



**Tennessee Valley Chapter
Society of Fire Protection Engineers
www.tvsfpe.org**

TVSFPE Members and Friends,

The Tennessee Valley Chapter held its second monthly meeting of the year on February 7, 2013. Twenty nine members, chapter friends, visitors attended. We were graced with a presentation by one of our own, Mr. John McEnry from Nexus Technical Services Corporation discussed services and technologies provided by Nexus. A special thanks to John for stepping up and providing this presentation to the chapter.

During the Treasure's report it was reported that the checking account has \$5,731.38, savings has \$2,084.19 and the scholarship savings account has \$72,402.27. We would also like to remind everyone Chapter dues are requested by the end of January. We currently have 68 members, of which we have collected approximately 61% (42 members) of our chapter dues.

Old Business

- Tom Christman talked about for IRS 501(c)(3) non-profit status for chapter
 - Currently resolving comments. Should be turning in paperwork to the IRS by the end of the month.
 - Received chapter approval to spend up to \$1,000 for IRS filing fee.
 - The Executive Board (EB) will pursue investment options for scholarship fund once chapter get non-profit status. EC is open to suggestions

New Business

At this meeting I wanted to take the opportunity and discuss one of the focus points for SFPE National and how I would like to help TVSFPE fit into the is focus area.

SFPE has created a committee which targets the interaction between fire protection engineers and the fire service. The Fire Service Committee is headed by Chris Jelenewicz. Chris visited our chapter back in September of 2011 and discussed this committee and its focus on outreach to the fire service and the attempt to impart some of the knowledge and needs of the fire service into building designs. I had the pleasure of joining this committee back in 2011 right after Chris's visit. The committee created a presentation intended for us (chapters) to present to architects and engineers for consideration during the design of structures. The presentation is called SFPE Fire Service Considerations and has a link placed on our website so that you may view and use. The link is a PDF, but I can provide a PowerPoint to anyone interested.

In keeping with this fire service outreach mind set, I have discussed with the EB my desire to include the fire inspecting community in our seminars and as guests or members of our chapter where possible. Establishing and improving relationships with the fire service and the inspector community has multiple benefits, including:

- Revenues for seminars
- Allows our chapter to be seen as a resource to these communities which will enhance the ability for non-DOE chapter members to communicate on projects, designs, etc.
- Allows our chapter to better educate inspectors which benefits the community by improving life safety and property protection strategies.
- Provides the chapter with yet another successful category when being evaluated for the SFPE Chapter Award.

The discussion of new business included a status of the 2013 seminar. Currently 11 Professionals have signed up with \$4,400.00 collected. A reservation fee of \$250.00 has been paid to the Bearden Banquet Hall.

The creation and use of a budget was discussed at great length. The plan is for the EB to control the flow of money by planning expenditures in an advance instead of reacting to requests for donations, etc.

As part of the budget discussion, it was agreed that any donations made during the 2013 calendar year would be made after the seminar and will be presented to the chapter as a recommendation by the EB. This places a hold on any donations previously discussed related to SFPE, Knox County and Southern Appalachian Science and Engineering Fair (SASEF).

If anyone has suggestions on new meeting locations, topics, or other items please let me know.

Sincerely,

Patrick Thornton, President