

Iowa Firefighters Association
Board of Directors' Meeting
Saturday, June 9th, 2018
Solon, IA

Present: President, Marv Trimble; 1st VP Jim Shutts; 2nd VP Gene Evans; 3rd VP Nick Riley; 4th VP Jason Barrick; 5th VP Chuck Raska; Executive Director Amber Kephart. Also present: John and Cyndi Pederson, Des Moines; Bob Platz, Dyersville; Terry Beek, Bellevue; Stephanie Whitmore, Ankeny; Steve DeJoode, Ames.

The meeting was called to order at 11 a.m. by President Marv Trimble.

A motion to approve the agenda was made by 2nd VP Jim Shutts. It was seconded by Past President Mark McNees. Motion carried.

A motion was made by 1st VP Jim Shutts to approve the minutes of the last Board of Directors' Meeting, held March 24 , 2018 in Coralville. It was seconded by 3rd VP Nick Riley. Motion carried.

Executive Directors Report

In April, I went to Washington DC with Marv, Jim and Roger Bissen. We met with several of our representatives and a couple of their staff. We discussed our key topics with each of them. Each meeting lasted about 15 minutes each. On June 2, myself along with Marv, Jim, Gene, Chuck and Nick, we went to Waverly for the pre-convention meeting. At this time, there don't seem to be any issues. All hotel rooms have been blocked for past presidents as well as drill officials. The convention committee did a wonderful job giving us an update, it doesn't appear that much is going to change from two years ago. All of the bank accounts have been switched over to County Bank in Sigourney. With all of the old accounts being closed. I am still working on getting the Political Action Campaign (PAC) account set up. Membership dues are still trickling in. We have around 100 departments that have not paid. I have been making phone calls to the departments that I have numbers for. I have begun updating the website and changing things with that.

Officer Reports:

1st VP Jim Shutts:

Since the Midyear meeting, not a lot has happened. I had 1 Years of Service Award presentation. Marv, Amber and myself went to Washington D.C., along with Roger Bissen our NVFC representative. We went to see our U.S. Representatives and Senators. We had some good conversations with them, getting our needs as a fire service association conveyed to them and all were very receptive. We also got to see many sites while there with more walking than I've done in a lifetime.

The next and last thing to be done was the pre-convention meeting in Waverly this was June 2nd and Waverly sure has there ducks in a row. They will be ready to welcome all of us in September. That is about it not too bad of spring.

2nd VP Gene Evans:

I represented the Association a few times since the Mid-year Meeting. One of them was a funeral in Melcher Dallas for Michael Joseph Hoch, aged 70. The department and family requested that someone in a red coat be present. He was an active member of the fire department for 50 years. I also attended the funeral for Garrett Bormann from Ionia Fire Department. I had the pleasure to present a 20 year award to Doug Gust from Forest City.

3rd VP Nick Riley:

Since mid year I did a few things. The following weekend after mid year I went to mt pleasant to flip pancakes. In April I went and did a presentation on the app in Vinton. I went back to Vinton for a firefighter appreciation dinner hosted by the church, where I was the key note speaker. At the end of May I went to Fredericksburg to talk about the app and presented a 50 year award. I attended the pre convention meeting and took a few notes, 1460 out of a little over 1500 have been reserved, 117 golf teams, contests are in the same spot as 2016, Thursday will be co-ed, Friday will be Old Timers, 53 out of 60 bowling teams have signed up, the craft show is 2/3 full.

4th VP Jason Barrick:

On June 8 I presented a 40 year service award in Hubbard.

5th VP Chuck Raska:

April 28th, I attended the Iowa Elks Convention in Des Moines for a State Major project meeting, We discussed the current operations and funding of the project as well as future improvements that could be made. Items that were mentioned were fire dept training burn boxes, Advanced CPR manakins, and Virtual Fire extinguisher training props that could be used by fire department members to train the public without the mess of live fire and extinguisher agents. The funding for the major project comes from raffle tickets sold throughout the state by members of the Elks.

President Marv Trimble:

Thanks to the Solon fire department for hosting our meeting. It's been pretty quiet since the end of the legislative session. We were able to keep the \$100 tax credit and the \$825,520 for the training bureau. Thanks to the joint effort from the I-chiefs, Pro chiefs, Pro FF and the IFA we secured funding for the bureau chief position. Our lobbyists John and Cyndi Pederson have been working diligently on our behalf at the capitol. I would like to thank them for all their efforts this year. John will give an update on the search for the new bureau chief . I have made two calls to the DOT regarding a rule change to the FF plate renewal. I hadn't not gotten a return call. I hope this is not a bad omen. I finally did get a return call. I am going to continue to work on this. Most of the board were able to make it to Waverly for a pre-convention meeting. When I heard about the pre-convention meeting in Waverly my first thought was it would be a waste of time. They hosted two years ago. I was wrong. They are ready and gave an excellent presentation. The leader of each committee was there and gave an update on their committee progress. I know I enjoyed the 2016 convention and am sure this one will be even better.

Committee Reports:

Bob Platz, NVFC:

I flew down to Alabama for FEMA, all of the grants for this year are read. They should start issuing some funds soon. I am thrilled to hear that you had a good experience while in DC and visiting with Grassley.

Mike Reuman, IFA Memorial:

We can use everyone's help tonight and tomorrow morning for the service. IFA Board members can hand out programs and sell merchandise. Tomorrow morning starting at 8 a.m. for set up. We will need a few to hand out programs and IFA board members and spouses selling merchandise.

John Pederson, Legislation:

The 2018 legislative session ended on May 5th. It was an interesting session with many ups and downs, twists and turns.

Here are some highlights of bills of interest to IFA:

The training dollars remained at \$825,520 despite the many budget cuts. The Department of Public Safety was REQUIRED to hire a Bureau Chief using dollars from the existing budget. We are very thankful of the support from the legislature.

We had a meeting with Dan Woods and Amber Markum (DPS lobbyist) the first week in June. They updated us on the search process for the Bureau Chief. The appropriate paperwork has been submitted to the Dept. of Admin services so it can be posted. Any candidates that previously applied will be notified of the new posting so they can update their application if needed. It is hopeful that the position will be filled by this fall.

We were able to prevent the legislature from taking away the \$100 tax credit as was presented by the leadership in the Senate.(SF 2417)

HF 2479-Expanded EMS service in townships

In concept this is a great bill. Who wouldn't want EMS services everywhere in Iowa? The question was presented in subcommittee that it needed to be one vote with two questions. One to vote for expanded EMS service AND a vote on the same ballot for a township to be able to raise the levy, if needed, to pay for it. 28% of Iowa's 1975 townships are already at their levy max. Therefore they would be in a bind to figure out how to pay for this expanded service, and it most likely would be taken from existing fire service dollars, which are already strapped. IFA was in opposition to the language as we support ALL fire districts not just the 72%. We were asking for an amendment to make this one vote but there was strong opposition to not raise township taxes. They made this much more complicated than it needed to be, but in the end it never passed out of Senate full committee. I would imagine this will come back next year and hopefully we can all agree on a way to make it work for ALL townships.

HF 2302- Rescue Vehicles as Emergency Vehicles

This situation comes up many times especially in smaller communities. When an alarm goes off many times a first responder needs to drive directly to the scene. This bill allows this first responders vehicle to have the same privileges as a rescue vehicle provided an audible/visible

signaling device is used. When response time is essential this should help save lives in communities across our state.

HF 2254-New 911 emergency telephone and Internet communications systems

This sets up a new 911 system through Homeland Security who has developed a potential cost savings by combining the wireline 911 network with the Next Generation wireless 911 network. This would remove the cap on the amount of funds available for local PSAP consolidation grants. It makes no changes on how the current 911 wireless surcharges is collected or distributed. It also makes no changes on how the wireless surcharge fund formula is distributed to the PSAP's. This bill will eliminate the wireline network and create a shared service environment that the HSEMD would operate and maintain. Public Safety Answering Points could voluntarily opt in to utilize this shared service. This would create equipment and operational cost savings at the local level.

formation HF2314-FIREWORKS

There were a few fireworks bills that showed up in subcommittees but they really never moved. This bill would give communities to keep some of the violations fees or add additional fees that the city would retain. As the law currently stands the fines collected go to the state. There was much controversy after the 4th of July fireworks time frame with many cities opting out of allowing them to be used. I feel we will see more bills surfacing next year after we have another 4th of July holiday.

HF 2285-EMS Medicaid reimbursement

This bill relates to a supplemental reimbursement for publicly owned or operated ground medical transportation providers through the Medicaid program. This is a federal program and we are one of the first mid-western states to join this program. There are 4 or 5 states on the west coast currently participating.

SF 360-Newborn Safe Haven bill

This bill lists fire departments as a location where a parent could voluntarily release a newborn into a safe environment. Fire Departments across the state need to review this new law and make preparations in case this situation would arise in your community.

HF 2418-Length of Service Award

This bill started out on a good path. We met with Rep Klein along with IFA board members last fall to lay the groundwork for introducing the bill this session. It was introduced and passed both the subcommittee and full committee in Public Safety with no problem. Then it was referred to Ways and Means committee, which is where all bills that have to do with state funds must go. It passed the subcommittee with all parties agreeing to the concept and reasoning behind why this bill was important. It was then placed on the list for discussion in the full Ways and Means committee.

It was on the Ways and Means calendar but after they went into caucus the Chair, Rep Vander Linden from Oskaloosa would not bring it to the table for a vote. After the meeting we went to him to ask what happened and he frankly said he does not see why it is necessary. Despite answering all his questions he would not budge. We had the blessing of the Democrats on the committee and enough R's to make it pass but he would never bring it up. He described himself as a wood-headed Dutchman who does not change his mind. He also said if we want this we will have to come back with it next year since he will not be here! This was very frustrating. Rep Klein was not on this committee and was very surprised by this move. We had many discussions with him about what to do next and he felt the best thing to do was to come back

next year. He said he knew who the new Ways and Means Chair would be and that he was positive we have their support.

In a surprising twist, at the last Ways and Means meeting for the session, Rep Monica Kurth from Davenport brought this bill back up for consideration. All the Democrats and one Republican, Rep Jane Bloomindale from Northwood voted to discuss the bill. Unfortunately, it failed by only two votes.

We will be back with this legislation next year and hopefully there are more legislators that support the work of volunteer fire service in our state.

Along these lines, early in the session, Senator Feenstra (Hull, Iowa) announced a tax reform bill (SSB 3197) that eliminated the \$100 firefighter tax credit! It was listed with 10 other tax credits like solar energy, historic tax credits etc. This bill moved quickly having the subcommittee in the morning and the full committee later that day. It then moved quickly to the floor and all Republicans voted YES. We had one Republican Senator who was willing to file an amendment to remove the FF tax credit from the eliminating list but just before the debate his leadership forced him to pull the amendment. The House never took this Senate bill up and instead created their own Tax Reform bill that was similar to the Governors. The House version did not have our tax credit repealed and the final version passed on the last day of the session did not remove the tax credit. It was a roller coaster keeping track of this but at the end of the day the \$100 tax deduction is still there!

There was also a movement to end the "backfill" but it did not make it. That might impact cities and therefore impact fire service.

We are also working with DOT to try and simplify the license renewal process!

There were many other bills that did not get the recognition and attention they deserved as they were focused on passing a large tax reform bill. The tort liability bill was one of them. We will gather our ideas this summer and fall and be ready next year to work on them again with a new legislature. There are a record number of legislators not returning next year so we will have our work cut out for us.

We are meeting with legislators and attending fundraisers throughout the summer.

We are also working on some ideas to help build up the PAC.

Guest reports

Stephanie Whitmore, California Casualty

My goal is to support members. I am trying to visit as many departments that I can get into. The biggest reason I am doing the promos and going to the departments I because I want to build activity in Iowa. If I can build that activity, it is more likely to get money back to members from the association. Some new things that we have added with California Casualty you will get free id theft. We also have a fallen hero survivor benefit. We also added free pet liability insurance. There are a lot of extras that we can offer to our first responders. I want to look ahead and how I can help the members of the association. I am always looking for volunteer opportunities.

Terry Beek, Washington National Insurance

A small presentation was given to discuss what Washington National Insurance has to offer along with rates. Washington National Insurance would like to partner with the Association.

Steve DeJoode, Fire Safety Training Bureau

1. Fireworks Stats of 6/8/2018:

552 licenses issued, 255 limited quantity, 297 retail quantity, 287 permanent sites, 265 temporary sites, 13 only first class, 209 only second class, 330 first & second class, 800+ applications received, 100 to be reviewed/re-reviewed, 35 never submitted/completed, 14 approved/license fee not paid

2. There have been 25 Current Fire Deaths year to date.

3. Agents are working numerous Arson Cases.

Fire Service Training Bureau Update

1. Computer Based Testing

The bureau has been navigating the Request for Bid process through ISU procurement. There were approximately 10 vendors that submitted bid proposals and we narrowed that list down to the top 3. The top vendors traveled to Ames for a meeting and demonstration of their product/solution on June 30th and 31st. The Bureau is currently working through ISU on completing the scoring matrix. We expect to finalize the selection process and start on a contract agreement with the top vendor in the coming weeks. After a contract is in place, there will be significant planning for implementation. A set-up period will occur where data mapping, data migration and integration with our main database will occur. The goal is to be up and running with computer based testing between this fall and the end of the year.

2. AFG Grant

The Training Bureau applied for a large Assistance to Firefighters Grant earlier in the year and are awaiting the awards announcement. We have been told the announcements should be coming out in the near future.

3. Practical Skills Delivery is ongoing

The new process for delivery of Certification Practical Skills Testing has been ongoing through several weeks and test site. The Bureau has posted dates/locations for skills testing weekly (Saturdays) through the end of the year with the exception of Holiday weekends and other major events.

New Business:

Discussion and approval to add \$1 to membership card for PAC donation

This would have been added to membership cards as an option. There will be a lot of questions regarding this added option and it was voted that we would not be adding this feature to the membership cards as an option.

Discussion and approval for Years of Service Award

We have members that retire from one fire department, but have served on multiple departments. For retirement only, we would do, in addition to the years of service award, a years of service to the State of Iowa.

A motion to approve adding a retirement total years of service award was made by 2nd VP Gene Evans. It was seconded by 1st VP Jim Shutts. Motion carried.

Discussion and approval for purchase of apparel

A motion to approve the purchase 1 coat, 1 tie and 2 polos for anyone that is voted on as 5th VP was made by 2nd VP Gene Evans . It was seconded by 3rd VP Nick Riley. Motion carried.

A motion to approve the authorization of all Past Presidents purchasing at their own expense, matching polos through Reuman Clothing was made by 2nd VP Gene Evans. It was seconded by 1st VP Jim Shutts. Motion carried.

Discussion and approval for Executive Director pay increase

A motion to approve a 7% pay increase was made by 1st VP Jim Shutts. It was seconded by 5th VP Chuck Raska. Motion carried.

There was discussion about changing the location to one standard location for the Poster Contest. This discussion has been tabled.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:41 p.m.