

Minutes of November 12, 2008

Next Meeting: December 10, 2008

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 (Even though the minutes were not out yet.)
- ?? A motion was made and 2nd to accept the Treasurers Report. The motion passed.
- ?? A moment of silence was held for Schaumburg Police Officer Frank Russo and Chicago Police Detective Joseph Airhart, Jr. Officer Russo died of a heart attack while struggling with a suspect after a brief foot pursuit. Detective Airhart died of injuries he received in the line of duty seven years ago. We also remembered 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.
- ?? We need help on the Training Committee. Anyone interested please contact Debbie.
- ?? Mitch apologized for the conditions during the second half of last month's seminar. Although we can not control the weather, we can be prepared. In the future, if we have any outside events, we will provide shelter. We will also use a Public Address system.
- ?? 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: Wheeling** had a fire in a two-story apartment building that resulted in serious injuries to two of the occupants. The fire is under investigation. **Northbrook** had a fire in a large house in the pool room. (That's pool as in swimming, not table.) The fire is believed to have started in either the pool heater or the furnace for the room. Side note; a firefighter fell into the pool, fortunately he was all right, but he could have been seriously hurt, or worse. **Cicero** had a fire that resulted in a fatality. The subject died of an apparent heart attack while sitting in the rear of a Cicero police car for shelter. **Chicago** has three persons-of-interest for a fire on the northwest side that had people jumping from the third floor of the building upon the fire departments arrival. **Grayslake** had a fire in a bathroom caused by a candle. The homeowner returned after being gone for seven days to find plenty of damage, but no fire; it had snuffed itself out. **Buffalo Grove** had something similar; a fire started by a candle with smoke showing as the first units pulled up on the scene. When they entered the apartment there was no fire; plenty of damage, but the fire had put itself out! **Elmwood Park** had a fire in a garbage can next to the garage. Anyone with a similar fire should call Elmwood Park.
- ?? **Elections will be held in December for all of the board positions. Anyone interested in running should submit his or her name to the board secretary.**
- ?? 80 members were in attendance. We hope to see everyone at the December meeting.

Our speaker was Mike Wasowicz of the Skokie Police Department and Imprimus Forensic Services, LLC. Mike has been a speaker at many of our meetings and as always he gave an excellent presentation on diagramming. Mike covered a lot of material and distributed

handouts. I will try to give the highlights. Mike emphasized that you need to document the scene as though someone else will have to interpret it at a later date. (Cold case files.) Mike told everyone that, in court, we need to be the ultimate storytellers so that you give the jurors a good idea of what the scene was like. Diagrams do not have to be exact, only accurate. Diagrams do not have to be “to scale” to be presented in court. (On your diagram, do not put something like 1” equals 1’ and then “not to scale”, because you just contradicted yourself; put 1” is *approximately* 1’.) You can use floor plans for your diagram; you don’t need to draw them on your own. You do need to collect your own information such as dimensions etc.

You should start out by drawing a box, L x W, then measure to your evidence, and then collect it before something happens to it; then you can get the rest of your measurements.

Our thanks to Mike for once again taking the time to address our organization.

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

