

Minnesota FFLA Chapter Report for 2015

The previous director resigned and a new director was appointed toward the end of 2015. I do not know if there were any activities prior to my appointment. Since my appointment, I have had brief telephone conversations with two MN members. I also contacted and will continue to be in contact with the MN Department of Natural Resources (DNR)-Forestry to work on the tower program. There are currently 26 members on our roster. Our end-of-the-year financial statement which includes the additional of membership dues and the deduction of newsletter expenses is \$95.72.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Bernu

From the assistant to the MN Director

Dave Quam

The Chippewa National Forest (CNF) in Northern MN has three fire towers standing from the original 43. Two have had their ladder steps removed and the third is climbable with wood steps. I have been contacted by Jon Hodgson P.E. (Forest Engineer) notifying me there is some discussion on removing the last three fire towers on the forest. The reason is the maintenance and up keep (which amounts to a five year inspection, so far). I have been invited by the CNF to be part of the discussion on what needs/should be accomplished with these fire towers. To remove a fire tower will cost about \$20,000 x 3. Sixty thousand dollars should cover one hundred years of inspections. But I also know that no one ever climbs two of the fire towers, but the fire tower located at Blackduck, MN is visited. Yes, I would like to see all three remain for history, if it is just the cost of an inspection and some maintenance. Over the last ten years the NEW District Rangers that come on the forest start inquiring about the fire towers and it never goes anywhere. I think the Blackduck fire tower should be transferred from fire control to recreation and if this transfer takes place, then maybe some money can be allocated to fixing the fire tower up for visitors. As it is now, the Blackduck fire tower is not "Advertised" at the local Ranger District. (yet) Jon has invited me to his office for talks about the fire tower, he is seeing if from my stand point, but also has a job to do. I hope to be invited to other discussions on this issue by the CNF.

