



Northwest Arkansas Metro Chiefs

Training Officers Association

March

2021 Meeting Minutes

VIA Zoom - Online
0904 Hours on March 10th, 2021

Call to Order

1. President Vanatta called meeting to order at 0904 hours. *Members present include, Bronner, Dray, Vanatta Jr., Cranford, Hoyer, Bray, Bush, Mason, Wood, Sloat, Watts, Thompson, and members not recorded.*

Old Business:

1. **Approval of the Minutes for February 2021** – Motion to approve the minutes by Bray, 2nd by Sloat, unanimously approved. PASS.
2. **Spring Fire Academy** – Showing 37 students, finalizing the online “Resource One” accounts, need all checklists turned in.
 - May 10th LP Burn will have more than just LP burns. It will have several other skill breakouts therefore needing many instructors to handle.
3. **CPAT** – Update by Sloat. Motion to allow CPAT candidates who have paid for the Winter CPAT practice and testing sessions to attend the Spring CPAT sessions and testing at no charge with NWA Metro Chiefs’ approval by Cranford, 2nd by Sloat, unanimously approved. PASS. Discussion included details about the winter weather disruptions and multiple schedule changes that had occurred.
 - Spring CPAT dates - Orientation only on April 24, Saturday, 1st practice: May 22, Saturday, 2nd Practice: June 1, Tuesday, and the Final Test: June 19, Saturday.
4. **AFTA Camden Trip** – Vanatta mentioned rumors of current management remaining in place for some time and that now seemed as good as any to schedule a meeting and trip to meet and greet and talk about the “new normal” for training between AFTA and NWA departments. Recommended at least members of the E-board and any other dept. reps that would like to attend are very welcome. Vanatta will send out an email to coordinate a potential date for early April.
5. **NWA Training Officers’ Association Challenge Coin Update by S. Cranford** – The Metro Chiefs’ have approved the design and order of an “at large” coin design and is



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already in production. However, they have decided to hold on a “Training Coin” for now.

- **Ordering of a new “Training Challenge Coin”** – Cranford to oversee the order, set up an order form, collect \$10/coin and donations for the purchase of 100 coins. The coins will then be ordered and then approximately 4-5 weeks for production. The approved coin:



3. MCI and/or WMD or Haz-Mat Multi-Department Training Exercises Update:

- 1st Quarter Exercise - First full-scale exercise with Airport March 16th, 2021.
- 2nd Quarter Exercise - Chief Hellard advised in January meeting that Farmington to pick up the next quarter’s exercise; maybe in a TABLETOP format for the scenario of an “Active Shooter/MCI Drill”. The date set aside for this is set for June 8th, 2021.
- 3rd & 4th quarter exercises – Need venue locations and ideas to be submitted as soon as possible.

New Business:

1. **ADEM Classes** – Current ADEM Chem Haz-Mat classes are full with 20 spots for students signed up that were pushed to the fall. Few slots will be available, so get that information of individuals interested to Vanatta.
2. **Training in the Region:** Vanatta requested that if any department is interested in hosting, please give him notice as soon as possible for planning purposes.



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- **Large Scale Exercises**
 - i. No first quarter due to weather and COVID-19 vaccine responses throughout the region.
 - ii. 2nd/3rd quarter exercise – IN PLANNING
- **NEEDED COURSES for NWA:**
 - i. Plans Review Courses
 - ii. Fire Investigator Courses
 - iii. Fire Inspector Courses
- **NEXT MEETING to be IN-PERSON** at the new Springdale Training Classroom facility at 0900 on Wednesday 4/14/2021.

Open Discussion & Roundtable:

Bella Vista – Holding in-house certification courses.

Springdale – Hosting and working on Mental Well-being, Brain, Health, and Wellness courses. Contact Bronner for more information.

Fayetteville – Chief Wood – State USAR “rostered personnel” have first dibbs on 14 available slots for the following courses through the National Rescue Consultants group:

1. Man vs. Machine – April 13-15
2. Structural Collapse Technician – May 11-15
3. Search Specialist Technician – June 8,9,10.

Motion to Adjourn: 1023 Hours - MOTION by Cranford. to adjourn; SECOND by Sloat, PASS.

GroupMe – Anyone needing to be added to the GroupMe text group or the NWATOA Google Group for text and email information from the TOA, send your email request to scanford@bellavistaar.gov or text me at 417-691-0038.