



# Fire Marshals Association of Minnesota Post Indicator



## President's Message – Angie Wiese



Quarterly Newsletter

March 2022

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“Goodbyes make you think. They make you realize what you’ve had, what you’ve lost, and what you’ve taken for granted.” – Ritu Ghatourey

As I say goodbye to my 4<sup>th</sup> term as FMAM's President this quote comes to mind. Even though I will still be on the Board as the Past President, I'm reflecting on my participation thus far. Being active in FMAM with Minnesota's code committee is why I became active on the International Code Council hearing committees. It's how I was exposed to the International Association of Fire Chiefs Fire and Life Safety Section and subsequently served on their Board. It has brought me in contact with numerous fire officials from all across the country. We share knowledge and our commitment to making our communities better. It also, eventually, led to me being on the ICC Board of Directors.

Mostly though, it put me in regular contact with the incredible professionals here in Minnesota. Someone once asked me why I am part of all of these groups. My answer is that I would feel hopelessly disconnected from my work if I didn't participate. That might sound dramatic, but I've gotten used to having the access to people and resources that help me do my job. It's probably the main reason I'll likely never go to the private side. We have the best dang group of professionals (period). Some might say I've even taken it for granted. It can be easy to do given how generous people are with their time, talents, and expertise.

And what I have lost. If you've been around enough, you know what we've lost. I try not to dwell on this, but we have lost some incredible talent due to retirements or illness. We've lost legislation that will be hard to overcome. And sometimes, when we've had a fire fatality or bad injury, we lost our strength to keep engaging – does it really make a difference?

But then a good day quickly replaces those moments. You see the new hire make incredible strides and infuse new energy into the work. You see kids and adults who have heard of “Put a Lid on it”. You see the family who escaped out of an egress window.

I'm excited to see what the next round of leadership brings to FMAM. It is a fabulous team to work with and I hope you don't cast me aside as some old fuddy duddy.

Cheers and thank you for making my time as President so rewarding.

Sincerely,

Angie Wiese, PE, CBO  
FMAM President

# FMAM Operating Budget 2022

Budget Tracking **3/3/2022**

Actual Difference

**Income:**

Membership	\$5,000.00	\$2,561.39	\$2,438.61
Interest	\$0.05		\$0.05
Seminar/Education	\$0.00		\$0.00
Fire Marshal's			
Conference	\$40,000.00		\$40,000.00
Miscellaneous	\$500.00		\$500.00

**Total Projected Income**

**\$45,500.05 \$2,561.39 \$42,938.66**

Expenses:

Postage	\$50.05		\$50.05
Professional Services	\$300.00		\$300.00
Web	\$1,800.00		\$1,800.00
Public Education	\$1,500.00		\$1,500.00
Code Development	\$0.00		\$0.00
Awards/Gifts	\$2,000.00	\$124.37	\$1,875.63
Meeting Expense	\$1,000.00		\$1,000.00
Advertising	\$600.00		\$600.00
Office/Memberships	\$500.00	ICC	\$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 \$124.37 \$45,375.68**

\$2,437.02

**Balances**

<b>Checking</b>	<b>\$20,363.12</b>
<b>Savings</b>	<b>\$505.18</b>
<b>Paypal</b>	<b>\$6,976.99</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$27,845.29</b>



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



**AGENDA****December 8, 2021 Quarterly Meeting**

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS – 417 Union Hall Presentation/Tour

BUSINESS MEETING – to follow Educational Program

Attendees: Tom Pitschneider, Ann Blaser, Chris Fuller, Sara Ahlquist, Jake Lindquist, Amanda Swenson, Roy Kingsley, Ryan Kunst, Bob Reif, Adam Powers, Ryan Struckmann, Tom Jenson, Bill Abderhalden, Jon Nisja, Angeline Appelholm, Jeff Hemenway, Al Donzo, Teng Vang, Joe Jarvis, Paul Meyers, Amy Weiby, Josephine Verhasselt, Bailey Erlandson, Laquita Brinkley, Mike Raeker, Fred Babekuhl, Dan Klein, Richard Bauman, Joe Larson, Josh Rudlong

Call to Order (Vice President Tom Pitschneider) 1:55

- A. Introduction of Members & Guests
- B. Approval of September 2021 meeting minutes  
Motion: Tom Jenson, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Dan Klein

II. Treasurer's Report (Treasurer Chris Fuller)

Financial report

Report in post indicator

Net \$14,000 from SFM Conference (some of it is still to come in)

Have gotten a steady increase in the past few years without raising dues

Membership report (Secretary Ann Blaser)

Renewals – prefer online

Total members: 87 (18 fewer than last year), 77 active, 4 associate, 3 life, 3 government

III. Reports:

State Fire Marshal (Amanda Swenson)

Tracking holiday related hazards (CO, alternative heat sources, etc.)

Data team working on Fire in MN 2020 report – every indication was up (incidents, fire, losses, deaths, etc)

Making updates in investigations statutes

Gathering staff for a strategic plan – would like to get input on where other departments would like the SFM office to go in the next 5 years

62 fire deaths for 2020 (2021 is down from last year, but Dec. is highest number month)

Getting more fire code inquiries than normal

Just updated sample inspection checklists – please use for inspections

Updated information sheets and deleted old ones

Member question – food trucks

Info sheet and checklist for food trucks – also Webex training on website;

proposed updates to code denied by food truck association;

let SFM know if you have suggestions for code changes; cities can amend code to make it more restrictive than the state code;

suggestion to have a state fire sticker so each jurisdiction knows if it has been inspected elsewhere

Doing Webex trainings once a week – all saved on website

Member question – Is there a threshold for injury from fire that needs to be reported? No, just do the NFIRS report, get data from the hospital

Public Fire Safety Education (Sara Ahlquist)

USFA has good resources for social medial infographics

NFPA and SFM has great messaging

Autism Society of MN would like to partner with departments for events

YFPI quarterly classes starting Jan. 11<sup>th</sup>

SFM train the trainer classes coming up hosted in Marshall (free, two-day), sponsored by National Fire Academy – CANCELED

Webinar coming up on Lithium Ion devices coming up on the 14<sup>th</sup>

Messaging on Christmas tree fires, candle fires, etc. around holidays

Fire Marshal's Conference (Jake Lindquist, if present)

High attendance

Working on certificates – a little late this year

Start planning 2022 in Feb. – please give us ideas if you have them or join committee

No date set yet

Training & Education

Quarterly meetings (VP Tom Pitschneider)

Next in March – looking at tour of Rise Modular

Seminars (Jon Nisja)

Assisted living now require 2 types of licenses that uses NFPA 101 – looking at bringing in an NFPA 101 expert trainer (for AHJs, designers, etc.)

Looking at class on generators and emergency power supplies

#### Virtual code trainings coming back in 2022

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

ICC Region III is scheduled for February 2022 in Brooklyn Park

U of MN is coming up

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

Dan is now vice chair

A lot of legislation coming up next session

Discussion of surplus of state money and how to use

State Fire Code (Angie Wiese / Tom Pitschneider- new member needed)

Code committee – Patrick Farrens is new member, still looking for one more – let Angie or Tom know if interested

DLI looking for Fire Marshal representative on construction code advisory committee– let Angie or Tom know if interested

Several people have shown interest

Commissioner's Fire Service Advisory (Tom Pitschneider)

Getting ready for legislative session – looking for representative

Legislative / MnFAC (Kip LaMotte)

New legislative session starts in January – no report now

State Fair (Ryan Kunst)

Low attendance this year

Good interaction with those that did come

Planning begins March/April for 2022

Certification (Roy Kingsley)

Working on proposal to hire a new director and any other positions that need filled

Organization will run as it is today

Finished updating officer certification; working on inspectors I and II exams and clean up

Close to having practical exams online

#### IV. New Business:

Website (Ann Blaser)

Send any suggestions to Ann

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](http://www.benchwarmersapparel.com))

#### Good & Welfare

Fire Marshal's Conference – Save the Date April 12-13, 2022 Eagan Community Center

Stove Top fire stops available to take

Ensure new apartment buildings are using correct NFPA code – contractors adding things that require and upgrade to NFPA 13

SFM Honoring award winners – Tom Jenson getting Customer Service award

December historic fires shared by Jon Nisja – look them up if you're interested

Adjourn 2:53

## Board of Directors - Meeting Agenda

Friday, February 18, 2022

10:00 am

Members Present: Angie Wiese, Tom Pitschneider, Jon Nisja, Andy Speltz, Chris Fuller, Darrin Bramwell, Jim Smith, Kip LaMotte

Call to Order (President Angie Wiese)

Approval of the November 2021 Board Minutes as published in the December 2021 Post Indicator

1<sup>st</sup>: Tom Pitchneider, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Andy Speltz

Additional agenda items? No

Treasurer's Report (Chris Fuller)

Current Finances

Have not changed much since the newsletter

Have had a lot of renewals recently

Received bill from lobbyist – will not pay until budget is approved

Approval of the 2022 Budget

Tom P and Kip L – May want to increase what we are paying lobbyist given the service they are providing (fireworks bill coming back up)

Motion to increase to \$2500/yr (up from \$2000/yr): Jon Nisja, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Kip LaMotte

2020/2021 Conference Financial Report

Do not have exact report – generally the same as last time

Did not receive \$5000 from grant yet – need to submit form (deadline?)

Committee Reports:

Public Fire Safety Education (Sara Ahlquist)

Sara not present

Andy – SFM has youth fire-setter classes coming up in April (Bemidji and Faribault)

Angie – NFPA “kitchen table” CRR email Karen or Chelsey to get on distribution list

Training & Education:

FMAM/SFM conference- Update on 2022

Pushed to September – need to start planning

Jake replacement – Dan Buchholz will be assisting with FMAM conference

Quarterly Training – Tom Pitschneider

Plan A fell through, working on plan B

Ideas – propose code changes, Jon could do State of the State for 2021 or significant historic MN fires

Would like to do in-person- what classrooms are available?

Look into Rose Vine Hall in Roseville \$1100 for food and get room

Seminars – Jon Nisja

Not getting takers on in-person seminars

Would like to do a full 40 hour training (similar to SFM code academy) –  
don't know if FMAM would have the resources

Fire Code Committee

Several people interested, most appointments made

Tom Pitschneider, Andy Speltz, Chris Ferguson, Jeff Hemenway

Certification

Working on inspector updates

New Business:

Interview for March PI

Dan Buchholz with SFM Divison

March Elections

Need committee

Deadline – March 2<sup>nd</sup>, contact Kip and Andy (if want bio in PI) with nominations (max 500 words with intro  
and why you are interested in running for the board)

Positions up for reelection – President, Secretary, Director at large (depending on election results, there  
may be other positions that become available)

Tested Teams poll in case elections are virtual

Good & Welfare

Jon Nisja – board member since 1989 FMAM has come a long way financially since then,  
thanks the board for everything

Ann maternity leave – Andy doing emails, Kathi doing website

Adjourn

Motion: Jon Nisja, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Angie Wiese



## FMAM Member Bio



Dan Buchholz is new to the State Fire Marshal's Office and will be a key partner with FMAM for the annual conference. Read on to hear more about Dan.

**Angie Wiese:** Tell us a little about your background.

**Dan Buchholz:** I grew up in Moorhead, MN and graduated from Moorhead High School and then attended Concordia College where I majored in Exercise Science and Health. I began my career in the fire service when I was hired by the Fargo, ND Fire Department in 2004. After 10 years in Fargo, my family and I moved to Sartell, MN and I took a position at St. Cloud Technical and Community College running the Fire and EMS Training program. After working there for a few years, I wanted to get more experience in code enforcement so I took a job with the City of St. Cloud Health Department. With St. Cloud, I inspected licensed rental properties, enforced city codes, and inspected food, pool, and lodging establishments. In December of 2021, I completed my Master of Arts Degree in Emergency Management and Homeland

Security through Arizona State University. In early February of 2022, I began working for the MN State Fire Marshal's Division as the Code Development and Training Specialist. I'm very excited to be working with the Fire Service again, and am looking forward to learning a lot more about the fire code.

**AW:** What do you enjoy about your job?

**DB:** I really enjoy working with people to help them solve their problems or answer their questions. Every day brings the potential for a different challenge or a different way to look at something in the fire code. The Fire Code Team at the SFMD has many years of experience and lots of knowledge so I'm looking forward to learning as much as I can from them.

**AW:** Where do you find value in your FMAM membership? (Since you are new to our membership you can instead answer what you are hoping to get out of your FMAM membership)

**DB:** As someone who is not a member of FMAM but will be soon, I look forward to meeting the people who make up the organization and work in the field of code enforcement. Everyone has a different perspective and role when it comes to code enforcement, but we are all working towards the same goal of making the buildings around us safer.

We are excited to have Dan on board at SFM and look forward to utilizing his expertise. Welcome Dan!

# FMAM Elections

Board elections will take place during the FMAM annual meeting on Wednesday, March 9, 2022. The three positions up for election are: President, Secretary, and Board Member at Large. Incumbents Angie Wiese and Jon Nisja will NOT be running again for President and Board Member at Large, respectively. Incumbent Ann Blaser will be running for Secretary. You may still run if you are not present at the meeting. Depending on election results, other board positions may also become available during this meeting. Below are letters of interest from those that submitted:

## Ann Blaser:

Hello! I'm Ann Blaser. I am the Fire Protection Engineer for the City of St. Paul and have been in this position for four and a half years. I recently received my PE license in Fire Protection Engineering. I have also been serving as the current FMAM secretary. I have enjoyed serving this group and would like to continue. I am a strong believer in FMAM because it allows different jurisdictions to have conversations and encourages networking, which generally leads to innovation, consistency, and learning on all sides of the discussion. I personally have learned a lot from FMAM trainings and meetings and from the personal connections I have made in this group. My hope is that, by acting as secretary, I can ensure others in this group have that same experience. I have tried to take detailed notes in meetings to ensure any important information that could be useful to members gets recorded and sent out, especially for those members who are not able to attend meetings. Many members have reached out with various questions during my term and I have done my best to get an answer back as quickly as possible. If you feel that I have served you well as secretary up to this point, I hope you will vote for me for another term.

## Dan Krier:

Hello, I am Dan Krier, Fire Marshal for the City of Brooklyn Park. My fire code official experience started 7 years ago at North St. Paul, where I served as Fire Inspector until joining Brooklyn Park Fire in 2018. At Brooklyn Park, I started as the Deputy Fire Marshal and earned the position of Fire Marshal/Division Chief in 2020. My previous career was at the Minnesota Department of Health as a chemist in the Public Health Laboratory. I currently live in Coon Rapids with my wife, daughter, and 2 dogs. I am running for elected office of FMAM because I want to give back to the code community which has helped me during my code official career. Through FMAM, I have developed great professional relationships with colleagues who have helped me whenever I had questions. My goals are to support the fire code community with training opportunities, elevate the professionalism of our industry, work to develop meaningful impact metrics for the work we perform, and help our AHJs use those metrics within their communities. Our work creates safer buildings for our communities and our first responders, yet prevention and inspection activities are usually some of the last activities funded. Better metrics on the positive impact of our work can help to better justify our work. My passion is to use my talents to improve the lives of others, and I believe many code officials have a similar passion. If elected, my hope is that I can help support the passions of others, leading to safer communities through MN.



The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), in cooperation with nine manufacturers and distributors, has announced a voluntary recall of all pourable gel fuel made or sold by these companies. Gel fuel is used with firepots, personal fireplaces, and patio torches. For more information go to [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov).

#### SAFETY RECALL

- » Due to the serious risk of flash fire and burns when consumers add pourable gel to an already burning fire pot, NFPA and CPSC are warning consumers to immediately stop using the pourable gel fuel.
- » Gel fuel and gel fuel pots should be considered an open flame and pose a serious danger.
- » The fuel can ignite unexpectedly and splatter onto people and objects nearby when it is poured in a firepot that is still burning.
- » Pouring gel fuel in a device that is not completely cool may result in a fire or injury.
- » These devices will be hot during and after burning.
- » The burning gel fuel sticks to skin and is difficult to extinguish.
- » It is not easy to see the gel fuel flame, especially in daylight.
- » All pourable gel fuel, regardless of manufacturer, poses a fire hazard.

## Act Now!

Consumers should contact the gel fuel manufacturer for information on refunds and product return.

### FACTS

- ❗ Stop, drop and roll may not put out clothing that catches fire involving splattered or spilled gel fuel.
- ❗ A dry chemical extinguisher or baking soda can be used to extinguish the fire.
- ❗ Several deaths and multiple victims with second and third degree burns have been reported.



Your Source for SAFETY Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169



## FMAM Annual Meeting/Training Rose Vine Hall, Roseville MN

You are invited to FMAM's full day quarterly training and business meeting on March 9th from 09:00 - 15:00. This is an IN PERSON event at Rose Vine Hall.

Rose Vine Hall  
2801 Snelling Ave  
Roseville, MN 55113

The training topic is yet to be determined.

A lunch buffet will be provided.



## 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:

Andy Speltz

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## Fire Marshals Association of Minnesota

[www.fmam.org](http://www.fmam.org)



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### Vice President:

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We're on the Web

[www.fmam.org](http://www.fmam.org)

### Important Dates - 2022:

Wednesday, March 9, 2022 - Annual Meeting 0900-1500

Wednesday, June 8, 2022 - 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."