

**Minutes of Iowa Firefighters Association
Mid-Year Business Meeting
Saturday, June 27, 2020 – 9:00 a.m.
Iowa Falls Fire Department**

Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

The Mid-Year Meeting was called to order at 9:07 a.m. by President Gene Evans. The colors were presented, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Welcome & Update details due to Covid-19

President Gene Evans asked that the minutes reflect that due to the state of the Covid-19 pandemic in the world and the Declaration of a National Emergency, the IFA has had to adapt this meeting. The meeting is taking place in June 2020 due to the Mid-Year cancelation in April and the Memorial Meeting. The Bylaws state that specific meetings need to be held but in case of an emergency, modifications can be made. There were no objections to changing the meeting date/structure.

Welcome by Iowa Falls Fire Chief Scott Eisentrager

Iowa Falls Fire Chief, Scott Eisentrager, welcomed the members to the city of Iowa Falls. Thank you to the board for all you have accomplished for the members and thank you to everyone for coming. Have a great day!

Resolution #1

On behalf of our firefighters Association, we would like to thank the state of Iowa Falls, Iowa Falls fire department and the community in general for hosting this meeting.

Scholarship Awards – Cliff Renslow

This year the Board had selected two good candidates. We have been unable to provide them their certificates due to no meeting but will do so as we have been in contact with them. The two candidates are Jerimiah Snow from Anamosa and Turner Soden from Spencer. We have congratulated them both and let them know not to worry just to follow through with what you need to do for the process. Thank you.

Introduction of Guests:

Iowa Fire Chiefs Association – No Report

State Fire Marshal – Dan Wood – John Kraemer will provide the report as State Fire Marshal Dan Wood's daughter is graduating from high school today and quite understandably, he is attending that celebration.

Fire Service Training Bureau – John Kraemer

First of all, I want to thank the Board and the membership for inviting me and to come present some new information for all of you this morning.

I do have the privilege of representing State Fire Marshal Dan Wood as stated, Dan's not able to be here today to family commitment, but I will be giving a brief overview of some large and overall divisional updates that may affect everybody in the room. I will provide an update on what's going on within the vision of the State Fire Marshal and then I'll give my report as well from the fire service training period.

I've created a PowerPoint which covers some of the highlights that Fire Marshal Wood and myself would like to go over. I want to go over some of the overarching activities that the State Fire Marshal's Office is responsible for performing. One of those is conducting arson explosives investigations across the state. They had a recent retirement of one of our agent's Agent Sand out of Cedar Falls, retired back in April. So that position is still going to remain open until we can hire again.

The Fire Prevention Bureau did a total of 3,234 total inspections between state and federal inspections. We had an inspector out of Fort Dodge that retired back in March. We are hoping to be able to fill that position soon. We are going to be transitioning to the International Code Council codes in the fall of 2021. But I think a lot of little will probably be effective January 1, 2021.

Our building code Bureau conducted 673 plans previews and we did have a Plan Reviewer that retired back in December and because of budget constraints that position would not be filled moving forward. That was a

position that Fire Marshal Wood decided to not fill so that my Bureau could hire an accountant and they do fire service specialist system. It was a very difficult decision, but certainly one that had to be made for us in the Bureau in order to sustain and keep those positions actively moving forward.

Our electrical bureaus continue to stay very active and busy. They did over 22,000 inspections in 2019 and again the new 2020 National electrical code will go into effect January 1st of 2021.

Fireworks is always a big topic especially now. We're getting into firework season. There is a letter that was sent to the vendors and to some contractors that do inspections which caused some new rules to be written. So, some of the common rules that we want to remind everybody. Fireworks locations can be open before an inspection can actually be done and that more likely these rules will apply throughout this year and moving forward into next year as well. And then training on conducting firework inspections are being done virtually with Covid now having taken its toll upon our activities and so training will be done using image trend and review 1124 of the NFPA standard and that will those information updates will be posted on YouTube videos. If you go to the State Fire Marshal's website one of our plan reviewers, Michael Lowe has done a great job of updating the inspection criteria for fireworks stands and vendors. If you go to our website, you'll see that video posted so you can get an update as to how those are supposed to be done and performed.

I know that probably John and Cindy Peterson might be reviewing specific to some of the highlights are Marshall Wood wanted to pass out some legislative bills that made it and did not make it through this past legislative session is that House 2463 gave the Department of Public Safety a status quo budget which means our budget within the State Fire Marshal's budget will not change. We will all have the same funding as we had last year. That did pass so most State departments are in that status quo. House Bill 552 dealing with Class C Foams that did not pass. So that's probably to be a bill that will be brought up again next year. A lot of surrounding states, such as Minnesota, Wisconsin has been very active in prohibiting the use of those types of Foams because they're considered carcinogenic or cancer causing and have a feeling it will be brought up again. This will probably keep coming up until some action is actually done. So keep an eye out for that.

Senate Bill 2259 which will remove the liability from Department's Fire, EMS and Public Safety, Police when you donate equipment, there's no fear of reprisal or liability upon you so you can fairly donate equipment to departments and services that really need the equipment to be utilized for their safety and protection.

I'll go through an update, our budget as stated is status quo, however, two new things that affect our budget that would like to share with everybody is that the federal government, FEMA, has reinstated the state fire training brand. That was the grant that we used previously to conduct a lot of our Officer and Instructor level classes. This past year we've had to reduce the number that we would offer by half. And so, I'll be reapplying for the state training. It's that \$20,000 grant that we were very lucky enough to get and our special programs coordinator was successful in getting impact grants for the previous year's. The Feds forgot to file their Grant requests including that last year so that's why it wasn't funded but this year it is. So, I'm happy to report that hopefully will be getting that \$20,000 back. And then also we've had a wonderful use of our fire equipment revolving Loan Fund. When I first started, we had a balance there about \$800,000. We realized not a lot of departments were aware of this zero interest loan and have to report that we have successfully marketed using that fund and we have awarded a lot of applications for that loan and our funding is now well below \$300,000, which is a good sign. So, we want to make sure that people continue to know that opportunity is out there for them. I don't know where you'll find the better deal borrowing money for zero interest so you can find that somewhere else.

Some statistics, our field program conducted several trainings. We anticipate getting our appropriate accreditation back fall or winter after our move. We have 566 attendees, we would have had more, but we had a huge blizzard that was kind of a factor for our attendee decline. We received a lot of positive feedback regarding format moving forward. Everyone remembers when 2018 - 2019 fail rates were very high based on the exam you were taking. Last summer we did an intensive overhaul that would affect training, so we had to look at our instructors, curriculum, exam and also look at the expectations we were giving our students, kind of a contract. Our instructors give their time and talents, so we expect the students to show up and give their time and energy to be successful in the classroom. And so, we did these things and I want to share with you the numbers but remember these are early in the process. I'd like a full year but I'm very excited to see that with the changes that we made the pass/fail rate has so far flip-flopped. Our Pass rate is in the 70% range, which is approximately where normally you expect to see that. Obviously, I don't like people to fail but the realistic reality of doing what we do is that people will fail. Statistically this is more normal, and I think more in tune

with what we expect to see. So again, these are early numbers. I'm very excited. But again, waiting for the rest of you to fall out then I'll be able to present some better numbers as the numbers get higher returns for happiness. So, let's talk about reasons why everybody has heard that the train hours have increased for Fire One. You must learn what is the anticipated number of hours for students to successfully make it through their fire one and exchange and the committee put together an extra 40 hours. Hours, I don't want to punch people that I know that might seem like a lot more hours. Again. This is a quick little step that we're putting out. And so as we get more classes through that construction will get a better handle of how many hours like instructor and class to do that so that our they come down a little bit, but we wanted to shoot for the high end just to make sure we're covering. putting content Why difference between hours while there is a lot for you will see that Firefighters say it is absolutely information; they don't need to know. The EPS for that came together to develop the discontent approaches from what do firefighters need to know versus what they should know. This is the previous decision regarding cancer in the fire service. I've come to learn that what we do is a dangerous job and we are exposed to a lot of bad stuff. There's a lot of Fire Research out there; chapter 4 and also Fire Behavior along with a Chemistry chapter, this chapter is very robust and has a lot of information we need to share with our students. It's all backed up enough to scientific research is why we're doing what we're doing such as transition. There's a lot of information about that positive pressure. When to use it and when not to use it. They found that a lot of people were using tons of crunch improperly and actually causing firefighters to be introduced and actually making the situation worse to stabilize the patient. How do we make sure we don't bring in the harmful products back to our firehouses or your lockers? Then of course, the book also includes the incident command chapters 100-200. So, with that being said October 1, 2020 we will no longer ask anybody to teach any prior essential versions. We're moving ahead. We've had almost over a year where we would move ahead and only be certifying firefighters using just regular; essential 7. If anybody is teaching tips; disregard that because they won't be recognized as the trainer. We have to make sure we're keeping up at the current national standards. And also, with the content that keeps our firefighter safety. Hopefully, they will be very confident doing their job.

Our grants, we have the AFG Grant and we bought six trailers. We continue to do Precision Tools. I'm very proud to say that we're actually at one of our locations - Iowa Falls Regents 2. They were very kind enough to offer their space and the willingness to help store and also coordinating the use of that trailer. If anyone wants to see it, the trailer and all the tools and equipment that can be used for certification tests, that can be used for fire department training, but if there's a piece of equipment or tools that your Department doesn't have they can come and coordinate with Jason and his crew to borrow equipment from that trailer. We will have a vehicle fire prop that can travel across the state to your department to practice.

In 2018, I'm happy to tell you that we will be ordering a fire training trailers. These are 20-foot trailers that store equipment for training. Some of the units have hydrant equipment and tools for training and even fire hydrants on a little scooter. You can roll them out and practice hooking hydrants for your group. These stations are in Sheldon, Iowa Falls, Kirkwood, Red Oak, etc. One perk is that they can be readily available in Iowa and also one will be available at the bureau. And then Southeast Iowa, the Fremont Cedar Township. Our departments are hosting that actually this is a picture of a higher profit. We were testing over receipts it and like I said earlier the Supreme crop that will be used and we're just trying to be good. different evolutions four and also getting to the simulators this will hopefully increase our driver operator classes and determine if you can actually certified driver operators. rather than actual pumps. So crazy councils are currently researching that they'll be able to do that or not because of these coming out. And then we've just received permission through our purchase to see the last part of the service side. We are getting a will brand-new investigate confidence / risk trailer. And this is kind of a mock-up of what I'll have a cage steel cage mates grout it and then the top level will actually have a flat space for people to practice building. all of the inaudible and research techniques distraction, so be the actual smoke that can become prophets trailer try to create a realistic environment put firefighters searched question Richard, of course again, you'll return eat promise operations, but modify techniques people will have between each Last but not least. I want to share with all of you that from eggs to the fire station at Camp Dodge. So, Army National Guard offered us ability and a significantly reduced and beliefs. So, from a hundred twelve thousand dollars a year to our first year will be \$35,000. So, what that means is our facilities, are you? Science we have monster broke to have prophecies. But again, we have good facilities. given an area of the park I'm very excited about the move as I shared with some of the four members through feeling of melancholy because there's lot of tradition and a lot of history prior students to the can years but again, it's time for us to move forward and as our model is, we will respect tradition, but we would answer. Fire service more opportunities are genetically grounds. Holy so firstly will work with the government to schedule a grand opening ribbon cutting ceremony. Speedy to zoom. So, I am just second for patients obviously as a fire service like a family of course, but Jim has been a mentor of mine for many years in Iowa. Work every day, but I'm very happy that you and I'm sure that you always continue to see Jim and his family around at functions. I swear on

so are there any questions before I turn it over? questions about any concerns Don't be afraid I have been told her yesterday. So, the Hilton Coliseum machinability all of those structures' blacks again under management of the athletics department that I assume you. So, the athletic director kid colored some plans of building a big Convention Center there and parking garages. We don't know when it's going to go but for the next couple of years your soul will still continue to be achieved unless they don't allow us or on But again, I'll still be looking for other locations because the backup.

Credentials Report:

Currently 14 member towns are credentialed for this meeting. Under the bylaws Article 5. Section 3. 20 fire departments shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business for the Mid-Year meeting. At this point we do not have quorum to conduct business at this meeting. Therefore, we will not be able to vote on our bylaws; minutes; or budget. It's very unfortunate. Jack Runge said that we could entertain a motion to suspend bylaws, but that should be up for challenge at a later date. We understand that people are busy and were hopeful that people would be available to attend. We are not going to be able to vote on anything. Without having a quorum and something as important as some of these votes are even to have a motion to suspend them. We don't have a quorum for that. Going to strike the approval of the minutes at this time and move forward to the executive directors' report.

Executive Director's Report/Financial Report – Lindsey Brabec

Good morning, and it's nice to see familiar faces here today. Thank you, guys, for coming and thank you to everyone that joined us on Zoom. I'm Lindsay Brabec. I'm the new executive director with IFA. I came onboard November 1st.

First of all, I just want to touch on membership. I know most of you are still waiting on membership cards, and I am still processing a large stack of changes to update. Unfortunately, there were several inconsistencies across most of the rosters that I got back this year and it's just literally been a very daunting task to try to go in and get all that corrected and changed and then on top of that, of course, we had a pandemic so our office closed and I was uprooted to work from home and try to teach two children at the same time. I'm doing my best and I will get those out to guys as quickly as I can. With that we also have a new database. So, the old database was just kind of out of its time and wasn't really functioning very well anymore. So, when I came on board in November they went ahead and upgraded to a newer more functional database and I'm working on still trying to clean that up and get it working properly. So eventually departments and individual members will have the ability to go online and make changes to the board contact information. If you are a member of the mutual aid program, you can change your beneficiary and those types of things. So that will be coming down the road.

I have spent a little time putting together a benefits flyer that eventually I would like to have the board approve that we can increase new membership packets and send out two departments so that you can all see what you're getting with your IFA membership. I know a lot of times there's questions about what is the value of this? What am I getting? And so, I'm working on putting something together for everybody that you can actually see what are doing to help bring awareness to IFA. And in our case, I've also been working on well in the beginning of the year several awards for service after mid-March that halted of course, but between January 1 and about March 15th, I think we had 17 in person award presentations across the state and we sent out an additional 14. That was presented by the Department themselves. So, thank you to our officers for going out to both the departments and presenting those Awards. I appreciate it. Also, just a couple things that I've been a part of so far. November, we had our state's networking meeting that we have every November got to meet with Wisconsin, South Dakota, Illinois and that's the only ones there. There were four five surrounding states. We all just talked about different issues that are affecting all of the associations, talked about their dues, what they charge their members and things like that. So, it was really nice to kind of get an idea of how the other states are also operating in January. We came together for our budget meeting and I know we're going to be touching on that here shortly and then in February, I was invited to participate in fire school, which was really fun because I met a lot of people there and I got to participate and course about supporting your firefighter as a spouse. So, I thought it would be appropriate to take that course and then I also got the opportunity to sell some IFA merchandise while I was there. So that's pretty much the gist of what I've been working on.

I will now give the financial report. I have a breakdown of what we have in all of our accounts, but I'll give the grand total first Total funds for IFA combined are \$386,153.11, that breaks down into \$53,470.59 in our general checking account \$5,012.29 in our mutual aid checking account. \$15,536.89 in our mutual aid savings account. There's \$20.55 in our smoke detector project account. A convention equipment savings account with \$6,064.07. Our affiliated business member savings accounts having \$343.90. The 125th anniversary statue savings account has \$1,018.76 recruitment retention and defense savings has \$8,000.06. We have an office Improvement savings

account with \$8,974.88. The Hall of Fame savings account has \$1,669.38. We have a general savings that has \$518.78. The Stratton Memorial savings account with \$5,570.72 and the scholarship fund has \$6,444.38. Our special projects fund has \$343.48 and I believe that was from our IFA app that we had in the past. And we also have a pack savings account of \$627. So total funds for the IFA checking and savings account is 129,012.83. We have several certificates of deposit. There's nine total and those come together at \$257,140.28. And that is that concludes the IFA. I also have the memorial Foundation checking and savings accounts, the memorial Foundation checking holds \$15,545.95 and the memorial Foundation savings of \$75,144.73.

Audit Report: Gene Evans

I will provide an update on the audit as you are all aware. We have asked the state auditor's office to perform our audit of our books prior to the Moving on the IFA office when I spoke with him in January when we were down there for firefighter day on the hill. They said that they were still tied up and they would let us know this spring they were able to get our books down there. Obviously, the National Emergency happened. This Capital has been closed for most of this spring and into the early summer. I plan on reaching out to them again. Now that the legislature is out of session and see if we can get our books down there. The audit it's going to cost us other we hire a private accounting firm. Or the state auditor's office because there are public funds involved with some departments paying their dues with City or rural trustee money. We feel it's the best option for the state auditor to do that and the state auditor's office agrees and also and I pray that this is not the case if there's any criminal activity the state auditor will just walk it across the hall to the Attorney General's office and then they will be able to file charges. So, at this point in time, we will not have an audit report until we can get our books to the state auditor's office.

I'm going to table, the credentials report now. The proxy committee is looking at the proxy votes. If we have a sufficient amount of proxy votes with credentials accompanying them then we will consider that a quorum and will be able to vote on business. We will now move into the officer's reports.

1st Vice President – Nick Riley:

Good morning, everyone. I want to thank Scott for having us here today. And for Jason getting this meeting put together as quickly as we did. I haven't really done much. You know the last thing we did was our firefighter down the hill then we had a pandemic, so I've been contacted by numerous departments about search and stuff. So, have them on the back burner looking forward to getting back out giving those sirs. It's tough. But other than that, I really haven't done much, had just written communication with the board. That's about it. Jim you're still on there. Just want to say congratulations on your retirement. Thank you.

2nd Vice President – Jason Barrick:

Thanks for coming for the attendees here today. I know it was difficult, maybe driving something like that risked your health and safety for being here today. I truly appreciate it. And I know the board does it for everybody here. Thanks to my Iowa Falls guys in the Iowa Falls department for hosting it even though we are in a little bit of troubled times and like Jean says Uncharted water. So again, as everybody knows it's been pretty slow for the IFA. I've got a couple Awards certificates at my house. It would need to get passed out as soon as the Department starts doing anything again looking forward to those getting down to the Departments and checking to see if everybody's doing alright, and then handing those years of service Awards out. So again, thank you to everybody for being here for those in attendance. I will say don't rush out of here we do have the but holler Memorial water fights after this. If nothing else, you can be a spectator. Enjoy the sun, enjoy the last and stuff to go with it. Waverly fire Robin gear did one. Me too. I forgot the date that they are having the Chiefs conference. I believe it's October 17th. They are still ago with that. So, if you need something to do get out of your house go check them out Waverly. So, thanks again.

3rd Vice President – Chuck Raska:

Good morning everybody and welcome to Hardin County our little home here and thanks, Iowa Falls for hosting this listening to John earlier and seeing that email come through that train Bureau found their new home and they were able to attain that that's a that's a great accomplishment and something we can check off our list of things that that we've been supporting last couple years and trying to help them do I this year at the Capitol when We met down there for firefighter day on the hill. We had a great day that day better than we had experienced the last few years meeting with the governor. She was there with the chili cook-off willing to talk to us and just seemed more open and that was one thing we were able to accomplish this year together as a team so kudos to them and I'm still happy that that's off our list so early Year, I spent some time reviewing a couple drill rules that have been challenged or misinterpreted. We will read the full rules later on. If we end up doing a vote, but even if safe not I'd like to go over a couple of them and why we were doing it. So last year we had some controversy over judges having to be registered at convention or not. The city decided that they should be

Manchester and they, so I'd like to clear that up and that day it was decided that they were required to be registered and so in rule number 25 general rule like to that make that an official rule if it passes judges and officials will have to be registered at convention to participate in to assist with drills. Jewel a general rule number 26. This has been completely free written relayed out to clean up some language and clarify the proper way to wear turnout gear and doesn't matter if it's old or new, but the helmet coat pants and boots must be labeled as structural. Turnout Gear New or Old doesn't matter but if the base eliminates Wildland gear use of any sort and So another issue that comes up almost every year is the leader line hose set up from the bumper to the valves. It just gets into an argument every year with different towns involved and that needs to be eliminated. So, we redesigned the layout to print out what goes in the rulebook to eliminate the hydrant picture that was in there and simply go to the Ombre, Hider and feed the Pumper. Two and a half comes off the pumper to a Y which divides the water equally to both valves and then so maybe 150 foot two and a half to the Y and then 150-foot to each valve of two and a half after that. So that will eliminate any controversy of how that thing is hooked up. The only just different talents want to do it differently and this will clean that up and it'll just be this is how it is. So then we would look at something else that comes up every year and that's pressures that we operate at for the drills and we would like to add a rule number general rule number 32 all drills with the of drill number 10 will have a static operating pressure of 90 PSI at the pumper. Basically. I'm not sure why this has never come up in the past. But I feel this little provides a more consistent experience between practice and competition and year after year. It will always be set at 90 PSI at the pumper. This might seem a little high to begin with but that's static. That's not flowing pressure. That's where we'll start and Then it'll actually be down around that 82-75 range by the time it gets to the nozzle. So, I think 90 is a good place to start if we decide that's different. We'll look into it in the future, but So that's the rule changes that we're going to propose today. For the drills, I'd also like you all to know that I'm always willing to listen to your IFA thoughts, you know, once in a while we get a call or an email from someone with their thoughts and concerns. I'm open to that. Yeah, I'd like to hear what you guys want or what you guys think we should be doing as a board. We represent you. We are your voice at the Capitol where your voice or wherever we're needed. If you have an idea or something, you'd like to see the IFA offer, give you know, give me a call, give one of us a call. I love to talk shop with firefighters. It's one of my passions that I think about a lot and Please we're open here. So, we like to have a list of things to accomplish and you guys have those ideas. We just we're here to put them into place if we can. So, thank you.

4th Vice President – Roger Carr:

First of all, I'd like to thank the Falls fire department for hosting us today. I would also like to thank those of you that are attending whether it be in person or via the online system in these crazy days. It's good to see people that still care. I was tasked with this two years ago, and I'm going to continue the process. Is there anyone here that this is their first IFA meeting that they've attended? If so, please stand. He spent. All right. Welcome. Thank you, guys. If you would if you would when the meetings over just a minute if you would when this is over this meet at the fire truck for picture for picture so we can make you famous in the firefighter paper. Okay between our last meeting. I had the privilege of presenting length of Service Awards and low more and Spirit Lake. Then Rona head I'll just leave that there. It's not a great year for us in the House and Senate. We want a few things but not everything we want / need. John and Cindy worked very hard for us there at the house and when the Senate. And they / we send out a call for assistance. I think this year's proven that we need to respond. We need to contact our legislators. Let them know what we as fire service need. They'll listen to us, but we have huge numbers in this organization. If every person that belonged to the IFA. Contacted their legislators, they would be overwhelmed, and they would have to listen to think about this. We have approximately 15,000 members, most of those 15,000 members have a spouse.

Now we're talking 30,000 people, most of us some of us. I'm old guys like me don't, but we have our parents still around. Can manufacture a huge number to be contacting these legislators and telling them what we need and what we want but we have to activate we have to get out there and do it. I would like to put a special thank-you out to President Jean rest of cord and Lindsey for the work that they've done during this wild and crazy year. There have been many things dealt with. This board is an organization never dealt with before. I feel that they have done a good job.

There's a lot of changes that are coming around. There's a lot of things that need to change. There's a lot of things that need to stay the same. We need to stay strong as the Iowa Firefighters Association. With that said we all live in a new wild and crazy world. Please stay safe. Stay. Well, stay strong. Thank you. Now we'll move on to the one that has the easiest report because everybody else covers their topic typically advised here in Clemens. Thank you, Jean. Thank you. I will fire chief Isaac figure for setting this up Jason for his water around somewhere as Jean just said yeah, this report is very easy for me. I just repeat everything they said so I'll just keep it short and sweet and thank you Lindsey for all the hard work you've been doing and dealing with the

mess that you came into and we really appreciate it. Thank you everybody for coming. We had a good year. Someone was good here at the Capitol and it was a lot of fun going there. I've had a good Up and down first-year and haven't got to do a whole lot. So hopefully this gets back to our new normal, whatever that will be, and we'll move on. Stay healthy. Thank you very much.

Past President – James Shutts:

Well, I don't think the fifth Vice was the hardest one because I really got to ask over everything. I'd again like to thank Iowa Falls for their generous hospitality. Since convention I attend work see the fire school and then we had the state's networking meeting which is always informative. And then at that point it became January and we did the firefighter or the governor's address. We think there were three of us four of us that attended that and then we had firefighter day on the hill and Jason made the chili this year, which is what's good. And I think Chuck made some chili and it was a fight between the governor on Whose Chile was better. So anyway, then we had fire school and February and then the world went to hell. And I truly mean that because none of us in this day and age has ever lived through anything like the nearest one. I was configured for the influenza of 1918, which I don't think any of us were here. Maybe Roger was but we're going to make it through this and in order going to come back just like we were, so I thank you all.

President – Gene Evans:

Well I will echo what we've said time and time before here, this has been a hell of a year. We have gone through some changes in our association. Changes for the good with the IFA office. Changes for the good with the training Bureau and some changes for the bad with the way the world is operating now. The Corona pandemic is not going away anytime soon. We have learned as responders to cope with that to keep ourselves safe and still protect our communities. We just need to be calm, remain Vigilant and do the best that we can to keep ourselves and our communities out of Harm's Way. The current political climate with civil unrest has probably not touched any of our communities. However, I don't disagree that we should be able to exercise our constitutional rights of peaceful assembly. My opinion of the rioting, looting, burning and destruction and loss of life. That is unacceptable. And please pray that that stops.

Now, on a more positive note, now things are becoming more relaxed. I have been requested early in the year to go to Merville Iowa and present a couple of awards. Obviously, they tabled, that I went back down last weekend and they had a small open house for two of their members, a 43-year member and 21-year member that were retiring. So the board members are going back out and starting to do those Awards and still And the CDC guidelines another question that I have been asked from some departments and I know Lindsay's getting this too is "hey where our membership cards we sent our dues in some time ago". Lindsay went from having the full support of the AAM office to working at home seven weeks ago. That's right. Yeah, March 16th when the world came to an end. So, without the support of her complete staff and not working in the office where she has everything at her fingertips, processing of Dues and issuing cards has slowed as we can all appreciate, I would just ask that we be patient. Another contributing factor is the corrupted database from the old access files from our previous employee. It has been a rather tumultuous job to get those files that were corrupted into our new database system requiring some hand entry from some departments. I believe I have not yet updated rosters for two or three years and suddenly instead of just being able to transfer the data electronically, which we did, but many of the rosters needed to be entered again.. So please be patient with the office. This will get better as a global situation and through the office as we get things into our software and streamline. The other thing that I would like to mention is if you are not on if you email and if you are not on our email list, please get that for Lindsay. We live in a digital society and the best and fastest way to get information out is to send our email. We have renamed our email blast that used to be Constant Contact- now, we are calling it The Voice. So, when those email blasts come out for a call to action legislation, or a meeting has been rescheduled other pertinent information. That's the best and easiest way to we can get that out and the most economical way to so if you don't have an email address registered with the office, please drop Lindsay and email IFA office at iafireassn.org and get it on that list is that makes her job a lot simpler to get it printed information out. There is also a link on the IFA web page to sign up electronically. So, get those to all the members of your department. Can be included in that it does not have to be officers for the secretary treasurer. We want all our members to be on that list. So please work on that for me. We do not know what the future is going to bring. We are living in troubling and uncertain times. So, as an organization we as firefighters need to stay strong, and we'll get through this together.
Thank you.

NVFC- Marv Trimble

The spring meeting was canceled. So, there is no business done there. The one thing that keeps coming up, of course is Coronavirus. And if your department or your EMS providers have had a loss for additional expense. They can apply for an FG Grant or a hundred million dollars there for PPE help cover this. So, keep that in mind, look that up and as was mentioned earlier, this report can be short and sweet in my wheelhouse. So, that's all I have.

President Evans- Thank you, Marv. We're still working on trying to come up with a quorum.

Committee Reports:
Credentials are still open.

Memorial Committee: Mike Reuman

As most of you are aware, this year's memorial service was canceled. We will have the 2020 and 2021 combined and we'll do it all together. I just want to share a few things with you. Sometimes we live here in Iowa and it's our Memorial and I take it for granted. Every once in a while, I get a note from someone. So, I just want to share a few of those with you.

In April, this lady said Thank you for having your doors open during these uncertain times being able to experience the beautiful tribute to Iowa. Firefighters are something I'm very grateful for. You've done something amazing here and it's me. I can't read your last book sheets from Vermont. Another one that I got. I think this was around the first of the year.

On October 4th of this year. I took a few minutes to stop by and visit your Firefighters Memorial. I traveled by this exit numerous times. Well, heading out west to deliver campus; I myself was a member of the fire service Kentucky. I started as a volunteer and worked my way up to be a career firefighter with 35 years old service. I retired in May of the rank deputy chief. I must say your Memorial is one of the nicest countries. Please keep up the good work check in there for 25 dollars for donations. another one that I got just a note and it says I was in Iowa City recently and had the opportunity to visit the Iowa Firefighters Memorial. Thank you so much for maintaining such a beautiful Monument to the fire service. Please accept this modest contribution of \$25 and it was assigned by a gentleman. He's a Los Angeles firefighter. And then the last one that I want to read, and I got to give you a little bit of history on this for some of you in 1998. Some of you remember there was a LP gas tank explosion in Albert City, Iowa and two firefighters were killed, and the chief was badly injured and still. Has a lot of health issues. And then last year, his son was assistant chief in the early fire department and had a heart attack and was tight. And so, his name was on the wall last year.

So, a couple weeks after last years' service. I got this note from that family. This is thanking you. God blesses. Thank you for all the time and planning for the site to design the Firefighters Memorial in all the ceremonies each year 20 years ago who knew we would be putting our son's name on the wall. Please extend a thank you to the Reverend. He spoke to help us heal a little, did we know that one of Bruce's to bed. Bruce's antibiotics stopped working and was causing him so much upset.

He spent 10 days in the hospital in early, July. The third year in a row that he's been in the hospital on the fourth. Bruce got overheated at the very end of the ceremony if you ever have someone from Preston or could be Preston. Held him thank you for coming to the aid of the fireman's need it was Bruce. He made Bruce listen to him under instructions and serve and several Crazy of them Bruce in his chair down the hill to get out of the heat, please thank them for us and this is from Bruce daring's family. So, I just wanted to share those because I think sometimes Yeah, forget that. We got a special place there. So, thank you and hope to see you all next year.

Legislative Committee:

John and Cindy Peterson will be brought up on the main screen.

This legislative session was one for the history books for sure and it was really interesting being split. We're really pleased with how things are happening. We had the suicide prevention. Send Proclamation drafted up and ready to have an official ceremony on Monday, March 9th and got a call Sunday, March 8th from the governor's office that it was going to be shut down and canceled because of Covid and everything was ending so that was extremely disappointing. We had people coming from all over the state including family members of firefighters who had committed suicide we did post that proclamation in the main newsletter. So, I hope you all saw that. Thank you to ride there for bringing up the Grassroots effort of this. Advocacy. It's really important. And I think

we need to kind of work on that this year. Thank you to everybody who did call in and contact your legislator because it did help and as he said with 15,000 Members Plus spouses and other family members, there's no reason why we can't just bomb. Barred legislative emails and let them know to hear our voice on this when the session came back in on June 3rd. It was a totally different scenario. I am a culture. Whatever you want to say.

It was really disappointing that there were two pages of protocols that listed how you would be able to be in the capital. All the public members had to be screened but legislators did not have to be screened to be there which was disappointing to me thinking why they have immunity from being tested and it wasn't even a test. It was just a temperature gauge thing. That would say at and when 75% of the legislature is then the risk group it was disappointing that they could not see clear to make sure they were protected as well when we did get back. There were no doorkeepers. No clerks. No Staff Law. Library was shut and the lounges were shut. There was no way to call your legislator out. The only way you could get someone was to grab them when they were running in or out of the capital or to the back. Room or to wherever and it was not an effective way to Lobby. I think there was a good handful of legislators that made it a point to come out to the Rotunda to see if anyone was looking for them. But the communication process was really lacking. It was hard to get a hold of anybody.

Our bills as I said, we're on track before the shutdown during the show down time. We did make email contacts legislators were getting just bombarded with emails. So many of them weren't even looking at emails. You had to really think through what your subject matter line was in order to make them click on it because otherwise it was just getting run through. Let's see the donation of Fire Equipment. I thank Gray for bringing that out and we can list that as one of our successes of donations of the fire equipment that was setup file 2259 Carlos, a bill which representative Jane Bloomingdale really worked hard on. I know Gene and are and John and I and represented Bloomingdale were on a phone call last summer with an That has been providing low sap Services across the United States and we're really helpful and she got very excited from that phone call and work tirelessly to get this bill going and when Covid came and everything was shut down would we return back to the session there was different schools of thought about how they should spend their time.

Most of all people wanted to get in and get out so they had to pass. Pass the Appropriations bills and the budget bills that was a must then there was in one chamber the thought of we're not doing anything else unless his policy related toward Covid and then the other chamber was like well, we're going to throw a few of these other bills in here. So, what happened in the house was they were combining somewhat like bills together into one bill and hopefully get them moving along and that's what happened with the Arlo sap bill. It was put in with the new EMS bill to make EMS an essential service and everybody has been trying hard down there, too. That happening both Democrats and Republicans and our bill was put in with that which was good. It passed the senate or the house ninety-five to one and then it went over to the Senate where the whole thing got axed. And the reason it got axed mostly by Senator Chapman was because he does not want to raise taxes and while I talked to him and I said the bill allows for each City County to go to a vote so it's not like this. State is raising the taxes. It would be up to the people's vote. And he wouldn't have that, and I tried to get him to pull her loss at bill out of that and run that separately and we need to work on that because he called for a fiscal note on that. And for some reason came up with all this unnecessary funding meaning there would be all these meetings that would have to happen for low sap. And that's not true. It would.

I would fold into the regular meetings that the fire service already has, so we're going to work on that this summer and make sure that's clear and that they understand that this doesn't mean monthly meetings happening to facilitate this program. But please thank representative Bloomingdale's she did work hard and to even worked hard up to the last day to try to get funding for that. Finding out there after the Covid the revenue estimating conference did a new estimate and this year. We were a hundred fifty-nine million short and they predicted in 2021. We'd be 359 million shorts. So, there was a lot of controversy about pulling in tight. And as John Kramer said earlier about status quo budgets. We were pleased we didn't get cut we were pleased we were able to Maintain a status quo budget in all of our fire service entities and the other problem is we're then who's in charge of the Justice apropos actually came one day after the session resumed and then went home to quarantine himself because his wife was exposed to Covid so he wasn't there to help kind of guide and push some of the things through that we were hoping to with funding. Solo sap, you know, we will come back hard with it again next year and have a heart-to-heart with Chapman and educate him a little bit on what that mean is and I don't know Bloomingdale had the ear of Worthen and more who hold the funding to maybe give us some seed money in there. Anybody who doesn't understand how that works is that the goal would be that the cities are counties and the state would match some funding for Firefighters who meet certain criteria have been vested for so many years and have gathered enough points. Then there would be money available to them when they decided to retire or what we call as a length of service award.

So, we feel positive we'll keep moving on that or two bills are set up Senate file 478 which is the emergency responder and the use of Lights should have been a no-brainer and they were on track. There was a new chair for The transportation committee this year Bryan best who was shepherding all that the emergency responder Bill ended up being a little bit contentious at the end because it had some immunities for First Responders and I forgot to mention that when we came back to third the capital every day was filled with protesters. Not only were we dealing with the Covid an issue and social distancing and some people wearing masks, many people now have protesters in the building. single day yelling and screaming and demanding their legislation which was really hard to get anything done at derailed a lot of good legislation that we lobbyists have been working on all year and all session and I had many conversations with legislators about how this was a slap in the face to us legislators who were up there or lobbyists who were up there every day going through the process doing it the correct. Away, making the meetings getting things past sub committees when these protesters came down in a matter of 18 hours by yelling and screaming and demanding things get their bill passed through both Chambers through all committees and signed by the governor in less 18 hours. And as one legislator said to me, we've rewarded that behavior and I said, yes you have and I said, trust me, I believe the Chokehold needed to be dealt with and needed to and the escalation training and all that kind of stuff needed to be dealt with but they were up there the very next day standing outside the governor's office yelling and screaming for felon rights and ungrateful was the only word I had for that. I said, you know, they got what they wanted after you voted their bill in they were standing in the gallery flipping you off and yelling vote Kim out and then the next day they're back here demanding more they I think that's how you get legislation done and you rewarded their behavior by getting their legislation done and here they are back for more. So as a lobbyist that was really hard to watch and to see and to see all our bills that we were working hard on get thrown aside to deal with these things. So that was the other part needed to make about coming back after the session after the pause because it was really hard to get people's attention with yelling and screaming In the interior of the Rotunda. So regardless of the Senate file 442 at the emergency responder that dealt with immunities in First Responders, and please they were very hesitant to go down that path in the current climate. The Democrats pulled together a bill which was DOA because it was presented by a Democrat, but we do need to do more with that. We talked with representative Hanabusa. Who is a chair of government oversight Loni Anderson with the professional firefighters? I'm Alice had visited with her and asked if we could have some time at that Council to have people come in and talk about the dangers of firefighting foam and what we can do and so we'll gather this off session and tried to come up with some better legislation, but we did not want the chemistry councils build to go through because it was just a lot of lip service and really wouldn't have done anything. I think I've covered. Oh, there was another bill out there that Kaufman had presented about raising the tax credit from a hundred to two hundred dollars, which made it all the way through the house side. So, please make it a point to to know your legislators both Senator and representative because when we flip the switch and we try not to bother you except if we know it will make a big difference if they get calls from their constituents because when they get a call from constituent and many of you have witnessed this yourselves when they get a call from a constituent you are their employer if you want to look at that way you vote them in and they will Listen harder with you, you know, we lay the groundwork we bring the information out, but when they start hearing from their constituents, they really start paying attention because if they don't make you happy, they know they don't have your vote and so having this Grassroots Tree phone tree if you will when we flip the switch that you content pack them and I know it happened last session because they come out and they tell us okay. Your people are calling. That's good. That's what we want to hear. They're hearing from their own people that this is important. It's not just us telling you. It's important that you also please take time this summer. This fall meet them for coffee many of them have Saturday morning coffees already scheduled in your towns just show up and bring up your points. If you need talking points from us, please email us. Call us. We're happy to give out any information. And that you might want or need but you need to know them on a first name basis and don't be afraid to talk to them and to call them and ask for things because if we don't start asking and demanding nothing will happen and every one of them say how is essential and how important it is that we have our fire departments, but I'm telling you and you all know this we're losing. every day in rural departments and what have you and the league of cities is already talking to us about what we are going to do? When we lose our rural fire departments and I say I don't know and until something else happens where they start appreciating the flowers that you provide nothing's going to happen. They'll take you for granted and push it as far as they can. And you know, I think we just need to push that idea and that process what will happen if you don't have a rural fire department anymore. Your response times are going to be so long you might as well bring a hearse and not an ambulance. So, you know, I think we need to be more vocal. We need to talk one-on-one with our legislators in your hometowns and during the session when we flip that switch and next ask you to call. So, thank you. Thank you to all of you who did that last session. There's a lot of work yet to be done. But I think we've planted some more seeds for Next year, but it's so important this summer and fall to know your legislator. And if they have a candidate go meet with them, make sure you talk to both sides and say you know; how will you support our local fire department? Will you be there for us? Will you vote against your caucus if you need to will you vote against your leadership? Because that's what you want if you

want a company there representing you not bowing down to their leaders that say, oh, they'll be Fine, we're not going to do that. You want some of that to support you. So, I take up enough of your time. Anybody has questions. questions for John and Cindy.

Credentials Report:

Credentials are now closed; voting credentials are now closed. We will jump back in the agenda to the credentials report. We had 15 towns file credentials for a total vote of 444. Alden- 20 Belle Plaine- 40 Buckeye- 19, Eldora- 21, Garrison- 31 Grand Mound- 24 now 45. I will Falls 36 Osage 30 rare 36 Wellsburg, 24 Redfield 22 Stewart 36 27 West Des Moines 37 again for a total vote of 444.

During the credentials report for our bylaws. We do not have a quorum present. Again, we do not have a quorum present. We will not be able to vote on any issue. Let's take a short break.

We can move forward with approval and ratify at the Convention. We can vote to approve those minutes because it's business that has been done in the past. Are there any questions?

Motion to approve the Mid-Year Meeting Minutes from Coralville, Iowa (April 13, 2019) – Don Scott, Redfield. It was seconded by Cliff Renslo, Stuart. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the Convention Meeting Minutes from Manchester, Iowa (September 7, 2019) – Leon Abels, Wellsburg. It was seconded by Mark Trimble, Garrison. Motion carried.

Due to lack of quorum, we are going to strike the Drill Rules Committee Report and we will not be voting on resolution 2.

Resolution Two:

Resolution Two would be proposed at this meeting for a vote of the membership. Whereas the Iowa Firefighters Association has been the voice of Iowa's fire service since 1879. Whereas the cost of doing business is increasing every year. Whereas the IFA budget has exceeded income for the past several years. Whereas the IFA has not been able to replace our cash reserves due to budget shortfalls. Whereas there has not been a dues increase for nearly a decade. Whereas in order to continue to fulfill the IFA Mission and expand our benefits for our membership, we feel that the dues increase is needed. Whereas the current dues membership is at \$13 per member, we are one of the lowest for fire associations nationwide. Whereas a dues increase of \$7 per member opposed raising annual dues to \$20 beginning with the 2021 billing. Explanation: The IFA has not been able to produce revenue consistent with expenses factoring inflation for several years. In order to keep the IFA viable, we feel that a dues increase it's necessary at this time. Respectfully submitted IFA board of directors. The floor is open to questions.

Don Scott – question from floor

President Evans-So one of the things that we've been trying to do as you're all aware, we had a free accidental death and dismemberment policy with American Income Life. Those people had unscrupulous sales methods for literally harassing members. We were receiving multiple complaints. So, we fired them over a year ago. We've been trying to find a suitable replacement. Well you don't get nothing for free. We have been negotiating with Fireman's Fund and another insurance carrier to provide an expanded accidental death and dismemberment policy to our members. That would have a small cost depending on what we settle on from \$2.50-3.50 to \$4.00. Our budget can't support 14,000 members. With a policy that we buy both of the people Fireman's Fund and the other group they will not solicit additional business. It would be a One-Shot Term Policy with an annual renewal. So, of that \$7.00, there's a potential for half of it to be going toward an insurance premium for direct benefits to each and every member. Inflation is eating us up. We had multiple discussions with the board. I have multiple discussions with members and past presidents about what we can do to cut expenses?

One of the questions that came up was well hiring Advanced Association Management. How much did that cost us? We did a very thorough cost analysis before the board brought that up and with everything considered (unemployment, insurance, workers compensation, office expenses, salary and other expenses) that deal with having an employee, In the first year [with AAM] I believe it was \$4,400 that we saved. AAM has a 3% contracted increase per year which is consistent with an increase that we have been historically giving our employees as it stands now. We are still slightly below what we were paying to have one employee in an office in our home in her home [in contrast to] AAM with their complete expertise, accounting, printing and support staff in Nebraska. So that is not a factor of why we're asking for money. The cost of travel is going up, not

necessarily the officer's mileage, but the number of requests that we're getting for Nicholas Service Awards, the funerals that we're attending. Officers are traveling more in today's connected society because the word is out that we can have a red coat to honor your retirees or your people that would have 20 years of service. The cost of postage is going up, you know, John and Cindy have graciously this slightly increased their legislative lobbyists fees. The newspaper is a big chunk of what we spend our money on and if you figure \$14,300 some newspapers postage is about probably 75-80% of what we're paying to have that newspaper printed. The question I know is also going to be asked is can we go to a digital copy of that? We believe Jeff has that capability. But as Lindsey can attest to, we're estimating that at least 60% of our membership, and it's probably a conservative estimate, is not in the digital world. So if we go to an all-digital format, how many of these retired members the folks who have been members of this Association through the years would not have that newspaper and the cost to produce the newspaper is going to be a set cost, but we will likely have savings with postage. But we'd have to renegotiate our contract with Jack. The other questions are, what is the cost of the meetings and one of the questions was at the traditional mid-year, we have the banquet honoring our past presidents and the association pays for their dinner at the banquet and that is a significant expense. It was discussed that should we stop doing that and let everyone go Dutch and pay for their own? In the grand scheme of things that would probably save us a couple thousand dollars. But for those that have given their dedication to this Association for many years and remained active and came to conventions and meetings, I personally feel that we owe them a dinner ticket. That's my personal opinion. The sponsoring of the poster contest for the kids, the fire prevention poster contest cost us a couple grand. Is that something that you're willing to stop doing again? Again, my opinion it's during the Hall of Flame at the State Fair and the good that we do letting people be aware of what the fire service does and teaching the kids to stop dropping and rolling. Is discontinuing that work and the potential not to teach one kid stop drop and roll and then have a fire fatality worth that in my opinion? That is no. We've had to dip into cash reserves for the last several years. I understand that \$7.00 is a big chunk of money. But that's \$0.58 cents per member per month over the course of the year. I understand that times are tough, COVID has caused people financial distress. But a department has 20 members. And I just threw that number out of the sky, that's \$140. If we can start to replenish our cash reserves and give ourselves money to upgrade trailers, if necessary, to upgrade convention equipment. And the other question that I was posed is why we are spending money on convention equipment for something that you know, 3-4% of the memberships goes to. We've had conventions, exceptions during the Great Wars, since 1879. Has it grown? Have we experienced higher attendance? Is it a money maker for the host cities? Yes, it is. However, we can't expect the host cities to put money into equipment that sorely needs to be updated. I feel, my opinion, that's the duty of our Association. If the Association decides we're not going to have a convention, we will have a one-day meeting like it's been in years past, then so be it. But there are many people that look very much forward to convention and plan their vacations around it. And I think if some of our members would attend Convention, we would see that group increase. So I hope I've answered some of the questions that you may all have. And I'm sure you have another Don.

[Don Scott, question.]

President Evans- We spoke with Nebraska and Nebraska did a pretty significant due increase here not that long ago. He said that their membership numbers dropped during that year, but their income increased because of the increase they took but then the next year that curve went a lot higher. If we would have been able to vote on this today, it would have been in the 2021 dues, which would have been in the current fiscal year for most departments in their current budget. So, they may not renew that year. But the next year, when the chief can put that extra hundred forty dollars in the budget, if they have it. We are the second lowest dues of any fire association that we are aware of that go to the National Benefit Summit. Kansas is lower than us. And what were they, Lindsay? They were \$10, their Association is an entirely different shape than ours. I think the next nearest one is \$25 from Minnesota. Yep. I get it times are tough people are out of work. Our department budgets are tough.

[Question from the floor]

We will have a meeting and unfortunately that meeting may be lightly attended. So, we're obligated to have that meeting.

I just have a comment on that with what we've seen today. Scott and Don, I understand where you're going with this and this board has gone over every scenario that we can think of, on good things and bad things with this dues increase but where are these people? You say they've got proms; you say they got graduations, anybody can sign their credentials or not sign it. Once they get it to an office for the proxy for today, all it takes is one member to deliver them today. It's just like you talked about last night in our work session with Firefighter Day

on the Hill. It was hard for Cindy to see me today, but she mentioned about those protesters being at the Capitol they got what they wanted instantly because they were there in numbers. If it's the general membership against these dues increases so much. All it took was one member of one person from their fire department to be here today with the proper paperwork to vote yay or nay on it. What's the worst that can happen with the dues increase? We have an abundance of money at the end. I have talked to Jim Kenkel earlier, six months ago, and after convention when we first started this and I had asked him what if the IFA has an abundance of money after dues increase what are the chances of the IFA sponsoring a class of fire school? I'll give you that look for us. It's something we're giving back to our members because of the money that our members have paid in. We could potentially have an opportunity for them to say, use that extra money to continue to educate our firefighters and everything else. So, I guess my thing is, if these departments are really concerned about the drills and the changes that we do, and the potential dues increase that we're putting forth. Where are they in numbers and representation? That would be that would be huge as a board to see a whole room full of people against it. Then maybe we might reconsider what we are thinking.

That's why we're here. The problem is we cover so much information at the meetings, that when we said we're firing AIL looking for someone else that probably went over 90% of the attendees heads and information was published always in newsletters and so on so forth. Lindsay has taken the time to make a little brochure, a color brochure, that shows IFA membership benefits and perhaps we need to spend the expense to send the 600 departments that information, right? What did it cost for the postcards for this meeting? If you figure the postage for 700 departments at \$0.50 cents. That's \$350 plus for printing and envelopes. Yeah, and unfortunately the Postal Service isn't what it used to be either and with a postcard such a small piece of mail again.

I agree wholeheartedly that they're still bad addresses and I'm going to put the majority of the blame for that on corrupted data that was transferred to the new office.

I would have to check with Jeff and see. and you know, he may very well not be interested because yeah. That's a big chunk of money. But with greater than probably 60% of our people our members that aren't digitally connected you take that away. And you know Marlon Lions I know is an example. He waits at the mailbox for that newspaper as do many others. So, if we take that away, what's that saying to the members that Been supportive active in our association. It's a double-edged sword. There is no easy answer. Absolutely. Okay, I wholeheartedly agree that we can put this but Lindsay's brochure on the front page of the next firefighter newsletter, and then it's already on the web page. Yeah, yeah, we'll put it on the web page we can send it out as an attachment to the IFA voice email blast software. I don't disagree with that at all information is power information is power. Well, this is how I write fiction. She is when John and Cindy finished their report. The digital copy that report was on our webpage already. So, seeing efficiency in this office. Like we've never seen well haven't seen since Monday level and a digital presence that will do nothing grow. Absolutely. I'm absolutely thrilled that if we can get more information on to get more people involved but back then you can lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink and Marv said we're dealing with two generations. We've got the old-school generation that likes to see things in print that are probably more involved in this Association than the other part of our membership. Forgive me. This is my opinion. What can this fire service do for me? And There any other comments or discussion? any other I can't hear you now. I'm sorry Brian friend. Okay, it said on the notice to contact Lindsey for information for it. Well, you didn't either and every class president. Should we go? Yeah one was male, and Ryan's friend will have a look and see if we have his email. I'm sure we do. Anything that's of any anything that's of any precedent to this Association will start at and we've been doing it up to this point legislative lasts and cancellation of meetings. And the information for this has been coming out that that group used to be Constant Contact, but now it's the IFA the voice and not be confused with the singing show. Maybe that's something we need to put out in print too is that if you're not receiving if you have your email on file with us and you're not receiving the voice email blast, maybe you need to change your settings on your email inbox.

Are there any more questions or discussion?

Hearing none. We will consider that business closed. I skipped over unfinished business.

Is there any unfinished business?

Convention Committee Report: Grinnell

Good morning, everyone. I'm Bill German member of the Grinnell fire department and cut a few of our members here. Thank you to Gene Evans and the board for allowing us to provide a report for you. So, we've got a letter here to share with you. So, I will make the firefighters Association your board members and

members present. The Grinnell volunteer firefighter's association would like to provide an update on the status of convention. We would love to be there in person. So, we love to have more members here in person. However, many are attending an important fundraiser to our honorary firefighter Mason see Mason's father Curtis grandfather Scott, Uncle Craig and great Uncle Pat are all members of this department. Mason has Gardner's syndrome, which is extremely rare. Six-year-old child this disorder creates numerous tumors throughout his body. So, as important as convention is to us. I'm sure you'll understand why many of us were unable to attend today regarding convention.

We had spent the last several months preparing for convention a planning process reviewing every aspect of convention and how it will be how it will be. Acted by Covid-19 was undertaken constant review of the governor's Proclamation and Center for Disease Control guidelines and how they would change the look and feel of convention was also done. Just some of the hurdles we encountered were venues and venues and vendors pulling out the need for increased sanitation, how to ensure social distancing and the decreased availability of our own members help. Even though we had plans in place to overcome several of these issues. The decision came down to one major issue: could not overcome safety. The Grinnell Fire Department main purpose is for the protection of the citizens of Grinnell. It is the opinion of our group that without drastic changes that would alter the total appearance and all the fun things people enjoy at convention. We could not provide a safe environment for our citizens, our workers and the attendance.

It is with reluctance and with great expense to our organization that we announced the cancellation of the 2020 convention. We will miss seeing everyone this year and half. will all understand how difficult this decision was. At this point our Focus will shift to the twenty Twenty-One convention. It is our hope that will mean that we will make the best event ever as mentioned. Any reservations made will be carried over to the twenty Twenty-One convention. You can also expect to see other updates in the coming days and convention website. And just to Echo what I've heard from the crowd and the board. It's a difficult decision. But again, we as fire service need to be leaders in our community. We need to be leaders in making sure that the citizens of our communities are safe, that our fellow firefighters are safe and that the communities that were coming from or would be guests of remain safe. But again, we are at work or at war with the Coronavirus. That being said there will be a convention meaning it will be a business meeting only the time and date will be determined. The preliminary thought is it will still be the Saturday of what would be a conventional weekend. We will have to find a venue and move forward from there. Let the minutes reflect at Grinnell has offered to host a convention business meeting only on September the Saturday of convention. I don't have the date in front of me. But we will proceed with those plans if the IFA board will coordinate with you. Thank you so much for your offer of hospitality. September 12 convention business meeting only Grinnell fire station starting at 9 a.m.

Hall of Flame: Rusty Hockman

Rusty is not here, but I know that the difficult decision was actually a discussion made earlier before the state fair canceled as to whether we would want to participate or not and the answer at that point in time as if they had the state fair. We would try our best. The state fair took that option away from us by canceling again. The shirts are the shirts ordered by Mike where they are ordered ahead of time. Okay, so they're most likely won't be an expense to the State Fair this year. But again, we have to keep that on our budget. So, one of the many things That are in enlightening the shape of the world that is today.

Unfinished Business:

No unfinished business.

New Business:

Any new business to come before the body? John Kramer wanted to acknowledge the Iowa Firefighters Association and I wanted to do it at this part of the meeting because I wanted this to not be diluted with information and updates that was given, I want to sincerely. Thank John and Cindy. Peterson is an IFA for the hard work that they have done for the champion that they do on behalf of this organization and on behalf of the fire service training Bureau. I stand before you and stand in front of a television or computer monitor for the other half that are joining us virtually to acknowledge board president Evans. Past president Jim, Jason, Nick, Aaron, Roger, Chuck and Marv for all the help and support that we have gotten from the bureau and the State Fire Marshal's Office. Without your help and support with the increase in communication and I got to see personally at firefighter day on the hill this past year. These individuals and some of you in this room and that are joining us virtually shaking hands talking to legislators talking to the governor staff talked in lieutenant governor. And really it was a good showing and us being able to obtain new facilities for Iowa's fire service would not be possible without the hard work behind scenes that sometimes doesn't get written in the Iowa news.

Thanks for the work that everybody does on the board and also the members out there that are both the champion for the fire service. Thank you very much. Thank you, John, for those kind words.

Is there any other new business? Any other new business?

Any other new business? Hearing none, we will move on to the good of the association

Anything for the good of the association?

Kent Brix- Grand Mound FD

Good day all over here, I'm running for 5th Vice. I know it's a lot better when you see somebody. So, I already put out a letter pretty much telling you I retired from the Iowa National Guard 38 years this February, great run there, but now I got time. I want to help out the fire department. I've been in the fire service for 35 years. I'm Chief grandma. Assistant chief training I've done them. So, and I've got a bachelor's degree in emergency management and also a lot of fluff, but I've helped out Clayton County a lot and I want to help out the state. So, since we don't have to figure convention was going down it's kind of my I was hoping for some fun. But here I am. So, if you have any questions, you can give me a call. I got Facebook to put me up on that. I don't like it too much either. So, any questions give me a holler. I'd love to answer them. I love to help out the Firemen's Association. Thank you.

Anything else for the good of the association?

Tyler Thygsen- Audobon FD

So again, just like getting my name and face out there, I have 18 years of experience with oven fire. About 10 fire service training Bureau work little bit with John on a few things with my past experience. So again, please don't hesitate to call or get me with any concerns.

Jack Runge you have the floor. Well, I don't think anybody here. Think about what the association has been through the last two years and it's been leadership that has got us through some pretty difficult situations Gene. You have had the year that didn't happen. In fact, we are, I think Mike's working on a t-shirt is good. That's going to say 2020 the year that didn't happen. I realize we can't have motions, and this is an official resolution. But I think everyone picked up a lot of pieces when when we went through the situation with our Administrative Assistant Gene quickly fell into place pulled off convention that may have been in question whether or not everything was going happen. So, I think this body needs to recognize Gene for his accomplishments by standing ovation. So now here's a pod. You know, I just like this girl a little controversy. 2020 if it does go down as a year that didn't happen. What about freezing our officers for a year realizing that's never been done? And you know, I applaud you guys for stepping up and announcing Vice positions and maybe Gene is going to look at us and salutes with one finger because we didn't ask him about that. Yes. Curtis Just bored and Gene has missed out on a lot having been through the chairs. It's a Wonderful opportunity when you get to the end you want to celebrate. I remember Cliff telling me this is supposed to be fun and Cliff dealt with some tough stuff towards the end of his, but you know Mike and I have visited, and I guess we would throw that out as a thought with all due respect. Back to the people that have thrown their name in 4/5 Vice, and I'm I just love to see because that's been a problem, but I guess we just throw the we would just throw the thawed out that let these guys have the year that didn't happen this year. So, thank you. And I've got a video of Chloe. That's president Kirk rice that Kirk rice all Falls fire department. We're at your hat in the wringer today for a convention city of Point 23 24. and we're also going to have a core meeting with our group and Grinnell and discuss what's going on but to support the rumor, decide that alcohol is thinking about running. We are during a run where I work with you for now and I'll do nothing like this has ever happened before, but we are looking at two years. We have ground somewhat secured. Yeah, but it does take a few thousand dollars to secure ground. So, we're going to be working with your now and rational fashion to see if there are any extenders asked to ask the Association members to give them the 20th be the 22 convention after 21. So, we all run for convention City just local sign be for 22 or 23 24, but we will where I asked the membership for a chain rules change in post-convention two years back to back because of the working tail Grinnell well knows so that's all I get. watch thank you. Is there anything else for the good of the association Don Scott? Nothing is given with the election emotion from the floor can elect each officer individually.

I think you would have my chair again. I don't have that chapter verse front of me down. But I know it does say that we just choose historically to do it. Advance everyone one chair and elect a new fifth Vice so that would be

up to the body of the membership. Yeah, I think you 're going to have to do a little research and I think you'd have to actually vote and not elect a new fifth place. There could be a nomination floor whether we agree with not. them or I'm joking. I'm very humbled and honored that that idea has been put forward in the year that wasn't carried out here. Okay, is there anything else for the good of the association, anything else for the good of the association? Anything else for the good of the association? Hearing none, I'd like you all to stay in place. I'm going to call for a motion of a German Jack and have a video of the memorial. That he'd like to play for us. And then as soon as that video is concluded we're going to draw for the raffle items. So, if you just hang out, we'll get that expedited. And again, with the amount of people here. Everyone's a winner most likely. Pictures for the first-time attendees including Lindsey.

**Motion to adjourn – Leon Abels, Wellsburg. It was seconded by Cliff Renslo, Stuart. Motion carried.
Meeting adjourned at 11:57 a.m.**

Respectfully submitted,
Taylor Moore