



Georgia Fire Sprinkler Association

P.O. Box 661 Grayson, GA 30017

The January meeting was held at the Marriott Perimeter Center at 10:30 AM on Tuesday, January 9, 2007. Jeff Trew opened the meeting by requesting prayer followed by thanking everyone for the allowing him to serve as President of the organization. Jeff asked for everyone to consider participating to make it a really good year and to please forward any comments, suggestions or questions to him via email. Jeff welcomed guests Pastor Larry Wynn of Hebron Church, George Waggoner of Southeastern Fire Control, Jim Pettway of Spotswood Associates, and Lauren Sheppard with Central Pipe.

Approval of Minutes: The meeting minutes from the November meeting had been previously emailed to the membership and were available at the welcome table. They were accepted.

Treasurer's Report: John Pahr. The checking account balance was \$12,935.33. All bills have been paid. We received a check from Amber Fire Protection and welcome them as a new member. We also received a check and a letter from the AFSA stating we met the annual requirements to be an active affiliate. The Apprenticeship Program continues to be a self supporting program with no cost to the GFSA.

Executive Director's Report: Billy Wood. On Thursday, January 4 Billy met with the new State enforcement official. The new official is working on some things which should be good for the industry, including penalties for certain violations. This official will be a part of the Fire Sprinkler Advisory Council and will be covering other suppression industries. Everyone should be aware the State now has an active authority to act on the complaints which come in. On Friday January 5 Billy and Bobby McCullough attended a public hearing on 120-3-3 which had very little sprinkler effect and it went through without any opposition. Billy attended a Board meeting later that afternoon.

Codes and Standards: Harry Alexander. Cobb County issues. Carpet racks are not clearly addressed by NFPA 13 and it is not clear if Cobb will accept the FM data sheet. Cobb has a concern that they are multiple row racks. Cobb is enforcing the requirement to account for the friction loss in a flow switch. There has been no response from Forsyth County regarding the installation of underground by licensed sprinkler contractors.

On the welcome table are forms provide by the State which are the avenue if any of us have a problem with the installation, service or inspection of sprinkler systems. The form can be completed anonymously or with identification. These issues will be taken under consideration by the State's new enforcement officer. This form is available to download from the GFSA web site.

Recent changes in Cherokee County have Cary Redman leaving the County and now working for TVA. Howard Hansard is the acting Fire Marshal. Plan review may be out sourced to RJA. The

job site inspector wants to inspect most components of the sprinkler system prior to beginning installation.

Georgia State Fire Marshal: Dwayne Garriss. In 2006 the State issued 207 Contractor Licenses. As of today the State has issued 116 Contractor Licenses for 2007. In 2006 the State issued 263 Certificate of Competency Licenses. As of today the State has issued 153 Certificate of Competency Licenses for 2007. In 2006 the State issued 111 Designer Licenses. As of today the State has issued 65 Designer Licenses for 2007. In 2006 the State issued 145 Inspector Licenses. As of today the State has issued 58 Inspector Licenses for 2007. There are 18 pending licenses which will be issued today and 38 others which are pending review. There are many who are not meeting the qualifications.

One of the items in the Statute and Regulations which will be enforced is the failure to renew your certificate or license by the deadline. The application is required to be in by December 1 as it expires on December 31. The fine for being late is set at \$250. This has been waived many times in the past but it will no longer be waived.

To obtain and hold an Inspector License you must pass the elements for a NICET level 3 in Inspections. Six years have passed since the Regulations were put in place. Sufficient time has been allowed for completing the testing for Level 3 inspections.

An Apprentice License is nothing but a registration. It is a registration of an employee who is pending to get an Inspection License. The State is issuing notices today to the 31 people who hold to Apprenticeship Licenses (with license numbers) that they cannot use that license number on an inspection tag. The Apprentice License only means they are registered with the State. If the State catches someone inspecting and tagging a system, they are subject to not receiving an Inspectors License ever.

As an employer you may ask "Why do I want to register someone?" Registration may keep an employee from jumping ship. If an apprentice inspector leaves the employment of one company, his or her "time clock" is still running, the time clock for the inspector to obtain a NICET level 3 for inspections.

The State will be meeting with the Advisory Council on January 16. The GFSA Board can offer input to the Council. The Regulations will be re-written to eliminate the 24 month period as an apprentice issue. The purpose for the original 24 month period was to get things in place to allow those who the State had tentatively issued Inspectors License to comply with NICET. All of this is now in place.

The State is proposing to re-do the regulations allow an individual with a NICET level 2 in inspections to obtain an "intern" license and perform inspections on their own. From the time an individual is registered with the State, either as an intern or as an apprentice, the individual must have the NICET level 3 testing complete within 24 months in order to continue performing inspections on their own. If anyone wants something changed you will need to communicate this to the Board, which has representation on the Advisory Council.

Regarding insurance, if you cannot get insurance with a Georgia licensed company and your agent has to get it through a surplus line, the surplus lines broker has to fill out the affidavit

provided by the State. This says that they are taking the responsibility that the insurance company is sovereign and can pay a fee and pay a claim if a claim is ever made.

The State is also exploring using photo identification for all license holders with the exception of the designer. The individual will need submit a digital photo to the State.

Referencing the earlier conversation about issues with local AHJ, Dwayne said the July Symposium will be extended to a full week to allow for additional training for inspectors to help with recertification. Dwayne offered to set up a one to two hour class and invite all of the AHJs who are having additional requirements to sit down for a round table discussion with the association. Dwayne will need to know which AHJs need to be present. The 2007 Symposium will be the week of July 16.

Referencing the 2006 Symposium, there were 52 attendees at the NFPA 13 seminar. The State recently settled up with the AFSA and will be sending the GFSA a check to split the proceeds of the seminar.

The purpose of the previous public hearing for 120-3-3 was to put in place the IFC quickly because DCA has theirs in place as of January 1. He expects this to be effective by the end of January. There are plans for another 120-3-3 hearing in three to four months to make modifications referencing NFPA 13, 13R, 13D and 25 and whatever else needs to be dealt with. Please get the information to the GFSA Board.

James Crawley is the State's new enforcement officer. He is certified as a peace officer so he can make arrests. James will be enforcing sprinkler laws as well as extinguisher requirements.

Open Forum: Jeff Trew opened the floor for an open forum. Ed Knopick thanked the GFSA for the partnership being developed. Dwayne announced Gwinnett County has put forth an amendment which allows for limits on art work to be put on school walls only, depending on if the building is protected by fire sprinklers. Jeff invited anyone to speak or send questions or topics to him if they would like a subject brought up in the forum.

Ask the Attorney: Scott and David have not been attending because there have been very few questions. Jeff invited everyone to submit questions to him in advance. These would then be presented to the attorney in advance and hopefully one of them could attend the meetings.

Education: Bob Hodge. We will be discussing the July Symposium with the State. Based on a discussion at the Board meeting and with the plans to co-sponsor training at the July Symposium, Bob asked if there was any interest in sponsoring a second training seminar in the metro area in April. As the GFSA is committed to the Symposium training, a second seminar would only be arranged if there was enough interest.

Jeff announced "continuing professional development" certificates are available on the welcome table for those who attend the meeting. These will allow for one hour of credit for renewing NICET certification.

Membership: Jeff Trew. This position is available and we are looking for an interested party. Please contact Jeff.

Apprenticeship Training: Banks Haley. The second session has started and we have one more session after this one. New classes with new enrollment will be starting in September. In August we will be asking if you would consider enrolling your apprentices or young field personnel.

Scholarship / Essay Contest: Asa Tuten. No report.

AFSA Liaison: Bob Hodge. No report.

SFPE: Jim Tuten: The topic for the previous meeting was big box warehouse protection. On March 6 the SFPE Georgia chapter will be hosting their annual symposium at the Gwinnett Civic Center. Registration forms are available for seminar participants or vendors to display products.

Activities: Scott Donnelly: The summer outing will be on June 15-17 at the Brasstown Valley Resort. Registration forms will be emailed, posted on the web site and available at the February meeting. The Memorial Golf Tournament is confirmed at Laurel Springs on October 15, 2007.

Old Business: Floyd Thomas thanked everyone for their participation in the December fellowship. John Pahr will be completing the accounting and the surplus will be donated to the Georgia Fire Fighters Burn Foundation. Rich Rutherford expressed a big thank you to all of the participating vendors. Don Williams of the Burn Foundation thanked everyone for allowing the Foundation to “re-gift” the gifts donated by the GFSA. Don brought photos of the Foundation’s activities and told of some of the positive effects the gifts have.

New Business: Renewal notices were emailed and available at the welcome table. The cut off date is January 31. Jeff is looking into the possibility of incorporating the use of credit cards to pay dues and other activities. Jeff is pursuing a February meeting presentation on the Tyco Quell suppression system.

Program: Larry Wynn, Senior Pastor of Hebron Church in Dacula spoke about the principles outlined in the book Good to Great by Jim Collins. The book looks at companies and organizations which made the leap from being good to being great. The premise of the book is “good is the enemy of great”. The successful companies all had Level 5 leaders who possessed the qualities of humility and will power. The second concept used by the companies was to ask the question “who, then what”: not what are we going to do, but who are we going to put in place to carry out the job. Get the right people on the bus and get them in the right seats on the bus. The third principle is to confront the brutal facts. Be honest and ask the tough questions; conduct autopsies without casting blame. The fourth principle is the hedgehog concept, which is being focused on what you can do well. Find what you do well, what drives your economic engine, and be passionate about it. A fifth principle is to create a culture of discipline where the leader does not micro manage everything. A sixth principle is to understand that technology accelerators work best when they fit your hedgehog concept.

Business Practice Exchange Information: No report.

Door prizes were given to Don Carlness, Curtis Hays and Sam Beale
Adjournment

Georgia Fire Sprinkler Association

P.O. Box 661 Grayson, GA 30017

Location: Marriott Date: 1/9/07

Name	Company	Phone
1. Jeff Trew	Viking Supply Not	404 210 0131
2. RICH RUTHERFORD	AUGUSTA FIRE PROT.	706 863 9374
3. Doug Brown	Southeastern Fire	404-769-0277
4. GEORGE WALKER	"	"
5. BOBBY McEUVUGH	ATLANTA SPRINKLER	678 730 4312
6. RANDY KRAMER	Accurate Fire	770-466-9888
7. ERIC LITSCHNER	Accurate Fire	770-466-4888
8. Lauren Sheppard	Central Pipe	770 451-1438
9. Billy Wood	GFS	
10. Steve Collins	Gwinnett Fire Marshal's Office	
11. Jim Egan	" " "	
12. CHRIS CONWAY	SOUTH SPRINKLER	
13. Karen Murray	Gwinnett Fire Marshal's Office	
14. Jeff Yoder	Gwinnett FMO	678-518-6106
15. SIM PETWAY	SPOTSWOOD ASSOC.	770-447-1227
16. Mike Beall	Anchor Star	
17. Ralph Watson	HD Supply	
18. Gary [unclear]	Simplex Grinnell	678-460-9839
19. Jeff Berne	Potter Roemer LLC	770 451-4800
20. BOB GRIFFIN	WSC	770 242 6673
21. JOHN PATR	AMERICAN FAB	678 732-9495
22. PAUL TULLY	CENTRAL FAB	770-335-0281
23. [unclear]	ALLSOUTH SPRINKLER	770-925-9099

Georgia Fire Sprinkler Association

P.O. Box 661 Grayson, GA 30017

Name	Company	Phone
24. Floyd Thomas	Reliable	7-931-9200
25. Ron Duke	" "	" "
26. Scott Donnelly	CHALLENGE FIRE PROT.	
27. David Redwood	Allsouth Sprinkler	7-925-9099-236
28. JOHN McCullough	ALLSOUTH	"
✓ 29. Curtis Hays	LASCO	800-848-1819
30. Ed Knopick	Gwinnett Co FMO	678 518-6105
31. Dana Mesen	" "	678 518-6122
32. Don W. Williams	GFBF	404) 320-6223
33. Bob Wood	AMES	
34. ADAM OWENS	Viking	
35. HARRY ALEXANDER	STATE SPR.	
36. Dwayne Garriss	SPMD	41557-1168
* 37. Don Carlsmess	ORR	404-316-0816
38. Brad Baswell	Sunstates	770-312-7871
39. Parker Galy	AFFORDABLE	770-734-0001
* 40. SAM BEALE	SMB & A	770 491 0610
41. Daniel E. Elliott	Allsouth Sprinkler Co.	678-730-4316
42. Repr. Watson	HDSAP	770-414-1212
43. JEFF RILEY	ALLSOUTH	770-525-5059
44. LARRY WYNN	HEBRON	
45. Doug Mitchell	ADW FIRE	
46.		
47.		