



Post Indicator



President's Message – Phil Owens

Fellow FMAM Members:

As I began to write this quarter's President's Message, I was thinking of the numbers of things that have occurred within our organization over the past years. The numbers of friends that I have because of my associations thru FMAM, and the numbers of young inspectors that I have seen grow and develop into qualified professionals in the Fire Service.

For each of the past 20 years, I have served FMAM as either a Committee or Board member, Vice President and now for the past two terms as your President. I cherish each of those experiences and very much appreciate the confidence placed in me by the membership who placed me into those positions.

I have decided that I will not run for another term as President of FMAM. A number of issues have brought me to this decision. None of which are a lack of interest, commitment or dedication to the principles of fire prevention and life safety for which the Fire Marshals Association of Minnesota was established.

I shall continue to serve the Board and the membership as Immediate Past President. I sincerely thank each of you for your confidence, counsel and encouragement through the years, as I

could not have done these things without the support of the membership and strong, dedicated Boards of Directors.

Election: The election will be held at our Annual meeting in March. Positions available will be President, Secretary and one Board seat. I am hopeful for a strong slate of candidates who will continue to move forward the agendas of FMAM. Interested persons should notify the Secretary of their intent. Nominations will also be received from the floor.

Finances: FMAM is in excellent financial condition due to the strong fiscal oversight of your Board of Directors. We hope to spend some of our funds soon thru projects to benefit the membership. Please review the Treasurers report in this issue.

Website: Our website has been updated to link to our new FMAM logo clothing vendor. Please visit the site at www.fmam.org for this merchandise.

Membership: FMAM proudly represents just over 200 Fire Marshals, Fire Inspectors, Fire Code Officials and Technicians. To continue our strong leadership in Fire Prevention and Life Safety we depend upon our membership. Membership renewals will be mailed to you by the Secretary soon. Please do not delay in renewing your memberships.

Fire Deaths: At this time, the State Fire Marshal is reporting 34 fire deaths in Minnesota. This compares with 32 at this time in 2007.

Holiday Safety: As we enter the joyous holiday season, please pause and remember that it is also a very fire hazardous time. Each year, Christmas trees, candles, holiday decorations, electrical connections and fire places all contribute to holidays scared by tragedy. As you go about your celebrations, remember to practice what we preach.

Yours in the Fire Service,
Phillip Owens, CFPS
President

In This Issue

President's Message	page 1
Treasurer's Report	page 2
Meeting Minutes	page 2
Public Fire Safety Information	page 5
Board Member Tom Pitschneider	page 6
Annual Institute (U of MN)	page 7
Twas the Night Before Christmas	page 8
Meeting Notice & Calendar	page 9

Treasurer's Report

The following Treasurer's report details the income and expenses to date along with the current balances:

FMAM Financial Report 1-1-08 thru 11-20-08

Expenditures:

Chk #	To:	Amount:	Description:
2219	Jon Nisja	\$ 98.40	Postage-Renewal
2220	MSFCA	\$2000.00	Legislative Com.
2221	Steve Zaccard	\$ 110.00	Meeting Expense (Capitol Hill day)
2222	Kip LaMotte	\$ 9.66	Meeting Exp.
2223	Void		
2224	NFPA	\$ 150.00	Membership (Owens)
2225	Fire Safety Media	\$ 975.00	State Fair
2226	HCMC	\$1000.00	Advertisement
2227	Jeff Shadegg	\$ 13.00	Meeting (Gov. Council)
2228	ICC Upper Lakes	\$ 500.00	Membership
2229	Tax Strategies	\$ 570.00	Tax Services
2230	Stan Scofield	\$ 19.60	State Fair
Card	Wal-Mart	\$ 43.18	Meeting
Card	Rainbow	\$ 31.45	Meeting
Card	USPS	\$ 3.44	Postage
Card	Cub Foods	\$ 19.20	Meeting
Card	Cub Foods	\$ 12.33	Meeting
Card	Mpls. ICC	\$ 50.00	Meeting

Income:

Membership:	\$ 7,830.00
Merchandise:	\$ 34.00
Seminar:	\$ 25.00
Interest:	\$ 196.44

Balance:

Checking:	\$ 7,418.72
Savings:	\$26,349.61

**Fire Marshals Association of Minnesota
QUARTERLY MEETING MINUTES
September 10, 2008**

CALL TO ORDER:

Vice-President Kip LaMotte called the meeting to order at 2:20pm at the Bloomington Fire Station #1.

Approval of the June 11, 2008 meeting minutes as published in the September Post Indicator by Jeff

Schadegg and 2nd by Vance Swisher, motion passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

John Powers handed out a financial report, motion by Mike Urmann and 2nd by Robbie Bartholomew to approve the Treasurer's report, motion passed unanimously.

We currently have 206 paid members for 2008.

OPEN DISCUSSION (in lieu of Educational Session)

Open discussion with the membership on what they would like to see for future education programs and opportunities. Some of the topics suggested by the members:

- Round table discussions on code issues.
- SFMD – Code Specialist, trends on the types of calls they are receiving.
- Kitchen Ventilation Systems
- Advanced Fire Alarm Systems
- Public Education
 - Pub Ed Budget on a shoestring
 - Take and Make
 - Engineer to prevent fires
 - Bring forth information from the Brainstorming Group
- Inspector I and II refresher
- Hazardous Materials – Flammable/Combustible Liquids
- NPFA Code Effectiveness. How to measure your efforts.
- Strategic Plans, How to and Benefits of.
- Safety and Personal Responsibility of Inspectors (OSHA)
- Juvenile Firesetter, information and class
- How do we make fire prevention attractive to the small local fire chief.
- How to speak to the public.
- Wells for water supply, Residential and Cities, Tanks, variable speed pumps

REPORTS:

Residential Sprinkler Coalition: Marilyn Arnlund updated the membership on the upcoming ICC hearings and the vote for residential sprinkler system is anticipated to happen on Sunday. She reminded everyone one registering and picking up his or her badge in order to vote. All were encouraged to get there early and watch the process prior to the residential sprinkler vote. There will be a hospitality room at the millennium

hotel in the ballroom on Saturday night. Marilyn has parking passes and maps for the ramps. A 2/3 majority will be needed to pass. Marilyn stated that they are looking for a local burn doctor to speak at the hearings. It looks like we should have a good turnout.

Public Education Committee: Connie Forster informed the members that the Public Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition has kits available to create a side-by-side demonstration. FM Global has free CD's available, go to their website. The Burn Institute has implemented a new preschool curriculum guide and introducing Burni the Dragon, link at www.burninstitute.org/fbp/curriculum/burni.html. The Fire Chief's Pub Ed Committee is looking people interested in being on that committee, Quarterly meeting is September 17th for anyone interested.

January 24-27 is the Annual Minnesota Fire Education Conference in Alexandria, five tracks this year.

- 1) Database Management
- 2) Public Fire & Life Safety Educator II
- 3) Juvenile Firesetter Intervention II
- 4) Fire Instructor II
- 5) Fire Prevention "Hot Topics"

Training: Jon Nisja reported that the SFMD has scheduled an additional class in Burnsville and the New Brighton class is full again.

Decembers Quarterly meeting is being held in Apple Valley and Image Trend will be demonstrating the new Inspection Program they have made for the Dakota County Group.

Governor's Council On Fire Prevention And Control: Jeff Schadegg reported that the State Fair was well attended. The council is looking at Ag Buildings, the local farm vs. commercial.

Governor's Fire Service Advisory Committee: Nothing to report at this time.

Certification Report: No Report.

Chief's Code Committee Report: Jon Nisja reported that the committee again is comparing the two codes. The members have received email assignments to look at specific sections of the code and will be meeting later.

Legislation: Nothing to report at this time.

State Fire Marshal's Report: State Fire Marshal Jerry Rosendahl reported the Commissioner's Fire Service Committee has met at a meet and greet session. There will be a class for Day Center/Detention Facilities Inspection for anyone that needs it in Elk River on October 29. Go on line at the SFM website to register. A fire investigator will be hired for the Thief River Falls area, this position had to be approved due to the State hiring restrictions. Jon is working on a job description for a Fire Safety Educator position that they are trying to get approval for. The Legislature has taken a million dollars from the Fire Safety Account for the short fall in the General Budget. We hope this is a one-time event.

Tom Joachim had open-heart surgery and is now back to work and doing well. Tom Anderson has retired and Steve Hernick is the acting Building Official.

Fire deaths year to date are at 31, the same as last year at this time. Last year was a record setting low due to prevention, education and inspections.

The SFMD is working on an on-line MFIR's reporting system, successful bidder to be announced. More information and training will be available at a later date.

Additional information can be accessed through the State Fire Marshal's Web site at <http://www.dps.state.mn.us/fmarshal/fmarshal.html>. Information is also disseminated through the list server for more information about the list server contact Bob Dahm at <http://www.dps.state.mn.us/fmarshal/ListServer.html>.

Merchandise: Streich Designs will now be doing all of the merchandise for FMAM. A link has been established to her site for ordering merchandise including clothing, videos, cd's etc.

NEW BUSINESS:

The question of requirement for temporary Haunted Houses for Halloween was brought up; Bloomington requires standby fire personnel be used for fire watch in non-sprinklered buildings.

We have not scheduled a fall membership outing but we are still looking at some type of a dinner cruise on the St. Croix or Lake Minnetonka.

ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn at 3:40pm by Vance Swisher and 2nd by Kevin Gravalin, motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Robbie Bartholomew, Interim Secretary

**Fire Marshal's Association of Minnesota
BOARD MEETING
November 12, 2008**

Members Present: President Phil Owens, Vice-President Kip LaMotte, Interim Secretary Robbie Bartholomew, Board members: Angie Leitner, Tom Pitschneider and Roy Kingsley, Past President Jon Nisja, Public Educator Connie Forster and Chief Deputy Bob Dahm.

CALL TO ORDER:

President Phil Owens called the meeting to order at 9:08am.

Motion to approve the August 13, 1008 Board Meeting Minutes as published in the September Post Indicator by Tom Pitschneider and 2nd by Angie Leitner, motion passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

No report available.

Membership Report: Currently 205 paid members for 2008. Renewals will be sent out before the December meeting.

REPORTS:

Merchandise: A link has been established from the FMAM web page to Streich Designs.

Public Education Report: Connie Forster the Annual Fire Education Conference will be held January 23-25 in Alexandria. Connie asked if FMAM could assist in helping fund the conference. Motion by Robbie Bartholomew and 2nd by Jon Nisja to help fund the travel and lodging expenses for the speaker at the Fire Education Conference up to \$1000.00, motion passed unanimously with the abstention of Connie. Robbie will email the information out to the membership. The Brainstorming Group is almost ready to link to the FMAM and SFMD web sites. Connie would like to

start gathering education items for the library; the Rainbow Valley Video set is approximately \$600. Connie will make a list of what is needed for the library and the cost of the items and bring it back to the Board. The SFMD may have items that could be donated to the Library; Bob Dahm will look into that. Anyone wishing to donate should contact Connie.

State Fire Marshal's Report: State Fire Marshal Jerry Rosendahl was unable to attend. Deputy Chief Bob Dahm provided the board with information on the new web-based on-line NFIR's report system. The SFMD will be looking at hiring a training specialist sometime in the future that would be utilized statewide. The SFMD working toward getting all their inspectors certified to a level II, and investigator to the CFI level.

The State Fire Marshal Update is available on the State web site and you can also receive it by email if you sign up on their web site.

Training/Education: The FMAM meeting for December will be held in Apple Valley, Image Trend will be conducting the education portion of the meeting. They will be demonstrating the Inspection Program that Dakota County is using. They will also be touching on the new NFIR's on-line web based report program. Robbie will be sending notices and maps to all members a couple of time before the meeting.

Dan Kaiser and Ralph Peterson from SFMD have been conducting the 4-day sprinkler class, the New Brighton class is filled, Mankato is almost completed, and Burnsville was added.

Jon stated that possibly in the spring to have Art Black come and do an alarm class.

Legislation: Nothing to report. MnFac is putting a list together. The League of Minnesota Cities along with concerned cities such as St. Paul are very interested in the Property Maintenance Code.

Certification: Phil stated that there would be an Inspector III test available. Brad Schmoll is our representative on that board.

OLD BUSINESS:

Social Events, Kip wanted to look into a dinner cruise for this fall but it didn't work out, maybe next spring, either St Croix or Minnetonka.

Roy suggested that when we look at next year's budget we keep in \$2000 for future IRC expenses.

NEW BUSINESS:

The board discussed ways of keeping our members interested and having them participate in meetings, education program, etc. It was discussed that sometime in the future FMAM consider holding an annual conference, this would take a lot of discussion, combined efforts and planning.

The Board also discussed providing lunch for FMAM members at the March Annual meeting. Motion by Roy Kingsley and 2nd by Tom Pitschneider to have a catered lunch for the March Annual Meeting, motion passed unanimously. Kip will look into a couple of different options and bring the information to the February Board meeting for final cost approval.

March Board openings and elections. There are three positions that are up for election this March, President, Secretary and one board seat. Phil Owens informed the board he would not be running for re-election in March. Kip LaMotte will be running for President. Robbie has expressed interest in the possible open Vice-President position, and Roy Kingsley will run for his board seat.

Connie informed the board that the Ralph Jensen Award, which is a \$5000 grant, is coming up February 6th.

ADJOURN:

Motion to adjourn at 11:00pm by Tom Pitschneider and 2nd by Angie Leitner and 2nd, Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted:
Robbie Bartholomew, Interim Secretary

Public Education Report By Connie Forster

SPRINKLER EDUCATION CHALLENGE

There has been a lot of discussion since the code hearing in September about residential fire sprinklers and what the next step will be to get

them in homes in Minnesota. The three pieces to the prevention puzzle are education, enforcement and engineering. The engineering piece is there-sprinklers. The enforcement piece is getting closer to becoming a reality. But the missing component is the education piece. By making the public more aware that sprinklers are an option and creating a demand, sprinklers will become more affordable and we come closer to getting buy in from the building industry. Campaigns need to be launched much like MADD or the seat belt campaigns. We need to get the word out. Energy needs to be spent educating future decision makers. This generation is accustomed to seeing sprinklers in schools and commercial buildings. Unfortunately, many of them are unaware that sprinklers are an option in their homes.

Earlier this week, I received a call from a local high school student inquiring about residential fire sprinklers and reliable sources for information. She is focusing on residential fire sprinklers for Project Citizen. This program encourages students to identify a community problem, research the problem and then present the project to other students, as well as local and state officials. This student identified residential fires and fire deaths as a problem. Both teacher and student were indignant that they were unaware that sprinklers were an option for homeowners. They could not understand why Minnesota does not require sprinklers in homes where most fire deaths occur, especially after reading about the success of the Arizona sprinkler requirement. This student has identified sprinklers as part of the solution to the fire problem. The challenge is to get others thinking the same way. Free resources are available on the web. The home fire sprinkler association www.homefiresprinklerassociation.org has free materials to use in programming. The Home Safety Council www.homesafetycouncil.org has videos as well as fact sheets. The "wheel" does not have to be reinvented. Use the free resources available. Challenge yourself to talk about residential fire sprinklers in all your presentations to begin the sprinkler education process.

Upcoming Events:

Education Conference: January 23-25, 2009 Arrowwood Conference Center, Alexandria, MN Paul Schwartzman will be speaking on Sunday on Vision 20/20 National Strategies for Fire Loss Prevention. For more information contact Marty Scheerer or Connie Forster

Child Passenger Safety Technician Training: January 7-8, 14-15, 2009 After this four day training, participants are nationally certified as CPS Technician. Contact Connie Forster for more information.

Meet Board Member Tom Pitschneider

Recently elected FMAM Director Tom Pitschneider was interviewed for this edition of the Post Indicator. He describes his background and experience in the fire service and shares some of the vision he has for fire prevention and FMAM.

Post Indicator Editor Jon Nisja (PI): *Can you describe your fire service experience for the members of FMAM?*

FMAM Director Tom Pitschneider (Pitschneider): I became a paid-on-call firefighter for the City of Shakopee in 1985. After 18 years in the printing field I was able to become the full-time Fire Inspector in December of 1999. Through my 23 years I have watched our city grow from 15,000 to over 35,000 residents and our department grow from 1 station with 35 members to 2 stations with 50 members.

PI: *What do you view as the big fire prevention challenges of the near future?*

Pitschneider: With the current and future budget concerns I see the possibility of reduced education time while communities attempt to reallocate the inspectors time to performing billable code inspections. While an effective inspection program minimizes fire loss the education portion is where I feel we can have the biggest impact in reducing the number of fires.

PI: *How have you seen fire prevention and inspection activities change over your years in the fire service?*

Pitschneider: I believe the fire service is beginning to realize the importance to both the fire service and the community to have an effective fire safety education and inspection program. Not only are we saving the property and lives of those in our community, we may also be saving our own.

PI: *What is your advice to new fire inspectors or people who may be coming into this line of work?*

Pitschneider: Be nice. Remember that the objective of the code official is not to be the bully but to be the educator. I find that people are more likely to comply with the code if they understand the code. Those few extra minutes to explain why they have deficiencies can minimize the return trips and make future inspection less stressful for all involved.

PI: *You have been active in FMAM as a member for a few years; what do you view as the strengths of the organization?*

Pitschneider: FMAM's strength is in its members. Having the ability to communicate and work with others in your field is invaluable. Making that strength available to our members allows us to be the great organization that we are.

PI: *What do you see as the challenges for FMAM during the next few years?*

Pitschneider: Some of our challenges will be maintaining our membership base as jurisdictions continue to look for ways to cut costs. New technology will also bring changes that we will need to react to. Our focus will need to be on the health of our association and its benefits to our members and the communities we work in.



53rd ANNUAL INSTITUTE FOR BUILDING OFFICIALS

JANUARY 7-16, 2009

Electrical	January 7-8, 2009	Wednesday – Thursday
Building	January 12-16, 2009	Monday – Friday
Mechanical	January 12-14, 2009	Monday – Wednesday
Plumbing	January 12-14, 2009	Monday – Wednesday
Fire	January 15-16, 2009	Thursday – Friday
Housing	January 15-16, 2009	Thursday – Friday
MPBTA	January 15-16, 2009	Thursday – Friday

Schedule of Fire Prevention Classes

Thursday, January 15, 2009:

8:30 – 10:00 a.m.	Basic Fire Sprinkler Systems <i>Dan Kaiser and Ralph Peterson, Minnesota State Fire Marshal Division</i>
10:15 – 11:45 a.m.	Basic Fire Sprinkler Systems (continued)
11:45 – 12:45 p.m.	Lunch
12:45 – 2:15 p.m.	Fire Code Round Table Discussion on Fire Protection <i>Robert Imholte, Fire Safety Resources, LLC; Ralph Peterson, and Bob Rexeisen, Minnesota State Fire Marshal Division; Jeff Schadegg, City of Inver Grove Heights Fire Department</i>
2:30 – 4:00 p.m.	13D Round Table Discussion on Fire Protection <i>Robert Imholte, Fire Safety Resources, LLC; Ralph Peterson, and Bob Rexeisen, Minnesota State Fire Marshal Division; Jeff Schadegg, City of Inver Grove Heights Fire Department</i>

Friday, January 16, 2009:

8:30 – 10:00 a.m.	Advanced Fire Sprinkler Systems <i>Dan Kaiser and Ralph Peterson, Minnesota State Fire Marshal Division</i>
10:15 – 11:45 a.m.	Basic Fire Sprinkler Systems (continued)
11:45 – 12:45 p.m.	Lunch
12:45 – 2:15 p.m.	AST/UST and Other Service Station Issues and the Fire Code <i>Steve Reckinger, Holiday Companies</i>
2:30 – 4:00 p.m.	AST/UST and Other Service Station Issues and the Fire Code (continued)

To register or view the complete schedule of classes, go to: www.cce.umn.edu/buildingofficials.



T'was the night before Christmas,

And all through the house

Everyone was sleeping, even the mouse.

When all of a sudden, there appeared some light smoke,

Then the smoke alarm sounded and everyone woke

Off in the distance, a fire began to grow

When all of a sudden, it started to slow,

Then what to my wondering eyes did appear?

A group of firefighters, in full turnout gear!

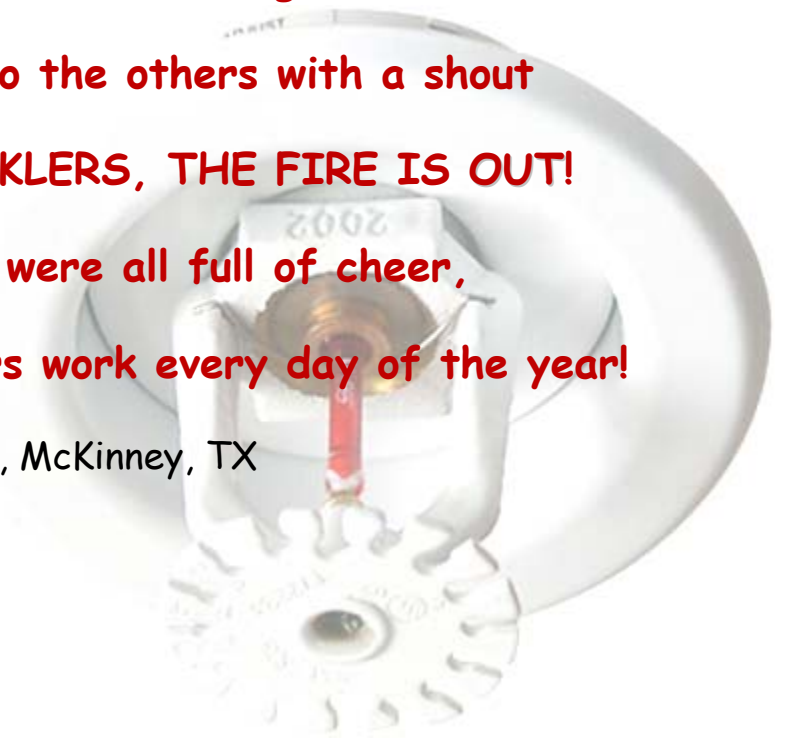
And I heard one exclaim to the others with a shout

"THIS HOME HAS SPRINKLERS, THE FIRE IS OUT!

As they drove away, they were all full of cheer,

Knowing that fire sprinklers work every day of the year!

Written by: Andrew Barr, CFPS, McKinney, TX



FMAM Meeting Notice & Calendar

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Apple Valley Fire Station #1 – 15000 Hayes Road (County Road 42 & Hayes Road) – Apple Valley, MN
55124

1:00 p.m. – Education Program – ImageTrend On-Line Inspection Reporting Software

2:00 p.m. – Business Meeting

Other Important Dates (2009):

January 15 & 16, 2009 – Annual Institute – University of Minnesota

March 11, 2009 – FMAM Annual Meeting & Elections (9:00 a.m. – Educational Program)

Fire Marshals Association of Minnesota
Post Indicator; Jon Nisja - Editor
678 Pinewood Drive
Shoreview, MN 55126-4749