

# Fire Chiefs & Fire Fighters Association of York County, Inc.

P. O. BOX 106  
330 EMIG ROAD  
EMIGSVILLE, PA 17318



MONTHLY MEETING  
THIRD MONDAY

July 20, 2004

President Skip Rupert called the quarterly meeting of the York County Fire Chiefs and Firefighters Association to order. Forty-six members were in attendance. The meeting was held at Airville Fire Company. Chief Wayne Stokes gave the welcoming address. Chief Tony Myers gave the response.

Bob Grunmeier from Bucks County Community College introduced his staff and went over training opportunities presented by the college. He asked what the association needed and wanted to see in the way of training classes. The currently college offers State Fire Academy programs, custom programs, and drill maintenance courses (3 hrs. long). They have also offered to help the Fire School out with mailings to advertise courses.

## **Roll call was taken.**

Minutes of the previous meeting were then approved as published. Bob Bowman presented the treasurer's report. There was a motion by Chief Mike Miller seconded by Chief Wolfgang to accept the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

**BOARD OF GOVERNORS:** Chairman John Senft reported meeting with the Executive Committee prior to the meeting. The following items were discussed:

- Approved Upgrades
  - Computer System
  - Alarm System
- Fire Police Certification
- AED acquisition
- Employment contracts for new employees at the school

**COMMUNICATIONS:** None

**RADIO COMMITTEE:** Chairman Rob Bissey reported that the committee did not meet this month. Next month's meeting will be on Thursday August 12<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at the 911 Center.

**911:** Bob Fasick reported:

- Radio surveys are being sent out to municipal officials via the County Commissioners. The surveys will be addressed to the municipal managers. There will be four questions on the survey. How many pagers, mobiles, portables, and base stations are there in use for each Fire Station, EMS organization, EMA, Police, and Public Works Department that resides within the boundary of their municipality. Funding is tied to the survey being returned.

Audrey Rychalsky reported:

- Harford County will be setting off the Peach Bottom Siren for adverse weather. They will be notifying us when they do so. If you have questions when a siren is sounding contact the shift supervisor.
- The tiered lights are in and will be installed in the center over the next two weeks.
- Thank you to everyone who participated in the presidential visit.

## **FIRE SCHOOL: Carl Avery Reports:**

The Summer Day time Essentials Class and Daytime Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) Class continues to make the Fire School a very busy place. On Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays we have more than 40 students using our facility. Again this month our facility usage hours are up. For the month of June our facility was used for Classes and meetings for a total of 246 Hours. In July our facility is scheduled to be used a total of 264 hours. We do anticipate a drop in hourly usage in August, as both the daytime Essentials Class and the EMT will come to a close.

As of the 31st of July, our facility will have been used for over 1100 hours of education and meetings of emergency service providers for York County. As of the date of this report the Fire School has had over 680 students since January of this Year. These are impressive numbers, no doubt, but we still have problems filling all of our Courses. A good example of this was the July 10, 2004 Pump Operators II Course. Fourteen Persons had pre-registered for the class. On class day though, only 7 students were here. The Instructor wisely cancelled class. We have scheduled a make up class for the cancelled class on August 8<sup>th</sup> and August 29<sup>th</sup>. The pre-registration so far has been weak for that. The Fire School will continue to do it's best to offer classes to all of the fire fighters of York County, but we cannot make you attend. We need the support of the Firefighters of York County to be truly successful.

We have started work on updating our web sight ([www.yorkcountyyfireschool.org](http://www.yorkcountyyfireschool.org)) and will continue to work on that in the coming months. We are also continuing to develop and expand our e-mail list to distribute information to the all the companies in our area in a timely fashion. We have increased our use of the post office too, all in an effort to get the word out to potential students. Also today, your fire school staff will be meeting with representatives from Bucks County Community College to see what ways we can work together to improve attendance. Next week, your fire school program coordinator will be meeting with representatives from HACC and surrounding Counties to see if there is a way we can network our class offerings to further enhance the possibilities of successful classes on all levels.

Not only is the school busy with classes and working on informing the fire service of available class, we have been hard at work with maintenance and facility improvement projects. We have been engaged activities as varied as Debris removal (from classes and recent projects) to painting our Silo in the technical rescue area to installing new and much improved lighting on the training grounds and in the class rooms. All of this has gone on while we still address all the day-to-day chores of maintaining a 12-acre facility. Things are happening at YOUR FIRE SCHOOL.

### Coming Events:

- Basic Vehicle Rescue-Operations, July 24 & 25 Instructor: Baker \*, (0800-1700)
- Basic Vehicle Rescue, Technicians, July 31 & Aug 1 Instructor: Nichols\*, (0800-1700)

\* - The Basic Vehicle Rescue Classes are part of a series and there are perquisites for taking both of these (Operations and Technicians) classes.

The current scheduling of these two courses reflects a change from what was originally posted on our original calendar.

- Fire Ground Operations, Module C, August 3 & 5 (1830-2230), August 8, 15 & 16 (0800 – 1700) Instructor: HACC
- Pump Operations II, August 8 and August 29<sup>th</sup>, Instructor Lane, (0800-1700)
- Education Methodology for the Local Level instructor: August 7 & 8, Sept 19, October 31 and November 6, Instructor Baker, (0800-1700)
- Haz-Mat First Responder IAFF (Operations), August 10-26 (Tue & Thur) Instructor Lane, (1830-2230)
- Confined Space Rescue, September 4 &5, Instructor Lane (0800-1700)
- Wilderness Search and Rescue, Search Responded, September 11 & 12, (0800-1700)
- Challenge the Future, Extrication 2004, October 9 & 10 Instructor Dalrymple and others
- Fire Fighter I test, November 20, administered by HACC

Projects:

1. Attached to this report are 2 bids regarding computer up grades required to have our school operate at the efficiency that is appropriate for our operational needs. This is basically a workstation for the office assistant and appropriate peripherals to support that person's work.
2. Earlier this year I was asked to get a proposal regarding upgrading our alarm system. I have a proposal from Sheffer's Alarm Service, I am submitting to the Board of Governors tonight (see attached)
3. Chairman of the Board Senft reports he is making progress with obtaining AEDs for the school, The School has made some initial contacts with positive results regarding medical supervision. As this is a combined setting where School Staff and the Public (none staff) would have access to the equipment final details are as of yet to be resolved. We have also received an anonymous donation of 2 EMS "jump bags" which will be refreshed and placed in service on the school grounds in case of emergency
4. We have received the New Smoke Machine as a replacement for the one that was beyond repair.
5. We are still awaiting further developments in last month's reported opportunity to obtain a MSA Thermal Imaging Camera [TIC] (the Evolution 4000 model). The unit is approximately 2 years old and is equipped with the Quick Temp Option and will include 110 volts AC Charger. The cost to the school would be approximately \$4500.00. The School feels that it is important to the future that Firefighters of York County have an opportunity to train with up to date equipment and techniques. As such, the Fire School strongly recommends we consider pursuing an opportunity to obtain this or another TIC to upgrade our training
6. The York County E.M.S. Training Institute has provided us with a LCD Projector; this is a most welcome asset to our facility. It is time though that we conduct a thorough review and up grade of our Audio Visual Equipment. This is a key component to virtually every class and several of the meetings that we have here. I do not have a specific proposal at this time. I am requesting the Board of Governors input as how to proceed they would like to proceed.

Other:

The Fire School is pleased to announce the Ms Catherine Litsikas our Student Extern from York Technical Institute has accepted the Board of Governor's offer of employment. Cathy has been a very willing and most competent addition to our team. Her skills and dedication will continue to prove valuable to the operation of the school. Her efforts in the area areas of filing, communications and organization have really upgraded our operation. We are looking forward to her start date of August 30<sup>th</sup> and her 16 hours per week schedule

Bern Anthony reported that the certificates for the Structural Burn Class are in and ready to be picked up.

**YORK COUNTY ATR:** Tony Myers reported:

- Thirty members Stood by for the Presidential Detail.
- Swift Water Rescue Re-certification coming up.
- Trench Rescue Weekend will be the third weekend in September.
- Contact Chief Myers or any other member of the ATR Team if your department would like a presentation done.

**EMA:** Tom Graybill reported on the following:

- Hazmat – 5 calls for the quarter and 8 calls for the year.
- New Hazmat Guideline with new criteria has been completed and is ready to go in effect.
- Verbal agreement is in place with Harford County for Hazmat services. Baltimore County has not responded to several requests. Initial contact has been made with Carroll County Maryland on behalf of Hanover and Penn Fire Departments.
- Bernadette Higgins is the new planner/trainer in the EMA Office. She is also the PIO for the Department of Emergency Services.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** President Rupert called for Chief Haller with the new Funeral Policy. Chief Haller not present. Bob Bowman reported the lighting at the school has been paid for. Carl Avery said that Chief Cromer did an outstanding job with the lighting project. Motion made by Chief Shank to pay the bills seconded by Chief Tony Myers. Motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Chief Shank brought the topic of Fire Police Channels up for discussion. He asked about getting the second and third frequencies. Discussion was also held on Fire Police Certification. Cindy Dietz advised that the County did not own the second and third frequencies for fire police and could not give permission for their use, they were owned by the Fire Police Association. President Rupert is to be meeting with the president of the Fire Police Association to discuss the Fire Police Certification issue.

**GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION:**

- Chief Senft advised there would not be a Board of Governors Meeting this month. If you have any issues email them to one of the BOG members.
- Commissioner Roth asked if York County received a portion of the \$70 million from the Commonwealth? Tom Graybill said he could not answer that since he has been removed from that job. Chief Senft asked if the Association could get a report on this next month.
- President Rupert advised that he and the Vice President would both be out of town next month and Chief Senft will run the meeting.
- Chief Schmidt asked if anyone had any information about a new search and rescue team forming in Northern York County. No one had heard anything.
- Chief Schmidt said that Glen Rock Fire Company is raffling a 24-volt Sawzall to benefit their juniors in the Extrication Competition in Bethlehem.
- President Rupert said the Shrewsbury Carnival would run from August 2<sup>nd</sup> through August 7<sup>th</sup>. The parade will be on the 7<sup>th</sup>.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

The following stations still owe dues for 2003/2004 – DDSP-LF.

Next meeting scheduled for 7:30 pm on Monday, August 16, 2004 at the Fire School. It will be the "Show your New Apparatus Meeting" Dave Huffnagle will be providing refreshments.

Sincerely,

Cindy A. Dietz  
Secretary