LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT HISTORICAL SOCIETY
(LAFDHS)
MINUTES OF MAY 4, 2000

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

John Jacobson, President
Dan Cypert, Vice President
Don Dodd, Treasurer
Isabel Rosas, Secretary

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Christopher Cooper
Joe Ortiz
Jordan Pearl
Bill Thost

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Don Dodd reported that there is over $41,000 in both of the LAFDHS combined checking and savings accounts.

COMMITTEE REPORTS/OLD BUSINESS

Pancake Breakfast – May 13th

All details for the LAFDHS Pancake Breakfast on Fire Service Recognition Day at Old Fire Station 27 were discussed. Grill and crew are ready per Barney Nipp. Sausages will be delivered to 27’s the day before.

Chief DeFeo is securing tables and chairs. The Dalmatians store personnel will be on site. Several items are to be auctioned or raffled off that day including a leather Fire Helmet with LAFD Historical Society imprinted on it (donated by Jordan Pearl). Joe Ortiz will provide antique apparatus at the site.
Firefighters Festival – August 26th

Chiefs DeFeo and Gillis, Steve Ruda, Liz Bamattre and Isabel Rosas representing the LAFD and LAFDHS attended a meeting. Celebrity Centre representatives were Tom Davis, Margaret Harder, and Jeff Porter. Kathy Oliver from Creative Productions Limited was also at the meeting and has been designated as Coordinator of the event this year by the Celebrity Centre.

The date of the Firefighters Festival is Saturday August 26, 2000, from 1 p.m. until dusk, at the Celebrity Centre located at the corner of Bronson and Franklin in Hollywood.

Among the items discussed were:

- Possibility of a booth with firefighter’s cooking
- Rides on apparatus
- Tattoos
- Advertising early
- Larger crowds expected
- Raffles
- Silent Auctions
- Radio stations on-site broadcast

A task list of things to do to prepare for the Firefighters Festival was sent to Isabel Rosas’ office via FAX and was distributed to those who attended the meeting. Additional items will be forthcoming at subsequent meetings.

Firefighter Memorial

Liz Bamattre reported that the competition is underway for the Memorial design. The deadline for all entries is June 16, 2000.

Museum Education Project

A meeting with Bill Rolland was held to finalize the education endowment of the Museum. Chief DeFeo attended this meeting, and the legal details should be finalized within two weeks. The first installment of the endowment will be $225,000. The endowment is eternal. One of the stipulations of the endowment is that a standing educational committee is formed, consisting of five members, three from the LAFDHS and two from the William Rolland Foundation.

Discussions with one company to consult on the education component of the Museum have come to a halt. They wanted $15,000 just to meet for two days and brainstorm; not to develop anything concrete. Discussions will continue with other companies. One company, Rise International, will make a presentation at the next LAFDHS General Membership Meeting to be held on June 15, 2000. Rise International designed the educational component for the Memphis Fire Museum.
Web Site

Thanks to all who have worked on the LAFDHS web site. The site is very impressive and informative. Additions are continually being added to the site, which can be accessed through a link on the LAFD.ORG web site. There is an interest in obtaining more old photographs and oral histories from Department members to place on the web site. Please contact Isabel Rosas at (213) 485-7001 for details.

Newsletter

Marlene Perez is waiting for one more report before the LAFDHS first edition will be finished and distributed in June.

Downtown Business Fire Appreciation Day – May 11, 2000

The Downtown Business Fire Appreciation Day will be held on May 11, 2000, 1100 to 1400 hours, on Hope Street, with food, entertainment and games. LAFDHS will have a booth serving beverages and distributing LAFDHS information. Thousands of visitors are expected at the event. Proceeds will benefit the Los Angeles Fire Relief Association’s Widows and Orphans Fund. This will be the second year the LAFDHS is participating at this event.

Storage/Office Facilities

Space for storage and to conduct LAFDHS business is at a premium. There is currently no space at any Department facilities. If anyone knows of, or has any space that could be used by the LAFDHS, please contact Isabel Rosas at (213) 485-7001. There is a possibility of the Crash 90’s space becoming available when they move into Fire Station 114. At this time, there is an immediate need for a small office space with room for a computer and answering machine.

Apparatus Update

John Ackerman reported on an antique 1886 service truck. While the only thing from LAFD on it is the ladder, it is fully operational, in great condition, and comes with a flatbed trailer. The donor only wants a tax write-off for the donation.

Councilmember Svorinich has obtained the use of Old Fire Station 36 in the San Pedro area. A letter from the San Pedro Bay Historical Society stating there may be space available to house one antique apparatus was forwarded from the Fire Chief to the LAFHDS. Chief Jacobson will meet with representatives from the San Pedro Bay Historical Society regarding this matter. They are interested in housing the apparatus currently being restored at Fire Station 49. More details regarding this matter will follow in future LAFDHS meetings.
Membership Drive

The LAFDHS Membership Drive is going extremely well. Isabel has LAFDHS t-shirts available for new members, all size “xlarge”. There are no golf shirts left. More LAFDHS hats and golf shirts will be ordered in time for the Firefighters Festival. Many LAFDHS “Membership Certificates” still need to be sent out once the membership roster is updated.

NEW BUSINESS

Elections

Elections for the upcoming term will be held in Fall 2000. The Election Committee will consist of Liz Bamattre and Dan Cypert. In order to have continuity on the Board, not all members will be elected at the same time. Group A will be elected in 2000; Group B will be elected in 2001. Group A will consist of the President, Secretary, and two Directors. Group B will be the Vice-President, Treasurer, and three Directors. The LAFDHS Executive Board must consist of three retired members, three active members, and three civilians as mandated in the By-Laws.

Miscellaneous Items/Correspondence

- Tim Schmidt is looking for a video called “Going to Blazes”, produced by LAFD in the 40’s or 50’s. This was an Oscar-nominated short film, 15 to 20 minutes long. A suggestion was made to contact the Photo/Video Unit.

- IMAGIC in Hollywood wants to participate with the Museum project. They produce creative advertisement designs and large-scale graphics and installation. Some of their current clients include the Getty Center, Dodgers, Western Heritage Museum, Peterson Museum, and Universal Citywalk.

- There is an opportunity for the LAFDHS to sell photo books of Fire Antique Apparatus, dated from 1953 through 1998, and claim a percentage of the profits. A discussion to sell at the Firefighter’s Festival and through a link on the LAFDHS web site followed.

- A copy of the LAFDHS’ Getty Grant proposal written by Captain Chris Cooper was on view for the attendees at the meeting. A decision will be made by the Getty Center and announced in June. Details will follow at either the June or August 2000 meeting.

Old Fire Station 23

The City Administrative Office and the City Attorney’s Office are reviewing the splitting of Old Fire Station 23’s funds. A suggestion was made to have a meeting with Councilmember Goldberg since the Museum is in her district. More details will follow regarding this issue at the next meeting.
• A copy of the museum floor plan with the correct dimensions was made available at
the meeting. A copy was sent to Flying Colors, Inc., a design company, as they are
interested in making a bid. Flying Colors, Inc., and another group Jordan Pearl is
working with will make presentations at the LAFDHS August General Membership
Meeting.

• The next inventory meeting will be at Supply and Maintenance on June 3, 2000, at
0900 hours.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The meeting was closed.

NEXT MEETING

The next LAFDHS General Membership Meeting will be held on June 15, 2000, 0900 hours, at
the Frank Hotchkin Memorial Training Center. No LAFDHS meeting will be held in July. The
next meeting, after the June 15 LAFDHS General Membership Meeting, will be held the first
Thursday in August (August 3, 2000).