

Iowa Firefighters Association
Convention Business Meeting
Forest City, IA
September 10, 2017

Present: Bill Halleran, President; 1st VP Marv Trimble, 2nd VP Jim Shutts, 3rd VP Gene Evans, 4th VP Nick Riley, 5th VP Jason Barrick, Past President Mark McNees and Executive Director Wendy Lensing.

President Bill Halleran called the meeting to order at 9 a.m. He thanked everyone for coming and commented it was a better turnout than usual for the meeting.

Resolution # 1 was read by Scott Hagenson

To the members of the Iowa Firefighters Association, assembled here in Forest City, Iowa on the 10th day of September in the year 2017:

WHEREAS: The city of Forest City and the Forest City Fire Department have given the warmest welcome to our 139th annual convention and have been outstanding in their support of this convention meeting;

WHEREAS: We ask Chief Mark Johnson to convey this resolution of appreciation to all the residents and the City of Forest City for their hospitality;

WHEREAS: Many hours of hard work were put in by the Forest Fire Department to make this a successful convention;

THEREFORE: Let it be resolved that this resolution be passed by a standing ovation from all members present at this annual convention meeting of the Iowa Firefighters Association.

Respectfully submitted by the Resolutions Committee.

Commissioner of Public Safety – Roxanne Ryan:

Commissioner Ryan announced that Dan Wood was just selected to be the new State Fire Marshal on Friday, September 8th.

Commissioner Ryan stated that a lot had happened in the past year and half and she is hopeful that they are now at a place where some progress can be made on some of those things. They have looked at a lot of different options on what is the right thing to do and how to make it work. They want to be able to provide the highest quality training at the lowest possible cost. One option that has been looked at is community colleges but at this time she feels the best option would be to keep the fire service training within the Fire Marshal's office and possibly coordinating with the community colleges and taking advantage of some of the programs they already have developed. Uniformity is important and being able to provide services at the local level is extremely important. One of the good things that has come up is to improve the testing process. Northwest Community College has come up with a really good program to be able to facilitate better testing at relatively low costs and where there will be immediate results. It has been piloted for a year and now they are in the process of seeing how they can make that happen statewide. Now that they have filled the Fire Marshal vacancy they are in a better position to fill the Training Bureau Chief's vacancy. Interviews were completed for the accreditation manager.

Background checks are pretty extensive but they hope to have someone in place in 6 – 8 weeks. They will do the same thing with the FSTB Chief. The budget is tight not just for the training bureau and Fire Marshal's office but throughout the entire department. The vacancy levels they have in the fire service training bureau are not really significantly different than the vacancy levels throughout the department. They are doing their best to balance the needs and the resources. Any grant funds have been protected and no budget cuts have been taken from grant funds. The only cuts have been from general funds.

Commissioner Ryan gave a little background information on Dan Wood before introducing him as the new State Fire Marshal. He started out in the Capitol Police and went on to be a State Trooper. He has been in the Fire Marshal's office for quite a while. He knows inspections very well. He's been involved in investigations. He has also served in an acting capacity in a lot of different places including the departmental training bureau, the fire service training bureau; he's been an acting bureau chief for inspections. He also has worked in the Waukee Fire Department and is a Lieutenant on that department as well as a volunteer on the Clive Fire Department. He has fire service experience as well as law enforcement experience.

Dan Wood :

Dan said that they have done an RFP and the groundwork is in place for proceeding to computer-based testing. That will speed up the testing process. That will also speed up the process of getting out certifications or letters. Basically, instead of receiving a box full of papers the testing site will receive a box full of tablets. You will log on with a user name and password unique to you. You take your test and as soon as you push submit you will know if you passed or not. You will know what you missed. It will eliminate checking tests and save man-hours at the training bureau.

As far as reaccreditation with the Pro-Board, everything was sent in by September 1st that the Pro-Board was requesting. For the reaccreditation for IFSAC, for the past couple of months subject matter experts have been coming in and reviewing the tests and skills. They are now in the LXR system and entering the test questions and getting those downloaded to IFSAC. They will be going out on Oct. 18th for IFSAC hearings and make sure that they are reaccredited.

Dan reiterated that they are in the process of filling the position of the accreditation manager. It was sent out nationwide and they received 43 applicants. Through a scoring system it was pared down and they interviewed 8. They were going to interview the top 15 but 7 of those said it did not pay enough. They are going through background checks and will hopefully have someone in place soon.

Jeff Cullen just retired from the Fire Marshal's office. He retired as an agent in Carroll area and is going to be a building inspector on the civilian side.

Inspection bureau and electrical are status quo.

Iowa Society of Fire Service Instructors – Al McCune:

There will be a course on Safe Law Enforcement Operations on the Fire Ground that will be held November 18th, 2017 from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. at Hawkeye Community Hall in Hawkeye, IA.

Save the Date – December 1st and 2nd, 2017 – The 2017 Instructor Conference will be held at the FSTB on Friday and at the Scheman Center at ISU on Saturday. The Instructor Social, Banquet and Roast will be held at Quality Inn & Suites off of 13th St. in Ames.

Iowa Fire Chiefs Association – Roger Bissen:

On behalf of the IFCA Roger congratulated Dan Wood on his appointment to position of State Fire Marshal.

There was a public hearing held on the final draft for rules on consumer fireworks. A couple representatives from the IFCA attended the meeting. Fire chiefs commented on the adoption of the 2015 International Fire Code. This year the 2006 edition was used which eliminated the need for sprinklers in permanent buildings. City attorneys were concerned with zoning conflicts. There have been lots of conversations on where fireworks can and cannot be sold. The fireworks associations do not want to be told where they can sell and where they can't sell. Roger stated that in the case of his town, Harlan, their B-1 district is their downtown historic square. They do not want fireworks sold in a B-1 district in a historic downtown square. They can sell on highway business and other B-2 and B-3 districts. That is the goal. Currently there is no language for the local AHJ to have jurisdiction for the authority with fireworks. Every other place in the International Fire Code if there is a discrepancy it always falls back to the local AHJ. It shouldn't be any different. Retailers felt they were being penalized by the rules for fixed and new structures. Retail lawyers also stated the code does not give the local AHJ authority to enforce the code, only the Fire Marshal's office. Roger thought that was a difference in interpretation as he knows the local AHJ has authority for enforcing the code. Retailers are in favor of less constricting rules and would like to see many of the administrative rules deleted. They are in favor of lowering the license fees. They would like no fees to be charged by locals. The result of the discussions the IFCA feels is that retail profits override public safety. NFPA 1124 was mentioned in the bill but the IFC 2015 was not. Roger said for years we have worked on eliminating or preventing fireworks sales in Iowa. It's happened. Now we need to work on keeping things as safe as possible. We need to work together to make sure this not a free for all with sales and discharging.

The IFCA Fall Conference will be held October 28th in Dyersville. If you've never been to the Chiefs' Conference they have a lot of good information that is distributed.

Lobbyist – John Pederson

John gave an update on his recovery from the stroke he suffered on March 16th. He thanked everyone for the support they have given him and his family since that time. He feels that he is at about 40% on his recovery and hopes to be walking without the cane and throwing away his wheelchair by the end of the year.

John thanked Commissioner Ryan and Dan Wood for being present and for the progress that has been made to date on the issues at the FSTB.

John said that he missed the end of the session but kept up to date on things. The budget has remained as it has the past couple of years at \$825,520. This year looks to be even more difficult budget wise and we will have to be sure that we are making our contacts with the leadership and committee chairs and every representative and senator to let them know how important that money is to us.

John thanked Roger for the update on the fireworks rules. He is convinced that they will come back this year and try to expand either sales dates and/or locations or try to lower the fees.

Grants within the fireworks program needs work. We need to be sure that if that grant money is available we can go after that whole heartedly.

We got a little bit of traction last year on a firefighter pension. We are looking at using the tax credit and changing that into a pension program for recruitment and retention. We will continue to work on that this year.

There is a new liaison within the Governor's office and we will work to get a meeting set up prior to the start of the 2018 legislative session.

Chief Mark Johnson from Forest City Fire Department came up and had John draw the winning name for the gun raffle that was sponsored by the Hancock Co. Firefighter's Association, Winnebago Co. Firefighter's Association, Wright Co. Firefighter's Association and the Forest City Firefighter's Association as a fundraiser for John. They were able to raise \$6820 and presented that to John. John thanked everyone again for all of the support and encouragement they have given him.

Approval of the minutes of the IFA Mid Year meeting held April 22, 2017 in Coralville, IA. Mark McNees made a motion to approve the minutes. It was seconded by Marv Trimble. Motion carried.

Executive Director's Report – Wendy Lensing:

First I'd like to thank the Forest City Fire Department and everyone that helped out with the convention. I think everyone had a great time. Forest City went above and beyond whenever we asked for anything.

I'd also like to thank everyone that helped at the drills yesterday. It's a huge job to get everything set up in the morning so thank you to John Novak, Rick Schmidt, the drill officials and anyone else that helped out. Everything seemed to go well.

I'd again like to thank the board this year for their continued support with all that I've had going on outside of work. It's difficult to get things done as quickly as I have in the past and I appreciate their patience and understanding.

Bill did a great job this past year and I'm sure that Marv will do a great job this coming year. Thank you to Mark for the years that you've been on the board and for all you've done. You will be missed.

Next month the scholarship and IFA awards nominations will be opening. We will begin taking applications and nominations for those beginning Oct. 1st through Dec. 15th. Watch the website and newsletter for more information.

We'll look forward to being in Waverly again next year and good luck to Chuck Raska on his bid for 5th Vice President.

1st Vice President Marv Trimble:

Thanks to Chief Johnson and the Forest City FD for hosting the 139th IFA convention. This is a great venue and we had awesome weather. Your department did an outstanding job.

The last year flew by.

This is the year at a glance for the people thinking of running for 5th vice.

- October was the states networking meeting in Johnston and meeting in Pleasantville.

- Our January meeting last year was cancelled because of weather. That's what happens in Iowa in January.
- The legislative session begins in January and runs for 100 days. That is a busy time, but don't think you have to attend every meeting.
- Firefighter day on the hill will be January 18 next year. We will have a breakfast and then chili for lunch. Hopefully we see everyone a couple times that day.
- Then comes Mid Year. Next year it will be back at the Marriott in Coralville March 23 - 24. You can make your reservation now. This rate ends 3 weeks before, March 1st. You can call to reserve now but if you change your plans as it gets closer please be sure to cancel your room as soon as you know. Last year we had people that cancelled at the last minute and we had people that had tried to get rooms that were told they were sold out so they went somewhere else or didn't come at all. When the rooms were cancelled at the last minute we were held accountable for not meeting our minimum.
- In May we attend the NVFC spring meeting and visit our Iowa representatives in Washington DC. The president and 1st vice attend.
- In June we have the memorial. In 2018 it will be 9th and 10th. The business meeting will be in Solon on the 9th.
- August brings the state fair. Please go back to your department and talk about working the Hall of Flame. It's fun and we get a fire safety message to the public. Thanks to Rusty and Ashley Hockman for all you do to make the Hall of Flame possible.
- Then comes convention.

In closing , I have a few items on my agenda for the next year.

- Work with DPS to get the training bureau up to full strength and gain the trust of the Iowa firefighters again.
- Look at changing this meeting to Friday morning to boost attendance.
- Streamline the procedure for renewal of the FF license plates.
- We need to review the fireworks law. Now fireworks use by minors is legal. It's only illegal to sell to them.

2nd Vice President Jim Shutts:

I would like to begin by giving a big thank you to Chief Mark Johnson and the entire Forest City Fire Department for their hospitality and a very wonderful convention. I would also like to thank the residents of Forest City for welcoming the Iowa Firefighters Association to their town.

Not a lot has gone on since mid year. I have gotten the 2019 mid year venue nailed down. It will be at the Coralville Marriot as it was this year. The dates are April 12th through the 14th , 2019. The room prices

will remain \$109 a night as it was this year. On June 24th I traveled to Jewell, Iowa along with Jason Barrick to honor Bob Hagen on his retirement from the Jewell Fire Department. On September 5th after getting settled at convention I had to return home to honor one of my own. Denny Grieder retired from the Belle Plaine Fire Department with 32 years of service to the community.

I would like to welcome Dan Wood as our new State fire Marshal. I hope Dan will have as close of a relationship with the IFA board as many past Fire Marshals have.

As far as convention goes, congratulations go out to Chariton for being the overall winners of the contests and another congratulations goes to Josh Sinnwell and the Nashua Fire Department for winning the water fights and being this year's Best Squirts in the State. I say good luck Chuck Raska in your bid for 5th Vice. You will make a fine addition to the board and good luck to our 2019 Convention Host town.

As Mark McNees retires from the board I have to say I will miss you but you have served this Association very well. It was great working with you. Bill Halleran is heading in to his cool down lap as Past President. You too have served very well. Congratulations to Marv you will be an awesome President.

3rd Vice President Gene Evans:

Good morning All. I also would like to echo my thanks and appreciation to Forest City Fire. I have heard comments in the campground of "Oh, they've got it made. They didn't have to do any work at all." Even though you have this wonderful facility, I know, and the majority of the members of the association know, that putting on convention is a tremendous undertaking. Bravo! And it didn't even rain until this a.m. and that was just a little shower.

I'd also like to briefly mention the Hall of Flame. I too went down and helped set up and tear down the Hall of Flame. Many hands make light work. When you see that notice come out if you can help out that's typically around 6 p.m. so you could sneak down after work. If you do have the time and availability to work at the Hall of Flame please do so. It's very rewarding to see the kids come through there with their big eyes and getting to talk to Sparky and getting to sit in the fire truck.

I will touch very briefly on something new that we are going to be rolling out and partnering with a company for an on-line app that will hopefully make we as members of the association individually some money and make the association some money. We'll let Nick expand on that. In today's technology driven society I think it's time maybe for the IFA to kick it up a notch.

There are a few suggestions for rules changes that will be sent to the drill rules committee for consideration. One, on Drill # 9, whether the teams are allowed to walk down the length of hose prior to their revolution. Another, to perhaps standardize the cadence of the starters. We've also had a couple questions on the definition of "hand tight".

Good luck to Waverly and Chuck Raska.

Also, for those that may not know, Past President Brian Freund's father Joe Freund who was an Osage firefighter passed on Monday, Sept 4th. His funeral will be October 7th. Please remember Brian and his family in your thoughts and prayers.

Thank you for your attendance here today. It's nice to be able to speak to a room full of people.

4th Vice President Nick Riley:

I'd like to thank Forest City Fire Department and their chief Mark Johnson for hosting this year's convention.

Like Gene said, we're coming out with an app. I think that this will put Iowa, as an organization, at the forefront of member benefits and organizations. We have a website. We have a Facebook. This is something that puts rewards back into your pocket and it helps us. It's a win-win. It's for your every day shopping, taking your spouse out to dinner, buying your kids clothes for school. There are over 200 retailers on this app that you can use that put money back into your virtual wallet. There is a link on our website and Facebook page to sign up for the IFA Rewards App. One thing that sticks out in the video about this is that the IFA has about 15,000 members. If every member got the app and spent an average of \$300 per month and you split the profit between the members and the IFA 50/50 the IFA could make \$4.5 million in just one year from the rewards. Now, that is hypothetical. Hypothetically, I could say Iowa State is going to win the National Championship this year in football. Realistically, they might win 2 more games. Sorry Iowa State fans. We are just launching this app. Realistically, we might get 2500 members to sign up. But \$100,000 to us and \$100,000 to you is still \$100,000. It might start out small, but if it gets big the possibilities are endless for what we could do. Two scenarios I can think of for this. Eric took my wife and I out to eat to show us how this app works. We ordered our food and then the waitress brought our check. He pulled out his phone, ordered the gift card, he put her tip right on the card, put the gift card number on the top of the receipt and handed it back to her. He told her to run that number as a debit card and keep the rest as a tip. He never had out a credit card or a debit card or anything else because when you sign up you link this app to your account. The security is the same as credit card companies and banks use. There is a sign up fee of \$25 but when you sign up, \$10 goes to the IFA and \$10 is put in your virtual wallet to use on a purchase in the next 30 days. If over the course of a year you have over \$25 in rewards in your wallet when it's time to renew you can just take it right out of your virtual wallet. We've all heard the horror stories of handing your card over to someone and it only takes a few seconds for them to write down those 16 numbers and flip it over and get the 3 numbers off the back. That is all they need to order stuff on-line. You don't need to worry about that with this app. If you have a kid away at school and call and say they need money for a pair of jeans. You can order a gift card from Old Navy, screen shot the gift card and send it to them, they can pay for the jeans and you didn't have to worry about sending them money or giving them your credit card.

There is also a contest going on for the individual that refers the most people that sign up and a contest for the department that has the most people sign up under their department name. There are videos on the website and Facebook that tell how to sign up.

Thank you to Bill for his hard work and leadership this past year as President. I look forward to working with Marv this coming year.

5th Vice President Jason Barrick:

Once again, I'd like to thank everyone for being here and to Forest City for the wonderful convention and anyone that had anything to do with it. I've learned as 5th Vice President from the meetings we've had so far that by the time it's your turn everything has already been spoken for or the ideas have already been out there. It makes the 5th Vice speech a little easier because you don't want to repeat everything that's already been said but some things are worth repeating.

I was able to help set up and tear down also at the Hall of Flame. Once again that is a great opportunity for us. It's good publicity and it's a lot of fun with the kids.

Congratulations to all the contest winners from Saturday. It was a good day for my Iowa Falls department. We did very well for what we do and for no more than we practice.

It was great for me to see John Pederson up here. He made my first few trips to the capitol very easy for me. I was walking into a political place and I had no idea what to expect and he made it real easy for me. Thank you for that John.

I went to Latimer this summer and handed out an award there. As Jim said, him and I went to Jewell also for Bob Hagen's retirement.

Past President Mark McNees:

I want to also thank Chief Mark Johnson and the Forest City fire dept for a great convention. You know it's been good when you have no voice, no money, and no recollection of some of it. Well done.

It's great to see John Pedersen here today. Having worked with John for several years I have no doubt at his strength and determination to recover totally from this incident. John, you know attitude is a tremendous part of recovery. Keep it up and I have no doubt you will be successful. My best wishes my friend.

I intended to keep this short, but started writing notes and would like to comment on a couple of items. First it was good to hear from the commissioner and FM Wood that the computerized testing system is the direction they are supporting. We have pushing for this for some time. I believe strongly that this will be the best direction for firefighter testing. It does several things, but most importantly keeps the testing local, cost efficient, and provides a quicker turnaround.

Roger's comments on the Friday fireworks meeting are spot on. John mentioned some items regarding fireworks. I will tell you I was not in a good mood most of June as we tried to institute the inspection protocols on the local level, as I was the inspector for Atlantic. I strongly believe the legislature passed it late to create chaos, which it did. I believe we need to be prepared for a push in the legislature this year to take away any local control of fireworks. I know several complained to the fire marshal that they were upset at local jurisdictions. I found it very rich that Sen. Chapman complained publicly that cities were "sticking it the legislature's eye" by instituting sales area restrictions. Considering how many orifices the legislature shoved this up in legalizing fireworks, I find it ironic.

I also tried to apply for the grant money that was supposed to be available to local fire depts. from the license fees from vendors. I was told in a conversation with Dan that there was no money available. I don't know the final totals, but at the time only something like \$225,000 had been taken in, while far more than that had been spent in setting up the program, and in labor costs for the FM office as inspectors tried to inspect the sites. Not all would even be inspected, despite the help of many of us in inspecting our jurisdictions. So the warning we gave the legislature that the fees were too low appears to be correct. The windfall of funds from this didn't appear. IF there are funds next year it will still be fiscal 2019 before anyone saw any of it. I also think we should not be surprised if there is an effort to legalize sales 365 days a year.

I want to thank the past presidents who have encouraged me and been a source of support and advice. I won't list them so I don't forget anyone, but many are in the room today. I want to thank the board and Wendy for all of their support as well. I have gained more knowledge from my term than you can imagine. Even better is how many great friends I have also made during this time.

I appreciate all the current board brings to the table individually. Bill, you have led us through some very trying and unforeseen times this past year and you have done a fantastic job. I have full confidence Marv will be a great leader for the coming year as well, and you have my full support and help if needed.

I want to again thank my wife Bobbi and my kids for their support during this time and the Atlantic Fire Department. I couldn't have done it otherwise.

It has been an honor to serve the fire service. Thank you.

President Bill Halleran:

I want to reiterate thanks to Chief Mark Johnson and the Forest City Fire Department for all they've done.

As Wendy said, thanks to John Novak and Rick Schmidt for all they did yesterday at the drills.

One thing that we are looking at is this meeting has always been on a Sunday. The thought is to maybe move this meeting to Friday morning and that way on Sunday people can get out of here and get on the road. Yes, it may interfere with bowling or golf but maybe we could get more people involved in the meeting. It's just a thought process right now.

Roxanne Ryan discussed a lot of things going on with DPS. It has been a very trying year. We had a lot of issues with the FSTB, the testing, the fix of the testing, the breakdown of the testing, the fix again. We get phone calls and e-mails and the feedback. It's not fun, but we can only do so much with setting up appointments and meetings and making phone calls. The FSTB Chief, the accreditation manager, the talk of moving on campus or off campus, where is it going to be....it was a trying year. Another thing, not in a derogatory way, John's stroke; he was our "go to guy" at the capitol. We had to change some of the ways we addressed stuff. We get daily text messages, phone calls and e-mails from John saying, "Hey, this is what's going on at the capitol today." We muddled through a lot of stuff but we're making progress.

Fireworks, it's frustrating and I went to a subcommittee meeting where there was a room full of people and we went around the room and each person spoke for 10 or 15 minutes on why we were not in favor of fireworks and when it came back around Senator Chapman basically said "I don't care what you guys said, I'm moving this out of subcommittee." So everyone had something to say and it didn't matter. That's wrong. There was no discussion, just thanks for coming, you just wasted 4 hours of your time.

The long range planning committee is always going to be a work in progress. There are a lot of things on there to try to make the association better.

We had 3 Line of Duty Deaths this year: Des Moines FF Doug McCauley, Ames FF Steve Buser and West Burlington FF James Franciskovich. We haven't had that happen for a while.

As I step into my role as Past President I have full confidence in the board. We talk a lot. Marv will represent us with pride and dignity; there is no doubt about it. Mark and I became really good friends and I appreciate his and Bobbi's hospitality when I've been traveling in western Iowa. He's been a real role model for me and I really appreciate all he has done and helped out with.

Credentials Report – Curt Maddux

There were a total of 43 towns that filed credentials. Adair-34, Alden-23, Anamosa-28, Atlantic-49, Belle Plaine-40, Breda-26, Brooklyn-30, Buckeye-19, Cedar-Mt.Auburn-18, Cedar Falls-57, Dyersville-65, Edgewood-28, Eldora-32, Elkhart-19, Ely-43, Forest City-43, Garner-30, Garrison-33, Grand Mound-26, Harlan-63, Iowa City – 25, Iowa Falls-36, Lake Mills-45, Madrid-31, Manchester-44, Maquoketa-43, Mechanicsville-25, Monticello-44, Oelwein-55, Osage-44, Radcliffe-23, Renwick-14, Sigourney-29, Solon-42, Steamboat Rock – 20, Stuart-33, Traer-30, Van Horne-17, Walker-25, Waverly-41, Webster City-29, Wellsburg-29, West Des Moines-44. Total Votes: 1417.

Proxy/Absentee Report – Dick Frank

Fifteen towns voted by proxy with a total of 442 votes.

State Fair Committee – Rusty Hockman

Thanks for everyone's help at the fair this year. I'll hold my report until the Mid Year business meeting.

National Volunteer Fire Council – Roger Bissen

On August 2nd of this year the US Senate passed the AFG and SAFER Reauthorization Act.

Fall Conference is September 27th – 29th in Kearney, Nebraska.

Spring Conference will be April 19th – 21st, 2018 in Washington, DC. The 2018 Fall Conference will be September 19th – 21st, 2018 in Bismarck, ND.

Roger is on the By-Laws Committee. They did a revamp of the By Laws and Board Policy and they are finishing up on that. He is also on the HazMat Committee and there wasn't anything to report on that. The Wireless Committee: FirstNet is working with AT&T to build out infrastructure in rural areas that will have a higher priority for emergency response. This committee is also working on a policy for the use of drones in public safety.

Unfinished Business: None

Election/Installation of Officers:

Cliff Renslow, Stuart made a motion to move all officers up one position and elect a new 5th Vice President. It was seconded by Curt Maddux, Madrid. Motion carried.

IFA Past President Paul Schellhase, Garrison came up and presented the gavel, name badge, name tag and business cards to Marv Trimble, Garrison as he moved up to the position of President of the IFA. Paul said he was very honored to help Marv up to the position of President. Paul said he went off the board in 1990 and he encouraged anyone considering running for 5th Vice President to do it. He said it was something that has really meant a lot to him and it's something that you'll never forget.

President Marv Trimble:

Marv thanked his wife Michele. They will be celebrating their 35th wedding anniversary tomorrow. He also thanked the rest of his family and the Garrison Fire Department for all of their support. He also thanked the Cedar Rapids Fire Department for giving him time to go to Des Moines to the capitol. He thanked all the Past Presidents of the IFA and the current board.

Marv called up the members of the Sigourney Fire Department. They presented Bill Halleran with a Lifetime Membership card and certificate and name badge, name tag, pin, hat and business cards as he moved to the position of Past President.

Nominations for 5th Vice President –

Kirk Rice – Iowa Falls:

Iowa Falls Fire Department and Hardin County Firefighters Association would like to nominate Chuck Raska of the Radcliffe Fire Department. Chuck has been a member of the fire department since 1997. He is married to his wife Sarah and has a step daughter, Tori, that is 23 years old and a son Coy, 11. He has served as firefighter, Lieutenant, Training Officer, Assistant Chief and when his dad retired as Fire Chief his department elected him as Chief. Chuck is a leader in many ways in his community. He maintains a very active fire department not only locally, but in the county and the state. Radcliffe Fire Department was awarded Fire Department of the Year. That takes a lot of work and dedication not only from Chuck but having dedicated members of his department backing him. The treatment plant not only shows the department's support of Chuck but Hardin County has been very supportive of Chuck and the IFA. Hardin County has a history of members that have served as Presidents of the IFA. Chuck has visited with all of them. It gives me great honor to nominate and ask for your vote for Chuck Raska for 5th Vice President.

Scott Hagenson, Lake Mills made a motion that nominations cease and we elect Chuck Raska as the new 5th Vice President of the Iowa Firefighters Association. It was seconded by Rusty Hockman, Jewell. Motion carried.

5th Vice President Chuck Raska –

Kirk pretty well covered my back story. I am the current Fire Chief in Radcliffe. I am very proud of my guys and the team we've built there. Last year we were honored to be selected as the IFA Fire Department of the Year. We went to Mid Year which was the first time for many of us. I've been there before. I got most of my department there without them knowing what was coming. That was a pretty big honor. It just builds every time you honor someone like that. This year we had a solid 3 teams in each event in the drills. We competed well and took home a couple trophies and a trophy for our truck. Things are good in Radcliffe. I have a great crew there to stand guard when I'm gone doing work for the IFA. I look forward to serving with this board. Side by side we'll work through the issues that come to the table. I look forward to working with Wendy. Thank you.

Rusty Hockman, Jewell, made a motion that the meeting of the Iowa Firefighters Association be suspended and the meeting of the Iowa Firemen's Foundation be opened. It was seconded by Jim Huber, West Branch/Solon. Motion carried.

Meeting of the Iowa Firemen's Foundation was called to order. Scott Hagenson made a motion to move Marv Trimble up to President and Jim Shutts up to Vice President of the Iowa Firemen's Foundation. It was seconded by Jim Huber, West Branch/Solon. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Cliff Renslow, Stuart to adjourn the meeting and re-convene the meeting of the Iowa Firemen's Association. It was seconded.. Motion carried.

Meeting of the Iowa Firefighters Association was re-convened.

New Business: None

Selection of Convention City 2019 –

Al Muhlhausen, Maquoketa – We'd like to nominate Manchester for convention city 2019.

Larry Renslow, Stuart made a motion that nominations cease and a unanimous ballot be cast to select Manchester as Convention City 2019. It was seconded by Curt Maddux, Madrid. Motion carried.

Good of the Association:

No one was able to attend the meeting on behalf of MDA but a collection was taken and \$255 was donated for MDA.

Kristin Decker, Garrison – Presented a check in the amount of \$320 to the memorial. She set up a Mobile Boutique for the week and donated 15% of the proceeds to the memorial.

First timers were asked to get together following the meeting for a picture.

Chief Mark Johnson from Forest City announced that the proceeds from the auction of the golf flags at the dance Saturday night raised \$1980 for the memorial.

Forest City gave a quick report on numbers for convention.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:06.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Wendy Lensing
Executive Director**