

Fire Marshal Training Council Meeting Minutes

Date: May 15, 2023	Location: Video Conference
Facilitator: Donald Harwood	
Attendees: William Abbott, Michael Fullerton, Peter Hughes, Douglas Schanne, Walter Summers	
Guest: Steven Sawyer	

	Item
I. Introduction	<p>Donald Harwood began the meeting discussing the agendas for the Fire Marshall Training Council meetings. As the items are generic, Mr. Harwood will create a list of items and distribute to the attendees.</p> <p>Attendance was then taken, and the meeting was called to order.</p>
II. Minutes	There are no official prior minutes as the last meeting was in 2021.
III. Old Business	<p>As this was the first meeting with the committee and Michael Fullerton, Mr. Harwood began to discuss Chapter 541, Sections 29295 and 298251, regarding the purpose and goals of this committee. This is an ad hoc group designed to support the fire marshal training. Any new information should be distributed to this committee to be reviewed and discussed in future meetings.</p> <p>Bylaws are to be reviewed on an annual basis. Mr. Harwood will distribute these.</p> <p>The composition of membership needs to be revised as many members have since retired and will need to be replaced. Donald Harwood, Michael Fullerton and William Abbott will review the membership list for open positions and work with the appointing authority to backfill them. Mr. Abbott offered to raise this subject at both the CFM meeting and the Career Fire Chiefs meeting if necessary.</p> <p>Mr. Harwood will continue as chair of this committee until all the open positions of the committee are filled. Any changes to leadership can be addressed once there is a full committee.</p>
IV. New Business	<p>The meeting was then turned over to Michael Fullerton and Doug Schanne to give an update on training.</p> <p>Just over 19,000 attendees have either registered directly for our various programs or were pre-approved for off-site credit. Of those, about 16,000 completed these programs, for a completion rate of 88% - 89%. This illustrates the improvement of community engagement.</p> <p>A goal for OEDM is to be more integrated within the community. Various professional organizations have been contacted in order to discuss opportunities with our outside credentialing program and the ease in which their coding officials can submit their credits into our system.</p> <p>There are several open positions such as a fire trainer and 2 generalist trainers. Ideally, we would like people who have significant coding experience rather than having to train someone for the positions. In order to grow programs and keep up</p>

	<p>with community needs, it is vital to have the staff in place with the proper knowledge and ability to teach in various settings, both in-person and via video conferencing. However, a majority of attendees do prefer to be in-person, meeting and networking with their peers.</p> <p>Peter Hughes inquired as to the ability to recruit retired instructors to assist and mentor new trainers. Mr. Fullerton agreed with this suggestion and discussed the rehiring of John Doucette as an example of this.</p> <p>Doug Schanne requested the committee forward names of any qualified individuals who would be interested in providing career development training. Currently, Mike Cincegelli (sp?), Ray Walker, Brad Cronin, and Jo Versteeg (sp?) are doing various trainings for us.</p> <p>CFMA has been in discussion with Darren (?) and the Commissioner regarding the \$4M in funds for training. Walter Summers raised the possibility of utilizing funds to bring national certifications to Connecticut and offer those classes to fire marshals and building officials. There was a discussion as to how this would be allocated and how beneficial it would be.</p> <p>Mr. Schanne stressed the importance of our working relationship with accreditation groups such as ICC, NFPA and IAAI. Mr. Summers has been working with IAAI to offer a fit certification program in order to get all our local fire marshals fit certified. He also mentioned that our pre-cert program now offers college credits.</p>
V. Adjournment	In conclusion, Mr. Harwood gave a brief summary of the meeting. The meeting was then adjourned.
VI. Next Meeting	The next meeting will be scheduled within the next few months, prior to August.