

## IFA Board Meeting: 11.03.19

### In attendance:

Marv Trimble – NVFC

Tom Campbell – Panora FD

Ellen Hagen – Jewell

John Kraemer – FSTB

Dan Wood – SFM

Cliff Renslow – Stuart FD

Kathi Schildt – AAM/IFA

Chuck Raska – IFA

Gene Evans – IFA

Jason Barrick – IFA

Lindsey Brabec – IFA

Roger Carr – IFA

Nick Riley – IFA

Aaron Clemons – IFA

James Shutts – IFA

Cyndi Pederson – Pederson Consulting

John Pederson – Pederson Consulting

Jami Schroeder Carr – Holland FD

Carrie Evans – Osage FD

- 0901 AM Called to order by Gene
- Introduction of Lindsey Brabec, New Exec Dir. By way of Kathi Schildt with AAM.
- ED office is staffed 8-5 M-F and phone will be answered “Iowa Firefighters Assoc.”

### Dan Wood – State Fire Marshall

- 2010 added admin rule on smoke detectors. Administrative Code: UL17 is being updated. New inspector in SW IA, starting 12/13. Previous insp. went to Dennison.
- Mark and Gene – new employees
- Fireworks – new policy: if firework is sitting out by itself, fuses must be covered
  - Definition of covered: anything over the outside – cellophane, plastic
- DPS has a new website, going live 11/4
  - More user friendly, completely redesigned, pages that aren’t being visited can eventually be removed
  - 45 confirmed attending
- Smoking while on oxygen: 3 or 4 in the past 1.5 months
- Smoking and falling asleep has caused approx. 6 fires in the past 1.5 months, some fatalities
  - FSC (fire safe cigarettes) available in IA
- Canine – explosives, DSM and Cedar Rapids
- Electrical licensing email blast; new online licensing portal

### John Kraemer - FSTB

- Filled two vacancies;
- New accountant started last week; Jean
- Financials transferred from ISU to Dept. of Public Safety
  - Looking for high-quality instructors to fill positions
  - Part time and temporary positions
- Budget: \$835K
- \$825,520: Volunteer FF Assoc.
- ISU increased lease from \$60K to \$112K
  - Now have better data to present the need for better training facilities and larger training grounds; looking for existing facilities
  - Facility built in 1966; no updates since; restrooms are non-ADA compliant
  - We have momentum, stay tuned

- Operational Changes: After July 1, no free retakes on certification testing. Regular fee of \$50 per written and practical exam
- Sept 1. Set a fee
- \$200 cap on reciprocity fees
- 2018 calendar year, 2130 written exams
  - Stats from year to year would be interesting to look at (Chuck)
- 2017 EFG Grant; purchased two new vehicles
  - Can return leased vehicles to ISU
- Have 6 trailers designed for practical training and can be used in emergencies as well
- Car fire prop will be coming soon (next couple months)
- 2018 grant; awarded about a month ago \$434K grant, \$65k match is needed
  - Will be purchasing more props
- New testing procedure allows for immediate test scores and shows where more focus is needed
- IFSA issued new text book (7<sup>th</sup> edition) that covers FF1, FF2, hazmat awareness and Ops. It's a one-stop shop
  - Used to be 120 hours required, increased to 160 hrs
- FSTB instructors will all be consistent across the state: same testing materials and access to all the same tools and info
- NFPA-1402: revamping from guide to a full standard; props will be required to meet full standard
- NFPA has been looking at what competency looks like; formed a work group to research this
  - I encourage you to pay attention to NFPA and be aware what they're putting out. They look at all comments coming in so make sure to voice your questions, comments and concerns
  - NFPA Research Foundation document – **Lindsey get a copy and send to the board members**
- Reminder: Nov 8-9 is fire chiefs conference in Sigourney, IA
- Fire School: Feb 29 and March 1
  - Chief Anthony Castros from Sacramento will be speaking
  - When would you like to see fire school and what topics would you like to see?

#### John and Cyndi Pederson

- Met with Lt. Governor
- Trying to change language for fireworks code
- License plate form has been updated
  - Needs to be easily accessible on website – **Lindsey**
- Sen. Dierden passed yesterday – Cyndi will send card on behalf of the IFA
  - Memorial trailer to hold all the honor guard equipment
  - How much do the trailers cost?
- FF Day on the Hill: Thursday, Jan. 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020
  - Would like to merge professional and volunteer together
    - Gene Evans motioned to approve the joining of the two forces
    - Seconded by Nick Riley, 1<sup>st</sup> VP
    - Motion carried by everyone – no nays
  - Cyndi will find out who the contact person will be
- Scott Bush at foundry – liquor bottle issue – 29.5 bottles short of breaking even
  - Did we just not do enough marketing? What was the issue?

- Scott will see if he can take any back after midyear
- Legislative priorities
  - FSTB and LOSAP program
  - LOSAP
    - Bruce Linger – willing to meet with board to hammer out the details to see how this will all work
    - 1.1 or 3% to handle the fund?
    - Enroll?
    - Disbursed?
    - Jane Bloomingdale – Accountant, Lincoln Financial
    - State Treasurers office involved too?? Cyndi says yes.
    - Cyndi will set up meeting and inform board
- What can we do to recruit and retain VFFs?
- Suicide prevention – where do we start? Create a committee to start with awareness?
  - Nick will address this more
    - REACT program (John Swan, IL)
      - 136 deaths in IL last year
  - Lose the stigma that asking for help means you're "weak"
  - Fire School has 3 classes on this topic now
    - Also inviting spouses to take a course
  - PTSD should also be a topic of priority
  - International Association of Firefighters has great information (Roger)
  - MNFire (Jason)
  - Gene: we need to ask legislation to issue a resolution that this needs attention
    - Cyndi says yes
  - John: we need to use the word "suicide", as "mental health" is too soft
  - Cyndi: PSAs from our partners? CA Casualty, Verizon, etc.
- Flame retardants – Fire Marshall's office would like to enforce it but how? (Dan)
  - Ellen: educate the buyer
  - Dan: it would cost millions and another bureau
  - Chuck: we need to gather more information before we take it to the state level
  - Gene: we need to tell them if they pass this, they need to put another \$10M in the fire marshall's budget or they won't take this seriously
- Cyndi to send two bills to the board to review; they need to be sent to public safety

No other guests would like to address the board. 1035, Gene Evans

Table the approval of previous minutes

Cliff Approved

Nick 2<sup>nd</sup>

All carried motion

ED Report: Gene

- AAM has been retained to represent IFA as ED
  - Webpage management
  - Online roster changes and billing
  - File storage

- Old database transitioning to GrowthZone
  - Billing to go out by end of calendar year
  - Historically Wendy sent two weeks after convention

Officer Reports: **Get these reports by the end of the week**

Nick Riley, 1<sup>st</sup> VP

- Focusing on suicide awareness

Jason Barrick, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP

- Training

Chuck Raska, 3<sup>rd</sup> VP

- Clarksville FF funeral (represented IFA), LOD Trailers, Drill Leader Implementation at future conventions?

Roger Carr, 4<sup>th</sup> VP

- Clarksville FF funeral (honor guard), Suicide prevention

Aaron Clemons, 5<sup>th</sup> VP

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Jim Shutts, Past Pres

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Gene Evans, Pres

- 

NVFC – Marv Trimble

- Shareload
- FEMA \$278,900 to address suicide prevention and mental health
- State Fair Booth – fire extinguisher training demo (virtual fire ext training prop)
  - Write grant relating to fireworks to help get approval
- Gene: motion to have Marv look into it; Jason approved, Roger 2<sup>nd</sup> Motion, All in favor, no nays; motion carried
- Fire Marshall grant –
- Excellent speaker, retired master sergeant; suicide awareness – possibility for fire school?
  - Getting name and contact to John Kraemer

Committee Reports:

- Ellen to continue sending chief report minutes

Unfinished business: Hearing none

New business: John and Cyndi Pederson contract up in June 2019. New contract submitted, modest increase in fee. \$26,000 annually (\$25K last contract); effective October 2019.

Motion to entertain bid

Jason Barrick

Jim Shutts (2<sup>nd</sup> motion)

All in favor; All

Nays: none

Motion carried

- New charity auction liquor license required

Good of the Association

Adjournment

Cliff

Aaron

All in favor

Opposed: None

Adjourned: 1118