

## **March- 2005 Newsletter**

**The Connecticut Fire Chiefs' Association, Inc.  
Organized, 1902**

### **President's Message**

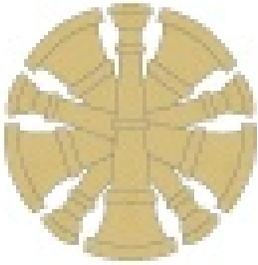
Welcome to our first monthly newsletter. Thanks to United Cleaning and Restoration we are going to be able to communicate to our membership and the general fire service using modern technology. This new communication method will greatly improve our ability to market the Connecticut Chiefs Organization and communicate vital information to fire officers across the state. Over the next two months we will work to refine this process and be responsive to your needs. I encourage you to share stories and experiences with me to be published in our monthly newsletter. It is our hope that this will become a vital network for information sharing and make the Connecticut Chiefs a relevant organization in assisting you to be a Chief Officer. On a personal note I want to thank all of our members for the kind words and prayers I have been offered in support of my wife. I am truly blessed to be in such a caring profession and I am certain your prayers will be heard.

Peter Struble  
President  
Connecticut Fire Chiefs Association

### Newsletter Format

March, 2005 Meeting Minutes including reports from:

- Educational Program
- Treasurer
- Legislative
- N.E.A.F.C.
- N.E.D.I.A.F.C.
- E.M.S.
- Connecticut Fair Plan
- C.F.P. & C.
- New Policies
- Board of Directors
- Fair Plan
- Zero-Tolerance for Alcohol and Drinking in the Fire and Emergency Service



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### **March – 2005 Meeting Minutes**

The March 22, 2005 meeting of the Connecticut Fire Chiefs' Association Inc. was held in the Yantic Fire Station in Yantic, Connecticut.

The meeting was called to order by President Peter Struble at 7:00 P.M. The Invocation was given by our newly appointed Chaplin Rev. David Williamson. President Struble then led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. President Struble called on our Host Chief Blanchard who welcomed the Chiefs' Association to Yantic. He wished us a good educational meeting and to enjoy the Steak Dinner.

The meeting recessed for Dinner at 7:06 P.M.  
The meeting reconvened at 7:46 P.M.

### **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM**

Chief Struble reported on what took place at the Strategic I -day Seminar held in the Wallingford Fire Department. Included is a copy of some of the items discussed and what is expected of the Chiefs' Association to accomplish in the near future.

### **CONNECTICUT FIRE CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION PROPOSED GOALS 2005**

- Executive Board will develop a mission statement to be presented in April 2005 and adopted by membership in May 2005.
- President shall appoint additional assistance to and direct the by-law committee to review by-laws to include but not limited to board structure and- membership requirements for adoption at the 2005 annual meeting.
- The Executive Board will develop a marketing plan for the Connecticut Fire Chief's Association by 2006 which will include:
- Evaluating and improving current email communication abilities



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- Evaluating and improving current web-site capabilities
- Publication of a hard copy and electronic newsletter
- Development of a new member's information package
- Appointment of a Public Information Officer (PIO)
- President will direct the educational committee to recommend to the Board of Directors a strategy for providing monthly and biannual training opportunities for Chief Officers.
- By 2006 identify a forum(s) to identify common issues and with Connecticut Career Fire Chiefs' Association
- President shall appoint a financial development committee to report back to the Executive Board by November 2005 with recommendations on 501c (3) status.

### **FEBRUARY – 2005 MEETING MINUTES**

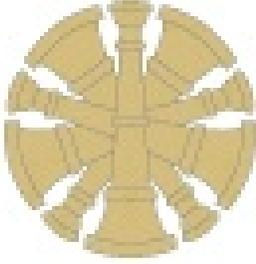
A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as printed.  
Motion passed unanimously.

### **TREASURER**

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report as printed.  
Motion passed unanimously.

### **LEGISLATION**

Ted Schroll passed out copies of all the Bills that are up on Capitol Hill so that members can take them home with them and review them at your convenience. Ted is doing an outstanding job for the fire service. Let's support what he is doing for us.



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### **N.E.A.F.C.**

Chief Wall reported that the New England Association of Fire Chiefs Conference will be held June 24-26h in Springfield, MA. Information can be obtained by going on the website [www.newenglandfirechiefs.org](http://www.newenglandfirechiefs.org).

N.E.A.F.C. Director from Connecticut's term is up. He has to be appointed each year. We can only recommend a name but the final election will be at the Annual Meeting in June.

I.A.F.C. FRI International Conference will be held August 11-13 in Denver, CO. Information can be obtained by going to the I.A.F.C. website [www.iafc.org](http://www.iafc.org), Programs have been mailed out to I.A.F.C. members. The division breakfast will be held, Thursday, Aug. 11, 2005. The keynote speaker is Terry Bradshaw. If you plan on going, get your reservations in early.

### **N.E.D.I.A.F.C.**

Chief Wall is moving up through the chairs. He will become 2nd Vice President of N.E.D.I.A.F.C. We need someone to fill Chief Wall's position as Vice President. If you are interested see President Struble.

### **E.M.S.**

See attached report

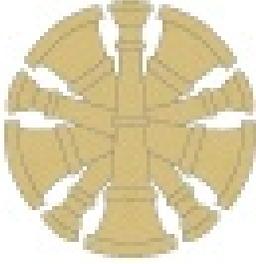
### **CT FAIR PLAN**

See attached report

### **C.F. P. & C.**

See attached report





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### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

It was recommended by the Board of Directors that 4 items required a vote by the membership.

1. Approve \$ 500 for Robot Program. Motion made and passed.
2. Life Membership for Ronald Littell of Tolland. Motion made and passed.
3. Bob Dipoli  
\$100 for Brick and \$50 dinner expenses Total \$150. Motion made and passed.
5. Plaque for David Laurie - Plainville F.D.  
\$45.70 plus \$35 for dinner ticket. Total \$90.70. Motion made and passed.

### **NEAFC DIRECTOR**

Chief J. Trainor announced that he has forms for anyone who has Explorer Post or Cadet programs fill this form out and send it to the Secretary of the NEAFC. Ms will get you free passes for them to visit the Expo show

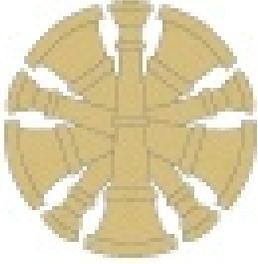
Rev. David Williamson gave the Benediction.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 P.M.

Attended 67  
Meal \$22  
\$56 collected for Andy Flanagan Fund

Respectfully submitted,

Edward F. Habor  
Secretary



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### **EMS Report- March 05**

I was unable to attend the regularly scheduled Advisory Board meeting on Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup>. I did attend the Special meeting of the Advisory Board held on Friday, March 4<sup>th</sup> to review proposed EMS related legislation for the purpose of determining the Advisory Board's position.

#### **Legislation**

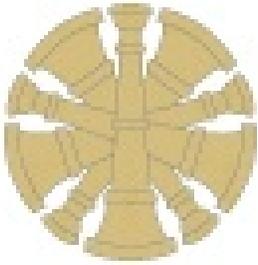
A special meeting of the EMS Advisory Board was held to discuss proposed EMS related legislation. The Advisory Board evaluated proposed legislation to determine whether it will take a position to support, oppose, or remain neutral on a particular piece of legislation.

Thirty-five proposed Bills were reviewed and the Board members present voted to take one of the following positions depending on the nature of the Bill:

- Support
- Support after the addition of language that included EMS
- Refer to the Connecticut EMS Medical Advisory Committee (CEMSMAC) and/or the Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA).
- Oppose
- No Action

Respectfully Submitted,

David J. Dagon



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### **FAIR Plan Report - March '05**

#### **Grants and Stipends**

One Grant Request was received and approved for \$500 to help fund fire investigation tools.

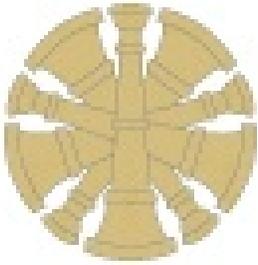
Four Stipend Requests in the amount of \$140.00 each were received and approved for the Connecticut Fire Marshal Association's March seminar.

#### **Arson Tip Award**

The committee has received an application for an Arson Tip Award. The committee has not yet acted on the application.

Respectfully Submitted,

David J. Dagon  
Emergency Services Administrator  
Town of Mansfield  
860 429-3364



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### **Legislative Report**

Each legislative year is a series of ups and downs. The beginning of the year starts slowly with the submission of new bills. With the many new bills that are submitted, there is then a busy time of having public hearings on all the bills before pre-determined deadlines. We have just passed that time. We are in sort of a lull now as any bills, that are to be forthcoming, are being sent to have statutory language applied to them. Also, most committees have closed to new legislation. We are at that time now.

Within the past week, many bills have resurfaced with their specific language and are being put on the calendar of either the House or the Senate. As this is printed, the committees are putting together the final figures for the State budget. What comes now is the lobbying efforts to get the bills acted on by either chamber. It will start to get busy again in the next few weeks as the session leads to it's conclusion on June 8<sup>th</sup>. The House and Senate will meet once or twice a week in the next few weeks, and then daily nearer the end of session to attempt to pass the legislation.

I started with tracking over 120 bills. The process has narrowed the number down to 36, and that number may decrease as the process continues. They range from renaming the road in front of the Firefighters memorial to "Firefighters Memorial Drive", to fixing the red light legislation from last year, to workers compensation benefits for infectious diseases incurred in the job, to allowing career firefighters to volunteer in their own communities, to capital improvements to the regional fire schools, to prohibiting municipalities from diminishing retiree health benefits. To date the only bill we are tracking that has had any action is a bill that would allow for the renewal of lapsed paramedic licenses without going through a full paramedic course again. This bill has passed the House last week, and is on the Senate calendar for action at any time. I will attempt to keep you updated as the legislative process unfolds.

Ted Schroll

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**  
**COMMISSION ON FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL**  
**OFFICE OF STATE FIRE ADMINISTRATION**

34 PERIMETER ROAD  
WINDSOR LOCKS, CONNECTICUT 06096-1069  
TEL- (860) 627-6363

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Jeffery J. Morrissette  
State Fire Administrator

**Connecticut Fire Chiefs Association**

March 22, 2005 Meeting

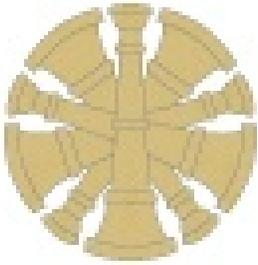
**Commission on Fire Prevention and Control Information Update**

- Notification regarding second round of funding to volunteer fire companies previously eligible for the Limited Access Highway funds has been mailed. Fire companies can choose if they wish to receive the grant in the form of a direct payment or as a training/service voucher. Funding will be \$530 per Fire Company.
- CFPC/DEP Forestry Division recently delivered a second round of I-200 and 1-300 ICS training programs. We are now planning the delivery of a I-300 and I-400 class in mid-June. Stay tuned.
- As a follow-up to the brief presentation presented by the Boy Scouts at last month's meeting we are encouraging FD's consider participating/hosting a "Fire Up for Scouting" program April 20 from 10a.m. to noon. For more information contact Jeff Morrissette or Eric Magendantz at the Connecticut Rivers Council (860) 289-6669 X232.
- Reminder, Fire Service Day at the Capitol is scheduled for May 11, 2005. Fire Chiefs should-contact their local legislators and make an appointment to meet with them that day in the concourse area between the Capitol and Legislative Office Building.
- Tentative plans are in place to present a Juvenile Firesetter training program on May 14-15 at the Coles Rd. firehouse in Cromwell. Notice will be forthcoming within the next week.
- June Fire School plans are being finalized. Many new and innovative initiatives are underway. Keynote speakers include Chief Dennis Compton and Tim Sendelbach, ISFSI President.

- The CFA staff has developed 2 hour NIMS Awareness training program. The program is available by request within two hours at no charge. Interested departments should contact Bill Auclair, Program Manager at the CFA (800) 627-6363 Ext. 250.
- In cooperation with the Statewide Honor Guard we hosting a National Honor Guard Academy at the CFA form May 8 - 14, 2005. Contact Jeff Morrissette of Jim McLaughlin for more information.
- Next Commission meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 29 at 9:30 a.m.

Submitted by:

Adam Piskura  
Director of Training



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**The Connecticut Fire Chiefs Association endorses the position of the International Association of Fire Chiefs on Alcohol and Drinking in the Fire Service.**

### **Zero-Tolerance for Alcohol and Drinking in the Fire and Emergency Service**

This policy statement is most easily described as a "zero-tolerance standard about the use of alcohol by members of any fire or emergency service agency/organization at any time when they may be called upon to act or respond as a member of those departments.

Basically, if someone has consumed alcohol within the previous eight (8) hours, or is still noticeably impaired by alcohol consumed prior to the eight (8) hours, he/she must voluntarily remove himself/herself from the activities and functions of the fire or emergency service agency/organization, including all emergency operations and training.

No member of a fire and emergency service agency/organization shall participate in any aspect of the organization and operation of the fire or emergency agency/organization under the influence of alcohol, including but not limited to any fire and emergency operations, fire-police, training, etc.

No alcohol shall be on the premises of any operational portion of the fire department, including but not limited to the apparatus, the apparatus floor, the station living areas, etc.

Fire and emergency service agencies/organizations that raise funds by operating and/or renting social halls must provide a clear and distinct separation of facilities to help insure the zero-tolerance standard of alcohol consumption by their members who may be called upon to perform official duties.

All fire and emergency service agencies/organizations should develop written policies and have procedures in place to support and enforce this policy recommendation. Included in such a policy should be provisions for blood alcohol testing of any individuals involved with any accident that causes measurable damage to apparatus or property or injury/death of agency/organization personnel or civilians.

**Adapted by the membership on February 22, 2005**