

CUMBERLAND COUNTY FIRE CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION

Cumberland County, North Carolina

P. O. Box 2592

Fayetteville, North Carolina 28302-2592

BUSINESS MEETING

January 22, 1996

The meeting was hosted by the Lafayette Village Fire Department. President James E. Hall called the meeting to order at 19:30 hours. Chief Mike Middleton and his staff were thanked for the fine meal and their hospitality.

Roll was called: 24 Departments were represented and 8 Associate Members present.

Secretary and Treasurers Reports were approved as presented.

GUEST:

Crystal Cross - of BTI Telecommunication Services discussed the companies paging systems and options. Flyers and business cards were left for anyone interested.

Chief Freddy Johnson introduced Lieutenant R.L. Hayes, Lieutenant B.J. Dellinger and First Sergeant Steve McCorquodale from the State Highway Patrol. Chief Johnson recommended that the Highway Patrol be granted membership to the association. There being no objections, 1996 dues were accepted. Chief Johnson also introduced Major Rascoe, Operations Manager and Captain Hart from the Cumberland County Sheriff's Office and Rob Dixon, Cumberland County District Attorney's Office.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Chief Johnson inquired the feelings of departments assisting the Sheriff Office to flush the eyes of individuals who have been maced. Elliott Rich spoke about the liabilities involved and stressed the need for proper medical survey because of the various effects it causes on different people.

"Preservation of Life and Property Through Organization"

President Hall announced that a feasibility study would be conducted and consideration given to install a computer network system and program in each department that would allow departments to send incident reports directly to the Fire Marshal's Office and communicate between departments. Advantages of such a system were discussed

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

TRAINING & EDUCATION: Chief Middleton turned the floor over to Asst. Chief John House; Asst. Chief House introduced the idea of a centralized training center and requested the support of all departments and their respective chiefs.

Chief Terry Rielly spoke of the progress in the Training Officers meeting and requested that all departments get involved in an effort to improve the quality of training in Cumberland County.

Asst. Chief Wilson gave a brief update on the Eastern Emergency Services Seminar. He encouraged departments to send registrations in as soon as possible.

Chief Nichols announced progress of the upcoming Fire College and requested the help and cooperation of all departments.

STANDARDS & MUTUAL AID: Chief Johnson announced that a rough draft of the guidelines for Retired Fire Chiefs Honorary Membership should be available at the next meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS: No Report

FINANCE & BUDGET: No Report

PUBLIC RELATIONS: No Report

FIRE MARSHAL: Mr. Strickland requested that all bills pertaining to the fire in Cambridge Arms Apartments be sent to his office.

Mr. Strickland presented plaques for Fire Officer and Firefighter of the year to:
Asst Chief John Gerber, Fire Officer of the year - 1995
Firefighter Shelly Gillium, Firefighter of the year - 1995

F.T.C.C. Mr. Vile announced that training officers would need to meet with him regarding state certification for fire fighters in their respective departments. Transcripts must be completed and returned to the Fire Commission by April 1, 1996

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: No Report

FORESTRY: No Report

COMMITTEE REPORTS: (cont.)

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS: President Hall announced that Marshal Faircloth had been re-appointed as Fire Liaison Officer for the Commissioners. Mr. Faircloth also serves as Assistant Chairman for the Commissioners.

C.E.R.T.: No Report

SHERIFF'S OFFICE: No Report

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES: Mr. Rich discussed future changes in the EMS system and encouraged those who currently provide EMS and those considering to provide EMS to attend the Public hearing scheduled for February 8th, 1996, in the F.T.C.C. Auditorium at 7:00 p.m.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION:

Dan Eberhart announced that the next Retired Firefighters Asso. meeting would be held on Tuesday, February 20, 1996 at Pearces Mills Fire Department. He also addressed a concern regarding a Golden Corral television commercial currently airing which depicts a firefighter destroying a residence. After discussion it was agreed that the Secretary would write a letter to Golden Corral presenting our concerns pertaining to this commercial.

Chief Nichols informed the association that the City of Fayetteville has begun changing over to the 800mg radio system.

Chief Middleton announced his department's open house celebrating their 40th year on February 24, 1996.

Chief Herndon announced that Gray's Creek would be hosting their annual BBQ day on February 2, 1996.

Chief J.F. Hall informed those present of changes in the Pension Fund.

Chief Middleton announced that Firefighter John Hall had been awarded Firefighter of the Year by the Cumberland County Jaycees.

The next meeting will be hosted by Westarea Fire Department on February 26, 1996.

Respectfully,

Larry A. Wilson
SECRETARY

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January 22, 1996

Vice President Bob McDevitt
Golden Corral
4513 Creedmore Road, Suite 500
Raleigh, NC 27621

RE: Television Commercial

Mr. McDevitt,

Golden Corral is currently airing a television commercial which negatively portrays professional firefighters. In this advertisement firefighters are shown causing considerable, unnecessary damage to a home which we find degrading and offensive. Numerous hours are delegated to training personnel in the proper methods and techniques that will keep property damage to a minimum and eliminate situations such as your commercial portrays. Unfortunately, however, we must defend our actions continuously to the public because they are unaware that the procedures involved in fire fighting are necessary to protect not only fire fighting personnel but the homeowner/occupant as well.

This commercial has contributed to the already difficult task of educating the public and maintaining a professional relationship between the fire service and the citizens of the communities in which we proudly serve.

The Cumberland County Fire Chiefs' Association would like to see this airing discontinued. We find this portrayal greatly offensive to the men and women who risk their lives daily in the protection of others.

Respectfully,

Larry A. Wilson
SECRETARY

cc: George D. Miller, President
National Fire Protection Association