MN-FEA Meeting Minutes

9/18/2019

SBM Fire Department

Call to Order: 1905 hrs.

Attendees: Maddison Zikmund, Joe Zieba, Ben (Eagan), Tony Scavo, Ashley Krepsky, Dave Ehrhardt, Chris Besnett, Brian

July meeting minutes review:

1. Northern Star Council kick-off was well attended. Jack Links is available as of now. Brian will send out link to register. Minneapolis Fire Explorer received scholarship at the State Fair ($500.00). Tech rescue school cancelled and applicants received monies back. MBFTE qualified instructors can use exploring instruction time as qualifying hours. OEC competition is 2/22/2020 at Osseo High School. Motion by Rosemount. Second by SBM. Approved. Motion carries.

Treasurer Report:

1. Checking account balance: $500.00
   1. Twins Game
   2. Tech Rescue Refund
2. Savings account balance: $10,360.76
   1. Two interest payments
   2. One out for Twins, one Tech Rescue Refund, $600.00 for thank-you cards for judges at the State Fair.
3. Motion by Rosemount. Second by SBM. Approved. Motion carries.

Brian/NSC Updates:

1. Open House season! Brian, Andrea, and Carla visiting posts during Open Houses.
2. Memberships are looking good for year-end. Goal is to grow the program to serve more kids.
3. Waconia Fire coming on board as a new post prior to year-end.
4. News! BSA doing a Chapter 11 re-structure, but does not impact local Learning for Life branch.
5. If anyone ever wants to nominate or have Brian nominate a volunteer of the month, then let him know. Someone who has done good work over the year supporting Exploring, then let him know.

MN-FEA News:

1. Need to do nominations now for elections. Positions for President and Secretary are due. Nominate someone and they’ll go through Brian. Due by October 18, 2019. Maddison will follow through with Brian and based on how many are nominated there will be a ballot with election results presented at a November meeting if there is an election.
2. Scholarship timeframe- follow council’s lead. Posted in December and due in February so that they can be issued to the award recipient at the spring banquet. MN-FEA scholarship in addition to two Northern Star Council scholarships.
3. Winter seminar with a visit to the Minneapolis Fire Museum. Snacks, cake, etc. Will occur on a weeknight.
4. Base Camp has had low attendance over the last few years. A time block can be reserved versus an overnight lock-in. Possibly change the time of year to utilize the outdoor climbing wall.
5. Change Axe Games to a later time of the year? Maddison will talk with Chief Hamilton to see if a different time is available to utilize the training site.

Governors Fire Prevention Day 2019:

1. Issues with registration or Pub Ed topics? Chris says it was the best it has ever been! New Pub Ed topics seem to be well received.
2. Timing worked out as far as deadlines for registration and such for coordination with the State Fair.
3. Caravan- helpful? Ran more smoothly with one person having all documents and handing to only one person. The no parking tickets were also helpful.
4. Setup as far as where items are located? No objections to changing location of activities.
5. Schedules? If A and B squads could be spaced out instead of performing consecutively it would be easier to stay as a post. Also difficult to spread out further as advisors could not go back and forth to cheer both teams at once.
6. Extrication scenario a positive experience for all parties involved. Efficient amount of time, etc.
7. More emphasis on rehab after all events, especially after Search and Rescue. After most physical activities (CPAT, Ladders, Search and Rescue) make it mandatory to visit OEC for rehab, which will include blood pressure, hydration, etc. Training opportunity for OEC in addition to health benefit for participants.
8. Locker finals for gear donning had mixed feedback. Entertainment factor was great for the crowd.
9. Gear donning relay to have all four kids don gear at the same time versus one at a time in the group.
10. Detroit Dive was a big hit for the Search and Rescue for the year. If it will be utilized in the future, then MN-FEA will notify participants that it will be there so that it can be trained for.
11. Any ideas regarding suggestions for new events? One idea to add a “mystery medical call” and eliminating spinal immobilization if we were to change this. Vary between a mystery medical call and spinal immobilization every other year.
12. Judges comments- judges are there to debrief not to instruct the participants on how to do things. Specifically Search and Rescue and Ladder Raise- the judges do not need to teach or set up the participants when they have trained to do the skill. Judges need to judge and not train while the participants are competing. There are different ways to complete all skills and still meet the requirements versus the judges telling participants on how to do things.
13. Thoughts on the band- brought people into the park, but the sound was so loud that it took away from the posts participating. Judges unable to hear items being communicated, therefore points being docked. Volume too loud, which made skill stations difficult. Potential to have band play during breaks and have activities such as CPR and written test continue during the band playing. Potential safety hazard if band is playing and judges try to end an evolution for any reason. Overall, band was good otherwise.
14. Award Ceremony- make a bigger show out of how winners are announced, celebrated, etc. Open to thoughts and suggestions to make it a bigger celebration. Potential for a year-end banquet that announces awards at that time? No complaints about how the awards ceremony is currently held from attendees of this meeting.
15. Written Test- possibility to test specifically on topics that are part of the skills stations only? We can pick and choose out of the bank which chapters we want to use and provide that information to the state to have those specific chapters being tested on.
16. CPR- continue to utilize the feedback mannequin through the MNSCU system.

New Business/Good of the Order:

1. Youth Leaders? Open forum for one youth per post to attend MN-FEA meeting.
2. Regional Training- Chris and crew planning a Fire Exploring event at Flint Hills. More to come. Talk to MN-FEA about supporting such event/activity that has multiple posts invited to.
3. November meeting: Wednesday, November 13, 2019 at Eagan Station One or St. Paul.

Meeting adjourned at 2042 hrs.