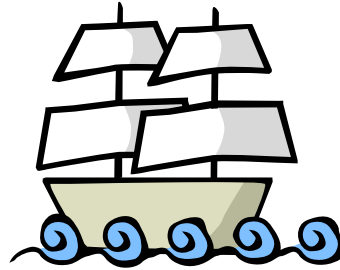


MFTE E Newsletter

From the desk of Interim Director, Ed Marks

May 2, 2008

Fire Instructors Meetings Scheduled



President James Ortiz is providing an opportunity for all fire instructors (State fire instructors, Certified fire instructors, Fire department training officers) to meet and discuss the need to formalize the formation of a fire instructors association. Please consider this open invitation to attend these important meetings to be held in Houlton & Auburn.

EM



Office of the President

MEMORANDUM

From: James Ortiz
Sent: 04/28/2008 01:33 PM EDT
Subject: MFTE Instructors

To: MFTE Instructors

In my email dated 4/02/08 I informed the group of the results of the 3/29/08 MFTE Instructors meeting in Bangor (attended by approximately 37 instructors and administrators) on the discussion of formalizing communication with instructors. The initial questions were:

Are the instructors interested in the formation of a representative group that would include all instructors through the state of Maine for the purpose of being acknowledged by MFTE / SMCC for inclusion on overall conversations around the formation of policies being considered by the department similar to discussions that are held with other fire community constituencies in Maine. If the response to the question is no, then the conversation would end at that point. If however the answer is yes then the next question is - How does MFTE / SMCC ensure the group represents fire instructors through out the state of Maine?

At the end of the hour discussion a motion was made, second and unanimously approved by the attendees that MFTE / SMCC proceed to explore the establishment of a group of fire instructors for the purpose mentioned above under question one through the following process:

First, send an email message to all MFTE instructors on this conversation and include all relevant documents such as the By Laws of ME Fire group.
Set two regional meetings - north and south - for instructors in which a discussion will be held similar to the one held on 3/29/08. At each meeting a vote is to be taken on the formation of

this state wide instructor group. A follow message to this email will be sent in the near future as to date, time and place.

At the conclusion of the two regional meetings a summary tally will be made to determine if a majority of the fire instructors agree to the formation of the instructors into a grouping that will be acknowledge by MFTE / SMCC.

If the response is no - the conversation of recognizing such a group will end.

If the response is yes - MFTE / SMCC will initiate the process of helping the instructors select a leadership committee.

Arrangements have been made to have two meetings on Saturday, 5/10/08 - northern and southern Maine as follow:

Houlton meeting - 9 to 11 am at the Shiretown Inn Houlton - Governor's restaurant.

Auburn meeting - 3 to 5 pm at the Auburn Central Fire Department.

Refreshments will be served at both meetings.

Enclosed for your information are the by-laws of the MeFire group. Please RSVP to Nancy Lounsbury (nlounsbury@smccme.edu) just to give us an idea of the number of instructors who will be attending each meeting.

Thanks

See Page 4 for a printout of the ME Fire By-laws document.

Portland Fire Museum Art Display

The Portland Fire Museum located at 157 Spring Street, Portland will open a new display for the month of May focused on the art of fire fighters. Several pieces of artwork from personal collections will be displayed depicting fire fighters and fire related topics. The show begins on Friday May 2 with the monthly First Friday Art Walk and will be displayed throughout the month. The museum is open for visitation each Friday evening 6 – 9. (1800- 2100).

If you make a visit to the museum will be treated to two floors full of displays dating from the mid 1800's to present day. The main floor contains three major pieces of apparatus, horse stalls and a fire alarm room moved from the Fire Alarm Building that was razed in the 1970's to move the fire alarm dispatch center to the Public Safety Building. There are seven rooms on the second floor chocked full of fire fighting accessions.

The Portland Fire Museum has agreed to partner with the Saco museum to loan them several pieces for display concerning Maine Folk Art. The items will be featured in a new book that will be released soon by the publishing house Down East Books.

For more information concerning the PFM you can visit the web site. www.portlandfiremuseum.com
Or you can call the museum at 207. 722.2040 to schedule a tour or leave a message. There is a \$5.00 admission fee for adults and \$2.00 fee for children.

EM

Water Cans, Brooms and Cellar Pumps

The month of April has come & gone but not without leaving a wake of destruction caused by fire and water. If your community made it through the month without any responses or property damage your department probably was in the minority.

The Pump Can

If you haven't checked the equipment on the apparatus yet it's time to dust off the inventory check list and test the equipment. No one wants to grab the water pump can off the engine and throw it on their back only to have the water run out of the can like a sieve. Take the can off the truck fill it with water; make sure there are no leaks. Test the can by pumping the handle or the nozzle to ensure operation. Can you adjust the stream?

The Wildfire Brooms

Have you inventoried the brooms stored on the engines for use at the wildfires? Are the brooms on the engine where they should be stored? Are they still operational or have the sweeping bristles been burned off or broken leaving only ugly stubs. They may need to be replaced.

Forestry Hose

If you use forestry hose to fight wildfires have you tested it yet? Could it possibly be dry rotted? The time to find out isn't when the call comes in for a wildfire.

Forestry Truck

If you're lucky enough to have a forestry truck have you conducted inventory of the equipment and tested the pumps? Don't wait to test the equipment at the first fire call schedule the testing now.

Cellar Pumps

As stated above if you didn't have wildfires in your community in April then you probably had flood and water problems. Aroostook County certainly had their hands full April, first with over 200 inches of snow and then the spring rains causing flooding.

When the last time you pulled the pump off the truck that was is used to dewater cellars to ensure its proper operation? Test it now not when the emergency demands.

Portable Generators

Do you exercise the portable generators on your apparatus on a regular schedule? When is the last time the oil was checked or the gasoline flushed before it turns bad? The new gasoline mixtures do not hold up very well stored for long periods of time. They can foul the plugs causing the engines to misfire or not start. When exercising these portable generators they should be placed under load.

Station Emergency Generators

Many fire departments and communities received federal funds to install emergency generators to provide power at fire stations, shelters and Emergency Operation Centers. These generators need to be tested on a monthly basis and should also be run under load. Some of the installations allow for automatic switching of the load from the power grid to the emergency generator while others require manual switching.

Computers

We all use computers everyday but have you provided protection to them in the event of a loss of power or switch over from grid power to emergency power? It's not the loss of the information that you are working on at the time of power loss that could be your major concern it's the damage that can be caused by the power surge / spike. The surge or power spike can fry your hard drive. You can provide protection to the important information stored on the computers by installation of an Uninterrupted Power Supply (UPS). The UPS units can control both power spikes and also allow for saving information by transferring to battery back-up inside the UPS. The UPS units can be purchased for under \$100. Don't get caught with your UPS down.

MAINE FIRE INSTRUCTORS RESCUE EDUCATORS BY-LAWS

Article I Membership

Membership of this group shall consist of:

- a) **ACTIVE MEMBERS** – Active membership shall be comprised of those individuals who are state certified fire service instructors. Active members shall be entitled to vote on all matters requiring a vote, and to participate fully in the affairs of the Group. Term of membership shall be for one (1) calendar year.
- b) **ASSOCIATE MEMBERS** – Associate membership shall include individuals, interested in establishing, promoting and encouraging the development of instructors providing training & education to the Maine Fire-Rescue services community. Associate members shall be entitled to participate in the affairs of the Group with the exception of voting on matters requiring a vote or holding any position, elected or appointed. Term of membership shall be for one (1) calendar year.

Article II Dues

Dues shall be established for a one (1) year membership term, paid in advance, at a rate proposed by the Board and approved by members of the Group. Any member owing dues more than 3 months beyond the due date shall be declared delinquent. Those delinquent shall be notified and if dues are not paid within sixty (60) days of such notice, they shall be automatically dropped from the Active to Associate member.

Article III Voting

With respect to matters requiring a vote, voting will be done via an email ballot. This is due to the large geographical area of Maine. An email will be sent 12 days and 6 days prior to the vote for the purpose of the membership to review and respond for clarification. At the conclusion of the waiting period, an email ballot will be sent to all Active members. Members will be given 6 days to return the emailed ballot with their votes. Any ballots returned beyond the 6 day period will not be counted and will be considered void. Voting by mail ballot shall be allowed when it is the opinion of the Board that it is in the best interest of the Group.

Article IV

Officers

Officers shall consist of a President to be elected every two years in even calendar years, a Vice-President elected in the odd calendar years and 2nd Vice-President elected in the even calendar years. Elections will be done by vote as defined in Article III after the annual fall meeting.

Article V

Regional Directors

Regional Directors shall be four (4), one from the South Portland Group, Auburn Group, Bangor Group and the Presque Isle Group. R.D.'s will be elected each year by the membership of their respective group. Elections will be done by vote as defined in Article III after the annual fall meeting.

Article VI

Executive Board

The Executive Board shall consist of the officers, Regional Directors and the immediate past President.

The Executive Board shall have the power:

- a) To supervise and direct the affairs of the Group, in all respects, only that it shall not act contrary to the wishes of the membership on matters, which shall have been determined by a membership vote.
- b) To fill any vacancy in its membership, by temporary appointment, until the next annual election has been held.
- c) To call a meeting of its own membership, if the President neglects or refuses to do so, by notice signed by any five members of the Board.
- d) To call a meeting of the entire membership, if the President neglects or refuses to do so, by notice signed by any five members of the Board.
- e) May at the discretion by majority vote can declare an office vacant for just cause.
- f) May at its discretion, remove a member from the membership, for just cause.

Article VII

Meetings

There shall two (2) regular scheduled general membership business meetings each year, spring and fall. The fall general membership meeting shall be considered the annual. The exact day, month and location in which meetings are held for the following year, shall be decided by the Executive Board at the annual meeting.

The President may call additional membership meetings on thirty (30) days notice, and shall do so if so directed by the Executive Board.

The President may call a meeting of the Executive Board on ten (10) days notice, at any

convenient time and place, and shall call such meeting if so desired by the Board. At meetings of the Executive Board, a quorum shall consist of two-thirds of its Membership.

Article VIII Committees

The standing committees of the Group shall be Membership and Educational Development. Special committees may be formed for the purposes and terms, as needed by the Board/President.

Article IX Order of Business

Regular Meeting:
Pledge to the Flag
Roll Call of Officers
Reading and Adoption of Minutes
Appointment to Fill Vacancies on Committees
Presidents Report
Report of Regions
Report of Delegates to Other Organizations
Readings of Communications
Committee Reports
Unfinished Business
New Business
Payment of Bills

Board Meeting:
Pledge to the Flag
Roll Call of Officers and Directors
Correspondence Needing Action
Financial Matters Needing Action
Special Topics
Appointment of Special Committees
Adjournment

Article X Amendments

These By-Laws may be amended by two-thirds majority of the voting strength of the membership, providing the following steps have been completed.

1. The proposal to amend the By-Laws has been presented, in writing or (electronic format), with the concurring signatures of five (5) members in good standing to the Executive Board for distribution to the membership, and
2. The Board has studied same to make a report and recommendation on and

3. All Group members will be sent a notice including the wording proposed at least thirty (30) days prior to the date on which the vote will be taken.

