

**South Carolina Fire Academy
Advisory Committee Quarterly Meeting
Meeting Minutes – April 25, 2007**

Members Present: Bruce Kline, Jonathan Jones, Phil Elliott, Lavarn Lucas, Dixon Odom, Karl Ristow, Lee Safley, Alan Sistare, Eddie Turner

Alternates Present: Bruce Burding, Skip Hannon

Non-Voting Members Present: John Reich and Ed Roper

Visitors Present: James Still, Mike Wirt, Vance Lackey, Billy Roberts, Phillip Russell, Cindy Brazell and Russ Friar

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

Chairman Kline asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the January meeting. Karl Ristow made a motion, Alan Sistare second. Discussion: none. All in favor of accepting the minutes. None opposed. The motion passed.

Chairman Kline asked for reports from the different associations:

SC Arson Association – no representative

SC Fire Chiefs Association – Alan Sistare

Announced that Tim Cobb will be the new alternate to this committee.

SC Fire Marshal Association – Phil Elliott

Announced the upcoming annual conference June 4-8.

Public Education Association – no representative

Industrial Representative – Lee Safley

Safley introduce Mike Wirt who will be acting as the new primary for this association starting in July. Safley gave some personal comments to the committee expressing how privileged he has been to be associated with the fire service, the Fire Academy and members of this committee.

Professional Firefighters – Bruce Burding

No report.

Higher Education – Karl Ristow

Working with Trident Tech to complete a template of Greenville Tech to bring that system to the low country. The NFA is about to require (2009) a 4-year degree to attend the Executive Fire Officer program. We need to push firefighters to get an education to move forward so they will be ready. The Center for Fire Service Excellence has worked a deal with professional fire engineers to allow reciprocity for International Chief Fire Officer.

SC Society of Fire Service Instructors – Skip Hannon

The annual conference was held in February and was well attended. He thanked Russ Friar and J Strohecker for a job well done.

Standing committee reports

Curriculum – Jonathan Jones

Stated that this committee will meet later that day to discuss and review last year's goals. They plan to have a full report available for the July conference.

Facilities – Eddie Turner

Ed Roper reported that the plans and specifications for the new fire station have been submitted to the State Engineers Office. The burn building has been submitted as a RFP.

Billy Roberts reported about the coming of age of the academy and the general repairs needed (roofing, sewer, etc.). Much effort was put into redoing the Firefighter Memorial. Special thanks to Lancaster FD and Irmo FD for their help. Jerry Williams was a big help with the bricks. Two of the flag poles have been shortened so that the American flag will stand higher.

Finance – no representative

Roper presented the finance report. Roper noted that financially we are doing well. Our projected .35% money is \$2.45 million.

Roper announced that the academy is raising fees on our meals and dorms as follows: Breakfast -- \$5, Lunch -- \$6, Dorms – double room -- \$15, single room -- \$30. We are not raising our course fees.

Our industrial revenue is down from last year. We are not losing our customers, but doing fewer classes.

Roper stated that we are still having a problem with fire departments not paying their bills.

A motion was made by Eddie Turner to support 100% no training to fire departments whose bill is not paid within the Fire Academy policy of 180 days. Skip Hannon made a second to this motion. There was no further discussion. None opposed. The motion passed.

Superintendent's Report – Ed Roper

Roper distributed a handout for a new program at the fire academy, Fire fighter Explorer Training program for teenagers, 16-17 years of age. This program is only good for our 1152 course. Vance Lackey, representative for the Boy Scouts of America spoke about the program in detail for the committee.

This program is for boy and girls between the ages of 16 and 17. This is a good recruitment tool and each program is self reliant. The explorer program is licensed to the fire departments and the fire departments need to be clear of what they and can and cannot do. More information can be found on website www.learningforlife.com . The instructors will be Fire Academy instructors. The academy will have a separate registration form for this program where the medical waiver is specific and parent or

guardian signature is required. Course fee will be the same as would charge a fire department.

A motion was made by Lavarn Lucas that the committee supports this program as outlined by. The motion was seconded by Karl Ristow. Discussion included of hopes that this does not close the door on further training beyond 1152 and will open up to other classes in the future. Kline stated that this has been a long process and feels that this should have come thru this committee first so that we could research, review and prepare so to advise our individual associations. None opposed. The motion was approved.

After this motion was passed discussion continued concerning this topic including such ideas as creating a list of firefighter duties to send out with the program to the fire chiefs to be used as a guideline. It was also noted that all we have done is open the door to 16-17 year olds and we need to be careful about putting limits on fire chiefs. Fire chiefs need to review and understand the child labor laws.

Russ Friar printed a handout from the Boy Scouts of America website and gave to everyone.

Organizational report

Roper handed out and reviewed a current organization chart.

Regional Report

Roper handed out and reviewed the regional report thru March.

Curriculum Report – Russ Friar

Friar presented and reviewed the Curriculum Report.

Resident Training – Phillip Russell

Russell presented and reviewed Resident Training Report.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

The next quarterly committee meeting is scheduled for July 11, 2007 at 10 a.m.

With no other business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectively submitted,

Ed Roper
Recording Secretary

Note: Attachments were given to those who were at the meeting and will be e-mailed to those who were not able to attend.