

Fire Investigators Strike Force

www.fisf.org

Minutes of November 12, 2014

Next Meeting: December 10, 2014

Program: Elections and speaker.

Location: Manzo's Banquets 1571 S. Elmhurst Rd. Des Plaines, IL 60018 (Just North of Oakton on Rt. 83, East Side.)

Time: 1100

President Kushner was unable to attend due to an investigation therefore Secretary Gilleran opened the meeting at 0900.

- A motion was made and 2nd to accept the Treasurers Report; the motion passed.
- A motion was made and 2nd to accept the October Minutes; the motion passed
- A moment of silence was held for all of our members' intentions.
- Almost 90 members were in attendance!
- **Fires: Crystal Lake** had a fatal fire involving a plumber: the plumber had a history of cardiac problems and may have had a medical issue which resulted in the fire being started by the torch he was using or he may have accidentally started the fire and had an MI as a result of the flight/fight response. **Wauconda (Island Lake)** had a fire in a Sikh Temple, which is still under investigation. **Reminder:** any time you have a fire in a religious facility you are required by Federal Law to notify the BATF.
- **We are moving!** Our seminars will no longer be held in Rosemont. This is due to the new management company no longer allowing us to use the facility free-of-charge and the amount they would charge us (\$2000) was deemed unreasonable by the Board. Our seminars for next year will be held at the Northern Illinois University Conference Center in Hoffman Estates at 5555 Trillium Drive. The cost for NIU will be \$850 and the food cost will be \$30 per person as compared to \$22 at Rosemont. Due to the increased costs we are raising our seminar fees to \$45. It has been 11 years since we had an increase and like everything else our costs have risen. The new venue has a seating capacity of 250 as opposed to 190 so we hope to see more of you in attendance.

- At next month's meeting we will elect the members of the board for the Strike Force.
- Salvation Army Captain Brian Davis thanked the members of the Strike Force for their generous donation of toys for those less fortunate.
- **HOLIDAY MEETING:** We need numbers by December 3. We cannot continue to have walk-ins, as the food is prepared ahead of time based on the numbers we receive.

Our speaker was Sarah Gura, M.A., L.C.P.C. (Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor) "In other words, I'm a shrink." (Her words, not mine.) Sara gave an excellent presentation on the types of emotional and psychological issues we may face not just as fire investigators but also as firefighters and police officers. These issues then lead to physiological issues such as gastrointestinal problems, sexual dysfunction, headaches, sleep problems and many other maladies. Our encounters during our careers can also lead to emotional outbursts, substance abuse, family problems, affairs, etc. Sara gave us examples of coping mechanisms on how to deal with some of these issues (way over me to try and explain in these minutes). Sara also was instrumental in forming the Illinois Fire Fighter Peer Support Group www.ilffps.org 855-90-support (855-907-8776) to help us talk to someone who understands.

Our thanks to Sara for taking the time to come and speak to our organization. (I cannot count the number of members who came to me after the meeting and expressed their thanks for having Sara as our speaker.) If you want to contact Sara she can be reached at 815-557-1267 or www.guracounseling.com

This training was 2 hours in length.

On behalf of all the Board and Training Committee members: Have a Happy Thanksgiving!

Respectfully Submitted,
John Gilleran
FISF Secretary