



Fire Marshals Association of Minnesota Post Indicator



President's Message – Angie Wiese



Quarterly Newsletter

June 2020

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Whew! Haven't the last few months been exciting? There are probably a few other adjectives you would use but between COVID and civil unrest, things sure have been busy.

Some current events/highlights for FMAM the last few months:

We are routinely monitoring the legislature and the Governor's office for their COVID-related updates.

2020 Code books are available on [ICC's website](#).

The 2020 Minnesota Fire Marshals Conference give-away was going to be the Turbo Tabs for the fire code. We will be interested in how FMAM members think we should utilize these items.

The NFPA Conference was canceled therefore the NFPA President's meeting was canceled. This has been set up as a future virtual meeting. Stay tuned for meeting highlights from VP Kathi Osmonson.

The Governor's Fire Prevention Day at the Fair is canceled since the Fair itself is canceled but the team is working on unique ways to connect with a large audience. Ryan Kunst is our representative and he is bringing a lot of enthusiasm to the project.

The Certification Board is adapting to COVID as well. They suspended exams for a bit but have, with some guidance from the State, resumed testing.

FMAM membership renewals went out online for the first time! This is exciting as it saves on printing and mailing costs. Hopefully it is more effective for departments as well.

As we continue this journey, know that FMAM is here for you. There are a lot of people providing products and services to make our work and lives easier. At this point it isn't so much about getting resources as it is about finding the *right* ones. We have a large network of fire professionals in Minnesota. Don't hesitate to reach out and ask how other jurisdictions are handling X, Y, or Z.

You aren't in this alone.

As always, stay safe out there,

Angie Wiese, PE, CBO
FMAM President

FMAM Operating Budget 2020Budget
Tracking **6/9/2020****Income:**

		Actual	Difference
Membership	\$5,000.00	\$389.40	\$4,610.60
Interest	\$0.05	\$0.01	\$0.04
Seminar/Education	\$0.00		\$0.00
Fire Marshal's			
Conference	\$40,000.00	\$7,066.06	\$32,933.94
Miscellaneous	\$500.00		\$500.00
<u>Total Projected</u>			
<u>Income</u>	\$45,500.05	\$7,455.47	\$38,044.58

Expenses:

Postage	\$50.05	\$16.50	\$33.55
Professional			
Services	\$300.00		\$300.00
Web	\$1,800.00	\$1,769.49	\$30.51
Public Education	\$1,500.00		\$1,500.00
Code Development	\$0.00		\$0.00
Awards/Gifts	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00
Meeting Expense	\$1,000.00	\$729.72	\$270.28
Advertising	\$600.00		\$600.00
Office/Memberships	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$0.00
Legislation	\$2,000.00		\$2,000.00
Seminars	\$0.00		\$0.00
Fire Marshal's			
Conference	\$30,000.00	\$553.93	\$29,446.07
Miscellaneous	\$500.00	\$1.50	\$498.50
State Fair	\$2,250.00		\$2,250.00
Conferences -			
NFPA, ...	\$3,000.00		\$3,000.00
<u>Total Projected</u>			
<u>Expenses</u>	\$45,500.05	\$5,571.14	\$39,928.91

\$1,884.33

Balances

Checking	\$11,345.43
Savings	\$425.10
Paypal	\$1,936.06
Total	\$13,706.59



Please pay your membership dues if you have not done so already.



Fire Marshal's Association of Minnesota
Annual Meeting
March 11, 2020

Educational Program: Cultural Competencies by Kathi Osmonson

Meeting called to order at 12:25 by President Wiese

Introductions of attendees were made – 45 in attendance

Motion by Kip LaMotte / Kathi Osmonson to approve the December minutes

Treasurer's Report:

Published in Post Indicator

Operating in the black (positive cash flow)

Did go over in some budget categories – especially regarding the website

Motion by Tom Jenson / Jake Lindquist to accept the Treasurer's Report

Membership Report – 186 members

Election of Officers (President, Secretary, and one Director Position):

Ben Foster will not be seeking another term as Secretary

Ann Blaser has offered to serve that term

Nominations were requested from the floor

A white ballot was passed for Ann Blaser

President:

Angie Wiese will be seeking a second term

Nominations were requested from the floor

A white ballot was passed for Angie Wiese

Board of Director:

Jon Nisja is interested in continuing

Dan Klein has expressed an interest

Andy Speltz has expressed an interest

Additional nominations were requested from the floor

Ballots were distributed, collected, and counted

Ballot results:

Jon Nisja (24),

Andy Speltz (17),

Dan Klein (3)

State Fire Marshal Report (Amanda Swenson – Interim Chief Deputy):

Deputy Fire Marshal vacancy in Grand Rapids area (residential)

Chief Deputy position posted

High-rise retrofit bill hearing was held this morning

Grand Rapids downtown fire – BATFE National Response Team (similar response in St. Cloud)

Health Care Inspection team has been impacted by CoronaVirus (as inspections are being cancelled by

MDH – SFMD inspectors are paid based on inspections conducted

13 fire fatalities as of March 10; last year was 9 (9 of 13 were smoking-related)

Fire Code Update (Tom Jenson):

In effect as of March 31, 2020

ICC in process of publishing

Books will not be available; still in review

Link to PDF document on our website

Books will be around \$110; PDF versions will be around \$93

Information sheets are being updated

Assisted living facilities:

Last year, MN Stat 144G passed to regulate ASF and ASF-Dementia care

Statute included several fire safety provisions:

Conflicts with fire codes

Smoke alarm and detection requirements

Requirement for full evacuation drills of occupants (not realistic)

Valet Trash Collection:

SFMD wrote interpretation that practice was not allowed

Company requested a variance – denied

Company appealed with administrative law judge

Recent hearing – Valet Living wanted SFMD to cease and desist interpretation and that all rules must follow APA for rule-making

Waiting for ALJ ruling

Conference give-away in April will be code turbo tabs

Smoking-related deaths – discussion:

Materials and resources being developed

More of an issue in rural Minnesota than the metro area

Media campaign to reduce

Wedding Barns (Jon Nisja):

Bill introduced to prohibit sprinklers in rural settings

Fire & Life Safety Education (Sara Ahlquist):

September 17 – NFPA / SFMD Summit

Conference (April 14-15) will include fire and life safety educator track and certification exam

Fire Marshals Conference (Angie Wiese):

Registration is open currently

Keynote speaker: Tanya Hoover – Deputy US Fire Administrator

60 pre-registered

Vendors have committed to paying for meals and breaks (reduces the cost)

Training & Education (Kathi Osmonson):

March 24 – YFPI class Waite Park in conjunction with MN IAAI – focus on autism

June FMAM Meeting – Sheet Metal Local 10 – hood systems, dampers, air pressurization, testing mechanical systems

Seminars (Jon Nisja):

NFPA sprinkler-related training (changes from 2010-2013-2016 editions)

Discussion of NFPA 72

Governor's Council (Eric Lind):

Recent meeting involved Governor's Fire Prevention Day at the State Fair

Deferred to Ryan Kunst

Governor's Fire Prevention Day at the State Fair (Ryan Kunst):

Will be happening again this year

Same area as last year for the Hot Zone

May have both sides of the road this year

Explorer area might have some space changes

Security will be enhanced this year at the Fair

Commissioner's Fire Service Advisory (Angie Wiese):

Fire Safety Account: fireworks sales tax money added a couple of years ago - \$59,000 for this fiscal year; estimated at about \$80,000 annually

Angie wants that money spent on prevention and education for fireworks safety, burn prevention, etc.

Gear washer / dryer extraction program – 59 FDs this year (204 total over the years)

MN Fallen Firefighters – Angie will be the master of ceremonies

Legislative (Kip LaMotte):

MnFAC comprised of various fire service associations

70 bills (+/-) that are being tracked

Certification (Roy Kingsley):

Current contract with private entity ending in 2024
Concerns with IFSAC and ProBoard about transition
Certification Board researched alternate administration options for operating the certification process
Certification process transitioning from private entity to State Fire Marshal Division
Existing excess funds will probably go into state to set up the program
Want a very smooth transition
Should be doable with the existing budget
Outside firm will handle the evaluators
Exams and testing will not change
Will still have a board with representation from the various fire service associations

New Business:

Website has been revamped and updated
Ann Blaser has been sending out news events
Jonathan Gaulke has been operating Facebook site

Old Business:

FMAM Website is collecting sprinkler saves
Merchandise is available through www.benchwarmersapparel.com

Good & Welfare:

Fire Marshal Conference – April 14-15 at Eagan Community Center
FMAM members are encouraged to register early as conference might fill up early
Jake Lindquist coordinates National Fire Academy class. Minnesota gets nine classes per year; two are committed to officer school. Will be adding a tab to SFMD website
Kip LaMotte – Fire Inspector certification exams are based on one of the two texts (Jones & Bartlett or IFSTA)

Motion by Kathi Osmonson / Bob Reif to adjourn at 14:45 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Jon Nisja, Acting Secretary

Fire Marshal's Association of Minnesota**Board of Directors Meeting**

May 13, 2020
Virtual Meeting

Members Present: President Angie Wiese, Vice President Kathi Osmonson, Secretary Ann Blaser, Treasurer Chris Fuller, Past President Kip LaMotte, Directors Tom Pitschneider, Darrin Bramwell, Jon Nisja, and Sara Ahlquist

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by President Angie Wiese
Acceptance of February 2020 Board Meeting Minutes

Motion by Kip LaMotte, Second by Jon Nisja

Treasurer's Report (Chris Fuller)**Current finances**

Financial Report provided by Treasurer Chris Fuller (written report in Newsletter): income is mostly from conference vendors (some from membership renewals), expenses are mainly from web development

2020 Conference Financial Report

Looking for a refund on conference expenses including airfare and down payment for venue
Cancelling Event Espresso automatic renewal

If refunding entire amount of conference cost to those who had already registered, FMAM would have to pick up PayPal fee

Membership (Ann Blaser)

Ann looking into setting up online membership renewals this year through website

Committee Reports**State Fire Marshal** (Jon Nisja)

Staff working from home, inspection staff still in field

Health team busy with temporary hospital sites

Tracking fire department COVID responses (700+ calls, 800+ staff exposed)

Weekly conference calls for COVID-19 related topics for fire departments

Public Fire Safety Education (Sara Ahlquist/Kathi Osmonson)

Most events cancelled or postponed – Some moved online including Community Risk Reduction and Community Risk Assessment, youth fire prevention moving that direction

Many station tours are going virtual for the Fall – could have a resource for those departments on how to host virtual tour

Currently doing some virtual fire education in schools, planning for in-person in the fall – potentially work with teachers to include fire safety in virtual lessons

Training & Education (Angie Wiese/Kathi Osmonson)**FMAM/SFM Conference**

Will not try to do conference virtually
Some individual classes could be offered virtually
2021 Conference: 13th and 14th of April

Quarterly Training

Could use some of the 2020 conference content for quarterly trainings
Next Training – June 10th was a field trip - put on hold indefinitely
Have gotten interest for future trainings - June 30 min virtual training on loading docks, industrial doors, and fans
Could do hour long virtual business meeting to connect with members

Legislative Update

Could get virtual update from lobbyists on fire related bills from this legislative session in upcoming meeting

Will leave lobbyists' fee as-is for this year, until we are steadier economically

Can work on proactive legislation

Certification

Exams are beginning to resume

Fire and life safety educator likely to resume – keep class on conference agenda for 2021

State will take over certification in future

Fire Code Committee

Code books are out for purchase now

Angie has tabs that were meant to be the give-away in the 2020 conference
Would be helpful for SFM to offer virtual training on new codes

Electrical code hearing in August

FMAM supports electrical code and will likely be testifying

New Business

Duties of FMAM officers/hours spent

Executive Administrator Position – on hold for now

Interview for June PI – Ann Blaser

Website progress (Ann Blaser)

Looking for more content: photos, resources tab, etc.

Adjourn

Board Member Bio



Meet FMAM's New Board Member: Ann Blaser

Ann Blaser is the Fire Protection Engineer for Saint Paul. As Ann is stepping into her new role as Secretary on the FMAM board, we asked her to participate in an interview so our members could get to know more about her.

Angie Wiese: Thank you for participating on the FMAM board. Tell us a little about your background.

Ann Blaser: I got my bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from Iowa State University (Go Cyclones!). I chose Mechanical Engineering specifically because there are so many different industries a Mechanical Engineer can go in to. As it turns out that was the right decision for me, because it allowed me to work as a Fire Protection Engineer once I graduated. I had no idea Fire Protection Engineering even existed when I chose my major. I came across it in my search for an engineering career that would allow me to leave a real positive impact in the community more so than my previous internships redesigning small parts of refrigerators or designing unnecessary car accessories did. Fire Protection Engineering fit the bill perfectly for my goals and I have been working for the City of St. Paul for three years now.

I got more involved with FMAM when I started fiddling around with the website and was asked to start sending out some emails to the membership. I then joined the 2019 conference committee mostly to set up online registration and have been helping with most things technology related as much as I can since then.

AW: What do you enjoy about your job?

AB: I love that I can go to work every day and feel like what I am doing is meaningful. If I do my job well, people will not even realize the ways I have helped protect them because they will even think twice about if they will be safe if a fire happens to occur while they are in a building. Keeping people safe allows them to put their focus and energy into the things they value.

I have a great group of coworkers that make it enjoyable to go to work every day (or stay home and work every day). All of my coworkers are great references if I have a questions, and they have all made me so much better at my job. I have learned an incredible amount in my three years with St. Paul. It's cliché, but I am lucky that no two days are alike. I get all kinds of unique questions and ideas from customers daily that challenge the ways I think about fire protection. I have the unique opportunity right now to influence a few large development projects in St. Paul that will be around long after I have left this position.

AW: Where do you find value in your membership in FMAM?

AB: I have connected with a lot of people that I otherwise would never have met had I not gotten involved with FMAM. That is a huge value in itself. Many more ideas are shared when people from different backgrounds get to talking about how they can achieve their goals, and having people to bounce ideas off of makes me better at my job. I value the quarterly trainings that we have, firstly because I always learn something but also there are topics discussed that I sometimes have not considered with regards to fire safety. The same is true for the annual conference. I gain a lot of knowledge by hearing the presenters at the annual conference, but also in hearing some of the feedback from others attending classes who have more experience than I do in fire protection. One unique skill that I have gained from being involved with FMAM is website editing, which is not something I ever imagined I would be doing, but have really enjoyed.

We are excited to add Ann to FMAM's board of directors. She will be a great asset to our team. Welcome aboard Ann!

WHAT IS THIS COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION THING?

By Amanda Swenson

Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal

Is this the new fire prevention? Should we be changing names from fire prevention to community risk reduction? Is this a passing trend? If there is more to this CRR thing, what do I need to do?

There are a lot of questions around CRR and what it means to fire departments. Let's start with the definition from NFPA: "Community Risk Reduction is a process to identify and prioritize local risks, followed by the integrated and strategic investment of resources to reduce their occurrence and impact" (NFPA 1300 – Standard on Community Risk Assessment and Community Risk Reduction Plan Development).

Think about it like this: Would you rather have a safety ring tossed to you when you're already drowning or use a lifejacket to help protect you from drowning? The safety ring is your emergency response model (mitigating a situation that is already occurring), and the lifejacket is the prevention model (giving tools and knowledge to help keep people safe). CRR goes beyond either of these models.

CRR starts with a community risk assessment (CRA). In the CRA, we first analyze the community, looking at hazards, demographics, businesses, landscape and more. After the community analysis, we assess the vulnerabilities of the community and prioritize them based on risks. With vulnerabilities prioritized, partnerships can be formed to create a group who will work together to define the problem and goals.

With the CRA complete, you may find there are many proverbial pools, lakes and rivers in your community that make drowning a definite risk, and the community needs that lifejacket program. On the other hand, your CRA may tell you that you need to prioritize a bike helmet program. The list of risks in the community and potential interventions are endless, but the important part is that it is based on your community and your data. It is strategic and prioritized based on the unique community.

So CRR is not the new fire prevention, but fire prevention might be one of the interventions used in your community. CRR relies on having accurate data, community partnerships and clear goals. It is not an attempt to answer every problem in the community, but it helps prioritize risks to make the community safer. If you are looking for more information on CRR, reach out to our fire and life safety education staff.



Did you know?

More than 30 percent of fireworks injuries are from sparklers.

There is an average of 73 hospital visits each year in Minnesota due to fireworks injuries.

Approximately 40 percent of fireworks injuries each year happen to children.

Fireworks that explode or shoot into the air are illegal in Minnesota.

FIREWORKS SAFETY

- Only use Minnesota-legal fireworks like sparklers, fountains, ground spinners and snappers.
- Point fireworks away from people and animals.
- Use fireworks in an open area away from trees and houses.
- Extinguish and dispose of spent fireworks in a bucket of water. Do not try to relight a dud.
- Always use caution around fireworks and make sure children are supervised.



SFM.DPS.MN.GOV

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FMAM Training and Membership Meeting

When: June 10, 2020

Where: From your computer

How: Here is the link: <https://meet.ci.stpaul.mn.us/ann.blaser/NCM97TQ7?sl=1>

Training 1:00 PM

D&DT will present on

- Required drop testing of rolling and sliding fire doors per NFPA 80
- Certification process which is required and must be used
- Acceptable forms for certification documentation
- Qualifications needed to perform a drop test (and upcoming changes in NFPA80)
- Witness a drop test of a rolling steel fire door (video)
- Common failure points
- Common installation issues
- Common release types
- How fire door function ties into life safety

Business Meeting to Follow



FMAM Seeks Input From Its Members

As the saying goes, “An organization is only as good as its people.” That is why FMAM is asking its members to become involved with the newsletter. Have you read a good prevention article lately? Are you doing something out of the ordinary at your department in the realm of fire prevention? Please submit these for consideration into the Post Indicator Newsletter. Pictures are always welcome.

Have any ideas on how to make the Post Indicator better? Submit these ideas as well.

All submissions should be directed to the Post Indicator editor:

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We're on the Web

www.fmam.org

Important Dates - 2020:

Wednesday, June 10, 2020 - Quarterly Meeting 1300-1500

Wednesday, September 9, 2020 - Quarterly Meeting 1300-1500

Fire Marshals Association of Minnesota (FMAM) was formed in the mid-1970s by a handful of local fire marshals as a way of networking ideas for effective fire prevention efforts. FMAM is a chapter of two international organizations: the International Code Council and the International Fire Marshals Association.

Our members consist of fire chiefs, fire inspectors, fire marshals, public fire safety educators, building inspectors, fire protection engineers, fire protection contractors, and others with an interest in fire and life safety.

Our mission statement is: "Dedicated to providing leadership and resources for fire prevention and life safety."