

Minutes of Iowa Firefighters Association
Convention Business Meeting
September 7, 2014
Grinnell, Iowa

Present: President, Al Esch, 1st VP Brad Yeager, 2nd VP Mark McNeese, 3rd VP Bill Halleran, 4th VP Marv Trimble, Past President Roger Bissen, Executive Director Wendy Lensing, Cliff Renslow, Stuart; Randy Novak, FSTB; Larry Renslow, Stuart; Donald Cox, West Des Moines; Jeff Gore, Eldora; Jim Kenkel, Waukee; James Shutts, Belle Plaine; Dave Lloyd, Eldora; Dave Zimple, Badger; Rusty and Peggy Hockman, Jewell; Bob and Ellen Hagen, Jewell; Chip Mathis, Elkhart; David Lensing, Humboldt; Curt Maddux, Madrid; Mike and Joan Reuman, Traer; Rodney Kolthoff, Wellsburg; Dan Bell, Lake Mills; Brian and Chris Seymour, Indianola; Scott Hagenson, Lake Mills; Dick and Shirl Frank, Forest City; Dann Hayes, Malcom; Jim Huber, Solon/West Branch; Al Muhlhausen, Maquoketa; Merlin Clemen, Dyersville; Bob Platz, Dyersville; Duane Weber, Dyersville; Jay Degenford, Edgewood; Denny Drabek, Garner; Stacy Dateman, Garner; Rick Schmidt, Low Moor; Gene Evans, Osage; Kurt Angell, Osage; John Novak, Traer; Bill Willenborg, Dyersville; Walter Cook, Walker; Rob Edgar, Waverly; Brian Freund, Osage/Tampa, FL; Jack Runge, Buckeye; Richard Harman, Cedar Rapids.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by President Al Esch.

Resolution # 1 – Dave Zimple:

To the members of the Iowa Firefighters Association, assembled here in Grinnell, Iowa on the 7th day of September in the year 2014.

WHEREAS: The city of Grinnell and the Grinnell Fire Department have given the warmest welcome to our 136th annual convention and have been outstanding in their support of this convention meeting;

WHEREAS: We ask Chief Dan Sicard to convey this resolution of appreciation to all the residents and the City of Grinnell for their hospitality;

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

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

Respectfully submitted by the Resolutions Committee.

President Al Esch presented Grinnell Fire Chief Dan Sicard with an IFA banner in appreciation of their hospitality.

Election Officer for the day is Mark McNeese. Election judges will be Larry Renslow, Scott Hagenson, Al Wessels, Al Muhlhausen and Duane Weber.

Guests:

Muscular Dystrophy Association: Jillian Sharp –

Jillian talked to the meeting attendees about the Fill the Boot campaign. This is the 60th anniversary of Fill the Boot and MDA's partnership with the firefighters. Firefighters have raised \$530 million for MDA. Sixty years ago they didn't know what was causing any of the 43 diseases that they cover now they have identified almost all of the genes that are causing these diseases. That is huge because they can't fix the problem until they know what is causing it so now they can focus on research to find ways to fix it. Many have seen or participated in the ALS "Ice Bucket Challenge". ALS is one of the diseases that MDA covers. In the past week the gene was discovered that causes ALS.

Jillian introduced Donna Liekweg and her sons Dylan and Devan. They adopted Dylan when he was one week old. Devan came along 17 months later as a surprise and their miracle. When Dylan was about 5 years old they discovered that among his peers, his gait was a little bit off. They were referred to the U of I hospitals where they discovered he has muscular dystrophy. He has a lot of weakness in his legs, arms and hands. He enjoys participating in sports like any other little boy but he gets very tired, very easily. The muscle disease that Dylan suffers from is one of 5% that is unknown. He has been tested for over 25 different muscle diseases in the last 4 years. MDA has always been there for their family. They made sure all their doctors were there and they had all the support they needed. Dylan is in 4th grade. He loves video games and anything outdoors. He loves to participate in the Muscle Walk and he LOVES summer camp. His favorite things are the zipline and zombie tag. He loves that at summer camp he can just be "normal". They thanked everyone for what they do every day and for participating in Fill the Boot.

President Al Esch presented Dylan and Devan with IFA alarm banks and a collection was taken for MDA for \$412.10.

Rusty Hockman – Presentation to Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance

Rusty has been involved with the Hall of Flame for many years. He introduced Barb Baker who is with Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance. Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance has been a major supporter of the Hall of Flame at the Iowa State Fair for over 30 years. Since the convention was being held in Grinnell this year the IFA felt that it was a great time to show our thanks for that support. Rusty presented Barb with a banner that thanked Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance for over 30 years of support of the Hall of Flame. Barb said Grinnell Mutual has been around since 1909. They are a property casualty reinsurance company. She said what they do depends on what we do. Without active firefighters doing what they do insurance companies would really not be successful in what they do. That is why it is important to their company to help the firefighters. They have supported the Hall of Flame at the Iowa State Fair for a number of years and they were very happy when the Grinnell Fire Department came to them and said they were honored to have been selected to host the convention this year. They were able to give some financial support to them. She thanked everyone for attending and coming to Grinnell.

FSTB – Randy Novak –

FY 14 Annual Report: July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014 – There have been 1183 class offerings with 17,817 participants and 194 certification test sites giving 2944 exams.

The Bureau is level funded for FY15. The Volunteer Firefighter Training Fund was increased \$100,000, to \$825,520 for FY15. Funding will continue in the Firefighter Preparedness Fund (income Tax Check-Off) and the Paul Ryan Memorial Fund (fee on vehicle FF tags). The one-time appropriation for the Bureau (\$450,000 to purchase new mobile training units) was vetoed by the Governor.

Budget planning for FY 16 and 17 (two year budget cycle) has begun – DPS requesting all budgets for level funding.

The Bureau has applied for the following federal grants:

- FSTB received our National Fire Academy “State Training Support Grant” for \$20,000 for federal FY 15 (October 1, 2014 to September 30, 2015). 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 received an AFG grant for a new mobile live fire simulator (\$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.

New courses being offered are VFIS: Highway Safety for Emergency Responders (6 hours with activities) and FHWA: National Traffic Incident Management Responder Training Program (6 hours with activities) Courses under development: Fire Officer I & II (revision), Fire Officer III & IV (new), Fire Inspector II (new) and Instructor III (new)

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 in the fall 2014 and spring 2015. We are also using Pearson VUE “testing centers” for written certification testing (option for our students). There are currently 14 test centers in Iowa.

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

- FSTB Programs (2014-15)
 - Live Fire Skills, October 11 at FSTB
 - Hazardous Materials Symposium, October 23-24 at Ames
 - Fire Service Instructors Conference, November 14-15 at Ames
 - 91st Annual State Fire School, February 27 to March 1 at Ames
 - Announcement for various open enrollment classes will be mailed to Iowa fire departments throughout the year.
- National Fire Academy (NFA) Courses:
 - Leadership II: Strategies for Personal Success, September 13-14 at FSTB
 - Leadership III: Strategies for Supervisory Success, December 6-7 at FSTB
 - Politics and the White Helmet, January 31 to February 1, 2015 at FSTB
 - Courtroom Preparation and Testimony for First Responders; Incident Safety Officer; and New Fire Chief 1: Challenging Issues, February 28 to March 1, 2015 at the 91st Annual State Fire School

Check our website for new information: www.dps.state.ia.us/fm/fstb . You can now sign up for an automatic e-mail notification when something has been added.

Iowa Society of Fire Service Instructors – Doug Kolkman:

The Fire Service Instructors Conference will be November 14th and 15th in Ames. It is the 50th Anniversary of the ISFSI. The banquet on Friday night will be an evening of fellowship, networking, great food and a program where Billy Goldfeder has agreed to speech at our banquet also. With our 50th Anniversary emphasis Cliff McFarland has been working on a little bit of the history of the society. If you plan to attend the banquet please get your tickets through the registration forms by November 1st so we have a good count. With Billy’s presentation, you really do not want to miss this. Even though this is an instructor’s conference what he will be talking about is meant for everyone whether you’re brand new to the fire service, a veteran firefighter or a chief officer.

President Al Esch recognized that the ISFSI did work one shift at the Hall of Flame booth this year and it was very much appreciated.

Fire Marshal – Jeff Quigle:

The SFM Division currently has **28** fire deaths reported for 2014 to date. This is a sharp increase over the same time period in 2013 with only **14** reported fire deaths. **21** out of the **28** reported fire deaths occurred in residential occupancy fires. Only **4** of the residential occupancy fires had working smoke detectors. **4** out of the **21** reported residential occupancy fire deaths occurred in manufactured homes. Only **1** manufactured home had working smoke detectors. **5** out of the **28** reported fire deaths occurred outside. **1** out of the **21** residential fire deaths occurred in an apartment that had smoke detectors; however, it is unknown if they were working. **1** out of the **21** reported residential fire deaths occurred in a duplex that had smoke detectors; however, it is unknown if they were working. **2** out of the **28** reported fire deaths occurred in a garage/shed.

The State Fire Marshal Division is continuing our partnership with the Iowa Fire Fighters Association and the American Red Cross to address smoke detector installation programs throughout the state. The next project will be in Nevada on Saturday, September 20, 2014. The day will start at 8:30 AM and continue until the last smoke alarm is installed around 2:00 PM. The American Red Cross will be joining forces with corporate and faith partners and volunteer fire fighters to canvass at least 350 homes. If you would like to join a team or form your own team, this is a great opportunity to experience the Red Cross mission in action. Please contact Julie.struck@redcross.org if you are interested in helping out. We continue to work at identifying communities that we would like to target for future smoke detector installation programs.

Bureau Chief Randy Novak completed a (AFG-FPS) Assistance to Firefighter Grant/Fire Prevention and Safety to continue to purchase smoke detectors for installation throughout the state early this year. 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.

Effective August 15, 2014, the State Fire Marshal Division hired a new Fire Prevention Inspector, Michael Euans. Euans will be stationed in Northeast Iowa in Winneshiek County in the City of Calmar. Euans has served in the Department of Public Safety since 1997 as a State Trooper in Iowa State Patrol District 10, Oelwein. Fire Inspector Euans has also served on the Calmar Fire Department since 1999 and currently serves as an Assistant Chief on the Department. It has been several years since the State Fire Marshal Division has had a Fire Inspector assigned in Northeast Iowa. This is not a new position, we took an extra position that we currently had in Des Moines due to a lateral transfer to the State Patrol and moved this position to Northeast Iowa to better serve the Fire Departments and the Citizens of Iowa. Through the creation of this territory in Northeast Iowa will help with the inspection load across the state by shrinking the size of our current territories and help the Fire Prevention Bureau to meet timelines and the frequency of inspections. The State Fire Marshal Division continues to explore ways to save time and money without sacrificing the important services that we provide.

Currently, the Fire Prevention Bureau has inspected **83%** of all schools and colleges with a current two year inspection. With the addition of the Northeast Iowa Inspector position we are optimistic the percentage will continue to increase.

The Arson and Explosives Bureau has been very busy this year with fire investigations and explosive disposal work this year. As of today's date SFM Agents have investigated and closed **29** Accidental, **29**

Arson, and **40** Undetermined Fires. SFM Agents have assisted or been case Agents in several high profile cases this year throughout the state. The Bureau currently has **66** open case investigations. SFM Bomb Techs have safely completed **47** Explosive Disposals to date. SFM K-9's have responded to **38** requests for service to date. The Bureau is currently in the process to order a 3rd Sprinter Bomb and Explosive rapid Response Vehicle for Eastern Iowa.

The State Building Code Bureau has made a conditional offer to an individual to serve as the State Building Code Inspector in Western Iowa. This Building Code Inspector vacancy occurred due to the retirement of Bill Lloyd in March 2014. Senior Construction Engineer Rich Bolten with the State Building Code Bureau is currently serving as the Acting State Building Code Commissioner. Rich served many years as the Clive Building Official before coming to the State Fire Marshal Division in the early 2000's. I am optimistic that if our budget continues to be favorable that we can fill the vacant State Building Code Commissioner position during this fiscal year. The State Building Code Bureau staff is also working diligently to start the process of the adoption of the 2015 I-Codes. The State Fire Marshal Division is currently using the 2009 I-Codes.

The Electrical Licensing and Inspection Bureau has completed the 3 year electrician licensing cycle. The Bureau is working with the Electrical Examining Board to adopt the 2014 National Electrical Code. The adoption of the 2014 National Electrical Code is currently proceeding through the Iowa Administrative Rules process.

I attended the National Association of State Fire Marshals Annual Conference at St. Petersburg, Florida in July. One important project that was completed was the on-line Pipeline Emergency training for First Responders. Watch for an upcoming link on the Fire Service Training Bureau web site to participate in this important training.

Fire Service Training Bureau Chief Novak and I met with various personnel from the Iowa DOT, Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, and the Canadian Pacific Railroad last week regarding providing training to Fire-Fighter personnel that respond to rail car fires involving the transport of Baaken Crude oil. The Canadian Pacific Railroad personnel will be working with the Fire Service Training Bureau Staff in establishing training courses for fire-fighter personnel.

Through watching our spending and implementing good budget practices the State Fire Marshal Division finished approximately FY 2014 approximately \$189,900.00 in the black. We continue to look for new ways to save money and be fiscally responsible in the operation of our Division without jeopardizing the important services we provide to the citizens of Iowa.

Personnel from the State Fire Marshal Division will be meeting with staff from the Iowa Department of Public Health/Bureau of EMS about coordination with Image Trend this week.

Iowa Fire Chiefs Association – Brian Arnold:

The IFCA Conference is October 24th & 25th in LeMars, IA. Information is on their website.

Motion was made by Jim Shutts, Belle Plaine, to approve the minutes of the last business meeting held April 5, 2014 in Dubuque. It was seconded by Cliff Renslow, Stuart. Motion carried.

Executive Director – Wendy Lensing:

A big thank you goes out to Grinnell for hosting a great convention. They've done a great job.

I'd also like to thank everyone that helped out with the drills. Everything seemed to run pretty smooth. Chariton was the overall winner of the drills with a total of 36 points and Nashua won the waterball fights.

Roger's time on the board is coming to an end and I'd like to thank Roger for all he's done. It's been fun working with him. We'll miss him on the board. Al has done a great job this year as President and I thank him also and look forward to this next year with Brad as President.

We are beginning work on switching to a new database program. There were some issues last year at billing time. Since then we've been trying to determine the best route to go. We have decided on a company called iMIS and we will begin working with them next week to get the process started to convert our data over to their system. As the time for billing gets closer please have patience if there are any delays. Hopefully the conversion goes smoothly but there are always chances for a glitch.

I will be at CITA fire school the end of September and the end of October we have our States Networking Meeting in Des Moines. That is always very informative and all the states get a lot of good information from the others that attend. That meeting is how we got started with Constant Contacts for our e-mail system and at last year's meeting we all discussed our membership programs and what we were all using which is what led us to the iMIS program we are going to use.

October is when we start taking nominations for Individual of the Year and Department of the Year. If anyone has any nominations for either category please check the information on our website and be sure to get those nominations in. There are many deserving individuals and departments out there and we hope to see lots of nominations this year.

Officer Reports:

1st VP Brad Yeager:

Thank you Grinnell for hosting. We saw your wives and kids and families all helping too. Thank you also to anyone that helped yesterday as a contest judge. That is a thankless job.

Wendy mentioned the database change. I promised her it won't be any problem. We'll see. It's going to be an on-line program so eventually we'll be able to update it ourselves and hopefully at some point make payments on-line. Initially we will run it the same way we have but the capabilities for more are there.

Legislatively I have to thank those that have come before me. We are so much further ahead of where we were when I first started on this board on the legislation. We have already been discussing what we are going to do for next year and have plans in place so I expect great things to happen this year.

For whatever reason I don't get as nervous at the state house as I do in front of you guys. I feel comfortable speaking to them about our issues. I hope to have good success with that.

Something that we've taken a lot of flak for is American Income Life mailings that we've done. We went back and forth a long time on this but we have decided to continue with them. You get a mailing from them, there is a little postcard included with it, if you want to send it back you can, if you don't want to send it back and don't want to hear from them then simply don't send it back. The advantage to all of us is every single member is covered by a \$2000 AD&D policy (now increasing to \$2500). Unfortunately we did have to use this in the past year. We all felt that the pain we felt hearing from some of the members on this was worth what the family of one of our members was able to receive from the company.

We've been seeing and hearing a lot about EMS issues in the news lately. There have got to be some changes in EMS. I'm probably not the best person to champion that for our association but it's going to be something that we are going to keep our eye on. I don't know exactly what the future holds for EMS and the fire service but keeping us in the loop is going to be important.

Finally, Roger, I'm not sure you always knew how to take me, but I had a good time with him on the board and he's been very gracious to me as has DeaAnn. We're going to miss you a lot. Thank you for

everything.

Thanks also to the Forest City guys for being here today.

2nd VP Mark McNees:

Thank you to Chief Sicard and the Grinnell Fire Department for hosting a great convention. My appreciation goes out to the residents of Grinnell as well along with the law enforcement community for keeping everyone safe and secure.

The convention committee did a fine job of making things run smoothly. It's a lot of preparation and work to host this convention and it takes serious commitment for the department to pull it off. Also thanks to the Gilman fire department for all they did to assist Grinnell. To all of the attendees I again commend you all for your perseverance and sense of humor with the rain and muddy condition. Having dealt with the same 8 years ago, I can empathize with our hosts and just remind the Grinnell Fire Department that you can't beat Mother Nature, and I think everyone who attended this year will have good stories and memories of convention 2014.

I will keep my comments brief. We have a vote today on Resolution 2 to bring some more order to our budget process for this organization. I have never understood why we continue to work on a budget after the budget year has begun as written in our by-laws. It's prudent we change to a fiscal year instead of a calendar year so we have a better view of income and expenses and can plan better for the coming year. I along with the other chiefs on the board do not budget that way with our cities and I have not run across anyone else who does it this way either. It's time we correct our process.

I wish our candidates for 5th Vice President well in their run for office on this board. It is a privilege to work as a representative of Iowa's firefighters and first responders. I appreciate the fact Louie and Gene announced their candidacy months ago, have attended meetings and events, and have given the membership time to get to know them both, and to discuss issues and develop relationships. I think it's in the best interests of the association if its members can get to know those who wish to represent them.

I want to personally thank all of those who have given me and my department words of support and encouragement during a recent event, in which we helped out a family who has a 5 year old girl that we, and an entire community, was led to believe had terminal cancer. It turns out that it was a fabricated story and the mother has several charges filed against her in this fraud. What I have taken away, and hope all of you will take away, is that we are not going to change at all. When someone needs our help, we open our hearts and do what we can. We are in this business to help people, and in the rare event our efforts are not done for the reason we thought, we should not turn away from those who need our assistance in the future. We didn't make our little girl an honorary firefighter and raise funds for the family for the reason we believed we were, but we were still being there for support and love, and she needed it.

I wish to thank Al Esch for his efforts this past year as president of the IFA. Al has a strong desire to work for firefighters and has wide ranging knowledge in many areas that effect how we do our work. I appreciate his efforts and thank him for putting the association at the top of his list and taking control when events occurred this past year. Al thinks out of the box and that is a good thing to have on any board. I also thank Kell and their family for putting up with the headaches and time it took.

I also want to thank past president Roger Bissen and his wife DeaAnn for their years of service to the IFA. I thought I would review all of the accomplishments Roger achieved while serving on the board, but

I didn't think we probably had 15 seconds to go over it all, so I will skip that. Roger once told me he would like to see me run for the board before he retired from it. I told him that would never happen and it was a bad bet. I hate to admit he won that, but I am also glad that I got to serve on the board alongside him. Roger has a pretty even misdemeanor, but he becomes very serious and focused when he has an issue or position he believes in, which serves him well. I have stated before I study leaders and their traits. I try to emulate the best traits at the proper time. I take that away from Roger. We harass each other regularly and have had a good working relationship on the board that has transferred to our personal lives and even to the fireground during mutual aid. I will definitely miss his presence on the board, but as with previous past presidents, I know we will continue to see him and that he will continue to help out the association as much as he is able.

I look forward to Brad becoming president and assisting him however I can. Brad and I have known each other for years as a result of attending conventions and IFA meetings. We ran at the same time and have each other's back as we learned the ropes together. Brad brings a quiet strength, until he gets riled up about an issue. I appreciate what he brings to the table and look forward to continuing to have his back in the next year.

I thank Wendy for all of her work as always and for all of the extra work convention creates. She is a professional and we all are grateful for the work she does on our behalf. I also thank John Novak and all of those who assisted during the drills. I think it went very well and it was a good competition and fun was had by all.

3rd VP Bill Halleran:

I would like to say thanks to Grinnell Fire Chief Dan Sicard and the rest of the Grinnell Fire Department that put on an amazing Fire Convention. The hospitality was nothing short of perfect.

As usual it was great to come to annual fire convention and see some great friends that you only see every so often as well as meet some new ones. I would like to wish good luck to 5th Vice-President Candidates Louie Shutts and Gene Evans. This is an amazing board and we will welcome you along for the ride as we help out the states Firefighters in the best way we can.

I thought I would try to sum up some of the things I've done in the past year:

1. Attended the State Networking Meeting held in Des Moines. It was very nice to visit with our surrounding states and how they conduct their Fire Associations. As I have mentioned in years past, nothing against the surrounding states, but in my opinion, Iowa is definitely in the lead when comparing members, legislation contacts and over all how it conducts business.
2. Attended the Board of Directors Mtg. held at Indianola Fire Station
3. Attended the Audit, Budget and Board of Directors work session in Humboldt at Wendy's residence. This was followed up by IFA Board of Directors Mtg. held at Humboldt Fire Station.
4. Firefighter Day on the Hill held at the Capital. It is always nice to get other representation from the career fire departments as well as the volunteer side. We always want to have more firefighters on hand to show legislation that we are sincere about our requests.
5. 2nd Annual Chili Cook-Off was held in the Capitol Rotunda. It was a nice showing with some good chili sampled by many. Once again, we can always use more contestants to compete.
6. Board of Directors Mtg. held in Dubuque the day prior to Mid-Year banquet. Mid-Year banquet was fun to see everybody as usual. Al did a nice job of selecting Hotel Julien. It was a nice event with nice facilities.
7. Board of Directors Mtg. held at Robins Fire Department.

8. Firefighter Memorial in Coralville that Saturday afternoon with the candlelight vigil that evening. Sunday morning we were blessed with a great day for the annual firefighter memorial service. It was very well attended.
9. Selected the Marriott Hotel in Coralville for 2017 and 2018 Mid-years. (Marv's year)
10. There was a few grumbles yesterday reference drill wording. Please email, call or visit with any of the drill officials regarding this. The Drills Committee of Jim Kenkel, Gene Evans and Marv Boldt are aware of this and I can only assume that this will be looked into
11. I will be serving on the state wide interoperability board serving on the operations side with Roger Bissen.

To Roger Bissen who served his last year as Past President, I would like to say thank you for all the years of dedicated hard work. It was always fun to share laughs and stories with you. I wish the best of luck to you and your retirement from the IFA Board.

I would like to say Thanks to Al Esch for leading us this last year as our President and to everyone of the IFA members, I would like to advise that Al did an amazing job of leading by example. He is a forward thinker and that is what this board needs.

I am looking forward to serving this year as 2nd Vice President under this year's President Brad Yeager. Brad has been a dedicated leader and I feel confident in his abilities to lead us throughout this year making strides towards the goals we set.

4th VP Marv Trimble:

I would like to thank Grinnell for the fantastic job with this convention. I know these guys have done their homework because I have seen them studying the last three conventions. They came to Vinton to get information from our Vinton - Garrison convention . We gave all the advice we knew. Wow, did they listen. They topped our effort and have set the bar very high for the future conventions. Good luck Story City and all to follow in with entertainment. The Hairball show on Thursday night and laser show Saturday night were way over the top.

I am going back to the meeting in Robins with my report, since you all were there. Just kidding. My wife, Michelle, and I attended the memorial services. This was the only second time I have experienced the candlelight service and both were very moving. I encourage all to experience this for themselves along with the Sunday program.

I have given three years of service certificates totaling 95 years. In August I went to Belle Plaine for a retirement after 23 years service. Thanks to the Belle Plaine FD for fantastic meal and fellowship. At this convention I was able to give my friend Ron Puls a certificate for 40 years. Last spring we went to Gilman to present two certificates. I was only able to present one due to circumstances. Last night I was able to present the second certificate for 32 years service. All of these volunteers have given thousands of hours to their communities. We also need to recognize their spouses too. Thanks to all of you.

Michelle and I were also privileged to attend Al Esch's president's party. I really enjoy fellowship with other fire service people. We were very impressed with the meal and station. We took a picture of the station. Michelle and I have been traveling around Iowa on our motorcycle this summer. Our new mission is to find the fire stations in each town and get a picture. So far I have about 30. I would like each department to send a picture of your station and a close up of the department name. Please ask

the other members if they are sending one to make sure I'm not getting 20 or 30 pictures of each station.

September is National Preparedness month. This is when we review our policies on a national, state, local, household, and individual preparedness. This summer I was walking out the door to go on a storm watch and realized I was leaving my wife alone to fend for herself. I left her with a radio so she could hear what was going on and left. The point I'm trying to make is we are our own first priority. Be sure to protect yourself and your family while protecting others.

Thanks to Roger for the last two years guidance of this organization and myself personally. Thanks also to Al for his year at the top of the organization. He had the forethought to meet with the governor before he set his budget and made great progress toward our agenda. I'm looking forward to Brad's leadership in the coming year.

Any first timers? Please see Richard Harman for a picture before leaving.

Past President Roger Bissen:

I'd like to thank the Grinnell Fire Department and the City of Grinnell. You guys did a great job. There were many challenges from Mother Nature and you overcame them successfully. For many years people have told me they remember Harlan's convention and all the mud but you guys may have been trying to take that away from us. As Marv mentioned, the laser show last night, WOW! We've had a lot of good fireworks shows but they are very good but this was a change and it was very good. I liked it.

Al, I want to thank you for your strong leadership this year. Your experience in the fire service really stood out and you had to make some decisions and you did a great job. Thank you.

Brad, good luck to you. I'm sure as you're sitting here today you're wondering what tomorrow will bring but it will all work out. Good luck to you.

Mark, you and I give each other a hard time but on a serious note I turn to Mark, he turns to me all the time. We live close to each other. I think your leadership at home shows here on this board as well. I appreciate everything you've done and shared. One thing I will say if an e-mail goes out asking a question and Mark replies I usually think, I better read that one later because it's usually 2 pages long. If Marv replies it's usually just "ditto". Mark, thanks for everything.

Bill, again, your leadership at home also stands out here as well on this board. Thank you for everything that you do here.

Marv, I appreciate working with Marv on this board. When Paul Schellhase nominated him he said he was a very smart man, he knows what he's doing. He was right. He's a career firefighter. He brings a lot of knowledge to the board. I thank you for everything you do.

Wendy, this association is in much better shape because of your hard work on a daily basis. You do not get enough thanks for what you do. Thank you for everything you do. She might be working at 7 a.m. and maybe still working at 9 p.m. that same night. You work extremely hard so thank you for that.

President Al Esch:

Congratulations Grinnell Fire Department and thank you for hosting the 136th Iowa Firefighters Association convention. Your members and their families are to be commended for their investments of time, talent and other resources needed to create this event. Please extend my gratitude and thanks to them, the citizens, business owners and industry for their support of the Grinnell Fire Department. The community's pride and support were on display during our stay even though the weather was not so cooperative.

The reports from Wendy, Brad, Mark, Bill and Marv provide insight to the future of the association. At our mid-year meeting board work session, I asked each to discuss their vision for the near term future of the association. Two of the primary objectives were to build unity and provide a succession vision. I was concerned that the mistakes made year to year would be repeated as the next board cycle came through. There were many stumbling blocks along the way, but we made great, sustainable progress. Coming onto the board, we each have an agenda that may or not be relevant when we become president. Based on the responses, I am quite confident each remains committed to serving you and improving the association.

I ask for your support of resolution 2 which shall allow the association to change its current fiscal year from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31 to fiscal year beginning on July 1 and ending on June 30. This will allow future boards to leverage information at its budget work session and provide the membership a better picture of the association's financial position. Plus, it makes more sense to work with a budget that is agreed upon rather than working a full quarter without.

Over the years, we have seen membership fall and recently rise. The reliability and technical support of the association's current membership program has become less than adequate and could be catastrophic when it collapses. This board is committed to providing the security of your information, system reliability and future serviceability of utilizing commercially available membership software available. As such, other state fire associations have been using a software platform that meets our criteria and allow us to provide more streamlined services.

Recently, I sent a request to the governor's office asking for a Fire Prevention Week proclamation. The NFPA had a downloadable template on their website that I forwarded to Fire Marshal Jeff Quigle and explained my desire to use Iowa specific statistics, we would have a targeted, statewide perspective. Jeff and his staff poured the through data, which was an easier task with fire reports generated and submitted online. I was informed by the governor's office that there will be a signing ceremony at a yet to be determined fire department in the Cedar Rapids area on Oct. 7th.

Alright, shifting gears a little bit before concluding...

To my immediate family, the Epworth Fire Department, my employer - Lumber Specialties, Ltd, past presidents, current vice presidents and Wendy: Thank you for the support during my service on the board. Only you can appreciate the sacrifices and rewards that accompany this endeavor and I am grateful to know each one of you. My life will be forever changed.

To the Dyersville Fire Department, represented here today. Duane Weber for nominating me to the department in 1996. Bob Platz for taking me along to fire schools and meetings. The stories and contacts with people involved with the IFA were inspiring. Past chief Merle Clemen and current chief Al Wessels have been the source of inspiration through the years.

To my extended fire service family. Thanks for the confidence you placed in me throughout the years. I commented a few weeks ago that there is no more noble service than provide help when anyone is hurting. Emergency services are vital to the unalienable rights "of Life, Liberty and the Pursuit Happiness" as written in the Declaration of Independence.

To all, without challenges from the members, political leaders and other folks, thank you for the concerns, direction and opinions, as you have played a large role in my decision making and objective completion processes. Thereby, strengthening the association and providing better member benefits.

Roger Bissen, thanks for your service to the Iowa Firefighters Association. Your experience and leadership were a huge benefit to the association and its members. I look forward to working with you in your new position with the Iowa Fire Chief's Association.

Best of luck to the 5th vice-president candidates and I look forward to working with you in the coming year.

Credentials Report – Dick Frank:

Atlantic – 50, Belle Plaine – 42, Blainstown – 25, Britt – 26, Brooklyn – 28, Buckeye – 24, Cedar Falls – 63, Cedar- Mt. Auburn – 19, Deep River – 27, Dunkerton – 22, Dyersville – 61, Edgewood – 26, Eldora – 35, Elkhart – 18, Epworth – 61, Forest City – 37, Garner – 30, Garrison – 32, Grand Mound – 25, Grinnell – 42, Harlan – 64, Hills – 22, Independence – 47, Indianola – 95, Iowa City – 23, Jewell – 23, Key West – 26, Lake Mills – 37, Le Mars – 58, Liscomb – 20, Madrid – 33, Malcom – 29, Manning – 44, Maquoketa – 40, Mechanicsville – 23, Monticello – 39, Oelwein – 55, Osage – 48, Solon – 38, Steamboat Rock – 19, Stuart – 32, Tama – 49, Toledo – 27, Traer – 32, Van Horne – 16, Walker – 32, Waukee – 33, Waverly – 46, Wellsburg – 27, West Des Moines – 58, Williamsburg – 31. There were 51 total towns that filed credentials representing a total of 1859 votes.

Motion by Mark McNees, Atlantic to accept the credentials report. It was seconded by Bill Halleran, Sigourney. Motion carried.

Proxy/Absentee Report – Jack Runge:

18 towns filed proxy votes representing 599 votes.

Motion by Mark McNees, Atlantic to accept the proxy report. It was seconded by Bill Halleran, Sigourney. Motion carried.

Resolution # 2 – Dave Zimple:

Whereas: The budgeting process for the Iowa Firefighters Association takes place in January each year and

Whereas: The approval of the yearly budget takes place at the annual Mid Year Business meeting of the Iowa Firefighters Association between March 1st and April 30th

Therefore:

Be it resolved that the financial year of both the Association and the Mutual Aid Department shall be changed from a calendar year basis to a fiscal year basis of July 1st – June 30th beginning July 1st, 2015.

Explanation:

Currently the board is putting together a proposed budget in January that is voted on at the Mid Year Business meeting after a full quarter or more of the year has expired. Switching to a fiscal year that runs from July 1st through June 30th would not only allow the budget process to take place in a more timely fashion as well as more accurately in the way the dues are shown as income in the budget. A fiscal year would also align better with the current way the association year runs with election of board members.

Affected By Laws Change:

Rules:

Article X. Section 3. The financial year of both the Association and the Mutual Aid Department shall be on ~~the calendar year basis, January first to December thirty first~~ a fiscal year basis, July first through June thirtieth.

Submitted:

Iowa Firefighters Association Board of Directors and Resolution Committee

Bud Hollar : Asked for point of order and said for a bylaws change a 2/3 majority vote was needed so wanted votes cast since not everyone in the room was eligible to vote.

Randy Novak: Brought to attention that the year was mentioned again in another section of the bylaws so the resolution needed to be amended. (After reviewing the section in question it did not relate to the financial year so no amendment was made.)

Bob Platz made a motion to cast a ballot vote for Resolution # 2. It was seconded. Motion carried. Ballot vote was conducted. Results: There were 1783 votes cast from 48 towns. Zero votes no, 1783 votes yes. Resolution # 2 passed.

Committee Reports:

NVFC – Bob Platz and Brian Seymour:

Bob thanked the IFA for allowing him to serve as a delegate for NVFC. One of the committees he serves on is the legislative committee. They are working now on what will be their priority focus for the next year. Some of the items they will be watching are the AFG/SAFER grants; Volunteer Emergency Services Recruitment and Retention Act; Volunteer Responder Incentive Protection Reauthorization Act; USFA appropriations; Fire Police Fairness Act; Volunteer Fire Assistance; Supporting Emergency Responders Volunteer Efforts Act; and National Preparedness Grant Program. We are able to engage the membership through our CapWiz program. Dave Finger can put together information about an issue and action that needs to be taken and it can be sent out to the states and then for example Wendy sends it out to the IFA membership. By just clicking the links you can contact the legislators about this issue. Iowa has a very good record of being involved with this.

The Federal Excess Personal Property (FEPP) and Firefighter Property (FPP) programs that are administered through the US Forest Service have been fully restored. In June the Department of Defense had suspended those programs.

Bob is also chairman of the Conference Committee.

Brian sits on some different committees – the Wireless Committee – they are trying to take an active role from the NVFC’s standpoint and be part of FirstNet which is the interoperability process that lays out some of the rules and guidelines to the states about how interoperability works. They will be having a meeting in about a week and a half. Chief Johnson will be there, who also sits on the FirstNet group for the fire service, to make a report. Hopefully the NVFC can take a more active role in that.

Brian also sits on the International Relations committee. He was appointed to that group due to the work he’s done through the Africa trip to deliver truck over there. Brian thanked the IFA for appointing him to the NVFC and allowing him to represent the IFA. He said not only do you gain knowledge from the NVFC itself but from the experiences you go through talking to the other members that belong to the NVFC and the opportunities that you get by being on a committee like that. Brian was notified two weeks ago that through an application and selection process he was selected to attend a world conference and trade show that is going to be taking place in Germany in June of next year. Their hope is to get more international involvement in membership which provides more money for them to be able to accomplish what needs to be done at NVFC but also just that relationship overseas and learning things that they do and how they do them and vice versa. There will be 125,000 firefighters from 46 countries and Brian was one of 6 selected to represent the NVFC there.

Legislative – John Pederson:

An additional \$50 was added to the \$50 tax credit making that now \$100 beginning with the next tax filing period, January 2015.

The \$450k that was designated in one-time spending was vetoed by the Governor but John was very pleased it made it through the process and the legislators in the House and Senate passed it. The only reason the Governor took the whole bill down was because it was a potpourri of different things that everybody wanted and he obviously did not want to do that so he took the whole thing down. After discussions that have taken place we are very encouraged that the Governor is going to include that \$450k for mobile training units in next year's budget. We will not only be meeting with him very soon for the Fire Prevention Week Proclamation signing on October 7th but we hope to also set up another meeting with him encouraging him to put the \$450k in to his budget. It is tremendously helpful when lobbying the legislators for something to already have it included in the Governor's budget.

One other thing as Randy mentioned the \$100,000 increase in for the training fund that was in the Governor's budget last year did go through.

If you get an opportunity prior to elections to speak to a candidate please do so. Invite them in, have coffee with them, encourage them and get a commitment from them for their support of the fire service. It is critical. We can talk until our faces are blue up at the capitol but when they hear it from somebody back home and we get a commitment from them early it is very, very helpful for all of us when it comes down to getting their help when we really need it.

We are in the process of formulating a legislative agenda for the next year now. There are always some surprises and things that pop up during the session. There will be another fireworks bill.

Dan Walker, Grinnell: Would like to see possibility of a tax credit for business owners that are willing to let volunteers leave work for a call. There are a lot of small business owners that won't let their employees leave work. Maybe there could be a tax rebate or something that is based on number of hours employees are gone for calls.

Election/Installation of Officers:

President Al Esch: First off, we do have a vacancy on the board for the position of 5th VP. We will first elect someone to fill that vacancy and then move the officers up one position and elect another person as 5th VP. Are there any nominations for 5th VP to fill the position vacated by Al Muhlhausen?

Brian Freund, Osage nominated Gene Evans, Osage. It was seconded by Cliff Renslow, Stuart.

Paul Schellhase, Garrison nominated Jim "Louie" Shutts, Belle Plaine. It was seconded by Larry Renslow, Stuart.

Walt Cook, Walker made a motion that nominations cease. It was seconded by Ellen Hagen, Jewell. Motion carried.

Ballot vote was conducted for the position of 5th VP.

While waiting for the results of the ballot count the meeting continued with Good of the Association

Scott Sieck – Grinnell:

When we started this 3 years ago we decided we were going to do this for 2 reasons. One was for the citizens of Grinnell and the second was for everyone that attends convention. We did all that we could do to make it the best convention that we could possibly have. Other than Mother Nature, I think we did a fairly decent job. The guys have worked their tails off and our wives and families so I want to thank everyone for that. Also, everyone in the last 3 years that we've talked to, the board, all the Vinton and

Garrison guys last year, and everyone else that has hosted we've picked their brains about everything we possibly could. Thank you all very much for that.

We have 2150 registered, sold 1479 campsites, 550 golfers and 220 bowlers. We held an open waterfights competition and charged \$5. We had 53 teams register and raised \$265 from that that we want to donate to the memorial.

I also want to thank our neighboring towns that helped us out – Gilman, Montezuma, Malcom and Kellogg. Without their help we certainly could not have done what we did. Thank you.

Gene Evans, Osage:

I would just like to share some observations that I made during the parade last night that speak volumes about the city of Grinnell. I've been in many, many convention parades. I have never had the citizens thank us like the citizens of Grinnell did. The whole way through the parade route we heard "Thanks for being here. Thanks for coming." I can't recall a parade where that many citizens thanked us for being there.

Selection of Convention City 2016:

Brian Freund, Osage nominated Waverly to host the 2016 convention. It was seconded by Rusty Hockman, Jewell.

Rob Edgar from Waverly said that they have the full support of the city council and the city and we just recently hosted RAGBRAI so we are all in the full speed ahead mode. We would be honored to bring you all to Waverly and show you what we're all about.

Cliff Renslow, Stuart made a motion that nominations cease and a unanimous ballot be cast for Waverly to be the host of the 2016 convention. It was seconded by Jim Shutts, Belle Plaine. Motion carried.

Good of the Association:

Cliff Renslow, Stuart: The Central Iowa Firefighters didn't have a hog roast this year but we did host a hospitality one night and raised \$150 for the IFA Scholarship Fund.

Gene Evans, Osage: The annual Guns and Hoses motorcycle ride will be held Thursday, Sept. 11th starting at the Public Safety building in Osage. There will be a light breakfast around 8 a.m. and at 9 a.m. we will have a memorial service then take off for the river. Anyone that would like to join them please do so.

Ellen Hagen, Jewell: I serve on the Interoperability Board and we are looking for people to serve on the subcommittees so that we can get work done in the committees instead of coming to the whole board and hashing and hashing. We are looking for members for Outreach, Governance, Technology, Training, Operations so if you are at all interested or know anyone that would like to work with this interoperability board I would like your help. My e-mail is still ehagen@iafireassn.org so please send me an e-mail and I will get you the information.

Results of the election for 5th VP:

There were 1814 votes cast for 5th VP with 51 towns casting votes. There were 2 spoiled ballots – one town voted twice.

Results of the election Gene Evans had 888 votes. Jim Shutts had 926 votes. Jim Shutts is the new 5th VP.

Bob Platz, Dyersville made a motion to suspend the bylaws and move all officers up one position and elect a new 5th VP. It was seconded by Cliff Renslow, Stuart. Motion carried.

Al Esch presented the gavel to Brad Yeager and gave him his new name tag, badge and business cards.

Al also presented Roger Bissen with the old gavel that he had mounted on to a plaque.

Roger Bissen presented Al Esch with his past president lifetime membership certificate, lifetime membership card, Past President's hat, name tag, badge and business cards.

President Brad Yeager thanked Forest City FD for coming. He also thanked the guys from Garner and Lake Mills coming to support him.

Election of 5th VP –

President Brad Yeager asked for nominations for 5th VP.

Brian Freund nominated Gene Evans from Osage. Cliff Renslow seconded it.

Walt Cook made a motion that nominations cease and unanimous ballot be cast for Gene Evans. It was seconded by Cliff Renslow, Stuart. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Mark McNees to suspend the IFA meeting and open the meeting of the Iowa Firemen's Foundation. It was seconded by Al Esch. Motion carried.

The meeting of the Iowa Firemen's Foundation was called to order.

Mark McNees made a motion to move officers up one position making Brad Yeager President of the Iowa Firemen's Foundation. It was seconded by Al Esch. Motion carried.

Resolution # 1 – Whereas the principal office of the Iowa Firemen's Foundation was moved
Therefore be it resolved that Article II, Section 2.1 of the By-Laws of the Iowa Firemen's Foundation should be amended to reflect the change from Box 7, Traer, County of Tama to PO Box 67, Humboldt, County of Humboldt.

Affected ByLaws Change:

ARTICLE II. OFFICES

Section 2.1 Principal Office. The principal office of the Corporation in the State of Iowa shall be ~~Box 7, Traer, County of Tama~~. PO Box 67, Humboldt, County of Humboldt. The Corporation may have such other offices, either within of without the State of Iowa as the Board of Directors may designate or as the business of the Corporation may require from time to time.

Submitted by Wendy Lensing, Secretary/Treasurer, Iowa Firemen's Foundation.

Motion was made by Al Esch and seconded by Bill Halleran to adopt resolution # 1 and correct the address of the principal office of the Iowa Firemen's Foundation. Motion carried.

Resolution # 2 – Whereas the financial year of the Iowa Firefighters Association and Mutual Aid Department has been changed from a calendar year to a fiscal year and Whereas the Iowa Firemen's Foundation operates out of the same office and runs on the same annual cycle
Therefore be it resolved that the financial year of the Iowa Firemen's Foundation shall be changed from a calendar year basis to a fiscal year basis also of July 1st – June 30th beginning July 1st, 2015.

Affected ByLaws Change:

ARTICLE VIII. FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of the Corporation shall begin on the first day of ~~January~~ July in each year and end on the last day of ~~December~~ June in the following year.

Submitted by Wendy Lensing, Secretary/Treasurer, Iowa Firemen's Foundation.

Motion was made by Bill Halleran, seconded by Marv Trimble to adopt Resolution # 2 to change the financial year of the Iowa Firemen's Foundation from a calendar year to a fiscal year of July 1st to June 30th. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Mark McNees to adjourn the meeting of the Iowa Firemen's Foundation and reconvene the meeting of the Iowa Firefighters Association. It was seconded by Bill Halleran. Motion carried.

The meeting of the Iowa Firefighters Association was reconvened.

Motion was made by Mark McNees to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Al Muhlhausen, Maquoketa. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00.

**Respectfully submitted,
Wendy Lensing
Executive Director**