

Fire Investigators Strike Force

www.fisf.org

Minutes of December 14, 2011

Next Meeting: January 11, 2012

Program: TBA

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

Time: 0900

President Kushner opened the meeting at 1100 hrs.

- Mitch wished everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and a Happy New Year.
- A moment of silence was held for all of our friends, relatives, and colleagues that are no longer with us.
- Nominations for the executive board, from the floor, were called for three times. A motion was made from the floor to nominate the current board. There was a 2nd to the nomination. A vote was called for and the board was re-elected unanimously. Once again your executive board is; President Mitch Kushner, Vice-president Stan Grygiel, Secretary John Gilleran and Treasurer Jeff Fleck.
- Arnie Witzke will continue to be the membership chairman. Thank you Arnie for all of your work.
- Thank you to our training committee members Mary Lacey, Dan Zerfass, Jeff Wynn, Mike Wurtz, Chester Kraus and Mike Loesch (who recently resigned from the committee) for all of the hard work that goes into presenting interesting and up-to-date trainings.

- . A special thanks to LeeAnn Artstein, Administrative Clerk for the Northbrook Fire Department Fire Prevention Bureau, for helping us maintain our training records.
- . On behalf of all the board members I would like to express our gratitude for your continued confidence in our ability to run this great organization.
- . Thank you to all of the departments and organizations that support the Strike Force. There are 194 departments as members (remember your police departments are automatically members); we average over 80 members at meetings and over 120 members at seminars.
- . 70 members attended today. It was good to see all of you.
- . A motion was made, and 2nd, to accept the November Minutes. The motion passed.
- . A motion was made, and 2nd, to accept the Treasurers Report. The motion passed.
- . Our congratulations to everyone who was promoted, or retired, this year.
- . Please remember to pay your dues.
- . **Please notify Arnie Witzke if you need to change your contact person.**
- . A new training schedule will be available soon at the website www.fisf.org.

Mitch gave a presentation on how to get an Administrative Warrant (AW). Remember, once you leave the scene of an investigation you are at the owners' pleasure as to whether or not you can remain on the property. If the property owner, or person having standing (like an apartment tenant) tells you to leave, you must leave. At that point you will need a warrant from a judge to return to the property. You do not need a State's Attorney to get an AW but it wouldn't hurt. You need to go to a judge and explain that your investigation was not completed and you need to get back on the property. The judge may have some questions for you prior to issuing the warrant. Upon returning to the scene it would be a good idea to have a local law enforcement officer

with you for the rest of the investigation. If, in the course of your investigation, you find evidence of a crime, you must stop your investigation and return to the court for a criminal warrant. It would be much more advantageous to have the police officer with you at the scene so they can go to the court with you and also testify as to what was found. You will need an ASA at this point. Also remember that warrants are specific as to what areas you may search/investigate. You cannot go into an unattached garage or shed if it is not listed on the warrant.

Please remember all of our members of the armed forces who will not be home with their own families this holiday season because they are overseas protecting our families and our country.

On behalf of the board, have a Happy and Safe Holiday Season.

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