

Meeting Minutes

Louisiana Fire and Emergency Training Commission

Tuesday, December 20, 2022 @ 10:00am

FETA, 6868 Nicholson Dr. Baton Rouge, LA 70820; Classroom 1

Call to Order

Pledge and Prayer

Roll Call

Minutes from previous meeting were distributed.

Motion: The Motion to adopt the minutes from the November meeting was postponed until the January meeting due to only 6 Commission Members being present at the start of the meeting and one Member having to leave shortly after the meeting started which means that there would no longer be a quorum.

Chief Stone asked that old business be discussed before the Chief's Report due to the quorum being lost when Chief Wallace left the meeting.

Motion: Motion was made to hear old business before the Chief's Report with no objections.

Old Business

Steve Billman discussed certification test failure retake procedures from other states in comparison to ours.

Russell Di Salvo asked about scantrons, Steve advised that they were still checking into that.

Russell Di Salvo also asked why Fire Chiefs were not advised that they were to contact certification to request test results, Steve advised that he did the best that he could to advise them.

Chief Walls discussed remediation, reading the test to certain test takers, electronic testing in our future and not leaving anyone behind. He also discussed those that challenge classes and tests.

Chief Stone explained in further detail how we allow test takers to have multiple attempts to take tests when failed.

Chief Browning discussed the crisis in Louisiana with recruiting and then wanted to make a Motion.

It was talked about last meeting, the authority to make changes with Reciprocity regarding state supplemental pay. Steve gave an explanation of reciprocity, Rusty Shoultz then further explained the process.

Motion: Chief Browning made a Motion, instead of a certification testers having to wait 90 days after the 1st retest, the waiting period be 14 days over the next 12 months, ending December 31, 2023 to give us time to figure this out in further. Chief Stone said that we will contact IFSAC and PROBOARD to find out if and how we can change our policy on test retakes.

The Motion will not be voted on until the January 2023 meeting.

Chief Wallace left the meeting.

It was then discussed that we should go back and continue to look at our retake and challenge policies in certification.

Motion: Motion was made to go back to the regular order of business with no objections.

Chief's Report

Ken Fowler discussed Instructure I, Live Fire Instructure In Charge and Live Fire Instructor classes. He made mention that the recent Recruit Academy Graduation was a success as well as the upcoming January 2023 Recruit class coming up. Also discussed the Technical Rescue program and the Technical Rope Awareness, Operations and Technician Program. The Technical Rescue, Vehicle Extrication and the Structural Collapse packages are in the process of getting ready to send to IFSAC. He also talked about the Grants being prepared, awarded and those upcoming. Chief Fowler talked about the classes and student numbers at FETA during the 2022 year.

Thomas Stone discussed the weekend fire school in Winnsboro, as well as the MPP prop.

Industrial Report

Sam Colon discussed the December classes compared to last month. He also talked about his 2023 1st quarter being completely full.

Certification Report

Steve Billman talked about the 6-month process for evaluators, the pass/fail variations and that the test registrations are winding down for the year. He was asked what is being done to improve the pass/fail rate, Steve explained that it is not a straight forward answer.

Bo Carter explained that with the new system, the pass/fail rates will be able to be broken down with different data. Chief Stone explained that the rate is creeping up for the pass rate but the challenges are bringing the rate down. The Commission is wanting more data in order to do something about the challenges.

Bo explained that the hold up on Phase II of the system is that Phase I needs to be up and running before the approval of Phase II is put into effect. He further explains exactly what Phase II means for Certification and how it will operate in Certification. The question was asked if the holdup has anything to do with money, Bo explains that money is a part of the hold up. The Commission is asking for a number (amount of money), Bo said \$1.2 million is the amount. Bo explains that everything for Phase I should be up and going by the second week in January, 2023 and Phase II will be up and running in July, 2023.

IT Report

Bo Carter puts the power point up and gives an overview of the IMS Fire Training Data Base Phase I and Phase II. Bo also introduced Samantha Sherman to the Commission.

Chief Stone gives information on how the registration packets for the new recruits have been revised from 22 pages to 11 pages to make it easier and that we are now ready with eBooks for the January, 2023 recruit class.

The Commission made note that 35% of tests taken at FETA fail, Chief Stone explained that they may not be taking the classes through FETA. Bo added that he thinks that the biggest issue is that people are challenging the tests and taking a class.

Financial/Budget Report

None

Chairman Report

None

New Business

None

Next Meeting Date

January 17, 2023.

Adjourn

Signature for approved minutes