

Iowa Firefighters Association
Mid Year Business Meeting
April 22, 2017
Coralville, IA

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by President Bill Halleran.

The colors were presented by Past Presidents Jack Runge and Roger Bissen.

Today's election judges if needed will be Al Muhlhausen, Mark Johnson, Duane Weber, Brad Lamping, Tim Cappel and Don Scott.

Welcome by Coralville Marriott Representative Phil Wiese –

Phil welcomed everyone to the Coralville Marriott and on behalf of the hotel thanked everyone for being there and hoped they enjoyed their stay. He then introduced Coralville Mayor John Lundell.

Welcome by Coralville Mayor John Lundell –

Mayor Lundell said he is often asked to speak at these types of meetings and he tries to come up with something that he has in common with the group. This time it was very easy. He is a retired Coralville Firefighter. He's been involved with the Iowa Firefighters Memorial since it began. He and his wife are the webmasters for the Memorial website. There are 2,598 names of deceased firefighters that are listed on the memorial wall and the website. His wife has typed the bios for all of them. Mayor Lundell told a bit about his time on the Coralville Fire Department. He thanked everyone for coming to Coralville.

President Halleran asked for a moment of silence for the 3 Line of Duty Deaths this past year: Des Moines FF Doug McCauley, West Burlington FF James Franciskovich and Ames FF Steve Buser, as well as the loss of IFA Past President Bud Hollar.

RESOLUTION #1 – Scott Hagenson

To the members of the Iowa Firefighters Association assembled here in Coralville, Iowa on this 22nd day of April in the year 2017.

WHEREAS: We would like to thank the Coralville Marriott, the Coralville Fire Department, the Mid Year Committee and the citizens of Coralville for their gracious hospitality

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

Respectfully submitted by the Resolutions Committee.

Long Range Planning Committee – Roger Bissen, Chair

Members of the Long-Range Planning Committee for 2017 are; Roger Bissen – Harlan – Chair, Jim Kenkel – Woodward, Kirk Rice – Iowa Falls, Charlie Runge – Radcliffe, Kurt Angell – Osage, and Rick Landgrebe – Sigourney. The committee communicated by email and sharing information from previous years of the Long-Range Planning Committees. The committee also had a conference call in April to discuss what the goals of previous planning committees were and what we want to establish for goals this year. Members of the committee on the conference call were Roger Bissen, Jim Kenkel, Kirk Rice, Charlie Runge. The committee in the past met in 1996, 2001 and 2006, over the years some of the goals for the Iowa Firefighters Association were reached and there are some that we are still talking about today. Some examples of goals reached from past committees were; Changing the Name of the Association from

Iowa Firemen's Association to Iowa Firefighters Association, looking at hiring a full time executive officer for the Association, hiring a full time lobbyist, develop a monthly newsletter for the membership, develop State Training Requirements. Some items that have been talked about in the past which have not been accomplished or we need to do a better job of implementing and we are still talking about them today are; specific job duties for each officer, retirement/pension plan, implementing a new state training facility, building membership, communications with other state fire organizations, outside audit.

The committee realizes that with lots of hard works some of these goals have been accomplished, we also realize that sometimes there are some road blocks which makes some goals harder to reach or some unforeseen challenges arise and take priority at that time.

We, the committee, have come up with our goals we feel the Iowa Firefighters Association should focus on over the next five years. These goals are listed in order of priority.

- The Iowa Firefighters Association needs to have a strong voice in the immediate future of the fire service in Iowa in working with the Emergency Response Council to develop a more active council with a strong voice, This council must work on enforcing Chapter 100B of the Iowa Code This council must be very diligent and demanding to lead the Fire Service Training Bureau in the best direction and determine the governing body in which the Bureau will operate under. We feel training of the Iowa Firefighter is at a very critical stage and if we as the leaders in the fire service make the wrong choices there could be a very bad outcome for the future of the fire service and the future of the Iowa Firefighters Association.
- Develop a disaster recovery plan for the business office of the Iowa Firefighters Association. The Long-Range Planning Committee feels this is good business practice and should be followed like any other business.
- Develop and or review specific job duties for each officer and timelines for tasks of that officer. This will only ensure the efficiency of the board and for smooth operations.
- Develop an Annual Audit Committee outside the current board with a Professional Audit performed every five -seven years. Even though the Iowa Firefighters Association has never had any in-appropriate spending of funds to our knowledge it is just good business practice to have the Annual Audit outside the current board. Currently it is performed by the fourth and fifth vice presidents.
- Explore the options of electronic voting at our Midyear and Convention Meetings. Members of the Long-Range Planning Committee have experience at state level and national level meetings of electronic voting which could be internet based. These electronic programs can tally the voting and calculate the number of votes per department as voting delegates vote at their station which could be set up in the room where the meeting is conducted. As soon as the last vote is entered the results could be displayed or projected for those in attendance at the meeting.
- Look at the possibility of moving the business meeting at convention from Sunday morning to Friday morning. We feel this will increase the attendance at the meetings which in the long run will educate potential board candidates on the business side of the Iowa Firefighters Association.

We the Long-Range Planning Committee feel the items listed above are important factors for the future of the Iowa Firefighters Association. We also feel the goals stated from previous Long-Range Planning Committees that have not been completely fulfilled by the board should also continue to be worked on.

This current Long-Range Planning Committee strongly encourages the board to set a target date for the next Committee to meet. Our recommendation would be between 2022-2023.

Submitted by the Long Range Planning Committee – Roger Bissen, Chair

President Halleran: I'd like to thank the Long Range Planning Committee. They are doing their due diligence to be proactive rather than stagnant. We do like a lot of the bullet points. Roger brought this up to our workshop meeting yesterday. If anyone has anything they'd like to discuss on this they can bring it up with one of the committee members after today's events.

President Halleran: Sometimes the board gets phone calls concerning legal questions and sometimes the answers to these questions would be our opinion and our opinion only. We reached out to Skylar Limkemann and we've entered into a contract agreement with his firm. He can speak so much better than any of us can to any legal issues that might arise. He is here today to speak about his services.

Legal representation – Skylar Limkemann:

Skylar is with Scheldrup Blades law firm in Cedar Rapids. He's been a lawyer for 4 years and prior to that he was on the West Burlington FD. He currently represents municipalities, fire departments, police officers, EMS organizations across the state of Iowa in state and federal court. He has entered into an agreement with the Iowa Firefighters Association for representation. That means he represents the board and the association but not necessarily any one individual or any one department although he represents fire departments and firefighters across the state in a variety of cases. He also does a lot of 28-E agreements, By-laws, articles of incorporation, policies and procedures and things like that. One of the goals is to be able to provide a legal benefit program but currently his services are limited to the board and addressing matters that need addressed such as legal opinions on statutes that may be passed by the legislature. He's also been working on some legislation proposals and changes that unfortunately this year did not make the cutoff but essentially the 20 plus changes that are being proposed would ensure that you as firefighters can provide your services without being sued. There are some gaps in the current code that are being addressed. Some of the issues are just due to laws that haven't been changed for many years and are outdated and need to be clarified.

Muscular Dystrophy Association – Jillian Harper –

Jillian Harper is Executive Director with the Muscular Dystrophy Association. She said MDA is a leading non-profit health agency that is dedicated to finding treatments and cures for Duchenne muscular dystrophy, ALS and over 40 other neuromuscular diseases. They have partnered with firefighters for 63 years now. At the start of 2016 MDA took a really hard look at where the money from all the fundraising efforts such as Fill the Boot were going and set some goals: to dedicate 50% more to research by the year 2020; to care for double the number of families at their care centers; to increase the number of kids that are sent to camp by 20,000 children.

They've come a long way in working on treatments and a cure. In 2016 they made a bold statement that you'd see more treatments and cures in the next 5 years than you have in the last 50. They've already seen progress in that. In 2016 three new treatments were put in front of the FDA and three new treatments were approved. Two are for Duchenne muscular dystrophy and the other one was for spinal muscular atrophy.

The care centers are where families go to receive treatments. Here it's at the University of Iowa and they can come to see everyone that they need to in one trip rather than making repeated trips to different locations. They see 1700 families from all over Iowa.

A lot of times people have sympathy for the families. They don't need sympathy; they need empowerment. They do things every day that most people don't think are possible. Camp is for empowering them. Come out to Camp Courageous in Monticello anytime and get a tour of the camp and join the activities with the kids.

They also advocate for the kids. A lot of the kids are living longer and growing stronger so they need to help them to go on to college, live on their own, have independent jobs. They have an advocacy and transitional program that helps kids go from high school, to college, to living on their own. That program is helping families look beyond the scope of camp and high school.

Fire departments are helping MDA meet their 2020 goals. Last year 90 departments raised \$354,000 with the Fill the Boot campaign. They are always looking for more departments to jump on board.

Iowa Emergency Management Association – Mike Ryan

On behalf of our President Doug Reed from Pottawattamie County I'd like to thank you all for the opportunity to be here today. Our association was glad to be a part of the coalition with you in trying to combat the sale and use of fireworks in the state of Iowa. Through the legislature we failed in that task to get that stopped. We also want to thank you for helping us in getting one of our bills through to get Emergency Management recognized as a public safety agency. That aligns us with federal statutes now. We stand with you and are ready to support you in any changes or anything that needs done to right the ship as far as the Fire Service Training Bureau and testing. Emergency managers are here and are a resource. Get to know your local folks. Thank you.

Iowa Elks – Mark McNees

Just a reminder that there are raffle cards out on the table. These are the same cards that went out in the dues packets to departments. They are for the Elks Major Project. They have allowed fire departments to be a part of this. Last year the Marble Rock Fire Department won \$2000 through this. All the money that is raised through this is used to support the fire safety trailers that are placed throughout the state. They've also helped with smoke detectors. It's a good project. We're still looking at trying to get another trailer up in Northeast Iowa. If you know a department up that way that might want to host one, they have to house it and be the ones responsible for staging it and getting it out. We'd love to know and we'll try to get another grant to see if we can get another trailer up in that area. Right now Charles City is the closest in that area. The trailer that used to be in Denison has now been moved up to Orange City. Their county association has taken over that trailer so that covers the Northwest area of the state.

Iowa Society of Fire Service Instructors – Doug Kolkman

I'm Doug Kolkman and I'm the immediate Past President of the Iowa Society of Fire Service Instructors. Our mission is to provide effective and continuous leadership in training and education for the Fire Service Instructor. With that said we work with the Fire Service Training Bureau. We hold our Instructor's Conference. This year it's the first weekend in December, December 1st and 2nd, 2017. We had a meeting back in February during fire school and we have a meeting coming up in a couple of weeks. We are talking about having a banquet this year to honor someone who is the history of the fire service.

The ISFSI is a Chapter 2 of the International Society of Fire Service Instructors. I was informed by them that Iowa is the only active chapter of the International, and that is worldwide.

There will be a special training opportunity offered by the International Society of Fire Service Instructors – “Safe Law Enforcement Operations on the Fire Ground” on November 18, 2017 in Hawkeye, IA.

State Fire Marshal and Fire Service Training Bureau – Jeff Quigle and Kyle Gorsch

Jeff and Kyle updated everyone on the testing issues at the FSTB. Jeff thanked the board for their support and reiterated that what happened at the training bureau had nothing to do with the association. The individual that was responsible is being charged.

There were initially 1700 letters sent out. Then due to an oversight in the way the files are set up in their system (database is split into two groups and one group wasn't checked) when that was caught another 700 letters were sent out. There will be no more letters sent out. The process for checking the certifications is complete. They are still trying to track down a few people though that have bad addresses on file.

They attended the IFSAC Conference and they are the accrediting body that certifies the different certifications that are offered by the FSTB. Right now they have a “conditional certification”. They are not fully accredited, but they are still able to do business and issue certificates with the IFSAC seal on them. One thing that they found interesting when attending the conference is that some of the states had 3 or 4 people in accreditation, not just one like Iowa did. They can't operate with just one person. They are looking at different ways to do testing, so they have accountability, so that this does not happen again.

They've had 2 meetings with the Iowa Fire Service Emergency Response Council. They requested that Kyle and Jeff attend a meeting with the community colleges to see if there was any interest in developing a testing model to be used 3rd party that would take care of testing done electronically. Northwest Community College currently has an on-line testing model where a kit would be shipped out to the fire station with about 20 tablets in a case and a mobile hot spot and a test could be proctored right at the fire station. You would know immediately what your results are. That kit would go directly to the fire station.

They've looked at Pearson Vue and the cost was going to be too high.

Kyle said they are current with checking tests and sending out certificates and patches up to the point where re-testing began in February. Those should start being sent out soon. They have retested over 900 firefighters since February. They did not have the staff to be doing normal testing and retesting and they met with the IFSERC and with their support they have decided to halt any new testing at this time and focus solely on retesting from April 1st through August. Any testing that was scheduled prior to April 1st will still take place, they will not cancel those, they just will not schedule any new test sites until after the summer. Retesting sites are posted on their website. Also, retesting had originally been planned for 6 months but that has been extended until the end of the year.

It's been a difficult year for the fire service and they understand the frustration and it's been difficult for them as well and their staff is committed to getting this straightened out and moving forward.

Jeff said that they had to take a budget cut as did all state agencies. He wanted to stress that the \$70K that he had to come up with for the cuts was taken from the FM general budget, not the training fund and not the FSTB.

Jeff has also been asking repeatedly for them to at least hire an interim director for the FSTB until a permanent director can be hired. He had finally been given permission to do that.

Jeff spoke briefly on the fireworks being legalized. They will be working on licensing and administrative rules as things move forward.

Kyle said that they have some new National Fire Academy courses coming up: Incident Safety Officer in November, Leadership in Supervision series beginning in December and a Youth Firesetter Program Manager in March of 2018. Those courses are listed on their website.

Kyle said that Jeff mentioned that their accreditation is “conditional” and he wanted to add that they will be reaching to fire service members looking for subject matter experts for validating some of the tests and skill sheets. That is pretty much the last thing that they need to do to go from “conditional” to “full” accreditation.

Roger Bissen asked about the 5 positions that they are down at the FSTB and what Jeff’s insight is for filling those. Jeff said in order to fill those vacancies he would have to convert other vacant positions that he has elsewhere. For example he has two vacant fire inspector positions in the Fire Prevention Bureau and he doesn’t want to use those but if they could do everything they need to do in the Fire Prevention Bureau with the staff that they have he could move those to the FSTB to shore up some positions that need to be filled. They are able to move positions around. It would help a lot if they could fill the Field Program Coordinator spot and get one or maybe two full-time positions in accreditation that would help too. But using community colleges for testing would help tremendously too.

Scott Hagenson said that he thought they needed to communicate better with the firefighters around the state. He said he gets calls from firefighters that have received these letters saying that their certification isn’t valid and they don’t know what to do. Kyle said that the letters that go to the firefighters have the information on contacting someone about retesting. The fire departments are notified that they have affected personnel, but they need to call the FSTB to find out who is affected because otherwise the letter is public information and the students names would be public information. The training bureau wanted to protect the students from that so that is why there is the extra step. It made extra work for the training bureau but they felt it was more important to protect the students. Jeff said maybe they can send a followup letter to departments that have impacted students letting them know about refresher training and testing.

Kim Fensterman stated she thought it might be a good idea to put a box ad in the “Iowa Firefighter” letting people know about refresher courses and locations.

Someone asked if there would be followup letters to departments just to be sure that if a firefighter that received a letter that their certification wasn’t valid that they do in fact get that taken care of. They said that yes, that should happen.

Jeff said that if there are any questions or concerns please contact them and they are open to suggestions.

President Halleran commended Kyle Gorsch for taking on the headache of what has happened and even though there have been some hiccups he’s done very well in helping to straighten things out.

IFA Scholarship – Cliff Renslow

Every year since we’ve started this the board lets me contact the scholarship winner and we’ve had several that have gone on to become career firefighters and it’s a great thing to see.

This year’s winner is Caleb Weddle from Minburn. He also happens to be the grandson of IFA Past President Tom Campbell.

Caleb thanked the board for choosing him this year. He’ll be attending Hawkeye Community College this fall for Fire Science. He’ll be double majoring for Fire Science and Police Science. He’s been actively involved with the Minburn Fire Department for the past year.

President Halleran said that when Caleb was chosen the board had no idea he was the grandson of Past President Tom Campbell. His application didn’t mention it.

Past President Don Scott presented a check for \$200 for the scholarship fund from proceeds from a get together of the past presidents that was held at convention.

Motion was made by Mark McNees, Atlantic to approve the minutes of the IFA business meeting held at convention on September 11, 2016 in Waverly, IA. It was seconded by Don Scott, Redfield. Motion carried.

Executive Director's Report – Wendy Lensing

Due to an on-going family life change there have been some delays in getting things done as quickly as they have been in the past. The focus right now in the office has been membership dues as they came in quickly after being sent out the first of January. That needed to be up to date prior to the business meeting. Someone has been identified that can help in the office and work will continue to get things caught up. I thank the board and the membership for their support and understanding during this time.

Addresses – we have been doing a lot of address changes. If there are people that are not receiving their newsletter please check and see what address you have on file with us. I'm receiving a lot of notices of undeliverable papers. Every time we get a notice through the post office of an address change or undeliverable paper they charge us fifty-eight cents. Those add up in a hurry, especially when the dues for that person were only \$13 for the year.

We need volunteers for the Hall of Flame at the Iowa State Fair. That is one thing that got moved off my plate to help me out. Ashley Hockman is working on scheduling the volunteers now. There is a flyer out on the table with her contact information and the fair dates. It's also on our website.

We need drill officials to help with the contests at convention. If you are interested in helping please contact me for that. We are especially in need of more volunteers that have previous experience or knowledge of the drills so if you used to compete in the events are just watching now maybe you would be willing to lend us a hand for one of the events.

Financial Report – Wendy Lensing

Due to the conflicts previously mentioned there was not an official financial report. It will be posted on the website once it is complete. Bills have been paid and everything is in order, dues have just been the focus and there was not time to complete the financial reports prior to the meeting. Here are the bank statement account balances as of March 31, 2017:

General Checking - \$82,443.21

Credit Card Earning Savings - \$31,692.94

Convention Equipment Savings - \$9983.13

Affiliated Membership Savings - \$10,082.84

IFA 125th Statue Savings - \$982.81

Recruitment, Retention, Defense Savings - \$8549.02

Office Improvement Savings - \$8877.19

Hall of Flame Savings - \$15924.90

General Savings - \$56,842.26

IFA Scholarship Fund - \$6784.99

Mutual Aid Checking Account - \$9655.39

Mutual Aid Savings Account - \$15,368.30

Memorial Savings Account - \$57,337.76

Memorial Checking Account - \$706.68

Question was asked by Don Scott about the projected loss we were expecting on the budget for this year and if that had happened. Wendy replied that since the budget for the year was for the fiscal year that started last July 1st and would end June 30th, 2017 we didn't know yet whether we would have a loss or not.

Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2018 – Wendy Lensing

The board met in February to prepare the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2018 which runs July 1st, 2017 – June 30th, 2018. The expected dues income for the year is projected at \$191,100 with a total estimated income from all sources of \$221,300. The total expenses are estimated to be \$233,319.36 for a total projected net income of negative \$12,019.36.

Backing up to what I said in my report, the person I have helping in the office, I am paying her and deducting that from salary so it is not costing the association anything more for me to have help in the office.

President Halleran – Wendy has kept an open line of communication with the board and we are fully aware of what is going on in her home life and we do appreciate all that she has done for us.

Motion was made by Scott Hagenson, Lake Mills to approve the proposed budget. It was seconded by Cliff Renslow, Stuart. Motion carried.

Audit Report – Nick Riley

We the auditing committee, have examined the books of the Iowa Firefighters Association, the Mutual Aid Department and the Iowa Firemen's Foundation for the year ending June 30, 2016. We have compared the books with the financial statements of all divisions. We have reconciled the books with the respective bank account statements, compared the checks written for mutual aid deaths with the completed statements covering the respective death. We have examined other phases of the office operations as we deemed necessary. It is our opinion that the financial operations of the Iowa Firefighters Association, the Mutual Aid Department and the Iowa Firemen's Foundation are in order and the financial statements of all divisions are correctly stated. Signed: Nick Riley, Chair; Jason Barrick, and Attested to by Bill Halleran, President.

Motion was made by Larry Renslow, Stuart to accept the audit report. It was seconded by Rob Tharp, Cedar-Mt. Auburn. Motion carried.

Credentials Report – Don Cox:

Alden – 24, Atlantic – 49, Belle Plaine – 40, Cedar Mt Auburn – 18, Dyersville – 65, Epworth – 60, Garner – 33, Grinnell – 45, Guthrie Center – 45, Harlan – 63, Hudson – 37, Iowa City – 26, Iowa Falls – 38, Lake Mills – 45, Low Moor – 18, Manchester – 45, Maquoketa – 43, Monticello – 45, Osage – 45, Panora – 32, Redfield – 22, Sherrill – 55, Solon – 42, Stuart – 33, Traer – 30, Walker – 25, Waverly – 42, Wellsburg – 29, Yarmouth – 2. Twenty – nine (29) towns filed credentials for a total of 1096 votes.

Larry Renslow, Stuart made a motion to accept the credentials report. It was seconded by Pat White, Grinnell. Motion carried.

Officer's Reports:

1st VP – Marv Trimble –

We picked topics to present so we didn't all talk about the same things like in the past. I chose fireworks. OK, since the vote to make the bill law I have to change this presentation. Last night I was approached by a fellow firefighter who said we lost. Looking back in history, since that's the only way to look at history, I'm reminded of the Revolutionary war. The French were late getting to the party and we

almost lost. Not quite right. Remember the Alamo! We fought hard for years to stop Santa Anna, the fireworks law. This year Santa Anna got the right groups behind him and we lost.

Here's what we gained with the fight:

First, the time for sales and use started as any day year round. It has changed to June 1st to July 8th and December 10 to January 3rd. Temporary structures, tent sales start on June 13th instead of June 1st.

9:00am to 10:00 pm except on the 4th of July they can go until 11:00 and New Year eve to 12:30 am on the New Years day.

Second, the opt out. Section 6 subsection 17. The board of supervisors May by ordinance or resolution prohibit or limit the use. Section 8, subsection 6. A city council may do the same.

We need to go back to our local officials and ask to limit or ban the use. I know we have all shot off fireworks, but the less to JQ public have to use them the better for us.

The fine for using fireworks outside the confines for this law is not less than \$250.

Section 3, states : the state fire marshal shall establish a local fire protection and emergency medical services provider grant program to provide grants to local fire and EMS providers to establish and provide fireworks safety education programming to members of the public. The fire marshal may also provide grants to purchase necessary enforcement , protection, or emergency response equipment related to the sale and use of fireworks.

Good luck with that.

All I can say is it was a good fight Ma, too bad we lost.

Stay safe out there.

2nd VP – Jim Shutts –

This year I have to say has been less than pleasing on all ends. It seems that everything we tried to work on this year was a disaster. I have been told that you have years like this but I have to say I don't accept that. This leads me to my subject, the involvement in the Association by the members. This of course does not pertain to you people in the room. I have noticed over the years that the involvement in every aspect of our grand Association has been dropping. I would ask you people take these thoughts back to your departments and encourage your members to try to involve themselves a little more. This is showing in people not contacting their Legislators, not attending meetings, the lack of people getting in the drills at convention(excellent training), or being drill officials. I know you say everybody is busy these days but I say no, people always seem to have time for the things they enjoy like fishing, hunting, racing you name it and that's great but they always brag that they are on the Fire Department. So I ask why can't they put the same energy into the Association that they put into everything else. Convention is huge but the reason for convention is going downhill. I hate to stand up here and complain but for someone like me that cares for our great Association I can't help ranting like this. I have always been proud to wear this patch and always will be!

3rd VP – Gene Evans –

I also would like to begin by thanking Chief Dave Stannard, The Coralville Fire Department, The City of Coralville and the Marriott staff for their warm hospitality and other efforts in making this Midyear Meeting a success.

Since my last report, I have traveled to the Capitol for the Legislative Breakfast and have had the honor of presenting two 20 year and one 30 year service awards at my home Department in Osage.

I would like to remind everyone of the State Poster Contest Winner awards luncheon to be held at the Osage Fire Station on Saturday, May 06. This is a great time for the kids, and anyone able to attend from other departments is welcome.

My final comments are regarding how we, as Iowa Firefighters need to be cognizant of our actions, and understand how they can potentially affect both our personal lives and the perception of our respective departments within the community.

As we have all seen, any action or perceived miss-deed can quickly become a viral hit on the many platforms of social media. It seems that you can't pick your nose in public now without the threat of someone filming it and posting the video online.

This brings us to what needs to be an elevated level of situational awareness whenever we are involved in department responses, training and other functions. From the moment we leave home, we become ambassadors of the Fire Service. Something as simple as turning a sharp corner with a 4WD pickup at 5 MPH, causing the tires to chirp can become "That crazy Fireman was squealing his tires all the way to the fire station"

Another thing that we need to be constantly aware of is the expectations of the Communities that we serve. When someone dials 911, they expect the personnel responding to be trained, equipped, motivated, and fit for duty.

We are all adults, and I completely understand that most of us are Volunteers, giving freely of our time for the public good. That being said, consider for a moment the consequences of an accident or incident that might occur due to one or more individuals acting in an unsafe manner, possibly with less than a clear head. Many of us are entrusted with operating apparatus that cost anywhere between \$100K and \$1M. In most jurisdictions, any incidents involving an apparatus will be investigated by the Iowa State Patrol, not our local law Enforcement. If there are any factors involved in such a way that you could be charged criminally, the chances are good that this will happen.

The same goes for becoming injured on the fire ground. Your employer, i.e. - City or rural Board, has the right to ask for post-accident substance testing. If you were to test positive for something, there is a potential for the Worker's Comp Insurance Company to deny your claim. With a simple ED visit costing an average of \$1500, you can see how this could potentially affect your livelihood.

In closing, I would like to offer this test: When responding to a call, driving apparatus or working the fire ground, ask yourself this simple question: How would my decisions look on the front page of the local newspaper. Stay aware, be safe, and make sound choices.

4th VP – Nick Riley –

Nick spoke about the fact that there have been 3 Line of Duty Deaths this year already. He highlighted information that is available on the association website regarding paperwork that should be on file in every department and the benefits available when a firefighter is lost from an LODD.

The Federal Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB) Program provides a one-time financial benefit to the eligible survivors of federal, state, and local police, fire, and emergency public safety officers killed in the line of duty and to officers who are permanently and totally disabled as the result of traumatic injuries sustained in the line of duty. Currently set at **\$343,589.00** as of October 1, 2016, the benefit is adjusted annually. The amount of the PSOB educational assistance benefit for one month of full-time attendance on or after October 1, 2016 is **\$1,024.00**.

The Iowa benefit is a one-time payment of \$100,000.00.

5th VP – Jason Barrick –

First, I would like to thank everyone for coming today. I have been asked numerous times since September how 5TH vice is going and my answer is the same every time, interesting. Then I go into a bit of detail on what been going on with the IFA. I will be the first one to admit, I had no idea what I was getting in to. Yeah, I asked around and talked to some people but all of that never prepared me for the last few months.

I would like to talk about today about the recruitment side of this IFA board. If you talked to many fire departments across the state, you would hear that it's getting harder to find people to be on departments. Well, the IFA board is no different. We have talked about ways to peak interest but I think if you truly want to make a difference in the Iowa fire service, you should join the board. Yes, it is time consuming but that's what is great about the process of the board. Starting out as 5TH and working your way up is great and educational. You are not thrown in something you can't handle and if you come across something that you're unsure of, there are enough people help to help get you through it.

You want to talk about support? Run for 5th vice and you will soon find you have more support than you thought was possible. When I decided to run, I was overwhelmed at the amount of support I had. The fun of selling yourself to others is great. I was asked some questions at my meet-and-greet supper that before I would have never been able to confidently answer, but I feel I was able to because of the confidence I got from my support. Not to mention, who doesn't want to have a chance to throw a party at convention.

In conclusion I would like to encourage any and all members who are on the fence about running to give it some serious thought and consideration. Don't be scared of the time commitment. I know as I make my way up the ladder it will take more of my time, but I believe that what I will get in return will be worth it. After your 7 years of service on the board, you will be forever known as a past president of the Iowa Firefighters Association and a red coat - and who doesn't want to be a RED COAT?!

Past President – Mark McNees –

I want to thank Chief Stannard, the fire department and Mayor Lundell for hosting our meeting and thanks also to Bill and his committee for all their work on this event.

I recently attended banquets in Battle Creek, Audubon and Walnut. I gave out a 55 yr award to former Audubon Chief Cliff Petersen and three 40 yr awards in Walnut along with a 35 yr award at both. What struck me again was the aging of Iowa's fire service, particularly in rural areas. The trend continues as the population decreases as many move to the larger cities in the state along with other factors. I looked at my own department again and realized nine of us are over 50 years old, a quarter of our department. We are fortunate to be able to retain our numbers, but one of our rookies, who just took the FF1 test

last week, was someone I taught in Sunday school and who graduated with my son. I always speak to this issue when doing a presentation and I will do so here today. I am encouraging you to go back to your departments and do all you can to encourage your younger members to emulate those on your department who have actively given so many years to the service of their communities. It's more important than ever that we retain those we are fortunate enough to recruit.

Briefly I want to say that you heard from Skylar earlier and I am pleased that the IFA has entered a working relationship with him. Legal opinions are a need we identified quite some time back. We get many questions that I, and the others, don't have the legal knowledge to always properly respond. I am very hopeful that we will implement a program that will allow our member depts. to access him for legal counsel in the near future. It will be another great benefit to membership in the IFA.

I have been as active as possible this year in the legislative session and on other issues, particularly the retirement proposal and cancer presumption coverage. The firefighter retirement bill made it as far as a study bill this year and will be the focus of discussions this summer and fall. The LSA wrote the proposal after our initial input, but much of what was in the bill was not our intent or language, but it starts the discussion. While the IFA has had a LOSAP program for years, no one has taken advantage of it mainly because it had to be funded locally. What we are looking to do is replace the tax credit with a state contribution instead, into an IRA type vehicle that would also accept funding from the individual firefighter and their governing body. The legislature spoke this year of taking a hard look at all tax credits in an effort to address the budget issues, although I think mostly in the credits they give to business and industry, so it gives another reason for us to look at a different approach. We know this won't make people rich, but we strongly believe it will be a good retention tool if firefighters stay in service knowing they may have several thousand dollars available when they retire. The average service is 15 years for firefighters and we hope to retain them longer. Many volunteers have no retirement programs at work or only what they can do as the self-employed. This would provide a vehicle where they may provide for a more secure retirement. Bill and I met with JP and State Treasurer Fitzgerald last year and a lot of leg work has been done to get this far. I am confident we may see some movement next year with Matt's guidance and our efforts.

As for cancer presumption, I pledged to lead that effort this year, but honestly I was overwhelmed with duties as the presidency ended, that giving it my full effort was impossible. We have still been discussing it and making contacts. There are many moving parts as getting coverage could also affect career firefighters who have coverage now, but it is funded solely by their communities. Many of you know Bruce Blum of Harlan, who is sitting with us today, and his recent treatment for cancer. Doug Harms of LeMars is another that faced the same last year. In both cases Dr's have stated it almost certainly had to be from firefighting. I know Bruce is willing to testify and speak on this issue and I believe it will be needed as we pursue this. In the meantime many of us have been instituting prevention SOG's in our departments regarding washing gear, on scene management, and documentation. The NVFC has also been addressing this aggressively and we all need to do all we can to prevent exposure, not only for our protection, but as a demonstration to those who may legislate protection, that the fire service is working to prevent the incidences and thus keep the numbers down. We will have a stronger argument for coverage if we show we are working at prevention just as strongly.

I have also been heavily involved in the talks with the Governor's office, the DPS, and the FSTB issues. I want to take a moment to thank Kyle and Jeff for being responsive to our requests and discussions. We have not always had pleasant conversations and this year has been difficult for all involved, but they have listened taken our input on several issues, the Pearson Vue testing is a prime example. As for the FSTB, there has been much thrown around recently and while you never know as president or the board

what is coming your way, I want to say Bill and Marv have been doing a good job navigating the choppy waters. I believe our position that the structure for training Iowa's fire service is currently in place and should be staffed and funded immediately is the best for the fire service. I am fully supportive of the computerized local testing proposal and believe it is the wave of the future and will advance us forward. We have the same goals of a reliable, efficient, affordable, and easily accessible training program that maintains a local presence in the fire service. I know this can be accomplished.

In closing I will add I didn't say too much as last year's convention meeting in handing over the presidency because I feared getting emotional. It's a little easier now to speak so, since this is my last mid year meeting to be up here, I want to thank the board, Wendy, and especially the membership for allowing me to represent you. It has been an honor.

President – Bill Halleran –

I also would like to begin by thanking Coralville Fire Chief Dave Stannard, Coralville Fire Department, the City of Coralville and the Marriott staff for their warm hospitality and other efforts in making this Midyear Meeting a success.

Thanks also to the Coralville Visitor and Convention Bureau for their generosity of the welcoming bags.

John Pederson suffered a stroke roughly a month ago. John has been the IFA Lobbyist for many years and has been very active in helping us along the way. He truly cares for the Firefighters of Iowa and now it is time for us to care for him. John has been moved to on with Life in Ankeny for further rehab. If you noticed that we have a fundraiser item for him. A welded metal table with a firefighter themed glass top with fire hose and SCBA inside will be auctioned off to go towards his Go Fund Me page. This was generously made by past Ely Firefighter Carl Svec.

Fire Service Training Bureau: Here's where we're at with this....Several current board and past IFA Presidents held a meeting with Cord Overton the other day. Cord is the Policy Advisor for the Governor's Office. It was a meeting meant to move the ball of center. We have been stagnant for too long.

Commissioner Ryan has wanted to enter into a 28E agreement or a Memorandum of Understanding with a community college, predominantly DMACC to administer the FSTB. This would remove the FSTB out from under DPS and into a community college that would have full control over the FSTB. Funding, Props, Employees, Future Fire Schools, Testing to name a few would all be affected here.

The Governor will need to sign off and one of the community colleges would need to agree to enter into the 28E or MOU. The way it sounds, the FSTB Director would remain at DPS under any agreement but this isn't confirmed. The community colleges are not going to sign any agreement that doesn't make sense financially. Many of the issues will revolve around budgets and timing, mainly Fiscal year beginning in July.

The Pro-Chief, I-Chiefs and IFA have tried on numerous occasions to have a sit down with the Dept. of Public Safety Director Roxanne Ryan and discuss her ideas, but these requests have not been successful. This meeting went very well in my opinion. Cord was very receptive to discuss issues that have been being kicked around. The consensus that we're hearing and promoting is the point of not going to a Community College, but to leave FSTB where it currently is, but to push getting a Bureau Chief hired sooner than later. We have been without a FT Bureau Chief since May-June of last year.

At this point I would like to commend Interim Bureau Chief Kyle Gorsh. He was dealt a very ugly ordeal and has dealt with it very well. Many people in the room here are only hearing one side. Hiccups happened along the way, but overall it went well with taking on someone else's headache.

All in all we are optimistic in getting the ball moving versus being motionless in our attempts to getting a Bureau Chief hired.

A few items that the Board has been proactive with this year:

1st Vice Marv Trimble and I just got back from Washington DC. We had meetings set up with Iowa's two (2) United States Senators and four (4) United States House of Representatives while we were there. We were not able to meet with all of them due to voting demands that were occurring simultaneously, but did meet with aides for those who were unavailable. The main bullet points we discussed included: Cancer Presumption for Volunteers, AFG Grants, Safer Grants and taxation credits for volunteer Firefighters. I feel they listened to our concerns, agreed with our points and overall felt it was a very valuable trip. We attended the National Volunteer Firefighters Council (NVFC) meetings as well. There were many good discussions and it is always very helpful to hear how other states deal with many of the same issues we face locally.

Increase the funding for the Iowa Fire Marshal's office and the Fire Service Training Bureau to replace lost FTE's and strengthen the training of firefighters. This is my opinion as well as others. The employees at the FSTB cannot be held accountable for the actions of others. They truly believe in the Firefighters of Iowa and want this all put behind them.

Continue efforts to fund Fire and EMS service through existing codes, including to a minimum standard, and to allow for expansion of laws to allow entities to reform if necessary, including the reinstatement of benefitted districts

Continue to work with groups to help provide Next Generation 911 services in statewide network.

Continue as an IFA board to be a sounding bar for Firefighters of Iowa.

NVFC – Bob Platz – Roger Bissen:

Bob Platz:

Thank you and the board for letting me do the things that I like to do, Thank you.

We just attended a meeting in Washington D.C. earlier this month April 6-9.

The first thing that I and the office had to do was get a different state to host the 2018 fall meeting, Nevada cancelled out ,they didn't have enough money to host it. We called North Dakota as they were set for 2019 and they agreed to host 2018.

The legislative committee went through the bills that are priorities

- Assistance to Firefighters Grant
\$5 million increase for each program to \$345 million
- Volunteer Emergency Services Recruitment and Retention Act
LOSAPS
- Volunteer Responder Incentive Protection Reauthorization
Tax exemption on volunteer benefits up to \$600.00
- United States Fire Administration
Raise budget to \$44 million. They provide training for 80,000 fire and emergency personnel each year
- Volunteer Fire Assistance
Funding rural fire depts. Forester monies \$2 million more to \$14 million
- Cancer Registry Act

Find out what is causing so many firefighters dying of cancer

Next week I will be on a conference call with other board members and teachers to try to figure a better way to make the grants work.

Boots on the ground - We are seeing a lot of firefighters taking their own life. If somebody has a problem and the person can't find help we have this #and he will get help. The number is 1.888.731.FIRE(3473) This phone is manned 24/7. Get it on your Ref. or someplace the firefighters can find it. We did get to have Secy. John Kelly speak to us. He is Secretary of Homeland Security.

Roger Bissen:

They did talk about in the General Assembly that the NVFC is doing a membership drive. They want to increase the membership at a National level. Just like we talk about here with the IFA; the more members we have the stronger our voice is. We as a state association belong to the NVFC, but they also want individuals and departments to belong to the NVFC. There are applications out on the table.

They have some really good guidelines for the Junior Firefighter programs. In Harlan we are looking at doing something for Junior Firefighters or a Cadet program. If you are looking to do something in your department to get younger members and to build your membership the NVFC does have some guidelines for Junior Firefighter programs and you can pretty much cut and paste and apply it to your department as needed.

Another program they have is the Volunteer Firefighter Support Fund. You can go to their website and learn a little bit more about that.

One of the committees that I serve on is the Bylaws Committee. For the past year and a half they've been working on updating their Bylaws. We are now working on policies and procedures for the NVFC.

The other active committee that I'm on is the Wireless Radio Committee. If you have not heard, the Public Safety Advisory Committee has formed a FirstNet partnering with AT&T. Some of the information came out through Emergency Management. With FirstNet, we as emergency responders are going to be at a higher priority for communications on our cell towers. They are going to be building a network with AT&T, my concern is that AT&T in rural Iowa doesn't always have the best coverage. They are going to be coming out in the fall of 2018 with the written plan on how they are going to be building the networks and the rural areas are going to have the priority over urban areas for building this.

Another hot topic with the Wireless Committee is the use of drones in the fire service and another name for drone would be unmanned apparatus. You can categorize them as either air or water. So we are working on policies and procedures for the use of those in the fire service. We've talked about it in our area. There are a lot of gray areas in understanding exactly what rights we have and what security rights we have versus what law enforcement might have and the news media definitely has a whole different set of guidelines that they need to go by. There will be more coming out on that.

Something else I learned a little bit about on this committee is maybe some of you have heard about this, electronic accountability systems. This would be as a command staff on a fire ground we would be connected by Bluetooth to the firefighters and you'd be able to monitor everything going on with that firefighter including air supply. It goes through this Wireless Committee because of the radio communications.

The other committee that I serve on in HazMat Response. We've talked about cancer presumption, it's being talked about there. They talk a lot about Pipeline Hazardous Material Safety Alliance and also putting together incident action plans, prewritten plans for common chemicals. Other topics talked about there were National Pipeline Mapping System. We here in Iowa with the Iowa Pipeline Association have training that goes around the state. If you've never been to one of those you can find out where all the underground piping is.

Memorial Committee – Mike Reuman –

A quick reminder – this year's memorial service will be Sunday, June 11th. The cutoff this year for getting names added to the wall is May 10th. There is a block of rooms at the Radisson Hotel. That's the hotel next to the memorial. As always, we can always use more help in setting up and tearing down. There is a motorcycle ride again this year. I believe they start in Ames and stop in Toledo and stop in Coralville and then come into the memorial. If you want more information on that check with Dave Zimple. One other quick thing, most everyone in here knows John Novak. He's been the IFA custodian for the past 15+ years. His wife Mary has been battling lung cancer for the past year. About a week ago she found out it's in some of her lymph nodes and she's in the hospital now. I have a card that I'm sending around and we'll have everyone sign it and get it to her.

President Halleran – Thanks Mike. When you said that it reminded me – I have a big cardboard sign that will be at the dinner tonight also to sign as a card that we're going to get to John Pederson also.

Legislation – Matt Eide –

I'll give you a quick update on John. John has been my lobby partner and best friend for probably the past 12 or 13 years. He suffered a major stroke about a month ago. He was at Mercy for about 4 weeks. He's now at On With Life in Ankeny. He has paralysis on his left side. He has not been able to move his arm or leg. He has some vision problems with the left eye. He's doing therapy but it's going to be a long road back for him. His mental capacity is great. He still has the wit. His speech is very good. We talk about legislation. John loved representing this organization. It was his number one priority at the capitol and he had a real passion for it. He loved going to all the meetings and convention. I'm happy to hear about the table auction and I'm going to go see him on my way back. I already had a text from his daughter while I was here and he was asking how things were going. Keep John in your prayers.

Briefly, about me, I'm Matt Eide. I've been a lobbyist in Des Moines for 25 years going back to the early 90's. I'm a native of Fort Dodge. I went to Drake for undergrad and law school. I worked in Washington for a few years for a congressman and I came back and have been lobbying here since about 1992 or 93. With John's condition we brought on Kate Walton. She's a long-time Democrat lobbyist with about 20 years of experience. She's worked for former Governor Culver and other associations. She's been helping both me and John for the last couple of years and she's really stepped up. The board had an opportunity to meet Kate earlier this week when we had a meeting with the Governor's office. She will be helping me with our efforts on your behalf.

I do want to talk about the meeting we had this week with Cord and the Governor's office. He is the Chief Policy Advisor for DPS issues and a good friend of mine. As I was transitioning to take over the issues here there were a lot of consternation and feelings towards the department and lack of communication and things on social media that I didn't care for a whole lot. I wanted to set the reset button. With Bill and some of the other board members we set up a meeting with Cord. My philosophy is not name calling or saying bad things about people. I want to establish this association with the Governor's office, with DPS, as the most professional, credible entity that we can be. I found in all my

years at the capitol that that's how you get things done. I think we saw some of that this week when we met with Cord and we offered just one solution and that is that we need someone as bureau chief at the FSTB and we said that on Wednesday, we talked about all the options, the community colleges, etc. We said at the end of the day what a signal it would send to not only IFA but to the other groups to get someone in there. I'm not going to say for sure that was the reason that Jeff said we're going to have someone named on an interim basis but it probably was. Those are the types of things that we want to help with and establish ourselves as the go-to entity on these issues and I think we can do that. That doesn't mean we can't be passionate, we can't argue, but I always want to do it in a professional manner.

I'm most proud also this year, Jeff mentioned, the budget cuts. It was unbelievable, this legislature which by the way adjourned at 7:15 this a.m. after going all night, unbelievable resolve by this legislature. It was a nonstop grind from January until this morning. They pushed through some very difficult issues that we haven't seen ever. When you look at the bills they pushed through from work comp, collective bargaining, medical malpractice, etc., it was just a grind. I for one am glad it's over. But there were some real big budget cuts to almost everyone and I'm very proud that our fund with \$825K for training and equipment fund was static. I represent a lot of groups where funds took big cuts. Thank you to everyone that contacted their legislators.

We did have a bill that allows a city council member to serve as a volunteer firefighter. It made it through and was signed.

Mark talked about the LOSAP retirement program. I'm really excited about that. I did join John last year putting a lot of time in and hiring someone for some legal help to draft this. I'm very excited about the opportunity to provide some sort of defined benefit by taking our tax credit dollars and putting it into a fund. A bill is drafted and I read it again this morning. It's not perfect but it's going to take a while to get this thing passed. What I did like about it the Republican party committee chair introduced the bill. I'm excited to work on this over the interim and this fall.

Convention Committee – Marv Trimble –

The convention committee met yesterday. We talked about a number of things. One thing that we didn't talk about too much was last year at convention there was a nomination made for convention city for 2018. It was tabled. What I would like to do is ask for a motion to suspend the Bylaws requiring the convention site to be voted on at convention and actually choose it right here for 2018.

Al Esch, Epworth made a motion to suspend the Bylaws requiring the convention site to be voted on at convention. It was seconded by Roger Bissen, Harlan. Motion carried.

Marv asked if there were any other nominations for Convention City 2018.

Scott Hagenson, Lake Mills made a motion that nominations cease and a unanimous ballot be cast for Waverly for Convention City 2018. It was seconded by Dave Zimple, North Liberty. Motion carried.

Waverly will be the host of the 2018 IFA Convention.

Marv said the other things talked about at the meeting were equipment and hose. Some sections of hose were ruined last year. Waverly stepped up and replaced those sections. Story City also stepped up and had 10 sections of hose that they would donate also.

A representative from Waverly said that they had gone before the city council and they had been given the go ahead and they look forward to hosting again in 2018. No guarantees on rain.

Hall of Flame – Rusty Hockman

Congratulations to the first timers that are here today. It's good to see that tradition continue of recognizing the first timers. We're always looking for first timers to help at the Hall of Flame also. Ashley said it's going well. She got through her first year of scheduling and taking care of that end of it. We had

a little change up last year at the end with tear down. We couldn't get help to tear down in the morning and had to have someone sit there all day on Monday and babysit it. We forgot that there was no food on the fairgrounds after they closed at midnight so he had a long day. We came in at 5 p.m. and got it all loaded up. This year the set up date will be Tuesday August 8th at 5 or 6 p.m. and tear down will be Monday August 21st at 5 or 6 p.m. again. If you can help with any of that we'd appreciate it. If you haven't been there before and experienced it, helping to teach the kids Stop, Drop and Roll and things, it's a very rewarding experience. Come out for half a day. You get a ticket to the fair and a shirt and help out a great cause. You can reach Ashley at 515-689-6110 or alhockman@gmail.com.

Unfinished Business: None

Resolutions: None

New Business: None

Good of the Association:

Mark Johnson , Forest City: We are looking forward to seeing everyone for convention. This weekend we registered about 200, sold 815 campsites, and registered some for bowling and golf.

Chuck Raska, Radcliffe: I'd like to take a minute to say thank you these ladies and gentlemen up here for taking their time and commitment to being the voice of the Iowa Firefighters Association. I think we should give them a round of applause. They work hard. At this time I'd like to introduce myself. I'm Chuck Raska, Radcliffe Volunteer Fire Chief. I come from a small department in a town with a population of 550 people. We cover 110 square miles, mostly rural territory of course, in Hardin County. I'm a third generation firefighter and have been a member for 19 years. I've been chief for 6 years. We've made great accomplishments with recruitment and retention. I've got members of all ages starting with my dad who was chief before me and Dale Martinson who was chief when I got on and was very supportive of the IFA and taught us what the IFA was about. At this time I'd like to take the opportunity to announce my candidacy for the 5th Vice President for this year. We'll be voting on that in Forest City. I'd like to gain your support and if there is anything I can do for you let me know. Thank you.

Jack Runge, Buckeye: There's been a lot going on with the discussion about the bureau and the stuff that's going on. Mike Reuman and I had several conversations about what's been going on and Joanie picked up on some of those conversations. She printed off an excerpt for me from the Atlantic convention book of 1966. There is someone that isn't in the room with us this year that probably had been here for the last 50 or 60 years. I'd like to take a quote from that and what the conversation was about was the building in Ames was actually built in 1966 and that was the culmination of 12 years. You know when we talk about what we have to do legislatively, that was the culmination of 12 years of lobbying to get that building built in Ames that we are currently in for the FSTB. There is a quote in here from Bud Hollar and I think if Bud was here today he'd have something to say about all that is going on, but Bud said this back in 1966, "After more than 12 years of frustrations, the firemen of Iowa finally, in this last session of the legislature, received an appropriation for the Fire Service Extension facility at Ames. Despite this success in the last session of the legislature, one glaring fault in the Firemen's organization was obvious. That being in the ability of those in charge to marshal the full support of Iowa firemen behind this bill. There are approximately 20,000 firemen in Iowa, potentially the strongest lobbying force that could be presented to the legislature in Iowa, if properly organized."

I think what we talked about here today and with what Louie mentioned in his report about commitment, Bud's words ring just as true today as they did in 1966. We're working toward that goal. What we've seen in the last two weeks proves that that works. Matt and John work on it and you all support it. Bud isn't here but let's remember what he built and let's build on that. Thank you.

Mark McNees: If we can get an address for where John Pederson is it might be nice if anyone wants to drop him a card. Since we just mentioned convention for 2018 the problem I see is that we still don't have anyone running yet for 2019. We've discussed this amongst ourselves and we see a struggle now of not only getting people to run for 5th VP but also to run to host convention. If you've been thinking about it, hop on board. I'd hate to see it wait until convention is here. If you're thinking about it, talk to us. If you're new to it, talk to us, we'd be glad to get you some information on it. If you have a surrounding town you think would be good let us know. We'd be glad to talk to them. We only have until September.

Motion to adjourn was made and seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned 1:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Wendy Lensing, Executive Director