MN-FEA Meeting Minutes

11/12/2019

Eagan Fire Department

Call to Order: 1902 hrs.

Attendees: Sam (Eagan), Dave (Eagan), Abby (Eagan Fire Explorer Captain), Dave (Rosemount), Sam (Roseville), Nate (Eagan), Matt (Minneapolis), Brian (Northern Star Council), Ashley (SBM), Maddison (SBM)

September meeting minutes review:

Motion by Rosemount. Second by Minneapolis. Approved. Motion carries.

Treasurer Report:

1. Checking account balance: $500.00
2. Savings account balance: $8,454.95. Donation letters mailed out throughout the month of October. If a post is in need of this letter, then reach out to Maddison and the letter will be sent. No anticipated expenses from now through year-end beyond office expenses.
3. Motion by Minneapolis. Second by Eagan. Approved. Motion carries.

Brian/NSC Updates:

1. Currently at 1598 kids council wide across all the posts. Hoping for 388 or so more kids.
2. Exploring division has a fundraising goal and in 2019 the goal was met and exceeded.
3. Waconia Fire will be a new post starting soon!
4. Melissa Huntley (Rosemount) delivered a message to the board of directors meeting in October.
5. Renewal paperwork is due by 11/27/2019 ($36.00 per person).
6. Increase in renewal fees in the upcoming years. Increase of $3.00 per person, which will be picked up by the Northern Star Council as long as the paperwork is on time.
7. Policy change coming January 6, 2020 for explorers aged 18-20 will need to do an adult application and sign the disclosure to allow a background check be run and take youth protection training as advisors complete. Position code: EP (explorer participant).
8. National office states that an explorer ages out on their 21st birthday. Explorer would be covered by insurance through the end of the year when they turn 21.
9. Maddison nominated and selected to earn the highest possible recognition from the Northern Star Council.
10. Carla Beach will be moving on from the Northern Star Council in January. Colleen Galloway will be stepping into Carla’s position.
11. Reach out to Brian if you need any fillable PDF forms. Other nomination forms can be found at exploring.org or exploringnow.org.

MN-FEA News:

1. Elections
   1. Secretary (2020-2021)- Ashley Krepsky
      1. Motion by Minneapolis. Second by Rosemount. Approved. Motion carries.
   2. President (2020-2021)- Maddison Zikmund
      1. Motion by Rosemount. Second by Minneapolis. Approved. Motion carries.
2. Scholarship Recipients
   1. Scholarship recipient from two years ago approached post asking to now use the monies she was awarded. Recipient was not enrolled in a post secondary education program after high school. She went forth with military training and has since started a post secondary education program. Finish a semester and then pay the portion upon completion of a college semester. Meeting attendees agrees that it is appropriate for this recipient to receive the monies she was awarded.
   2. Notification system where recipients have to check in with MN-FEA for a two-year period to utilize the monies appointed to them.
   3. Monies are always paid directly to the student account and not the scholarship recipient.
3. 2020 Scholarships
   1. No commitments from General Safety or Rosenbauer regarding their $1500.00 scholarships that have been distributed in previous years.
   2. Scholarships will be posted in December, due late January/early February, recipients will be notified in time for the spring banquet.
   3. Explorer feedback: larger scholarships are more appealing as they’d assist with tuition more than a lower value scholarship.
   4. Discuss with post members and provide feedback to Maddison.
   5. Northern Star Council also has scholarships that are available to Explorer participants.
4. Winter Seminar
   1. Contact has been made with the Minneapolis Fire Museum. A Saturday that the Museum is open will work well. Dates were given and MN-FEA is waiting on a reply from the Museum staff as to what will work best.
   2. Base Camp not being sponsored by MN-FEA in 2020. Posts are still able to attend on their own and work with the program coordinator to secure the activities the post wants to participate in.
5. Tech Rescue Concept
   1. Program is currently being re-vamped and will be on in 2020. Much potential in the works.
   2. If planning on a one day event, let Matt know so he can reach out to potentially secure the Minneapolis tower for the duration.
6. Gov’s Day Update
   1. As of now, Gov’s Day is still happening in 2020! Changes in place and as information is learned it will be provided to MN-FEA.
   2. First meeting with Gov’s Day staff will occur in February.

New Business/Good of the Order:

1. Youth Leaders
   1. If there are officers or leaders in your Post, please welcome them to the MN-FEA meetings. If we have more involvement, then there is a potential opportunity for an Explorer to be involved in the MN-FEA Board, which will provide input directly from program participants.
2. Regional Training
   1. Roesmount still working on an event at Flint Hills or the dome at the high school.
   2. aXe Games scheduled for April 25, 2020. Maddison will confirm prior to sending out meeting minutes.
   3. If your post is hosting a speaker or specialized training, then reach out to Maddison for a joint opportunity that explores can be involved in. If a post has an idea that they think is worthwhile, then email Maddison and it will go out from there.
3. 2020 Banquet
   1. Northern Star Council is working on ideas beyond where the current banquet is being held. Working with the Law Enforcement Exploring Post to get feedback and agree on a different banquet environment.
   2. Exploring wide event, which is typically held in March.
4. 2020 Goals
   1. Former ideas: micro-grants, scholarships, weekend long training, learning conference involving outside speakers.
   2. Current ideas: recruitment opportunities (Mall of America event) that reach people that are of age for an exploring post. Tie in or partner with other events at recruitment sessions. Abby stumbled upon fire explorers during an open house event. Partner with other exploring posts in Minnesota during the recruitment event. Press release or morning news opportunity with youth explaining why Exploring is beneficial. Facebook not beneficial for Exploring advertising, but rather have an Instagram page where posts send photos of trainings that they’ve done and post a photo each day to gain more interest. Create the account so that comments are not allowed, permission for photos, etc. Send photos, videos, etc. to Maddison and they’ll be utilized on the current MN-FEA social media. Survey to current posts to get more information as to why they have a post and how MN-FEA can best support them.
   3. MN-FEA can financially support opportunities where more than one post is participating. Minneapolis interested in doing Basic Animal Rescue Training if any other posts would like to also participate.
5. Open Forum
   1. Thank you note to Carla for all she has done during her time with the Northern Star Council and Fire Exploring.

Upcoming Dates:

1. 11/27/2019: Renewal Due to NSC. Cost increase in 2020.
2. 2/22/2020: OES State EMS Competition; Osseo High School. First Responder or higher recommended in participating with a team of four or more. Interested? Speak to Maddison.
3. 2020 Meeting Dates TBD (January 15 or 22, 2020 at the Minneapolis Training Facility.) Roseville open to hosting a meeting as long as it is not the first or third Wednesday of the month as that is when their post meets.

Meeting adjourned at 2024 hrs.