



ORFED BOARD MINUTES

November 22, 2010
10:05 am
Metro Safety and Fire

Members Present: Brenda, Cliff, and Al.
(Absent: Duane, Doug Hicks, Doug Schulz, Steve)
Also attending, Ed Wallace

Quorum:

For lack of a quorum, no formal business was conducted. The following is a record of our discussions.

Minutes

Minutes of the October meeting were reviewed. **Full Board will approve the October minutes by email response.**

Treasurer Report

Brenda reported that our bank balance (approximately \$15,000) remains unchanged.

OLD BUSINESS

Oregon Annual Meeting in May

Training topic for 2011: **NFPA 10, Portable Fire Extinguisher Training**

Dates: **May 20, 21**

Location: *To be determined*

Program: *Cliff will look into inviting Craig Schroll, from FireCon.*

Cliff reported that Craig has penciled in our dates on his calendar, and that his rates are \$2000 per day of instruction, plus travel and other expenses. Thus, the total cost for his two days of presenting could be as much as \$6000. We discussed various ways of covering this expense, such as charging a registration of \$30 or \$40 per member technician, and \$200 per non members. We also discussed proposing to WFPA that they joint venture with us, and cover half the cost (\$1500 per association). We might then reduce the per technician registration closer to covering lunch only, and any proceeds from registration would be reimbursed back equally to the two state associations. Ed will determine the interest level of WFPA. We will schedule our December meeting to follow the December WFPA meeting so we can make further plans in light of their response (see Next Meeting, below)

In the meantime, we need to confirm (or not) our invitation to Craig. **We will poll the board via email this week and make a determination, and Cliff will advise Craig accordingly.**

Advice to Oregon Code Committee for Certification of System Service and Installation per NFPA 17 and 17A

Cliff reported that he received no comments on the letters he sent out last month. **He will draft a new letter reflecting our current consensus, and send out for board approval.**

NEW BUSINESS

State Association Roundtable

Amerex is sponsoring a Roundtable meeting of State Associations in February (See attached email). We discussed who should represent ORFED. Brenda suggested that Cliff be sent. Cliff is willing to go, but also willing to yield if another board member wanted to go. Cliff suggested that we should send either Duane, Brenda or Cliff ... and that we consider sending two (who might then split the additional cost involved). **We discussed Brenda and Cliff going, pending approval of the full board.** Ed mentioned that he will be attending even if WFPA chooses to send another representative.

NAFED State Representative

Brenda reported that she has been asked to be the Oregon liaison for NAFED, and she has agreed to do so. Any association member who has input for NAFED can channel that through Brenda.

Social Networking

Cliff reported on Duane's process in setting up a page on a social networking site for ORFED, for discussion groups, etc. and to facilitate communication in our industry state-wide. After exploring Facebook, Duane has determined that LinkedIn might be a better option, and has opened a group for ORFED. More information will be coming to us later.

Next Meeting: December 16, 2010 10:00 AM. Face meeting at Metro. Scheduled on this date to accommodate Brenda's holiday schedule, and to follow the next WFPA meeting which will be Tuesday of that same wee.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:35.

Submitted by,

Cliff Martin
Secretary

**My own comments on the question:*

I will tell you why I favor Saturdays. I don't like to take 10 techs out of production on a weekday. That can cost us \$5000.00 or more. And it means that either somebody stays back at the shop, or we have zero technicians in the shop for a full day ... something we try to avoid. We stagger our shop tech's lunch hour to ensure coverage even during the noon hour. But the real reason is that, in my opinion, things are moving toward technicians assuming responsibility for their own certification and continuing education. I want to encourage this. I have always asked my technicians to come to the Saturday training w/o pay, and I get nearly 100% participation. It is not required. However, it is the easiest way for them to get the hours of training they need. And their professional pride compels them to give up their Saturday and attend.

I would emphasize that the ORFED sponsored training is FREE! I even buy the lunch for my techs. If they do not take advantage of this training, they may end up having to take a weekday off from work, pay \$300.00, and go to an Ed O'Brien seminar. That's how I look at it.

For me, weekday training would be a giant step backwards. If we shift the training to weekdays, and assume that technicians attend on company time, we are perpetuating the notion that certification and training are the employer's responsibility. Which means that if one of my employees can't attend the weekday ORFED training for sickness or vacation, etc. the presumption is that it is my responsibility to provide some alternate training for him. I'm trying to move away from having to hold their hands, and move them to take more responsibility for their own professional advancement.

I recognize that we exist to serve the needs of our members, and I will support weekday training if that is what we choose to do. But I would much prefer shifting the training paradigm for the owners and their techs.

~ Cliff