

Minutes of November 14, 2007

Next Meeting: December 12, 2007

Program: Elections and guest 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 opened the meeting at 0920

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

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

?? A moment of silence was held for all of the members of our nation's armed forces who have made the ultimate sacrifice for their country as well as for all of our veterans who have passed away.

?? A reminder to all members that are behind in your dues; **Please pay!**

?? You may pay for the December's meeting lunch at the door; however, you **must register in advance** so that we have an accurate number to give the banquet hall.

?? **Fires:** The Greater Round Lake Fire Protection District had a fire. Wilmette had a couple of house fires Nunda Township had a fire caused by a popular hand-held gaming device. Lake Zurich had a fire in a residential living room caused by a space heater. Other models from the same manufacturer have been previously recalled for having bad tip switches. (Unfortunately at time of publication we did not have the manufacturers name. We will let you know the company when we get updated information.)

?? 80 members were in attendance. We hope to see everyone at the December meeting.

Our originally scheduled speaker, Chief Ed Folliard, was unable to attend our meeting. However, thanks to Mary Lacy and Mike Deckleman, we had a great last minute substitute in Steve Chasteen of the Illinois Fire Service Institute. Steve gave an excellent presentation on how defense attorneys are preparing themselves to take-on fire investigators in the deposition phase of a case and try and discredit the investigator so that they will not be able to testify in court. Steve stated that each fire should be treated as if it were going to court. (The little fire is the one that will come back and haunt you.) Make sure your resume (CV) is up-to-date. Do not put non-essential information in your resume. The court does not care that you are a certified engineer or rope rescue technician. Defense attorneys are looking for things that we do not do that are covered in NFPA 921. Do the investigation right every time or don't do it at all and let someone else do it right. Spend a majority of your time documenting "**what did not happen**". Make sure you include weather reports in your documentation; not just the weather at the time of the fire, but for the previous 24 hours as well. You should reference 921 in your reports. You should also subject your theories to peer review. If you are discredited, do not be surprised if your name ends up on the Internet somewhere; available to all of the future attorneys that you may face.

Again, our thanks to Steve for "throwing together at the last minute" (as he put it) an informative and educational presentation.

On behalf of all of the members of the executive board and the training committee, we would like to wish al of you and your families a Happy Thanksgiving!!!

Respectfully submitted,

John Gilleran

Secretary F.I.S.F