

Minutes of February 11, 2009

Next Meeting: March 11, 2009

Program: Electrical causes of small appliance fires; Richard Hanson

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

Time: 0900

President Kushner opened the meeting at 0915.

- ?? A moment of silence was held for retired Skokie Fire Department Lieutenant, and McHenry County Fire Protection District member, Steve Laing. We also had a moment of silence for the mother of Chicago Fire Department member Hans Perfect. Mrs. Perfect died in a fire. Our thoughts and prayers go to all of the families.
- ?? A motion was made, and 2<sup>nd</sup>, to accept the January Minutes. The motion passed.
- ?? A motion was made, and 2<sup>nd</sup>, to accept the Treasurers Report. The motion passed.
- ?? Over 114 members were in attendance! These are seminar attendance numbers. We hope to continue to see all of you at our meetings.
- ?? Cary Fire Protection District is holding a Kinesic Interview and Interrogation class March 9 through March 13. The Public Agency Training Council is teaching the class. For more information go to [www.patc.com](http://www.patc.com)
- ?? The Illinois chapter of the IAAI and NITA are hosting a Courtroom Testimony class on March 3 & 4. More information is available on our web site.
- ?? Nominations for the Harry P. Schaefer Award need to be turned in to a board member before the April Executive Board meeting, Tuesday April 2, 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.
- ?? The Illinois Fair Plan has \$10,000.00 to give to civilians who give information leading to convictions in arson cases. Nominations are due by March 1. More information is available on our web site.
- ?? Please remember to pay your dues.
- ?? **Congratulations:** Debbie Andrews on being promoted to the head of the Fire Prevention Bureau in Northbrook.

We were fortunate enough to have three speakers address our organization at the meeting. First were Mary Werderitch and Laura Barros from the Illinois Fire Safety Alliance (IFSA). Mary & Laura spoke about the IFSA's Juvenile Fire Setter Intervention Program. IFSA partners with the fire service to provide a "coordinated referral center for the assessment and treatment of juvenile fire setters and their families, thereby slowing down the often devastating results of fire setting". This is a great program that bases itself off of NFPA 1035 and whose test for the class they give is recognized by the OSFM.

The Juvenile Fire Setter Intervention Program is just one of many great programs provided by the IFSA. For help with a juvenile fire setter you can call (847) 390-0911 anytime and Laura will be happy to assist you. For more information on the IFSA you can go to [www.ifs.org](http://www.ifs.org).

Our second presenter was Officer Jon Lowman of the Highland Park Police Department. Jon spoke about laws pertaining to juveniles. Jon told us how juveniles are considered to be 0 to 16 years of age and that 7 is now considered the “age of reason” by the courts. Minors are age 17 – 21 and are usually charged as adults depending on the crime. Jon talked about “station adjustments” and how the police officer can dole out certain punishments and that it is the officer’s responsibility to follow-up with the juvenile; the courts are not involved. There are two types of station adjustments: formal and informal. I won’t get into the legal differences; suffice it to say that one is stricter than the other. Juveniles under 13 years of age must have an attorney present during questioning if charged with a Forcible Felony. However, arson is not considered a forcible felony; therefor no attorney has to be present (unless requested by the suspect). Jon also noted that the juvenile’s parents are not required to be in the room with the suspect and if the kid does not want his parents/guardians, or attorney, to be in the room then they are out.

Our thanks to all three of our speakers for taking the time to give presentations to our organization. We also thank their association/department for allowing them the time to come and educate our members.

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