

10/17/23

Louisiana Fire and Emergency Training Commission Meeting

Tuesday, October 17, 2023 @ 10:00am at
The LFCA's Annual Conference
Baton Rouge Marriott
5500 Hilton Avenue
Baton Rouge, LA
(225)924-5000

Call to Order by Chad Major

Pledge and Prayer

Meeting Minutes For 9/20/23

Roll Call

<u>COMMISSION MEMBER</u>	<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>	<u>ZOOM</u>
Bryan Adams	X		
Butch Browning	X		
Brandon Davis		X	
Russell Di Salvo	X		
Stephen Guidroz	X		
Ken Himel	X		
Matt Lee	X		
Brian Lindberg		X	
Chad Major	X		
Louis Romero	X		
Dan Wallis	X		

Chad Major made note that the last meeting was not official because there was no quorum, there are no minutes to adopt. The last official meeting was the May 16, 2023 meeting.

Motion: Motion was made to adopt the minutes from the May 16, 2023 meeting with a second to adopt.

Superintendent's Report:

Ed Griffin reported that there is no Superintendent report for this meeting.

- Chad Major asked that Chief Wallace let the Commission know why there is no Superintendent report.
- Chief Wallace then announced that L.J. Relle had resigned as of Tuesday, September 19, 2023.

Municipal Report:

Ed Griffin gave the Municipal Report

- Butch Browning asked if Ed had attended the TEEX pipeline training, Ed let him know that he did attend and came back with some good information.

- Ed gave some details on the pipeline training and stated that it would be a great class to bring here to Louisiana.

Industrial Report:

Ed Griffin gave the Industrial Report

- Chad Major asked if there is a way for FETA to find out what each plant's specific needs are according to OSHA guidelines as well as what each plant has and does not have. FETA can meet their needs and use that to market FETA.
- Chief Wallace added that in relation to the burn ban, as of today the state is still in red flag condition which is unprecedented for our state, FETA will stay the course and not burn for at least one more week.
- Chief Wallace mentioned the survey that was sent out to the fire service recently and wants to do the same thing for the industrial customers.
- Ed explained to Chad Major that he created a form to help FETA understand who our industry partners are. What standards they use and what standards, other than OSHA, they are mandated to use.
- Ed also brought up inviting the industry customers to come to us so that we can meet them and see what their needs are (a meet and greet, if you will).
- Ed also suggested that we offer industrial specific Apparatus Pump Operations class, many of our plants do have apparatus, the plant workers do not know how to operate them. Local fire departments are called on to go out and operate them for the plant.

Recruit Academy:

Ed Griffin gave the Recruit Academy Report

- There are several recruit academies that have started recently with a very high number of students.
- Louis Romero wanted to know where we are in the Work Force Reimbursements. When will the money be distributed.
- Chief Wallace said that he will get with Traci Roberts and find out when the reimbursements will be distributed.

Certification Report:

Steve Billman gave the Certification Report

- Steve gave the information/update on the Acadis system to the Commission.
- Russell DiSalvo asked about the breakdown on the test, some Certificates did not have them. Steve said that he will go back and get them for anyone that request the breakdowns, he will have to go back and re-grade the tests for that report, but is not regrading if not requested. Steve said that that is a problem that will be solved.
- Butch Browning mentioned that the fail rate has been being discussed for a long time. The entry level tests seem to average around 70%, he hopes that we can figure out why, maybe they are not being taught the material, or it may be the test banks. He hopes that we can figure that out, he agrees that the new work force is not as studious.
- Steve said that he thinks that he will be able to figure that out with Acadis. And that our vetting process for tests needs to be changed.
- Chief Wallace asked about the committee that vets the tests.
- An audience member says that he remembers that over a year ago the commission addressed the vetting process and said that they were going to get a representative from each organization to help with the test vetting. Steve said that since that time he has heard back from one person.

- Steve said that he will pursue that once Acadis is up and running.
- Chad Major suggested that maybe at the next meeting at the Chief's meeting, we could ask again, if anyone is interested in working with us on vetting tests, we could get their contact information. Get a couple from each organization and Steve, there are past presidents, retired chiefs and smaller departments, a good representation across the fire service board.
- Chad asked that Steve should make note of this so that we can bring this up at the next meeting, which will be at the chief's conference.

Special Operations:

Ed Griffin gave the Special Operations Report

Financial Report:

Chief Wallace gave the Financial Report

EMS Report:

Ed Griffin gave the EMS Report

- Discussed expanding the EMS program reach with hybrid/online education, we have the ability within the Jones and Bartlett platform, navigate. However, Steve Billman explained that there is a complication with that application but has come up with a work around, but we will have some things to do before we can implement.

Commission's Report:

Chad Major gave his report.

- Chief Wallace explained that FETA will no longer be a response agency, the SFM will/has taken it back, however FETA will house the equipment. Chief Wallace asked Rusty Shoultz to give a report on Wildland fire classes coming.
- Rusty Shoultz gave the information on upcoming classes scheduled as a result of the wildland fires in the next 24 months.
- Louis Romero asked Chief Wallace if the SFM had an MOU for the wildfires? Chief Wallace gave the question to Rusty. Rusty will let the fire chiefs know when the details are completed. Louis Romero is concerned that his firefighters will not get paid for responding to the wild fires.
- Ken Hymel said that the Chiefs Association needs to get involved in these deployments for compensations.
- Chief Wallace said that the Governor's Office said not to hesitate to send help, we will work it out on the back end.
- Louis Romero asked that an email be sent to everyone that deployed.
- The challenge is that there is not emails for every fire department, or what emails are out there may not be accurate.
- Rusty says that this problem is being worked on, there is no timeline but it is being worked on.
- Chad Major also commented that all of the groups in the fire service need to come together to be on the same page with everything.

Old Business:

- Chad Major mentioned that he needed to contact someone on the Workforce Commission but has not, he will contact them as soon as he leaves this meeting.
- Ed Griffin said that Traci Roberts just handed him some information dealing with the Workforce Commission with Check numbers amounts of checks that have been rendered.

New Business:

- Bryan Adams asked that as a new schedule is made a FETA class be scheduled in Jefferson Parish for them to host.
- Chief Wallace commented that the men and women that work at FETA are dedicated. He says they have learned a lot from the survey that was sent out. They will share the results of the survey with the Commission as soon as it is complete.
- Ken Hymel asked what happens now since we lost the Superintendent.
- Chief Wallace explained that Rusty will be engaged with Ed and the administrative group at FETA and wait 90 days when we know who the next Fire Marshal will be.
- Louis Romero asked if we can amend the agenda to go into executive session. Chief Wallace said that we cannot.
- Chad Major said that this is a bump in the road and we need to just keep moving forward as planned.
- Ken Hymel commented that he feels that FETA should not move completely away from the response agency, he feels that he felt that this was the most active that we have been with the fire service.
- Chief Wallace explained that we will continue to offer ourselves as a resource to those that need our help.

Motion to Adjourn: Chad Major made a motion to adjourn, motion was second.

9/20/2023 Minutes Approved

Chad Majors