

Iowa Firefighters Association  
Convention Meeting  
September 11, 2022 – Iowa Falls Fire Station

President Jason Barrick called the meeting to order at 9:03 am

Chaplain Tony D. Ede gave the invocation

**Resolution #1:**

Whereas the firefighter's association is meeting today in Iowa Falls, Iowa to hold our annual convention business. Whereas we applaud the Iowa Falls Fire Department on putting on a fantastic convention. Read by Gene Evans. All in attendance gave a standing ovation.

**Introduction of Guests:**

Muscular Dystrophy Association – Jo Harper from the MDA was able to attend and give a quick update on what the MDA is currently working on. She also gave an update on the top 10 cities in Iowa who have raised funds for the MDA. The Board passed around the MDA donation book. We collected \$415 for the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

State Fire Marshal – Dan Wood gave a brief report. He went on to thank everyone for their support. He mentioned that they have 5 retirements coming up in the next 4 years. 183 cases so far this year with 28 fire deaths. Electrical has been staying very busy with new building permits.

FSTB – New Bureau Chief Jess Dunn introduced himself and gave a brief update. This last July marks two years that they have been at the Camp Dodge facility. The FSTB will be accredited through 2027. So far this year they have done 1,896 exams through various certification tests. They just received a \$470,000 AFG award for a driving simulator.

Iowa Department of Public Safety – No report.

Iowa Fire Chiefs Association – Roger Bissen gave a brief update and invited everyone to their fall conference in Marion, IA on October 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>.

Other IFA Guests – No other guests

Approval of Minutes from Midyear Meeting: **A motion was made by Chuck Raska and seconded by Leon Abels to approve the Midyear minutes. All approved.**

Executive Directors Report: Taylor thanked Iowa Falls for putting on an amazing convention. She mentioned that her and the AAM staff had a great time and enjoyed their time at convention. The drills were another hit this year. Since we last met at Mid-

Year, Taylor and Kelsey have continued to update membership. Taylor mentioned that 2023 renewal forms will be going out in the next couple weeks.

Financial Report: Taylor gave the financial report, which was included with the agenda and previous meeting minutes.

### **Officers Reports:**

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Chuck Raska – I'd Like to take a moment to thank the Iowa Falls Fire Department and the community of Iowa Falls for hosting a successful convention. Your commitment to the IFA and its members is greatly appreciated and we are all looking forward to 2023.

The past few months I have been working on next years schedule and trying to update the committee appointments for next year. I've also been looking at the 2023 legislative agenda and looking for new fresh ideas to improve firefighting in Iowa. The top priority continues to be recruitment and retention of firefighters. We will continue to push the LOSAP program and reintroduce the first responder tire program. I also would like to investigate the possibility of creating a program similar to the GI bill for soldiers that would help young men and women with college tuition if they join a fire department.

I'd like everyone to take a moment to think about Past President Nick Riley and his family as he continues his battle with pancreatic cancer. Please keep him in your prayers and send him a text or email to let him know he isn't alone in this battle and reassure him that his fire family is behind him all the way and we are here for him.

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Roger Carr – Thank you to the City of Iowa Falls and the Iowa Falls Fire Dept. for a great convention and I am looking forward to next year! Since our last meeting I have had the pleasure and honor of presenting several Length of Service awards and have given 2 talks on Brother/Sister hood. I also have attended to many funerals of our fallen fire family. Thank you to all of you who are attending today. I have a question on if all of you are following the IFA website and Facebook pages and answer our call to action. We have approximately 13,000 members most of us have a significant other and family members so our voting numbers can quickly multiply to 100,000. So if we all contact our legislators they will have to listen. We are continuing to access the results of our training survey and will be sharing with the FSTB Director Dunn. In closing I would like to say it was great working with Nick on this board and hope to continue working with him.

3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President, Aaron Clemons – Aaron thanked Iowa Falls and everyone for attending this week. He also thanked everyone for being patient with the rain delay yesterday. He also thanked the AAM staff for everything they do for the association.

4<sup>th</sup> Vice President, Kent Brix – Kent thanked Iowa Falls for all the work they have done to give us an enjoyable week. He also thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He also attended two celebration of life gatherings, one for a former Iowa Falls Firefighter who served the community for 40yrs. Then a second one in Shell Rock for an individual that served the community for 64 yrs. He also presented a service award to an individual in Littleport where he served for 68yrs. Also, an inspiring note he stopped in his local area and visited with a young 6yr individual that has setup several fund raisers in the area. She has supported the Children Hospital, DeWitt Fire Dept., and this event was supporting Grand Mounds venture in expanding station. He also made two trips to the Iowa State Fair to support the Hall of Fame setup and tear down. Spend several shifts late in the Fair having an enjoyable time enlightening young kids on fire preparation.

5<sup>th</sup> Vice President, Mike Kime – Hello everyone, this is great to see this many in attendance for a Convention Business Meeting. If there is any first time attendees to please stand. We ask you get a group picture here shortly. It has been busy in my family as our daughter graduated high school and now off to college as well as our son and daughter in law got married.

Big thank you to Iowa falls Fire Dept, community volunteers and all who worked so hard to provide a great time and hospitality for 2022 convention. Looking forward to another great time next year.

Attended the annual Firefighters memorial in June thank you to all for a great tribute for the fallen and their families. Always a very beautiful ceremony.

In July, Kent Brix and I attended a funeral in Shellrock for a long-time member of shell rock fire dept. Tom Hardy. Expressed our condolences to the brothers and sisters on the Clarksville Fire dept and to Tom's family from the IFA.

In August I attended the Chickasaw County Firefighters association meeting in Alta Vista. I shared with them what we as an IFA board worked on in the last session and what we are looking to continue working on for the next legislative session. Expressed the importance of having each one of them reach out and have a conversation with their local legislators and get the support behind us at the state level for fire fighters.

Worked the Hall of Flame at the Iowa State Fair. It is always great to see all the youngsters share that they know how to stop, drop and roll. Asking fire safety questions to the kids and parents and letting them tell me what they know about house fires, how to get out safely, where they go to meet everyone and who to call and what to say. Education and communication very important as we encouraged some families to continue these conversations and pre-plan so that the kids know what to do in an emergency situation.

In closing in was great to have Past President Nick Riley join us by phone. Stay strong Nick we are all here for you as you continue your battle.

Past President, Nick Riley – Nick mentioned that he wished he could have been hear with us this week at convention. He also mentioned that he has truly enjoyed his time on the board. He gave everyone an update on his health and thanked everyone for their continued support. He also wished whoever wins the 5<sup>th</sup> vice election, the best of luck and encouraged them to have fun because it will go fast.

President, Jason Barrick – Jason thanked the membership for coming to Iowa Falls. He encourages other departments to consider hosting convention, he mentioned that it has been a great first convention and they are looking forward to 2023. He mentioned that they had 1,445 attendees registered for the 2022 convention. Jason thanked everyone again for a great year, he has truly enjoyed being IFA President.

**Credentials Report:** Jack reported that we have a quorum for this meeting. There was a total of 59 departments represented and 1,746 total votes. 23 proxy ballots 600 votes. 8 absentee ballots 248 votes.

Credentials Turned In:

Ackley – 29, Adair – 21, Anamosa – 27, Atlantic – 36, Belle Plaine – 38, Bellvue – 35, Brandon – 9, Buckeye – 18, Cedar Mt Auburn – 20, Clermont – 24, Cresco – 33, Dewitt – 25, Dunkerton – 24, Dyersville – 68, Earlam – 26, Edgewood – 28, Eldora – 31, Eppworth – 58, Forest City – 48, Garner – 35, Garrison – 19, Grand Mound – 24, Grinnell – 49, Harlan – 34, Hartford – 23, Hills – 25, Holland – 18, Iowa Falls – 39, Jesup – 38, Jewell – 23, Lake Mills – 45, LaPorte City – 28, Le Mars – 66, Leon – 12, Low Moor – 13, Malcom – 15, Manchester – 33, Maquoketa – 34, Mechanicsville – 20, Monticello – 45, North Liberty – 44, Osage – 47, Palo – 19, Panora – 31, Radcliffe – 26, Riverdale – 21, Sigourney – 26, Solon – 40, Steamboat Rock – 16, Storm Lake – 26, Stuart – 34, Traer – 37, Van Horne – 16, Waucoma – 24, Wellsburg – 26, Westgate – 21, Winterset - 20.

**Proxy/Absentee Report:** 8 towns, 248 votes. Andrew – 20, Britt – 27, Fairbank – 42, Lacona – 33, Independence – 43, Plainfield – 26, State Center – 26, West Union – 31. Jack reminded everyone that they can't file both credentials and a proxy vote. **A motion was made by Leon Abels and seconded by Marv Trimble to approve the credentials report.**

5-minute break

## **Committee Reports:**

Memorial: Mike Reuman reported that they have had \$15,000 donated toward the Memorial expansion since the memorial in June.

NVFC: Roger gave a quick update on what the NVFC has been up to and the multiple opportunities they have available. Roger mentioned that Anheuser Busch continues to donate free drinking water for firefighters. He mentioned that all you need to do is log onto the NVFC website and fill out a form, and the water will be delivered to your department. The NVFC Fall Conference will be in Wilmington, NC in October.

State Fair Committee: Rusty mentioned that they had a great state fair, and thanked everyone for their help setting up and tearing down the Hall of Flame booth.

### Legislative Report:

Review of 2022 Session-bills that passed:

\*Emergency Response Districts-SF 2267

Allows smaller communities to consolidate and share resources and by establishing a new set of boundaries.

\*Emergency Responder Bill-SF 333

Deals with privileges when driving an authorized emergency vehicle providing certain immunities. Clarifies in code the use of emergency vehicles in parades, funerals and escorting dignitaries. The language also defines the use of horns and sirens.

\*Opioid Fund-HF 2573

This bill sets up a fund from a lawsuit settlement designed to provide resources for Narcan kits available to first responders for administering meds for opioid overdoses. Millions of dollars have been awarded to the state from federal funds to combat the opioid crisis. Make sure all your emergency response vehicles are equipped with these Narcan kits which are available to you at no cost from the Iowa Department of Health.

\*We were successful in getting the Justice Approps Committee to move our training dollars back to ABOVE level funding from 2008 when it dropped from 1M to \$825,500. Rep. Gary Worthan increased that funding by \$200,000! We also secured 2.1 Million dollars to build a state of the art burn tower at the training center to improve the training facility.

Sometimes you have to play defense on bills that are introduced by others.

\*SF 2361 was a comprehensive bill designed to reconfigure the states building and fire codes. The bill would have standardized the codes using the 2015 version. For many communities this would be taking a step backwards as many communities are using the current building and fire codes. Going back to the 2015 codes would cause an

increase in insurance rates for communities. We were successful in explaining how this bill would be detrimental to many communities. The sections in the bill were removed.

\*Lower the training standards was a bill brought forward by a Senator. IFA could not support this legislation as it would put a firefighter at risk of a lawsuit if there was a casualty and the training record of the firefighter was investigated. All firefighters need to be adequately trained for their own safety and the safety of their colleagues.

\*LOSAP-Length of Service Award HF 2574

This bill passed with flying colors in the house thanks to the support of Rep Jane Bloomingdale from Northwood. However, when it moved to the Senate it stalled as they would not run it.

We have already started conversations with the Senate to bring this bill back next year.

\*We also proposed a "tire" bill similar to a benefit that Illinois offers to their volunteer firefighters. The bill will allow a volunteer firefighter to purchase a set of tires for their personal vehicles once a year using the states buying discount. This would put a savings directly into a volunteer firefighters' pocket.

\*Other ideas that were discussed were a property tax abatement and a license plate discount for being a volunteer firefighter.

We continue to look for benefits that can be offered to volunteer firefighters. If you have ideas that would help your departments please contact an IFA board member to discuss.

On Wed we invited your local legislators to come to Iowa Falls to visit with the board to discuss these ideas. Senator Kraayenbrink from Fort Dodge who is the Chair of the Senate Appropriations committee. Senator Sweeney and Rep Josh Meegers who represent this area also attended. We had a great discussion about LOSAP and the tire bill and they seemed interested in helping us define these bills.

It is important for each firefighter to connect with your local legislators to ask for their support.

We invite you to come to the Capitol on Feb 1st for Firefighter Day on the Hill and the Chili Cook-off. If your department wants to participate in the chili-cook off let a IFA board member know. It is a great day to see first-hand the legislative process and to visit with legislators while showcasing your favorite chili recipe and promoting your local fire department.

Radcliffe holds the current title as best chili for two years running!

## Other Committee Reports:

**Unfinished Business:** No unfinished business.

SAFER Grant: The board has been discussing looking into finding a grant writer to put a proposal together for a SAFER Grant. The grant could possibly help raise our membership and have the grant pay for it. Stay tuned for more information.

Fundraiser: Jason gave an update on the electrical box fundraiser. If each of the 1400 convention attendees donated \$100.00, we would meet our goal. There were questions about where the future of the convention is going. We currently don't have a town planning to host the 2024 convention.

**Election/Installation of Officers: A motion was made by Leon Abels and seconded by Cliff Renslow that we advance all the chairs up one slot and open nominations for 5<sup>th</sup> Vice president. All approved.** Jason Barrick passed the gavel to Chuck Raska and presented him with his new President's badge, nametag and business cards. Jaylen Barrick then presented Jason Barrick with his new Past President's hat, badge, pin, nametag, and business cards.

Brittane Deeringer from Wellsburg Fire Department, Rick Schmidt from Low Moor Fire Department, and Lonnie Newhall from Dunkerton and Jesup Fire Departments were nominated for the 5<sup>th</sup> Vice President. **A motion was made by Scott Hagenson and seconded by Gene Evans to cease nominations. All approved.**

Chuck asked all department representatives to come forward and fill out a ballot.

Chuck announced that we did not have a winner with 51% of the votes, so he asked the department representatives to come forward and cast their votes between Rick Schmidt and Lonnie Newhall.

Chuck read the votes – 968 ballot votes in the second vote for a total of 430 votes for Rick Schmidt and 538 votes for Lonnie Newhall. The Lonnie Newhall was chosen as the 5<sup>th</sup> Vice President.

**After the meeting concluded, it was determined that Rick Schmidt met the 50% plus one vote to win the 5<sup>th</sup> Vice President position. Rick is the 2022-23 5<sup>th</sup> Vice President.**

**Foundation: A motion was made by Jason Barrick and seconded by Aaron Clemons to approve the new officers for the Foundation Board. All approved.** 12:08 pm Regular Meeting closed, and Foundation meeting opened. Memorial Foundation General Account \$17,497.22, Memorial Foundation Savings Account \$75,229.13. **A motion was made by Jason Barrick to approve the new 2022-23 board as the new Foundation**

**board, seconded by Roger Carr. All approved.** 12:09 pm Foundation meeting closed, and Regular meeting resumed.

**Selection of 2024 Convention City:** As of today we don't have any towns ready to host the 2024 Convention.

**New Business:** No new business.

**Good of the Association:**

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Lake Mills and seconded by Forrest City to adjourn at 12:15 pm.