



Training • Teamwork • Trust

YUMA COUNTY FIRE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

P. O. Box 331
Yuma, AZ. 85366

Louie Carlos - President
Paul DeAnda – Vice President

Javier Hernandez – Treasurer
Kayla Franklin - Secretary

Thursday, February 24, 2022 – 1130 A. M.

ZOOM Meeting Yuma, AZ

Agenda

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Call to order 11:30 by President Louie Carlos
- II. **ROLL CALL SIGN IN SHEET:** Dusty Fields, Javier Hernandez, Louie Carlos, Greg Lopez, Kayla Franklin, Enrique Lopez, John Louser, Ryan Johnson, Steve Irr, Steve Legros, William Unterseh, Joe Waterford, Paul DeAnda, Melissa Hilpert, Karlo Pena
- III. **INTRODUCTION OF GUEST:** No guests
- IV. **APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING MINUTES:** A motion was made to approve January's meeting minutes by Dusty Fields and seconded by Javier Hernandez – all ayes, zero nays
- V. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Javier is working on moving the mailbox over so he has access. The post office wants him to open a brand new account. Javier reviewed the attachments that were sent out to membership. He submitted the 990 EZ form postcard for the officer update. He also updated the officers with the Arizona Corporation Commission. He said that everything is ready to go for the bank form, and he just needs to submit it. He said an ATM Card was issued with his name on it for the association. He said that invoices have been sent out and only 2 agencies have responded with payment. Regarding the account for the GoDaddy webmail – Greg will do the updates to the website. Louie wants a checklist made for the steps that need to be followed any time officers change, to make the process easier and to help not miss any steps. Javier is looking for a copy of the bylaws. Louie has a copy of them somewhere. Chief Lopez will make sure it gets put on the website. Louie thinks we should look at the bylaws and see if they need updated, as it has been over a decade since they were updated. This will be added as an action item to the next agenda.
- VI. **CORRESPONDENCE:** none
- VII. **COMMITTEE REPORT**
 - Training / Safety – no new information
 - EMS Committee – John reported that the EMS committee met about an hour and a half ago. Highlights: Operations side – departments were steady call volume wise. Enrique in San Luis said they have witnessed an increase in call volume along the

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- border wall. PPE/equipment – notice of significant backorder on BVMs, saline flushes, EKG paper for some heart monitors. Training – Joe passed on that the application period opened up for paramedic class at AWC. YRMC requires full COVID vaccines for clinicals. EMT-B students are starting to schedule ride time from now until the end of April.
- Legislative – Steve Irr said legislative action is taking place. A few bills are going through and the quick connect from AFCA lets you get updates. Significant things: some fireworks legislation moving through that is dealing with nighttime hours of fireworks; ambulance service CON type for rule changes to allow for jurisdictions to apply for CONs and reverse the process – rather than upfront hearing – change it to allow DHS to make a recommendation, and based on their recommendation, an agency can appeal if they don't think it was an appropriate decision. This will help agencies save money and time. Steve to send the link out to the membership about other bills that are fire service related. Louie asked if DHS had parameters in which they will base their decisions/recommendations off of. Steve said yes and explained the process of conditions to apply, then review, and opportunity to appeal.
 - Mutual Aid – nothing to report

VIII. BUSINESS

- Unfinished BUSINESS
 - Monthly Radio Tests/YRCS (Chief DeAnda) – Tests are being done again. Paul wants to know if there is any value. He wants to get rid of this. Louie said that Karlo Pena was going to take the lead on it, but said a table top would be organized and completed, and then action would be taken. Louie sent the bid-p documents out, but he hasn't gotten feedback on it. Javier said he believes the system does work, and thinks the training should be done in house, per agency, and the collective tests don't need to be done. There may be a lack of training for some agencies. Greg said he was more concerned with the tests they are doing in the Imperial Valley, and asked if anyone has heard about their frequencies. He agrees that Yuma County is probably good, but we should focus on the IV connection. Dusty said he hasn't been contacted by Imperial Valley about it, but he thinks there are limitations to communications when we do mutual aid with them. He sees the need to work with them more. They had a meeting yesterday, and will have another one next month. Dusty said he will send out the invite to that with this group. More work is needed with Imperial Valley. Louie asked for a vote to be added as an action item for the next agenda.
- New BUSINESS –
 - Telehealth pilot RMFD is participating in – ET3 – 5-year program through CMS (Chief Hilpert) – Melissa reported that the RMFD just launched the program this week – Emergency Triage Treat Transport through the Center for Medicare Studies to provide telehealth services in their first due service areas for low acuity

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patients. This allows them to do a screening with an ER doctor with the patient on scene, they have 5 minutes to answer their calls but are averaging 3 minutes for a response. EMS providers can treat in place, eliminate non-emergency transports. They joined one year into the program, 4 years are left. They are participating in the on-scene Teledoc portion now, then may possibly add alternative transport destinations at a later date.

- Most recent bank activity sheet (Captain Hernandez) (went over forms during treasurer's report)
- Tax Exempt 990-EZ e-Postcard for 2021 (Captain Hernandez) (went over forms during treasurer's report)
- AZ Corporation Commission 2022 elected members update form (Captain Hernandez) (went over forms during treasurer's report)

IX. ACTION ITEMS –

- YCFOA position on a Combined Fire/EMS Director position for AWC (support or opposition) - Joe said he met with Eddie from San Luis who is running the fire side of the program, and Sean Peck – they are looking combining EMS and Fire under one director. Joe wanted to see if the agencies had a preference, and asked for discussion and a vote. Joe discussed timelines of current operations, as well as a proposed timeline for Fire/EMT academies if they were joined – to reduce the overall training timeline from 18 months to 10-11 months. People could jump into the EMT only portion if they didn't have interest in a fire certification. If you are already certified as an EMT, a person could jump in for the fire only portion. Dusty asked about interview panels. Joe said that was still needed for fire side, but not EMT side. Joe has been running 2 EMT classes per semester. There have been less applicants for EMT class now, so based on demand he can run 2 classes if needed. Less than 50% of people that go through EMT class get hired on. Paramedics are at about 90%. Paul said that he supported one director. Greg said that is how it used to be a long time ago (one director). Greg said he supports putting it back under one director.

Paul DeAnda made a motion to support a combined fire/ems director at AWC and Greg Lopez seconded it – all members were in favor, none were opposed, and the motion passed.

X. GOOD OF THE ORDER – Dusty said he was impressed with how the local fire service community came together for the funeral services this week to support San Luis and that it made him proud to be a part of it all; Steve Irr said that this weekend is Camp Inferno (girls fire camp) with 24 participants from all over the county. He said there was a lot of help from multiple agencies. He also asked to add agenda item to the next meeting – his position in representing the region to AFCA needs to be addressed because he is retiring (needs a replacement named). William shared that there is EVOC instructor training coming next month and a flyer has been sent out. Steve Legros said YFD is exploring new software/hardware for station alerting – if

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anyone else is interested in being part of that conversation – please reach out to him. Enrique said that he was very thankful for all of the help last week for the ceremonies and services.

- XI. ADJOURNMENT:** Chief Irr motioned to adjourn the meeting at 12:17, Dusty Fields seconded the motion. The next meeting will be held March 24, 2022 at 11:30AM - Media/Host ZOOM.