

Iowa Firefighters Association
Mid Year Business Meeting
April 5, 2014
Hotel Julien – Dubuque, IA

Present: President Al Esch, 1st VP Brad Yeager, 2nd VP Mark McNeas, 3rd VP Bill Halleran, 4th VP Marv Trimble, 5th VP Al Muhlhausen, Past President Roger Bissen, Executive Director Wendy Lensing. Also present: Mike Reuman, Traer; Joan Reuman, Traer; Bob Platz, Dyersville; Dave Abbas, Ackley; Jeff Gore, Eldora; Dick Frank, Forest City; Bob Hagen, Jewell; Ellen Hagen, Jewell; Jim Kenkel, Waukee; Jack Runge, Buckeye; Dave Zimple, North Liberty; Rusty Hockman, Jewell; Cliff Renslow, Stuart; Tony Whitmore, Iowa Falls; Kenny McAdoo, Tama; Rob Edgar, Waverly; Brian Seymour, Indianola; Curtis Maddux, Madrid; Duane Elgin, Delaware; Dennis Felton, Dyersville; Chad Finnell, Delaware; Joel Kaiser, Masonville; Austin Helle, Masonville; John Novak, Traer; Don Cox, West Des Moines; Kirk Rice, Iowa Falls; Richard Harman, Cedar Rapids; Jim Huber, Solon/West Branch; Marv Boldt, Traer; Don Scott, Redfield; Brad Lamping, Forest City; Chad Schmidt, Hudson; Gordy Clarke, Hudson; Mike King, Hudson; Leo Caloud, Hudson; Mike Ryan, Manchester; Dennis Drabek, Garner; Terry Jass, Garner; Randy Novak, FSTB; Jim Donovan, Solon; Jon Reyhons, Solon; Thomas Nolton, Forest City; Doug Gust, Forest City; Steve Lilliquist, Forest City; Tom Stevens, Forest City; John Schilling, Cedar Falls; Lynn Washburn-Livingston, Davenport; Mark Johnson, Forest City; Jay Westerberg, Forest City; Scott Hagenson, Lake Mills; Gene Evans, Osage; Dan Smith, Solon; Paul Ellenbecker, Tama; Brian Platz, Iowa City/Solon; Dave Deeringer, Wellsburg; Brittane Deeringer, Wellsburg; Jeff Large, Tama; Kelly Buckley, Tama; Chris Carnes, Tama; Jim Dinan, Edgewood; Jay Degenford, Edgewood; Robert Edwards, Maquoketa; David Boettcher, Lowden; Kirk Steinke, Lowden; Jeff Quigle, SFM/DPS; Doug Yeager, Forest City; Randy Sheeder, Guthrie Center; Gary McCool, Guthrie Center; Steve McCloy, Miles; Tim Gansemer, Dyersville; Bob Siddell, Solon; Bruce Blum, Harlan; James Shutts, Belle Plaine; Walter Cook, Walker; Bill Willenburg, Dyersville; Henry Westhoff, New Vienna; Rick Schmidt, Low Moor; Terry Jacobsen, Harlan; Roger Carr, Holland; Kevin Kurt, Dyersville; Mike Kienast, Harlan; Jeff Gore, Eldora; Scott Harvey, Eldora; Tyler Oberender, Story City; Harold Brown, Liscomb; Dustin Brown, Liscomb; Paul Schellhase, Garrison; Bud and Bev Hollar, Iowa Falls; Joe Specht, Sherrill; Don McCarthy, Monticello; Ron Kelchen, Monticello; Kelly Green, Monticello; Duane Weber, Dyersville; Jeff Dostal, Tama; Jeff Goldsmith, Delhi; Joe Stepankek, Manchester.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by President Al Esch.

The Delaware Co. Honor Guard did the Presentation of Colors.

Heather Schuster of the Hotel Julien welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming. She invited everyone to explore all the opportunities that Dubuque has to offer.

Dubuque Assistant Fire Chief Mark Burkle welcomed everyone to Dubuque and invited anyone to stop by the stations. He mentioned some of the changes and improvements that have taken place in Dubuque over the past few years. He also mentioned that one fire that they had responded to recently had been at the National River Museum at 2 a.m. and it was extinguished with a single sprinkler head. Without the sprinkler system they very well could have lost the building due to the time of the fire and no one being on site.

Resolution # 1 – Dave Zimple

To the members of the Iowa Firefighters Association assembled here in Dubuque, Iowa on this 5th day of April in the year 2014.

WHEREAS: We would like to thank the Hotel Julien, the Dubuque Fire Department, the Mid Year Committee and the citizens of Dubuque 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.

Guests:

MDA:

Due to one of MDA's big events in the area – The Muscle Walk – no one was able to attend. IFA President Al Esch explained that Anna McAuliffe, a local MDA Ambassador, is the daughter of Brad McAuliffe, one of his co-workers and a member of the Holy Cross FD and IFA. Al passed the boot for MDA while he read an update that we received from MDA Executive Director, Erin Steffen.... The Muscular Dystrophy Association is excited to share that the majority of the state of Iowa will now be serviced under one central office located in Cedar Rapids. This has allowed us to appoint a staff member, Jillian Sharp, as the Fill the Boot Program Lead for the state. The Fill the Boot program amongst non-union departments in Iowa raised over \$120,000 in 2013! As an organization, MDA is continuing to invest in research at The University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics to help advance treatments and cures. Amongst those developments is a drug that is currently being tested for treatment of Duchenne and Becker Muscular Dystrophies that stemmed from research at U of I. In 2014, MDA will continue to manage clinics at The University of Iowa as well as outreach clinics throughout the state. Other services will continue to include support groups, medical equipment loans and repairs, and MDA summer camp in Monticello, Iowa. We are happy to report that we are expecting a record number of campers at MDA Summer Camp this year. If you know of any males that are interested in being camp counselors for this amazing experience, please contact the MDA office and we will send more information. We are also inviting departments to participate in Firefighter Night at camp the last week in June—more details to come. Thank you for everything you do for local families and your continued support of the Muscular Dystrophy Association! Here is Jillian's contact information: Jillian Sharp, jsharp@mdausa.org, 319-393-8905.

Iowa EMS Association – VP and Legislative Chair – Linda Frederiksen

Linda talked about the articles that appeared a year ago in the Des Moines Register raising concerns for background checks for EMS providers. That stimulated a real firestorm of concern among EMS providers with most providers being volunteers. Senator Danielson at the time, on the floor of the Iowa Senate, gave a great speech and great tribute to both EMS providers and firefighters.

There was a call for an EMS study committee and Governor Branstad ordered that done at that time but the legislative committees ended up approving an EMS Legislative Study Committee in November. This was composed of 5 Senators and 5 Representatives. Iowa EMS Association has about 1200 members or about 10% of the 12,000 EMS providers in the state. They would love to have more and grow the organization. They put a survey out on Survey Monkey and received 900 responses in 3 days so they know that EMS providers want to be heard. The top 3 concerns were staffing, recruitment and retention; EMS should become an essential service; and funding. They held EMS Day on the Hill on January 30th armed with talking points: **1 – Emergency Medical Services, along with Police and Fire, should be an essential service provided by all levels of local government.** Public safety is a core function of government. In order to ensure that all Iowans get the protection they need, Iowa law must change to recognize that cities, counties and townships must provide EMS protection to their citizens. **2**

– **Increase the Volunteer EMS/Fire Tax Credit from \$50 to \$500.** An expansion of this personal income tax credit would go a long way toward helping smaller communities attract people to serve on their volunteer fire and EMS programs. **3 – Increase the Medicaid reimbursement for ambulance service.** Despite the 10% increase passed in 2013, Iowa still lags behind other states in the Midwest for reimbursement for these critical services. The state should look at another increase, or develop a strategy to move toward the Medicare reimbursement level by 2016. **4 – Increase funding for the Iowa Department of Public Health’s EMS Bureau.** Budget cuts in the past decade have impacted the Bureau’s ability to perform its duties. The state should look at increasing the General Fund appropriation for the Bureau to hire, in order of importance, two regional coordinators, data analytics personnel, and a medical director.

In the survey education was a concern. Everyone is experiencing the cost of transition. Twelve percent of transport services have dropped in the last year. Many providers are volunteers and many are not able to continue with the continued education. There was a wide variability in what it cost for example to be a paramedic right now, ranging from \$6500 - \$12,000. To expect a volunteer or a volunteer service to withstand that kind of expense is a real serious concern.

In the news yesterday Dubuque health care officials contributed \$150,000 to local high schools for health care educational opportunities. There are definitely projections in place that we are going to have huge shortages of health care providers in the future.

The survey also showed that volunteers are an aging population. Fifty percent of the survey respondents were in their 50’s and the next highest group was 22 percent and they were in their 60’s. Coverage during the daytime in rural areas is very difficult and 33 percent of the respondents said they have a gap of 2 hours every day in the coverage of their community.

Moving forward time and dollars are short and it would be great to find common legislative items that the organizations can collaborate on and speak as one voice on a few of those items.

Iowa Emergency Management Association – Mike Ryan:

The Iowa Firefighters Association and the Iowa Emergency Management Association are two organizations that have a lot of similarities. They both use the same, basic guiding principles – we’re here to support life, we’re here to support property and we’re here to protect resources. The IFA and its members spend a little more time thinking about response actions and the emergency managers sometimes are looking at a little bigger picture. For firefighters the response and mitigation are two things you are most considered about along with some fire prevention and preparedness. Emergency managers use preparedness, response, mitigation, and also heavily involved in recovery efforts after floods, after tornadoes, and other major events or disasters.

The EMAs do recognize the value of the IFA and the other public safety partners; law enforcement, EMS, FSTB, the Fire Marshal’s office, Highway Patrol. They know it’s a detriment to all they are trying to accomplish when any of these services are cut short. This past year IFA members were asked by President Al Esch and the board to oppose legislation that the IEMA Board had initially supported for the township sponsored warning systems. There were a group of trustees in Southeast Iowa who wanted to install a warning system for an unincorporated area of their county. During the research of the project it was discovered in the Iowa Code that the only townships that are allowed to construct a warning system may be in counties that have a population of 300,000 or more. That boils it down pretty quick to Polk County. They aren’t sure why that legislation was put in place years ago. A couple legislators crafted a bill and it moved forward through the House and made it to Senate committee. The board of the IFA and your members need to be commended. Within 36 hours of learning of this and deciding you were not in favor of this bill you were able to get it locked up in the local government committee of the Senate and that is where this bill died. As Chief of the fire department I broke from the IEMA on this issue and sent

e-mails out supporting the IFA's position on this. When the bill was crafted it did leave the option for township trustees to pull some of the money that they can collect, the 60-2/3 cent levy, away from fire and EMS and put it towards warning systems. Until that is addressed it was time to stop this bill. Never forget that an honest debate and collaboration with your partners makes for better legislation. I know that the IFA and IEMA lobbyists talk daily. They compare notes on various bills that are before the legislature. The IFA has demonstrated that it has power that many other organizations would pay a lot of money for. You can assemble your members and you can impact representatives and legislators greatly in a short period of time. I would ask that you organize this power over the next year and take on the people that will not let the cap be raised that the trustees can collect for rural fire and EMS and also establish that the level be consistent throughout the state.

Iowa Association of Professional Fire Chiefs – VP Cedar Falls Chief John Schilling and Director Davenport Chief Lynn Washburn:

Chief Schilling:

I can't stress enough the importance of what Mike Ryan just said about the legislative efforts of this group and every other emergency responder group including the EMS association. This group is incredibly strong at the state house. We see that every year and we appreciate that and IAPFC truly appreciates the fact that we are able to share the lobbying effort in moving the state's efforts in a better fire service benefiting everyone within the state and primarily the FSTB. We are doing everything we can beginning with training and working our way through the legislative efforts of getting more money and more funding.

Chief Washburn:

I've been in Iowa for 2 years and last fall I began an initiative which began as a personal initiative of mine and then was brought to my chiefs' organization and I have their full support moving forward. I am working to establish a network of women firefighters in Iowa. I've been a member of the International Association of Women in Fire and Emergency Services since it was called Women in the Fire Service back in 1989. My goal to identify the women in Iowa is simply to establish a communication and a resource sharing network not only for those women but for men and for departments that are involved in the fire service here in Iowa. To date I've identified 78 women, I just received 4 more yesterday from Grand Junction. I have e-mail addresses and I'll be putting those into a group e-mail so I can send out information. I'll be sharing such things at the *iWomen* monthly newsletter that has great articles in it and information about gear and policies that pertain to women. Anyone can be a member of iWomen. It can be an individual or a department. The organization is serving some 6,200 women that we know of in career departments in the US and over 40,000 that we know of in the volunteer services. My personal goal has been to try and identify as many in the state of Iowa as I can. I came from Illinois and there were many women there and we had organizations and associations for those women there and specific events for them. The organization offers education, advocacy, support, resources and information. The information is on current issues, recruitment and retention, promotion and career development, physical abilities, testing, gear and uniforms for women, reproductive safety policies, harassment and discrimination. It really is a very strong organization that can provide support for creation and growth for local networks of fire service women. That is my goal with the support of IAPFC is to establish that network. I was able to have some e-mails back and forth with President Esch prior to the state fire school but was not able to meet up with him. We talked about possibly putting an article in the *Iowa Firefighter* and it is something I would like to do maybe quarterly is to put an article in there that could help me identify women and they could use me as a resource for any questions. I will be working over the next several months to continue to put together my database and then I will begin sharing information. I also have the full support of iWomen from their President and regional representative to

move forward with this initiative. If you have any questions or would like more information you can contact Chief Lynn Washburn-Livingston at lwashburn@ci.davenport.ia.us or call 563-326-7942 or 563-449-6152.

Iowa Fire Chiefs Association – President Henry Westhoff

For the Iowa Fire Chiefs Association and the IFA and the other organizations, working together is still the key to getting things accomplished, whether it's on a local, county or state level. That needs to continue. The Iowa Fire Chiefs Conference is October 24th and 25th in LeMars, Iowa this year. They are making some changes to their website to make it a little more user friendly. There are lots of links on the website to get all kinds of information you may be looking for.

Iowa Society of Fire Service Instructors – President Doug Kolkman

President Kolkman reviewed some of the history of the ISFSI. This is the 50th Anniversary of the ISFSI. They are excited to celebrate this milestone by having Billy Goldfeder as keynote speaker at their conference this year.

It's not too early to nominate someone for Instructor of the Year. To nominate someone you don't need to be a member of the ISFSI but the person that you nominate must be a member. You can go to the awards page of the ISFSI website at <http://www.iasfsi.org/> and print off a nomination form.

The ISFSI, as an affiliated member of the IFA, would like to help out the IFA by volunteering to take a day at the Hall of Flame booth. They are looking at Thursday, Aug. 14th. If any member of the ISFSI is interested in helping at the Hall of Flame that day please let Doug know as soon as possible.

State Fire Marshal – Jeff Quigle

The SFM Division had **25** Fire Deaths reported for 2013 and this is a sharp reduction in the number of deaths from past years. Fire Death statistics have been gathered each year since the formation of the State Fire Marshal Division in 1911. Des Moines Fire Chief TeKippe completed a fire chart listing the fire death averages for the past 37 years in Iowa. From the years 1975-1979 we were averaging **80.2** fire deaths per year. In the years 2010 to 2013 we averaged **40.3** fire deaths per year. In roughly 40 years the number of fire deaths has been reduced in half. We feel with the continued installation of smoke detectors in residences that it is possible that we may continue to see the trend of an overall decline in fire deaths throughout the state and across the United States in the future. As of this date we are at 11 fire deaths for the year which at the same time last year we only had 6. An interesting fact to note is only 3 of the 11 deaths had working smoke detectors and 2 of the 3 deaths occurred in an occupancy in which an explosion occurred.

Bureau Chief Randy Novak has completed an (AFG-FPS) Assistance to Firefighter Grant/Fire Prevention and Safety to continue to purchase smoke detectors for installation throughout the state. The application period has closed and we are waiting to see if our grant will be awarded. If the grant is not awarded we currently have enough money in the account to purchase approximately 400 smoke detectors for distribution. There will be more information forthcoming regarding smoke detectors.

The Department of Public Safety is continuing to fund and sponsor The Iowa Fire Bridge (Image Trend) for fire reporting statistics. We continue to see more fire departments using this free service to report their statistics. This is a web based system and reporting can be completed from anywhere that you have access to a computer. If your department is currently not reporting I would encourage you to contact Alicia Ver Huel who is with the Fire Service Training Bureau and establish an account for reporting fire data. An interesting point to mention is we did not realize that Juvenile Fire Setting was the 3rd leading reported fire cause in this state until we were able to gather data from Fire Bridge. In

2013 we had 607 fire departments report NFIRS reports through Iowa Fire Bridge out of a total of 842 departments and we continue to receive new reports daily. The Dept. of Public Safety continues to host the web based software program. The cost to the Department is approximately \$36,000 per year.

The Fire Prevention Bureau currently has 3 Fire Inspector Vacancies throughout the state. Two out of the 3 positions are funded. We are currently watching our budget closely and hope to replace at least one vacant inspector position before the Fiscal Year ends on June 30. Our intention is to create an inspection territory in the Northeast area of the state. The Eastern side of the state is currently lean on the total number of inspectors and has a large number of inspections to be completed annually. This will help cut down on travel time to inspections and create a more efficient and fiscally responsible process.

The Arson and Explosives Bureau has been very busy with fire investigations and explosive disposal work this year. As of today's date SFM Agents have worked 13 Accidental, 12 Arson, and 4 Undetermined Fires. SFM Bomb Techs have safely completed 14 Explosive Disposals. The Bureau has (2) Sprinter Bomb Response vehicles stationed in Western and Central Iowa. We intend to purchase another Sprinter vehicle that will be stationed in Eastern Iowa to respond to Bomb and Explosive Devices. The Bureau currently has two accelerant K-9's with one stationed in Council Bluffs and the other in Mt. Pleasant. Rocket, our K-9 stationed in Council Bluffs is retiring this year. We also have two explosive K-9's stationed in Des Moines and Garner.

The State Building Code Bureau has both a vacant Construction Engineer and a Building Code/Manufactured Housing Inspector. We will be filling the Building Code Inspector position within the next two months. The Building Code Inspector vacancy occurred due to the retirement of Bill Lloyd last month. The Building Code Inspector position will be stationed in Western Iowa. Dan Wood is currently the Acting State Building Code Commissioner. I am optimistic that if our budget is favorable that we can fill the vacant State Building Code Commissioner position.

The Electrical Licensing and Inspection Bureau has just completed the 3 year electrician licensing cycle. This Bureau is only funded by the licensing and permitting fees that are collected. In 2013 a reorganization was conducted within this Bureau to save positions, funding, and keep Electrical Inspectors working in the field. Our licensing fees that have been collected this year look very favorable so far and we will be working on completing our budget forecast for the next 3 years.

Alicia Ver Huel put together a few facts from our Fire Bridge data that I wanted to share: Last year we reported 7,587 fires; there were 33,983 EMS calls; a department responded to an incident every 9 minutes; a department responded to a fire incident every 70 minutes; a department responded to an EMS incident every 15 minutes; a Hazardous Materials incident occurred every 3 hours; a Public Service Incident was responded to every 36 minutes (a good intent, false alarm, or weather related incident).

Fire Service Training Bureau – Randy Novak:
Major Accomplishments over the past year:

- New Firefighter I & II have been handed off to our field instructors. These new courses will be available in a traditional delivery, and now in a “blended” delivery (classroom portion on-line, practical skills face-to-face). We will be adding more courses to the blended learning option (HM:O, D/O:P &A, FO I & II, etc.).

- The Bureau is now working with the State Advocates for the Everyone Goes Home program to promote the 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives, and to provide (at no cost) the following courses:
 - Courage to Be Safe[®] (CTBS)
 - Leadership, Accountability, Culture, and Knowledge (LACK)
 - Leadership so Everyone Goes Home (LEGH)

Certification Program:

- Both the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) and the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications (ProBoard) now accredit the Bureau to 12 levels. We are preparing for our “re-accreditation” visits from both later in the fall.
- We are also using Pearson VUE “testing centers” for written certification testing (as an option for our students). Testing can still be done on-site.

FSTB Staffing: The Bureau is currently at 9 FTE (we lost one FTE with a resignation). When the Bureau was created (authority transferred from ISU to DPS) in 2000, we had 12 FTE’s. We also have 5 part-time staff in the central office (2 specialists and 3 students), and over 300 field instructors.

FSTB Budget: The Bureau is level funded for FY14. The Volunteer Firefighter Training Fund is also level funded at \$725,520 for FY14. Funding will continue in the Firefighter Preparedness Fund (income Tax Check-Off) and the Paul Ryan Memorial Fund (fee on vehicle FF tags).

Grants: The Bureau has the following federal grants:

- FSTB received our National Fire Academy “State Training Support Grant” for \$22,000 for federal FY 14 (October 1, 2013 to September 30, 2014). This will be used to support the delivery of NFA Approved Courses (Instructor I & II, Fire Officer I & II) and NFA 2-Day Courses.
- FSTB has applied for an AFG grant for a new mobile live fire trailer (\$350,000).
- FSTB has applied for two AFG-FP&S grants: A \$200,000 (through IFA) on behalf of the SFM for smoke alarms, and a \$20,000 on behalf of the SFM for the Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Program.

Major Events: (check our website: www.dps.state.ia.us/fm/fstb)

- FSTB Programs (2014)
 - Training Officers Workshop, April 26 at Ames – cooperatively with IaSFSI
 - Live Fire Skills, May 3 & October 11 at FSTB
 - Hazardous Materials Symposium, October 23-24 at Ames
 - Fire Service Instructors Conference, November 14-15 at Ames – with IaSFSI
 - Announcement for various open enrollment classes will be mailed to Iowa fire departments throughout the year.
- National Fire Academy (NFA) Courses:
 - Leadership I: Strategies for Company Success, May 17-18 at FSTB
 - Leadership & Administration (Region VII delivery), June 9-14 at FSTB
 - Leadership II: Strategies for Personal Success, September 13-14 at FSTB

NFIRS: see the State Fire Marshal’s website (at www.dps.state.ia.us/fm) for updated information. The Bureau is currently managing the Iowa NFIRS.

Motion was made by Cliff Renslow, Stuart to approve the minutes of the IFA Business Meeting, held September 8, 2013 in Vinton. It was seconded by Jim Shutts, Belle Plaine. Motion carried.

Executive Director's Report – Wendy Lensing

Thank you to everyone for coming today and thank you to President Al Esch and his committee for putting together a great weekend.

This time of year is always one of the busiest with many different things going on at once. Mailings for this meeting including the CD of the 2013 annual report were mailed out March 1st. Reminders have been mailed out to departments that have not yet paid 2014 dues. The board will be calling those that we have not yet heard from. The fire prevention posters were judged at the January meeting and the winning students have been notified. They are invited to a luncheon at the Sigourney fire station in May. I have been working on getting all of our meetings set up when Al, Brad and I go to Washington, DC at the end of this month. We will also be attending the CFSI dinner while we are there this year as guests of California Casualty.

I have started scheduling volunteers for the Hall of Flame and drill officials for convention. If you are interested in helping with either one of those please let me know.

Information on what is happening is sent out regularly in e-mails and on Facebook and posted on our website.

I am still getting a lot of calls and e-mails on the new firefighter license plate applications. The revised form that allows you to keep your old number if your plate is up for replacement is available in the members section of the Iowa Fire Chiefs Association website or I can fax, e-mail or mail it to the chief of the department if they contact me.

There has been much going on on all fronts in the association from legislation and the Firefighter Day on the Hill to benefits and since the officers will all be touching on all of those topics in their reports I will just keep mine short.

I enjoy working with and for, both this board, and you the members of the Iowa Firefighters Association.

Financial Report – Wendy Lensing

Total current assets of the Iowa Firefighters Association as of March 31, 2014 were \$551,538.47.

Total current assets of the Iowa Firemen's Foundation as of March 31, 2014 were \$47,880.64. Of that, \$10,433.26 is specifically set aside for the State Fire Marshal's smoke detector project account which leaves the actual funds for the memorial at \$37,447.38.

Motion to approve the Financial Report was made by Jim Shutts, Belle Plaine. It was seconded by Jack Runge, Buckeye. Motion carried.

Proposed Budget – Wendy Lensing

The board met back in January at my house and worked on the proposed budget for this year. The largest amount of income comes from dues and the projected income for 2014 is \$164,000.00. Along with other miscellaneous income amounts we are projecting our total income for 2014 at \$189,700.00.

Expenses are pretty much in line with what has been occurring. We look at what has been spent on line items in recent years and try to project what they will be in the coming year. There are some things that

we know have a set, increased amount and others that we just have to project, taking into account that there are rising costs in most areas. Our projected expenses for 2014 are \$219,571.85. That leaves our proposed 2014 budget with a deficit of \$29,571.85.

Motion to approve the 2014 proposed budget was made by Curt Maddux, Madrid. It was seconded by Paul Schellhase, Garrison. Motion carried.

Audit Report – Marv Trimble

Wendy mentioned that we met at her house in January to audit the books. I'd like to mention to those departments that have made errors on their dues and received a refund check to please deposit those in a timely manner. Sometimes those are outstanding for many months.

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 December 31, 2013. 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 Marv Trimble, Chair; Al Muhlhausen, and attested to by Al Esch, President.

Motion to approve the audit report was made by Gene Evans, Osage. It was seconded by Dustin Brown, Liscomb. Motion carried.

Credentials Report – Dick Frank

Atlantic – 49, Belle Plaine – 44, Dyersville – 61, Edgewood – 26, Eldora – 32, Epworth – 61, Forest City – 37, Garner – 30, Garrison – 32, Grinnell – 42, Guthrie Center – 48, Harlan – 64, Hudson – 42, Indianola – 95, Iowa City – 24, Iowa Falls – 40, Jewell – 23, Lake Mills – 37, Liscomb – 20, Low Moor – 20, Lowden – 13, Madrid – 33, Manchester – 45, Maquoketa – 40, Redfield – 29, Sherrill – 58, Solon – 38, Story City – 25, Stuart – 32, Tama – 49, Traer – 33, Walker – 32, Waverly – 46, Wellsburg – 27, West Des Moines – 58. 35 towns filed credentials with a total of 1385 votes.

Motion to approve the credentials report was made by Marv Boldt, Traer. It was seconded by Cliff Renslow, Stuart. Motion carried.

Officers Reports:

1st VP – Brad Yeager:

I first want to thank everyone for being here. I've taken some flak from my fellow board members for expressing my disappointment in the attendance of some of our board meetings so it's refreshing to see so many of you here today.

I'd like to fill you in on a few of the things I've been working on. I'll first touch on a couple of legislative items that have come up. First I want to say you really find out who your friends are when dealing with some of this legislative stuff. I learned a valuable lesson early in the session with House File 2043 that dealt with outdoor warning sirens in rural areas. The bill would have allowed county trustees to implement and fund these outdoor warning systems out of current emergency services funds. Naively I suppose, I took EMA at their word and wanted to be cooperative when we were told they had no

intention of using current levy dollars to support these systems. Here's where the education came in, don't trust anybody when it comes to funding. If this bill were to become law there would be nothing stopping counties from taking a portion of the fire and EMS dollars for warning systems. So, before I understood the ramification of this bill and had a chance to communicate with House members it was passed by a vote of 99-0. This was a bad thing. But, it was only half over and by the time we told our story in the Senate and let them know our concerns about this funding mechanism we were able to stop the legislation before the new law was written. All's well that ends well.

The other bill I want to touch on is the fireworks legislation. It's now looking like it won't get passed this year but will probably be back again next year. I personally have a hard time with this bill because every year despite being illegal there are plenty of fireworks being launched in our borders and if that's the case why not make them legal. But, the public safety side of me understands the hazards that will come from open sales of fireworks. The argument I've heard some in the legislature making is that Iowans should be given the choice and made responsible for their own actions. That's all well and good but if this were really the case why not let Iowans choose if they wear a seat belt or how fast they want to go on the highway. We've chosen to regulate these things because they're dangerous and out of an abundance of caution made laws to protect the public. We know fireworks are dangerous, we know people will be hurt and property destroyed so why would we legalize something we already know is dangerous. It's about revenue for sure but I have a hard time swallowing the free choice angle and will do my best to maintain the current laws.

The next thing I'll bring up is a conference I was fortunate to attend last week in Baltimore. It was essentially about the fire prevention efforts in cities and states across the US. We heard from fire service groups and community outreach coordinators about successful programs that have been implemented in both large and small communities. Much like the Iowa Smoke Alarm project there are many ongoing projects across our nation that attempt to reach those who don't know or understand the dangers associated with home fires. One of the most interesting comments I heard from one presenter was "Our role in the community is changing in many cases from being firefighters to being fire preventers." This comment will probably stick with me for a while as we look to the future and continue to discover what our communities need and want from the fire service.

The other thing that came out of the conference is a real push all across the fire service to get this logo and information in front of people. "Fire is Everyone's Fight" is a slogan adopted last year to bring everyone together to prevent home fires. The U.S. Fire Administration is leading the campaign with the hopes that we'll adopt in our fire stations back home. I won't elaborate on it more than that but there is a lot of info online to get you started and we'll get some links on our website to point you in the right direction. If you want any more info hit me up after the meeting or shoot me an email.

Finally, I want to touch on the budget and dues increase we've proposed. This was not an easy decision for us and we do not take the responsibility lightly. Our organization is in an enviable position financially and I'm proud to say we have continued to grow our reserves over the last few years. The part that bothers me is for the last three years we have projected a deficit in our yearly expenses but have been fortunate to come out ahead by the end of the year. When I look at the big-ticket items we plan for each year I see them all as vital pieces to the goals and mission that our organization is all about. And, if you asked me to rank the Newspaper, State Fair Booth, States Networking, National Benefit Summit, NVFC, Legislative help, or the Executive Director expenses I could make a case for each one of them being a Number 1 priority. Obviously they can't all be but I feel strongly that each one plays a fundamental role in our organization and gives us the best opportunity to further our agenda and

continue to be the strong organization we've always been. None of this comes cheaply and it's time we raise our dues to keep pace with the changing economy.

Before I end here I want to thank the membership both past and present for this opportunity. The respect and admiration we enjoy today rests squarely on the backs of the members that came before us and it allows us the opportunity to continue doing what we do best. I've found that the legacy we've been given is in good hands with the men and women in this room and in fire stations across the state of Iowa where members continue to challenge themselves and this board to be the best and do the best we possibly can for our communities and our state.

Thanks again and I look forward to serving you in the year ahead.

2nd VP – Mark McNees:

I want to thank the Dubuque Fire Dept and Assistant Chief Mark Burkle for hosting our meeting and to Al and the midyear committee for all of their work.

Since the first of the year I have had the opportunity to travel in western Iowa and meet with firefighters and make some presentations. I met with the Carroll County Firefighters Association in Halbur and updated them on what was going on with legislation and benefits. It is always interesting to hear some of the issues they were facing and how they were dealing with them. I was impressed with the Halbur department and their recruitment and retention. They have a young group and are progressing in equipment and facilities under the leadership of Chief Glenn Dentlinger. I then had the chance to attend the Griswold FD banquet and present 5 awards including one to retiring Chief Jim Wyman. Everyone does things differently and I found it interesting that the public was involved in their banquet as it's also a fundraiser for them. It certainly gives the public a chance to show their appreciation for their local firefighters.

We are nearing the end of the Iowa legislative session and you will hear more about that during the meeting so I won't dwell too long. I think at this point it has been a fairly good one for the fire service. The increase in the training funds I think can be attributed to the IFA meeting with the governor prior to the start of the session and discussing our priorities. It's an approach we will continue to work so that whoever is in charge knows our issues and can help lead the legislature to work on those issues. Credit for the strategy goes to Al who knew we had to switch up something in the way we work in Des Moines. We did work on a bill for job protection for volunteers. The state of Delaware is trying this. Workman's Comp is great for our firefighters in the state of Iowa if you have a short term disability and can't return to work it covers very, very well, but if it's a little bit longer term then there could be an issue. I don't want to see anyone potentially lose their job or career because they were volunteering and got hurt on the job. I knew it would be a tough sell and it went absolutely nowhere but we'll continue to work on this and maybe we can answer some questions and make some progress next year.

I think we are still assessing the effectiveness of our grass roots efforts with our county contacts. I know it was very effective on a couple of occasions when we pinpointed a legislator who wanted to hear from his local area to educate himself on the fireworks bill. I also know our contacts made a huge impression when the issue of EMA and counties potentially having access to trustee taxing authority for emergency services for outdoor warning sirens. It worked well. I think we have had better communication between our lobbyist and Capture Marketing, but I question its actual value in that respect. I am waiting to see just what exactly our marketing company can do to help increase our outreach to legislators and to our membership. We have lowered our costs with them this year and outlined more of our expectations and it is working better, but it will be looked at very hard before we sign on next year. I still think there is a long way to go to make this fully functioning. Overall it's a good step and going the right direction in my

view, but we have to continue to ask whether it's something more than we were doing or can do on our own.

On the benefit front I am pleased the board has been moving on trying to find additional benefits for all of our members and the association as an entity. While there have been some pains along the way I believe it's important to try and make the association more relevant in our members' lives. I have been asked if there has been an outcry of requests for benefits. My answer is I don't think we should wait until that time because by then it could be too late. I think it's important that while we focus on what has been the traditional work of the IFA, that being legislative issues, memorial, member recognition, and networking, we have to continue to look down the road and try and plan for what the future holds. What issues we will face as an association, how our members will change and how they conduct their lives. To that end we need to stay abreast of what is available now, what is coming down the road, and what we as a board can try and come up with as a possible benefit and work to find businesses large and small, local and national, who can help us provide some concrete, in the hand of the member, benefits. It's part of recruitment and retention. While some may question decisions made, I will never apologize for trying to add value to an IFA membership, and to put something of value in our members' hands. Having been to two National Benefit Summits I have seen what many other states are doing for their members. Some of them could be instituted here and some cannot for a variety of reasons. Talking with these companies is fine, but actually talking with the associations and getting their feedback is crucial before this board begins to vet many of the companies out there. So I would expect there to be a continued push to see what we can do for our members above and beyond what has traditionally been done and we welcome any potential ideas from the membership if they work for a company or service that could potentially offer something to all of our members.

With introduction of Assets in Order today we bring forth another opportunity for our members to better their lives if they so choose and at a reduced cost from what the general public can obtain. I hope everyone will give it a look as it is important to make sure to our families that during the stressful time of a death, they are able to carry out last wishes and find locations and policies and now passwords. The board had a very good meeting last night at which we discussed the future direction of the association and Al challenged us all to look ahead and have a plan. It was evident that issues are well on the minds of the board members. I don't say that lightly and because I am part of the board, but some of the ideas that were brought up were not just thought of last night, they have been something each member has been thinking about for some time. If we can work and implement the changes then I believe they will greatly benefit the organization and its successful future on many levels.

I apologize for having to leave the meeting early today and missing the banquet tonight, but it has happened again that the commitment I made 4 years ago to chair pre-prom activities has conflicted with this event, so I need to leave to full fill those duties at home.

I wish the best for the candidates running for 5th vice and for Waverly who is running for 2016 convention. I look forward to welcoming whomever to the board this fall. Good Luck to all.

3rd VP – Bill Halleran:

Welcome to the Iowa Firefighters Association mid-year meeting being held here in Dubuque. Thanks to Asst. Chief Mark Burkle and the Hotel Julien for the amazing hospitality.

It is great to see everyone in attendance. I look forward to this time of year to see friends that I have not crossed paths with in a while.

I see that the convention lines for registration, camping, bowling and golf were well attended and appears to be filling nicely. I spoke with Grinnell Fire at lunchtime and they informed that the camping slots are filling up nicely.

I also noticed that they have added another even this year with the trap shooting contest. I look forward to seeing how well this is received.

I was in charge of the 3rd Annual Chili Cook-off held this year at the state capital. This year we had 7 teams competing for the coveted chili cook-off trophy. We handed out trophies to the top 3 and they were 1st- Des Moines Fire, 2nd- Cedar Rapids Fire and 3rd place- Atlantic Fire. This was very well received by capitol employees, volunteers at capitol, legislatures throughout the state and those that competed. Those that helped judge other than myself, I would like to say a huge thanks to Chief Jerry Whetstone, Henry Westhoff, Arden Kopischke and Libby Crimmings. I would also like to thank Eagle Engraving for donating the trophies that were given out. This was a very nice gesture on their part to do for us. Reminder that June 7th at 11 am, we will be in Robins for an IFA Board Meeting then off to Coralville for the candlelight service at dusk. On June 8th, we will be holding the Memorial Service starting at 10:30 am. This will be the 20th Annual Firefighter memorial being held in Coralville so having a good turnout would make this all the more special for those families.

We are always looking for volunteers to help out at the Hall of Flame at the Iowa State Fair. Fair begins on Aug. 7th and runs through the 17th. Please get in touch with any board member or Wendy to sign up. We have received some feedback referencing the California Casualty Insurance that is being supported by Iowa Firefighters Assoc. California Casualty was at a summit meeting that was attended by (2) of our board members. This was brought back and discussed amongst our board and we felt that this would be a beneficial perk for our IFA members.

Some of the feedback was that there are enough insurance agents within the state and that we do not need California Casualty. Albeit that this is probably true, California Casualty only offers to Teachers, Nurses and Firefighters and Law Enforcement. The California Casualty Agent is located in Omaha. Currently 44 other states are affiliated with California Casualty.

In doing some research there are many other groups like IFA with large following within the state that offer benefits.

1. IFA- Credit Cards- These are through ATIRA is out of DM and is affiliated with Credit Unions. I am sure that anyone in local banking has strong feelings about credit unions. We did not receive any feedback referencing the credit card offer.
2. Knights of Columbus offer insurance. There are agents in Iowa with locations in West Des Moines, Urbandale, Washington, Williamsburg, Muscatine, Oskaloosa, St. Charles and Clive.
3. Ike's of Iowa- Offers group life insurance and car rentals, etc. These associations offer special deals to their members....
4. Thrivent Lutherans- A member owned not for profit financial cooperative. Offers financial strategies and retirement plans.
5. Iowa Firefighters Association- Has partnered with American Income Life Insurance Company to provide a NO COST Accidental Death or Dismemberment Program for our members. These features: \$2000 AD&D Benefit, Health Services Discount Card, Child Safe Kits.
6. State bid purchases- One could also put this into perspective with local car dealerships. We have many FF that work at car dealerships either a mechanic, parts or sales. Yet we have many fire departments, law enforcement agencies as well as EMS agencies taking advantage of the state bid pricing offered on certain vehicle chassis'.

This is just a potential cost savings measure that everyone is looking for. We fully support our local businesses. This was not intended to ruffle feathers, merely to offer more tools for your tool box.

4th VP – Marv Trimble:

I had the pleasure of going to a couple of awards presentations. Let me start by asking is there anyone here that has put in 50 years of service to the volunteer fire service? (Paul Schellhase from Garrison stood up to a round of applause) I was able to go to Atkins and give out a 50 year award to Tom Lange.

In my opinion that should be like the Medal of Honor for the fire service. When you've put in that many years of service to your community and the hundreds and thousands of hours you take away from your family to give to others it is something that should be applauded.

We talk about recruitment and retention and I went to Hiawatha and I talked last year about going to Hiawatha but it's a smaller department in a bigger metropolitan area. They have a transport ambulance service that they run and they also have about 20 members that are under the age of 30 right now. I went to their banquet and they were giving away 30 year awards, 25 year awards, 20 year awards, 15... they went all the way down to having 5 brand new people. To me, they have a lot of new people, but they also had a lot of people with more experience. They had an excellent mix of people. It's really encouraging to see those young faces there but still see the older, more mature people that are going to stand back and maybe walk in rather than run in to a situation.

I also wanted to make sure that I told you about our recommendations for benefits. We wanted to make this better for the departments and make it better for recruitment and retention. That is the big reason we are looking at benefits. We look at what other states are doing. We aren't going to try and rewrite the handbook if we can find benefits that are already there.

5th VP – Al Mulhausen:

Thank you to City of Dubuque and Chief Mark Burkle of Dubuque Fire Dept. and the Mid-year committee.

Since the last board meeting I have been to some county meetings and my own department meetings. I have visited a couple of fire departments to ask them to rejoin or join the IFA, I do not know what they have decided, they were going to vote at their business meetings and I am scheduled to go to a couple more in April and May.

Most recently I was at the Volunteer Chiefs Work shop which was very informative, the topics included changes coming up with the ISO rating system and a presentation on Workers Comp insurance.

Myself and Rian Meyeres are co-teaching a Firefighter 1 class using the new internet based curriculum and it is going very well. The candidates seem to like the way it is working.

Also I have to ask do we have any first time attendees to mid-year meeting? Can we have a show of hands? Make sure we get a picture of you during one of the breaks.

Also I've made a couple of trips to the capitol for Firefighter Day/Chili Cookoff and the legislative breakfast.

Good luck to the 5th Vice candidates and to Waverly.

Past President – Roger Bissen –

Again, I would like to thank Al for everything he has been doing this year. I remember what Jack told me at this time last year; it can be kind of difficult to be able to back off and let someone else take the reins but then again it can be kind of relaxing to see and Al you've been doing a great job and I'm sure you'll continue on and I look forward to Brad's leadership next year.

I'd also like to thank the Hotel Julien for their excellent hospitality here in the city of Dubuque.

I've been able to do some presentations also and make some trips around western Iowa in the past few months; visit with some departments, attend some county meetings, see what the needs are, and bring this back to the board. As some of the others have mentioned about the benefits, we are just trying to make things better for everyone and recruitment and retention are big parts of that. It helps to make things more attractive for the younger generation.

I've made a couple of trips to the capitol. One was for our legislative breakfast. If you've never attended that and you have the time, keep an eye on the paper for next year's date and if you can make it there it is well worth it. It's a great experience to visit with your legislators. Another great opportunity is the chili

cookoff and Firefighter Day on the Hill. They are both well worth it. I also attended a subcommittee meeting for the fireworks bill. We had some discussion on who was for the bill and changing the law and who was against this bill. Like Mike Ryan mentioned earlier today, the IFA is very strong, and people listen to us when we talk. It just goes to show that our presence at the capitol and our professionalism really does affect some decisions that are being made. I'd also like to thank John Pederson for everything he does there for us.

At our work session yesterday we had a lot of good discussion and a lot of the other board members talked about it but I want to talk about the direction of the association and the future. The fire service is strong in customs and traditions but we also need to change with the culture that is put before us. If we never make any changes as an association we will be going backwards. We always need to make changes and we always need to adjust to provide the best service we can for you, the body of this association.

President Al Esch –

Welcome to Dubuque guests and IFA members. As I look out of these windows, it is hard to imagine that thirty years ago this area was an eyesore that enjoyed or endured unemployment over twenty percent. A lot has changed and now we see the result of hard work and investment as Assistant Chief Burkle mentioned. The IFA has changed too.

You have heard from Wendy and the vice presidents, I do not intend to repeat what they said, but rather provide a few more details.

The question of the IFA's future was put to the board during our work session Friday night and based on our discussions; I believe that the association will do well.

Since the last dues increase, our newsletter, legislative and office expenses continue to rise. Over the years, we have watched membership decline 1% on average. Not surprisingly, fire departments see the same decline in their ranks, but the impact to local communities is much greater. Every year the board meets in January to review and act on the budget. Last year, there was an anticipated \$12,000.00 negative balance shown that ended up being pretty good. This year the deficit was closer to \$20,000.00 and I do not believe the year will close with a positive balance.

On the legislative front, I have a lot to say but will not take away from our lobbyist John Pederson's report. After the governor vetoed all of our requests for additional funding, I knew we had to change our approach. Meeting with the governor before the session was a big step for the IFA and its members. I certainly hope this direct dialog will continue.

A few weeks ago the Iowa Emergency Management Association brought forth a bill that would have allowed funding for outdoor warning devices to come from township levies designated by state code for fire protection and emergency medical services. In a time when 65% of Iowa's fire departments need to hold fundraisers to support operations, adding another essential service was irresponsible. I sat next to Mike Ryan last week at the Delaware County Fire Association when he said he would be giving the Emergency Management Committee report. I have to admit that I was a little worried until a few minutes ago.

A few days before the chili cook-off, I went to the Capitol to meet with the head electrician and work out some logistical details. While there, I met with John Pederson and talked to a number of legislators and senators. This particular day, I wore street clothes and my Epworth Fire Dept. uniform coat & badge. One conversation that humbled me was with a representative who favored the consumer fireworks bill. He told me that the IFA had too much power. Hopefully everyone eligible is taking advantage of the emergency responder's tax credit. We are working to see that increase to \$100 and include all volunteer responders including reserve law officers. There would be language added to include the career firefighters who volunteer on the fire departments where they live.

Thanks to Bill Halleran who took the lead on the chili cook-off. Overall, I was pleased with the outcome and the quality of the conversations we had. Early on I had spoken with former Fire Marshal Ray Reynolds about the IFA taking control of the chili cook-off. He offered his help to market and plan the event.

Matt Eide and John Pederson continue to provide the IFA with exceptional service and I have learned a great deal working alongside Matt & John. The company that handles our grassroots development however has disappointed me. Capture Marketing had a good plan and a good resume' and went to work developing our county contacts. At our budget work session, we reviewed Capture's contract and performance. I acted on behalf of the board to negotiate a contract for what we thought was a fair amount for the work, \$4000.00.

Today, we will vote on a resolution to increase the annual dues \$2.00 to \$13.00. I have heard from those who support and those who oppose the resolution. Many have told me the newsletter is the best they have seen, while some say there are too many pictures. Some of those with comments both ways are attending today and I hope something we said will inspire them to support the dues increase.

Thanks again for your attendance and this concludes my report.

Committee Reports:

N.V.F.C. – Bob Platz and Brian Seymour:

Bob Platz: First, I would like to thank the board and the membership for giving me the opportunity of serving on the NVFC board, I really enjoy it as I am Chairman of the Conference and Education committee and on the Legislative committee. I also serve as Parliamentarian for the organization.

The last year I was asked to work the booth at the FDIC where I met many firefighters from around the country. I attended the meeting in Texas, was very impressed with their fire school. I read grants for Globe equipment company, Fire Prevention and Safety grants in Georgia and AFG in Baltimore and had to turn down the grant reading that is going on this week in Baltimore. The conference committee is going through some problems as 6 states want to host it. That makes for an interesting situation.

The legislative committee is very busy as we are consistently emailing our thoughts on different bills. We use our legislative tools a lot, and I want to thank everybody that uses Cap-Wiz when we ask.

Bills that are worked on now are:

1. Fire Grants
2. Protection and affordable care act
3. Recruitment and retention act
4. Volunteer responder incentive reauthorization act
5. USFA appropriations
6. Fire Police Fairness Act
7. Medicare Ambulance Access Act
8. Supporting Emergence responders Volunteer Efforts Act
9. National Preparedness grant program
10. Fire Sprinkler Incentive act

If anybody has questions let me know.

The grants went well this year. I read many Mini-grants \$25,000.00. The grants were easy to read and the fire department didn't have to have a grant writer to do it; explain what you need and why you can't afford it. This is what the grants are all about.

I am also on the Task Force for the summit. We are dealing with the people who run that. Two days ago I received a email that the summit will not be held with the NVFC this year. We will be having a meeting in Washington D.C. at the end of this month, If there are any questions or suggestions from me I will be here until tomorrow morning.

Brian Seymour:

I also would like to thank the board for the opportunity to represent Iowa on the NVFC. I sit on the Wireless Committee. There are 4 items that the Wireless Committee has been working on:

Narrowbanding survey. This survey is complete and we will be reviewing it at the next meeting. I hope you had a chance to fill it out so that we can have a better understanding on what impacts narrowbanding has had now that it should be completed. We have heard of many issues and we want to compile them and present them to the FCC as well as if there is fixes for the issues that others have found we can pass those along.

We have opened conversation on getting free texting from cell phone providers for volunteers. It was brought to the committee that volunteers are more and more using text messaging as a form of getting dispatch information and that this service should not count against someone's text messaging costs. This is in the early stages and not much information to share on this yet. A quick poll of members present showed this free messaging would not have much impact in Iowa as most have unlimited services.

We are increasing our discussions and activity with FirstNet. If you are not aware of this group they are working on the nationwide broadband capacity and how this will work for Public Safety. This group has met for a few years and has slowly developed a plan for getting nationwide broadband available to use for all public safety organizations. We hope to learn more what is happening with this group and how this will impact the volunteer departments.

We are working with the FCC on establishing rules and guidelines on being able to provide better location services on cell phones in a building. FCC feels this is needed but uncertain if technology is available to accomplish this and how enforcing this to happen if providers are not able to comply. FCC has agreed to look at this further and develop rules if the capability exists. This indoor location would include location in a building and in the case of a highrise the floor you are on.

We have a conference call set up for April 17th to discuss issues prior to our meeting in DC.

The second committee I sit on is the International Relations Committee. This is a newly formed committee that was established to meet the needs of overseas organizations contacting the NVFC for assistance when groups or people are traveling to the United States. There have been a number of contacts over the past two years and there was a need to formalize how we handle the requests that the office was getting. This not only impacts people traveling here but members traveling overseas. The NVFC has also developed out of this an International Membership drive. We do have some departments and organizations onboard. We are also

planning a trip to Germany to a International trade show that is held every five years that brings in people from all over the world to the tune of 125,000 people. We felt this was a great opportunity to get our organization out to the overseas departments. This conference is being held in June of 2015. We are working with and will hopefully share a booth with NFPA, UL and the IAFC. More to follow after the DC meeting.

Memorial Committee – Mike Reuman:

This year does mark the 20th anniversary of the first memorial service. It will be Sunday, June 8th at 10:30 a.m. at the memorial in Coralville. The candlelight service will be at 9 p.m. on Saturday, June 7th. There is a block of rooms at the Holiday Inn. The cutoff date for adding names for this year's service is May 10th. We had a 20th anniversary memorial coin made this year. Jack Runge and Rusty Hockman were the committee that the designed the coin. The coins are \$10.

Legislative Committee – John Pederson:

I've been lobbying for about 25 years and this is the 3rd year that I've represented the IFA. I want to thank all of you. I don't know how many of you have participated in the grassroots efforts or contacted legislators but it really is one of the key, important things we do. I can talk myself blue in the face every day with every legislator up there but when they hear it from somebody back home whether it's a call, an e-mail or any other contact it is very, very important. We produced a lot of calls and e-mails the other day and I had legislators come out and say, "O.k., I get it." I appreciate those efforts. It takes very little time.

This is the 2nd year of the 85th General Assembly which means it's a 100 day session. It started January 13th and is supposed to end April 22nd. That means that their per diem money that they get to come to Des Moines, stay and eat runs out April 22nd. They don't want to be there after that date, but my guess right now is that they are going to run a little bit longer. A lot of budgets are still in the process of being passed, including the one that includes the additional \$100,000 for training. That has passed the House and is now in the Senate. That is a direct result of meeting with the Governor before the session and getting that money in to the Governor's budget. We will continue to do that and work earlier before the session to set our agendas so that if we have an appropriations request we can get that in.

Three things that we are still pushing for are the \$100,000 additional training funds, I'm pretty confident that will go through; the second is an additional \$50 for the tax credit, it passed the House, we probably need to let the Senate know that we want that to happen. Since this is the first year that it has been able to be claimed they aren't sure of the actual impact to the budget yet. The other thing I've been working on is the mobile training units that the Fire Service Training Bureau needs. We are asking for anywhere from \$250,000 to \$500,000. We are on the list. This is one-time spending. For mobile props they are looking at interior attack, drill tower, driving simulator and a HazMat unit. If you can, please contact these legislators about not only the tax credit but the mobile training units: Linda Upmeyer, Mike Gronstal, Kraig Paulsen, Robert Dvorsky, Chuck Soderberg, Tom Sands, and Joe Bolkcom.

I believe the checkoff is going to stay the same as is it has in the past. There are other groups that want to get in on the checkoff but the way it sounds right now we are going to remain on there with the veterans.

So again, we will figure out priorities early before the next session; have meetings with leaders in the House and Senate and the Governor; and try to kick up the grassroots a little bit more.

Remember, this is an election year. If you can get pictures with any of the candidates at your fire station events they will remember it and appreciate it and we will too.

Hall of Flame – Rusty Hockman:

Thank you for your continued support of the Hall of the Flame. It is a great success. Last year the only problem was if you worked in Sparky's booth it may have been a little warm. The A/C unit quit working. We will have that replaced for this year. Rusty presented the 2013 plate from the Hall of Flame fire truck to President Al Esch for a memento.

Unfinished Business – None

Resolutions – Dave Zimple

Resolution # 2 -

Whereas: Financial strength and stability are germane to the success of the Iowa Firefighters Association

And

Whereas: The costs of doing business have increased steadily

Therefore

Be it resolved that the Iowa Firefighters Association Board of Directors be allowed to increase the dues from \$11.00 per year to \$13.00 per year beginning with the 2015 dues campaign.

Explanation:

This resolution would give the Iowa Firefighters Association Board of Directors the ability to raise the dues structure by a maximum of \$2.00 per member to go into effect with the 2015 dues campaign

Affected By-Laws Change:

MEMBERSHIP AND DUES:

Article VI. Sec. 8. The annual dues of this Association shall be ~~\$11.00~~ \$13.00 per member.

Submitted:

Iowa Firefighters Association Board of Directors and Resolution Committee

The resolution was seconded by Jack Runge, Buckeye.

Discussion followed.

Walt Cook, Walker: Wanted to know why it was necessary to raise dues with the amount of money that the association had in savings.

President Al Esch: I feel that it is prudent to be able to continue to bank those savings. Our proposed budget shows a \$29,000 deficit. Any company that is successful has a certain amount of savings.

Don Scott, Redfield: So you are asking for \$2 per member and there are about 15,000 members. That would be \$30,000 which would barely get us out of the hole. I think we should take the money from savings and get us way out of the hole. Some departments might not be rejoining if the dues are raised. Take \$50,000 out of savings and if we still need to look at it next year after cutting budget then look at it. Kirk Rice and I were marking things that maybe could be cut on the budget.

Kirk Rice, Iowa Falls: Some of the things we marked were officers communications; I don't know what that includes. If that's cell phone use, internet use, I don't know but as a past president we never got any of that. Everybody in this room probably has a cell phone and everybody in this room probably has internet. Some things officers should just have to pay for.

Paul Schellhase, Garrison: I believe in the \$2 raise. My friends here disagree and I respect their opinion but if we lose \$29,000 a year it won't take long before that savings is gone. I think we should do this.

Jack Runge, Buckeye: I have 2 points; the stuff that's in the budget is important. They talked about some of the things that make up the budget and how important they are. Second, I would hope that the membership when you look at the \$2 increase would reflect on the fact that we got them a \$50 tax

credit and possibly another \$50 will be added to that. That is a result of the board's activity on the hill, and John and the members. I stand in favor of the \$2 increase.

Bud Hollar, Iowa Falls: I would like to see this board tighten their belts like everyone else in this country has to. I've identified about \$50,000 that probably won't be spent in this budget that you made it look like a deficit. If you tighten your budget there is no problem making that work without that being \$29,000 in the hole.

Paul Schellhase, Garrison: It's strange that everyone that is talking here are past officers of the IFA. I would like to know how the rest of the members feel.

Dave Pierschbacher, Greeley: Mr. President, I feel it is very prudent that you leave that money in savings in your budget as you propose. It only represents 2 years of operating funds at the proposed level. We don't know what the future brings, today or tomorrow or the next day. Tomorrow's challenges might be more expensive. What it used to cost us 5 years ago is not what it will cost us tomorrow. The \$2 it's going to cost per member is very minimal compared to the benefits that the association brings to our members.

There was no further discussion.

A ballot vote was called for by Don Scott, Redfield.

While ballots were being tallied the meeting continued.

New Business:

Assets In Order – Assets in Order is another company that has been selected by the IFA board as a benefit offer to our membership. They offer a Legacy Lockbox that is a new and convenient online planning and storage service, that organizes all of your important documents and digital assets in one central location, to be accessed by you or your loved ones when needed. You can organize and store digital copies of all your asset information including property, account details, passwords and even an inventory of your physical assets. Safeguard precious memories by uploading photos and videos to share with family and friends. Assets in Order's regular price for this Legacy Lockbox is only \$19.95 per year, but they are offering this service to all members of the IFA at a 25% discount for \$14.95 per year. They are also offering our members a FREE 90 day membership beginning April 15th. You can go to <http://www.assetsinorder.com/IFA> on or after April 15th, 2014. Complete the form and click submit. Assets in Order will email you a coupon code for a FREE 90-day trial Heritage Membership. Once you receive the coupon code you log on to AIO's website: www.assetsinorder.com. Click the Sign-up button at the top right side of the screen. Select the Heritage membership and complete the sign-up page. Type in your coupon code to pay for your FREE IFA member benefit.

If you would like to view a YouTube video of how the Legacy Lockbox works you can view it at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v64GQI5su4c#t=12>.

Along with the benefit to our members, it is also a benefit to the Iowa Firefighters Association as the IFA will also receive \$5 from Assets in Order for each membership that is signed up through IFA.

Resolution # 2 ballot results: 326 votes – no; 904 votes – yes. Resolution passed. The dues for the IFA will be \$13 beginning with the 2015 dues campaign.

Good of the Association:

President Al Esch – The Pass the Boot for MDA raised \$456 today. Wendy will send a check to MDA for that amount.

Scholarships – Cliff Renslow:

I'd like to thank the board for going through the applications and selecting the winners this year. I'd also like to thank Roger Bissen and his Mid Year committee for donating proceeds to the scholarship savings account. This year the board chose to give away 3 scholarships. The winners for this year are: Connor Sirovy, Deep River; Spencer Bezoni, Aurelia; and Hunter Eaton, Cherokee. One of them is going to go to Iowa Western over in Council Bluffs and the other 2 are going to go to Kirkwood in Cedar Rapids. It was a long drive for everyone so I didn't ask the kids to come over this year. The officers will get the scholarship certificates to them.

A motion was made to destroy the ballots. After questioning of By-laws and checking that By-laws state ballots shall be kept for 1 year the motion was rescinded.

Waverly Fire Department – On behalf of the Waverly Fire Department and with the support of the City of Waverly and the Waverly Chamber of Commerce, we would like to announce our intentions to host the 2016 Iowa Firefighters Association Convention. We will be having a hospitality tent on Friday afternoon at convention and we invite all to attend.

Jim Shutts – Belle Plaine – Once again I am announcing that I am running for 5th VP and I ask for your vote. I know I've done this several times before but I hope I can sway some of you people that haven't voted for me by just saying that everything I've ever done in life I've always had people say "I have to apologize to you for not thinking you could do it " because I've always done what I say. I would like to serve you people on the board of directors of the Iowa Firefighters Association and ask for your vote in September at convention in Grinnell. Thank you.

Gene Evans – Osage - Greetings Fellow IFA Members!

My name is Gene Evans and I am from Osage. I would like to take this opportunity to announce my candidacy for the office of 5th Vice President of the Iowa Firefighters Association.

I am a member in good standing of the Osage Volunteer Fire Department and have been in the Fire Service for over 30 years. I am currently serving as the senior Captain on our 30 member Department. I am Certified FFI, Hazardous Materials Operations, and an Emergency Rescue Technician. I also have been active in EMS for over three decades, and have held a Paramedic certification for the past 23 years. I feel that my combined Fire & EMS experience gives me a good working knowledge of the issues that plague Iowa's emergency responders.

I have been a member of the IFA since 1982. My service to the Association includes the Drill Rules Committee and Resolutions Committee, and a past delegate to the EMS Advisory Council. I have also been a Contest Official, and have a long history of attending Conventions and Midyear Meetings. I am also currently serving as the IFA Legislative Liaison for Mitchell County.

I am employed as a Regional Project Manager for Med e Screen, a company that provides on-site medical and drug testing services to construction and industry. I have the full support of my Fire Department, my Family, and my Employer.

My wife, Carrie, is a Registered Nurse with the Mayo Health organization. Together we have a blended family of six children.

If elected, I pledge to execute the office of 5th Vice to the best of my abilities, and serve as a worthy ambassador for the Firefighters of Iowa.

I would sincerely appreciate your support, and look forward to visiting with you here at the Midyear Meeting and at the upcoming Grinnell Convention!

Ellen Hagen –

I would like to share this information that we received from IFA Past President Dick Bowers' daughter concerning the details of his memorial service:

The service will be held on Saturday, May 24, 2014 at 10:30 am at the Community Hope Church, 108 Circle V Ranch Rd, Montezuma, IA 50171. It is located right beside Hwy 63 on the north side of town.

The sign is easily spotted by the road.

After the service we will go to the local Masonic cemetery for a short service followed by lunch served by firemen and Legion personnel at the Montezuma Country Club.

The Iowa Fire Service was vitally important to our dad so we would welcome anyone who would like to join our family and the community that day in remembering him.

President Al Esch – At this time I would like to announce my condolences to Chief John Novak of the Traer Fire Department and our IFA Drill Custodian. He lost his brother yesterday. They spent a sleepless night here last night and left to go back to Traer and then to Chicago where his brother lived.

Wendy Lensing –

I received a phone call from Martin Flag Co. in Fort Dodge that they have a deal available on 2 – 50' x 100' US flags. These were special ordered and then cancelled. If anyone is interested in these flags they can contact me for the phone number.

President Al Esch asked all first time attendees to meet in the corner following the meeting to have their picture taken.

President Al Esch thanked all members of the Mid Year Committee.

Cliff Renlsow made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Wendy Lensing
Executive Director