

**South Carolina Fire Academy
Advisory Committee Quarterly Meeting
Meeting Minutes – January 13, 2010**

Members Present: Will Vaigneur, Bruce Burding, Phil Elliott, Chris Nunnery, Karl Ristow, Alan Sistare, Jim Still

Members Absent: Bill Addis, Bryan Beason, John L Melton, Joel Rogers, Art Sattler, Mitch Trammel, Shannon Tanner

Alternates Present: Skip Hannon, Dixon Odom, Wesley Williams

Non-Voting Members Present: Joe Palmer, John Reich and Ed Roper

Visitors Present: Ashley Boltin, Cindy Brazell, Russ Friar, Phillip Russell

Chairman Vaigneur called the meeting to order. Ed Roper advised that a quorum was present.

Chairman Vaigneur asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the October meeting. Karl Ristow made a motion and Alan Sistare seconded. Discussion: none. The motion was passed unanimously.

Chairman Vaigneur asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the December special meeting. Chris Nunnery made a motion and Jim Still seconded. Discussion: none. The motion was passed unanimously.

Chairman Vaigneur asked for reports from the subcommittees:

Subcommittee reports

Firefighter Standards --- Jim Still

A – Physicals -- Still asked the committee for clarification on which OSHA physical requirements the committee wanted to use. OSHA 156, 120 or 134? How do we explain to the fire dept what is an OSHA physical? What guide do we use? After some discussion, a phone call was made to Greenville Fitness, a company that does many of local fire department yearly physicals. This company stated the following differences in the three OSHA physicals:

- 1 – 1910.156 – structural fire fighter (heart disease, emphysema and epilepsy)
- 2 – 1910.120 – hazmat
- 3 – 1910.134 – air pack regulations

From a financial standpoint, most departments rely on the stress test to detect signs of heart disease. Others also questioned how to deal with firefighters who have diabetes.

B – Grandfathering – Still stated we should pick a cutoff date for grandfathering and move on. Grandfathering and equivalency will affect both subcommittees (firefighters and officers). There was much discussion over which body is the “jurisdiction having authority”. Some felt that we would need a legislative act to give the Advisory committee the “jurisdiction have authority”. Others disagreed and noted that the Joint council recognizes that the advisory committee has the knowledge to issue the authority.

Others stated that the authority have jurisdiction is the local fire chief.

C – Statistics. Palmer gave statistics for 2008 (276 departments reporting) as follows:

FFI – 5181

FFII – 4835

1152 – 7000

15,040 firefighters reported. 221 fire departments require the SCFA 1152 course as a minimum training level.

D – Also need the fee cost for various background checks (SLED and National Registry).

Fire Officer Standards – Chris Nunnery

Nunnery stated the following as prioritized issues:

A – Grandfathering – timelines and implementation

B – Equivalency – time, documented fundamentals of training

C – Legislative funding

The demand will be high and may be overwhelming. There may be some backlash concerning the requirements for volunteer fire chiefs. (Fire Officer I, II, III, and IIII). This will be a roadblock for officers.

Much more discussion was held to include requiring Fire Instructor as a requirement to be a Fire Officer. Also discussed was the need to develop an in-house, non-IFSAC instructor program.

The next step should be data collection. Grandfathering will be a big issue and we should look at what other states have done.

Old Business

None

New Business

Nunnery stated that we need to get back to a facilities committee. Chairman Vaigneur stated that he is looking to re-appoint the sub committees at the next meeting.

Announcements

1 – Lavarn Lucas – resigning as an alternate from this committee due to time constraints.

2 – Skip Hannon – the annual Instructor conference is in Feb. A brochure will be mailed out.

3 – Safety and Health weekend – Jan. 22-23.

4 – Russ Friar – reviewed a couple of items in the curriculum report.

1 – Looking to cut the 7-day fire officer I course back to 5 days, but the students will still have assignments due prior to start date of class.

2 – We have been offered the opportunity to pilot a Fire Officer I course via e-mail. This is a start to alternative means of delivery for SCFA.

Adjourn

The next quarterly committee meeting is scheduled for April 14, 2010 at 10 a.m.

With no other business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectively submitted,

Ed Roper
Recording Secretary