MSFCA Conference Schedule
St. Cloud - October 26-29, 2016
by Dale Specken, Chair - MSFCA Education Committee

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26
SCHEDULE:
5:00 - 9:00 PM Registration - River’s Edge Convention Center
7:00 - 9:00 PM Welcome Reception - River’s Edge Convention Center
- Sponsored by Parr McKnight

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27
SCHEDULE:
8:00 - 8:30 AM Conference Welcome
8:30 - 9:30 AM Lessons Learned
9:30 - 10:00 AM Break
10:00 - 11:45 AM Lessons Learned
11:45 AM - 1:00 PM Lunch on your own
11:45 AM - 1:00 PM Great Lakes Lunch for IAFC Members
1:00 - 5:00 PM Choice of Educational Opportunities
6:00 - 8:00 PM President's Reception

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28
SCHEDULE:
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM Educational
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Delegate Lunch - Vendor Area
1:00 PM Vendor Stamp Card Drawing - Registration Area
1:30 PM MSFCA Annual Business Meeting
5:00 PM Memorial Service
6:00 PM Social Hour
7:00 PM Awards Banquet

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29
SCHEDULE:
8:30 AM to 12:00 PM SYMPOSIUM

CONFERENCE KICK-OFF / “LESSONS LEARNED”:
We will be offering a “lessons learned” workshop on Thursday morning as part of the conference kick-off. The workshop will be a symposium setting addressing special incidents that have happened over the past year in Minnesota and the lessons learned from these events from the responders of these incidents. You may attend a portion of this program.
These presentations will begin at 8:00 AM on Thursday with a break in the middle of the presentations.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

HOT TOPICS WORKSHOP:
Dr. David Griffin: “In Honor of the Charleston 9: A Study of Change Following Tragedy”
Dr. Griffin will present firsthand accounts of the warehouse fire in 2007 where nine Charleston Firefighters perished. He will present never seen video with radio traffic, the resistance to change following the tragedy. Dr. Griffin will discuss the incredible changes that he and the Charleston Fire Department have made, the heavy toll that the catastrophic event took on David’s life and the scientific research regarding the changes following this event.

NEW CHIEFS WORKSHOP:
(THIS CLASS IS FOR “NEW” FIRE OFFICERS IN THE FIRE SERVICE)
This workshop will include a panel of experienced Chief Officers who will share ideas with new Chief Officers that will include direction, information and suggestions to make their abilities more effective. Some of the Fire Organizations that will be reviewed are the MSFCA, MSFDA, MARAC, IAAI, FMAM, OSHA, and SFMO, HSEM and other state and federal agencies. Along with the overview will be a summary of legal, fiscal and liability issues that today’s chief officers face, as well as model standards and policies that cover such issues as training, human resources, budgets, leadership, fire cause determination and arson responsibilities.

INFLUENCING CHANGE:
Craig Gerhart, President of Gerhart Enterprises, is a management consultant in organizational development and analysis, leadership development, strategic planning, employee engagement and executive coaching.
Mr. Gerhart will expand your Political Acumen - As a Fire Chief, a great deal of your success depends on your skill in navigating the waters outside of the fire department. This session will expand your understanding of what it takes to work well with your elected officials and your city manager. We will explore how the world looks from the Council’s perspective, how to develop positive professional relationships with elected and appointed leaders, and what it takes to be viewed as a valued contributor to your city’s leadership team.

CHIEFS ISSUES WORKSHOP:
Leading Change Through Effective Communication:
Scott Nelson is a Senior Partner at Clarity Central and with Excelsior Fire District.
Mr. Nelson will discuss: What is it that most engaged and successful fire service leaders seem to understand? That change is inevitable and growth is intentional. Knowing how to identify where you and your team are in the different stages of change makes growth possible. Effective communications creates a culture where new behaviors and practices become the norm with a curiosity about other’s perceptions and ideas. Communication styles are a vital piece of the organizations success because they influence the power of both the intent and the impact of a message. While it is important to learn your own style preference, it is critical to be able to identify and understand the communication styles of other firefighters and officers. Mr. Nelson will also discuss: The stages of change that people go through, learn skills to lead change by empowering others, How your leadership style impacts your team’s behavior, become flexible without compromising your authentic self, learn to appreciate the different styles and enhance and reduce conflict.
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:
Chief Stu Glazer, Fire Chief, Stillwater, Minnesota and Angela Mens-Eastman, Emergency Preparedness, Washington County Public Health will present:

“When the Circus Comes to Town - What Event Planners Never Tell You”

As large cities begin to charge more to host events and recoup costs for public safety, event planners are going to smaller communities with less rules, regulations and experience in producing events. Participants will learn firsthand about the hidden risks at community events and what questions public safety professionals should ask of event planners during the planning stages and before granting permission or permits. Participants will receive a checklist of what topics should be covered in pre-event planning meetings. Topics being covered are Special Events Defined, Code Issues and Authority, Emergency Planning Considerations, Legal Issues, Media Considerations, Costs, Elected Officials Decision Making Resources and a Table Top Exercise.

RELIEF FOR CHIEFS:
If you are a volunteer chief and your department has a relief association (you have not joined the state plan) this class is for you. All volunteer chiefs that have a relief are ex-officio members of the relief association. You have the same responsibilities and liabilities of all other board members. You can be sued if you breach your fiduciary responsibility! This class will address what you, as the Chief, need to know about your relief association operation. The class will cover your responsibilities, duties, liabilities along with sharing information on how the funding works, understanding the required municipal contribution, how to build a plan to obtain increases in benefits, and how to interact with councils. The class will also touch on fire state aid, State Auditor oversight, and provide information on the state plan.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS:
Michael T. Metro, Chief Deputy (Retired) Los Angeles County Fire Department

Chief Metro will discuss: Mobile Integrated Health Care, Is it Right for Your Community. Mobile Integrated Health Care has been adopted by many fire departments and EMS agencies across this country with varying degrees of success. It may well be a paradigm change in the way we deliver EMS but is it right for your department? This Course will provide eight basic questions that will help determine if MIH is right for your community and the basics to guide you to answer the question, can I financially sustain it?

SAFETY:
Captain Mike Dugan FDNY:

Dam That Was Close:
This class is a review of problems confronted by firefighters and officers at fires every day all across the country. They encounter problems that endanger them and their team. This class will review the common problems and how they affect team safety and fire operations. We will learn how we can predict them, avoid them, or lessen their impact. The students will walk away with a better understanding of what they face and how to properly prepare for the challenges of today’s fires and meet them safely.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP:
Kit Welchin will discuss: Effective Leadership (Thursday)
It’s Not Just Positional, it’s Personal: Leadership Through High Impact Communication. Leaders are expected to possess conceptual, human, technical, and political skills. Leaders need to be sensible and willing to learn. Leaders need to be flexible and fair. Leaders need to be intense and at the same time somewhat humble. You don’t need a title to be a leader.

The softer side of leadership, “Leading and Inspiring”
Beginning with yourself, do you want to climb the ladder? (Friday)

Ted Schick will present “Ladder of Leadership Success.” Mr. Schick will discuss each rung of the ladder: Professionalism, Leadership Theory, Communications, Leading High Performance Teams, Motivation, Visibility, Accessibility, Approachability, Vision and Strategy.

STATE FIRE MARSHAL’S WORKSHOP:

• **Stump the Fire Marshal**: Bruce West, MN State Fire Marshal

  Marshal West will give updates on division activities and you will have an opportunity to ask him any question you want. There will also be a chance to provide input and feedback of the State Fire Marshal Division. (Approximately 2 hours)

• **PIO-Dealing with the press**: Jen Longaecker from DPS Communications on using the newly released SFMD Media Guide.

• **Fire Department responsibilities** when responding to air quality alarms at arena venues – Dan Tranter, MN Department of Health

• **Fire Department response to sprinklered properties** (SFMD Staff)

• **Out of Town Hazards** - What’s in your response area? (SFMD Staff)

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT:

**NO COST if one or more members of your department is registered**

For individuals whose job duties consist of processing or completion of the following administrative functions: MFIRS Reporting, Workers compensation claims, OSHA requirements, Recruitment issues such as background checks, Minnesota Board of Fire Training and Education reimbursements, Public Employee’s Retirement Association pension reporting, Office of the State Auditor Volunteer Pension Plan reporting requirements, Data Retention, Data Privacy, Critical Incidence Stress Debriefing and more. This track will feature representatives from a few key agencies who will provide updates on new changes, an overview of their system and requirements, and time to interact to provide answers to your questions. Information packets for some of the agencies/areas who are not presenting will also be provided to attendees. A fantastic opportunity to actually meet the people you currently just talk on the phone or email with! Come check it out, network with other professionals, and take time to view the vast vendor display. For an additional $30 (per person) stay and join us for our annual awards dinner.

(Conference line-up continued on page 12)
SYMPOSIUM
PRIDE & OWNERSHIP / IGNITE YOUR LOVE FOR THE JOB

Pride and Ownership holds no punches. Chief Rick Lasky takes a hard look at the fire service and finds it short on the only element that makes it effective: passion. Chief Lasky gives an up-front and honest criticism about the need to reignite the love of the job on every level, from chiefs on down.

Do you have what it takes? Not everyone is cut out for the fire service. It takes only the best to serve the public when people need help most. Pride and Ownership calls for men and women with honor and integrity to measure up to the task.

There’s nothing else in the world like being a firefighter. Every day Chief Lasky remembers why his job is the best in the world and he brings that passion to Pride and Ownership. Chief Lasky revisits the proud history and tradition of the fire service and reflects on the family values and brotherhood that have made firefighting a truly family-oriented vocation.

Program Features:
- Our Mission
- The Company Officer
- Our Two Families
- Changing Shirts -The Promotion
- Marketing Your Fire Department
- Making It All Happen and Taking Care of Number 1
- The Firefighter
- The Chief
- Sweating the Small Stuff
- What September 11th Did To Us and For Us
- Ceremonies That Stoke the Flames of Tradition