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Minutes of October 17, 2007

Next Meeting: November 14, 2007

Program: Arson for Profit; Chief Ed Folliard (Oaklawn)

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 hrs.

- ?? A moment of silence was held for Lt. Kevin Nelson of the Roselle Fire Department. Lt. Nelson died unexpectedly of a heart attack while at home. We also remembered our fallen troops during the moment of silence.
- ?? A motion was made, and 2nd, to accept the September Minutes. The motion passed.
- ?? A motion was made, and 2nd, to accept the Treasurers Report. The motion passed. A full copy of the report is available on our website.
- ?? Over 120 members were in attendance.
- ?? Debbie Andrews, of the Northbrook Fire Department, is joining our training committee. Debbie will be replacing Bernie Arends on the committee. We would like to thank Bernie for all of his years of service to our organization. We would not be as successful as we are without Bernie's dedication to our training committee.

Our seminar was on an unusual fire that occurred in the Pleasentview Fire Protection District's section of Burr Ridge. Our speakers were: Tony Morrone and John Flaherty of COZEN O'CONNOR Attorney's; Sam Sudler, Stephen Erienbach and Rob Miller of S.E.A.; Art D'Andrea and Dan Tholotowsky of the Pleasentview FPD and Mitch Kushner of the OSFM.

This presentation covered every aspect of a good investigation from beginning to end; from the initial origin and cause to the final settlement and everything in-between. The proper legal notification of all interested parties was covered as well as the elimination of other possible causes. The use of outside experts and resources was also discussed. Tony Morrone emphasized how important it was to keep the scene intact and stated that "preservation is key" to winning a case. Tony also could not remind us enough that "the early bird gets the worm". In other words, who ever gets there first (in the private sector) will have the best advantage.

We can not express enough thanks to groups like COZEN O'CONNOR and S.E.A. for taking the time and expense to help educate our members. S.E.A. brought Rob in from St. Louis and Stephen in from Ohio just for this seminar. To them, and all of our speakers; Thank You!

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