

WISCONSIN FIRE INSPECTORS ASSOCIATION

QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING

Monday February 23, 2009

The Plaza Hotel & Suites, Wausau, WI

Call to Order at 1001 hours

Roll Call

President	Ron Omernick	present
1 st Vice President	Sue Phillips	present
2 nd Vice President		present
Exec. Sec. Treasurer	Gil Hucek	excused
Recording Secretary	Kevin T. Erdmann	present
Past President	Tod Doebler	present
Parliamentarian	Jeff Pollard	present
Area 1	Vacant	
Area 2	Scott R. Wagner	present
Area 3	Vacant	
Area 4	Tom Clark	present
Area 5	Chris Kruszewski	alternate
Area 6	Tom Wendt	present
Area 7	Joe Gabe	present
Area 8	Bill Becker	absent
Area 9	Dale Garski 1035	present
Area 10	Tom Waydick	excused
Area 11	Vacant	
Area 12	Josef Eklund	present
Area 13	Dave Krupich 1006	present
Area 14	Vacant	
Area 15	Arthur Gil de Lamadrid	absent
Area 16	Dave Neihaus	present
Dept. of Commerce	Joe Hertel	1045 present
Guests: Matt Mertens, Laurie Frey, Jan Settelken		

1. President Ron Omernick welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced everyone around the table. He then talked about Guy Santelli resigning from the 1st Vice Presidents position. Because of the opening Ron has per the by-laws appointed Susan Phillips to 1st Vice President from 2nd Vice President therefore leaving the 2nd position open. Ron then went on to nominate a person for 2nd Vice. He stated that there were a few names in the hat. He nominated a person that he felt had seniority in the association and was dedicated to the association. Ron nominated Tom Clark for 2nd Vice president. Scott Wegner seconded. There was no discussion and Tom was elected unanimously. Ron then went on to talk about the Executive Treasurer. Gil Hucek position at his fire department was restructured and Gil is no longer with a fire department, therefore he can no longer hold that position. Ron stated that Laurie Frey has stated that she would take the position. Laurie has been very involved with the association in the last few years. Ron then nominated Laurie Frey for Exec./Treasurer. Dave Neihaus seconded. There was no discussion. Laurie was elected unanimously. Laurie will work with Gil during the transition. Ron stated that she is very good with computers. Gil will remain on the finance committee. Ron thanked Gil for his dedicated service to the association.

The new address for the association will be,
P.O. Box 1075

Menomonee Falls, WI 53051

There was some discussion on what was going to happen and when the records will be turned over and what programs will be used. Ron stated that Laurie should be bonded.

Jan asked if the boxes from the past president have been handed down. She then went on to talk about some issues that the past presidents were concerned about. She then addressed the board about the Mark Stencil case. There was concern because there are a lot of new members on the board. She also mentioned that there was concern about things that happened in the past. She then went on to talk about accountability, and asked who is on what committee.

Ron stated that Laurie will send the reports to all board members.

Jan then went on to talk about where the association is spending the monies and are they being spent in the best interest of the association.

Ron then went on to talk about and Exec./Treas. Assistant. He feels that what has gone on in the past and the need for 2 persons incase of emergency. He stated that two are better than one.

Sue Phillips spoke about should there be a time frame for both positions. What an assistant might do and where the position would go.

There was discussion on a time frame for both positions and how long is too long.

Ron noted to again thank Gil for his time and dedication to the association. Gil has not lost any funds or misplaced any funds.

There was further discussion on time limits of the appointed positions. A question was poised should the treasurer be an elected position.

Matt Mertens suggested that there is a need for a budget to send the treasurer and assistant to software classes. He mentioned that the two positions should change on alternate years so both are not new at the same time. He made a suggestion that it be a 4 year term.

Laurie stated that a 4 year term is a good idea to keep both persons interested.

Ron asked Sue to head up a committee with Laurie and Jeff Pollard to change the by-laws for assistant treasurer and time frames.

Matt stated the need for SOP's for the positions. Laurie stated that she is working on the same. There was discussion on what each would do and term limits.

Ron then went on to talk about the need for an ethics officer. He said that Jeff Pollard would take the position.

Jeff stated that he would come up with wording on the new position.

There was discussion on what the new position would do.

Ron then went on to talk about the auditor and the audit. He stated that a new auditor would cost apx. \$5000.00 for an audit. Last year the audit was \$6000. Ron feels that audit costs are way out of line and that we should set up an audit committee. Laurie and Gil would be on that committee. He wants the board to think on the committee. Laurie mentioned that we should pole the association membership to see if anyone is an accountant or auditor. Ron suggested that an outside audit be done every 5 years. There was discussion on how to do it and who would do it. The SOG's state that an audit should be done annually. Ron wants the books open to everyone.

2. Treasurer's report. \$2988.34 in checking and \$34,394.24 in savings. There was a motion to accept the report as read. Motion carried. Ron stated that there will be a paper trail of what is transferred from Gil to Laurie.
3. Conference report. Sue Phillips said that the committee has had one meeting. They checked the review sheets from 2008. She stated that the tank program will be brought back to the conference, Dan Gengler will do a class on testing and maintenance on sprinkler systems. At this point the committee has some classes set up. The conference might be shortened this year. There was discussion on what classed to have. Jeff Pollard asked the area chairs to ask their areas what training they want and what kind of advanced classes they would like. A pre conference will be in the fire Journal next month. There is also hope that HHS will do a class. There also was discussion on getting building inspectors to come to the conference.
4. Department of Commerce. Joe Hertel stated that there is a Comm 14 committee this week. March 1, 2008 the NEC 2008 will be adopted.

5. Committees. Ron said that he will be changing some and assigning persons and the need to change the web site on same. Some committees might be dropped and some might be combined. Matt spoke on the scholarship committee and the need for help. Scott Wagner stated that he would join that committee. Ron spoke on the tank program. He said that there are trainings going on through out the state and that the tank program will be back at the conference. Web page update. There was talk on spending monies to update the web site. There was discussion on the web page. Matt and Sue will see what needs to be done. SOG and by laws. Tom Clark stated there will be some changes. Membership committee, Laurie needs help. Awards Committee, Steve Koback and Jan Settelken. 1155hrs Break for Lunch. 1238hrs reconvene. Education committee, Sue Phillips and Jeff Pollard. Site selection committee. Laurie, Gil, New assistant treas. And Matt.
6. Fire and EMS coalition. Tom Clark stated that the association voted to support MABAS to join the coalition. They are hoping to form a sub-committee on residential sprinklers, and that they are trying to be proactive on residential sprinklers. There is a need to work on this with the chiefs.
7. Commercial building code council. Tom Clark reported they will be looking at NFPA 1 2009 next year. CO detectors are becoming an issue. There is a problem reporting fire incident reports, if there are none in 60 days you get bumped off of the system. (NFIRS) Building contractor registration. The state is doing this to raise revenue and to help with code issues. The building inspectors will be doing spot checks of this. It is proposed at this time. The state will be holding classes on CO updates.
8. Strategic plan committee, Tod Doebler and Matt Mertens.
9. Firefighter memorial. Ron stated that Steve Koback asked for \$500 for a legacy stone at the memorial. Jeff Pollard asked if any other state associations are donating like we do. There was a question to whether we received the audit from the memorial. Ron read a letter from the memorial thanking us for the donations from last year. \$640 from the helmet and \$133 from brick for a buck. Ron stated should we give to the memorial or use monies for a scholarship. Sue Phillips would see a raffle at the conference and save dues monies for membership or scholarship or the conference. There was discussion on where to use the monies. Ron made a motion to spend \$500 to the Firefighters Memorial. There was discussion on the audit papers from the memorial. Ron withdrew his motion, and tabled it until next meeting so Steve Koback can be there. The board would like to see the audit. There was further discussion on a better way to spend the monies. Laurie will research how much we donated in the past. Sue made a motion to table until audit and how much was donated in the past. Motion carried. Sue stated that maybe we should have a fund raising committee on raising funds to donate. Matt said that we could pay for the conference and hotel for one person that raised the most area in one area. The association has donated apx.

- \$7000 to the date 2006. This is from the January 10th 2006 minutes. There was discussion on fund raising. Joe Ekland said that \$458 was donated in the can drive for burn camp.
10. Lifetime membership. Ron would like to nominate Steve Koback and Gil Hucek for lifetime membership. There was discussion on whether the general membership needs to vote on these. Ron nominated Steve Koback for lifetime membership 2nd from the floor. Motion carried. Ron then nominated Gil Hucek for lifetime membership 2nd from the floor. Motion carried.
 11. Future board meetings will be 10:00am May 18th, August 31st and at 4:00pm November 2nd Monday night.
 12. Ron would like all areas to e-mail him at to when and where there meetings are. He would like to attend at least one meeting for each area.
 13. Congressional Fire Service Institute. Ron spoke on this and stated that he is going to go and that presidents in the past have went. It is a good chance to meet in person and talk to the congressional reps. Ron asked if the association would pay for fees and hotel for conference. Joe Ekland made a motion for the association to pay for Ron and his wife for housing and fees. Dale Garski seconded. Joe Hertel spoke on how the electrical inspectors association does it. There was an amendment to the motion not to exceed \$3000. Tom Clark asked that there be a report on what happened at the meeting. Ron explained what goes on and how it works. Motion carried. Addition: "Ron Omernick is very grateful to the Board for their financial support concerning the Congressional Fire Institute trip. However, for the betterment of the Association, Ron would like to donate the complete cost of this trip back to the Association with these funds to be earmarked toward increasing our membership. Ways to increase membership will be discussed at our next board meeting.
 14. 1st Vice Sue Phillips handed out a budget list for the future. She would like the area chairs to look at it and bring it back to next meeting. Sue also talked about goals for this year. Conference will try to align with the theme everyone home safe. She would like to see better training in the areas. There was discussion on how some of the areas get training. She also read a list of other ideas. There will be an agenda for the business meeting at the conference. The conference committee has room for 2 people and are hoping people step up and join the committee. The conference committee will assign jobs for the 2009 conference.
 15. 2nd Vice. Tom Clark thanked everyone for their vote of confidence.
 16. Area #2. Scott Wegner they were looking for a football from last year. Laurie stated that she has it. Question on the Yahoo users group. Tod Doebler is working on it. They also have issues with the Department of Commerce not giving answers to questions. Joe Hertel stated they are working on it. Area #2 will invite Area #1 to their meetings.
 17. Area #4. Tom Clark said there is a meeting next month and they now need to replace the chair.
 18. Area #6. Tom Wendt said they have a meeting March 18th in Saukville.

19. Area #7. Joe Gabe is the brand new chair. They are looking for training on CO.
20. Area #9. Dale Garski stated they had a meeting on February 12th and the next meeting is on May 14th.
21. Area #12. Josef Ekland stated their meeting and it was about 1 ½ hours long and President Omernick attended.
22. Area #13. Dave Krupich said they are having a meeting May 19th.
23. Area #16. Dave Neihaus said their meeting will be on March 5th.

Motion to adjourn, meeting adjourned at 1414hrs.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin T. Erdmann
Recording Secretary