

Firefighters Employment, Standards and Training Council Meeting
 April 14, 2009
 Tallahassee, Florida

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>REPRESENTING:</u>	<u>TERM ENDING:</u>
James Angle Palm Harbor Special Fire Control Dist.	FL Association of Special Districts	10-2010 (2 nd term)
William Bryson Miami Fire Department	FL Fire Chiefs' Association	10-2010 (2 nd term)
Julie Downey Davie Fire Rescue	State Fire Marshal	6-30-2010 (2 nd term)
Greg Gay	State Fire Marshal	11-21-2010 (1 st term)
Joe Palminteri Citrus County Fire Rescue	State Fire Marshal	6-30-2010 (2 nd term)
Jon Pasqualone FL Fire Marshals and Inspectors Assoc.	FL Fire Marshals & Inspectors Assoc.	10-2010 (2 nd term)
Laurie Sweeney Orange County F/R Dept.	FL Professional Firefighters	6-30-2010 (2 nd term)
Rick Talbert South Walton Fire District	FL Fire Chiefs' Association	01-13-2010 (2 nd term)
Charles "Scotty" R. Taylor Gainesville Fire Rescue	FL Professional Firefighters	10-2010 (2 nd term)
Ron Williams Lake County Vo-Tech	State Fire Marshal	10-11-2010 (2 nd term)

ABSENT:

Dr. Ron Nutter	State Fire Marshal	6-30-2010 (2 nd term)
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The Firefighters Employment, Standards and Training Council meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m.

On a motion duly made, the minutes from the Firefighters Employment, Standards and Training Council meeting held on January 29, 2009 were approved.

Motion carried.

REPORT FROM DIVISION: *given by Chief Barry Baker*

Legislation:

As we all know, the 633 re-write was not heard last year. This year, the Senate has heard it and it passed committee, the House has refused to hear it. Representative Pat Patterson who is the Chair of the committee decided that because of the size of this piece of legislation it will not be heard this year.

Chief Baker briefly reviewed the changes included in the 633 re-write.

The Memorial Flag will most likely make it through the legislature.

The condominium bill (sprinklers) is out there again and there has been much discussion about extending it as far out as 2025.

Any bill right now that carries a fiscal impact is going nowhere.

There is a new position being created in Tallahassee for the Division. This position will be an office manager's position and is being created to help with the symmetry of everything coming together as far as hiring practices. They think this will be helpful to all of the Bureaus in helping do things in a standardized way.

REPORT FROM THE BUREAU: *given by Assistant Superintendent Allen Lovvorn*

The Fire College is currently experiencing some water problems which will probably culminate with a new well being put in.

The Administrative Rules went into effect on March 19, 2009.

Charlie Brush has been continuing to work with IFSTA on producing a Florida specific text. It is almost at a final edit form and will be received by the Bureau in October. As noted in the last meeting, training centers may use any text they choose for training but they all have been informed that the state examination will come from IFSTA Florida specific book. The Bureau has moved forward with creating new testing banks.

The Bureau tried to intervene on behalf of the training directors with the Department of Education with what they are trying to do with the frame work and increasing the number of hours that they can receive payment for. Unfortunately we were unsuccessful.

It was explained that the Fire College A-List currently does not have a formal policy on what type of announcements can be sent out. This will be examined.

Chief Angle brought up the previously discussed topic of a Safety Officer Certification. He would like to see this made a priority. Jon Pasqualone also mentioned the issue of certification for Fire Code Officials.

Chief Baker gave the Council an update on issues being currently dealt with at the Fire College due to an aging infrastructure. As previously mentioned by Allen Lovvorn, we are currently dealing with problems with the water system. The water at the Fire College has been deemed “undrinkable”. The water tank and well need to be replaced. The building is showing signs of age with significant cracks being cited in the buildings. The entire campus is due for an upgrade at a time when we don’t have any money. We are looking at an opportunity to take what we acquired about 18 months ago which is the 50 acres across the street from the facility. There is an opportunity here to do some significant planning and make something that would be a legacy for many of us here and certainly serve Florida’s fire service for many years to come. We have been gathering information on “what you want to see at your Fire College”. Chief Baker requested input from the Council.

What we are hearing back so far are some pretty common things. For example; Florida has the most airports of any state in the nation but yet you have to go west of the Mississippi to get good aircraft firefighting skills. There is currently no training center at all for swift water rescue; there is no standardized EVOC course. Even though we teach it we really can’t practice it very well. As we look at new energy sources such as hydrogen or the increased methanol in fuels, we really don’t have an energy “pod” of any sort. They are talking about drilling off the coast and none of us have any training in assisting the Coast Guard as a platform to get out there in dealing with anything that might occur on those platforms. There is no senior leadership training in our fire service to speak of. So basically 30% of our fire service is not getting the necessary skills as senior executive that compete in a very complex and difficult environment that we now find ourselves in. A leadership institute would certainly be welcomed.

There is really no one center in the state of Florida where we can take the various disciplines that respond to major disasters such as police, public works, fish and wildlife, and the fire service of course and actually put all that training that has been received individually together and see how they will all function together before an actual disaster occurs. We find ourselves going to disaster scenes and trying to figure out how to make it work. Fortunately we’ve done well with that but can you imagine if we had a center to bring people together to simulate that and to work together what that do as far as effectiveness? These are some of the ideas we are hearing.

Now is the absolute best time for us to pull together that conceptual plan. We have a class that is going to be dedicated to us from the University of Florida to take those visions and put them into some sort of a plan. Once we get that plan a little bit more conceptualized we could price out that infrastructure and phase it out so maybe we could go 8 – 10 years in the building process and do something.

Meanwhile, going back to the old campus, we can then start focus on doing something with that. To do what we need to do and renovate the old campus, we need to think about somewhere to continue our classes.

Chief Baker looks forward to the Council's input.

Another topic of concern is communication. There is a tremendous call load that comes into the campus. Of that call load 80% goes to Standards or Training. Of those calls, the same questions are asked a thousand times a day with the same answers for people which tells us that maybe we aren't doing a great job of communicating to the fire service. One of the things discussed recently is taking an existing staff person and making them a community relations person, someone who can focus on getting out information and simplify that process by getting out information through publications etc.

One of our challenges is getting funding for the new facility and there is a real emphasis on public/private partnerships as well as federal grants. If we don't market ourselves now or position ourselves well, they aren't going to know who we are other than "people in the fire service". One of the focuses of a position like that would be to put us on the map and to ensure we are being well marketed so people do know us and do want to partner with us.

One of the most common complaints heard about the facility is how hard we are to find. Our sign is not very eye catching. We are in the process of changing the sign out front and are looking to put something out there that is much more prominent and visible and actually have a couple of lines that will scroll across the bottom advertising classes and events. Something eye catching. We will also be putting a sign up on the new property stating "Future Site Of" so people will know where that is also. The only way we are going to get funding and get people to invest is to have something to show them. You should see the signs within the next few months.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Petition to initiate rule making 69A-39

A petition was received from Tony Apleback, Fire Marshal for the City of Altamonte Springs and Bart Wright to initiate the rule making process for 69A-39.

A hearing was held on the petition. After the hearing, Chief Baker determined which rules we would open up and the Bureau responded to the petition. More information will be provided to the Council as it becomes available.

The rule making process will begin. Dates to be announced.

The "For Discussion Only" 69A-37 document that was distributed to the Council back in January includes changes that the Bureau wants to make. None of these changes have gone to rule making. There is nothing official in the document. The underlines and

strikethroughs are suggested changes to the adopted rule. The adopted rule (69A-37) went into effect March 19, 2009 and were mainly changes due to JAPC requirements.

Chief Baker suggested the Council go through the “For Discussion Only” document and provide input.

Chairman Bryson requested that the Council again receive a copy of the “For Discussion Only” document and that it be discussed at the July meeting.

It was requested that any suggested changes be sent in to the Bureau for compiling of information.

Chief Bryson requested a cost analysis of Council travel for further discussion of possible conference call meetings.

AUDIENCE: None

**NEXT MEETING: Friday, July 17, 2009
Harbor Beach Marriott Resort & Spa
3030 Holiday Drive
Ft. Lauderdale, FL**

**Time: 10 minutes upon adjournment of the FFIRS meeting
(Approximately 10:00 a.m.)**

ADJOURN.