



NORTHWEST REGIONAL FIRE TRAINING CENTER

ANNUAL REPORT FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017

Location: 3737 NIMROD ROAD, TRAVERSE CITY, MI 49685, PHONE: (231) 943-FIRE (3473)

Website: www.nwrtc-tc.org

E-Mail: info@nwrtc-tc.org

October 25, 2017

This report is being submitted to the Board of Directors of the Northwest Regional Fire Training Center to give an overview of the activities held at the Training Center for the fiscal year October 1, 2016 to September 30, 2017.

For this fiscal year we received \$14,796.69 from the State of Michigan for instructor fees and expenses. For fiscal year 2017-2018 we are allocated \$17,206.93. I have applied for funding for all classes eligible for the next fiscal year focusing on the first classes held to speed up the payments from the State.

The Board of Directors did review the fee schedule this year and made some changes to better use fireworks funding allocated to Grand Traverse County.

We applied for one PARR grant this year for additional electronic locks and were turned down.

Our Firefighter I & II class this year was the smallest ever. We had 8 students complete the course with all passing the final test. I think most people do not understand the commitment this class takes and shows the struggles departments are having with recruiting new people.

We held three of the five Company Officer I & II co-requisites. We had a total of 20 students. Some took more than one class. We offer the five topics with 5 different instructors to give a variety of styles and experience to help make it more interesting and beneficial to the students. Again the low attendance and cancelling classes reflects the difficulty departments are having in recruiting and retaining personnel.

We did not hold the Company Officer I & II class this year due to low registrations.

We held one Driver Training classes this year with a total of 7 students. We offer one in the fall before the Firefighter class starts then one in the spring after class ends. We did not have enough students for a spring class.

We held Haz-Mat Operations as part of the Firefighter I & II class and had no additional student attend.

We offered Vehicle Extrication and Advanced Stabilization on a three day weekend. We hold that along with the firefighter class. We had no extra students outside the firefighter class.

We did not hold Pump Operations this year due to lack of registrations.

We attempted to hold the Fire Officer III classes this year but canceled due to lack of registrations.

We held a Fire Instructor I course in late September and early October. We had 10 students attend.

I continue to try and recruit instructors for additional classes. We have offered many in the past and have people asking about them again. I am not having much luck in finding additional classes but will keep trying.

We did receive approval from the U.S. Coast Guard for our Combined Basic and Advanced Firefighting program. We held three classes for the Great Lakes Maritime Academy Cadets. We had a total of 57 students attend and all passed. This program has the potential to grow in the future. We are currently working on approval for Combined Basic and Advanced Revalidation which is required by the U.S. Coast Guard.

By offering this ship board firefighting program the U.S Maritime Administration gave us some equipment from their closed facility in Toledo Ohio. This was a big help since we need to provide equipment for cadets attending classes. We also received some donated equipment from area departments and well as purchasing some surplus equipment.

Law enforcement agencies continue to use the Training Center. They do both ERT training and the K9 teams.

The Fair Board no longer holds their annual meeting here the first Thurs. of Nov.

We did have a few area departments hold trainings at the Training Center for their own departments. It is good to see it used for this.

We did get a fuel cell for the pump. This was donated by Grand Traverse Diesel.

We did replace the clutch in the fire engine. This was done by Grand Traverse Diesel.

Our Board of Directors met on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:00 pm with the exception of February and July when we did not have a meeting. Our meetings average about a half hour in length and are normally attended by two to five board members. We occasionally have a visitor interested in the business of the Training Center.

The only other improvements done this year were to add a storage room for gear for the ship board classes and to repair the men's room. Other than that just repair and maintenance done this year.

This coming year we plan to add a shipping container for live burns. We are also working with a local propane company on some props to use for classes also.

Our current Board Chairman is Chief Theo Weber of the Grand Traverse Rural Fire Department. Vic-Chairman is Chief Jim Tuller of Traverse City Fire Department.

I look forward to this next year and continuing to grow our class sizes. I hope our finances keep improving and we can continue to provide the best training for the firefighters of Michigan.

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy A. Wrede

Tim Wrede
Training Coordinator