

Maine Fire Instructors & Rescue Educators MEFIRE January 2010 Updates to Instructors

MFTE Director Update

SMCC President Ortiz recently reported to the fire services community that SMCC is in the final stages of the search for a new director for MFTE. There are two finalists whose references and backgrounds are in the process of being checked. President Ortiz anticipates that SMCC will complete this phase of the search within the next weeks.

Fire Commission Update

The annual Maine Fire Protection Services Commission Legislative Breakfast will be held February 2nd, 0730-0930, at the Senator Inn in Augusta. This is sponsored with generous support from The Maine State Federation of Firefighters, the Maine Fire Chiefs Association, and the Professional Firefighters of Maine. All fire service personal in Maine are invited to this breakfast with our Legislators. Professional dress/uniform is requested. There is no charge but to help plan for the meal a RSVP is appreciated. Please RSVP to jkiszely@memun.org ASAP if you plan to attend.

MFTE Advisory

At the December meeting of MFTE Advisory the issues of curriculum review, end testing and end test facilities and their appropriateness to our States ProBoard agreement were discussed. It was clear there were several members who were unaware of our responsibility to ProBoard requirements. It was agreed that better education on our States ProBoard Document was needed. Subsections that pertain to requirements for curriculum review and end-testing have been provided. These documents, as well as the full Document, have been provided to all Advisory members to post and share with their members. Instructors wishing to review the Documents can find them on the "Instructor's Corner" section of [mainefireonline.org](http://www.maineonline.org/corner.html) homepage at: <http://www.maineonline.org/corner.html>

Advisory also voted to re-establish the Curriculum Review Committee with the first item of review, the long-outdated Pumps Curriculum. Advisory Chairman Chief William St. Michelle and Acting Director Walter Morris agreed to work towards solidifying the review team together and getting to work on this project. Phil Meunier, Ken Desmond and Vinny Pelletier were noted by Walter in October as agreeing to assist with review of the Pumps curriculum. Many instructors have asked about this and all feel the need to have the updated Curriculum in place by the start of the 2010 pump training season. We will continue to inquire on progress for our States Pumps training program and will keep you updated on any news.

As with the rest of the Maine fire services community, we are interested to see more on the plan to establish the MFTE Institute. With respect to this and possible changes we would like to inform you that both Steve Bunker and Vicki Schmidt have expressed interest in continuing to serve as Instructor Representatives on the MFTE Advisory Committee.

Misc News

SMCC's Center for Student Involvement and Leadership has forwarded us their application and instructions for their 2010 Leadership of the Pack award. Please see the attached document for more information. Whereas many instructors have students in programs receiving degree credits we have been told they are eligible for this award for their community activities. If you have a deserving student please consider sending in an application on their behalf. FMI contact Shane Long at SMCC 741-5544

Our website continues to receive hundreds of hits weekly and we are currently enjoying over 2000 unique hits a month. We are also now on Facebook and can be fanned easily right from our homepage at <http://www.maineonline.org>

We have also added a "happenings" section with the goal of keeping instructors updated of statewide trainings and Professional Development opportunities. The page is available directly from our homepage or by logging on at:

<http://www.maineonline.org/happenings/happenings.html>

A few of the more timely events listed at this time include:

- Maine State Weekend

- 7th Annual Fire Commission Blaine House Conference

- 2nd Annual MEMA Partners in Preparedness Conference

- Maine Chapter IAAI Basic Investigation for Wildland & Urban Interface Fires

If you have events you'd like to see listed please send a note to us at:

mainefire@mainefireonline.org

Please keep those comments and suggestions coming!

Be educated and Stay safe out there.

MEFIRE

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