

Minutes of February 13, 2008

Next Meeting: March 12, 2008

Program: Arson for Profit

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

Time: 0900

President Kushner opened the meeting at 0920 hrs.

?? A moment of silence was held for all of our troops who have given their lives for our country.

?? A motion was made, and 2nd, to accept the January Minutes. The motion passed.

?? A motion was made, and 2nd, to accept the Treasurers Report. The motion passed.

?? Over 100 members were in attendance.

?? Mitch brought to our attention an arson case from the Michigan Court of Appeals. The case was *People v. Smith* and was based on circumstantial evidence that consisted of a fire investigators testimony. The court recognized that “there is rarely direct evidence of the actual lighting of a fire by an arsonist; rather, the evidence of arson is usually circumstantial.” Because this case was in Michigan it does not make it law in Illinois, but it certainly could be persuasive to a court. To look up the full text go to Google and type in: *People v. Smith* 2007 Mich. App. Lexis 2460.

?? NIPSTA (Northeastern Illinois Public Safety Training Academy) in Glenview, will be hosting classes on Evidence Photography and Sketching & Diagramming in 2008. You can go to their website at www.nipsta.org for more information. NIPSTA is also now a link on our website.

?? Nominations for the Harry P. Schaefer Award need to be turned in to a board member by the April Executive Board meeting, Tuesday April 1, so that we have time to select a worthy recipient. All board members e-mail addresses are on the web site.

?? We will present the Schaefer Award at the May seminar.

?? Please remember to pay your dues.

?? **Fires; Wilmette** had two fires: one was caused by a humidifier and the second was caused by water in conduit to the electrical box in an elevator control room. Class A materials in the room caught fire. A woman had to be rescued from the elevator. **Bellwood** had a fire that was the result of multiple x multiple x multiple extension cords. **South Elgin** had a fatal fire. The fire was out the roof when the first crews arrived. The crews were also confronted with oxygen tanks exploding. A 73-year-old disabled man, in a recliner, died. The cause is believed to be use of smoking materials. **Crestwood** also had a fatality in a recliner. The man apparently tossed a cigarette in a trash basket, which started a fire. The man put the fire out; or so he believed. The man fell asleep and the fire rekindled. **Sauk Village** had a fire in a three-story apartment building. The fire is under investigation.

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Our speaker was Jason Mardirosian of the Chicago Fire Department Office of Fire Investigations. Jason gave an in-depth presentation on burn patterns. Jason’s “Back to Basic’s” lecture was a good review for all of us. Our thanks to Jason for taking the time to speak to the organization.

Side note: Prior to the minutes being published we have experienced a senseless tragedy in Illinois; The shooting at NIU. This horrific event resulting in the deaths of five students, and the wounding of

many others, goes to show what many in our organization already know; that life is precious, fragile, and fleeting. Give your kids, or other family members, a hug. Because, unfortunately, we never know if we will get another chance. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family members of those killed and wounded and to all of the students, staff, and faculty at NIU.



Respectfully Submitted,
John T. Gilleran
Secretary F.I.S.F.