



# Northwest Arkansas Metro Chiefs

## Training Officers Association

May

### 2021 Meeting Minutes

In Person – New Springdale Training Classroom Facility  
0908 Hours on May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021

#### Call to Order

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1. President Vanatta called meeting to order at 0908 hours. *Members present include, Bronner, Lee, Dray, Vanatta Jr., Cranford, Thompson, Bray, Bush, Mason, Wood, Watts, Sloat, Kuykendall, Baggett, and members not recorded.*

#### Old Business:l

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1. **Approval of the Minutes for March 2021 – (April Meeting was Cancelled)** Motion to approve the minutes by Baggett, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bronner, unanimously approved. PASS.
2. CPAT – Update by Sloat.
  - Spring CPAT dates - 2<sup>nd</sup> Practice: June 1, Tuesday, and the Final Test: June 19, Saturday. Everything is posted to the [www.nwatoa.com](http://www.nwatoa.com) website.
3. **AFTA Camden Trip** – Trip was informative. Both administrators due to retire out soon (within 11 months) which would leave a vacant spot to fill. This position would most likely need to be approved by the elected State Fire Board, which currently, Chief Hardin is a Board Member. Reasons for inability to advance technologically and more efficiently, was identified by the AFTA Director as being related to SAU Tech. admin. Policies and current practices by AFTA. A “feeling” by the NWA TOA consortium who met there was that there would more than likely be no change in operations until management changed or another Director/s took over current operations upon succession. We are seeking what can be done at this time.
4. **NWA Training Officers’ Association Challenge Coin Update by S. Cranford** – Both sets of challenge coins are now available. For a “Training Challenge Coin”, those were purchased directly by Scott Cranford and can be bought direct from him. For the “Metro Chiefs’ Challenge Coin. Each paid member gets one coin free, and anyone else can buy an additional coin as directed below:
  - **Ordering of a new “Training Challenge Coin”** – \$10 per coin direct through Scott Cranford. Text me at 417-691-0038. Pay by Cash App \$ScottCranford



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- **Ordering of a new “Metro Chiefs’ Challenge Coin”** - \$10 per coin through the [www.nwametrochiefs.org](http://www.nwametrochiefs.org) website. A webpage to buy through paypal will be posted soon.
  - Any coin ordered will be brought to the next business meeting for dispersal. Contact Scott Cranford via text at 417-691-0038 if you have any questions.
- 5. Spring Fire Academy** – Still showing 37 students, finalizing details for the graduation ceremony.
- Reported that everyone is doing well in the Academy at this time.
  - Graduation Ceremony to be held at the Rogers High School Auditorium
    - i. Requesting approval for an honorarium for a guest speaker, and requesting assistance from the Metro Chiefs’ group on finding a guest speaker/key note speaker. Vanatta to take this issue to the upcoming metro group.
- 3. MCI and/or WMD or Haz-Mat Multi-Department Training Exercises Update:**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Exercise - Chief Hellard of Farmington to hold a tabletop exercise, inviting minimal staff and Chief Officers who wish to participate. The drill will be an “Active Shooter/MCI Drill”. The date is set for June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021 with an 0900 start. The location will be the Farmington High School.
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> quarter exercises – Need venue locations and ideas to be submitted as soon as possible.
- 7. ADEM Classes** – Current ADEM classes are underway. Cranford introduced Online/Virtual NIMS ICS 300 & 400 courses with full certificates are available for all personnel. Logistics, account setups, and other information will be sent out later this month. This training effort is in concert within our Region, FEMA Region 6, in conjunction with the New Mexico Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

### New Business:

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- 1. Metro Chiefs’ Retreat** – Strategic initiatives related to training were identified.
  1. **Sharing resources and classes**
  2. **Officer Development**



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3. **Chief Officer Development**
  4. **EMT Course prior to fire academy** - Discussion included potentially starting off like with the “Fire” Academy, only holding one “EMT” course per year. Two closely accommodate both academies, maybe hold it in the summer where less interference from school semesters and fire department hirings would occur? Kuykendall agreed to speak with Jamin/NWACC about seeking affiliation and/or approval or support to move forward. With numerous instructors from the NWA departments, and with our current schedules, control would be more efficient and easier to supply new EMT qualified personnel to the job force in the region.
2. **Training in the Region: Please send classes that you wish to open up to the association, with details to Scott Cranford for posting on the NWATOA website.**
    1. Large Scale Exercises
      - i. Need to plan and nail down 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> quarter exercise –PLANNING
    2. Local Trainings
      - i. Core Rescue – Siloam Springs – August
      - ii. Core Rescue – Bella Vista – August 9<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>
      - iii. Driver/Operator – Siloam Springs – TBD
      - iv. First-In Conference – Siloam Springs – November 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>
      - v. BLS Instructor Certification – Rogers – Contact Rogers ETC
      - vi. Peer Support Class – Springdale – May 25, 26, 27<sup>th</sup>
      - vii. Firefighter Wellness Class – Rogers – Contact Rogers ETC
      - viii. NFA Offering “Shaping the Future” – Rogers – October? – Contact ETC
      - ix. Central EMS Continuing Ed. Program - Open to all and held monthly. Available by remote learning. Contact J. Kuykendall for ZOOM link.
        1. EVO4 course by NAEM, contact Central EMS for more info.
  3. **Siloam Springs “FIRST-IN Conference” in November:** Dates are November 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021, cost is \$195 per person, register at [www.first-in.net](http://www.first-in.net) .



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4. **NEXT MEETING to be IN-PERSON** at the Rogers ETC facility at 0900 on Wednesday 6/9/2021.

### Open Discussion & Roundtable:

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**Bella Vista** – In process of hiring 4 personnel. Station 3 about ¾ done now. Still trying to finalized land for the Training Center Project.

**Springdale** – Training Center Classroom Facility Grand Opening – JUNE 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

**Siloam Springs** – REGISTER FOR THE upcoming “FIRST-IN” Conference, November 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>. \$195 per person.

**Rogers** –In helping with Officer groups and training in the region or for departments, Thompson suggested a “Shift Commanders Luncheon” and that was something done in the past with some success.

Regional Gear PPE Spec. is coming up for bid. They are looking at several companies; Innotex, Lion, Glove, FireDex. Etc... Information as it comes in. Contact Rogers Training Dept. for more information.

**Lowell** – Concerned with current NWACC Paramedic Program as many of the students have given complaints, not known if formal, about the lack of supervision, instruction, and the lack of overall quality of the program. This seems to be directly related to this program as the COVID-19 pandemic has affected in-class schedules. Rogers – Thompson talked about a 10-week online Paramedic program through the State of Texas for potential alternatives.

**Tonitown** – Volunteer Base Recruitment Strategy – The will serve as an area Recruitment Department for local departments within a 50-mile area. They have current funding to send anyone who applies through them, to FF 1&2 and EMT training free of charge as long as they meet residency requirements, and then they are welcome to go to any paid department afterwards. There are simple time requirements and after one year, there is no other obligation. This is all provided through grant funding for another 3.5 years. Send applicants who need training their way.

**BIG SHOUT OUT TO JOSH KUYKENDALL FOR ALL OF HIS HELP AND SUPPORT IN EMS TRAINING, THE EMR COURSES HE HAS HELD FOR US AND FUTURE EMT PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION.**

# THANK YOU!



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**Motion to Adjourn:** 1136 Hours - MOTION by Baggett. to adjourn; SECOND by Bronner, 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 [scranford@bellavistaar.gov](mailto:scranford@bellavistaar.gov) or text me at 417-691-0038.