

TARRANT COUNTY FIRE & ARSON INVESTIGATORS ASSOCIATION

2750 Premier St.

Fort Worth, TX. 76111



March 7th, 2019

The monthly meeting of the Tarrant County Fire and Arson Investigators Association was held on March 7th, 2019 at 10:00 am at the Tarrant County Fire Marshal's Office with First President Keith Ebel presiding.

The meeting was called to order, opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and an Invocation.

There were 34 members present.

Guests: Joe Wetzel, Wiley FMO; Brent Sauble, North Richland Hills FD; Kimberly Hall, Irving FD; Matt Mohler, Irving FD; Todd Johnson, Grand Prairie FD.

Sam Adame with Tarrant County Health Department spoke to the group about whom they can contact for fires, pool drownings and any other public health emergencies. The information has been added to the website.

Regular Business:

Approval of the Minutes – Previous month's minutes were reviewed and a motion to accept was made by Kenny Wilson and seconded by Jeff Young. All Approved; motion passed.

Committee Reports:

- A. Treasurer Report – Secretary Jessica Eiswald reported that Stacy Singleton was not available for the meeting but asked that everyone pay their dues.
- B. Training Committee Report –Kenny Wilson reported the following:
 - a. Arson for Prosecutors class
 - i. April 17th; each class will have an investigator and an attorney co-teaching.
 - ii. Multiple guest speakers will be set for the 12-hour long class.
 - b. European Interview Techniques; February 16-19; Grand Prairie; \$1000
 - c. Fire Pattern Recognition; March 12-14; Fort Worth; PATC.com

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- d. Range Day March 15th at the Tarrant County Sherriff's range from 1p-4p
 - e. TX IAAI Conference; Austin; March 17-22; Free admission, Register with TEEX
 - i. New breakout sessions will be provided.
 - f. Citizens Interaction Training Program will be put on at Tarrant County FMO's office April 5th. This is a mandatory class for TCOLE. Do not need to sign up, this is a free class to anyone that needs it.
 - i. Will be put on twice that day. 4 hrs class, starting at 8am then again at 1pm.
 - g. Arson Scene Search; April 9-10; Fort Worth; PATC.com
 - h. Fire Fatality Investigation; April 30-May 1; Fort Worth; PATC.com
 - i. Vehicle Fire Investigation; May 21-23; Fort Worth; PATC.com
 - j. Electrical Fire Investigation; June 25-27; Fort Worth; PATC.com
 - k. Tarrant County Sheriff's Office has extended their invitation to us to go to any of their classes. Go to tarrantcounty.com under Sheriff and "Professional Development and Training" and "Training Academy" to view a list of classes provided.
 - i. They provide a warrant writing class that we are looking to see if we can get one specifically set for our members.
- C. Social Committee Report – Mike Rehfeld looking at April for the next get together. IF you have a location where you would like to go contact Mike.
- a. Looking at a fishing trip April 19th in Texoma. Meeting Friday night and camp til Saturday morning. More details to come.
- D. Law Enforcement and Prosecution Committee Report – Tracy Kapsidelis had nothing to report.
- E. Legislative and By-laws Committee – Nothing to report.

Old Business:

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- A. South Trailer – David Butler spoke to a company that can install the awning for free. Looking at pricing for the awning itself.

- B. Respiratory – Lankford nothing to report.

- C. Diagram program – Committee decided that it would benefit the association the most to not purchase any new hardware but instead invest in the upgraded software for the drawing program. This would upgrade our Pharo 3D program and purchase two dongles to be used on any computer. The cost to upgrade the two existing computer programs and the new dongles will be \$1500.
 - a. Kenny Wilson made the motion for the purchase of the upgraded software and the two new dongles. 2nd by Debra Crafton, all approved. Motion passes.
 - b. Rehfeld will be getting an invoice to Singleton to pay.

New Business:

- A. Kenny Wilson reports that the ATF Dallas Division is looking at eliminating Group II (arson investigators) and rolling them in with Group I (guns and drugs). This will limit their availability to our Task Force as a whole. This is a Dallas Division decision only, so far other divisions have not made this move.
 - a. We are asking that all Task force members contact ATF Acting Director and Associate Deputy Directors to explain how this move will negatively affect our working relationship and future investigations.
 - b. An email was sent to all Association and Task force members with further information.
 - c. Understand that the current office locations for some agents will remain the same until further notice.

- B. Jeff Young reported that he has been contacted by a newspaper in south Texas with an open records request asking for all of Hood Counties Drone records. All their call outs, number of calls, why they were called out, how much they paid for it, do they

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use the drone for investigative purposes on citizens not involved in a crime, etc.
Just wanted to give a heads up to anyone with a drone program.

Departments Reports of Incidents:

Open discussion was held.

Fort Worth wanted the members to be aware of a rash of 1990s model GMC Yukon's being burned with no engines.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn was made by Debra Crafton, 2nd by Kenny Wilson. All Approved @ 11:12 am. The next meeting of the Tarrant County Arson Investigators Association will be conducted on April 4th 2019 at 10:00 am at the Tarrant County Fire Marshal's Office.

Submitted By,

Jessica Eiswald

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Meeting Agenda

April 4th, 2018

- I. Pledge
- II. Prayer
- III. Guests
- IV. Regular Business
 - a. Approval of Minutes
 - b. Treasurer's Report
 - c. Training Committee Report
 - d. Social Committee Report
 - e. Law Enforcement / Criminal Prosecution
 - f. Legislative & By-Laws Report
- V. Old Business
 - a. Awning for South Trailer
 - b. Respiratory Concerns
- VI. New Business
- VII. Member Department Incidents Reports
- VIII. Adjournment