

Minutes of Iowa Firefighters Association
Mid Year Business Meeting
April 13, 2019
Coralville, Iowa

The meeting was called to order by President Jim Shutts at 10 a.m. Honor guard presented the colors and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

John Lundell, Mayor of Coralville, welcomed the members to the City of Coralville and thanked everyone for attending. The Marriott has just undergone some renovations. Mayor Lundell mentioned that this is the 25th Anniversary of the Iowa Firefighters Memorial. Mayor Lundell and his wife are the ones that update the memorial website. Mike and Joan Reuman collect the information and send the biographies to the Lundell's and they update the information on the website. Coralville's Fourth Fest this year will be celebrating the Coralville Fire Department's 90th Anniversary. For those staying overnight tonight Coralville Fire Department's pancake breakfast will be tomorrow morning.

President Shutts announced that credentials will close in 10 minutes.

Resolution #1- Mark McNees

To the members of the Iowa Firefighters Association assembled here in Coralville, IA on this 13th day of April in the year 2019.

WHEREAS: We would like to thank the Coralville Marriott, the Coralville Fire Department, the Mid Year Committee and the citizens of Coralville for their gracious hospitality.

THEREFORE: Let it be resolved that this resolution be passed by a standing ovation from all members present at this annual Mid Year meeting of the Iowa Firefighters Association. Respectfully submitted by the Resolutions Committee.

Guests:

Iowa Fire Chiefs Association – Duane Hendrickson

On behalf of the Iowa Fire Chiefs Association I'd like to thank you for letting us be a part of your Mid Year Conference. Part of the Iowa Fire Chiefs Association mission is to support the management of Iowa fire departments, specifically volunteer fire chiefs and officers by providing resources, guidance and education to accomplish that. What we often don't say is that the biggest asset that we have in the Iowa Fire Service today is the Iowa firefighter. All these efforts that we do are supporting the Iowa firefighter. I often say, "We can respond to emergencies without coming from the newest building. We can respond to an emergency without the latest, most up to date apparatus. We can even respond to emergencies without the most high-tech turnout gear. However, it's a little hard to respond to an emergency without a firefighter." That is the most important part of what we do and we want to support that. We're all lucky to be part of a team that does support that. That team being: the Iowa Firefighters Association, the Iowa Fire Chiefs Association and the Iowa Association of Professional Fire Chiefs. We all try to get together and with one voice support initiatives that help the well-being and safety of our firefighters. Part of that team is also Fire Marshal Dan Wood who day to day accomplishes his mission, which I like to say in today's political environment, "with one hand tied behind his back". But he is an integral part of that effort to support firefighters as well. With this team's effort and the efforts of Fire Marshal Wood

we were able to fill the position of the Bureau Chief of the Fire Service Training Bureau. If any of you have talked to John Kraemer you'll understand in a very short time that he does have vision, he does have energy to get us back on the path of making the Iowa Fire Service Training Bureau a premier icon in the fire service training aspect. I'd also like to personally thank the muscle behind this team, and that is the Iowa Firefighters Association, in the persona of their officers, the President, the Vice Presidents, the Past Presidents, Amber, John (Pedersen) and his associates and Skylar (Limkemann). This is the muscle for the initiatives, we like to support them, but they are the ones that spend the time at the capitol and these are the ones that continue the legacy. If there are "red coats" at the state house everyone knows that the fire service is there to do business.

Muscular Dystrophy Association – Jillian Harper:

Good morning! I really appreciate you guys letting me take a few minutes of your time this morning. I know many of you know quite a bit about MDA and participate with our Fill the Boot program every year. For those of you that don't, we'd love to talk to you guys so let me know. MDA is the leading non-profit health agency dedicated to finding treatments and cures for Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, ALS and over 40 other neuromuscular diseases. We help families by focusing on two areas; innovations in science and innovations in care. Innovations in science help our families by putting money towards research. In MDA's history we've actually put over \$1billion towards research for our families. Since 2016 there has actually been 6 new drugs approved by the FDA for diseases that we cover. The most notable of these is for spinal muscular atrophy. Even 2 or 3 years ago if a child was born with spinal muscular atrophy their parents were usually told "they may walk" or "they may talk" but essentially take them home and make them comfortable. Now there is a new treatment out there for these families if a child is diagnosed with spinal muscular atrophy at birth they can start this treatment and they will essentially show no signs of ever having this disease. This is the kind of science that is coming down the pipeline because of you guys filling the boot and making this possible. The other area is our innovations in care. While our families are waiting for those treatments to come down the pipeline we want to provide the best care possible for our families. We do that in a couple of different ways. One is providing a multi-disciplinary care center at the University of Iowa. Families from all over the state travel to the University of Iowa to receive treatments and in one day can see all of their doctors instead of making repeat trips to Iowa City which is very helpful for families in far northern or western Iowa. Another part of our innovations in care is education and advocacy. There are a lot of misconceptions when it comes to muscular dystrophy. Some people think if you just use your muscles more, they will get stronger. That is completely false and most of the time that weakens them faster. We do a lot of education in schools for children and a lot of education even in the work place for our adults living with muscular dystrophy. We also do a loan closet program. Medical equipment is not cheap as I'm sure you all know and so we have a loan closet where families donate equipment to us and we loan it back out to families that need it at no cost to them. Last but not least is our summer camp for kiddos. If you've ever been out to camp you know how great it is. If you haven't been there it's in June. Come on out and tour the camp and go to the activities with the kids. There is a huge water fight. Monticello and Olin bring their fire trucks out and spray the kids and it's pretty awesome. If you ever want to come out it's a really great way to see the Fill the Boot dollars at work. Camp is all about fun but it's also a way to help these kids grow in their confidence and their ability to advocate for themselves without mom and dad being around. It's a really great place. That brings me back around to Fill the Boot. This year is a special anniversary for Fill the Boot. It is the 65th anniversary of the firefighters filling the boot for MDA. In 65 years firefighters have raised \$650million. We would not be able to do all of the services that I just mentioned without that money being raised. You guys are our largest national sponsor. You go out every summer in hot weather, cold weather, rainy weather it doesn't matter you go out and do it for us.

I can say “thank you” but I can’t do it as well as my friend Logan who made a video specifically for firefighters to tell you a little bit about his story.

Jillian showed a video of Logan and his family telling about his struggles and how MDA helps them. They thank everyone for participating in Fill the Boot.

State Fire Marshal – Dan Wood:

Inspections Bureau: Two new inspectors came on board in January. Those were not new positions, just positions that had been open for a very long time that they were finally able to fill. The Inspections Bureau is 7 – 8 years behind on school inspections because they don’t have enough people. They do approximately 3500 inspections a year, but there are not enough people to meet the code needs. They could use more employees to catch up on the schools, day cares, assisted livings, jails and prisons.

Arson and Explosives Bureau: This has been a pretty high year for fatalities so far. There have already been 24 fire fatalities for the year. Last year at this time there were 18. Two years ago there were 56 fatalities statewide which was the highest since 1983. About 2/3 of the fire deaths so far are attributed to heating.

Legislative bills: HF 711 would put \$100 per year into a retirement fund for volunteer firefighters. That is still alive. SSB 1113 was introduced by the propane gas association and would give the Fire Marshal’s office 3 inspectors and a supervisor to inspect propane installations. It would all be paid for by the propane gas association through fees that they would charge people to use the propane. That is still alive. SSB 1042 requires schools to consider recommendations from DPS relating to development of quality emergency operations plans. HF 9 has to do with electricians and a licensed electrician only needs to be on site for 25% of the day. HF 67 was basically putting carbon monoxide detectors in all commercial buildings. SSB1035 was for fireworks and taking all local control away from the cities.

HSB 193 cities can cite city codes, counties can cite county codes for fireworks violations so that money can go back to the cities and counties.

The Revolving Loan Fund – Fire Service Training Bureau takes care of this account. Departments can apply to get loans for equipment. The account currently has \$656,160.00 in it. You are encouraged to apply for a loan the next time that is opened up for applications.

Fireworks Fund – Money brought in from fireworks goes into a fund. The Fire Marshal’s office pays their bills for the enforcement of fireworks code out of that and the remainder is put into a grant fund that departments can apply for grants from that for equipment to fight fireworks fires and educational materials regarding fireworks safety. There is \$397,874.07 available without any 2019 money in there yet. Registration opens for that May 1st. Please apply.

Fire Service Training Bureau – John Kraemer was at FDIC so comments were provided by SFM Dan Wood.

There are no new positions. They do have 2 retirements; Linda Thede and Carl Link. Both of those positions have been approved to be filled.

All of the ISU services as far as accounting, acquiring equipment, paying field staff, etc. has now been moved to DPS. Everything is through DPS now. ISU was charging 8% for every dollar that went through there so this is a cost savings of close to \$5000 per month as there will be no cost for having DPS do these services.

The lease on the building went from \$60K to \$112K and rumors are it is going to increase to \$180K this fall. They are researching new facility locations.

IFSAC accreditation has been maintained. The Pro Board certification is still in process.

In 2018 at the training bureau 1375 certifications were awarded, 487 classes were provided, 2130 written exams were administered, 917 practical exams, 691 free retakes, 1546 took written exams and 562 took practical exams. The breakdown for certifications were 276 FFIs, 324 FFIs, 486 HazMat Ops, 65

Driver/Operator Pumpers, 34 Driver/Operator Aerials, 110 Instructor I, 1 Instructor II, 48 Officer I, 16 Officer II, 6 Inspector I, and 9 Investigators.

Essentials 7 is now out. It will all be in one book now so HazMat is not going to be in a different book. They will be going through and making sure the test questions are all good and then they will start teaching at the 7th edition level.

In 2017 they received an AFG grant. They have bought 6 trailers which will be filled with first due engine equipment and be positioned throughout the state. They've also bought a car fire prop that can be hauled around and 2 pickups to haul the trailers around the state. They are waiting to see if they have been chosen to receive a 2018 AFG grant.

The different associations were well represented at Firefighter Day on the Hill and there were a lot of discussions about the raising of rent at ISU and the possibilities going forward.

The Fire Service Training Bureau was put there for the fire service many, many years ago. At some point they started charging rent. For many years it was at the \$60K mark and now it is up to \$112K with talk of it being raised to \$180K this fall. They are going to have to look elsewhere. They would like to stay in central Iowa to keep the current employees. They have been working together with the associations and trying to figure out what different possibilities may be.

IFA Attorney - Skylar Limkemann

Skylar discussed some recent developments in laws pertaining to emergency responders in the state.

- Critical Incidents – particularly emergency vehicle collisions – one big issue they are finding right now is departments are not educating their firefighters, EMTs, police officers on what to do if you are involved in a motor vehicle collision. Skylar has had a paramedic and a sheriff's deputy in the past 2 years charged with crimes related to vehicle collisions involving emergency vehicles and they were successfully prosecuted. The deputy's squad car camera was off by 4.8 seconds and the way video works you have a sound package and a video package. Because of the crash it was damaged and when they played the video it looked like he didn't have his lights on when he went into the intersection. He was t-boned at 55 miles per hour and airlifted to the hospital and the state patrol charged him with a crime. After he plead no contest it was ultimately determined that the camera was off. For those of you that don't have cameras in your fire apparatus it's going to be a he said, she said. The important thing to know is, if you are involved in a motor vehicle collision it is a criminal investigation. That is very key. You can be charged, and if you are charged and successfully prosecuted that has insurance implications but it also has liability implications. First, exercise your right to remain silent. After making sure you are o.k. and everyone else is o.k. do not say anything to anybody. The second thing to do, call Skylar. He gets called day or night, usually by law enforcement. His cell phone number is 319-899-8040. Call him day or night and he will happily provide you with legal advice and explain the process of what is going to happen going forward.

Another area of concern with these critical incidents is a lack of knowledge of emergency vehicle operations. This year as part of their ambitious legislative efforts they tried to put additional provisions in the code to provide better training, protections and immunities for emergency responders. They had 2 bills that ultimately got split up. One of those bills was concerning emergency lights and the other one was concerning all other aspects of emergency driving. Some of the things that those bills did include allowing volunteer fire chiefs to be on the same page as career fire chiefs so you could actually operate red and blue lights and siren. That was not currently in the code. Some of the other things it did were to provide protections for emergency vehicle operators so if you were involved in a collision the plaintiff would have to show you were driving recklessly before they could prove you liable in a court of law. Those bills

are pending in the House of Representatives. The single biggest thing you can do to help is contact your House members immediately and encourage them to pass this legislation today. If this legislation doesn't get passed and you are involved in a motor vehicle collision you can be held liable. They can try to get the damages from you personally, out of your pocket. They can try to come take your house, money from your kid's college account, etc. but if this legislation is passed you would not have to pay anything. Iowa law currently requires your departments to provide insurance for you and to defend you but if they can show that you were reckless then they can get punitive damages against you and insurance does not pay for punitive damages. It is absolutely critical that this year we get these bills passed in the House and get them sent off to the Governor.

Another key provision was allowing volunteer fire departments that are not municipal departments (volunteer fire associations, non-profit organizations that provide fire protection, EMS services) to have the same immunities under the Iowa code a municipal fire department would get. Today as it stands there is a legal question in Iowa as to if you are operating services through a non-profit corporation whether you have any immunities under the Iowa Code Chapter 670. This has been worked on since 2013 and has been through the Senate and is pending in the House. We need people to contact the House members to get this on the bill calendar and pass this legislation. If that legislation passes emergency response immunity will provide the same coverage for municipal departments as it does for non-profit corporations. The vast majority of fire departments and EMS organizations have a non-profit corporation associated with their department and the immunities are not there for those departments. They are trying to clean up these issues in the code.

- Non-profit Corporations – Skylar commented that they've seen a lot of state auditor investigations of volunteer fire departments. There have been a lot of irregularities with financials. This is a huge issue right now in Iowa that may lead to criminal prosecutions, that may lead to civil liability, that may lead to fire departments or EMS organizations closing their doors. This is a very big problem. Two or three years ago the state auditor was at the Volunteer Fire Chiefs Workshop. If you have one of those non-profit associations, Skylar's recommendation to you is to transfer delivery services to the municipality because they get the better protection and immunities and use your non-profit association for your fundraising, your waterfights and that kind of stuff. That is an absolutely critical aspect right now. Make sure someone is actually going through the books, has receipts and is documenting things appropriately. It's great to have an accountant, someone that knows numbers well and can hopefully keep things in line because if the state auditor comes in and investigates not only do you have a PR nightmare you have to explain to the public why there was mismanagement or irregularities or someone was embezzling. It doesn't look good for the fire service. Skylar is hoping to present some of these at fire school in the future. If you have questions, again, you can call him and he can walk you through some of this.
- Another issue that is really big right now is educating our firefighters on their legal obligations and requirements. We're not doing enough training to educate our firefighters on what the law is and what they can and cannot do under the law. We've been trying over the last few years to develop a program that does that but Skylar just going out to fire schools will not educate all the firefighters. Departments need to be taking the training to their firefighters on the current issues of the day. There are policies and procedures that a vast majority of departments have that have not been updated for over 10 years. This is a huge problem because the first thing they are going to do when you are sued is they are going to come in and they are going to hold up your policies and procedures and say it says this and you didn't do this and they are going to

try to hold you liable. There are some protections and immunities for that but those policies and procedures need to be updated.

- What can you do to protect yourself? One of the benefits that the IFA provides is John and Cyndi Pedersen and they've been doing a great job at the capitol. It's been a very difficult year there. Another benefit is you have Skylar to contact if you have questions about legal issues. What you can do to protect yourself today though is: Improve your department's training, document that training, get certified – if you take the FFI course but don't have the certification it is much harder to defend you and if you have people teaching your classes that are not certified Fire Instructor I or Fire Instructor II that is an issue because it comes back to what their qualifications are to teach. That makes it extremely hard for Skylar to defend those cases in court and he has several of them right now. Get certified, provide the training, if you need funding there are many grants out there. If you have a Walmart in your community they provide a lot of money each year through Walmart Community grants, there is SAFER, AFG and tons of other grants out there to help you get some money.
- Insurance is another topic Skylar discussed. If you have a municipal department you may have heard of Iowa Communities Insurance Pool, some people may have EMC or Continental Western Fire Pak. Know who your insurance company is, have a relationship with them. Some of these insurance companies provide free resources for departments to use and utilize. If you do have an incident that happens with your fire department you don't necessarily have the right to pick who your attorney is, but you can go to them and say you would like this specific attorney and you can have someone that is familiar with the fire service and EMS that is defending you when it comes time to go to court. Make sure you are insured to appropriate limits. Skylar had a department that lost a lot of air packs recently in a fire. None of those air packs were insured. They had not actually gone through and added those as a line item on their insurance policy and that was \$65,000 that wasn't insured. You need to be sure your equipment is properly insured and that is insured for the appropriate replacement value, not cash value. A ladder truck could be \$1.2 million and if it's insured for \$600,000 and is involved in a collision who has another \$600,000 to replace it?

These are all things you can take back to your department and hopefully make sure all of the bases are covered.

Approval of minutes of Convention Meeting held in Waverly, IA on September 9, 2018. Motion to approve was made by Al Muhlhausen, Maquoketa. It was seconded by Tom Campbell, Panora. Motion carried.

Executive Director's Report/Financial Report – Amber Kephart

Since convention, other than doing the day to day office work of paying bills, entering memberships, updating addresses, sending off newsletter information and handling calls and e-mails regularly we hosted the States Networking Meeting in Johnston. The IFA hosts surrounding states and we all get together and we discuss key issues and we all seem to have similar issues. We had our January budget meeting which was hosted in Sigourney. The Sigourney Fire Department was very accommodating as several of the IFA board members attended Lt. Hosette's funeral and they provided supper for us. I sent out the 2019 membership mailing. I sent out 660 of those for departments and 1,170 individuals went out as well. That took quite a bit of time getting all of those stuffed and mailed out.

A couple of months ago we had some website issues. The background kind of went down and I didn't know what was going on but we got that fixed and the website is back up and running again.

If you could all go that website, off to the left-hand side you can sign up for e-mails. Any time that John and Cyndi are at the capitol and we need to do a call to action they contact me and I send out those e-mails. Right now that and social media are the best ways that I can reach you on a quick matter so if you could do that, that would be wonderful. When those e-mails come through please open them and look at them. If you have questions let me know. I've also obviously mailed out everything for Mid Year to all of the departments as well. We hosted Firefighter Day on the Hill and our attendance was kind of low as far as firefighters go so we are hoping to have that attendance up for next year if possible. The more presence we have from our members the louder our voice is. The board, Skylar and John and Cyndi do an awesome job but you are the voice as well.

Next week Jim, Gene, Marv, Roger and myself will be going to Washington, DC. We have meetings scheduled for the whole time that we are there. We will be there for 4 days. We have meetings scheduled with all of our representatives to discuss our key legislative issues. One thing that we decided at our January budget meeting was that we were going to move our budget to our fiscal year so I don't have a proposed budget for you guys for that reason. It will be at our June meeting. I'm going to go ahead to the financial report now.

The total current assets for the association is \$436,475.60.

President Shutts asked for a motion to close the association meeting. It was motioned by Roger Bissen, Harlan. Second by Ellen Hagen, Jewell. Motion carried.

Dan ? from Radcliffe made a motion to open the meeting of the Iowa Firemen's Foundation. It was seconded by Cliff Renslow, Stuart.

Amber: The current assets of the Iowa Firemen's Foundation is \$74,968.54.

Gene Evans made a motion to approve the Iowa Firemen's Foundation financial report. It was seconded by Chuck Raska. Motion carried.

Nick Riley made a motion to close the Foundation meeting. It was seconded by Roger Carr. Motion carried.

Motion to re-open the meeting of the Iowa Firefighters Association meeting was made by Duane Hendrickson, Jewell. It was seconded by Pat White, Grinnell. Motion carried.

Audit Report: Gene Evans

As Amber mentioned earlier we've moved the budget meeting from January to June to be in line with our current fiscal year. The board has had a work session and we've also moved the audit report to the fiscal year ending June 30th, so our audit report will be given for approval at our convention meeting in September. Now that we've done that all of our business is on the fiscal year, July 1st – June 30th. We'll do an audit of all of those months up to and including June 30th of this year for approval at the convention meeting.

Mark McNeas, Atlantic – I have a question, not on the audit part, I understand that. But, we switched over the fiscal year for the budget to make sense because otherwise we were voting in April, and the members have to vote to approve the budget, so we made it a fiscal year so that you are having your budget meeting in January, setting your budget and voting on it now. You'll be lucky if 6 people are at your meeting in June. It should be done, and should be voted on now. You need to have a proposed budget at this meeting. You can have an audit at the end of the fiscal year and approval at convention but not the budget. That needs to be voted on here for the coming fiscal year.

Gene: Even with incomplete year to date data?

Mark: That's for the audit, not for the proposed budget. You put the proposed budget out every year of what you think income and expenses are going to be. We should be voting on the proposed budget for this upcoming July – June.

Roger Bissen, Harlan: To add to what Mark is saying, I totally agree. When we were on the board the fiscal year was from January 1st – December 31. We were voting on the budget in April. We were already 4 months into the year by then. That is why we changed it so we would vote on it at the Mid Year meeting with the budget then starting July 1. That way it is approved prior to the start of the fiscal year. That is why we changed the fiscal year.

Someone else also stated that budget has to be voted on at a business meeting, either Mid Year or Convention. So if you vote on the budget at convention you have the same problem you had in the past. You are voting on a budget for a year that's already started.

Mark: So it needs to be now. The budget has to be approved at Mid Year. For the audit, that doesn't matter. It can be done later so that you have the entire fiscal year finished.

Gene: There was perhaps some misperception, misunderstanding on our part.

Following some discussion Amber was asked to put what budget figures she did have from January meeting together to be voted on as the proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year. The meeting was adjourned while she put that together.

The meeting was called back to order and Amber projected proposed budget on screen for the members to review.

Total proposed income: \$232,806.66
Total expected expenses: \$250,719.30
Net income: Negative \$17,912.64

Motion to approve proposed budget was made and it was seconded. Motion carried.

Credentials Report: Brian Platz

Alden – 22, Atlantic – 45, Belle Plaine – 41, Bellevue – 38, Breda – 25, Chariton – 27, Colesburg – 22, Dyersville – 67, Edgewood – 26, Eldora – 31, Forest City – 45, Garner – 33, Garrison – 31, Gilman – 8, Grinnell – 43, Guthrie Center – 46, Harlan – 70, Hudson – 37, Iowa Falls – 39, Jewell – 22, Manchester – 38, Maquoketa – 39, Martensdale – 25, Mechanicsville – 27, North Liberty – 50, Osage – 46, Panora – 31, Radcliffe – 24, Redfield – 19, Sigourney – 31, Solon – 40, Stuart – 38, Tama – 53, Traer – 34, Waverly – 40, Wellsburg – 26, West Des Moines – 46. Total towns – 37, Total votes – 1345.

Officers' Reports:

1st VP – Gene Evans:

I'd like to start out by thanking the City of Coralville, the Marriott, the Coralville Fire Department, and all the persons involved in this Mid Year meeting. You have our gracious thanks for helping to make it a success.

I have just a few comments. John and Cyndi will be coming up here in a few minutes. The legislative agendas in Iowa are complex to say the least. We have excellent legislative lobbyists. Skylar does a tremendous job of helping us to draft legislation. Our intent is to make things safer and better for the fire service of Iowa. I would plead with you when the calls to action come out to e-mail, call, knock on their door, or ask them in the coffee shop all of our Senators and Representatives, please do so. We are nearly a 15,000 voice association. If one of those voices is at the capitol they will look

at you, if they start hearing hundreds or thousands of voices they will definitely sit up and pay attention. Again, everything we do is trying to make things better for the emergency services and when the calls to action come out please, please, please respond to them. It takes 2 minutes to shoot an e-mail off. We're trying to do a better job of including hyper-links to those players we are trying to reach out to so that all you have to do is click on it and it populates your e-mail. We're also publishing some "canned" verbiage and you can feel free to personalize that but please reach out to these legislators, it is the only way that they know we have the weight behind us that we definitely have. If we are buzzing in their ear they are going to pay attention.

I'll touch briefly on the Fire Service Training Bureau. We are in constant contact with Fire Marshal Wood about his wants and needs and perhaps one of the options is to move elsewhere. We are exploring that. A consortium of the players in the state are meeting with the ISU administrative team. The lieutenant governor directed us to meet with Ms. Wintersteen and she saw fit not to meet with us but we are meeting with some of her key people in her administration and we're going to act as that arm that is tied behind Dan's back because he is limited by the unfortunate politics of state government and we're going to act as his voice to make sure the training bureau has an adequate facility and it will be at a reasonable price. If we need to move, we need to move. That extra \$60K is how many firefighters that can't be trained? We'll keep you posted as to that progress. It was brought up at the convention committee meeting that because of the change of the days of competition we are probably going to need a few more drill officials. Perhaps some of the people that have just come on Saturday or come for the day to officiate won't be available on Friday. If you've ever considered or definitely thought you might want to be a drill official please start letting Amber know. It's rewarding, you get a cool hat and a small stipend check. We are usually still scrambling on the morning of competition to find more drill officials. So please take a look at your schedules and see if you might be able to help us as a drill official.

The last thing I want to talk about and I'm sure John and Cyndi will address this also, those of you that are old like me may remember back in the 70's Jim Beam came out with a series of commemorative liquor bottles. John and Cyndi have graciously donated one that is the old Iowa Firemen's Association bottle. I recall people standing in line to buy them. As an effort to raise additional funds for special projects we are reinstituting that program. Beginning this year each past president will be in charge of coming up with a commemorative bottle and a liquor of his choice that will be sold as a limited edition bottle of spirits. The owner of Templeton Rye has partnered with another business partner and they are running a small batch distillery in West Des Moines called The Foundry and they have graciously offered to do our small batch runs for us. This year Past President Trimble has chosen the design. The Garrison Fire Department photo is behind the Maltese Cross. On the back of the bottle is a photo of our Protection Through Time statue and the names of all the past presidents from the beginning through Past President Trimble. We have reservation forms for them. They can't just be sold because of liquor laws but we have reservation forms and each bottle will be \$50. They will be available at convention. We're thinking there will be about 500 bottles from our batch of vodka. It is vodka this year because it was a short term. I believe Jim is going to have whiskey and I will have whiskey and we will get those orders in soon so they will be an aged whiskey of our choosing in a commemorative bottle. This year the funds are earmarked to go to our PAC fund. John and Cyndi will elaborate on that. In politics we have our friends in the legislature and as you know we are not by any means a large donor to these people but a contribution of \$100 or so to their campaign helps to reinforce the bond that we have with some of the key players that help us on a day in and day out basis. The profits from this year's sales will be for that and in future years we will tag special projects.

We've had the honor of attending several funerals in the past year. That is part of the responsibility of the board. It is very moving support that the fire service gives to our fallen comrades.

One last thing, I was approached yesterday by the folks from Gilman and their wives are making a koozie quilt that will be raffled off at convention and the proceeds will go to the burn camp. They need 350 koozies. If you have department koozies or old convention koozies you want to donate get them to Gilman FD.

2nd VP – Nick Riley

Good morning everyone. I'm going to keep mine short and sweet. We have the memorial coming up June 8th and 9th. We had a memorial committee meeting. I won't take much of Mike's thunder but they have some special things since it's the 25th. If you've never attended one of the memorial services, please do. The candlelight service is always the night before. That is one of the coolest things that I have seen. Please make an effort to attend. If you have guys on your department that don't even know about it, bring them. It's really, really cool. With it being the 25th, I got to talking to Jim, and Coralville has taken care of this for 25 years and we decided that we are going to have the mayor do the welcoming. He was previously on the Coralville Fire Department and he loves the memorial. We want to give him the recognition that he deserves.

The Iowa State Fair is coming up August 6th will be the setup at 5 p.m. The fair runs the 8th – 18th and tear down will be the 19th at 5 p.m. I believe Ashley is taking care of that. It's pretty cool watching the kids come in.

3rd VP – Jason Barrick

Good morning everyone. Thanks for being here. Thanks for taking your time and showing your support for the IFA and the board up here. Since our Deep River meeting as it was mentioned we had our Firefighter Day on the Hill. I kind of went out on a limb this year. I'm not much of a chili maker or chili eater but I did throw what little skills I have into making 10 gallons of chili for that. It got eaten and nobody got sick that I know of. That's not me. I don't do things like that. Des Moines helped us with that. We have kind of gotten away from a competition and turned it just into a feed. If you have that date free next year I strongly encourage you to come.

Fire School in Ames, I want to thank the FSTB for that. They had some differences this year with not having the 2 day course. Some reasons I heard for that were a little bit of attendance but more so to maybe advertise their props more to get them out and about. With the props you can bring in county wide trainings and work with your mutual aid departments. Up in Iowa Falls when we had our ice jam we sandbagged for 6 hours and then they called us to sandbag another location. We put out a county all call. It was very rewarding and I was excited to see my fellow county firemen show up and help us and I knew those faces. There was not a stranger in the crowd and it's easier to work with things like that.

With Firefighter I, we recently did a FFI class in Hardin County. We are going to fine tune that a little bit more but I would again like to give kudos to the FSTB and Mr. Howard on the way he has that set up. It was hard for me to sit there and watch 2 of my students fail their first skills test on very simple things that they forgot to do and one was as simple as he forgot to turn his air on, but I guarantee you those 2 students went home, they studied and they will not forget that ever again. But that was tough for me to watch because they didn't even get to do the rest of their day, their day was over right then and there. Our line of work as you all know can be dangerous if things are not taken seriously so that skills test the way they have it set up is a little tougher on the students but I think it is in their best interest.

4th VP – Chuck Raska

Good morning everybody. Over the past 6 months since convention a lot of you know my main focus was to work with the drills and try to make a few improvements or changes to those. Back in

November we met in Story City to discuss some issues that we've experienced with the drills over the past few years. This meeting went very well. I feel we all left there with great intentions on improving the drills. After the meeting we reviewed all of the comments, sorted through the possibilities and presented a rough draft to the drills committee for their review. At that point over the next 3 months or so through multiple emails and some phone discussions we scratched out what we thought needed to be done and the final draft was published back in March in the Iowa Firefighter and has been shared on Facebook and different ways. If you haven't seen it, we do have some copies of it. The main focus during that whole process was to clear up some language, make a few minor changes all while maintaining the integrity of the drills as we know them. That was a key component to what we wanted to accomplish. I hope you have taken the time to review the proposed changes and I appreciate the comments and opinions that we have received throughout this process. I'd also like to thank all of the drills committee for their time on this project. They were instrumental in keeping us from repeating past mistakes that had already been tried and failed. It's funny, I'm fairly new to the drills but have been around the fire service for 20 years but ideas just keep coming back. You try to make sure you don't repeat those things. I was surprised by a couple of things that came up and they said, "Yeah, we've done that and it did not work." So I really appreciate the drills committee for being a part of that. Their knowledge of the drills is really and truly amazing.

Recently I've had the pleasure of presenting two years of service awards to firefighters from both sides of the state. One was for 35 years and one for 44 years and they were both retiring at that point. As I presented these awards I thought of the changes that these men had seen over the years from the volunteers and equipment to the rules and funding. These two firefighters were from opposite ends of the state. One was from a big city, one from a rural department. Most likely these two guys were never to meet. But as I visited with each of them they both shared some of the same concerns and views. It doesn't matter if you're from east or west, north or south, the Iowa Firefighters Association is here to provide a voice for these people and all of you at the capitol, at the training bureau anywhere that you feel there is a concern. We sit here in front of you to hear your voice so we can present it.

On another note, down at the capitol a couple weeks ago John Pederson was presented with a Pioneer Lawmaker Award for his time and his dedication to the capitol. This award was presented to him from the Senate and the House. They chose him. That is truly an honor for John. I was glad to be down there and be a part and watch him receive that award. He does a great job for us. With what happens there it would be extremely difficult for us without them being there.

A couple weeks ago I went to the Chiefs Workshop in Ames. It went well. You guys on the Chiefs board you guys do a great job down there organizing that and keeping things rolling. I thought the speakers were very good. Thanks for doing what you guys do.

5th VP – Roger Carr

Welcome everyone. First of all, 6 months ago I received an order, so I am going to fulfill my obligation at this time and ask anyone that has never attended a Mid Year meeting before to please stand. Please give them a round of applause. After the meeting is over, please stay for a moment so we can take a picture of you.

I've been very busy trying to learn the ins and outs of being a member of this board. I've been to many length of service award presentations. I do thoroughly enjoy giving out these awards, meeting new friends, reminiscing with the old ones and the best part is just sitting and BSing with the firefighters after the formalities are over.

My first time attending Firefighter Day on the Hill was a very eye opening experience for me. I had no clue the work that goes on behind the scenes when I was sitting out there like you. In the back of

my mind I guess I always thought somebody was doing something. I appreciate those that do and kudos and accolades to John and Cyndi for what they do for us. Thank you.

I would like to say to those of you that voted for me to be here I am humbled and honored to fill the trust you placed in me. For those of you that didn't vote for me, I will work hard to earn your trust and respect. I need to thank Past Presidents and the current board for their encouragement and advice that I've received doing this. I have been listening and I do appreciate what you've told me and asked me to do. I will end this with, if you are thinking about running for 5th Vice President, do it! I did it to pay back what the fire service has done for me and in the process I have discovered that what I have learned and what I have experienced has been truly amazing so far and I am very excited for the future of the fire service of the state of Iowa and the IFA participation. Thank you.

Past President – Marv Trimble

Hello everyone. I'd like to thank you for coming here. I'd like to thank the Coralville Fire Department and the Chief for being here and for all the work you've done for the memorial. I appreciate all the help you gave me last year since I forgot some stuff last year.

Since the budget meeting I've spent a few days at the capitol with John, Cyndi and Skylar. They are great assets that we have right here.

I got to go up to Osage and give Gene a 30 year award. It was a great honor for me to be there. I got to go up and meet his department and it was a great honor.

I went to Ames to the FSTB for Carl Link's retirement and I got to look through his scrapbook. He has a picture of every department he has delivered a prop to. That was quite something to see over 35 years every department he has delivered a prop to and on the map he has a green line on every road he has traveled. Except for a little corner in NW Iowa he's been everywhere in the state.

I thought long and hard about what I wanted to talk about here. This is my last Mid Year report and what I want to talk about is something that was brought up to me a few years ago by a battalion chief. He said the best thing a manager can do is train his successor. So what I want to do is talk a little bit about being on this board and being a 5th Vice President. It's a seven year commitment.

That sounds like a lot of time. But when I look back on it, it really wasn't that long. It's one step at a time. It is a time commitment; there are some things to do beyond meetings. But really, we meet 7 times a year; you have some prep to do before hand. You get to go to the capitol. You get to meet a lot of people. Roger mentioned his first Fire Fighter Day on the Hill. I remember my first year in my first article after that I wrote, "We've all heard the term 'playing politics'; those guys are professionals. They know how to do politics down there." Just keep that in mind. It is a time commitment, but the seven years flies by. I swear it seems like yesterday I was giving Roger's speech. Like Roger said, it's paying back to the community, it's paying back to the fire service family that we have. He told me he was a little nervous being up here. I said, "You should be. It is a big deal, but all these faces out here are familiar. We're all family. It's no different than standing up at a family dinner and making a toast." To all of you, thank you. It's been a fun ride.

President – Jim Shutts

I would like to start off with a big "Thank you" to the people of Coralville, the Coralville Fire Department and the Coralville Marriott for extending their great hospitality to the firefighters of Iowa.

Since convention I've had a pretty full plate with years of service presentations, many emails and questions, problems to try to solve of which I have to say I have a great board to help me solve many of those tasks that have come before me. I can't praise them enough. Gene, you are the eloquent speaker of the group. You always know the words. Nick, you're always thinking of good ideas. Jason, you too are a thinker and always seeing both sides. Chuck, is always the level headed, calm voice of

reason. Roger, you have seasoned the board well with your knowledge. Marv, you are a great calm voice in the storm also. I could not ask for more fantastic officers. There is one more that I have to give praise to and that is Amber. You have made the job of Executive Director yours through lots of learning and solving problems on your own and you're starting to have that magic wand to make stuff happen or just a call or text or e-mail. Keep up the good work everyone and there is no limit to this board. I would also like to recognize John and Cyndi Pederson. You two are the best lobbyists that any organization could have. Later in the meeting John and Cyndi will report on the efforts at the capitol this year. You guys are awesome. Skylar Limkemann is also an awesome asset to this board.

Today we are also coming to the results of the drills round table meeting. I had Jason and Chuck run with this task and they got this done professionally. There were many great ideas that day. The final decision is in, you the members, hands.

I would also add that the two worst things I had to do this year were go to fire department funerals. There is nothing that can prepare you for that and I'm sure many of you already know that. I wish I could say it never happens, but it does.

I'm just so proud to be here today. Thank you.

Committee Reports:

N.V.F.C. – Roger Bissen and Marv Trimble

Roger –One of the sub-committees that I serve on is the Communications and Technology Committee. I talked about this last year, going forward with new radio technology and cell phone service. If you heard of FirstNet and AT&T you know they are building a network out here in the Midwest and it's designed for first responders. You will see and hear more of this coming in the future. They are building more towers in the Midwest. For years we've heard that Verizon is the ultimate provider out here but AT&T is coming around and they are building the network. We are going to have a higher priority as first responders on this. We may not notice on a day to day basis, but if you look back like on the wildland fires and Verizon in California, it's not a problem until you have large groups responding to wildland fires and then they start throttling back on the amount of usage you can do with data. This won't happen with FirstNet and the AT&T network. When you start to hear more and more just remember the network is being built and it's going to be geared to first responders.

The HazMat committee is another committee I serve on. Federal abuse across the country is the key focus on that. Until we get a handle on that it is going to continue to be a problem.

Another committee I serve on is the Wildland Committee. Right now the federal government is putting \$18million toward community risk reduction. This was all triggered off the California campfire that happened last year. They are putting money towards communities so they can actually do mitigation for those that live more out in the mountains, to make their homes safer, to give them a buffer zone between the forest and their house.

Another new program coming out is Anheuser-Busch is coming up with a Water Drop program. This is free canned water for firefighters responding to wildland fires. With me being on the subcommittee I am the point of contact for Iowa and I signed up Iowa as someone that would participate in this. I have committed Harlan to a few pallets of canned water. You can get anywhere from one pallet to a semi-load of canned water. Anheuser-Busch really wants to be out there and supporting the firefighters fighting wildland fires. I talked to several people last night and there was quite a bit of interest. I can give you the link and you can sign up and let them know how many pallets of water you would want. If we get a number of departments around the state that are willing to do this then if someone is fighting a wildland fire someone can get canned water to them. It's a good program to be involved in. If you are interested let me know.

Last fall, Marv and I drove to Bismarck, ND for the fall conference. That was Marv's first meeting and we drove so we had a lot of time to talk things over in the car. I think Marv is going to be a great asset as we move forward.

As Amber mentioned we're going to be heading to Washington, DC for the spring conference which is April 25 – 27. The fall conference is going to be October 23 – 25 in Augusta, GA.

I just want to mention some other programs and Bob Platz has mentioned this over the years as he was a long time member serving on the NVFC, Health and Safety, Recruitment and Retention, for those that don't know since Iowa is a member of the NVFC we can apply for the MSA Globe Giveaway. We also have a program called Share the Load. We know there is a lot of stress for first responders and firefighters and NVFC has this program to help with that type of stress in your life. Just get on the website and look at that and if there is anything there that will help you please use it in your department.

Membership drive - We talked about how we go to the capitol and we are a strong voice here in Iowa when we talk about how many members we have in our association. It's the same thing with the NVFC. They are fighting for us in DC on a daily basis and if we can build their membership and their numbers it just helps us at a national level when we are fighting for bills at that level. With us as Iowa being a member state, you can still have department membership and you can have individual membership. Just by becoming a member of the NVFC there are many benefits such as an AD&D benefit that you get automatically with your membership. The bigger the numbers we have for NVFC the better we can do fighting for bills at the national level.

Thank you for allowing me to represent Iowa on the NVFC. Thank you.

Gene Evans – As some of you may be aware our partner with American Income Life in the past have used some rather unscrupulous sales methods, has literally harassed members asking for information on their life insurance policies. We've had many, many complaints from across the state. After meeting with them and them telling us they fired this person or another person and we're going to fix this the board took that under advisement. Unfortunately due to our past experience with them and the fact that we had addressed these aggressive sales techniques with them in the past and there was no resolution the board decided as a unanimous vote to drop our affiliation with American Income Life. Those of you that have individual policies and our paying a premium for additional coverage, your coverage will remain in effect as long as you choose to continue to pay that premium to maintain that policy. As of this point in time, the free AD&D coverage is no longer in place. We are currently negotiating with other vendors, one of those is Washington National Insurance who has visited with us at several meetings to reinstate that as a free benefit. But based on the complaints, their aggressive techniques and their failure to keep their promises we are severing our ties with ALL.

Memorial Committee – Mike Reuman

Good afternoon. Thirty years ago at an IFA meeting in Dyersville I brought up the idea of a memorial and on June 9th we will be having the 25th anniversary memorial service. I was told by the fire marshal at the time that it was a great idea but he didn't think it could get done. I said "If the firefighters of Iowa want a memorial, it will get done." Thanks to all of you it's here because of all the work that we've all done.

June 9th is the 25th anniversary. We'll have the candlelight service on Saturday night. If you are coming down for the weekend we have a block of rooms at the Radisson which is next door to the memorial. Ask for the block of rooms for the Iowa Firefighters Association so you get a little break in the price.

Joan wrote a book, "The History of the Iowa Firefighters Memorial". We have them with us today. If anyone wants one come and see us after the meeting. They are \$25 and any profits left over go directly to the memorial. We also put it to a DVD so there are just pictures and background music to go with it. There are pictures of before there was anything there, there was a hill. These are \$10 and again any profits will go to the memorial. We will show the DVD when the meeting is done. We had a window decal made "Iowa Firefighters Memorial – 25th Anniversary". If anyone wants those they are \$3 and we had a new t-shirt designed and brought some of those along also. Thanks a lot to everyone. I hope to see you in June.

Dave Zimple –

Ladies and gentlemen I have a resolution duly noted as Resolution #7.

To the members of the Iowa Firefighters Association assembled here in Coralville, Iowa on the 13th day of April in the year 2019:

Whereas we would like to thank Mike and Joan Reuman for their 30 years of dedicated leadership and direction of the Iowa Firefighters Memorial located here in Coralville,

Therefore let it be resolved that this resolution be passed by a standing ovation from all members present at this annual Mid Year meeting of the Iowa Firefighters Association.

Respectfully submitted by the general membership of the Iowa Firefighters Association.

Legislative Committee – John and Cyndi Pederson

Cyndi - It's been great working with the board and all the support that you give us at the capitol every year. This year there was a high number of newbies or freshmen legislators at the capitol and we were in a Senate Transportation meeting and the chair of the meeting was going around the table having the legislators introduce themselves and where they were from. He explained the process and then said they'd go around the "dark side" and introduce the rest of those in the room meaning the bottom-feeding lobbyists like ourselves. When it got around to John, he has a new name at the capitol, because he said "I'm that ray of sunshine in the dark side." He is now known at the capitol as "Sunshine". Earlier this year the board was down for a nice resolution for the two firefighters from Clinton. It was a very nice, moving event. I would also like to thank the board and Bob and Ellen Hagen for coming to John's Pioneer Lawmaker Award. It was a great honor. He is one of 9 children and all but two of his sisters made it to the event, including his 93 year old mother. We also hear the board talk about the length of service awards and things they do outside of these meetings and one of the representative's, Jane Bloomingdale's, 35 year old daughter died of cancer and Gene and John and I went to the funeral. So there again is another thing that your board and members do and it goes to show that while the legislators are down there passing laws they all do have lives too. It was a very moving ceremony and it was nice for us all to be represented there and I know Jane appreciated seeing us there.

One of the things that happened this year that really wasn't legislative but with the DOT was the license plate renewal and I'll let John fill in a little bit about that process.

John: One thing we discovered with this process is that it's always easier to change the rules than it is to change the laws. I've been told by many chiefs around the state that it's very complicated and time consuming effort to get license plates renewed and prove that you are a firefighter in good standing. We asked for rules to be changed and they have been. They will take effect this month so chiefs will not have to have the individual and a notary and go to the court house there will now be a list at the treasurer's office of every courthouse of the active firefighters to get those firefighter's license plates renewed.

Cyndi: There again we want to thank the board members and the DOT. We had multiple meetings with them to make them understand what a laborious process this was and try to simplify it for you guys.

Amber mentioned the call to actions and we try not to abuse that power but what I want you all to understand is that your legislators work for you. You actually hire them by voting for them or not voting for them. It's really important for you to know who they are and for them to know who you are and to make them understand that you are watching what happens on the hill. I know many of you probably don't want to get involved in your local politics but it is extremely important and it's extremely important for the jobs that you do. Everybody says they are behind their firefighters but when push comes to shove, are they really? That is so important for them to know that you are watching what they do. We are a force of 15,000 and that should make a difference because if everyone in your district voted for or against them that makes a big voting population. You need to meet them. You need to call them. You need to e-mail them. They want to hear from you and it is so important. So if we put out a call to action please take a few minutes, we try to make it simple. We try to make it a cut and paste and please personalize it to your district if you want to. We have 3 bills coming up right now. They have gone through the Senate side 50 – 0 and now they are on the House side. These two chambers are completely different. A couple of these bills have passed 50-0 in the Senate and they are bogging down in the House. What happens when we have a call to action and you e-mail either a list of legislators on that committee that we want you to contact or the floor manager or your own representative when their in-boxes get filled with these e-mails they pay attention. You can only imagine when there are 2000 some bills flying around the legislator every day of the session and they come out to the lobbyists to get the information. We are the encyclopedias and when they don't know something about the bill they will come and talk to us. But it's you that voted them into office that they really want to hear from. If they are getting 25, 50 or 100 e-mails on one topic it brightens them up and they think they better pay attention to this. So when we make that call to action it's really important that they hear from you. The 3 bills that have been through the process and all we need right now is for them to pass the floor debate in the House to get to the governor's office. If you will take a pen and write these numbers down it's really important: SF 442 is the Emergency Responder bill. It has a lot in it. It updates the code as Skylar said earlier there are things that are being done from the 1980's that haven't been updated in the code. Legislators want the code to be clear and concise. There are a lot of things happening today that are not in the Iowa code. Another one is SF 377 that is Tort Liability. You heard Skylar talk about that. You could be personally liable for actions and if you do as you were trained you would be fine under this bill. But without this bill they could take your home, your farm, everything. That is really important. SF 478 – Lights on Emergency Vehicles – We've all had these turf wars about colors of lights and who gets this and who gets that. This clarifies everything. These three bills update policies and procedures of the Iowa Code and protect the work of firefighters and first responders. I will give this information to Amber for her to send on as a call to action and when you get that e-mail please take a minute. We have 3 weeks left. They are set to end May 3. They are doing appropriations bills right now and they are anxious to get out of there. After May 3rd they don't get paid. Three weeks sounds like a lot of time but there is a lot to get done and if they hear from 15,000 people on these bills, it's our hope that it's going to come through. Also, along with your legislator and all of the House of Representatives it's leadership. Representatives Linda Upmeyer and Hagenow are the two majority leaders in the House that will actually be able to get those on the list.

A couple of bills outside of those 3 that we're watching and we've heard from some of you about HSB 165 now HF 773 is a bill establishing budget limitations for counties and cities. Any of you that depend on money coming from your city to help with fire service this bill is a response to property tax reform. They are hearing from their constituents that property taxes are on the rise and what

are we going to do about it so this bill removes the property tax levy rate limitations on the general and rural funds for counties and on the maximum amount of property tax dollars that may be certified for a levy. You need to look that over and talk to your city council and see where your particular fire department stands on that. It could impact you greatly.

On top of that there are two other bills that talk about expanding EMS services. We all want more EMS service in our communities but we want to be able to have the funding to go with it. If they don't have one bill and one vote to expand EMS service and bring money with it it's going to take money out of the fire service and nobody wants that. There are two bills; one that goes through townships and one that goes through counties.

The Length of Service Award we are having a lot of problems with this primarily because no one wants to take it on. We've met with about every department in state government and nobody wants to handle 15,000 accounts at \$100 per firefighter and it's kind of an unknown how many would jump into that and if you don't know what I'm talking about as a volunteer firefighter you can take a \$100 tax credit on your taxes, and I hope you are doing that. What we wanted to do was give you an option of taking that tax credit or taking that \$100 and setting up a Length of Service retirement account so 30 or 40 years down the road when you want to retire from your department you have a little nest egg that you could contribute to throughout those years, the city could have a pancake breakfast and donate the proceeds to that, Grandma could give you a Christmas present and put it in that account, and it will grow and grow. Your bigger financial institutions don't want to touch it because they would probably charge \$100 a year in service fees. We are continuing to talk to departments and trying to find a vehicle to make this happen. Something that came up from other states as I was researching LOSAPS was other states are placing a value on volunteers and cities are setting the criteria for a LOSAP and say when you are on 25 years or 65 years of age and when you reach that criteria the city is giving you a retirement pension from \$165 a month to \$300 a month because they say that is more valuable to them to offer that benefit when you reach 65 than to pay you as a professional firefighter and pay the benefits and all that along the way. Those states have a little bit of insight. We are seeing the stats of how hard it is to recruit and train young firefighters in our communities. Times have changed. People aren't necessarily working in your small rural community. We need benefits and we need perks to get new recruits and people into your communities. This is a longer range plan that I think we need to start thinking about; meeting with cities and counties and talking to them about have you ever thought 20 years down the road and you don't have a volunteer fire department? If they don't start taking care of you, they aren't going to have you so they need to start thinking about what they need to do to keep volunteers.

As Dan said there are a couple of fireworks bills. I'm not sure how far they are going to make it. We have tried to request that the fines go to public safety.

As well as your legislators please talk to your sheriffs and police chiefs. Skylar had a bill this year called the Peace Officers Bill of Rights. Skylar has a unique perspective because he's been in the firefighting arena and now he's on the other side litigating things that happen to firefighters and police officers. We've had some complex bills this year. The Tort Liability bill that I mentioned earlier was a small section out of a bigger Tort Liability bill that would have also protected police and other peace officers but they chose to pull us out of that bill just protecting the firefighters. So we have run up against some of the police and sheriffs in your districts on some of our legislation. They've been invited to the table many times to weigh in and discuss with us what their take is. I just didn't think they took us seriously so when this legislation popped up now they are coming out of the woodwork. I keep saying we are all on the same page, it's not us and them. We are all peace officers together. Please coordinate with your chief of police, your sheriffs in you district and say, "We need to work together and make sure we are all protected and we are all asking for the same thing."

The Justice Budget is coming out on Monday and I think we heard earlier that we are getting a \$50,000 increase in training dollars. We had sent a letter to the governor for \$100,000 but we are happy to get the \$50K as it hasn't been raised in 5 or 6 years. But, with a \$60,000 increase in rent at ISU we aren't even neutral right now.

The reservations for the commemorative liquor bottles, get them in. When they're gone, they're gone. Down the road you'll have a collection of commemorative bottles for each year, you don't want to miss one.

Another thing I want to mention is besides thinking about running for 5th Vice, think about running for your legislature. Anyone in this room has the ability to do that. It's really, really important. We need people like you down there that understand what it means to be a volunteer firefighter. All of these people at the legislature right now have other jobs, they have other professions, but we need more that are in the fire service. If anyone is interested we can connect you to the right people. We can help you in any way that we can. Please think about it. You have the credentials. You can do it.

John: I want to thank Cyndi for all the work she's done for us, keeping the machine running. It's a very complicated world inside that capitol. After 30 years of doing it I want to thank you for keeping us on as your liaison to the legislature because it's very important to us. After suffering through that stroke 25 months ago, I'm very glad to be helping you.

When you talk about the session for next year, 2020, we're already planning for the types of things we're going to be asking for. We're always going to ask for an increase for the training bureau. We need to figure out what we're going to do about that rent. Things pop up all the time that you don't expect and we need those friends, what we call a champion in the House and a champion in the Senate. They are always very willing during Firefighter Day on the Hill to get their pictures taken with you in your coats and have that in their paper but I want them to realize they need to do more than get their picture taken with you, you need to do something for us. Dan mentioned about the grants and I have seen that in my 30 years, if there is grant money there and it's not getting used it will get taken. I would suggest getting your grant applications in to Dan by May 1st.

Scholarship – Cliff Renslow

I'd like to thank the board for letting me do this again. I was thinking this is 10 years now that we've been doing these scholarships. I want to thank the people that apply and the board for choosing them. I'm going to ask Hunter Schmidt to come up. He is the scholarship winner for this year. He's from Long Grove. Congratulations Hunter.

Hunter Schmidt: I just want to say thank you for this opportunity. Every little bit helps when you are in college. This will really help with fulfilling my dream of becoming a career fireman. So again, I thank you and I thank the board for everything.

Convention Committee – Gene Evans

The convention committee met yesterday. There were 20 committee members present. Some of the points of discussion were:

- Waverly made the suggestion to future host cities to not allow golf carts out of the campground. Unfortunately with the Waverly convention they had several infractions with the law and golf carts being where they shouldn't be so that recommendation was passed forward to the upcoming convention cities
- The electrical boxes are somewhat of a constant maintenance problem. We are finding that with them being installed for more than one year critters of all species seem to like to live in them... rats, mice and snakes I've been told. That has created some corrosion and damage to the boxes. There was some discussion as to some measures we could take to "varmint-

proof" them and it might come to a practice of tearing them down in between conventions if we are having cities run for more than one year at a time. The cost to repair isn't real high but they are getting to the point where there is some corrosion that is perhaps going to be structural. They are not exterior boxes and they have probably done pretty well for the number of years they've been in service. There was an individual from Waverly, Jeff Soash, that will look into perhaps some sort of PVC bases to set around them. That is where the critters are getting in and crawling up the pipe and into the box.

- There were some recommendations for some changes to the host information packet. Just some things to update and make it more modern. Mike Ryan has made those changes and will continue that as a work in process so we can provide good information to the perspective convention cities.
- The electrical trailer is pretty much on its last legs. The frame is broken. The roll up door won't stay open without propping it. There are some other problems with that that are going to make it unroadworthy in the very near future. Mike Ryan and Ed Tibbot have been talking to Westside Transport in Cedar Rapids and also we've just learned that there is a contact at Cedar Rapids Steel Transport where they are taking trailers that are about 10 years old off the road and selling them at auction. The Westside trailers are going on auction I believe next week and once they know kind of what the market value is we will perhaps consider buying one of those because they are definitely in better shape than the one we have plus they have hinged doors on the back and not a roll up door. We are looking at a procurement cost of \$2000 - \$3000, so not big bucks and Manchester is working with upcoming convention cities to help spread that cost out just a bit and get a more roadworthy trailer.
- The water heaters were installed in 2011 and they are still working just fine however some of the remote instrumentation and controls ceased working and now you have to fire them up and set the temperature by getting into the mother board and getting into that panel. Again, they are still working just fine. It was recommended that they be flushed prior to their next use by a plumber that is familiar with working with those. We will continue to keep an eye on that.

John approached me after the meeting that he forgot to mention the association needs 2-1/2" hose with national fire thread. If you have 2-1/2" hose that you can donate to the association that is serviceable please get with John and make arrangements to get that to him by convention. He could use 20 lengths of hose so please take that back to your departments and county associations.

The only thing that we felt needed to be brought up before the membership for a vote is that in order to support the convention city, and there are many departments that attend convention and are very involved and provide private entertainment and socialization for our members and some of those are perceived as competing with the host town at their dance. So it is the opinion of the convention committee that the regulation of entertainment be left to each host city and they would have the right to approve or decline entertainment on the nights when the host city is providing entertainment, or have the private entertainment shut down by the time the host city's entertainment starts. The host cities are in it to have fun but the idea at the end of the day is after you pay the heat, lights and water to make a buck and by limiting the private entertainment that would promote folks to go to the dances and provide revenue for the department by purchasing items at the dance. So the **motion would be to give the authority to the host city to approve or deny private entertainment on the nights when the host city is**

providing entertainment that they are paying for. Motion was made by Jeff Soash, Waverly. It was seconded by Ed Tibbot, Manchester. Motion carried.

Hall of Flame – Rusty Hockman

This Hall of Flame project has been going for 12 years. It's been a good venture. We had a very busy year last summer as Ashley got married the end of July and then we jumped right into fair. Fair went well. We were short some shifts. Set up and tear down went well despite some major changes to the grandstand area. We've been hammered a lot about the phone prop being outdated with the rotary dial phone. A couple of gals developed a program for cell phones for their apartment. We implemented that with the help of US Cellular providing us with phones for the whole fair. We had a lot of good comments and it went over quite well. Ashley wanted me to ask if there is anyone here from Polk County departments. You guys used to cover the evening shifts for us and that worked out really well. If we could get you guys involved in taking weeknight shifts again that would really be great. Ashley has already had some calls and welcomes calls and is ready to start signing up shifts. Her last name is Whitson now and her number is the same 515-689-6110. If you want to help with the set up and tear down you can call me at 515-689-0110. Thanks to all that have made this project work so well. A special thanks to Grinnell Mutual. Jim Bagenstos and Ashley have both worked to coordinate all those days for the workers. My nephew Brandon and I try to keep all the maintenance going.

Unfinished business – none

Resolutions – Mark McNees

We have several proposed drill rule changes in resolution form. The first one is

General Rules – Current Rule

2. Participants must be regularly appointed active members of the Fire Department they represent and must be members of the Iowa Firefighters Association.

Proposed General Rule

2. Participants must be regularly appointed active members of the Fire Department they represent according to the records of the IFA and must be members of the Iowa Firefighters Association. EXCEPTION OF DRILL #10 (water application drill) IFA members can assemble a team consisting of members from multiple departments with the nozzle man and one other member of the fire department they represent.

Someone asked for clarification on the position of the second member.

Chuck Raska addressed the question saying that the rule didn't get worded quite the way they intended. As it is written it doesn't define where that 2nd person should go. He asked for opinions on that. Don Scott said he attended the meeting and it was discussed that the nozzleman and the backup be from the same department.

A motion was made by Don Scott, Redfield to change the wording of the proposed drill rule #2 for clarification to read as follows:

2. Participants must be regularly appointed active members of the Fire Department they represent according to the records of the IFA and must be members of the Iowa Firefighters Association. EXCEPTION OF DRILL #10 (Water application Drill) IFA members are allowed to assemble a team consisting of members from multiple departments with the nozzle person and backer being members of the represented department.

Someone asked if a resolution could be amended on the floor. Jack Runge said for the value of what they are trying to do here he thought it was fine to amend and vote on it. Chuck Raska said that the drill rules committee had been informed of the question on the wording of the rule and they had all seen and approved of the re-worded version.

Roger Carr asked if instead of saying nozzle person and backer it could be changed to #1 person and # 2 person.

Don Scott rescinded his motion.

Don Scott, Redfield made a motion to change the wording of the proposed general rule # 2 to read as follows:

2. Participants must be regularly appointed active members of the Fire Department they represent according to the records of the IFA and must be members of the Iowa Firefighters Association. EXCEPTION OF DRILL #10 (Water application Drill) IFA members are allowed to assemble a team consisting of members from multiple departments with the #1 person and #2 person being members of the represented department.

It was seconded by Jeff Gore, Eldora. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Don Scott, Redfield to approve General Rule #2 as amended. It was seconded by Pat White, Grinnell. Motion carried.

The next proposed change is for General Rule #7.

Current Rule –

7. Starters will have full authority on starting drills. Starting ahead of the gun the second time shall disqualify the participant.

Proposed General Rule 7

7. Starters will have full authority on starting drills. Starting ahead of the gun the second time shall disqualify the participant. All starters are to use the same cadence “Judges ready, Timers ready, Contestants ready, One, Two (Bang)”

Motion was made by Kirk Rice, Iowa Falls to approve Proposed General Rule 7. It was seconded by Don Scott, Redfield.

Someone commented that they wanted to get away from the “One, Two...” Chuck Raska said it was discussed at the meeting and it was not going to go away.

Motion carried.

The next proposed change is for General Rule #8.

Current Rule –

8. The judges shall impose penalties as provided in the Rules prescribed for each Drill and shall have the power to disqualify a team for improper conduct. Decisions by the Judges shall be final and agreement by any two of the Judges shall constitute a decision.

Proposed General Rule 8.

8. The Judges shall impose penalties as provided in the Rules prescribed for each Drill and shall have the power to disqualify a team for improper conduct. The agreement by any two of the Judges shall constitute a decision. Decisions by the Judges shall be deemed final when the next team is on the line. A judge's decision may be overturned by the consensus of all officials assigned to that drill. Any team contesting a judge's ruling after the next team is on the line will be disqualified from that event.

Discussion took place as to what constitutes "improper conduct". It was decided that it was judges discretion and something that could be discussed at official's meeting but not something that needed to be detailed in the actual rule. With the agreement of two Judges needed to constitute a decision it should be o.k. as written.

Motion was made by Don Scott, Redfield to approve the Proposed General Rule 8. It was seconded by Rick Schmidt. Motion carried.

Current General Rule 19.

*19. All nozzle connections and coupling connections must show at least three (3) full threads or hand tight, at start or finish of drill, or both where required *WITH EXCEPTION OF DRILL #3. EXPLANATION OF "three full threads or hand tight": Couplings having more than three threads must be connected by at least three full threads. Couplings having less than three full threads must be connected hand tight. No quick couplers allowed.*

PROPOSED GENERAL RULE 19

19. All nozzle connections and coupling connections must show at least three (3) full threads or hand tight, at start or finish of drill, or both where required *WITH EXCEPTION OF DRILL #3. For consistency, the same judge shall check both valves for tightness on drill #3. EXPLANATION OF "three full threads or hand tight": Couplings having more than three threads must be connected by at least three full threads. Couplings having less than three full threads must be connected hand tight. No quick couplers allowed.

Motion was made by Tony Whitmore, Iowa Falls to approve the Proposed General Rule 19. It was seconded by Don Scott, Redfield. Motion carried.

Current General Rule 22

22. Several drills may be run at the same time. If a firefighter or firefighters are participating in another drill being run, ample time will be given them to finish that drill before being up for next drill.

Proposed General Rule 22

22. Several drills may be run at the same time. If a firefighter or firefighters are participating in another drill being run, ample time will be given them to finish that drill before being up for next drill. However, in the event that there are no teams waiting, any available team may compete.

Motion was made by Don Scott, Redfield to approve Proposed General Rule 22. It was seconded by Pat White, Grinnell. Motion carried.

Convention Drill Training Rules

Current Drill Rule #5

OBJECT: Tie three knots as fast as you can.

Contestant starts the event by hitting a remote stopwatch on/off switch and ends the time by hitting the same switch. A judge also times the event for a backup. Contestant ties – bowline knot around post, Clove Hitch around post, and Figure Eight loop knot.

RULES: Association rope must be used; contestant must kneel in front of hitching post. Rope must be laid out length wise with middle of rope in front of contestant. Knots can be tied in any order; contestant cannot touch rope while touching start/stop button.

Judging, Penalties and Disqualifications: Knot should be tight enough that there are no open loops within the knot itself. If a standard marble (5/8 cat-eye) can fall through a loop within the knot itself the contestant receives a one second penalty. Contestant is disqualified for failing any of the three knots. If the rope has to be manipulated to make the knot look right, it is not considered to be tied correctly. The tail of the rope can be either in or out of the loop for bowline knot. Association equipment shall be used consisting of: One Hitching Post 32" x 32" made of 2 ¼ pipe. One 7/16 Kernmantle Rope 14 feet long (PMI Static E-Z Bend), One remote button to stop watch (used for start and stop timer).

PROPOSED DRILL TRAINING RULE 5

5. THE HITCHING POST – ONE FIREFIGHTER

OBJECT: Tie three knots as fast as you can.

Contestant starts the event by hitting a remote stopwatch on/off switch and ends the time by hitting the same switch. A judge also times the event for a backup. Contestant ties – bowline knot around post, Clove Hitch around post, and Figure Eight knot.

RULES: Association rope must be used; contestant must kneel in front of hitching post. Rope must be laid out length wise in a straight line with the middle of rope in front of contestant. Knots can be tied in any order; contestant cannot touch rope while touching start/stop button.

Judging, Penalties and Disqualifications: Knot should be tight enough that there are no open loops within the knot itself. If a standard marble (5/8 cat-eye) can fall through a loop within the knot itself the contestant receives a one second penalty. Contestant is disqualified for failing any of the three knots. If the rope has to be manipulated to make the knot look right, it is not considered to be tied correctly. The tail of the rope can be either in or out of the loop for bowline knot. Association equipment shall be used consisting of: One Hitching Post 32" x 32" made of 2 ¼ pipe. One 7/16 Kernmantle Rope 14 feet long (PMI Static E-Z Bend), One remote button to stop watch (used for start and stop timer)

Discussion was held on the figure eight knot and what the correct description should be for what is being tied.

Gene Evans asked John Novak and Rick Schmidt if we have a functioning stopwatch timer that the contestant can touch. It is still being worked on. It is in Chuck's position right now.

Motion was made to change “figure eight knot” to “Figure Eight on a bight” by Dan Nepple from Radcliffe. It was seconded by Eric Haughey from Tama. Motion carried.

Amended PROPOSED DRILL TRAINING RULE 5

5. THE HITCHING POST – ONE FIREFIGHTER

OBJECT: Tie three knots as fast as you can.

Contestant starts the event by hitting a remote stopwatch on/off switch and ends the time by hitting the same switch. A judge also times the event for a backup. Contestant ties – bowline knot around post, Clove Hitch around post, and Figure Eight on a bight.

RULES: Association rope must be used; contestant must kneel in front of hitching post. Rope must be laid out length wise in a straight line with the middle of rope in front of contestant. Knots can be tied in any order; contestant cannot touch rope while touching start/stop button.

Judging, Penalties and Disqualifications: Knot should be tight enough that there are no open loops within the knot itself. If a standard marble (5/8 cat-eye) can fall through a loop within the knot itself the contestant receives a one second penalty. Contestant is disqualified for failing any of the three knots. If the rope has to be manipulated to make the knot look right, it is not considered to be tied correctly. The tail of the rope can be either in or out of the loop for bowline knot. Association equipment shall be used consisting of: One Hitching Post 32” x 32” made of 2 ¼ pipe. One 7/16 Kernmantle Rope 14 feet long (PMI Static E-Z Bend), One remote button to stop watch (used for start and stop timer)

Motion to approve the Proposed Training Rule 5 as Amended was made by Dan Nepple, Radcliffe. It was seconded by Don Scott, Redfield. Motion carried.

Chuck Raska: In that meeting we also talked about filling that Drill # 2 spot with a new drill. There is a proposal for a new event. If anyone else has a proposal please get it to Jason or I. We can get it to the Drills Committee for discussion. If you have something that is logical and practical both financially and physically we are definitely open to suggestions.

New Business – None

Good of the Association –

Don Scott – The person I am nominating for Firefighter of the Year has been a great friend of mine for over 30 years. This person doesn’t have a normal 9 – 5 job. This person works all the time. This person has been a motivated individual for firefighters, co-workers, athletes. This person travels all over the United States. This person has been a volunteer firefighter for 30 years, had a grandfather that served for 50 and a father that served for 17. He also has a helmet on his desk at work with a tiger hawk on the side of it. He has always supported the Solon Fire Department and the University of Iowa football team. To tell you the truth, he thinks he’s here today to give a speech on fundraising. In his spare time, Greg has had time to marry a great woman Lynn, had two sons James and Jake. For the above reasons I am nominating Greg Morris as the Firefighter of the Year.

Greg – Wow, I’m speechless. Gene Evans got ahold of me and asked me to come here today and talk a little bit about the project we’ve got going on in Solon. I’m just going to say it’s a \$4.3million deal and our fire chief asked me to head the committee and as I stand here today within a year from now my promise to him and my promise to our community is we will have it done. We live in a great place. I’m in a great place. My first fire chief Jim Huber is here today. He got me started and I’m still here. I just turned 58 and I feel like I’m 22. Don knows I tell people that all the time. I’m a very fortunate and lucky individual to live not only in a great place but a great state. I’m going to tell you a quick story about the

power of a hat. We're playing at the Orange Bowl several years ago. I put my Solon Firefighters hat on. The line to get into the place is a mile long before the game. The security guy sees my hat. He stopped everything and said, "Can I talk to you?" So I go to the front of the line and he says, "What's the deal with the hat?" I explained it to him. He said "You're in". He said you don't have to go through security the rest of the day. Anyone that's dedicated like that is a dedicated person. The power of a hat, the power of an organization. Again, Gene you got me. I'm kind of still speechless, stunned and shocked. But from the bottom of my heart to this entire organization I just want to say, "Thank you." Chief Platz, you know I say this often, "It's well worth your time." Thank you.

President Jim Shutts –

Next we are going to do Fire Department of the Year. Roger Carr will come up here and take care of that.

Roger Carr –The fire department of the year is a neighboring fire department to my small home town. The nomination was made by an individual from that department. I'm going to try to remember what he wrote because I don't have it with me. His wife had suffered a fall and some medical emergencies and his department approached him about doing a benefit for him. He said he didn't need the money and if they wanted to do a benefit do it for someone that needs it more than I do. His fire department went above and beyond and basically told him, no, we're having it. They raised a great deal of money to help him pay his medical expenses. They went above and beyond and traveled all over our area collecting money. He made the nomination for his department and the department that we are talking about is Aplington. I don't think anyone is here today. There was a funeral in that area today and I think that they decided that the funeral was more important than the award. That says a lot about them. Congratulations to the Aplington Fire Department.

Gene Evans –

The 20 oz. insulated mugs that we had with the IFA logo, we sold out of them very quickly. We have another order of them in. They are \$20. I have plenty of them here today.

Nick Riley -

The money collected today for MDA was \$466.

Mark McNeas –

The Elks is still our partner with their major project the fire safety trailers throughout the state. It is their safety initiative and they are also trying to expand that by getting some props we could use as well. If you want any raffle tickets for Elks they are \$10 each. You are eligible and your fire department is eligible. I think Marble Rock FD won \$2000 a couple of years ago. There are 2 - \$2000 prizes and \$1000. If you want one get them filled out and get them to me and I will make sure they get them. The drawing is at their meeting at the end of the month.

Aaron Clemons –

Good afternoon. I'll keep this short and sweet, I know everyone is itching to get out of here. I am Aaron Clemons and I have decided I would like to run for 5th Vice this year. I've been a member of Eldora Fire and Rescue for 9 years. I've been discussing with our Past President Jeff Gore for 2 years now and he's been trying to talk me out of it believe it or not. I'd appreciate your vote and I'm looking forward to meeting all of you.

Ellen Hagen –

Todd Edeker, our IFA Chaplain, and Carl Venge who is the pastor of Morningside United Methodist Church have started a Facebook group that is called Iowa Fire Chaplains Covenant Group. I asked at the Chiefs workshop how many departments had a chaplain and I was shocked that only 2 said they did. If you want to tell your chaplain about this group I can get you the information.

Motion to adjourn – Dan Nepple, Radcliffe. It was seconded by Jay Dengford, Edgewood. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

**Respectfully submitted,
Wendy Lensing**