

New York State Association of Fire Chaplains
Board of Directors Meeting
Sunday/Monday, February 6-7, 2005
Montour Falls, NY

Present: Chief Billia, 1st Deputy Chief Miles, 2nd Deputy Chief Holst, Ex. Secretary Hessel, Past Chief Bitsko, Directors Chamberlin, Chapman, Connaghan, Gardner, Knower, Palmer, Van Houten, Ex-Chiefs Brennan, Michatek, Tobin.

Excused: Treasurer Hunt, Directors McGloon, & Whitney, Ex-Chiefs Carvalho, Elliott, & Jagow.

The meeting was called to order by Chief Billia at 8:13 p.m. with 1st Deputy Chief Miles leading the Board in prayer and Ex-Chief Brennan leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by 1st Deputy Chief Miles and seconded by 2nd Deputy Chief Holst to accept the minutes of the previous meeting of September 20. Motion passed.

Officer Reports

Chief Billia talked about the plans for the upcoming conference in April and having a booth at the Fire Police Conference.

1st Deputy Chief Miles discussed some of the activities he has been present a meeting in Erie County, the regional meeting in Western NY, and attended the Fallen Fighter service in Maryland. He also talked about the 2006 conference.

2nd Deputy Chief Holst reported on behalf of the Membership Committee that we presently have 471 members with 209 having paid their 2005 dues. He also states he was present at the regional meeting in Long Island and at the Area 7 meeting of the Fire Police.

Treasurer Hunt gave a written report on the finances of the organization. Discussion was also held about working on a breakdown of the supplies sold and a conference expense report was handed out by Chief Chaplain Billia.

Mabel Gardner read the report of the Good and Welfare Committee. The report included a listing of cards that were sent out that is attached to Secretary's copy.

Secretary Hessel reported on the progress of the Membership ID cards. It was also stated that Chaplain Bower will not have to pay his dues for 2005 as he is on active duty for the military.

Committee Reports

- A. Memorial – Past Chief Bitsko is working on the Memorial Service for the April Conference. Chaplain Huling-Hummel will preach and a local church will be contacted to host the service.

- B. Training
 - a. 2004 edition of Training Tapes part 3 is almost completed.
 - b. Ex-Chief Tobin also reminded everyone that the training committee will take training out across the state and encourage the directors to host a training event.
- C. Program – The conference is scheduled for April 24-27 at Montour Falls. Conference materials should go out in the next two weeks.
- D. Publicity – The committee is working on the booth and publicity for mailings. The web page has also been undated and continues to receive requests from people.
- E. Nominating – Past Chief Bitsko reported that the nominations for the officers and directors to be elected at the April Conference are:
 - a. Chief Chaplain-Deacon Ed Billia
 - b. 1st Deputy Chief-Mr. William Miles
 - c. 2nd Deputy Chief-Mr. Richard Holst
 - d. Directors-3 year term
 - i. Rev. Bryan Chapman
 - ii. Mr. Donald McGloob
 - iii. Rev. Jim Van Houten
- F. Supply
 - a. An updated supply list and prices are being worked on.
 - b. Tim Newman designed a highlighted form of supplies that will go out with the conference mailing.
 - c. Some test products were shown and the patch is being reordered.

A motion was made by 1st Deputy Chief Miles and seconded by 2nd Deputy Holst to recess until Monday. A prayer was lead by 2nd Deputy Holst.

The meeting was called together at 8:30 a.m. with a prayer lead by Chaplain Chapman and the Pledge of Allegiance by Chaplain Palmer.

Old Business

A discussion was held regarding the 40th Anniversary concerning the definition of charter member. Questions were raised about whether the definition should be limited to the 14 members at the organizational meeting in 1966 or should it be expanded to include those who were at the meeting in 1967 when the Constitution and By-Laws were passed, first elections held, and the process of incorporation started. Chaplain Van Houten will do some investigation and present an answer at the next meeting.

New Business

- A. 1st Deputy Chief Miles moved and Chaplain Palmer seconded that the Board grant Life Membership to 12 individuals who meet the criteria. Motion passed.
- B. Chaplain Chapman moved and Past Chief Bitsko seconded that the Board recommend to the membership that the following members be made Honorary Members:
 - a. Mr. William E. Young (68)
 - b. Mr. Clint McNicholl (84)

Motion passed.

- C. Discussion was held regarding the budget. Chaplain Palmer presented a proposed format and will work with the Treasurer to have a budget at the April Meeting.
- D. Web Page – The decision was made not to allow a link to World Memorial foundation.
- E. Upcoming Conferences: The following conferences are coming up and we wish to have a table at:
 - a. Fire Police in Monroe: May 13-14
 - b. Fire Chiefs in Syracuse: June 9-11
 - c. FASNY in Lake Placid: August 18-20

A motion was made by Past Chief Bitsko and second by 1st Deputy Miles to purchase a table at the Fire Police Conference for \$ 5.00. Motion passed.

- F. Legislative Update – Chaplain Knower gave an update on the following legislative bills:
 - a. Blue Lights for Police Vehicles
 - b. Worker’s Compensation – There is a revised form for firefighters and training conferences on that subject scheduled throughout the state.
- G. Line of Duty Death – A discussion was held about organizing a Crisis Team who can assist departments undergoing a line of duty death. Ex-Chief Tobin will organize a system with regional coordinators.
- H. Conference Gifts – Discussion was held regarding gifts to be given away at the spring conference. It was decided to coffee cups at that meeting.

General Announcements

- A. Chaplain Knower stated that the Fire Chiefs would like to work closer with us in regards to joint training and with some “Prayer Bears” that they have for sale.

- B. Chaplain Chapman suggested that we write up a statement about our organization to put on a plaque underneath our seal at the Academy like the other state organization seals. Secretary Hessel will be in charge of that.
- C. Each chaplain present was given a gift of a Contemporary English Version of the New Testament by Chaplain Knower.
- D. A discussion was held regarding whether the association should take a position against the ACLU. The general feeling was that each individual can take any position they feel they need to make, but the association should avoid taking a stand.
- E. On May 21, Armed Forces Day, a group of brass player hope to have a 7 mile line of people playing taps. The line will be from Elmira to Bath along Route 17 connecting the two National Cemeteries.

The next meeting will be held on April 26 at Montour Falls.

Motion was made by 1st Deputy Miles and seconded by Chaplain Van Houten to adjourn.
Motion carried.

Chaplain Van Houten closed the meeting with prayer at 10:38 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kenneth N. Hessel,
Executive Secretary