

## **RECALL OF MEETING #463**

The 463rd meeting of the Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors was hosted by the Merrimac Fire Department and featured guest speakers from various turn-out gear manufacturers. A big *"thank you"* goes out to both Chief Ralph Spencer for hosting the meeting and Patrick O'Connor from Northeast Rescue Systems for having the speakers present the latest in innovations in turnout gear outer shells and thermal liners.

### **BUSINESS MEETING:**

President Michael McLeieer opened the business meeting. The following is a brief overview of the business meeting:

- Past President Norm Aubert will be unable to attend FDIC in Indianapolis. Michael McLeieer will be the delegate attending on behalf of MIFDI. A motion was made, supported & approved by the membership to distribute \$800.00 for FDIC Registration & Fees to Michael McLeieer.
- Director Re-appointments until 2004: Rick Gomes, Bob MacKendrick. New Director appointments until 2004: Deputy Chief John Sullivan, Billerica Fire and Past President Captain Norman Aubert, Jr. MassPort Fire/Rescue. Randall Sherman notified the President he regrets he would be unable to serve another two year term at this time. Randall Sherman is thanked for his support & contribution to MIFDI while a Director.
- A motion was made, supported & approved by the membership to utilize the Get Well Cards & Sympathy Cards by sending them to the appropriate members. Secretary Morgan has possession of the cards & will send them out accordingly as he is notified of illness or the death of a member.
- A motion was made, supported & approved by the membership to send all (4) West Warwick, RI Fire Department stations a sympathy card or letter from MIFDI regarding the tragic nightclub fire. Secretary Morgan will handle this.
- A motion was made, supported & approved by the membership to allow Michael McLeieer to order 50 engraved pens with the name MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF FIRE DEPARTMENT INSTRUCTORS to give to presenters or other parties as so decided by the membership. If 50 pens are ordered from National Pen Corp., we will receive 50 for free. A sample of the pen was distributed to those members present. The cost of the pens are \$1.95 each plus setup of \$4.95 & shipping which will be determined once the pens are ordered. The total cost should be about \$100.00 plus s/h.
- There was discussion about also presenting speakers with a certificate from MIFDI as a token of appreciation in addition to the pens. The membership requested a new certificate be generated utilizing the new MIFDI logo. Michael McLeieer asked Scott Maker if he would work on a new certificate design with his publisher computer software.

**The Secretary's report:** No report as of press time.

**The Treasurer's Report:**

Checking Balance 1/1/2003 = \$1,221.08

Checking Balance 2/26/2003 = \$2,738.10

Checking Balance 3/1/2003 = \$1,998.60

**BILLS PAID**

March Newsletter	\$105.00 Mike 3/1/03
FDIC	\$800.00 Mike 3/1/03
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$905.00</b>

MIFDI Stickers Cost \$750.00	MIFDI Clothing collected \$364.00
Collected \$ 45.00	Purchased \$322.00
<b>- \$705.00</b>	<b>\$ 42.00</b>

Owed to Treasurer for mailing \$ 22.00  
 Current Profit \$ 20.00

Total Members = 139  
 Dues Paid thru 2004 = 03  
 Dues Paid thru 2003 = 80

Income Membership  
 December \$387.50  
 January \$1100.00  
February \$ 650.00  
 Total \$2,137.50

Dues Paid thru 2001 = 22    Active 20 X \$25.00 = \$500.00  
                                          Retired 2 X 12.50 = \$ 25.00  
                                          Total in arrears = \$525.00

This total in arrears would bring all members current to 12/31/2002  
 The total is actual, not estimated.

**Treasury Balance as of 03/01/2003 = \$1,998.60**

Respectfully submitted 03/01/2003  
 David M. Jardin  
 MIFDI Treasurer  
 Deputy Fire Chief—Stoughton

Thank you to the membership for your support.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**COMMITTEES:**

**The Historical Committee** - consists of Steve Persson, Ira Hoffman, and Richard Gomes. **Nothing to report.**

**The Bi-Law Committee** - consists of Norm Aubert, C. Randall Sherman, Mort Shurtluff, Chris Kelly, Brian Ash, and John Cummings. **Nothing to Report.**

**Public Relations Committee** - consists of Mr. Ira Hoffman and Michael McLeieer. **Nothing to report.**

**MFTC UPDATE: Steve Persson**

**MFA UPDATE: Norm Aubert, Jr.**

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## **MARCH MEETING:**

The 464th M.I.F.D.I. meeting will be held the **4th WEDNESDAY, March 26th, 2003** and will be held at the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy, Stow, MA in Building 5, classroom 502. Everett Pierce has arranged for us to see the new mobile rehab unit and there will also be a presentation about its use and Fire Ground Rehab. Lunch will be available onsite and following lunch and the business meeting, those who are interested will be offered a tour of the Academy.

### **SCHEDULE:**

**0900** Coffee and pastry - **0945** Board of directors

**1000** Presentation / Business Meeting - **1200** Lunch (available on-site)

### **DIRECTIONS:**

**From Route 128:** Take Route 20 west to the intersection of Route 27 in Wayland. Turn right onto Route 27 and continue until Route 27 makes a right towards Maynard. **DO NOT TURN RIGHT!** Continue straight for approximately three (3) miles and the Academy will be on your right.

**From Route 495 North:** Take Route 85 (exit 25) toward Hudson. At the 1st second traffic light, take a left onto Route 85. Take a right onto Broad Street (first set of lights right next to Tuck's GMC Trucks), at the second set of traffic lights, take a right onto Route 62. Continue straight until Route 62 takes a left towards Stow. **DO NOT TURN LEFT!** Continue straight for approximately four (4) miles and the Academy will be on your left. There are green signs with gold symbols to help point the way.

**From Route 495 South:** Take Route 62 (exit 26) into Hudson Center. Continue halfway around the rotary and continue on Route 62 East. Continue straight until Route 62 turns left towards Stow. **DO NOT TURN LEFT!** Continue straight for approximately four (4) miles and the Academy will be on your left. There are green signs with gold symbols to help point the way.

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### **FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT:**

As Training Officers or those involved with EMS or Fire Service training, we can learn some lessons from the Rhode Island nightclub fire in West Warwick regarding personal liability.

It appears due to the lack of documentation during recent inspections at the nightclub both the town and Fire Inspector have been named in lawsuits recently filed in court.

We need to remember that it is vital that we document every training session we conduct and retain those records after the class has concluded in case it is needed for future reference. I am amazed at the number of people involved in training who do not carry personal liability insurance. They expect their employer will cover them in the event something "goes wrong" while on the job, but this is not always the case.

Many personal liability insurance policies cover litigation and the costs associated with being named in a lawsuit, especially if you are named individually in addition to your capacity as a town or city employee.

I'm sure you have heard the saying, "if it wasn't written down, it didn't occur". Documentation & paperwork is necessary to prevent future liability and exposure.

I was glad to see the turnout last month at Merrimac and look forward in seeing many of you at the next meeting hosted on Wednesday, March 26th at the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy. Everett Pierce has arranged for us to see the new mobile rehabilitation unit and will have a presentation on Fire Ground Rehab.

The MIFDI website [www.mifdi.org](http://www.mifdi.org) continues to increase the number of visitors who view it each month. By the time of this publication it should reach the 5,000 mark and remains the best source for networking and exchanging training ideas with all of our members and other interested parties.

Remember, this is your organization. Please let the Officers or Board of Directors know if there is anything we can do for you.

Stay safe.

Michael McLeier

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### **LAST ALARM:**

The President of the Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors regrestfully announces the death of former MIFDI member

**Lewis A. Herbert** on February 16, 2003. Lou was a member of MIFDI for 14 years from approximately 1983-1997.

Lewis was appointed to the Brookline Fire Department on October 18, 1965, promoted to lieutenant on February 14, 1983, and retired July 22, 1997 after 32 years of service.

The officers and members of MIFDI offer our sincere condolences to his wife Ellen and his two sons, Newton Firefighter James Herbert, and Stephen Herbert. May he rest in peace.

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### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**March 28, 2003**, Massachusetts Firefighting Academy Recruit Class #156 Graduation Ceremony will be held at the M.F.A. Fire Station at 1:30pm.

**March 30, 2003**, Connecticut Fire Photographers Asso. Flea Market & Photo Show 10am - 2pm, Somers Fire Dept., Rt.190, Somers Conn.

**March 31 - April 5, 2003**, F.D.I.C. (Fire Department Instructors Conference), Indianapolis, Indiana. For info contact; [www.fireengineering.com](http://www.fireengineering.com)

**May 2, 2003**, Massachusetts Firefighting Academy Recruit Class #157 Graduation Ceremony will be held at the M.F.A. Fire Station at 1:30pm.

**May 18-21, 2003**, FDNY 9-11 Memorial Golf Outing, Myrtle Beach, SC. For info contact [www.fdnycgolf.com](http://www.fdnycgolf.com)

**June 11-14, 2003**, IAFF Emergency Medical Services Conference Hollywood, Florida. For info contact [www.IAFF.org](http://www.IAFF.org)

**June 14, 2003**, MAFFA 26th Annual Fire Parade, Show, & Flea Market  
Edgewater Office Park, Wakefield, Mass.

**June 20-21-22, 2003**, New England Fire/Rescue/EMS 2003  
Eastern States Exposition, West Springfield, Mass.  
For info contact [www.newenglandfirechiefs.org](http://www.newenglandfirechiefs.org)

**October 5-9, 2003**, IAFF Redmond Symposium, fire service health & safety event.  
San Francisco, California. For info contact [www.IAFF.org](http://www.IAFF.org)

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### **INSTRUCTORS CORNER:**

*Captain Mark Roche, Newton Fire Department*

**(Notes from the DFS Incident Rehab Unit Memorandum)**

For all of you Training Officers that also have the responsibility of Safety Officer and/or oversee your departments "fireground rehab", the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Fire Services recently announced the availability of an Incident Rehab Unit that went in service on February 1, 2003.

The "new" unit is a former M.B.T.A. transit bus that was converted to serve in this type of operation. The vehicle is equipped with both heating and air conditioning to accommodate the extreme New England environments.

The Rehab Unit's mission when deployed, is to support the I.C. and the local command structure with resources to provide proper rehab at any fire service incident, anywhere in the Commonwealth. The unit is not to be considered as a canteen service, the unit does however carry liquids necessary to help hydrate firefighters. It is important to note that the local EMS provider is a key component to proper fireground rehab with both EMS staff and transport unit to work with the DFS staff from the Rehab Unit to monitor and provide the necessary medical support.

The following is a partial list of equipment carried on the unit:

- Tents with complete enclosures
- Variable speed fans with misting rings
- Limited garden hose and fittings
- Tables and chairs
- Trauma and Oxygen kits
- Coolers
- Dispensing jugs with additives
- Prober documentation forms
- Sheets and towels

Also available but not carried on the bus are portable space heaters with flexible tubing, and generator. It should be noted that much of the equipment purchased is portable allowing for operations at remote location incidents.

The DFS Rehab Unit is available 24/7 and requested through the Communications Department of the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) at **508-820-2000**. The following information should be provided: Department name, Contact name,

Contact phone, Location of incident, Specific details or directions. When a need for the Rehab Unit is determined, travel time from the DFS in Stow should be considered.

Special thanks to State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan and the Department of Fire Services through the cooperation of the Fire Chief's Association of Massachusetts for providing this important service to the communities of the Commonwealth.

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**WELCOME NEW MIFDI MEMBERS:**

Deputy Chief Michael Grigorakos - **Waltham Fire Department**

Captain Robert Mills - **Woburn Fire Department**

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**A REMINDER for RE-NEWING YOUR MEMBERSHIP:**

Issues regarding **RENEWAL of DUES** or **NEW MEMBERSHIPS** may be addressed to:

**MIFDI**

**Attn: David Jardin, Treasurer**  
**52 Willow Street**  
**Stoughton, MA 02072-1027**

**It's time to renew your dues.**

**\*Dues are \$25.00 per year for Active Members -**

**\*\$100.00 per year for Associate members** (which includes a 1/4 page of advertising in the MIFDI Bulletin and on the MIFDI website).

**\*Retired members dues are \$12.50 for one calendar year (January 1 through December 31).**

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**FIRE SERVICE FEEDBACK:**

This forum is an extension of the [Guest Book](#) on the MIFDI Web-site, and provides our members a way to ask questions and get answers about problems encountered in the Fire and EMS service. If you would like to reply to a question, pose your own question or submit an article for publication in the MIFDI bulletin, but have no internet capabilities, you may do so in writing to: **Michael McLeier, President - MIFDI, PO Box 507, Merrimac, MA 01860-0510. Fax # (877) 327-4353. Faxing or e-mailing of articles is preferred. Please e-mail articles in MS Word format to [michael.mcLeier@merrimacfire.com](mailto:michael.mcLeier@merrimacfire.com)**

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**Name:**

**Email:**

**Comments:**

**Fire Department:**

**Rank:**

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## **DRILL SCHEDULE:**

**MARCH:** Department of Fire Services / Massachusetts Firefighting Academy - Stow, MA

**APRIL:** Greenwood Fire Apparatus - North Attleborough, MA

**MAY:** Billerica Fire Department Central Station - Billerica, MA

**JUNE:** Barnstable County Fire Academy - Annual Clam Boil

**JULY/AUGUST:** Enjoy the Summer!!

**SEPTEMBER:** Department of Fire Services / Massachusetts Firefighting Academy - Stow, MA