



Monroe Fire Protection District



MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chair Vicky Sorensen called the meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Monroe Fire Protection District to order at 6:00p.m. EST Wednesday, March 11, 2026. The meeting was held in person at Station 21, located at 9094 S Strain Ridge Rd, Bloomington, Indiana and via Zoom for public to view. Public notice of the meeting had been duly made to local media by email transmission and hard copy notices had been placed in all the usual places.

Administrative Assistant Tammy Bovenschen called the roll of the board of trustees to determine members present, absent, and to identify others present via Zoom.

Present in person were as follows: Vicky Sorensen, Chair
Michael Baker, Fiscal Officer
John Bernstein, Trustee
Susan Hingle, Trustee (arrived at 6:06pm)
Kevin R. Robling, Trustee
Dan Vest, Trustee
Mark Kruzan, Vice-Chair (via Zoom)

Those absent were as follows: Steve Coover, Deputy Chief, Community Risk Reduction

Others present were as follows: Dustin Dillard, Chief
Jeffrey Combs, Deputy Chief of Administration
Bill Tusing, Deputy Chief of Logistics
Matt Bright, Deputy Chief, EMS & Operations
Danny Gillespie, Assistant Chief of Training
Christine Bartlett, Attorney, Ferguson Law
Nick Powell, Fleet Manager
Tammy Bovenschen, Administrative Assistant
Lorie Robinson, Financial Assistant
Darrell Cooper, IT Specialist
Jason Allen, Battalion Chief

**HEADQUARTERS
3953 S KENNEDY DRIVE
BLOOMINGTON IN
812-331-1906
812-336-1166 (FAX)**

CHANGES OR AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Chair Vicky Sorensen asked if there were any changes or amendments to the agenda. Administrative Assistant Tammy Bovenschen stated no changes or amendments.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Vicky Sorensen explained this was the time when any member of the public could speak to the board concerning any matter not listed on the agenda. No public comment.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes from February were presented to the board for approval.

Trustee Kevin Robling made a motion to approve the minutes.

Trustee John Bernstein 2nd

Bernstein – Yes, Baker – Yes, Sorensen – Yes, Kruzan – Yes, Vest – Yes, Robling – Yes

Motion passed 6-0

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Department Updates

a. Legal Updates

Legal Counsel, Christine Bartlett stated the district has kept us busy with background checks. Working through procedures and processes for procurement that's coming up with Federal Grant dollars. Legislature session – Senate Bill 270. Shouldn't have direct impact on Fire District. DLGF will be sending out a test.

Chair Vicky Sorensen asked about our board if townships consolidate. Legal Counsel Christina Bartlett explained that since none of this goes into effect this year hopefully those details can be looked at and updated.

b. Statistics

Deputy Chief Matt Bright updated the board the monthly statistics for January.

TOTAL Emergency Calls	364
Fire Calls	20
Hazardous Situation	21
Medical	203
Public Service	53
Rescue	7
No Emergency	58
Law Enforcement	2
Incidents by District Station	364
Station 21	35
Station 22/HQ	106
Station 23	11

Station 24	20
Station 25	23
Station 26	14
Station 29	132
Station 39	20
Aid in support of primary entity	28
Aid given	14
Aid received	10
Aid in lieu of primary entity	
Aid given	3
Aid acting as another entity	
Aid given	1
Ambulance 21	2
Ambulance 22	6
Ambulance 23	3
Ambulance 29	52
Total Patient Transports	63
IU Health Bloomington	18
Monroe Hospital	2

Deputy Chief Matt Bright elaborated on the Statistical Summary indicating the turnout and response times. We have 300 plus square miles – would be considered urban and rural and the response time would be computed at 80% based on NFPA standards. Unusual scenes (no emergency) – Chief will automatically adjust the dispatch time to reflect when the responding chief was actually notified.

Chief Dustin Dillard explained the new data and system – 90% means 90% of the time we were in the range.

Susan Hingle mentioned how beneficial it was meeting with Deputy Chief Bright to get a better understanding.

Trustee Kevin Robling commented that he liked looking at the full report. Was this due to the new software? Deputy Chief Matt Bright explained that he believes he's given similar information, and the new national system doesn't give us the same results. NFRIS was only for fire whereas NERIS is all emergencies. Trustee Robling will schedule a meeting with Deputy Bright to discuss further.

Trustee John Bernstein asked what the different icons mean on the MFD Incident Map – 1/1/2026 NERIS. Deputy Chief Matt Bright said he's unsure what the icons mean, but he'll find out and report back.

c. Emergency Medical Services & Operations

Deputy Chief Matt Bright updated the board on EMS & Operations

Current Situation:

- Data uploads and set up for First Due Software – the process continues
 - Current focus on training and assets (apparatus checks, work orders)

Accomplishments:

- Tornado response on 2/19 – successful mitigation, rapid assessment for injuries and damage assessment, quick callback response
- Received our BLS service provider recertification, and sent information to billing
- Presented at Emergency Preparedness Meeting along with BC Liff

Planned Activities:

- Conclude all first due module set-ups

d. Fleet

Fleet Manager Nick Powell updated the board on Fleet:

Current Situation:

- Maintenance:
 - 14 minor
 - 3 moderate
 - 1 major
 - 2 out of service for 1+days
 - Rescue 22 – oil leak and hydraulic tray failed to support power unit
 - Ambulance 21 – Horn continues to honk
- Marine Units
 - Currently cycling marine units through for spring services

Accomplishments:

- Met with Fire Service Inc
 - Follow up meeting with Fire Services Inc. Engine 22 was available for them to inspect ongoing issues. They were able to observe numerous issues in person. Issues included: roll up door issues, cab lift and electrical issues. Awaiting to schedule and pick up time for repairs
- In stock parts
 - Provided commercial part numbers to a local vendor. The vendor will now keep a supply of parts that used to require a trip to Indianapolis. The cost of parts is also competitive to the Indianapolis commercial parts price. This information has also been provided to Bloomington City.
- UTV Spring Service
 - UTV 21, 22, 25, 39 all serviced. UTV 24 service supplies have been received

- Annual Apparatus and Equipment services and testing
 - Obtained quotes for: pump test, service and truck service, ladder test, hose test, TNT extrication tool service, Genesis extrication tool service, VFDS Annual Aerial Inspections

Planned Activities:

- Schedule Annual Service
 - Hose, ladder, extrication, pump, and aerial services and testing
- Marine Unit Service Completion
 - Service and test all marine units
- Meet with Fire Service – 3rd meeting
 - Follow up meeting with Fire Service to address Engine 22 issues

Trustee John Bernstein asked if the amount shown for warranty work is what we have to pay or is that just showing the cost. Fleet Manager Nick Powell indicated the cost is what the warranty pays.

Trustee John Bernstein asked who does large equipment alignment? Fleet Manager Nick Powell stated it could be either Crossroads in Bedford or Sternberg International Truck Sales & Service located off Dillman Rd.

e. Facilities & Logistics

Deputy Chief Bill Tusing updated the board on Facilities & Logistics:

Current Situation:

- Getting Bids for generator Station 26
- Continue with repairs from building settling at Station 25
- Getting estimates for electrical issue at Station 21

Accomplishments:

- Water lines moved from attic at Station 29 to eliminate freezing issue
- Updated to LED exterior lights at Station 25 and 29
- Replaced damaged ceiling tile in Station 21 radio room

Planned Activities:

- Blow in installation at Station 23
- Replace downstairs entry door at HQ Annex
- Get bids on mower replacement for Station 21

Trustee Kevin Robling asked about the replacement garage door at Station 29. Deputy Chief Bill Tusing explained that someone backed the truck too close to it.

f. Training

Assistant Chief Danny Gillespie updated the board on Training:

Current Situation:

- Vehicle Extrication day for Volunteers/Substitutes

- We will hold a training specifically for Volunteers/Substitutes on March 25th at Station 29
- Officer Development Training (#19) at Station 21
- Working with Lamar (Billboard company) to choose a site location for upcoming rope rescue training

Accomplishments:

- Ordered and received 4-pack of AED Trainers for CPR course
- CPR manikins and AED trainers cleaned and stored
- Worked with Menards to purchase drywall at discounted rate due to storm damage. Delivered approximately 360 sheets to Station 25 for use in training

Planned Activities:

- Working with District 8 on approval of District funded courses for fall/Winter 2026
- Working with Cpt. Fisher to develop next HazMat quarterly training – explosives
- Continue working with Hoosier Hills and Ivy Tech to provide training resources

Training Hours:

- Company Training
 - January training hours – 2,036
 - February training hours – 2,104

Trustee Susan Hingle asked how do you train with drywall? Assistant Chief Danny Gillespie explained that salvage and overhaul. Once a fire is put out, we're looking for fire that's hidden behind the walls up in the ceiling. In the training tower, we have an open spot in the ceiling that we can put drywall up onto. When we go and put a fire out, crews can go along with pip poles and pull that drywall down. Applying fire on top of that drywall will provide a heat signature – thermal imaging camera will help look for those heat signatures. Teaches crews how to punch through walls to evacuate as needed.

g. Community Risk Reduction

Deputy Chief Jeffrey Combs updated the board on Community Risk Reduction.

Current Situation:

- Update CPR presentation to 2025 program
 - Two classes to be given in March as Beta tests
- Research 3D scanner for fire investigations and other applications

Accomplishments:

- Attended autopsy for third fatality related to Anderson Road fire and fatality Old SR 37
 - Provided background to pathologist regarding events
- Provided information and support to Anderson Road family

- Attended Supporting Youth through Suicide Prevention and Postvention training

Planned Activities:

- Breakfast with the Bunny March 28th
- CERT Class March 26 – April 18
- City Hall Display case program for April 2026

Fire Inspections:

- Fire Safety Inspections – 38
- Re-Inspections – 4
- New Construction Inspections – 1
- Plans Review – 2
- Consultations – 11

Trustee John Bernstein asked about tornado cleanup. Deputy Chief Jeffrey Combs explained Van Buran Township organized the cleanup and our personnel helped. Over 200 people probably helped.

Statistical Update from previous question during the meeting: Chief Dustin Dillard commented that he went back and pulled the stats from December and a couple things were missing – day of the week, time of the day, shifts, and by station no graph. Incidental count by and type given was a half-page previously because it specifically indicated departments, we were giving aid to and getting aid from. On ambulance data, we are missing how many transports, we just have total number down unless the total number is the transports. On the turnout time, that was its own half page previously because each station was listed. We were not reporting on travel time. Total response time was also half a page because again each station was listed. There are several data points that are missing, and we can get that sorted out for next meeting.

Chair Vicky Sorensen explained with any new system we all have to adapt and get used to.

h. Financial – Claims

Financial Assistant Lorie Robinson presented financial summary for February 2026.

Current Situation:

- GAAP Report submission requests being received and created for submission
- FORVIS GAAP audit sample requests being received and created for submission

Accomplishments:

- Annual financial report prepared and submitted as presented in the financial board folder
- Submitted the Gateway Contract Attestation report and verified Polk and Salt

- townships had uploaded fire protection service agreements
- Completed and submitted the US Census Bureau Annual Survey of Local Government Finances
- Received and posted the February Local Income Tax (LIT) Revenue \$980,971.66

Planned Activities:

- Participate in the Batchelor Middle School Reality Store on March 13 representing MFPD
- Continuing to work through the GAAP submission and audit processes

EMS Revenue & Collections:

- Added the active accounts receivable – February
- General Summary – 14.9%
 - Encumbrances approved in February not correctly done by accountant
- Cumulative Fund – 33%

Trustee Kevin Robling asked about COBRA and who will pay? Financial Assistant Lorie Robinson explained that the district must pay a COBRA Administrator. If a full-time employee that has health benefits leaves the district, they can continue with our medical insurance (paying what we pay), plus a 2% fee on top of that. Once they leave, a COBRA Administrator will send us paperwork that must meet certain deadlines for timing. The district pays a small fee to have a COBRA Administrator assist with backend steps.

Trustee Kevin Robling asked about the 18-month review with Peoples State Bank – do you network with other folks? Financial Assistant Lorie Robinson stated she checked with State Board of Accounts, and we can purchase CD's – certificate of deposit. With that, we could purchase a 6-month or 13-month CD at this time with the current bank we use at Peoples State Bank. For 6 months, it would net us about \$11,000.00 more. For 13 months, it would net us about \$19,000.00 more. Very little risk because it's considered cash on hand. We're not going to lose any money, just how much interest can we make while it sits there. We would check for competitive offers from all banks as well.

Trustee Kevin Robling stated the Rainy-Day Fund should be in CD's.

Trustee Dan Vest asked what the penalty would be for early withdrawal. Financial Assistant Lorie Robinson stated no principal lost, only lost interest.

Chair Vicky Sorensen asked if State Board of Accounts say that we have to keep a certain amount in Rainy-Day? Financial Assistant Lorie Robinson explained it can't be appropriated or committed within the timeframe that you put it in.

Trustee John Bernstein stated it seems logical to keep some of the money aside and put some in a short investment and the other in long, so you're hedging your bets.

Trustee Kevin Robling asked if Financial Assistant Lorie Robinson could come to the Board with proposals for CD's at next meeting or the following.

Chair Vicky Sorensen asked if you take everything out of Rainy-Day, is that okay with State Board of Accounts? Financial Assistant Lorie Robinson explained that yes if we buy CD's it's still listed as cash on hand.

Deputy Chief Matt Bright asked if we've looked at the State Investment Pool? Financial Assistant Lorie Robinson explained lots of administrative fees associated with it, but she'll check it out.

Chair Vicky Sorensen asked about the Contractual Services, is that usually for three months? Financial Assistant Lorie Robinson explained we have made our yearly payment for First Due.

i. Administrative Report

Deputy Chief Jeffrey Combs updated the board Administrative Report.

Current Situation:

- Continuing updates to senior chief job descriptions based on 2026 organizational changes to increase efficiency
- Working on 2026 Run Cards and EMS Updates with Monroe County Dispatch
- Continue to monitor house and senate bills with potential impact to the fire district

Accomplishments:

- 2026 Hiring Process – application reviews and interviews completed
- Responded to February 19th Tornado and are reviewing data collected in Quick Capture
- Attended 2 courses hosted by the International Fire Chief's Association with union and volunteer representatives

Planned Activities:

- Monroe County Dispatch Policy Board Meeting
- Work with Monroe County EMA on Tornado data and disaster response reimbursement request
- Beginning planning meetings for additional townships joining the District

Personnel Report:

- New Hires – Full Time – 0
- New Hires – Part-Time – 0
- New Hires – Substitutes – 5
- Retirements – 2
- Promotions – 0
- Resignations – 0

Volunteer Hours February: 99.5

Chief Dustin Dillard mentioned severe weather preparedness and MFPD did the statewide tornado alarm. This year, we weren't invited to check the actual tornado sirens; however, we have been informed that several had significant issues. We're compiling a list to communicate with the EMA director.

Trustee Kevin Robling asked about Van Buren Township Trustee Rita Barrow, what are we working on with her? Deputy Chief Jeffrey Combs explained that we're working on Capital Improvement – fund projects for the District. Rescue equipment, \$90,500 which allows us to allocate resources with new equipment and then move that throughout the district to share the wealth. Also, cardiac monitors for Van Buren township and we'll take the monitors we have to other areas to cover the district. She's also willing to purchase a Fire Truck – 1.5 million of funds that she's going to support the fire district with as part of her Capital Improvement plan.

Trustee Kevin Robling asked if that's common with other townships? Deputy Chief Jeffrey Combs explained that it's highly common with Benton Township Trustee did something similar at lower scale and less money. Bloomington Township funded Capital Improvement Plan for stoplights and radio upgrades at the Bloomington Township stations.

Trustee Kevin Robling asked do we go to them, or do they come to us? Deputy Chief Jeffrey Combs stated that Van Buren and Benton came to us.

Trustee John Bernstein asked about the stoplights that were funded by Bloomington Township, are you referring to right outside of the stations? Deputy Chief Jeffrey Combs stated no, we're referring to the lights outside of the bay doors, so people don't run into the garage. Some of our buildings are extremely old, garage doors aren't as tall.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Zoll Monitors

Deputy Chief Matt Bright presents the purchase request of Zoll Monitors to the Board. Several quotes in the packet. This expense will come from the Benton Township Capital Improvement funds donated to the District. Refurbished monitors as opposed to new. They still come with a warranty, and they will service them.

Trustee Kevin Robling made a motion to approve purchase of Zoll Monitors for a total of \$126,853.50.

Trustee John Bernstein 2nd
Motion Passed 7-0

NEW BUSINESS

a. Cash Transfer

Financial Assistant Lorie Robinson explained the correction to transfer cash from Special Fire Cumulative Fund to the General Fund. \$3,000 to cumulative fund, \$3,000

to general; however, the entire amount was deposited into the cumulative fund in December 2025.

Trustee Kevin Robling made a motion to approve the correction transfer from Cumulative Fund to General Fund.

Trustee Kevin Robling 2nd

Bernstein – Yes, Baker – Yes, Sorensen – Yes, Kruzan – Yes, Vest – Yes, Robling – Yes, Hingle – Yes

Motion Passed 7-0

b. Annual Fleet Equipment Testing

Fleet Manager Nick Powell presented the Annual Fleet Equipment Testing to the Board. Starting with Aerial Safety Inspections, this is for ladder trucks only. Only able to obtain one quote for this – CFS Inspections for a total cost of \$3,010.00.

Trustee Kevin Robling made a motion to approve the CFS Inspection for a total of \$3,010.00.

Fiscal Officer Michael Baker 2nd

Bernstein – Yes, Baker – Yes, Sorensen – Yes, Kruzan – Yes, Vest – Yes, Robling – Yes, Hingle – Yes

Motion Passed 7-0

Fleet Manager Nick Powell presented the Hose Testing and Inventory through Nichol's Fire and Fleet for a total of \$11,814.75. Fleet Manager Powell expressed that he received other quotes but recommends Nichol's Fire and Fleet keep a pretty good inventory of our hose and good pricing.

Trustee John Bernstein asked if any other bids were competitive? Fleet Manager Nick Powell stated yes, one being \$50 more. Nothing was way out of line.

Trustee Kevin Robling made a motion to approve \$11,814.75 for Hose Testing and Inventory through Nichol's Fire and Fleet.

Fiscal Officer Michael Baker 2nd

Bernstein – Yes, Baker – Yes, Sorensen – Yes, Kruzan – Yes, Vest – Yes, Robling – Yes, Hingle – Yes

Motion Passed 7-0

Fleet Manager Nick Powell presented the Ground Ladder Testing with Heritage Fire Equipment to the Board for a total of \$4,116.00.

Trustee Susan Hingle asked if we've used Heritage Fire for other things? Deputy Chief Jeffrey Combs stated we have not, but Bean Blossom Township has.

Trustee Kevin Robling asked about these requests when it comes to the budget. Chief Dustin Dillard and Deputy Chief Jeffrey Combs state that we factor in all these requests every year into the budget. This isn't new money – it comes out of the same budget.

Trustee John Bernstein made a motion to approve the Ground Ladder Testing with Heritage Fire Equipment for a total of \$4,116.00.

Trustee Susan Hingle 2nd

Bernstein – Yes, Baker – Yes, Sorensen – Yes, Kruzan – Yes, Vest – Yes, Robling – Yes, Hingle – Yes

Motion Passed 7-0

Fleet Manager Nick Powell presented the Pump Test, Pump Service, Truck Service, DOT Inspection all with Nichol's Fire and Fleet for a total of \$16,952.06. Fleet Manager Powell explains that pump tests are required, while we're doing pump test, we have them do pump service and truck service. DOT Inspection is something that Fleet Manager Powell recommends this year for an additional \$50.00 per truck, check the tires, brake measurements, and air leaks. Ensure good feedback, good health of the trucks, and documentation.

Trustee Kevin Robling made a motion to approve Pump Test, Pump Service, Truck Service, DOT Inspection all with Nichol's Fire and Fleet for a total of \$16,952.06

Trustee Susan Hingle 2nd

Bernstein – Yes, Baker – Yes, Sorensen – Yes, Kruzan – Yes, Vest – Yes, Robling – Yes, Hingle – Yes

Motion Passed 7-0

Fleet Manager Nick Powell presented the TNT Tool Service to the Board with Hoosier Fire for a total of \$2,575.00.

Fiscal Officer Michael Baker made a motion to approve TNT Tool Service with Hoosier Fire for a total of \$2,575.00.

Trustee Kevin Robling 2nd

Bernstein – Yes, Baker – Yes, Sorensen – Yes, Kruzan – Yes, Vest – Yes, Robling – Yes, Hingle – Yes

Motion Passed 7-0

Fleet Manager Nick Powell presented the Genesis Tool Service with Howell Rescue Systems to the Board for a total of \$2,500.00.

Fiscal Officer Michael Baker made a motion to approve Genesis Tool Service with Howell Rescue Systems for a total of \$2,500.00.

Trustee Kevin Robling 2nd

Bernstein – Yes, Baker – Yes, Sorensen – Yes, Kruzan – Yes, Vest – Yes, Robling – Yes, Hingle – Yes

Motion Passed 7-0

Fleet Manager Nick Powell shares the updated total for all services and inspections to the Board - \$40,967.81.

FINANCIALS

a. Financial – Claims

Financial Assistant Lorie Robinson presented claims February 2026. Total claims - \$288,481.75.

Trustee Kevin Robling made a motion to approve the claims for February 2026.

Fiscal Officer Michael Baker 2nd

Bernstein – Yes, Baker – Yes, Sorensen – Yes, Kruzan – Yes, Vest – Yes, Robling – Yes, Hingle – Yes

Motion Passed 7-0

b. Payroll

Administrative Assistant Tammy Bovenschen presented the February monthly payrolls for approval on 15th and 28th

- February 15th payroll – totaling \$329,511.80
- February 28th payroll – totaling \$285,290.20
 - 28 Day

Trustee Kevin Robling made a motion to approve the payrolls for February as presented.

Fiscal Officer Michael Baker 2nd

Bernstein – Yes, Baker – Yes, Sorensen – Yes, Kruzan – Yes, Vest – Yes, Robling – Yes, Hingle – Yes

Motion Passed 7-0

c. Financial – Statement

Financial Assistant Lorie Robinson presented the financial statement to the board for February approval.

Trustee Kevin Robling made a motion to approve the financial statement for February.

Fiscal Officer Michael Baker 2nd

Bernstein – Yes, Baker – Yes, Sorensen – Yes, Kruzan – Yes, Vest – Yes, Robling – Yes, Hingle – Yes

Motion Passed 7-0

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Happy Birthday to Kevin Robling Saturday, 3/14.

Fiscal Officer Michael Baker mentioned that Financial Assistant Lorie Robinson contacted him directly when she realized the error made regarding the cash transfers for the Cumulative Fund and General Fund. Special shout-out to Lorie for following that through.

NEXT MEETING

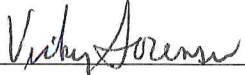
Chair Vicky Sorensen stated that the next meeting will be in person April 8, 2026, at Station 25, located at 5081 N Old State Road 37 Bloomington, Indiana. The meeting will also be held via zoom.

ADJOURN

Trustee Kevin Robling made a motion to adjourn at 7:34p.m.

Minutes approved by the board of trustees on April 8, 2026:


Aye:




Vicky Sorensen, Chair



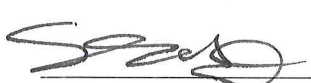
Mark Kruzan, Vice-Chair




Michael Baker, Fiscal Officer




John Bernstein, Trustee



Susan Hingle, Trustee



Kevin R. Robling, Trustee



Dan Vest, Trustee

Nye:

Vicky Sorensen, Chair

Mark Kruzan, Vice-Chair

Michael Baker, Fiscal Officer

John Bernstein, Trustee

Susan Hingle, Trustee

Kevin R. Robling, Trustee

Dan Vest, Trustee

Copy furnished:

- Mrs. Vicky Sorensen, Chair
- Mr. Michael Baker, Fiscal Officer
- Ms. Susan Hingle, Trustee
- Mr. Daniel Vest, Trustee
- Mr. David Ferguson, Legal Counsel

- Mr. Mark Kruzan, Vice-Chair
- Mr. John Bernstein, Trustee
- Mr. Kevin R. Robling, Trustee
- Mr. Dustin Dillard, Fire Chief
- Mrs. Christine Bartlett, Legal Counsel

Headquarters, Bulletin Board
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Station No. 24, Bulletin Board
Station No. 26, Bulletin Board
Station No. 39, Bulletin Board

Station No. 21, Bulletin Board
Station No. 23, Bulletin Board
Station No. 25, Bulletin Board
Station No. 29, Bulletin Board