

St. Clair/Monroe County Fire Chiefs Association  
Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, July 26, 2012  
@  
Mascoutah Fire Department

The meeting was called to order by President Brent Saunders at 1903 hrs.

Saunders thanked Chief Zinck of the Mascoutah Fire Department for hosting the meeting.

Chief Trentman moved, seconded by Chief Schutzenhofer to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. The motion carried.

Chief Funk moved, seconded by Chief Borkowski to approve the treasury report. The motion carried.

Chief Saunders reported that Governor Quinn recently signed House Bill 5099 prohibiting use of cellular telephones in highway accident zones. Chief Saunders was recognized by Chief Render for his influence in the enactment of the bill.

ETSB Coordinator Bill Gamblin reported that a new computer aided dispatching system is being implemented at CENCOM and a committee of fire chiefs is established to provide input on its use.

Patty Michaels of Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #262 asked the association for help in holding a fundraiser for Donna Wilkerson, a CENCOM tele-communicator. Chief Render moved, seconded by Chief Schutzenhofer to endorse the Donna Wilkerson fundraiser. The motion carried.

SWIC Fire Science Coordinator Lee Smith reported on upcoming classes.

Dan Bauer of the Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal reported there is a job opening for this region in the Underground Tank Division. Chief Saunders reported the OSFM is receiving a 1/3 budget increase for the upcoming fiscal year.

Chief Blackwell of SCCSESA reported that although that association has over 140 members they are deficient in adequately trained personnel. He and his staff are developing a program to correct the deficiency. He stated that procedures for use of the association's training prop at Scott Air Force Base are under development and he reported on the progress of the canine and medical assistance team.

Chief Render reported that the STARRS budget is reduced to sustainment of existing projects and no new projects are under consideration.

There were no reports from St. Clair County EMA, Monroe County EMA, the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association, or the Illinois Emergency Management Agency.

Curtis Williams of the Signal Hill Fire Department asked for an update on the CENCOM fire service dispatching protocol and frequency narrow-banding activities at St. Clair County. Bill Gamblin stated the dispatch protocol can be placed into service after fire service adoption. He also stated the narrow-banding project was under the direction of County EMA. Herb Simmons of EMA stated he had no report for the meeting but would see that information regarding the narrow-banding project is sent to Association Secretary Tom Elliff for distribution to all departments dispatched by CENCOM. There was no further action.

Curtis Williams went on to report on the use of IREACH as it pertains to communication with ARCH helicopter ambulance.

John Nichols of the Illinois Fire Service Institute was on hand to distribute the 2012 DOT Emergency Response Guidebooks. Chief Saunders reported that FSI is receiving funds for several Explorer schools throughout the state and one will be held in St. Clair County.

Chief Render reported the Southern Illinois 911 Memorial Walkway project is planning fundraisers on September 9<sup>th</sup> and October 19<sup>th</sup>. The project currently has \$25,000 on hand.

Chief Saunders reported the Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal is seeking to ban the use of sparklers and sky lanterns in Illinois.

Larry Polas of the Illinois Fire Apparatus Mechanics Association reported on the activities of that association.

With no further business for the Association a motion was made by Chief Schutzenhofer, seconded by Chief Owens to adjourn. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 1946 hrs.