

**South Carolina Fire Academy
Advisory Committee Quarterly Meeting
Meeting Minutes – July 9, 2008**

Members Present: Jonathan Jones, Lavarn Lucas, Fred Brandt, Phil Elliott, Brian Horton, Dixon Odom, Karl Ristow, Art Sattler, Alan Sistare, Jim Still, Bill Streuber, Mike Wirt

Members Absent: Eddie Turner,

Alternates Present: Bruce Burding and Skip Hannon,

Non-Voting Members Present: John Reich and Ed Roper

Visitors Present: Phillip Russell, Cindy Brazell, J Strohecker and Russ Friar

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

Chairman Jones asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the March meeting. Art Sattler made a motion and Alan Sistare seconded. Discussion: none. The motion was passed unanimously.

Chairman Jones asked for reports from the different associations:

SC Firefighters Association – Jonathan Jones

Jones stated that the association has a new director, Joe Palmer, former chief of Newberry FD. Jones talked about the upcoming annual conference and praised the Fire Academy for its support of the conference.

SC Fire Chiefs Association – Alan Sistare

The next quarterly meeting will be during the annual conference. The association is planning its annual conference in October at Myrtle Beach.

SC Fire Marshal Association – Phil Elliott

Spring conference in June went well and plans are being made for the fall conference.

Public Education Association – No representative

Industrial Representative – Mike Wirt

Next meeting will be Oct. 16.

Professional Firefighters – Fred Brandt

No report.

SC Arson Association – Brian Horton

Horton stated that the law was passed as of July 1, 2008. He thanked everyone for assistance with the law. Next quarterly meeting and training will be Sept. 4. The annual conference will be held in October.

Higher Education – Karl Ristow

Ristow stated that Greenville Tech is going online with an associate program this fall.

SC Society of Fire Service Instructors – Art Sattler

The quarterly meeting will be held during the annual conference next week.

Standing committee reports

Curriculum – Bill Streuber

The four goals discussed at the committee's meeting to focus on are: dual path testing, course lengths, the number of times a student can challenge an exam, and charging fees for challenge testing.

Facilities – No representative

Finance – Dixon Odom

Deferred to Ed Roper's report.

Superintendent's Report – Ed Roper

Roper stated that the Fire Academy has had a good year thanks to the part-time instructors who stepped up and helped carry the load.

Roper also noted that the state travel reimbursement has gone up to 50.5 cents per mile.

Roper reviewed the finance report. The building project for the new US&R building is coming along and will be under budget. The new burn building is almost complete. Roper reviewed the regional training report noting the additional training provided for the City of Charleston this year.

Roper stated that the Fire Academy is trying to get some new FTE's (full time employee) positions.

Roper stated that the Fire Academy is embracing a zero tolerance policy for alcohol for recruit school students.

John Reich noted that we are getting an eight-passenger plane to use as a prop for training.

Curriculum Report – Russ Friar

Friar handed out and reviewed the curriculum report. There was discussion about the value of dual path testing and course lengths. J Strohecker reviewed the components of the new essentials update.

Friar stated that the Fire Academy had over 100 students enrolled for the NFA state weekend. The Fire Academy was offering bus transportation this year and seating would be available until July 31.

Resident Training – Phillip Russell

Russell handed out and reviewed the resident training report.

Old Business

Jim Still asked who sets the guidelines for oral testing. Friar responded that the Fire Academy follows the IFSAC guideline.

New Business

Agenda items for FY09

Jones noted several areas he would like for this committee to focus on next year: delivery, testing procedures, more full-time employees. Jones noted the facilities and finance subcommittees don't have much to do, so he would like to suspend those committees this year and reassign members to other areas. The curriculum sub-committee is still very busy.

Jones stated input is needed from fire departments on how the Fire Academy can improve. He stated that the Fire Academy needs to look 5-10 years down the road on how technology can further assist with delivery of courses. He said the Fire Academy should think about in-service programs and weekly podcasts?

Adjourn

The next quarterly committee meeting is scheduled for Oct. 8, 2008, at 10 a.m.

With no other business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectively submitted,

Ed Roper
Recording Secretary