**MSFA Training Committee Meeting**

Sunday, December 1, 2013, 10:00 am

 MFRI Lower Eastern Shore Regional Training Center, Princess Anne, Somerset Co.

**Chairman Dan Stevens** called the meeting to order. Dan welcomed those in attendance and thanked them for taking the time to attend. He thanked MFRI’s Lower Eastern Shore Regional Coordinator, Joe Ward, for hosting the meeting.

**Committee members present** were: Chairman Dan Stevens, Vice Chair Kingsley Poole, Mark Bilger, Richard Blair, Janet and John Fisher, Leon Fleming, Susan Grote, John Korman, Bobbi Stevens, and Scott Wood. Liaisons present were: Hugh Owens, MFCA, and Janet Fisher, Safety Committee.

**Committee members not present** were: Victoria Cunningham, Tim Dayton, Jerry Dorsey, John Dulina, Dale Fishack, J.J. Lynott, Tom Musgrove, Richard Smith, Charlie Simpson, Russ Strickland. Liaisons not present were: Monte Mitchell (sent in report), DNR; John Dulina, MEMA; Lynn Gilroy, MFRETC; Larry Preston, MFRI; Donald Howard, MFSPQB; and Barbara Knippenburg, MICRB.

**Guests present:** Joe Ward, MFRI; and Charlie Wills, Potomac Heights VFD & RS.

Dan explained the purpose for the meeting was twofold. One is to discuss the Zembower Training Award. We need to find a way to increase participation of the number of companies competing for the award. Some companies that do not have an EMS division feel they cannot compete with companies that also run an EMS division because of the number of training hours to become an EMT or paramedic. And some companies with a small membership feel they cannot compete with companies that have a larger membership, and thus participate in more training hours. It is felt the award needs to be revamped and at the same time maintain its integrity, all under the approval of Ms. Peggy Zembower, who sponsors the award in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Cromwell Zembower, her late husband’s parents. Vice Chair Kingsley Poole volunteered to Chair a subcommittee to research this. Shane Darwick, from Sykesville, has expressed an interest in serving on this subcommittee. Susan Grote and Scott Wood also expressed an interest and volunteered to serve on the subcommittee. It was agreed to wait until the new year to start this research.

The other purpose of the meeting is to review the MSFA Ten Year Education and Training Plan (hereinafter called Training Plan), which is updated every three years. Regions have been critical of the MFRI’s registration-for-classes process. MFRI is working on this. Joe Ward said a new Scantron machine is onboard and it is being used in Southern Maryland to pilot the new registration process. The new Scantron will handle fire and rescue class registrations, but not MIEMSS class registrations. MIEMSS registrations will remain the same for now. Registrations are trying to get away from using Social Security numbers.

It was discussed that the online EVOC does not seem to offer all that is offered in the classroom-based EVOC courses. Dan said the online EVOC apparently does not offer air brakes, and as much vehicle inspections as the classroom version. EVOC and the VFIS driver-training course has to ~~be~~ meet the NFPA Standard to qualify for the Driver license exemption program. The programs must be approved by MFRETC and its Minimum Standards Committee. VFIS develops their EVOC course based on their loss experiences nationwide. VFIS also offers on-road training; while MFRI uses a parking lot for driver training. MFRETC meets December 18th where this will be discussed.

MFRI is considering new props for the Firefighter Survival and Rescue classes and they are testing the new Denver Drill prop at HQ. The props will be installed in all the regions once perfected and approved.

John Fisher apologized that representatives of the emergency services in the region did not attend the meeting to make comments. As was later determined, those representatives did arrive shortly after noon, when the meeting was adjourned. There was a misunderstanding on the time of the meeting.

It was discussed that regions with smaller populations may have difficulty filling night classes because of the daytime cadet classes. There were mixed feelings on this topic. Some felt that some of the cadets that sign up for the day classes may not be interested in night classes. Also, many of the cadets are new to the fire service and would not be in training if not for the Cadet program.

Mark asked if MIEMSS plans to provide a replacement representative liaison now that Phil Hurlock has retired. It was noted that Phil provided a wealth of information at the training meetings. With the recent retirement of the Director of MIEMSS, Dr. Bass, there has not been any information forthcoming on that. We can certainly inquire about that.

Richard Blair offered some suggestions to go back to including information in the Training Plan that has been omitted in recent years. Those topics that can be found in the FY2005-FY2015 Training Plan and include:

Updated version of “Recommended Minimum Training for Officers”, page 15, Appendix A

“Minimum Training and Identification Consensus Standards, Adopted October 17, 2002” for entry level personnel, page 21, Appendix D

“ISO (Insurance Services Office, Inc.) Training and Pre-Fire Planning Inspections Requirements”, page 23, Appendix E

“MFRI Headquarters and Regional Training Centers” updated addresses, phone numbers, coordinators and emails, page 34.

Dan said that after we have met in all the regions to gather input from representatives of the emergency services, we will meet as a committee and go over the previous edition Training Plans, and the information gathered in the regions, to update the new Training Plan and get it ready to publish.

The Safety Committee will be working on a seminar for the OC Convention. They will take the topics discussed in the Life Safety Conference held this year in May in Hancock, Maryland. The topic was “Learning from the Past, Improving the Future.” The offering will be abbreviated and tailored to a 4-4.5 hour seminar, to be offered on Sunday, June 15. Joe Ward noted his calendar for the commitment of that space, and day at OC for scheduling the seminar.

It was discussed if the hands-on training at OC sponsored by the OC Fools was something MSFA pays for. And if so, is this something that MFRI can offer free of charge? Traditions Training is the company contracted by OC Fools to put on the hands-on training. Fools and the IAFF are linked with Traditions Training.

The Conducting Safe Live Fire Burn program offered by MFRI has been re-developed from a 6-hour course to an 18 hour course. There will be a train-the-trainer roll out pilot this Tues-Thurs, Dec. 3-5 at MFRI HQ in College Park.

Cumberland Valley has road safety offerings, “Pull Over”. There are five training sessions. Go to respondersafety.com. The National Fallen Firefighters has a “Heroes” offering with reference to chaplains.

**10 Year Training Plan Update Meetings** - Regions were established and committee members from the respective regions graciously volunteered to set up the meetings. The breakdown is as follows:

North Central – Leon Fleming and Scott Wood - August 25th Sykesville

Western Md. – Kingsley Poole - November 2nd, MFRI WMRTC

Northeast – Victoria Cunningham and J.J. Lynott

Upper Shore – Larry Preston

Lower Shore – John and Janet Fisher – December 1st, MFRI LESRTC

Southern Maryland – Dan and Bobbi Stevens

P.G. County – Hugh Owens

**Maryland Weekend** will be January 25 and 26, 2014. Registration closes December 16th. There’s a save the date on MFRI’s website. Before you can register for classes at the NFA you must obtain a SID Number.

DNR Liaison Report: Monte Mitchell was not present, but provided a written report. An S-131 Firefighter Type 1 (Squad Boss) class will be held January 30, 2014 at the Madonna Ranger Station in Harford County. The course is open to current Wildlland Fire Crew members. Register by emailing Chris Smith at csmith@dnr.state.md.us by January 16. Tentative dates for the Spring Basic Courses are March 24-28, 2014 at the Anne Arundel County Training Center.

**Next Meeting will be announced when it has been scheduled.**

**Dan’s email:** **stevensdj@hotmail.com**