

Virtual Meeting
August 30, 2010

Mike Legeros:

Let's begin our virtual meeting! Below is an update of what's been happening, or will happen, or could happen.

Please respond with questions, comments, ideas, etc.

Apologies for anyone not mentioned. Let's discuss what's left out, or is missing, or needs more explanation!

Raleigh Fire Department Historical Society Update

August 2010

Bank Account

- Savings and checking accounts were opened last week at the Local Government Credit Union, at a branch of the State Employees Credit union.
- Legeros (President), Walters (Vice President), and Henshaw (Secretary/Treasurer) have access to the account.
- The society's remaining monies (\$47.00) were deposited, along with our first donation of \$100.00 (from Legeros).
- Legeros has been "keeping the books," and will transition to Henshaw.

Tax Exempt Status

- Legeros submitted our application for federal tax exempt status some weeks back.
- According to the IRS web site, it looks like multiple months will pass before our application is approved.
- The filing fee was \$400, and the LegalZoom legal assistance was also around \$400.

Fundraising

- To be discussed at the September 14 meeting.
- We need to start raising money, and we're hoping that at the meeting, we can form some actionable ideas, and set a definite plan in motion.
- Between now and the September 14 meeting, think of ideas for raising money. From the troops. From outside the department. From wherever.
- What do we need money for? Well, display cases, for starters...

History Trailer

- Two or three more display cases are needed in the history trailer.
- Bought new, they'd probably run around \$1000.
- Built, they'd probably cost about the same amount in glass.
- The cases are needed for additional security.
- Once this additional layer of security is in place, the trailer should be ready for unsupervised personnel access.
- Locking and unlocking the trailer can perhaps be accomplished with the help of training center personnel, or other means.
- Once personnel start visiting the trailer, interest in the society—and participating in the society—should take off.
- As noted in earlier meetings, the trailer is perhaps our most “sexy” attraction. Perhaps one of the key keys to getting folks initially excited.

Station 23 Storage Space / Log Books

- Legeros has written a simple SOP for indexing the log books stored at Station 23.
- Multi-step process. For now, the name/type/start date/stop date is being written on a sticky notepad, and placed in the first page of the log book.
- Later, that information will be used to generate a unique index number, which will be both recorded in a spreadsheet, and written on a label to be affixed to the book's spines.
- The SOP was written in the event that a light duty person is assigned to Battalion 4, and is available for such a task.
- Legeros is presently performing this task, as he pays regular visits to Station 23. He's doing a dozen or two books at a time.

Station 23 Storage Space / Shelving

- Thomas on 23-B has been building shelves in our storage space. He's on break due to the hot weather. The climate control in that space is minimal.
- As the weather cools, work will resume.
- His work to date includes a foot-step below the bookshelves where the log books are stored. This addition alone has been super-helpful.

Artifact Inventory

- Legeros created a quick inventory of the items in the history trailer. He took photos of each, and added them to a Word document, along with a simple description.
- An inventory is also needed of the artifacts in the storage space of Station 23. That might be best done after the shelves are finished.

- Legeros has an action item to write an SOP for performing such an inventory, even if it's just a rough inventory.
- More formal processes will be needed for recording this information.

Very Old Photos

- Legeros conducted a recent search for old photos that were formerly hanging on the walls in Administration.
- These photos dated to the 1900s, and are some of the earliest in RFD, as well as the state's firefighting photos!
- They were found and had been secured by Henshaw, months earlier. They have been moved to a climate controlled space at Station 23, for temporary storage.
- Legeros has an action item to become familiar and educated with storage needs for photographic and paper records.
- Good starting point are the National Park Service's Conserv-o-Grams, http://www.nps.gov/history/museum/publications/consveogram/cons_to_c.html
- Legeros also has the action item to secure an old photo that's hanging on the wall at KTC, and replace with a copy.

Chappell Estate Monies

- Legeros did some further checking with folks, on monies that the estate of retired Capt. Charlie Chappell tried to donate to RFD in the early 2000s.
- The funds were intended for the purpose of steamer restoration.
- No monies were apparently collected by RFD or the city.
- Legeros has an action item to draft a letter to Chappell's widow, at the last known address, to make her or others aware of the historical society, and in the event that the funds are still available.

Fire Museum Network Seminar

- Friday, Oct. 30 through Monday, Nov. 1
- Lutherville, MD, just outside Baltimore
- <http://www.firemuseumnetwork.org/about/fms2010/>
- Legeros is planning to attend Friday and Saturday.
- Walters is also planning to attend.

2012 Anniversary

- Separate committee is working on that.
- They are meeting tomorrow night (Tuesday) at Station 5.
- Legeros is attending as observer.

- Walters is a committee organizer.

Chief Walters, any updates on this for folks?

2012 Yearbook

- Separate committee is working on that.
- They recently sent a survey to all personnel, asking for input on types of content to include in the 2012 yearbook.
- They are planning to meet, and discuss the feedback, and incorporate the survey feedback into a direction for deciding upon a book format.

Chief Walters:

For our fundraising effort:

Doing a firewatch segment about the Historical Society; how we started, what happening now, and our future goals, to coincide with a pig picking could be a start. Selling plates for \$7.00 and delivering them to a central station in each district on all three shifts.

My current thoughts on a membership drive are to have membership card printed and the cost would be \$12.00 per year. Tax deductible of course, and we would gladly accept anything above that.

Each membership would carry a number and the card would reflect that number. Having card one would look pretty cool 100 years from now in the museum.

When we move to a museum, the cost of membership would sky rocket to \$26.00 per year which would still include membership in the Historical Society. This amount is equal to \$1.00 per pay day which is the minimum United Way will deduct. I believe this membership should allow the member and their immediate family access to the museum, and any workings of the museum like birthday parties and such. I know, I know this last paragraph is thinking to far out there.

I do like the first three paragraphs though, Walt.

Gary Amato:

I have a thought on one type of fund raiser. Maybe we could just ask our department's personnel for a donation of any amount. Even just a dollar from everyone could add up.

I do think what we need to be clear about no monies going to any officers for salary or personal expenses. You know how skeptical we firefighters can be.

On another note. Now that we are nonprofit org. Has anyone looked into getting on the Combined Campaign ballot?