



## **Nor Cal Fire Prevention Officers Association**

**Darren Drake, President**

**June 22, 2007**

### **Minutes- Monthly Membership Meeting-Vacaville**

President Drake called the meeting to order at 0930. Past-President Larry Monette conducted the Pledge of Allegiance. Daryl Shy was appointed by President Drake as the Sergeant of Arms.

President Drake introduced our host, Assistant Fire Marshal John Fitch of the Vacaville Fire Department. Battalion Chief Fitch welcomed us to Vacaville, and introduced Vacaville Fire Chief Preciado, who in turn welcomed the Mayor of Vacaville, Len Augustine. Division Chief Jeff Ringleman later welcomed and introduced Vacaville Councilmember Pauline Clancy.

President Drake recognized Chief Doug Williams, Liaison Chief to our parent organization.

President Drake asked Tonya Hoover to declare a quorum, so declared. Self-introductions were made.

The May Meeting Minutes were approved.

Jay Salazar, the City of Vacaville Chief Building Official gave a presentation entitled "Community, Communication and Consensus between the Building Department and the Fire Department".

Rick Terry, Co-chair of the Building Standards Committee gave a review of activities at the recent ICC Final Action Hearings in Rochester, NY. Summarizing, he mentioned that in addition to our (Norcal and Socal FPOs) involvement in the State's process, we've attended code hearings at the national level in Detroit (2005), Orlando (2006) and most recently Rochester. He mentioned that California had a great showing in Rochester, with approximately 10% of the attendees.

He also mentioned other processes we are involved in, including the OSFM Fire & Life Safety Committee, to which the FPOs appoint two members. The Co-chairs of both the North and South are finalizing a report on the Rochester hearings, with a deadline for completion of June 27.

The State Fire Marshal's Office was not represented at the meeting.

The Legislative Committee was represented at the meeting by Ron Keefer, Legislative Committee Co-chair, who indicated that since the Legislature is not in session, there is nothing to report.

## EXCHANGE OF IDEAS

Gale Bate mentioned that the next code hearings will be in February of 2008, and will be held in Palm Springs. This will be an excellent educational (if nothing else) opportunity for those who have not attended code hearings in the past.

President Drake tagged on to Gale's comments mentioning that there is an excellent FIRECHIEF.COM article/blog by Maryland Fire Chief Michael Love, who shared his afterthoughts on the Rochester ICC Hearings, and in particular, the FPO's efforts at the hearings. President Drake also thanked those who worked on the action items and attended the hearings in Rochester.

Steve Hart mentioned the LAAFM discussion list and the generally negative slant in postings regarding the adoption by the state of the 2002 edition of NFPA 25. He mentioned that the NFPA 25 workgroup just started working on annual cycle. The SFM is looking to adopt the 2007 version. If you have suggested amendments, you need to submit them to James Parsegian at the OSFM by July 17. Steve also mentioned that he recently attended an "Exiting" class put on by the ICC. Even though he has been looking at the code for the last few years, he still learned a lot, and emphasized that we all need to get trained on these new codes. He presented President Drake with a can of "Code Weenies."

Rocque Yballa indicated that submittals to ICC for the next cycle are due August 15. He also mentioned that for those going through their local ordinance adoption, they might consider submitting code changes for those items that do not fit neatly into their respective "Findings of Fact". That way we won't have to stretch our ordinances in subsequent adoptions. He suggested that they utilize the Fire Code Committee to submit their code changes.

Jerry Clark asked if any of the membership was familiar with [E-parade@yahoo groups](mailto:E-parade@yahoo.com). This is a discussion group with 350 members, consisting of fire marshals, building officials, and members of industry. He said that it is a good source of information on the ICC codes.

Kent Miller indicated that the old H-8 committee is winding down. They are trying to get University Bio-Labs in the loop. Gale Bate mentioned that the codes coming out in January doesn't affect them. They are working toward the next code cycle. He also indicated that the new codes are going to affect existing buildings when it comes to Hazardous materials.

Theresa Johnson mentioned that copies of photos of the Past-Presidents gathered together from last year's Woodland meeting are available.

Dennis Mathisen mentioned that we are selling a new product-Norcal FPO badge lanyards. They are available for the bargain price of \$5.00.

President Drake indicated that the new member's name tags are available. He also mentioned that a survey on training needs of the organization is available at the back table. Please give us your input/thoughts.

Ray Bizal gave us an update on what is happening at NFPA. His comments are attached below.

## COMMITTEE MEETINGS

## AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES

President Drake re-convened the General Membership Meeting to vote on the proposed Constitution and By-Laws, and the proposed 2007-2008 Budget.

President Drake mentioned that the adoption of the updated Constitution will bring us more in line with Socal FPOs, and will allow us to be chapters of ICC and IAFM.

There was no discussion and the Constitution was approved.

President Drake opened the discussion regarding our proposed 2007-2008 Budget. He pointed out that due to lack of attendance, our budget items relating to our education committee will be profoundly affected. He also mentioned that the E-board and the Fire Service Education Committee are working on a new Training/Education plan.

There was a discussion regarding the budget, and it was decided by the membership to delay action on the proposed budget for one month, after the training income and expenses numbers are adjusted to reflect the new realities.

President Drake mentioned in closing that the E-Board mid-month meetings are open to the General Membership, and that our next meeting is July 19 at the offices of Patterson-Wheeler in Sacramento. Thank you Chief Fitch and the Vacaville Fire Department for hosting a great meeting!!

Adjourn at 1325

Respectfully Submitted,

Scott D. Alber, Secretary

## **NFPA Report to the SO Cal FPO's**

**6-13-07**

**1 Update on FSC legislation.** Currently 16 states have passed legislation and 14 more states have legislation still in this legislative cycle. We expect two more Governors to sign bills very shortly. This has taken effect in California.

**2 NFPA 25 adoption.** This was the first NFPA standard from Title 19 to be printed as a California version of an NFPA standard. It is published and made available from BNI publishers. Some would like to see more standards done this way, such as NFPA 13. NFPA is interested in seeing if the State Fire Marshal's office is interested in publishing a California version of the NFPA 25 handbook, to include the states interpretations and commentary on their amendments. NFPA put on 5 training programs free for AHJ's and provided complimentary copies of the CA standard for all those in attendance.

**3 NFPA 70.** As usual, NFPA thru BNI will publish the California Electrical Code. NFPA will be putting on free training on the 2005 NEC for AHJ's at the end of this year, and those attending will receive a free copy of the CA Electrical Code. Last cycle NFPA put on 10 free AHJ training programs and providing CA Electrical Code books to more than 1200 AHJ's attending the programs.

**4 NFPA Annual Conference Highlights:** Held in Boston, over 5000 registrants attending nearly 200 seminars, and participating in Technical Sessions. Next year the NFPA Annual Conference will be meeting in Las Vegas. Other cities in the conference rotation are Boston, Orlando and Chicago. New editions of 30 standards will come from the Technical Sessions at the conference. Look for updated wildland standards 1144 and 1141. NFPA 1141, planned building groups will address providing infrastructures to remote or new developments. NFPA 1144 will address on site wildland fire protection, such as defensible space and construction requirements.

**5 Emergency Evacuation Planning Guide for People with Disabilities:**  
Reminder to take advantage of this free resource available at the NFPA website.

**6 Fire Prevention Week** theme this year is "**Practice Your Escape Plan**" October 7-13.

**7 Legacy of the Stations Nightclub Fire** presentation at the NFPA conference highlighted the fire. Within 6 months, NFPA revised its codes and standards based on lessons learned: Sprinkler threshold reduction for new and existing clubs, exit width increases, etc. Rhode Island and Massachusetts followed quickly with state laws. The legacy is that now opponents are trying to overturn the new requirements.

May 28 was the 30 year anniversary of the Beverly Hills Supper Club fire, 7<sup>th</sup> deadliest fire in U.S. and 3<sup>rd</sup> deadliest nightclub fire. See NFPA's web site:  
<http://www.nfpa.org/newsReleaseDetails.asp?categoryID=488&itemID=34479>

8 **Jim Shannon** remarks from the NFPA conference were spectacular. See his remarks at <http://wsce.blogspot.com/2007/06/nfpa-president-urges-attendees-to-fight.html> . NFPA is unhappy with the fire record in the U.S. What is troubling is that the record is not getting better. NFPA's responsibility as an advocate for change is just as important as developing our codes and standards. He also stated that just as NFPA did with the Fire Safe Cigarette initiative, NFPA will make an all-out push for statewide adoption of residential sprinkler laws.

9 **Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition:** NFPA is the secretariat to this effort. The Coalition paid for the last run of the OCFA Marble Mountain DVD. The Coalition has training material available: Built for Life (for home builders), Living with Sprinklers (for home owners), and other Free Teaching Tools (for AHJ's). Order forms are at the back of the room or on the Coalition website and all materials are FREE.

10 **CPSC Presidential nominee Michael Baroody:** Thanks to the National Association of State Fire Marshal's and the NFPA's opposition, his name has been withdrawn. He was not favored due to his lobbying against fire safe cigarettes.

11 **Alliance to Stop Consumer Fire Works** is now on the NFPA website at <http://www.nfpa.org/categoryList.asp?categoryID=297> . There is a lot of information about injuries and property loss due to fireworks.

12 **Risk Watch:** is a great way to reach children with fire safety, injury prevention and natural disaster preparedness messages. California is reorganizing the field representatives. We hope the State Fire Marshal's office will be able to take a lead position. Risk Watch safe communities is available for those who want to introduce this shortened message at after school programs.

13 **NFPA Research Foundation** and UL conclude groundbreaking study on smoke characterization. Lots of new information concerning the ability of smoke detectors to operate and the amount of time people have to evacuate based on combustible loading today compared to yesteryear.

14 **Water Purveyor** issue: NFPA is encouraging a coalition to introduce legislation to prohibit water companies in CA from charging standby fees and higher connection fees to 1 & 2 family dwellings just because they are protected by residential sprinkler systems. This did not go very far last year, but it is an issue that must be addressed. NFPA hopes to work with the State Fire Marshal, Cal Chiefs, the FPO's, and many other organizations for a successful campaign. A meeting is scheduled at 13:00 hrs at the Orange County Fire Authority HQ in Irvine July 16, anyone may attend.

