteen states participated in a web forum. We were given the task of identifying the top three priorities for Illinois. Here is what Illinois submitted:

- Engineering: Mandate residential sprinklers in all newly constructed or reconstructed homes.
- Enforcement: Require minimum state standards for state fire codes and minimum training for fire and building code officials.
- Education: Create a cultural change in the fire service by requiring public fire education as part of a firefighter's job description.

Survive Alive House Foundation: The Illinois Fire Safety Alliance is represented on the Survive Alive House Foundation in Chicago. Mary Werderitch was on the board as a Director for many years and currently serves as a Board Advisor. Jill Friedrichs is their Secretary and Dottie Ahbe serves as a Director. This is an important partnership since it serves our mission of fire safety and prevention education.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Burn Camp - Kathleen Haage: Camp will be held June 15th – 21st, and Visitor's Day will take place on Wednesday, June 18th. Kathy shared some background information about Burn Camp with members in attendance. Currently, the application process is now in progress for the campers. There are approximately 15 potential new campers identified. Several past campers are now back with us in counselor roles. Kathy asked that word be spread about Burn Camp whether it is volunteering, donating, or identifying campers.

Boot Day - Jill Friedrichs: The suggested Boot Day dates will be May 2nd and 3rd. Last Friday (April 4th), packets were sent to fire departments that have participated in past years. For departments that would like to conduct a Boot Day, please call the IFSA office for information.

and supplies. Boot Day and the Special Event License Plates are the only two fundraisers organized by the IFSA.

Special Events License Plates -

Maria Piszczor: To date 127 license plates have been ordered (118 are renewals and 8 are new requests). This year a new system is being implemented as the state will be mailing out the license plates. The donation amount is \$26.50.

Education - Dottie Ahbe:

GFUAFS CD - No report

Newspaper in Education - Sandy Mather, Chicago Sun-Times, reported that this will be the 9th year that the IFSA and Sun-Times have partnered with the five week program. Two weeks ago there was a camper special section in the newspaper in which the IFSA participated. This section is also on the Sun-Times web site now through September.

Bath Buddy Thermometers - Kathleen Haage: Quincy County has a program for new mothers and has asked the IFSA to partner with them. The IFSA has provided the program with a number of sample thermometers and at a future date will evaluate to see if there is a niche for this type of program within the IFSA.

NEW BUSINESS

- The Illinois Fire Inspectors Association has been working on legislation for the ban of novelty lighters. Randy Werderitch has put together a display of novelty lighters. Anyone wishing to use the display should call the IFSA office.
- Wayne Luecht Award: Last year there were no nominations for this award. Mary Werderitch reminded attendees that it is up to the membership to make nominations.
- Chief Figolah has been named “Chief of the Year” by the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association.
- Paula Rohrs has been given approximately \$20,000 worth of golf balls. Any group that is planning a golf outing and would like to include golf balls in the player package should see Paula. She asked that donations to the IFSA be made for the golf balls.

ELECTIONS

The nominating committee prepared the following Board of Directors slate for 2008-2009:

- Dottie Ahbe
- Barry Bennett
- Dave Dato (Ex-officio Director)
- Theresa Donoghue
- Michael Figolah
- Kathleen Haage

- Terry Pluta
- James Saletta.

Mike Figolah asked for nominations from the floor; there were none. Paula Rohrs made the motion to close the nominations. Larry Walsh seconded the motion. A verbal vote was taken and with a unanimous “yes” vote the nominations were closed.

Don Markowski made the motion to elect the Board of Directors under one ticket. Jan Yates seconded the motion. The slate was presented to the membership and by a verbal vote the slate was approved unanimously.

Mike Figolah announced to the membership his choices for Appointed Directors. They are Doug Goostree and Steve Guetschow.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Dottie Ahbe, seconded by Maria Piszczor. Motion approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill M. Friedrichs
Executive Administrative Assistant/Treasurer