

# LAKES REGION MUTUAL FIRE AID ASSOCIATION

## Monthly Meeting

November 20, 2003

Moultonborough Fire/Rescue Department

Vice President Ed Maheux called the meeting to order at 19:00 and led all present in the salute to our flag.

Chief Richard Plaisted (15C1) welcomed all to the first LRMFAA meeting to be held at the new Moultonborough Public Safety Building.

**ROLL CALL:** There were 69 members from 18 Departments present including 5 representatives from our Dispatch Center.

**SICKNESS & DISTRESS:** 15C1 reported that Moultonborough firefighter, Bob Knell, has been in and out of the hospital since August with heart problems. He just came home again yesterday and is finally feeling better.

**COMMUNICATIONS:** None Reported.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT:** Chief Lefebvre (32C1) was happy to report to 15C1 that Moultonborough's share of next year's budget has gone down. Our new microwave radio system is up and running. We will continue to lease some lines from Verizon. The Mt. Blue Jobe transmitter is still being operated by telephone line. Our next site for a transmitter is Mt. Kearsarge.

Chief Palm (14C1) reported that the Lakes Region antenna will be on top of the new 170' tower on Gilman Hill in Meredith. We will have emergency power available for our transmitter. There will be a 5 year lease with 7 five year renewal options at no cost to the LRMFAA.

32C1 reported that the Dispatch Center has received a grant to hire people to complete the E-911 mapping project. The data for 10 towns have been entered into the computer system so far.

**MEETING MINUTES:** The minutes of our last meeting, held March 27, 2003 at the Dispatch Center, were read. A motion was made, seconded, and voted in the affirmative to accept the minutes as read.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** The Treasurer's report, as of October 31, 2003, was read. A motion was made, seconded, and voted in the affirmative to accept the treasurer's report as presented. It was noted that the \$6,000 fixed asset was the new photo I.D. system our Association purchased.

**CHIEF COORDINATOR'S REPORT:** Deputy Coordinator, Rick Henis (C2), reported that Chief Coordinator, Doug Aiken (C1), who serves as a Lt. Colonel in the Air Force Reserve, has been called up. Doug is presently stationed at Pease Air Force Base in Portsmouth. Doug hopes to make tonight's meeting.

C2 reported that Gina Harris is our newest full-time dispatcher. Gina was formerly a full-time firefighter with Tilton-Northfield. Tony Styles and Tom Beaumont are our newest part-time dispatchers.

The Dispatch Center sent over 700 letters inviting firefighters to tonight's meeting. Up-to-date mailing lists were requested from all Association departments. 25 departments provided lists for the mailing.

After some discussion a motion was made, seconded, and voted in the affirmative directing the Dispatch Center to maintain the mailing list of all LRMFAA firefighters. A second motion was made, seconded, and voted in the affirmative authorizing the Association to spend the postage necessary to do mailings before our meetings.

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:** Jim Davis reported for the Training & Education Committee. Several Level I and level II courses have been taught. Captain Beland is developing a standardized accountability and evacuation system for all LRMFAA departments. A Standard Operating Guideline has been written. A pilot program will begin in early February, 2004.

Jim Davis asked if anyone would like to help with the training & education of our firefighters, please call him at the Belmont Fire Department. You do not need to be an instructor!

Fire Prevention Committee: No report received.

Forestry Committee: Ed Maheux reported that all State towers closed on October 18<sup>th</sup>. Red Hill closed on October 31<sup>st</sup>. Red Hill received 36" of rain between April 1<sup>st</sup> and October 31<sup>st</sup>.

Special Committees: C1 arrived and reported on the "Interoperability" trailer. The funds we expected to receive are being put to other uses by the Department of Safety. We are looking for grant money to finish this project. The interoperability trailer, when completed, will be available to all fire departments, towns and other agencies. The

trailer will be able to serve as a mobile command post and emergency operations center on wheels. We have received the radios from the Department of Justice. The LRMFAA is one of 10 locations in the country to receive the initial funds. We need approximately \$125,000 in grant money to finish the project.

Chief Akerstrom (3C1) reported for the Nominating Committee. 3C1 reported he has been on an extended vacation and no action has been taken. He requested that a new chairman be appointed. After some discussion, Chief Weeden (2C1) was appointed as Chairman, 32C1 and George Faran were appointed as committee members. A report will be expected for our next meeting. It was noted that the President of our Association is a voting member of the Executive Committee.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Ed Maheux began a long discussion by asking what should be the future of our association? We need at least 20 members in attendance to have a voting quorum. That number of attendees has been difficult to come by recently.

Jason Bryant asked "What is the Association about?"

15C1 then gave a brief history of the LRMFAA. Our Association was formed in 1951. In 1965 the first base radio was purchased and housed at the Laconia Fire Department. Are association was comprised of all volunteer committees. In September, 1971, the LRMFA Fire Dispatch Center opened in the basement of the Belknap County Courthouse. Franklin, Plymouth and Bristol left our association at that time. Each month the LRMFAA would meet to discuss the operations of the dispatch center.

Eventually State Law required that the mutual aid association dispatch center be governed by a board of directors from each member department. We now have an executive committee appointed by the board of directors to control the day-to-day operations of the dispatch center. 15C1 would like to see our Association continue. Our fire school was recognized through out New England. We sponsored many special programs to benefit our members.

3C1 spoke about the meeting we used to have. We had many more fires. The discussion about those fires created a lot of interest. We all learned to work with our neighbors during our mutual aid drills. The Association can vote to make recommendations to the Board of Directors. Our association needs to continue.

Norman Larsen asked "Should meet quarterly instead of monthly?" Some discussion followed.

Al Burbank (23C2) stated "Our Association can't go away. It is required to exist. Maybe we should form a committee to figure out what to do?"

John Schlemmer commented about our Association.

George Faran stated "Many issues our Association used to deal with have been transferred to the Board of Directors and Executive Committee. We need to decide on our direction. We need to better inform our membership. We should use our website."

15C1 stated "Each Chief should send representatives to our meetings."

Past President Gerry Hambrook stated "We need to make our association meaningful. All of our membership need to be part of the decision making process. Occasionally we need a social function. We used to have mutual aid drills."

Joel Mudgett stated "We need to have a program for each meeting. We need a reason to attend the Association meeting."

23C2 stated "We used to have a program committee."

Jim Davis stated "We did go to bi-monthly meetings. We need a newsletter."

2C1 stated "Communications is the key. The association needs a web site. We need to form a committee."

Michelle Fullerton stated "We need to form a committee tonight!"

Arthur Abbott stated "Our Association was very proactive in the past."

Norman Larson asked "What is the mission of our Association?"

23C2 stated "This Association has formed task forces and strike teams, We can train our firefighters. We need a mission statement."

A motion was made, seconded, and voted in the affirmative instructing Vice President Maheux to appoint a committee. The committee is charged with developing a mission statement for our Association. Some discussion followed.

The following members volunteered for the committee:

Scott Weeden, Al Burbank, Al Akerstrom, Al Johnson, George Faran, Dave Parker, Louis Brunelle, Rick Buckler, Michelle Fullerton & John Schlemmer. The committee will meet December 11<sup>th</sup> @ 19:00 at the dispatch center.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Jason Bryant asked when and where our next meeting would be held. We need to communicate with our membership about this meeting!

2C1 volunteered to host the meeting in Ashland on January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2004 at 19:00 hours.

**FIRE REPORTS:** 15C1 reported on 3 recent fires in Moultonborough. All were accidental. Two went to 1<sup>st</sup> alarms.

3C1 reported that Belmont had a 1<sup>st</sup> Alarm on Gardner's Grove last Saturday. Jim Davis added that the fire was caused by a scarf being micro-waved to dry it. The scarf was then put in a rubbish barrel which caused the fire..

14C1 reported on a "flower box fire" at 04:00 in the morning. The type of call some may rollover and go back to sleep for. Someone used a flower box, located under a canopy of a very large building, as an ash tray and it caught fire. Deputy Joslin found that the fire had extended into the building.

**FOR THE GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION:** Vice President Maheux thanked all who attended tonight's meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 20:40.

Respectfully submitted:

Richard A. Buckler  
Acting Secretary