



AFSA East of England Regional MEETING

HELD ON Friday 15 January 2010

AT Bedfordshire Hq
FROM 1000 – 1500 hrs

Present:

Name		
Jagtar Singh		
Ajmal Khan		
Harjit Singh		
Abdul Qayum		
Abi Hirji		
Manjit Singh		
Ahsan Muhammad		
Kantu Patel		
Billy Gill		
Kate Martin		



No.	Agenda Item	Notes	Action
1	Welcome CFO Paul Fuller	<p>CFO Paul Fuller warmly welcomed all AFSA representative and informed members that he was particularly pleased to host AFSA due to his association with AFSA from a fledgling organisation to what it has now become. He was pleased to note the success of AFSA in what it had achieved to date and in particular noted the high quality and impacting national conferences that had been delivered to date. He said he welcomed the clear objectives of AFSA and the support that AFSA could give to FRS to meeting the ever demanding needs on recruitment and community fire safety.</p> <p>He said he had been pleased to support the charity work and was pleased to have been able to donate the two fire engine for the Pakistan project and would be willing to support future project. he offered his full support for the regional members and was willing to support his staff to become actively involved in all aspects of the association.</p>	<p>AFSA to send CFO Fuller letter of thanks for hosting meeting and for his support.</p> <p>Chair Ajmal</p>
2	<p>Introductions</p> <p>Agenda Item</p>	<p>As the AFSA members introduced themselves it was clear that they all brought something different to the group and would be able to provide a wide range of skills and experiences to the regional and the national group.</p> <p>Amongst the service representative present the skills and experiences ranged from Strategic national, international experience on equality and diversity, Community fire safety, publications of international research, training and development, operational, and administrative skills in addition all members brought significance cultural and faith experience which would be beneficial when reviewing the east of England Cultural awareness booklets</p> <p>It was agreed that once each rep had signed up membership list then skills audit would be completed and a master spread sheet would be held by the regional membership secretary. Each reps was also asked to keep a membership spread sheet of brigade members</p>	<p>Action for all reps.</p> <p>Chair to pass on membership forms</p> <p>Secretary to consider developing a skills audit form</p>



3	AFSA History/to date	<p>Jagtar – gave all an insight to the history of AFSA, from its beginning in 2003 when it started as ALFA (Asian London Firefighters Association) to present day, i.e. AFSA being formally launched at the 2009 Conference on 18th and 19th November.</p> <p>Jagtar also gave examples of how AFSA have meet all its stated objectives over the years from positive action work with CLG , to outreach community safety with faith groups, mentoring and supporting Asian staff to charity work in the UK and internationally. All agreed we can not rest on laurels as many stakeholders and the Brigades will wish to see us maintain the momentum and now deliver even more as we have corporate membership support and the finance to back up our enthusiasm which has carried us thus far.,</p> <p>Jagtar explained AFSA was set up an independent and inclusive, network , support group that was open to ALL members of the FRS, anybody can join. AFSA is open to serving and retired members , irrespective of heritage or background.</p> <p>All we require from a person to be a member is that they agree to AFSA's vision, objectives, and values.</p>	<p>Jagtar to send PowerPoint slides</p> <p>Your questions answered leaflet</p> <p>Copy of 2008 conference report</p> <p>2009 conference booklet</p>
4	Constitution	<p>JS explained the AFSA Constitution – of how AFSA intend to operate. Also all agreed we need to be a flexible and proactive association and not over bureaucratic in approach. All agreed we need rules and regulations but needed to keep our spontaneous and cultural values as well. All agreed that officer's holders should be able to make decisions and not be over burdened as some are in other organisations.</p>	<p>JS agreed to circulates a e-mail copy of the constitution</p>



5	Membership	<p>Ajmal explained how we wished to progress membership in East of England and all agreed that each rep needed to take responsibility for the membership of the brigade they worked in.</p> <p>The benefits of memberships were also highlighted and a good example was the opportunities to receive updates of reports, papers, and training that members would not get if they did not become signed up members. The conference in London on the 30th of January was also promoted as an excellent networking and learning opportunity.</p>	<p>All to developed local data base</p> <p>Secretary and chair to keep overview on numbers and skills base of East of England membership</p>
6	AFSA Conference Conference Dinner Dance Charity	<p>Jagtar explained that the conference had been great success and that we all hoped to build on the success in 2010. CFO Peter Holland who will be the next CFOA President has already agreed to host the conference in Lancashire and a date of 3 and 4th of November 2010 has been offered. The chair Zahoor Ahmed has written to the Fire mister to seek support for the date and the location</p> <p>Like past conference a full report of the conference 209 will be produced and in addition the excellent cartoon produced at the conference as learning outcome will also be used to provide a separate conference report in pictures</p> <p>Jagtar also praised the organising committee for the excellent celebration dinner which now is an established must attend event in the UK Fire Service calendar. Many officers who could not attend the day time conference were able to come to the dinner in addition this was also a fantastic opportunity for networking with family, community and national FRS staff.</p> <p>The Celebration dinner also raised over £2,000 for local and national charities with the bulk of the money being committed to the water wells project</p>	<p>Jagtar to Circulate report when they become available</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short, Medium, Long term deliverables 	<p>It was agreed that as a region we would focus on producing and supporting.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support and provide guidance for The East of England Cultural booklet 2. Research and develop a local Ramadan Guidance document for operational officers 3. Deliver Two AFSA Regional development day 	
7	What can I do	<p>Ajmal- I will get my brigade to be members - I will lead on Ramadan booklet Kantu- I will work with Isobel to ensure Norfolk support AFSA Abi- I will make it a priority to get corporate members for Cambridgeshire sorted out and then help to develop our local membership data. Also I will support the Ramadan and cultural awareness booklet. Manjit and Muhammad- Cultural awareness booklet - support any regional request for support on positive action Harjit- I am happy to advice on Sikh issue - invite AFSA members to events at Hertfordshire Abdul- Ramadan booklet- AFSA development day, research how I can join UK search and rescue Billy- I will do anything I am required to do Jagtar- I will support everyone to do the above</p>	
8	Elections of officers for region	<p>Chair Ajmal Vice Chair Kantu and Harjit Treasures Manjit</p>	



		Regional sec- Abdul	
9	Any other Business		
10	NEXT MEETING:	8 th March Kolverdon at 1200 hours	