MISSION: To provide a means of professional networking and knowledge advancement for the fire protection industry throughout the Great Plains region.

1. The monthly board meeting of the SFPE Great Plains chapter was held Wednesday, November 9, 2011 beginning at 10:30 AM at Valentino’s Restaurant, 103rd and Maple.

2. Bob Pielow recently spoke to approximately 40 senior architectural students at UNL about mechanical systems, including fire protection, fire alarm and mass notification systems. The discussion was in conjunction with the UNL Student Outreach program sponsored by Tim Hemsath, Associate Professor of Architecture.

3. Sean Lebel is in discussions concerning hosting a technical presentation for the chapter. NFPA 25, NFPA 72 and NFPA 3 (commissioning) would be applicable topics. Sean will attempt to schedule this for the first week of May 2012. CEUs can be made available for attending the presentation. A description of the presentation and the subject matter must be submitted to obtain CEUs.

4. The technical presentation will be promoted in the March and April 2011 newsletters.

5. The length of time for a one-year paid advertising spot in the newsletter will be extended to May 2013 to increase participation. Members should contact vendors and other individuals to advise of the extension period.

6. UNMC plans to arrange seminars for NFPA 99 and NFPA 101. Dan Michalak will advise when the seminars will be held for members interested in attending.

7. Future presentation topics include clean agent fire suppression systems, fire caulking and mass notification.

8. Shane Cherney stated that other SFPE chapters have arranged a firefighting tower demonstration. The chapter is considering an event in the spring of 2012. Rob Gottsch and Joe
Hazel offered to contact the Omaha Fire Department to coordinate a date for the demonstration.

9. Donna Kohlan presented the treasurer’s report. The chapter currently has $2,333 in the account. The chapter can utilize PayPal for paying chapter dues and meals at the chapter meetings. There are 61 members in the chapter.

10. Membership renewal is scheduled for August 2012.

11. Doug Hutcheson will make the December meeting presentation on fire pumps.

12. A presentation was made by Shane Cherney of the Wild Apricot website software. Alan Friedman, director of SFPE, suggested this software for the SFPE chapters. The “Group” account plan is $25 monthly, with a 10% discount if the account is paid one year in advance. It is possible to move to different account plans monthly, depending on the amount of activity needed for one month.

13. The Board greed to a subscription of to try the software. Jennifer Pielow will review the software for the chapter and offer her recommendations if it appears too serve the needs of the Chapter.

14. Shane Cherney will ask SFPE if discounts are available for the software.

The next meeting of Great Plains chapter will be Wednesday, December 14, 2011 at 10:30 AM at Valentino’s Restaurant 103rd and Maple, in the Seminar Room.