WASHTENAW AREA MUTUAL AID ASSOCIATION

United to Protect Life and Property from Fire

WAMAA Membership Meeting - Minutes

May 6, 2025 - 9:00AM

Hosted by Ypsilanti Fire Dept (held at Michigan Firehouse Museum)

Ann Arbor – Kennedy
Ann Arbor Twp – Nicholai
Augusta Twp – Music, Witt
Belleville – N/A
Chelsea – Arbini
Clinton – N/A
Dexter Area – Armstrong
Green Oak Twp – N/A
Hamburg Twp – N/A
Manchester Twp – Kouba
Milan Area – Carpus
Northfield Twp – Bishop
Pittsfield Twp – Heavener, Girbach, M. Chevrette
Putnam Twp – N/A
Salem Twp – Rachwal
Saline Area – Sperle
Scio Twp – Houde
Sumpter Twp – Brown
Superior Twp – V. Chevrette
Van Buren Twp – McInally
Ypsilanti – Hobbs
Ypsilanti Twp – N/A

Associates: HART (Simpson), HVA (Becky & Scott), MCA (Henderson), Washtenaw County (Swenson), Emergency Management (Pinette), MJ White & Son (Neal), DNR (Beachnau)

1. Meeting Called to Order (Rachwal) – President Rachwal called today's meeting to order at 9:05AM. Pledge of Allegiance followed.
2. Correspondence / Public Comment
    a. Belfor distributed invitation Grand Slam event at Comerica Park.
3. Adoption/Changes of Agenda – N/A
4. Treasurer Report (Houde) –

    Chase Bank account balances, as of April 30, 2025:
    Checking $103,172.07
    Savings $37,304.41
    Motion by Kennedy, second by Heavener. Carried.
5. Medical Control Report (Henderson) – Brief report
    a. Update on the recent Out of Hospital cardiac work group meeting
    b. Zofran & BLS packs
    c. Shortage of cyano kits in the country, but should not affect us
6. Training Report (Nicholai) – report sent electronically. Reminder that the training surveys are due back to the state. He reviewed the training classes and related schedules. 2-day Drone program being offered May 28-29 to those interested in becoming pilots.
7. HazMat Report (Girbach) – report was sent electronically. Girbach provided brief report, as there were two drone callouts (both in Scio Twp). Last month's training feedback, and upcoming training schedule.
8. TRT Report (Chevrette)- report to be sent electronically for reference
    a. Grain bin rescue in Saline
    b. Swiftwater rescue – continue to focus on boat ops.
    c. Still need a facility to house the semi-truck
    d. Survey distributed re: Decrease in allocation of UASI grant funding. Discussion followed on fate of funding WAMAA's swift water rescue team and related assets. More to come.
9. MABAS Report (Rachwal) – Drone team activation in Northern Michigan during the recent Ice Storm to review damage to radio towers. Leadership has changed. Hoping to host an exercise in Livingston County.

10. HVA Dispatch Report (Torres) – Nothing new as far as dispatch. Hired new staff, and expecting to hire more to be fully staffed by the end of 2025.
11. HVA Operations (Scott) – New EMT Academy course, and another one coming up in the fall. Also hosting medic classes.
12. Washtenaw County 800 MHz Consortium Report (Swenson) – SEGUS guidance recently released re: LEIN traffic and possible encryption & interoperability issues. This may affect the fire service. More to come as this moves forward. Novi encrypting one of their talk groups.
13. Officers Committee Report (Nicholai) – report sent electronically. Highlighted key points.
14. Blue Card (Nicholai) – report was sent. Nicholai highlighted key points and dates.
15. HART Report (Simpson) – One callout in April. Last Saturday was a training in Salem Twp.
16. WAMAC (Kennedy) – Nothing new to report, as it's at the AG's office.
17. Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office (Pinette) – Provided brief report, as there is nothing significant happening.
18. DNR (Beachnau) – Brief report. Currently ahead of schedule re: fire calls. Dealing with some arson on State Land & high schoolers. Cleanup happening up north.
19. Food Truck Inspections (Densmore) – No report. Rachwal expressed his gratitude to this team.
20. Old Business - None
21. New Business –
    a. Augusta Twp refurbished their mobile air cascade system, and it's available to this group. Scio Twp & Pittsfield Twp also have.
22. Good of the Order –
    a. Thank you to MJ White for coffee & pastries
    b. New State Fire Marshal announced – Tom Hughes from Northville Twp FD
    c. Henderson – Ypsi Twp going BLS non-transport, should be approved early-June.
    d. Kennedy –

       Washtenaw 100

       i. Equipment Application distributed. PDF also available on their site (Washtenaw100.org).
       ii. Scholarship application is a Google Form found on Washtenaw100.org
       iii. Nominations accepted for Fire Chief of the Year, and Law Enforcement Officer of the Year
       iv. October 23rd – annual dinner at Washtenaw Community College
       v. TH, May 15th – Annual Law Enforcement memorial service at 10:00AM
       vi. Washtenaw 100's park is available for a Fire memorial service, if anyone wants to host.

       Michigan Fire Chiefs – Conference / Expo May 20-21 – www.MiChiefs.org

       Ann Arbor Fire – station 4 closing for renovations. Kennedy provided update and anticipated issues related during this transition time.

23. Next Meeting – June 3rd hosted by Ypsilanti City (Firehouse Museum)

    Remaining 2025 Meeting Schedule (1st Tues, 9:00AM)
    No Meetings July & August
    Sept 2 - Ann Arbor FD
    Oct 7 - TBA
    Nov 4 – Ypsilanti Twp
    Dec 2 – Salem
24. Adjournment – 9:55AM