



Georgia Fire Sprinkler Association

P.O. Box 661 Grayson, GA 30017

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday May 12, 2015

The May 12, 2015 meeting of the Georgia Fire Sprinkler Association was held at SPP Pumps in Norcross. GFSA President, Ray Vance, called the meeting to order at 11:47 AM. He opened the meeting with prayer and welcomed everyone. Ray said the meeting was being recorded for purposes of creating meeting minutes. Guests included Jeff Merry and Jon Merry with Pipe Threader, Jeffrey Mayers with State Fire Marshal's office, Jerry Wainright and Lance Malcom with Rockdale Fire, and Mo Tabarrok with FSI.

Treasurer: Jimmy Hunt said the balance of the checking account is \$10,353.05 not including recently received membership checks. Scott Donnelly said the website should be up to date regarding who has paid dues for 2015.

Executive Director's Report: Billy Wood said there are a lot of needs. Several State enforcement officials have retired leaving it difficult to enforce the current regulations. A new unlicensed company in the metro area appears to be offering green tags for sprinkler systems without NFPA 25 inspection and testing. Billy has recommended the GFSA get together with the alarm and extinguisher associations to form a committee to petition the State Insurance Commissioner to clean up some of the industry problems. Jeff Yoder with Gwinnett County said Gwinnett would support the enforcement through the State Fire Marshal's Office. A discussion followed on specific violations.

Billy said construction is to start on October 1, 2015 on the State Training Facility in Forsyth. There will be an open June 1, 2015 meeting for anyone who would like to contribute resources or ideas for the facility. The State Safety Symposium in Forsyth will be July 13th – 17th. The GFSA will have a booth and will be sponsoring one dinner.

Old Business: The February 10, 2015 meeting minutes were emailed and are available on the welcome table and were approved as is.

Codes and Standards: Ray said to the best of his knowledge the State is no longer issuing or renewing waivers for an Inspector's License. Ray said the Codes and Standards Committee has met twice and another meeting is planned regarding submitting code amendment forms to the State, specifically targeting Regulation 120-3-19. Jeff Yoder said the portion of the regulation allowing property owners to perform their own inspection and testing (ITM) may be being misinterpreted. Ray said current regulations allow owners to perform ITM with the condition that a licensed sprinkler contractor at minimum perform the ITM items required to be done annually. Discussions took place for multiple specific issues regarding local jurisdiction.

Georgia State Fire Marshal: Jeffrey Mayers said he would try to have a representative present from the State Fire Marshal's office at each meeting.

Georgia Fire Fighters Burn Foundation: No Report



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Ask the Attorney: No Report

Education: Ray said the NFSA has reported that construction over the next two to three years will remain strong. Local fabrication shops report receiving much higher requests for fabrication. Ray said as of this moment there is still no approved anti-freeze that can be installed in systems and he is drafting language to submit for the code making process to allow pre-mixed solutions.

Ray has three new eight hour seminars that will be available in this area and he would like input from the GFSA as to which to offer. The seminars are: 1) Understanding, applying and enforcing the NFPA 25 standard, 2) An update from NFPA 13, 2010 to the 2013 edition (covers NFPA 13, 13D and 13R), and 3) Sprinkler requirements detailed in chapter 8 of NFPA 13.

Essay Contest / Scholarship: Asa Tuten recently passed away and in the days before Asa passed he was informed the Essay Contest was renamed the Asa Tuten Memorial - GFSA Essay Contest. Asa was instrumental in the creation of the contest and managed the contest until shortly before his death.

SFPE: No Report

AFSA: No Report

Activities: Jimmy discussed donations for the Tony Bice Memorial Tournament. Jimmy also said this past Thursday the Heroes First Tournament was able to raise \$130,000 to benefit "Paws for Vets" and donate \$5,000.00 to the Georgia Fire Fighter's Burn Foundation on behalf of the GFSA.

New Business: Scott Donnelly asked if we would consider returning to the schedule of seven to eight meetings per year. Jimmy suggested a membership survey to find out why contractors are not attending meetings. A discussion followed.

Membership: No Report

Apprenticeship: No Report

Program: Ray presented "Introduction to Project Management," an intro to a full two-day seminar. The discussion centered on the introduction of various types of contracts, the financial impact to your company, understanding acceptable risk decisions relating to contracts, documentation for financial protection, and how project managers / field superintendent's impact job costs.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:40 PM.