

New York State Association of Fire Chaplains
Board of Directors Meeting
Sunday/Monday, September 18-19, 2005
Albany, NY

Present: Chief Billia, 1st Deputy Chief Miles, 2nd Deputy Holst, Treasurer Hunt, Secretary Hessel, Past Chief Bitsko, Directors Connaghan, Foster, Knowler, Palmer, Van Houten, Ex-Chiefs Mitchatek, & Tobin,

Excused: Directors Gardner, & McGlooin.

Absent: Directors Chapman, & Whitney

The meeting was called to order by Chief Billia at 8:00 p.m. at the Hampton Inn Conference Room. Director Van Houten led the Board in prayer and 1st Deputy Chief Miles lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

1st Deputy Chief Miles moved, and 2nd Deputy Chief Holst seconded to accept the minutes of the April 26 & 27 meetings. Motion passed.

Reports

Chief Billia brought three items up for discussion.

- Chief Billia brought a sample copy of a resolution to be given to the family at the death of a chaplain. 2nd Deputy Chief Holst moved and Past Chief Bitsko seconded to present these to families from this time forward. Motion carried.
- Chief Billia suggested we give out 25 year anniversary pin and certificates to all qualified members beginning at next year's conference. 2nd Deputy Chief Holst moved and 1st Deputy Miles seconded to approve this plan of action.
- A clarification was requested regarding the definition of ordained clergy so as to advise the nominating committee for next years slate of candidates. The Board advises the committee to look at an ordained chaplain for the 2nd Deputy Chief position.

1st Deputy Chief Miles reported that he was present at the funeral for Ex-Chief Bob Winterkorn and present at the dedication of the Western NY Firefighters Memorial and Exhibit Center. He also state that plans for the training conference are falling into place.

2nd Deputy Chief Holst reported for the Membership Committee that presently there are 484 members with 345 having paid their dues.

Treasurer Hunt presented a written report of expenses. (Copy attached to Secretary's minutes.) Motion was made by Director Palmer and seconded by 2nd Deputy Chief Holst to accept the Treasurer's report. Motion passed. The treasurer had a question about the

Fire Council check and stated that the bricks for Past Chiefs Nunn and Winterkorn are ordered.

Secretary's Report: Good and Welfare presented a written report which is attached to the Secretary's minutes. A Thank You note was read from Schuyler Hospital for gift we gave to them in appreciation for the care give to Chief Billia at the last conference.

A motion was made by Past Chief Bitsko and seconded by 1st Deputy Chief Miles to adjourn for the evening. Motion carried and meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 9:08 a.m. at the NY State Police Academy. A prayer was lead by Treasurer Hunt and the pledge by Past Chief Bitsko.

Committee Reports

Memorial: Arrangements are being worked on.

Training: The new tapes are still being worked on due to some technical difficulties. Questions were raised about NIMS training for the upcoming conference along with some sessions for wives.

Program: Working on program for spouses and a possible extra (optional) day.

Publicity: The display board was at three conferences (Fire Police, Fire Chiefs, & FASNY) and in DeRuyter. Publicity will also be made for the 25 anniversary awards. The web page is working well. A motion was made by 1st Deputy Miles and seconded by Director Knower to give a plaque to NYS Academy of Fire Science in Montour Falls in appreciation of the support they have given the association. Motion passed. Plaque is to be given to the academy in February.

Nominating Committee: Slate is being worked on.

Supplies: No report.

By-Laws: No report.

Old Business

1. 40th Anniversary
 - a. Chaplain VanHouten gave a quick review of the history that he is working on.
 - b. In regards to the ongoing discussion of charter membership, the following motion was made by 1st Deputy Chief Miles and seconded by Past Chief Bitsko:
"The following fourteen (14) members who were present at the August 16, 1966 meeting in Rochester NY will now be called Founding Fathers.

Rev. Robert A. Bromfield
Rev. John L. Brown
Rev. Robert H. Darling
Rev. Robert G. Field
Rev. Donald J. Gardner
Mr. D. W. Holmes
Rev. Vincent A. Kennedy
Rev. Richard K. Muck
Rev. Robert E. Reisch
Mr. Edward J. Sitzman
Rev. John J. Steger
Mr. Henry Stillman
Rev. George L. Stowell
Rev. Eugene R. Wies.

Charter Member title will be given to the nineteen (19) Members who were present at the March 10, 1967 meeting in Albany NY in which the charter was first discussed before being officially presented and recognized by the State of New York on May 29, 1967. In addition to the above fourteen members, this includes the following five (5) members who were present at that meeting:

Rev. David W. Arnold
Rev. William Muller
Mr. Floyd G. Nower
Rev. Robert (?) Schroeder
Rev. Robert J. Winterkorn.

Motion passed.

2. LODD Crisis Teams
 - a. Past Chief Tobin will have a memorandum by the Feb. meeting. A long discussion was held regarding the role of the chaplain in training programs.
3. PSOB: Discussion was held regarding the definition of a chaplain and who is covered.

New Business

1. Past Chief Bitsko, and 1st Deputy Miles seconded to grant “Life Membership” to the following 2 candidates:
 - i. Pastor David M. Ballou
 - ii. Rev. John D. EichenbergerMotion passed.
2. BOD Meetings
 - a. February 12-13 @ Montour Falls
3. Upcoming Conferences:
 - i. Niagara Falls April 2006
 - ii. Montour Falls April 2007
 - iii. Huntington April 2008
4. House of Worship Fires CD’s
 - a. A motion was made by 1st Deputy Chief Miles and seconded by 2nd Deputy Holst to have the House of Worship CD’s copyrighted and pay the fee. Motion passed.
 - b. A motion was made by 1st Deputy Chief and seconded by Past Chief Bitsko to mass produce the CD’s and have available for sale. Motion passed.
5. A motion was made by 1st Deputy Chief Miles and seconded by Director Palmer to have Director Whitney removed from the Board of Directors for neglect of duties. The last meeting Director Whitney attended was February of 2003. A hand vote was held and the decision to remove Director Whitney for neglect was unanimous.
6. NYS Fire Service Council: A report of the September 9th meeting was given by Director Knower and Secretary Hessel who were present for the meeting.

General Information

1. FASNY Life Insurance. FASNY has a new program available to all firefighters under the age of 65 for no cost. Encouragement was given for chaplains to sign up for this insurance.
2. Kevin Foster, past chief of Aurelius Fire Department, read a paper and led a discussion regarding the presence and assistance of a chaplain at scenes involving death of individuals in the fire department.
3. Encouragement was given to establish contact with veterans and chaplains of the Armed Forces involved in the recent conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

2nd Deputy Chief Holst moved and Past Chief Bitsko seconded to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 1:55 p.m. with a prayer lead by Past Chief Michatek.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kenneth N. Hessel,
Executive Secretary