

Fire Chiefs' & Fire Fighters' Association Of York County, Inc.

**330 Emig Road
York, PA 17406**



**Monthly Meeting
3rd Monday**

January 19, 2009

President Joe Yahnke called the annual meeting of the York County Fire Chiefs and Firefighters Association to order and led the pledge to the flag. 86 people were in attendance. President Yahnke gave a round of applause for the women at the Hellam Fire Company who prepared the meal. Orvin Craley, Vice President from Hellam Fire Company gave the welcoming address. President Yahnke thanked him and the Fire Company for a great meal.

A motion was made to have the January 2010 Annual meeting at Hellam (Sta. 21) Fire Company. 1st: Commissioner Roth 2nd: Kris Krichen Motion Passed

President Joe Yahnke asked for a motion to approve the minutes as published. 1st: Chief Shank 2nd: Ryan Brenneman Motion Passed

Treasurer Bob Bowman presented the balances of the treasurer's report.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: The names already on the ballot:

President: Richard Shank
Vice President: Steve Buffington & Brad Dunum
Secretary: John Fornadel
Treasurer: Bob Bowman
Board of Governor's (1): Barry Myers & Mark Albright

The following positions were opened for nominations from the floor.

President: Motion to close 1st: Chief Stevens 2nd: Chris Krichen Motion closed
Vice President: Motion to close 1st: Kerry Herman 2nd: Ryan Brenneman Motion closed
Secretary: Motion to close 1st: Kerry Herman 2nd: Ryan Brenneman Motion closed
Treasurer: Motion to close 1st: Chief Shank 2nd: Kerry Herman Motion closed
Board of Governors: Motion to close 1st: Ryan Brenneman 2nd: Kerry Herman Motion closed

BOARD OF GOVERNORS: Chief John Senft: The Board met this evening. Financial issues were discussed. There has been an increase in funding from the County Commissioners. For the Distribution of funds from Sen. Mike Waugh's office has been approved, but the funds have not been released. There is no time frame. The policy of Operations on burn building is still being reviewed.

COMMUNICATIONS: Shank: There is not too much to report. We had a project meeting. They continue to work on issues. Police portables are working better, but the radios are worse.

911: Eric Bistline or Cindy Deitz: No Report

FIRE SCHOOL: Carl Avery, Program Coordinator, submitted the following report.

Activity:

- ☛ For the month of December, the Fire School hosted 21 events, which accounted for 96 hours of activity. This resulted in 1,360 Student hours.
- ☛ For the year 2008, the Fire School has accumulated 2,601 hours of use, hosting 546 events. We accounted for approximately 34,037 student hours, with an average of 2,836.4 student hours per month.

Stricter Standards in 2009:

- ☛ Bucks Community College has announced it will be strictly following its standards of attendance at courses. **THE MINIMUM OF 15 for MOST CLASSES MUST BE ADHERED TOO!** If we fail to have enough Students pre-registered 10 days prior to a class, it will be canceled.
 - Classes involving LIVE FIRE TRAINING must have a MINIMUM of 20 to run – This means, for example, If and ELIF (Entry Level – Interior Firefighter) class has a roster of less than 20, but more than 15 it will run but will conclude with a skills day instead of a live fire. Classes such as Structural Burn Session (SBS) and SBS refreshers MUST have a minimum of 20 students.
 - Since this is a Safety Issue, Payment to the college in lieu of enrollment is not an option
 - If you are scheduling a SBS refresher for company / departmental training, you may want to contact your neighboring departments to make sure you attain the minimums
 - Payment in lieu of enrollment, The College does have a formula for payment in lieu of enrollment it is as follows
 - Classes up to 6 hours, \$20.00 per student under the minimum
 - Courses over 6 hours, \$50.00 per student under the minimum

The question then becomes who is responsible for that payment? Presently, the Fire School does not have this item in its budget. As the course requestor, we would either have to cancel the course or make the payment to the college
 - Also, if we pre-register 15 or more students for a class and Students do not attend class, dropping the attendance below 15 the class will have to be canceled and the **Fire School** will be responsible for paying for the instructor's time and expense.
 - The Fire School will ask the Fire School Committee to review these stricter standards and their impact on the courses taught for ideas as to how we can best assure training opportunities to our consumers while maintaining fiscal responsibility

The ENTRY LEVEL Program:

- ☛ The Spring Series of the Entry Level Programs (ELIS, ELFG, ELEF) is currently **FULL**. We are still accepting pre-registrations **ON A STAND-BY BASIS**. *(This means, if for any reason a student who was preregistered does not show up for the first day of class – for any reason, there spot will be filled by somebody on the stand-by list and is present).*
- ☛ The ELIS Class started on January 11 with a full roster. We are in contact with Fire Instructor Tony Myers, who has offered to run another ELIS Class to accommodate the overflow of students. **As soon as I have his available dates, we will get that information out to you.**
- ☛ The fourth segment of our Spring Entry Level Series, Entry Level Interior Firefighter is scheduled to begin on May 30th; we anticipate this class filling rapidly.
- ☛ **REMEMBER, the ENTRY LEVEL PROGRAM is a series of 4 courses; the ELIS (Introduction to the Fire Service) course is a prerequisite for Fire Ground Support which is a pre-requisite for Exterior fire fighter which is prerequisite for Interior Fire Fighter.**
- ☛ **Each of these classes is a stand alone Course and may be taken at anytime – If you have any questions about this, please call the Fire School.**

New Classes Scheduled:

- ☛ **ALSO IN THE WORKS:**
 - We are working with the State Fire Academy to bring the "**National Fire Fighter Near-Miss Reporting System**" program to our York County Fire School. This is a new program that is operating under a grant (not affected by State Budget issues) and is administered by our State Fire Academy. The goal of this program is to help reduce Line of Duty Deaths and Line of Duty Injuries in the Commonwealth. This four hour program is **scheduled** for February 28, 2009 09:00 to 13:00 – **Please watch the School's website www.YorkCountyFireSchool.org** for further information.
 - **An 8 hour class on Railroad Emergencies (in 2009)**
 - **Fire Officer 1** *(Due to State Budget issues this WILL NOT BE AOTR. We will be looking at either BUCKS or HACC to bring this to us in the fall.)*

Current and Future Schedule:

- ☛ The 2009 schedule is available online at our web site www.YorkCountyFireSchool.org , just click on the **Click Here to See Available Classes** link on the home page.
- ☛ The 2009 Schedule has been published. **We are constantly updating it.** Watch your department / company **Mailings for Updates and New Classes**. We will also **update our Website with new additions (including 2009) as they come along.**
- ☛ One of the classes we are working on is a two day course from SafeIR. It is titled Tactical Thermal Imaging Training for Firefighters. This well respected company (they have presented at FDIC; some members from local departments have attended their presentations and speak highly of them). The class would be product specific to MSA Thermal Imaging Cameras (this company is recognized by MSA to present this training). The cost for this course is \$3,000.00. Your Fire School

is working on grants to fund this program. – This Class and the efforts to bring it here to you in York County are the direct result of an e-mail requesting some additional training in Thermal Imaging.

Burn Building:

- ☛ SCHEDULING THE NEW BUILDING: The Fire School Committee is scheduled to present its proposed new “Use Policy” for the Structural Burn Building at tonight’s Board Meeting. As soon as a policy has been adopted, we will start to consider scheduling the building for Live Fire Training. NON-LIVE fire training that uses the SBB is being scheduled now.

Tony Myers addressed the Association Chiefs to see if week-end or evenings were better for their members who need to attend the Entry Level Introduction to the Fire Service. It was expressed that week-ends would work better for most people.

YORK COUNTY ATR: Ice Rescue training was just completed. Trench Rescue training will be held the first week-end in May.

OEM: Tom Graybill: No Report

HAZ-MAT TEAM: Bob Boeckel: There were 65 calls last year. Of those 65, 27 were for Duty Officer only. He expressed to the Chiefs’ Association, if you think you are in over your head with a Haz-Mat, call them. Call early, for it takes some time to get to 911, and to have a crew ready. If you are on a structure fire, and you are afraid of the run-off issue, call them. Don’t wait till the 4th or 5th alarms, when the team then has to play catch-up. He also advised the Haz-Mat Team is there to assist you, not to take over control of your call. That means at least the Duty Officer and/or 1 piece of equipment should remain on scene till the call is over.

FIRE POLICE: James Robertson: No Report

RESCUE SPECS: There was only 1 inquiry since the last meeting. A motion was made to stay with county specs.
1. Barry Myers 2. Ryan Brenneman Motion not passed
A motion was made to go with Pennsylvania State Voluntary Rescue Service Recognition Program. 1st: Chris Krichten 2nd: Chief Shank. Motion Passed

RIT COMMITTEE: The committee has not met in several months.

FIRE SCHOOL COMMITTEE: Tony Myers: Progress is being made.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: No Business

NEW BUSINESS: A motion was made to pay the bills. 1st: Chief Shank 2nd: Barry Myers Motion Passed

Election of Officers Results:

- President: Richard Shank
- Vice President: Steve Buffington
- Secretary: John Fornadel
- Treasurer: Bob Bowman
- Board of Governors: Barry Myers

President Yahnke asked that any new Chiefs to introduce themselves and from which department. Several of the new chiefs include: Warren Krout (Sta. 12) North Codorus Twp., Assistant Bryan Thomas (Sta. 12) North Codorus Twp., and Kurt Holloway (sta. 58) New Freedom, Robert Odenwalt (Sta. 60) Lake Clarke and Assistant Eric Oberdorff (Sta. 60) Lake Clarke.

REMARKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION:

Chief Senft thanked President Yahnke for stepping up the last 6 months.

A thank you goes to Chief Stevens for the mugs that everyone is receiving this evening.

A long discussion was held regarding the emergency button on the portable radios. There are two options.

- ☛ The first option would be to have a 911 Supervisor hear and record the Mayday. Then the 911 Supervisor will relay that Mayday information to the Duty/Command Officer.
- ☛ The second option is to have the Fire Department Mayday alert be on every console in 911. The Mayday would then be located in Channel 16 on the portable radios.

It was asked to be looked into seeing if the emergency button could be set up with both options.

A motion was made to table the decision until next month. 1st: Chief Steven 2nd: Tim Mooney Motion not voted upon

A motion was made to rescind the decision to table the emergency button vote until next month. 1st: Chief Stevens 2nd: Tim Mooney Motion passed

A motion was made to have County Control set up the emergency button that when the emergency button is pushed, everyone on scene, including the Duty/Command Officer, hears the Mayday on the same talk group. It will **not** kick them off the current talk group and the message will **not** be relayed from the dispatcher to the Duty/Command Officer. 1st: Rodney Miller 2nd: Bob Sells Motion Passed

A motion was made to have 911 change the Lid I.D. numbers on the portable radios to show functioning designated pieces of apparatus. (Examples: Engine 1-2, Chief 10, etc.) 1st: Tony Myers 2nd: Tim Mooney Motion Passed

A motion was made to advise 911 that Fire Consoles should carry fire channels only, not Police and EMS. 1st: Tony Myers 2nd: Kurt Holloway Motion Passed

It was asked if Stat MedEvac or Life Lion have any way of communicating with the Chief Officers while landing at an emergency scene. Chief Shank stated that he will look into it.

Next monthly meeting is scheduled for 7:30 pm on Monday, February 16th, 2009, at the Fire School.

Motion was made by Bob Bowman to adjourn the meeting. 2nd: Chief Shank Motion Passed

Sincerely,

Heather Marsteller

Heather Marsteller
Recording Secretary