



GENERAL MEETING Nov. 20 2013

President Dan Kruger called the meeting to order at 7:05.
Sanjay Sidera led the Pledge of Allegiance

Dan Ebihara presented the Treasurer's report with a balance of \$ 3575.05

Frank Fopiano introduced the guest speaker, Tim Szymanski, who after 44 years in firefighting has had practically every position in this department. Now he is Public Education and Information Officer for Las Vegas Fire and Rescue and works with the news media. He is always on call and almost drowns in information which can be rather stressful. However, news-media is the best way to educate people about fires. He told us that the

Number 1 cause of fires is cooking fires. When cooking grease catches fire from being left on a hot burner or electrical plate it burns worse than gasoline. He warned against putting water on such a fire, use a fire-extinguisher instead. Never leave a greasy pan or dish on the stove; a dog can jump up and accidentally turn on a burner. Burns are exceedingly painful and can easily become infected. Lately there has been an increase in microwave oven fires, anything with metal in it will catch fire in a microwave oven. Burns can occur if kids eat food directly from the microwave oven. Let it stand for a couple of minutes before you touch it.

Number 2 cause: Faulty electrical wires and devices. Nothing is really off until you unplug it. Szymanski himself experienced a fire in his house caused by a bathroom fan where the motor in the attic caught fire. He is now in a law-suit with the manufacturer. In a fire, more damage is usually caused by smoke than by the fire itself.

Number 3 cause: candlefire. Never leave live candles unattended

Number 4 cause: smoking. Never smoke too close to the house or in the garage. This room usually contains paint-thinners, paint, chemicals and other toxic chemicals. A fire here can be extremely toxic.

Number 5 cause: Anything that produces heat can start a fire.

He advised us to keep our insurance up-to-date and use smoke-alarms. If you have a smoke-alarm in the garage and it goes off, don't open the door! The extra oxygen would make the fire explode. Houses don't burn down anymore, they burn on the inside

The date for the holiday party was tentatively set for December 11.
The pot of gold was won by Gloria Sturman who donated it back to the club.

The meeting was adjourned at 8.15

Lisa Kershaw

Recording Secretary 2013