Donna

Massachusetts Communications Supervisors Association

Meeting Minutes for March 6, 2002

Auburn, MA

Breakfast at 10:00 To Order: 10:20 Rita Burke, Presiding

Attendance: Reid Bagley, Rita Burke, Leslie Carroll, Stephen Cote, Janet Eicher, George Fosque, Butch Garrity, Polonsky, Michael Sallese, Donna Sans, Monna Wallace

1. **Secretary's Minutes**
   - Minutes presented, accepted.

2. **Treasurer's Report**
   - **Accepted as read**

3. **Dispatch Academy**
   - Academy III will be planned and updated by the Training Committee
   - Proposed date of Academy III is 5/13-6/14
   - Ms. Wallace noted that the SETB Board was inquiring as to next Academy. Initially the Board had seemed indifferent but, when addressed directly, they did express general support. Several members are very committed to making this a statewide function.
   - These SETB Board members are looking for a Central Mass location for this class as Westborough facility will be in use.
   - There are several options to modify the curriculum including someone from Boston PD who can teach sessions on the legal issues of Dispatch. This gentleman is both an attorney and police officer.
   - There were positive comments from faculty and students alike on the last Academy. Monna offered that it would be hard to top this class.
   - Mr. Fosque stated we should come to the April meeting with a plan for the next class and that publishing a calendar for the benefit of the PSAP Directors should be our goal.
   - Ms. Wallace agreed but feels that we have some issues we must resolve (i.e. a permanent home) before we can do this.
   - She commented that there would be significant changes in the 911 training. These are being driven by funding realities.
   - There was discussion on what to do about marginal students in classes. Ms. Burke noted that one graduate of Academy I had to be terminated from the job. Discussion noted this to be a standard problem.
   - A student from A-II had an illness that had potential to be contagious. Do we need to develop statements of health?
   - Mr. Fosque suggested that we post student comments on the website.
   - Finally the group agreed that our understanding is that the Academy is intended to grow into an independent or state run institution. Mr. Fosque would like to assume that MCSA remains in an influential role in whatever evolves. General agreement.

4. **Legislative Matters**

Mr. Fosque noted that S-1920 passed to be "engrossed" by the Senate. It is close to the Governor's desk and appears to be close to signing upon arrival.

- S-1920 pertains to the problem of Wireless 911 use and would assess a surcharge to cell or wireless telephone numbers. The funds thus derived would go exclusively to the development of the wireless side of 911. SETB would determine the surcharge and hold control over funds so generated.
- H-1751 is out of Ways & Means. It is moving slower but still moving.

5. **Other business**

- Ms. Burke made the regrettable but officially necessary announcement that, due to conflict of interest matters, **Jim Lake**, our founding president and "Fearless Leader" must step down as President of MCSA. His new position at SETB does not allow him to take a leadership role in the organization. As a member of SETB, however, he will avail himself of the agency membership to drop in and visit us at every opportunity. **Congratulations, Jim. You will be missed!**
    - Related to this matter, Ms. Burke, who would ordinarily move up to assume the Presidency announced that due to heavy work commitments she will not be able to accept the role. Especially now with the need to strike off into new territory.
- **MOTION:** (Mr. Bagely) During the next month we should announce the need for a President and request nominations. We would plan for election to be held for "Interim President" who would serve until the next scheduled elections in October. PASSED
- Mr. Fosque has posted the minutes and other information on MCSA to the website (www.MA911.org). He has offered to be the "Webmaster" and maintain the site. Plans are to use the secure section for member directories and on-line communications. He requests SETB and all members work to keep the directories "fresh". If anything changes at your shop…call him!
- New info on site:
    - Legislation status re 911
    - New "Silent Call" Protocol
    - Hospital Diversion information and status
- **MCOA:** Ms. Carroll commented on MCOA's website and their Dispatch Awards Dinner (April 10, Boxborough). This prompted discussion re our relationship with them. It was discussed that there still seem to be frictions and misunderstanding re our roles in the world of Massachusetts Communications. It was fervently expressed by those present that we are NOT intending to be antagonistic. That we are simply two different elements working toward the betterment of our profession.

6. **Next Meeting:** **April 3, 2002,Webster, MA**

Adjourned: 11:50
S.J. Cote, Recorder