Massachusetts Communications Supervisors Association
Meeting Minutes for February 15, 2002
Boston College

Attending: Dave Hansen, Janet Eicher, Leslie Carroll, George Fosque, Reid Bagley, Peter Ostroskey, Donna Sans, Laurie Favreau, Butch Garrity, Jim Lake, Monna Wallace

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Minutes read: Mr. Ostroskey requests some changes to the sections describing pending legislation re: wireless and wireline. Minutes acceptance tabled until next Meeting

Treasurer: Mr. Garrity reports a balance of ~ $645. Income expected: $5,095 from Brookline for academy; dues coming from Gardner. We have a possible profit of $661 from the academy. Graduation costs were $645.
Mr. Fosque offered to cover some invoices from his budget and took two current invoices to pay. It was agreed that future graduations would be done at a lower cost.

Revenue: Discussion of possible revenue sources. Mr. Fosque proposed that the bigger agencies could pay dues for each member. A clarification was made that each agency would still have only one vote.
Brookline will be giving a $400 donation if we send a bill.

Academy: Discussion of the need for daily communication with the class. The notebook idea was re-introduced as a way for instructors to communicate.

The question of how much time a student could miss was raised. The Standards Committee will review this with Monna.
Mr. Bagley stated that he feels there should be a strict academy environment.
The question of mixing new people and experienced dispatchers in the class was raised. Mr. Fosque proposed advertising for new people and then filling in with experienced people.

Mr. Ostroskey stated there would be a benefit to organizations like Brookline to have their people all hear the same things together.
The idea of a refresher or refresher modules was discussed, but the feeling was that it would be later development of the program.

Ms. Wallace raised the issue of physicals and medical information, but felt that these issues should be left up to the individual departments.
Mr. Fosque stated we might want to consider some type of contract with the agencies for taking responsibility for the attendee's medical condition, Etc. It was felt this could be accomplished with letter stating the academy rules to be sent to the agency head.

It was agreed that a letter would be sent to those agency heads who had allowed employees to be instructors for the academy.
Note to Mr. Cote: Leslie Carroll will help with letters or do them

The question of having a First Responder course as part of the academy was raised. It was agreed that the Standards Committee would consider this question.

Disaster: Mr. Hansen stated that Susi Marsan aka "Disaster Queen" has agreed to be the keynote speaker and panel participant for a Communication Center

Disaster Preparedness day. It was agreed that a morning workshop period with a lunch and afternoon keynote address was the best format. It was further agreed that the event would be scheduled for September. We discussed getting information, input and possibly exhibits from vendors, MEMA, SP, APCO, NENA, and others.

Awards: Mr. Garrity presented ideas for the 911 For Kids Hero Program
He proposed a two tiered system: one local award to be presented by the PSAP supervisor/emergency agencies and a quarterly or annual award to to picked from cases submitted by PSAP supervisors to SETB committee (not necessarily SETB personnel) to recognize all participants in the call - caller, dispatcher, and responders
Ms. Wallace requested the item be tabled until she and Mr. Ostroskey can ascertain from Ms. Karp at SETB if the agency can get involved in the program. Mr. Ostroskey asked for caution in getting into any crossover between this and the Grossman Foundation award.

Letterhead: New letterhead will be produced for MCSA and it was voted to use Mr. Garrity's address on the letterhead

Press: Mr. Bagley asked if the media had been invited to the graduation. It was stated that they had. Mr. Ostroskey stated that it would be good for the organization to have a strong public information officer or someone with those skills to put a public face on the organization and organize strong talking points for use with the media.

Mr. Lake: Mr. Lake announced that due to his new employment with the SETB, he was presenting his resignation as President. Ms. Burke, as Vice-President, would naturally be Acting President. Since she was not in attendance, Mr. Garrity stated he would verify that she is willing and able to assume those duties.

Meetings: It was agreed that we would fax another round of invitations to PSAPS to encourage more participation. Mr. Ostroskey will supply a list for this purpose. Mr. Hansen will add other centers that are not PSAPS, but may be interested in membership. Mr. Fosque added that having speakers at meetings is a way of attracting attendance.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held at the Auburn Mass. Bickford's Restaurant on March 6th at 10 AM. This will be a planning meeting to discuss the next academy and the next MCSA meeting with a speaker.

Bickford's Restaurant, 452 Southbridge Street, Auburn, Mass.
>From the Mass. Turnpike take exit 10 to Route 12 North. Go North 1 mile restaurant is on left side (almost directly across from Auburn Mall).