

Iowa Firefighters Association

Board of Directors' Meeting

Sunday, September 9, 2018

Waverly, IA

Present: Marv Trimble, President; 1st VP Jim Shutts, 2nd VP Gene Evans, 3rd VP Nick Riley, 4th VP Jason Barrick, 5th VP Chuck Raska, Past President Bill Halleran and Executive Director Amber Kephart.

The meeting was called to order at 9 a.m. by President Marv Trimble.

Resolutions # 1:

An addition was made to the agenda to add Terry Beek from Washington National Insurance under Goods of the Association.

To the members of the Iowa Firefighters Association, assembled here in Waverly, Iowa on the 9th day of September in the year 2018.

WHEREAS: The city of Waverly and the Waverly Fire Department have given the warmest welcome to our 140th annual convention and have been outstanding in their support of this convention meeting;

WHEREAS: We ask Chief Dennis Happel to convey this resolution of appreciation to all the residents and the City of Waverly for their hospitality;

WHEREAS: Many hours of hard work were put in by the Waverly Fire Department to make this a successful convention;

THEREFORE: Let it be resolved that this resolution be passed by a standing ovation from all members present at this annual convention meeting of the Iowa Firefighters Association.

Respectfully submitted by the Resolutions Committee

State Fire Marshals Office- FM Dan Wood:

Dan thanked everyone for having him. FM Wood discussed the open positions, they are not new positions. They have 2 fire inspector positions open, in Northwest area and one in central Iowa that will be to help catch up on school inspections. They are 7 to 8 years behind on inspections. FM Wood stated that this is not for lack of working, their staff is working very hard, they turn out about 4,000 inspections a year; including fire work inspections. There is also a building inspector position, 1 employee left for a better job. The last job available in the Fire Marshal's Office is a Plan Review position.

We are in our 2nd year of fireworks. The first year we did 646 licenses, this year we did 791 licenses. Things were better this year for our staff. Last year we only had about 13 days to get ready and this year we opened the system in March. Nothing came in in March or April with the bulk coming in in May and June. Funds that come in from the licenses go to pay the people that do inspections, goes towards software and a fireworks grant. Only 12 departments statewide put in for that. There is getting to be a good amount of money in there. The grant period for next year will open in May and has to be turned in by June 30, 2019.

Fire Service Training Bureau- FM Dan Wood

Currently, the FSTB Chief spot is still open. They were able to obtain more money through the legislature with the help of the IFA. We have advertised the job with 28 people that applied for that position. Due to rules they have to rank them in some sort of ranking order. 5 of them were interviewed. Nobody is going to take that job at 53,000, so he asked for more money. Wood was able to offer the very top of the pay scale. They don't have the job yet, they have to go through the background check, but it has been conditionally offered to an applicant and Wood is hopeful that mid to late October they will start.

In the field program they have switched to Essentials 7 which is expected to be out the 1st quarter of next year, so they will transition from edition 6 to edition 7 for the curriculum. They will be producing the Hazardous Material for first responders 5th edition curriculum by the end of this year. Classes are starting to pick up as they head into fall. If there are any prop concerns, please send them to Russ Grossman. There are 3 Fire Schools left this year; CITA, Tri-State and NATA. If you have any NFA Class requests send to Jim Kenkel. 2019 class planning is underway, any suggestions should be forwarded to Jim Kenkel. There will not be any hands on or live fire skills other than ice rescue. FSTB will host 1 or 2 live fire weekends.

They are working with ISU to get computer based testing. They are using Media Defined, last contract pieces are coming together with ISU. ISU is doing this for no cost. The goal was to get this going by end of the year.

Iowa Fire Chiefs Association- Duane Hendrickson

Duane thanked everyone and the IFA Board. He discussed the different things that IFCA does such as support the legislative initiatives of the IFA and they support the IFA Poster Contest by putting it on their website.

One initiative they are working on is partnering with the regional US DOT Pipeline and Hazardous Material Safety Association to where they are looking at more effective pipeline training for safety and awareness. They have formed and Iowa Pipeline Initiative that consist of representatives from IFCA, Iowa Pipeline Association, man pipeline operators, FSTB, Iowa Homeland Security and region haz-mat response teams and they would like support from the IFA such as a board member or a member of the Association. They will also be reaching out the Iowa Professional Chiefs Association for a representative. Everyone's input will be crucial to the training going forward.

Iowa Society of Fire Service Instructors-

December 1 at the Fire Service Training Bureau with a guest speaker. His presentation will be on Transforming a Trend into a Culture, The Why and How of a Model Training Program and after there will be a membership meeting, after lunch the West Burlington Fire Chief, Shawn Ryan will do a presentation on Training Beyond Minimum Standards.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Rob Tharp from La Porte Fire with a second from Rick Schmidt from Lo Moor Fire.

Executive Directors Report:

What a wonderful first IFA Convention! I want to thank my board members for helping me along and keeping me as stress free as possible. They each stepped up and answered any questions I had and addressed all of my concerns. Wendy has been such an amazing asset since I took over in January. Any question I have, she is right there to help me and guide me. Knowing how concerned I was about my first Convention, she took time out of her schedule to come to Waverly Friday night to help me with drill assignments and on Saturday to help with drills. It was a great experience and I look forward to 2019!

The last several months have been busy with getting all of the membership current, paperwork done, printed and ready for Convention along with the day to day office work. I will be getting ready to send out the 2019 membership and getting ready for our next board meeting at the end of October. I will attend the CITA Fire School at Kirkwood at the end of September. We will also be hosting a Convention drills round table on Sunday, November 18 at 10 a.m. at the Story City Fire Department. We ask that each department limit their attendance to 2 members. We will be having a round table discussion to address the declining participation in the convention drills. If you have concerns, thoughts or ideas we encourage you to attend.

I have worked with our lobbyist, John Pederson to draw awareness to our Political Action Campaign (PAC). The funds raised will go to support candidates from any party for political office. PACs can provide an added benefit to a legislative program that includes the grassroots efforts of the membership. They provide another way to support your legislative champion. Legislative champions are valuable to our association, having a PAC gives you much needed access when working to pass or defeat legislation. Our PAC is highly regulated. The IFA PAC was set up a few years ago and is managed by the IFA Board of Directors. Now that the PAC is set up we need to start adding to the fund. Every dollar helps, especially in this election year.

I worked a shift at the State Fair Hall of Flame! What a wonderful experience that is! I got to spend 4 hours talking to children about what to do in the even there is an emergency and calling 911! We talked about their plan with their family if their house is on fire, where they go and that we do not go back inside the house for any reason. I plan to go back next year and I strongly encourage you all to do a shift or more! Those kids look up to you all and a lot of them want to be just like you!

The Poster Contest packets have been sent out to fire departments and schools. Please, start working with your schools to push that and advertise it. What a great way to get kids involved in fire safety and prevention. If you did not get information on this, please let me know and I will get it to you! You can also find it on our website.

Just another reminder about the Cancer Registry form that was sent out. I have not received many of these back. We are working with the University of Iowa for this registry. IFA is working hard to try and collect important data about the effects of our profession. The National Cancer Institute in partnership with University of Iowa is collecting data about cancer clusters in our state. They have not conducted an "occupational" report and are most interested in helping us achieve data based on occupation instead of location. I sent out an email regarding this a couple of months ago and have not had a great response. Please, if you would get them filled out and sent back to me, I would appreciate it. If you have not received this form, let me know and I will get it to you! It is also on our website.

1st VP Jim Shutts:

I would like to start with a big thank you to Chief Dave Happel and the whole Waverly Fire Department. You Folks have provided us the members of the Iowa Fire Fighters Association with a great time even though you have been dealt a very bad hand of cards.

Since Midyear meeting a lot of things have happened. Marv, Amber and I accompanied by Past President Roger Bissen Our N.V.F.C. representative went to Washington D.C. to meet with our United States Representatives and Senators. I was truly amazed at that town. We met with several Representatives and Senator Grassley, Senator Ernst was back in Iowa when we were in Washington.

June came with the Iowa Firefighters Memorial. Then Nothing till August when Marv, Gene, Chuck and myself went to Ankeny Iowa to meet with the Iowa Department of Transportation. We discussed making it easier to renew your Firefighters License plates. I will Let President Marv Trimble explain this further. Then came the State Fair Hall of Flame Booth set up. I was also able to work a shift. If you have it in your ability to work the Hall of Flame this is a very fun thing to do, teach fire prevention and safety to young folks. Convention Has been fun and I hope that in the coming year that we can achieve some of the goals that we didn't get in last year. The LOSAP or retirement bill that we have been working on for several years is a big one. The bill to clean up the language in protecting firefighters, EMS, and Law enforcement is a priority. These bills could greatly benefit this Association and many other people in Public Safety.

2nd VP Gene Evans

I would like to thank Waverly, Chief Happel and the community of Waverly. There has been nothing but good comments. I would also like to thank Rob Edgar for keeping social media posts current. Since our last meeting I have given out a couple of service awards. I went to Lake Mills and gave out two awards for retirees that had greater than 20 years of service. I also went to Calmar and they had an unusual retirement, with six individuals retiring. The longest length of service was 48 years. Between the six of them they had a combined of 229 years of service to the Iowa fire service and their community.

We have had some tragic deaths in Iowa with firefighters recently. I spoke with our Chaplin, Todd Edeker over the weekend, he and I are going to put our heads together to come up with a packet and get that information to every fire house in Iowa.

I would like to thank John and Cyndi for their hard work at the Capitol. They work tirelessly to promote our cause. They have been at Convention all week to work on the Poker Run to raise funds and awareness for our Political Action Campaign (PAC).

In 2 days it will be the 17th Anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. I would ask that you put all flags in your community to half-staff. Also, remember in your prayers those that are still suffering.

3rd VP Nick Riley

Welcome to the 140th Iowa Firefighters Convention meeting. I would like to start off by saying thank you to Chief Happel and the entire Waverly fire department for their hard work and perseverance during the week. Rob big thanks go to you for keeping us all in formed on Face book. Also a thank you should go out to the guys in the tractors and their owners, when I say that we are all taking a piece of convention home with us I mean that literally!!!

Since our memorial meeting I haven't done much but I'm looking forward to going to Marengo on September 11th and presenting 10 awards.

Bill and Marv thank you for your leadership as I have progressed through this experience. Marv you have 1 year left and Bill you have about 1 hour left, again thank you to you both.

4th VP Jason Barrick

Thank you to Waverly Fire Department and the community of Waverly. I have not done a years of service award for a while, but I did recently attend a funeral for a member from Belmond Fire Department. This gentleman had 58 years of service on this department. He had served as Chief for a while.

I would like to thank everyone that volunteered to help with drills. We cannot do drills without them. It was mentioned that it seems the numbers are down for drill participation. We are putting our heads together to get those numbers up. If you have any questions or concerns please address someone on the board or drills committee.

I went o the Hall of Flame for set up and tear down. It was a great time. Thank you to Rusty and Ashley for doing that.

Bill sparked my interest for joining this board, and I would like to thank him for that phone call. Being on the board for a short two years has been a humble experience.

5th VP Chuck Raska

Congratulations Waverly! You have done a great job hosting yet another successful convention of the Iowa Firefighters Association. It's been a pleasure working with all of you over the past year. You have a great group of volunteers, a beautiful city, fire station and museum. You all should be very proud of your accomplishment as you overcome mother nature's wrath.

I'd also like to congratulate all the teams that earned an award over the weekend and thank you to everyone for participating in the drills and the parade. Also, to the men and women that make the drills function, you did a great job keeping everything running smoothly.

I stand before you today one year into my term ready to begin me second. I have met many great people throughout the past year and learned a lot about how the board functions. This year I intend to work on our memberships. I will be calling and meeting with non-member depts with the intentions of building our membership. I also intend to spend some time meeting with some businesses to discuss the affiliated membership.

Past President Bill Halleran

Huge shout out to Waverly Fire Department for another eventful Fire Convention. Chief Happel and the guys did an amazing job with the weather we were dealt again. A special shout out to Rob Edgar and the rest of the Waverly Firefighters for being there with any questions I may have had as well as financially supporting my Mid-Year event held in Coralville for the auction items.

This will be my last Iowa Firefighters Association article; I'm both sad and happy knowing that my time on the board is coming to an end. I have been very blessed to work with amazing and

dedicated individuals over the years. We went into every meeting with the Firefighters of Iowa on our minds, what can we do to help them?

I have made many new friendships, both in state and throughout the nation, as a result of being on this board. I was also honored to travel to Oklahoma City for the National Benefits Summit as well as Washington DC to represent the Firefighters of Iowa and talk with our legislators about our wants and needs.

I need to say thanks to many of people who helped me during my tenure on the IFA Board. First and foremost, I want to thank my wife and family. Amy has been a rock throughout this whole endeavor and was always there when I needed her. From meetings to events, she was always willing to assist. I did miss some of my children's events due to being on the board, but they were very understanding knowing that Dad was doing something very important to him and the firefighters in the state.

I would like to thank the Iowa Firefighter Board members I have worked with over the years. We have formed strong bonds and amazing friendships over the years and I feel very blessed to have been voted on the board years ago. It has been very rewarding and humbling to serve alongside these men and women.

In closing, I ask all of you to please be patient with the board when it comes to issues whether it is the Fire Service Training Bureau, Legislation, attending length of service events or whatever may arise to work with us. With us being a perpetually moving board, it takes time to get acclimated in the Presidents role and to get your feet underneath you. Sometimes we get the requests to do knee jerk reactions and slam our fist on the table to demand something, but it doesn't always work that way.

Thank you for this opportunity and as always, let no man's ghost return to let him say his training let him down.

President Marv Trimble

Thanks to the Waverly Fire Department and Chief Happel for providing the best convention possible given the circumstances. I know spirits sank as the rain gauge rose, but you all persevered

I want to thank my sweet young bride Michelle for her support during the last 6 years and especially this last year. Thanks to my families here. My son, Kenny and his fiancé Molly and my daughter Bethany and her husband Christopher Wheeler. I said families, that's plural. I am also referring to my Garrison fire family. They have also supported me during my time on the board.

Next, I want to thank the board. 1st VP Shutts, 2nd VP Evans, 3rd VP Riley, 4th VP Barrick, 5th VP Raska, Past President Halleran and Executive Director Kephart. This board has been there with me all year and been there even when I couldn't be. I missed Firefighter day on the hill due to mandatory city wide manager's training. Thanks again to the entire board for your support and efforts on behalf of the IFA.

I want thank Rusty Hockman, Ashley Whitson (Hockman) and Amber for their work organizing the Hall of Flame. Thanks also to the volunteers who helped with set up and tear down. Two

years in a row we loaded the trailer in the rain. Thanks to the firefighters and their families who worked the booth this year. Please put it in your calendar to help next year.

Skylar Lemkemann, our IFA attorney, had some ideas on how to add to our immunity under Iowa Code section 670.4(11). We included this in our legislative priorities for 2018. We had some support until the Iowa Trial Lawyers opposed it. The language was not changed. Since then we have lost the immunity we had before due to an Iowa Supreme court case Kershner v. City of Burlington. Skylar submitted an article about this last month. We are going to have to work very hard to get the immunity back.

Gene and I attended a meeting at Skylar's office to discuss the immunity issues. We had 5 law enforcement groups and the I-chiefs, Pro chiefs, pro fire and IFA representing the fire service. Each group is now prioritizing their issues and we are going to choose what specific issues need attention.

We met with the DOT in Ankeny to discuss the FF plate renewal. Tim Allen from the DOT called Thursday to say they are drafting an administrative rule change to remove the need for notarization. Then the fire chief can sign the forms in advance and hand them out at meetings.

Credentials Report:

Adair 31, Alta vista 18, Anamosa 33, Asbury 35, Atlantic 45, Belle Plaine 41, Buckeye 19, Dunkerton 22, Dyersville 37, Edgewood 26, Eldora 31, Epworth 61, Forrest City 45, Garner 33, Garrison 31, Gilman 8, Granger 12, Grinnell 43, Harlan 70, Hawkeye 23, Hills 24, Holland 19, Iowa Falls 39, Jewel 22, Key West 30, La Porte City 24, Le mars 61, Low Moor 17, Madrid 38, Manchester 38, Maquoketa 39, Mechanicsville 27, Monticello 41, Nashua 26, New Hampton 31, North liberty 50, Oelwein 58, Osage 46, Polk City 53, Radcliffe 24, Renwick 13, Raymond 13, Sigourney 31, Sloan 40, Steamboat Rock 18, Stuart 38, Traer 34, Tama 53, Van Horne 15, Walker 22, Waverly 40, Webster City 26, Wellsburg 26, West Des Moines 46, Williamson 14. Total cities 54. Total votes 1830

Proxy/ Absentee Report- Rob Tharp:

There were 29 total towns filing proxy, 921 total votes, 894 votes for 5th VP, with 1 vote being spoiled due to incorrect name. There were 891 votes for convention city 2020 and 2021 with 1 spoiled.

Drills Committee- John Novak

No report to give. Marv did report that we purchased new valves from Kent Claussen with Akron Brass. There were no complaints with the valves this year.

State Fair Committee- Rusty Hockman:

No report

Memorial- Mike Reuman

Next year will be the 25th Anniversary of the Iowa Firefighters Memorial. Joan made a timeline of the inception of the Memorial with history and pictures. We are looking to publish this. There is a dvd about 15 minutes long with photos and music that we will sell at Mid-Year and Memorial

service. We will be designing a new challenge coin to sell for the Memorial. There has been a lot of work going on behind the scenes getting ready for the 25th Anniversary.

Legislation- John Pederson:

Thanks for all you do to support your local fire department and the IFA.
A special THANK YOU to the Waverly Fire Department for hosting another great convention. Even though Mother Nature was not cooperating the Waverly Fire Department and the many volunteers did everything possible to make sure everything went off as planned.

We are gearing up for the next legislative session. This is an election year so many things could change after the Nov 6th election. Currently the Republicans hold both chambers and the Governors office. We can't stress enough about the importance of knowing your candidates and seeing where they stand on many issues pertaining to fire safety, training, and any laws that protect the work you do day in and day out for your communities.

Last year the Senate Republicans voted to take away your \$100 tax credit. Thankfully it did not pass in the House. It is legislation like this that you need to make sure they know you are watching. Keep this in mind when you go to vote in November. We want legislators that support firefighters, with their actions not just talk.

If you do not know who the candidates are in your district please take the time to find out or email us: Pedersonconsulting@gmail.com.

We are working to grow the PAC so you will continue to hear about this especially at convention in Sept and Mid-Year in April. The PAC was set up many years ago but we need to grow it and start funding it to make it work.

At the 2018 Waverly Convention we hosted a poker run and made a good start to supporting the efforts of the PAC, thanks to everyone who participated.

If you missed the fun and want to make a donation please send to Amber Kephart at: akephart@iafireassn.org

and note "PAC donation" in the memo area. It must be a separate check, not combined with any other IFA money. These funds help to support candidates who support volunteer firefighter issues. Just think what we could do if every IFA member sent at least \$1.00!

As your lobbyists we have been to many candidate fundraisers talking to them about the needs of all volunteer firefighters. They are very interested but they also need to hear from YOU! A simple email, coffee mtg or call will let them know you are concerned and are doing your homework before you vote.

We have made progress working with the Iowa DOT regarding the license plate renewal process. They have agreed to treat it the same way as the EMS renewals. In short, this will eliminate the need for a notary and should make the process easier for all. They need to make some administrative rule changes and go through all the red tape but the wheels are turning and will be in effect soon.

We are now meeting to develop the 2019 legislative agenda but we will definitely be working on the Length of Service award again and have already met with many key legislators. We also will be working on the tort liability immunity language, keeping training dollars, and we are

protecting the tax dollars that support volunteer firefighters. A more comprehensive list will be coming.

Please get your data turned into Amber for the Iowa Cancer Research project. This is valuable information to help the safety of firefighters and we can't get there without data. Your information will be protected.

It was great to meet many of you at convention, have a great fall and most of all, BE SAFE OUT THERE!

NVFC- Bob Platz

I was not at the meeting in Washington this Spring. The firefighter and EMS helpline is 1-888-731-FIRE, if anyone is contemplating suicide you call that number and someone will help you. It is available 24 hours a day. There are a lot of posters that can be hung at your fire stations. Cancer is another big issue. Jim Seabe who was a firefighter for Washington DC Fire Department as well as Chief for a smaller department. He started a committee that is working hard to record what firefighters are dying from. NVFC has a list of 10 items that you can do to help prevent cancer. I am stepping down from NFVC as well as Dyersville Fire Department. I have been on this board for 19 years. I will continue to help with grants. Marv Trimble will be taking my place on the NVFC board.

Other committee reports:

Election/ Installation of Officers:

A motion was made by to move all officers up one position and fill the 5th VP position by and 2nd by Jeff Gore of Eldora. All in favor. No oppositions. Mike Rueman from Traer nominated Roger Carr from Holland for 5th VP. No other nominations were made. Bob Platz made a motion to pass a unanimous ballot to elect Roger Carr into 5th VP, Kirk Rice from Iowa Falls 2nd. All in favor. No oppositions.

Roger thanked everyone. He promises to work very hard for the fire service

A motion by Marv Trimble was made to suspend the IFA Board meeting with a 2nd by Gene Evans.

Marv Trimble made a motion to nominate James Shutts as President of the Iowa Firemen's Foundation and Gene Evans as Vice President, Jason Barrick 2nd. All in favor. No oppositions.

A motion was made by Chuck Raska to adjourn the Iowa Firemen's Foundation, Nick Riley 2nd.

New Business:

None

Selection of Convention City 2020/ 2021

Phil Summers from Gilmore nominated Grinnell for Convention City, Kirk Rice from Iowa Falls 2nd. No other nominations. All in favor. No oppositions.

Good of the Association:

Terry Beek with Washington National Insurance gave a presentation on their product and asked the board to consider partnering with them in the future. For every individual they meet with Washington National will give \$1 back to the IFA and \$2 back to the fire department, whether you buy or not.

A motion by Dan Reisetter from Radcliffe was made to adjourn the meeting, 2nd Tom Campbell from Panora.

Meeting adjourned at 11:24 a.m.