

Firefighters Employment, Standards and Training Council Meeting
 Ocala, Florida
 January 29, 2009
 Daytona Beach, Florida

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>REPRESENTING:</u>	<u>TERM ENDING:</u>
James Angle Palm Harbor Special Fire Control Dist.	FL Association of Special Districts	10-2010 (2 nd term)
William Bryson Miami Fire Department	FL Fire Chiefs' Association	10-2010 (2 nd term)
Julie Downey Davie Fire Rescue	State Fire Marshal	6-30-2010 (2 nd term)
Greg Gay	State Fire Marshal	11-21-2010 (1 st term)
Joe Palminteri	State Fire Marshal	6-30-2010 (2 nd term)
Jon Pasqualone Fl Fire Marshals and Inspectors Assoc.	FL Fire Marshals & Inspectors Assoc.	10-2010 (2 nd term)
Laurie Sweeney Orange County F/R Dept.	FL Professional Firefighters	6-30-2010 (2 nd term)
Charles "Scotty" R. Taylor Gainesville Fire Rescue	FL Professional Firefighters	10-2010 (2 nd term)
Rick Talbert South Walton Fire District	FL Fire Chiefs' Association	01-13-2010 (2 nd term)
Ron Williams Lake County Vo-Tech	State Fire Marshal	10-11-2010 (2 nd term)

ABSENT:

John Drago City of Longwood	FL League of Cities	10-2010 (2 nd term)
Dr. Ron Nutter	State Fire Marshal	6-30-2010 (2 nd term)

The Firefighters Employment, Standards and Training Council meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m.

On a motion duly made, the minutes from the Firefighters Employment, Standards and Training Council meeting held on October 9, 2008 were approved.

Motion carried.

REPORT FROM DIVISION: *given by Director Hallman*

Director Hallman made several introductions to the Council.

The newest member to the Council is Captain Joe Palminteri. Captain Palminteri is with Citrus County Fire Rescue and also a Sergeant with the Citrus County Sheriff's office. Under the thirteen members of the Council, two of those members are Fire Officers (non-chief officers) appointed by the CFO. Mr. Palminteri is replacing Captain Shayne Stewart who left the Council earlier last year.

Other changes on the Council, Mr. John Drago, City Manager representing the League of Cities has resigned. The League of Cities will recommend his replacement. The Council also has a long standing vacancy from the Florida Association of Counties. Director Hallman is still working with them trying to fill that position.

The Division's new Assistant Director is Lt. Colonel Jeff Merritt. Mr. Merritt has a strong law enforcement background and has worked over seventeen years with the Division of State Fire Marshal in the Arson Bureau. Mr. Merritt is a big supporter of the fire service and has already become a member of the Florida Fire Chiefs' Association.

The new Bureau Chief for the Bureau of Fire Standards & Training is Chief Barry Baker. The transition for Chief Baker began in January and he will be full time at the Fire College as of next week. Chief Baker has over forty years in the Fire Service and was Fire Chief in Ormond Beach for the last eleven years. He is also past president of the Fire Chiefs' Association.

Allen Lovvorn, Assistant Superintendent with the Bureau of Fire Standards & Training was present to assist Chief Baker and give the report from the Bureau.

As mentioned in the prior meeting (The Fire & Emergency Incident Information System Technical Advisory Panel meeting) Director Hallman gave a brief re-cap from a legislative standpoint.

The Division continues to face budget cuts. During the special session held in January, another position was taken from the State Fire Marshal's Office which brings the total positions lost to two. Fortunately both of those positions were vacant. Compared to other agencies, we continue to do very well. There is a lot of concern as to what will happen with the upcoming 2009/2010 budget. They are still faced with a 2.3 billion dollar deficit in our state budget.

There are 39 bills that have been introduced this year that impact the fire service. 19 of those bills are what are considered high priorities. The Division will continue to monitor these bills.

The main focus of the next session will be the budget.

REPORT FROM THE BUREAU:

given by Chief Barry Baker and Asst. Superintendent Allen Lovvorn

Chief Baker is spending a few days a week at the Fire College and also finishing up the job in Ormond Beach which he still has obligations to. He will begin full time at the Fire College next Tuesday and will be more active at the April meeting in Tallahassee.

Allen Lovvorn, reminded the Council that they should have received copies by e-mail of the status of 69A-37. The hearings are finished; however, it may be as late as April or May before it is finally adopted into rule. Also, received is a document which is in its infancy and labeled "For Discussion Only". This document contains proposals that are being looked at for the next formulation of rule changes. Due to the fact that "clean-up" needed to be done for the Joint Administrative Procedures Committee (JAPC) we needed to keep the two issues separate. The "For Discussion Only" changes are presently up for discussion and will need to go through the rule making process. The training centers have been advised to submit any changes/issues they would like to see addressed. Rule making has not yet been formally organized. With Chief Baker just coming on board, we want to give him a chance to get his "feet wet" and give us the input and guidance that he would like to.

The Fire College staffing has been completed. All instructor positions are filled. The only current vacancy is the Domestic Security Program Coordinator previously held by John DeIorio. Mr. DeIorio has taken an Assistant Chief position with Marion County Fire Rescue. Interviews for this position have been conducted but no official announcement has been made as of yet.

The Fire College staff is looking forward to and very excited to have Chief Baker aboard and to have his leadership.

OLD BUSINESS:

Director Hallman requested language from the Council for the additional 50 hours being added into the curriculum for the upcoming 69A-37 changes. As of the last meeting, it was decided that 25 hours would go into FF1 and 25 hours for Firefighter 2. The Director requested that the Council send any comments/suggestions to Chairman Bryson.

A handout was distributed by Ron Williams, stating that the Florida Fire Service Training and Education Provider of the Year Award will go to Tampa Fire Training Center.

On a motion duly made, it is the recommendation of the Florida Firefighters Employment, Standards and Training Council that Tampa Fire Training Center be named Training Center of the Year.

Motion carried.

69A-37.401 New Proposed Revisions for Live Fire Training

The original request for revisions came from the training centers; they felt the current NFPA standards did not fit a manufactured facility. The requirements were based on live fire training in an acquired structure. There were some feelings that it was too restrictive and Florida should look at doing something a bit different.

Chief Baker stated that he does not want to see us in the position of providing exemptions to an existing NFPA code. The Bureau is ready and willing to support a revision and suggested going to the manufacturers for language to support the changes.

Director Hallman agreed to report back to the Council on how to submit and process requests for changes to NFPA.

NEW BUSINESS: None

AUDIENCE:

Chief Don Widing, Oakland Park Fire Rescue

In the “Discussion Only” handout, page 6 of 29 referencing CEU’s for Instructors, Chief Widing feels that the language in that section needs to be cleaned up. He would like to see some type of survey sent out, by category Instructor I, II, and III separately. He would like to see the following considered;

- Impact on CEU’s
- Impact on Conference and Seminars
- Engage people out in the field
- New courses offered

Shayne Stewart, Okaloosa Island Fire District

Mr. Stewart asked the Council to reconsider the use of a single textbook for Firefighter I/II. He suggested that if a chosen book meets 1001 objectives there should be no reason why that book could not be used. He was not advocating one book over the other, just the option for the training center to choose.

Ron Williams stated that the Training Centers voted for the use of one book due to testing issues when using multiple text books.

Chairman Bryson suggested that the Bureau recommend what book to use but it would ultimately be up to the individual training center what book they select for use.

James Angle suggested that as long as the training centers are aware that the state test is generated by using IFSTA, the use of multiple texts is still optional.

Chief Baker pointed out both sides to the Council. If the emphasis is on competition, it can be accomplished in a number of different ways. If we want to be the best service, which we all want to be, it would be unwise for us to choose one text book and not review that in two or three years to make sure in fact that it is the text book that we want to continue with which would instill competition. One of the things to be concerned about with using multiple textbooks is the degree of consistency. We live in a disaster prone state and we are supposed to be working well together on emergencies, it would be nice to think that we are all doing it the same way.

The current rule that CFO Sink is about to sign for adoption does not state you must use only one text.

Scotty Taylor stated that one text means one train of thought and that is not progressive to the fire service.

On a motion duly made by Scotty Taylor and James Angle, it was agreed that there would be value in re-thinking/reconsidering the use of multiple texts.

All Council members were in agreement with the exception of Ron Williams.

Motion carried.

Chairman Bryson made the motion that the Council recommend, training centers be aware that the selected book is used for state test reference but they may use whatever book they want for training.

Second by Ron Williams.

Motion carried.

Amendment to the Motion

The text must meet the requirements of NFPA 1001

The motion is now as follows:

The training centers are permitted to use any textbook that meets NFPA 1001 standards with the understanding that the State's primary textbook used as reference for the state exam is the text selected back in April, specifically the IFSTA text.

Motion carried.

Shayne Stewart, agreeing with Chief Baker asked if the State would review the text annually to be sure the text is up to standard. Mr. Stewart would like to see instructor involvement as much as possible. He thanked the Council for their vote.

Chief Baker stated that he stands for continued incremental improvement. We are not going to be the best that we want to be if we don't constantly go back and revisit where we are to make sure that we are on track. If we find we are not on track then some adjustments will be needed.

Chief Baker invited everyone to attend the Bureau update which would be held on Saturday morning.

**NEXT MEETING: April 14, 2009
Tallahassee, FL
Atrium Bldg., 3rd Floor Conference Room
2:00 p.m.**

ADJOURN.