



**METROPOLITAN FIRE MARSHAL'S ASSOCIATION  
MEETING MINUTES**

Date: May 13, 2009

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 9:02 A.M

**Guests:** James Knapp, Senior Field Specialist at UL

**Attendees:**

NAME	REPRESENTING	NAME	REPRESENTING
Roger Herin	Monarch FPD	Paul Mercurio	Clayton FD
Neal Brockmiller	Monarch FPD	Dave Nichols	Monarch FPD
Jim Koenen	Twilight Fire	Sue Smith	Twilight Fire
Tom Presnak	UL	Wally Miller	St. Louis FSA
Terry DeGuentz	West County FPD	Darryl Zastrow	Spanish Lake FPD
Teresa Cross	Mehlville FPD	Leo Meyer	Kirkwood FD
Michael Mahler	Sprinkler Fitters 268	Ken Schneider	Sprinkler Fitters 268
Ron Chac	Laclede Gas	Greg Latka	Siemens Bldg. Tech.
Charles Hughes	VariLogic Technologies	Mark Watkins	Variologic Technologies
Mark Johnson	Creve Coeur FPD	Dave Miller	High Ridge FPD
Denis Drozkowski	Maryland Hts. FPD	Jerry Ambrossecchia	West Overland FPD
Jack Schenk	City of Clayton	Dan Meehan	City of Clayton
Gene Robertson, Jr.	High Ridge FPD	Tony Simpson	St. Louis County
Steve Berman	Steamatic of St. Louis	Tom Pinz	Cintas
Dennis Woods	City of Creve Coeur	Anthony Lancia	AGC of St. Louis
John LaVenture	St. Louis FSA	Marc Ulses	Frontenac FD
Steve Gettemeier	Florissant Valley FPD		

**Treasurer's Report:**

Balance of \$7,664.56 with no expenditures for the period ending March 31, 2009.  
Balance of \$8,132.06 with expenditures of \$97.50 for the period ending April 30, 2009.

**Secretary's Report:**

**Minutes of Last Meeting:**

Minutes from March meeting approved.

**New Members:**

1st Reading: The following applicants were voted on and approved for the first reading:

Afton Fire Prot. Dist.:	Assistant Chief Jim Fritz
City of St. Louis:	Bldg. Insp. Sup. II Jerome Turner
Fire Safety, Inc.:	Sales Mgr. Michael Bell
	Acct. Mgr. Scott Borger
	Service Mgr. Scott Miller
	Sales Rep. Greg Thrash

2nd Reading: The following applicants were voted on and approved for membership:

Siemens Bldg. Tech.:	Operations Sup. Greg Latka
Steamatic of St. Louis:	Steve Bierman
Insurance Const. Specialists:	Gen. Mgr. Harlen Hunter, Jr.

**Membership Report:** 70 Regular Members, 23 Associate Members, 1 Honorary Member, 6 applicants for 1<sup>st</sup> reading and 3 applicants for 2<sup>nd</sup> reading for a total of 103.

**Program/Presentation:**

Terry DeGuentz introduced Charlie Hughes and Mark Watkins from VariLogic Technologies, LLC who gave a very informative presentation on VariLogic Permit program. Contact info:

VariLogic Technologies, LLC  
6311 Ronald Reagan Dr., Suite 178  
Lake St. Louis, MO 63367  
[info@VariLogic.com](mailto:info@VariLogic.com)  
314-600-7904 (Charlie's cell phone)

**Communications:**

HBA letters sent to municipal politicians regarding sprinklers. The letters had a negative tone regarding residential sprinklers, and questionable sprinkler cost information. There was much discussion including (but not limited to): The HBA seems to be going back on their word that they would help promote residential sprinklers if the agreement between them and the FSA was signed; SB7 did not pass but HB103 did (HB103 had same sprinkler language as SB7); Missouri American Water is still an obstacle that needs to be dealt with regarding the residential sprinkler issue.

The Funeral Assistance Team submitted a request for a donation. The membership voted to pay for a ceremonial pike pole sponsorship in the amount of \$300.00.

**Committee Reports:**

**Fire Chiefs:** John LaVenture – John presented the minutes of the April 14, 2009 Fire Chief's meeting. Items of note were: Bob Young is retiring from St. Louis County Police; a legislative report was given; they need an education committee; the awards program will be October 18, 2009 at Kirkwood Community Center.

**Education Committee:** Steve Gettemeier or John LaVenture – We need to work on PSAs for the sprinkler issue; we also need to work on more sprinkler demonstrations.

**State Fire Marshals:** Roger Herin – Had a meeting April 15, 2009. Legislative issues were discussed; conference will be August 3, 4 & 5 at Tan-Tar-A – hotel reservations are being accepted, info and registration form will be on the website ([www.fmamonline.com](http://www.fmamonline.com)) soon.

**State ICC Chapter:** Paul Richards – no report.

**MABOI:** Bryan Kopp – no report.

**ICC:** Paul Mercurio – There was a “meet-and-greet” with Bob Neale last week for chapter leaders. Public viewing of the 2009 Codes is available at [www.ecodes.biz](http://www.ecodes.biz) – a free read-only version is available; also, free downloads of printable versions of the codes are available to ICC members – one to a membership group; the jurisdiction adoption table on the ICC website has only a few jurisdictions from the St. Louis area on it – go to the website and enter your information.

**Jefferson County Fire Marshals Assoc.:** Gene Robertson – A train-the-trainer bomb response class is coming up; the next meeting will be next Thursday at Hillsboro Station #2.

**Laclede Gas:** Ron Chac – There was another incident this past Monday resulting from stolen copper gas pipe.

**Missouri American Water:** Ben Von Harz – no report.

**St. Louis Sprinkler Alliance:** Wally Miller – On April 11, 2009 there was a dedication of the rebuilt fraternity house where a 13R sprinkler system was donated after a fatal fire. The victim's mother, Linda Schlittler, has become a good advocate for sprinklers. A side-by-side burn was done in West County FPD. Other side-by-side burns are scheduled tentatively for :  
This Saturday May 16 at Creve Coeur  
June 7 at Clayton  
June 13 at Chesterfield Mall  
June 27 & 28 at Ballwin Days  
October at Florissant Valley FPD

**AAGSL:** M J Vance – no report.

**Code Review:** Paul Mercurio – Paul stated that the St. Louis County code review committees are meeting regularly now, and that anyone can attend the meetings. Go to the County website for meeting dates and times. All are encouraged to attend and have an impact on the County code adoption process. Paul is on the Mechanical review committee, and they are up to Chapter 3 so far – fire/smoke dampers are defined in the new code.

#### **Old Business:**

**By-Laws:** Roger Herin – Proposed changes were handed out and will be emailed to the membership at least 10 days prior to the next meeting at which time they will be voted on. Roger briefly went over the changes.

#### **New Business:**

**Recognition of Past Service:** Jerry Ambrossecchia was honored for his past service to the Association – particularly for serving 8 years as President – with a plaque. After his acceptance, a motion was made, seconded and approved to award Jerry a Lifetime Honorary Membership.

**Proposed Code Change for St. Louis County:** Roger Herin presented a proposed a code change for member consideration to sponsor at the St. Louis County Building Code Review Committee. The code change deals with protecting the bottom of floors built of lightweight construction. The membership voted to sponsor the code change proposal.

#### **Roundtable:**

Tom Presnak stated that UL will have a booth at the NFPA conference in Chicago and encouraged all to stop by. He also introduced James Knapp.

Steve Gettemeier stated he has found that KFC has installed grills in all their restaurants. In most (if not all), they have changed the cook line such that the suppression system is not covering the cooking equipment, and the cooking equipment may not be located properly under the hood.

All jurisdictions should be checking to see that all appropriate NFPA test certificates for fire protection systems are submitted.

#### **Good of the Order:**

All members are strongly encouraged to get on the MFMA group discussion list. You can register at [http://mfmaonline.com/mailman/listinfo/mfma-mail\\_mfmaonline.com](http://mfmaonline.com/mailman/listinfo/mfma-mail_mfmaonline.com).

#### **Announcements:**

Next meeting: June 10, 2009 at Kirkwood Community Center.

**Adjournment:** 11:30

Respectfully Submitted:

Roger N. Herin  
Secretary

**NOTE:** At one point during the meeting, the fire alarm activated and all members evacuated until the all-clear was given.