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Minutes of May 13, 2015

Next Meeting: June 10, 2015

Program: Management of Complex Fires

Location: **Salvation Army 8354 W. Foster Av. Norridge, IL 60706 (NE corner of Cumberland and Foster)**

Time: 0900

President Kushner opened the meeting at 0900

- A moment of silence was held for all who have passed away.
- Due to the Secretary losing the notes from April there were no Minutes published.
- A motion was made, and 2nd, to accept the Treasurers Report. The motion passed. A copy of the report is available on our web site.
- Nearly 200 members were in attendance. We hope to continue seeing all of you.

Our primary speaker was Brett Henne of Swanson, Martin & Bell LLP. Brett worked full time as a firefighter and investigator before getting his law degree and working as an assistant State's Attorney for Lake County and he continues to work part-time as a firefighter now that he is in private practice. Patrick P. Clyder, James O'Shea, Laura Klement and Ryan Finlen accompanied Brett. The variety of subjects that they covered including, spoliation, litigation, subrogation and other laws that pertain to fire investigations would be impossible to cover in these minutes. Suffice it to say that it was a very informative and worthwhile seminar to kick off our new facility.

One item that we will remind our members of is that per 425 ILCS 25/6, all fires **MUST** be investigated and that investigation **SHALL** begin within 2 days, not including Sunday; the conclusion of said investigation has no time limit but a NIFIRS report must be submitted by the 15th of the month following the fire. Also, we were presented with an excellent case regarding spoliation of and destruction of evidence in Allstate Ins. V. Sunbeam (7th Cir.). This case would mainly apply to private investigators but also has relevance for public investigators. (You can search the case on Findlaw or Google; it is about a 10 minute read but well worth it.)

I would like to express our thanks to Brett and his colleagues and to Swanson, Martin & Bell LLP for allowing their attorneys to spend the time educating our members.

On behalf of the Board we all hope you liked our new seminar building. Please let us know your opinions of the facility.

Respectfully submitted,
John Gilleran
Secretary F.I.S.F