



Fire Marshals Association of Minnesota Post Indicator



President's Message – Angie Wiese



Quarterly Newsletter

June 2021

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Jean-Baptiste Alphonse Karr said, “the more things change, the more they stay the same.” You might be feeling like that right now. I know I am. We’ve had several conversations at the Board level on the benefits of virtual meetings and education versus in-person ones. We’ve decided in-person education for longer programs far outweighs virtual. However, we’ve also decided that shorter programming and board meetings can be held virtually with great impact. So what does that mean for you as a member going forward?

FMAM Board Meetings: FMAM Board meetings will be held in-person with a virtual option. Hopefully this will assist folks in being able to participate in the Board whether they are local or from greater Minnesota. Sometimes, the travel piece of attending a Board meeting just doesn’t work out. Having a virtual option ensures all Board members can be present and give their time and expertise for Board business.

Minnesota Fire Marshals Conference: The Minnesota Fire Marshals Conference will be held in-person only. Having two entire days of virtual content lacks effectiveness and quite frankly, it is impossible for the planning committee to make the finances work since the fixed costs of the venue and speakers does not diminish with virtual attendees. You might be saying “then how did this conference and that conference do it?” The answer is – by the skin of their teeth. We have conferred with other conference holders. Many took a financial loss but thought it was in the best interest of their membership and their brand to move forward anyway.

Membership Meetings: FMAM membership meetings will begin again in-person for the September meeting. Where these can be effective as a hybrid (virtual and in-person) we will facilitate both. Some of our programming just isn’t suitable for a virtual option, such as on-site tours and visits.

I want to thank all of you for your tremendous flexibility over the last year and a half. Your customers and peers are in a far better place because of your efforts and resilience. I am very proud to call you my colleagues.

Sincerely,

Angie Wiese, PE, CBO
FMAM President

FMAM Operating Budget 2021Budget
Tracking **6/4/2021****Income:**

		Actual	Difference
Membership	\$5,000.00	\$3,581.21	\$1,418.79
Interest	\$0.05	\$0.02	\$0.03
Seminar/Education	\$0.00		\$0.00
Fire Marshal's			
Conference	\$40,000.00		\$40,000.00
Miscellaneous	\$500.00	Turbo Tabs \$58.38	\$441.62
<u>Total Projected Income</u>	\$45,500.05	\$3,639.61	\$41,860.44

Expenses:

Postage	\$50.05		\$50.05
Professional Services	\$300.00		\$300.00
Web	\$1,800.00	\$394.97	\$1,405.03
Public Education	\$1,500.00		\$1,500.00
Code Development	\$0.00		\$0.00
Awards/Gifts	\$2,000.00		\$2,000.00
Meeting Expense	\$1,000.00		\$1,000.00
Advertising	\$600.00		\$600.00
Office/Memberships	\$500.00		\$500.00
Legislation	\$2,000.00		\$2,000.00
Seminars	\$0.00		\$0.00
Fire Marshal's			
Conference	\$30,000.00		\$30,000.00
Miscellaneous	\$500.00		\$500.00
State Fair	\$2,250.00		\$2,250.00
Conferences - NFPA, ...	\$3,000.00		\$3,000.00

Total Projected Expenses**\$45,500.05 \$394.97 \$45,105.08**

\$3,244.64

Balances

Checking	\$13,494.56
Savings	\$505.15
Paypal	\$8,374.12
Total	\$22,373.83



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



Fire Marshal's Association of Minnesota
March 10, 2021 Quarterly Meeting

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS – SFM with Energy Systems, CO2 Storage Systems, On-demand Mobile
Fueling, Code of Conduct

ELECTIONS & BUSINESS MEETING – to follow Educational Program

Attendees: Kathi Osmonson, Ann Blaser, Leanna Shaff, Roy Kingsley, Christopher Ferguson, Forest Williams, Mark Duchene, Jonathan, Andy Winkel, Thomas Jenson, Matt, James Brennan, Diane Gavin, Andy Speltz, Jon Nisja, Der Vue, Bobby, Kris Skow, Adrian Nies, Sara Ahlquist, Michael Raeker, Laura Huseby, Jeff Hemenway, Rick Hammerschmidt, Joseph Rumppe, Torrance Harriel, Joe Larson, Michael Buckman, Brian Berube, Jack T, Ryan Struckmann, Tom Pitschneider, Brian Ganzel, Dan Kaiser, James Perucca, Jeff Nelson, Ryan Kunst, Jay O'Connell, Gregory Adamietz, P Miller, Michael Post, Kip LaMotte, Brian Hanrahan, Thierry Chevallier, Bob Fiske, Jacob Lindquist, Phil Schaefer, Eric Lind, Joe Jarvis, Bill Buemer, Don Nutter, Brian Schmidt, Jarrod Schmoll, Ralph Peterson, Amanda Swenson, Robert Reif, Dan Klein, Darrin Bramwell, James Smith, Laura McCarthy, Jeff Schadegg, Adam Powers, Angie Wiese, Jonathan Gaulke, Tim Butler

- I. Call to Order (President Angie Wiese)
 - A. Introduction of Members & Guests
 - B. Elections
 - 1) Vice President Nominations: Dan Klein, Tom Pitschneider
Members voted via Survey Monkey and results were recorded by Secretary Ann Blaser
Results: Tom Pitschneider 29, Dan Klein 11 (Total 40)
Tom Pitschneider has been elected as FMAM VP
 - Treasurer: Chris Fuller (incumbent) running for last term
White ballot motion: Kip LaMotte, 2nd: Tom Pitschneider
Chris Fuller has been elected as FMAM Treasurer
 - Director At-Large: Darrin Bramwell (incumbent) running
White ballot motion: Jon Nisja, 2nd: Tom Pitschneider
Darrin Bramwell has been elected to FMAM board as Director At-Large
 - Director At-Large Nominations: Jeremy Berger, Roy Kingsley, Andy Speltz
Members voted via Survey Monkey and results were recorded by Secretary Ann Blaser
Results: Jeremy Berger 13, Roy Kingsley 7, Andy Speltz 20
Andy Speltz has been elected to FMAM board as Director At-Large
 - C. Approval of December 2020 meeting minutes
 - 1) Motion: Tom Pitschneider 2nd: Tom Jenson

II. Treasurer's Report (Treasurer Chris Fuller)

Financial report

Motion: Jon Nisja, 2nd: Mike Post

Membership report (Secretary Ann Blaser)

Renewals – prefer online

Total: 59 (more than half of the total we got by end of last year) 52 Active, 2 Government, 1 Life, 4 Associate

Will be sending reminder email in next couple of weeks

III. Reports:

State Fire Marshal (Jim Smith/Amanda Swenson/Jon Nisja)

Bill HF 109 is going to the floor now (retrofit of high-rise sprinklers) has full support of SFM Division. May have more difficult time getting through the Senate.

SF 524 wedding barn bill does not have full support, but Marshal Smith believes it is a step in the right direction for wedding barns in the state. The purpose of this bill is to come to common ground with all stakeholders and will keep wedding barns as an A2 with the sprinkler threshold at 300 or more occupants (exceptions for different building

arrangements). All hearings should be done by the 12th of April. This statute is for areas that have not adopted the Building Code. State statute MAY override current rules and codes (TBD). SFM states these changes should normally be handled by changes to the fire code, not with state statutes.

Certification of firefighters has been introduced

Marshal Smith meeting with representatives from Ojibwe nation for a bill that would give them the ability to have certain requirements waived. They would still have to present to code advisory panel to get code requirements waived, so SFM Division is not opposed.

Push by building industry to waive requirements for fall protection windows in single family homes. This is a concern for houses with 2nd or 3rd floor windows. SMF Division is currently not opposing it as an entity.

SFMD has been very busy, but is keeping up on all teams

Investigator position open currently, soon to post two health care inspector and one school inspector positions.

Began media campaign to reduce smoking that kicked off this week. SFMD is open to ideas and suggestions.

Public Fire Safety Education (Sara Ahlquist/Kathi Osmonson)

SFMD had gotten great responses for RFP and secured contract with Urban Logic. Kickoff meeting was last month. They are collecting fire data (including from DNR, Fire departments, etc.). Overlaying demographic data with fire cause data to be available for free to the public once complete. Goal is to target high risk areas with fire prevention

messaging. Kick off meeting was recorded and sent to fire chiefs and educators on SFM list. Let Kathi or Bob know if you did not receive. Will hopefully be able to roll out dashboard

USFA is focusing on fire safety with older adults (much higher risk of fire deaths).

Information on their website

Wildfire community prep day Sat. May 1st with USFA

NFA has been promoting online self-study for CRR

New messaging from NFPA with new sections for pets, youth firesetting

Fire educators' Facebook page has a lot of information

CRR net is good way to get information or ask questions. Can sign up on their website or ask Kathi, Sara, or Bob for help getting signed up

Fire Marshal's Conference (Angie Wiese)

Plan to go forward with in-person conference in late September. Considering having a few classes virtually as well.

Survey Results (Ann Blaser)

Many expressed interest in in-person conference

Reach out if you would like to be on the committee (especially the education committee)

Going to 2 training tracks and certification track to allow for physical distancing.

Training & Education

Quarterly meetings (VP Kathi Osmonson)

Knox would like to do in-person meeting and MN Sheetmetal workers would like to have us at their space for a field trip

Seminars (Jon Nisja)

No seminars planned currently

SFM currently doing virtual webinars 1st and 3rd Wed. of the month 1-1.5 hr training sessions

Institutes – U of MN & ICC Region 3 (Angie Wiese/Kip LaMotte)

Broke even this year

ICC Region III conference was provided in-person and virtually and did well, but was very expensive

Governor's Council on Fire Prevention & Control (Dan Klein)

Melissa Rodriguez is new chair

Most talks are about state fair and some sprinkler initiatives attempting to get through legislation

State Fire Code (Angie Wiese / Laura McCarthy/Tom Jenson)

IECC is moving forward with update (keeping watch on)

NEC – homebuilders lost appeal, has appealed that decision and is currently in court and is being monitored

New chair of MN state fire code committee – Patrick Farrens. Will get his contact information out.

Statute 144g.145 will have new changes for fire drills in assisted living 144g.81 is assisted living memory care and has changes as well. They go into effect Aug. 1st. Limited building heights for memory care associated with licenses. Changes will eventually be reflected in Ch. 4 of state fire code.

Vallet Living (trash collection in corridors) has appealed SFM interpretation that trash in corridors is flammable storage. Appeal was not successful.

Commissioner's Fire Service Advisory (Angie Wiese)

Met yesterday – focus on prep for potential civil unrest, bills covered in SFM report

Mark Rosenblong will not be running for president again

Chris parsons with MNIFF is stepping down from presidency to run for Minneapolis city council

Legislative / MnFAC (Kip LaMotte)

Larger bills were covered in SFM report – large collaboration effort between different fire entities

Bill for fire museum to be designated State Fire Museum

Opposed to fireworks bill

Hometown heros bills (4)

State Fair (Ryan Kunst)

No meetings yet – hoping for in-person fair this year

Certification (Roy Kingsley)

3,000 certifications/year

New certifications will be coming out for flying

Fire apparatus side – added tenders and arial truck as well

Every 3 years certifications must be reviewed – fire officers being reviewed right now

New tech – bubble sheets ending, using tablets now that will give more information on areas you can improve, etc.

SFM Transition Team – waiting for legislation to get through

IV. New Business:

Website (Ann Blaser)

Send Ann any suggestions

Technology committee: news blasts (Ann Blaser), calendar updates/minutes, Facebook (Jonathan Gaulke)

V. Old Business:

- A. Website (we are collecting sprinkler saves – please send in your information)
- B. Merchandise (www.benchwarmersapparel.com)

Good & Welfare

Fire Marshal's Conference – September 28-29, 2021 Eagan Community Center

Dave Gusteson Retiring from Golden Valley

Thank you to Kathi for time on board

Securitas has bought out TransAlarm – phone number is no longer in service. Two businesses were cut off because they did not switch over quickly enough. Contact Jay O'Connell if you have any information.

Similar situations in metro – companies cut off with no notice

Will discuss having SFM notify AHJs of companies that are

UL certificates are not being issued right now due to technical difficulties

Adjourn

Motion: Mike Post, 2nd: Tom Pitschneider

Board of Directors - Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, May 12, 2021

9:00am

Call to Order (President Angie Wiese) 9:07

Approval of the February 2021 Board Minutes as published in the March 2021 Post Indicator

1st: Chris Fuller 2nd: Andy Speltz

Additional agenda items?

None

Treasurer's Report (Chris Fuller)

Current Finances – shared via hard copy with all members present

Approval 1st: Kip LaMotte, 2nd: Tom Pitschneider

2020/2021 Conference Financial Report

2021 budget

Membership Report (Ann Blaser)

Active 67, Associate 4, Government 2, life 2; Total: 75

Jon moves life membership fees be zero, Kip LaMotte seconds, passes unanimously

Committee Reports:

State Fire Marshal's Report (Jim Smith)

Fatalities - 15 fire fatalities this year (23 last year), only reporting fatalities that have been confirmed through the ME office

Legislative session – a lot of the fire bills have been lumped together, has not been addressed in the current session yet; bill to move certification to SFM has passed committee; will not be moving on the Dakota tribal nation bill currently because fire is revered in native culture and does not have the same risks; wedding barns sprinkler bill does not have the best language, and SFMD has not been successful in getting language changed, but it is a good start for over 300 occupants

Budget – SFM division requested 6% increase, has not heard yet

New strategic plan – getting input from external clients

Smoking death campaign – data analytics and messaging; in 3rd year and will get more funding to be used for messaging – will be more focused in future (still a problem based on fire reports this year); will be focusing campaign to closest kin and friends of those at risk

Looking at July to bring employees back to the office at partial staff; working on COVID safe updates to the space

Public Fire Safety Education (Sara Ahlquist)

Been on hold for a year

Kidde Smoke/CO monoxide alarms recalled

Big campaign from SFMD on smoking/fire related deaths

Best practices in community risk reduction course next week May 18-19

NFPA has smoke alarms fire report; "Serve up Fire Safety in the Kitchen" is 2021 message Oct 3-9

Will likely see uptick in public safety events in July

Training & Education:

FMAM/SFM conference- Update on 2021

Still looking at September – meeting next Tuesday; may use a lot of the courses planned for 2020; changed food vendors

Quarterly Training – virtual (Tom Pitschneider)

CPVC piping (may be longer than an hour)

Online inspection training (make it educational, not a promotion)

Might have a panel (Could get someone from Edina who has been using it for a while, the vendors, NFSA?)

Will look at for June meeting

Inspector plan review class – next annual meeting

Will still be virtual for next training, plan on in-person after that

Mechanical installers want to do a tour of their space (in-person, could be September)

Legislative Update (Kip LaMotte/Jim Smith)

MNFAC meeting yesterday – conference committees are meeting to work out differences between House & Senate

Regular session ends Monday (likely another special session)

Fire safety account is fully funded in both House and Senate proposals

Fireworks not expanded; High-rise bill language being refined

Telecommunicator working group language included

Pension bills

State made \$77,000 in fireworks tax – goes to FSAC

Should this be used specifically for fireworks education or burn prevention?

Would need to wait until next legislative session to have that requirement added

SFM will consider how the money could be used for fireworks education or burn prevention

Certification (SFM)

Passed out of committee - 970 House file, not brought up on senate side

Has been a lot of push-back mostly from one individual

No financial gain to SFMD; 40% of committee must be from greater MN

Certifications other than firefighter getting lost in the conversation – certifications will not change, will include inspectors, educators, etc.

Fire Code Committee (Angie Wiese)

Tabs giveaway update, announce at June meeting again

Will give away at next meeting

Adopting 2024 code next (going through nationally right now – final action hearings in Sept.) Will be adopted as a state in 2026

FMAM President attended EPA workshop as a local code official on debris management with construction materials – could affect code adoption (may adopt as-is in future)

New Business:

Duties of FMAM officers/hours spent (on hold)

Executive Administrator position – discussion (on hold)

Interview for June PI

New deputy fire marshal in Duluth

Andy Speltz – new board member (June)

Website progress (Ann Blaser)

Have taken down 2020 Conference info on home page

Need to update Board of Directors

Succession Planning – Angie to step down in March 2022

Will need to keep track of day-to-day duties for successor

Chris Fuller will likely be semi-retired by next term – Will be FMAM decision if he can continue as Treasurer

Could do article or present at next meeting

Need to get more people involved on committees so new board members only need to do one job and it isn't a huge time commitment

Will continue as hybrid to get more greater MN participation

Chris Fuller – touring Rise Modular in a couple weeks; fire emergency guides in code – required, but not enforced (is easy thing to do and effective for educating); could be good education topic

Send template to membership

Adjourn

1st: Chris Fuller, 2nd: Andy Speltz

Board Member Bio



Meet FMAM's New Board Member: Andy Speltz

For several years Andy Speltz has worked behind the scenes to provide you information in the Post Indicator. He collects reports from board directors, members, and industry leaders to provide valuable information. In March, Andy joined the FMAM Board of Directors. We welcome him to the team and hope you learn a little more about him in this quarter's interview.

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

In 1993, while obtaining my Exercise Science degree from Winona State University, I took a second part time job as a firefighter with the Winona Fire Department. All training and required certifications were on the job. Through my years with WFD some influential fire officers persuaded me to pursue a career in the fire service. I decided to go back to college and obtain my paramedic license to make myself more marketable as, at the time, firefighters were a dime a dozen. My background in exercise science proved to be helpful too as the fire service's hot topic of that time was LODD's related to cardiac arrest and stroke instead of cancer, PTSD, and suicide of today. So, I accepted a full time firefighter paramedic position with the Hibbing Fire Department. I spent two great years there and then accepted a fire medic position at the Red Wing Fire Department in 2004 so my wife and I could be closer to family. 24 hour shift work was becoming a burden on family life so late in 2005 I took my first 40 hour fire prevention position. I never had any intentions of working in fire prevention, but learned to love it. I worked as Fire Inspector for two years and in 2007 was promoted to Fire Marshal. As they say, the rest is history.

AW: What do you enjoy about your job?

AS:

As cliché as it sounds, no two days are ever alike. Fire Marshal's wear many hats, as most of you know. The variety is almost endless from CRR, to plan review, to public education, to fire investigations, to inspections and code enforcement, and to responding on emergency calls for service.

The fire prevention office is becoming the catch all of the fire service. We are the epitome of “doing more with less”. (less staff and less money) When the public does not know who to call they call the Fire Department. But, when the Fire Department does not know who to call, they call the fire prevention department. Our work, although noble, is mostly conducted behind the scenes. When Firehouse kitchen talk is centered on how “we don’t have fires like we used to”, I quietly walk away with a smile on my face. I enjoy knowing that my behind the scenes work is making a difference in the fire service and in the community. And, the introvert in me is ok with that. It took me quite a while to believe, but it is true when they say, “Find a job that you love and you will never have to work a day in your life”.

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

AS:

I pay for a membership primarily to receive continuing education training. The fire service in general and fire prevention specifically is ever changing. Keeping up to date with current prevention practices allows me to perform my job duties to the best of my abilities. I also enjoy networking with other members. They may have something new to offer to your programs or they may be struggling with similar issues as your own. There is a huge benefit to having a group of like-minded individuals in the same room.

Andy, welcome to the Board! Your expertise will surely be a benefit to FMAM members during your tenure.

Sprinkler Save

A St. Cloud kitchen fire was controlled/extinguished by the sprinkler system inside the apartment unit. Damage estimate is at \$14,000 dollars, there were no injuries. 5 people (2 adults,3 children) were displaced and are being assisted by the Red Cross at this time. Cause of fire is currently under investigation, not suspicious in nature.





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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June 2021 FMAM Membership Meeting and Training Virtual

Join us on Microsoft Teams for the June Membership Meeting.

Wednesday, June 11 – 1300 to 1500

Educational Component

Open discussion regarding AHJ use of 3rd party record collection for system inspections.

Several jurisdictions are now requiring service contractors to upload inspection reports to third-party companies. Discussion will include the pros and cons from both the AHJ and contractor perspective and a look into what best practices could be implemented to provide consistency across jurisdictions.

The FMAM Board of Directors looks forward to you joining in online.

June 11, 2021

[Join Meeting](#)



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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Fire Marshals Association of Minnesota



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We're on the Web

www.fmam.org

Important Dates - 2021:

Wednesday, June 9, 2021 - Quarterly Meeting 1300-1500

Wednesday, September 8, 2021 - Quarterly Meeting 1300-1500

Fire Marshal Conference September 28-29, 2021

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."