Face-to-face

Wednesday, September 6, 2017

9:00

**Attendees:** PAC Chairperson – Pascal Meunier, Jeff Crawford – Arnprior FD, Rick Desarmia – Arnprior FD, Bill McGonegal – Beckwith FD, Les Reynolds – Carleton Place – Ocean Wave FD, Dave Joy – Carleton Place – Ocean Wave FD, Brian Wilson – Clarence-Rockland FD, Bruce Doing – Cornwall FD, Greg Saunders – DNETV FD, Jim Donovan – Elizabethtown/Kitley FD, Andy Guildboard – Elizabethtown/Kitley FD, Miles Greer – Montague FD, Stephane Dubuc – OFMEM, Jim Andrews – Ottawa Fire Services,Todd Horricks – Ottawa Fire Services, Paul Hutt – Ottawa Fire Services, Trevor Choffe – Perth FD, Steve Knott – Petawawa FD, Cameron Morehouse – South Dundas FD, Dave Robertson – South Glengarry FD, Brian Boor – Edwardsburgh- Cardinal FD

Steve Tiernan – Gananoque FD, DC Bullock – Gananoque FD, Kevin Donaldson – Greater Napanee FD, Bob Gareau – Killaloe FD, Morgan Alcock – Lanark Highlands FD, James Feeney – Loyalist FD, Dave Hartwick – McNab/Braeside FD, Mark Urquhart – Merrickville-Wolford FD, Tobias Hovey – Nation FD, John Okum – North Grenville FD, Jay DeBernardi – Rideau Lakes FD

**Regrets:** Guy Longtin, Brian Duhamel, Rob Bowman – Augusta FD, Ghislain Pigeon – Brockville FD, Jordan Genrick – Brudenell,Lyndock,Raglan, Don Trylinski – CNL, Mario Villeneuve – Clarence-Rockland FD, Rob Shaw – Deep River FD, Dave Murphy – Eganville FD, Daniel Herback – Pembroke FD, Bruce Armstrong – Russell FD, Normand Beuchamp – Smiths Falls FD, Jeff Thompson – Stone Mills FD, Bob Gareau – GEMS, Fred Stephenson – Loyalist FD, Eric Korhonen – North Frontenac FD

**Minute Taker:** Rita Paine

1. Welcome – Chief Pascal Meunier welcomed attendees to the Fall 2017 Zone 6 PAC meeting.
2. **Moment of Silence –** Pascal explained the importance of honoring those chiefs who have passed away since the last meeting with a moment of silence. The chief who was responsible for this task has since retired and asked members of the committee who may want to take on this important role. Chief Tobias Hovey volunteered and assured the members that he would do his best to do justice to the position. Chief Hovey then asked for a moment of silence to honour those who have passed.
3. Agenda Additions – Chief Meunier reviewed the agenda and asked for any additions. There were none. Motion to adopt agenda was done by Chief Les Reynolds. Chief Tobias Hovey seconded the motion.
4. Introductions: All – Members of the group introduced themselves.
5. OFMEM Report – Stephane Dubuc lead discussion as he is the area advisor for the OFMEM and his role is to provide advice and assistance. He has been in the position for eight months, and works out of the Casselman area. Stephane reported there are six people in his division and hopeful for additional staff and resources. He provided updates on key staff positions within the office and the Fire College. He gave updates on the following items.

* “How to Use Traditional Messaging” – Seminar on October 4 in Toronto. Registration deadline is September 19.
* “Fire Safety Plans for Firefighters” – Contact Chris Klasser in the OFM office for more information.
* Fire Prevention Week is October 8 to 14.
* “Fire Prevention in High Rises”
* Partnership program with Enbridge Gas and the Fire Marshal Safety Council is underway, where 3,000 smoke alarms will be distributed in the province.
* Partnership program with Enbridge Gas assisting fire departments with a $5,000.00 credit toward training materials and resources.
* Training available to educate politicians and councils in your community.
* “Farm Fire Safety” publications are available. Stephane will send to Chief Meunier.
* “Inspection Order” seminars – ongoing based on request
* Prevention Training Workshops – Requests must be sent to Tanya Roberts
* Miscellaneous training – discuss with Stephane
* Fire College course vacancies are available in the system.
* To date, 55 fatalities in the province.

1. **Presentation: “Roles and Responsibilities of PAC” –** Chief Meunier reviewed his role to date and how he is encouraging communication through email and providing information to Zone 6 PAC members. He encouraged the Zone members to look at the OAFC website and become familiar with the organization.He provided a PowerPoint presentation reviewing the roles and responsibilities of the PAC Advisors on a provincial basis, and their responsibilities to members in their zones.Chief Reynolds assisted Chief Meunier in providing some history about the PAC.Chief Meunier encouraged all Zone 6 members to communicate with him regarding new ideas, issues, thoughts, and concerns. He also encouraged them to reach out for any type of support or assistance they may need.Feedback from Pascal’s presentation was favourable.A discussion resulted regarding the annual OAFC Conference and how it is not meeting the needs of volunteer departments, offering interesting and innovative presentations, and is very costly. Chief Reynolds explained that costing is based on expenses need to deliver the conference and assured Zone 6 members that the new format will address many of those concern in 2018.The OAFC has hired a new Communications Strategist and is confident that marketing materials and information will be sent to Fire Chiefs on a regular basis.
2. **Presentation: “Lessons in Lyme - Are Your Firefighters Protected from Ticks” –** Kristy Giles presented a very powerful and informative presentation on Lyme disease and the importance of educating firefighters on protection and prevention.Her presentation included a visual understanding of tics, infection, diagnosis, treatment and the challenges of gaining support for the reality of this devastating disease. If you would like Kristy to present to your department, email her at [kristygiles@storm.ca](mailto:kristygiles@storm.ca) or call 613-852-7496. Her blog is “*A Road Less Travelled…a journey through Lyme”* or[www.outofthewoodz.blogspot.ca](http://www.outofthewoodz.blogspot.ca).Questions arose from presentation if a WSIB claim was ever made for workplace injuries from a tick affected with Lyme disease. She did not know the answer.
3. **Treasurer’s Report –** Chief Steve Knott led the discussion. There are some outstanding invoices for plaques.The account balance is $2,296.39. The Zone collects $40.00 per meeting, instead of collecting annual dues. There was a proposal to consider providing an appreciation gift to guest speakers.
4. **OAFC Report –** Chief Les Reynolds reviewed 19 topics, noting the OAFC Board has been busy. Updates included mention that a new Communications Strategist has been hired, and that the new website is under construction and will hopefully be launched at the Midterm Meeting. Chief Reynolds encouraged the chiefs to use the [“Forum”](http://www.oafc.on.ca/forum) section of the website.
5. **Round Table Discussions –** All members in attendance had an opportunity to give an update or highlights of activities in the department.

* **North Grenville F.D.:** New chief and truck
* **Nation F.D.:** Introducing new training and receiving some “kick-back,” but in the right direction.
* **Clarence-Rockland F.D.:** Settled a new collective agreement, which included new language where paid, on-call firefighters cover career shifts.
* **DNTEV F.D.:** Reviewed how the media is covering an incident regarding well contamination and the use of foam. If anyone wants more information about using foam at fire calls, please call Chief Saunders.
* **Perth F.D.:** Training is a challenge. NFPA 1001 is delivered in the evenings during training night. Getting firefighters to train on the weekend is difficult.
* **Carleton Place F.D.:** Steady call volumes are being observed. The department is implementing PTSD training. Naloxone kits are an issue, so Chief Reynolds will discuss with county chiefs. Deputy Chief Dave Joy is taking on more responsibility and doing a great job.
* **Merrickville F.D.:** There is a new chief. The online burn permit program is working well. PTSD training has been delivered to all paramedics. Training is a challenge, but firefighters do see the value. They are actively using skills sheets to sign-off on another.
* **Beckwith F.D.:** Quiet summer; new truck
* **South Glengarry F.D.:** Experiencing a lot of grief with MTO invoicing. Receiving several rejections, which is quite frustrating.
* **Elizabethtown/Kitley F.D.:** New pumper; training is an on-going issue; values the old curriculum, as new standards are frustrating
* **South Dundas F.D.:** Frustrations with training, Fire College, AS&E, MTO
* **Killahoe F.D.:** Very slow year; abandoned MTO and bills directly to insurance companies
* **Edwardsburgh-Cardinal F.D.:** New chief; completed shuttle tanker testing; MTO billings a challenge; training and certification a challenge
* **Ottawa F.D.:** Sitting on an OFMEM committee to review five-year plan. Recommendations are expected by the end of the year. Eastern Ontario Association of Fire Investigators are doing live burns with the OFM. ESA/ULC/TSSA will also be involved in live burns. They have reviewed common frustrations regarding training and the ability for the OFM to in the business of training, testing and certification. We have to get creative about training volunteers and finding ways to train. Chief Reynolds noted that is a common theme, and the technical team is aware of the frustrations around the province. Chief Hutt asked Chief Reynolds if it was appropriate for the Zone 6 PAC committee to send forward resolutions to the OAFC; Reynolds said it was appropriate. Chief Meunier also noted other frustrations and suggested that further education for the committee is important. Chief Hutt agreed. Chief Wilson stated that training is “must-have” as opposed to “nice-to-have” (certification). Chief Hovey suggested that perhaps another training model would work, and Chief Meunier responded that other models do exist in the country.
* **Ottawa F.D.:** Naloxone kits are on the trucks, and 1,500 firefighters are trained. Wildland Firefighting Committee has been created and they are implementing basic training and purchasing more equipment and apparatus.
* **Ottawa F.D.:** Chief Andrews introduced himself and stated he is responsible for special operations in West Ottawa. He has a wealth of experience in technical rescue.
* **Lanark Highlands F.D.:** New chief experiencing some growing pains. Working on a code of conduct and a Fire Master Plan.
* **Loyalist F.D.:** Firefighter Association donated an ATV.
* **Greater Napanee F.D.:** Fire chief is leaving to move to deputy chief in Kingston.
* **Arnprior F.D.:** New Chief Jeff Crawford was introduced; challenges with training; struggling with the OFC and AS&E
* **Braeside-McNabb F.D.:** Looking for suggestions regarding training.
* **Petawawa F.D.:** New deputy chief causing a ripple effect. Visiting schools in area for Fire Prevention Week. Chief thanked Chief Hutt for the meaningful discussion.
* **Gananoque F.D.:** New chief; thanks to Chief Meunier and Chief Bullock
* **Gananoque F.D.:** Chief Bullock is retiring after 53 years; Naloxone on trucks; reviewed a call on Highway 401
* **Mississippi Mills F.D.:** Chief Meunier described how Lanark County delivers training together, beginning a hybrid method of delivering Fire Officer training this fall. It is only for experienced officers, as he doesn’t support grandfathering members. Ottawa fire is sending two experienced officers to take the training. The department is waiting for new truck.

1. **Bill 148 –** Chief Wilson brought awareness to committee members about Bill 147 – *Fair Workplaces, Better Jobs Act, 2017*. Go to the following website for complete information about the bill:[www.amo.on.ca/AMO-PDFs/Reports/2017/Bill148FairWorkplacesBetterJobsAct2017-2017-07-19.aspx](http://www.amo.on.ca/AMO-PDFs/Reports/2017/Bill148FairWorkplacesBetterJobsAct2017-2017-07-19.aspx).If this Bill is passed, there may be serious budget ramifications to fire departments as a result of hours of work, and equal pay for equal work.Chief Wilson is in the process of educating their politicians about the Bill as it could affect all workers, not just volunteer, paid, on-call firefighters. It was suggested that all members review the Bill in its entirety and consider educating their politicians about the impact it may have on their budgets.It was discussed that the *FPPA* needs clear job definitions for volunteer and paid, on-call firefighters. Currently the *FPPA* defines volunteers as part-time employees.
2. **Solar Panel Electricity Training –** Training is available through the OAFC, and Zone 6 is eligible for one day, which includes two, three-hour sessions.At this time, it appears the training will take place in Carleton Place as it central to the zone.The training is a “Train-the-Trainer” model, so send someone who would be the trainer in your department.
3. **Speakers for Spring Meeting –** Please send Chief Meunier topic ideas for the spring meeting.OFMEM / AS&E representative could be considered.
4. **Communications –** Currently, OAFC information is sent to PAC Advisors and then forwarded to Zone committee members, as opposed to the OAFC sending information directly to fire chiefs.There was concern that this requires a lot of time from Chief Meunier to forward this information to all Zone members. Chief Meunier assured the group that it’s not a problem for him to forward emails.

Chief Meunier adjourned the meeting at 15:10.