

Iowa Firefighters Association
Board of Directors' Meeting
October 26, 2014
Norwalk, IA

Present: President Brad Yeager, 1st VP Mark McNees, 2nd VP Bill Halleran, 3rd VP Marv Trimble, 4th VP Jim Shutts, 5th VP Gene Evans, Past President Al Esch, Executive Director Wendy Lensing. Also present Chief Dustin Huston, Norwalk; Brian Seymour, Indianola; Jim Kenkel, Waukee; Jeff Quigle, State Fire Marshal.

Meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by President Brad Yeager.

Bill Halleran made a motion to approve the agenda. It was seconded by Marv Trimble. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the minutes of the last Board of Directors' Meeting held June 7th, 2014 in Robins was made by Jim Shutts. It was seconded by Marv Trimble. Motion carried.

Executive Director's Report – Wendy Lensing:

Thank you to the Norwalk Fire Department for hosting our meeting.

It has been mentioned before that we were going to be switching the membership database over to a new software system. We are in the process of doing that currently. For whatever reason it is taking longer than expected for the company to get our information migrated into their system. Whenever they get that done we will have to do some testing to be sure everything is correct and then get started on the billing so bills will be going out a little bit later than they normally do. We do hope that things work properly and there isn't too much of a delay.

We did have another claim through American Income Life. I have sent that in and Sue Akers did receive it and send it on to the company. She will let me know when she receives the check and sends it out to the beneficiary. I also found out yesterday that there is possibly another claim that we will be making as soon as I get the details and information for that death.

The scholarship application period is currently open. We are also looking for nominations for the IFA Individual of the Year and Department of the Year so if you have any thoughts on an individual or a department that is deserving of this honor please submit them.

Brad and I met with Adam Lounsberry who is the Executive Director of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service. They had identified some areas that are short on volunteers. Fire and EMS were areas that had popped up. They contacted us and are also meeting with some others and are looking at ways to possibly help with volunteer recruitment efforts.

We met with George Oster on Friday afternoon. He gave a presentation to the board and a few guests about Iowa's Emergency Response System. Some of the board will have more information on that presentation.

Saturday we hosted the Midwest States Networking meeting again. There were representatives from IL, MO, NE, KS, MN, WI that attended. As always there were lots of great discussions and sharing of ideas.

Membership Report – as of October 20th, 2014 – total association membership was at 14,975. There is another department that is sending in their dues so we will be back up right around 15,000. Last year it was at 14,910 so we have picked up a few more members since last year. Mutual aid is down a little bit. That has had a steady decline from members passing away and not as many joining. We are currently at 2,752 members that have mutual aid. Last year at this time the number was 2,783. We have 39 affiliated members.

Financial report – as of September 30th, 2014 – Total assets of Iowa Firefighters Association - \$457,275.71. Total assets for the Iowa Firemen's Foundation - \$48,775.00. \$10,472.53 of that is from the Smoke Detector Project though so actual Foundation assets are \$38,302.47.

Motion was made by Mark McNees to approve the financial report. It was seconded by Jim Shutts. Motion carried.

Officer Reports:

1st VP Mark McNees:

Thanks to Chief Huston and Norwalk fire dept for hosting this meeting. Very nice station I had the opportunity to visit a couple of years ago during a presentation. They have an impressive department with a very busy and dedicated group of firefighters.

I recently attended a 40 yr presentation in Lenox and was pleased to see the public turnout for the reception. It was another example of the great moral support and community support of a typical small Iowa town fire department. I encourage members to recognize their members who reach such milestones and all of the others along the way and if we are invited to participate we would be honored to do so.

We spent a great deal of time this weekend at the mid states conference where seven states gathered this year to discuss issues and problems facing each of us. I have said before and will again that hearing what some others are facing, what is working and not working for them, and how we can all work together, is of immeasurable value to all of the associations and states represented. We have instituted many changes and programs as a result of these meetings and the other states have taken ideas from Iowa and instituted similar programs in their states as well. I think we gathered some valuable information this weekend regarding EMS coverage in surrounding states and how it is viewed, how it is set up, how it is funded, and how those associations represent EMS on a statewide level. There is going to be a great deal of discussion regarding EMS service in Iowa this year and in the future. We are looking at what our role will be in helping shape the service to do what is best for Iowa citizens and Iowa's fire and EMS providers, many of whom wear the same hat. Alongside those EMS issues there still is the increasingly difficult funding and staffing issues many Iowa fire departments are struggling in handling. Brad and I, and John Pedersen met with a Farm Bureau representative last week to discuss some possible solutions and pathways to helping fire departments raise the funding necessary to operate. Township trustee taxing abilities, mil levy limits, service concerns and the like were all discussed. We solved nothing at the meeting but did open the door to more cooperation and discussion on moving forward. One main point I took from the meeting was that both sides were concerned on providing service, but were willing to look outside the current structure to see if there are better more equitable ways to fund the fire service. I personally am for looking at changing the system and looking to return to having the ability to have benefited districts instituted again in Iowa as an option. I also am interested in changing the current system if it stays in place to remove or raise the 60 ¾ cent cap on fire service levies that townships can raise. We have 350 or so in the state currently at that limit, I have one in my district, and they are against a wall and have no options and cannot provide their share of costs in providing the coverage. Something needs to be done for these townships to give them some flexibility. Several hundred more are over 55 cents and nearing the maximum. If we do nothing the problem will increase and get to be more of a crisis. I hate using that word because I think it is overused on virtually everything, but it is not prudent for this association or the legislature to sit idly by while we see the train coming down the tracks at us. We must make every effort to efficiently provide service to our citizens and provide the necessary funding to protect our firefighters through proper equipment, gear, maintenance and training. To sit in Des Moines and stick heads in the sand and not address the issue is irresponsible. So it will be up to us and the membership to make ourselves and our problems heard

as we move forward. I have no idea where the process and road will lead, but we have to start moving down the road.

2nd VP Bill Halleran:

Thanks to Norwalk Fire Chief Dustin Huston and his staff for hosting our meeting today.

We had a great meeting with George Oster on Friday reference Fire Districts, Taxation concepts, response involving Fire and EMS. Benefited Fire Districts was brought up and discussed quite extensive. This is something that the board will be looking at further.

We held the States Networking Meeting on Sat. States represented were Iowa, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Nebraska, Kansas and Missouri. Great dialogue reference recruiting/retention, legislative issues, funding, fire schools, membership to name a few. We have great Fire Associations around us, but I am once again going to say that Iowa is above the curve when it comes to issues at hand. We have less issues than others. Not throwing darts by any means. Iowa is looked highly upon for guidance/templates, leadership.

I am on the Statewide Interoperability Board representing Volunteer Fire Chiefs and Operations. Still getting acclimated to certain aspects reference this.

Gene Evans and I will be attending the 2015 States Benefit Summit Mtg. Held in Oklahoma City this February. More to follow on this.

Legislation breakfast is set for Jan. 27th from 0730-0900 as an fyi.

We as a board have heard the discussions reference Iowa Firefighters Assoc. possibly joining in with IEMSA to look into why shortages on volunteers is taking place. We are working towards the same goal as to making sure each community is covered. Nebraska is losing 1000 EMS/year.

3rd VP Marv Trimble:

Thank you to the Norwalk fire department for hosting our meeting. We are just coming from the states network meeting. We had representatives from Iowa, Illinois, Missouri, Minnesota, Nebraska, and Kansas. There were multiple issues discussed and ideas exchanged. A unique idea that Illinois brought up was corporate sponsorships and it might be an area to look at to help the association with some funding.

I had the privilege of attending the governor's signing of the fire safety week proclamation October 7th at the new Central fire station in Cedar Rapids. Thank you to Chief English and the city of Cedar Rapids for hosting the signing.

We had a meeting Friday looking for ways to help the EMS system in Iowa. EMS is not considered an essential service in the state. We all expect someone to come when we call 911 needing medical assistance. There is no law requiring EMS service in the state of Iowa. George Oster made a presentation regarding the past, present and future of the Emergency Services in Iowa. Emergency Services includes fire, EMS, and rescue. It may be time to consolidate leadership to reduce redundancy of management roles.

4th VP Jim Shutts:

It's been a very interesting last two months since being elected to this great association. I started out with going to CITA fire school at Kirkwood community college in Cedar Rapids. I was slightly over dressed the first day but the second day was more casual.

I have been getting a lot of e-mails and drinking in a lot of information, probably the reason for that deer in the headlights look I've been giving many people when dealing with the business of the association. I do believe that I'm starting to feel more comfortable with everything.

I did go to the Liscomb firefighters annual dance which is always a good time they really appreciated seeing an IFA officer at their dance.

The board attended the Governor's signing of the proclamation for fire prevention week.

We at the Belle Plaine fire department had our 64th annual firefighters ball at the end of fire prevention week.

I just finished with my first states networking meeting in Des Moines. It was very informative all the information I learned from our surrounding states associations.

5th VP Gene Evans:

I would like to start with my sincere congratulations to the Grinnell Fire Department. You were dealt a rotten hand by Mother Nature, but after much hard work, the Convention was a success. The laser show was a welcome addition, and VERY Impressive! Again, Good Job to Grinnell FD!

One of my first "official" functions as Vice President was to attend the Fire Prevention Week Proclamation signing by Governor Branstad at the new Cedar Rapids Fire Headquarters. In addition to the Governor, First lady Chris Branstad and Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds were present. I was impressed with the sincerity of their show of support for the Fire Service. I would also like to thank Marv Trimble for the personal attention given to the IFA Board on that day guiding us on a private tour of the new Cedar Rapids Fire Headquarters.

President Yeager and I attended the Firehouse Makeover presentation sponsored by California Casualty. The Northwood Volunteer Fire Company was the recipient of a Station makeover valued at \$10,000. A design team was present that night, and took down ideas from the membership to improve the facility. Work is scheduled to be completed within 2-3 weeks with a public unveiling of the improvements when they are completed.

Past President Al Esch:

Thanks again Norwalk Fire Department for hosting the meeting today and thanks to everyone in attendance.

The meetings this weekend will mark the many of last times I do things as I transition off of the board. Congratulations to Jim and Gene as they begin their service. Judging from their reports, I look for good things from them in the future.

I first learned about an initiative to form emergency response districts shortly after convention. Prior to seeking advice from George Oster, I did some research to learn that Texas recently made the change to emergency response districts and learned that there were a few squabbles over territory I would expect some sort of push-back if this were to be implemented in Iowa.

Last week I attended the Tri-State Emergency Responders Conference in Dubuque and listened to presenters John Norman and Forest Reeder. Even though I am on the committee, no speakers have been booked for next year. The dates will remain the third weekend of October.

I also attended CITA fire school with Wendy and Jim.

Special thanks goes out to Fire Marshall Quigle, his staff and the staff at the Fire Service Training Bureau for preparing the Fire Prevention Week proclamation, held at the Cedar Rapids Fire Department Headquarters. Thanks to for everyone who attended. I thought it was a great opportunity to promote the association's, the Fire Marshal's office and Red Cross' continued efforts to install smoke detectors. It was announced that the Fire Service Training Bureau was notified that they will receive a grant to purchase smoke detectors.

There was some old business that went back to the mid-year meeting that was taken care of when the award for Firefighter of the Year was presented to Jeff Fiscus at Hardin County fire association meeting in Alden. Past presidents Jack Runge and Bud Hollar were also on hand to make the presentation. Jeff was surprised and honored to be this year's recipient.

President Brad Yeager:

Thank you to Norwalk and Chief Huston for letting us hold the meeting here today. I'd also like to thank the board for their time with all the meetings this weekend. I appreciate that very much.

As Wendy said we met with Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service. We didn't leave that meeting with any agenda necessarily but they have identified 5 volunteer organizations within the state and found fire and EMS to be one of the most important. I think we will get some good out of that. They were invited to come to our meeting with George in the afternoon but they weren't able to make it. It kind of struck me that all these similar things were coming together all at once. People are seeing the need. They have some grants and money available to put some people out in communities to help recruit, maybe not necessarily as firefighters and EMS but maybe to help tell our story to the community and spur some interest or help in other ways. There are a lot of different angles that they can look at that we may not have had the time or inclination to do. They need to have a preliminary report to the governor by February so I'm sure we'll be hearing more from them.

Having the meeting with George on Friday just worked well with everything we were doing. He's been working on this stuff his whole career and knows more about it than anyone else. If he leaves or moves on that would leave a huge hole that no one else could fill. One of his suggestions is for us to form what he called a "Joint Council of Emergency Services Organizations" just to get everybody together and start hashing things out. Mark Sashen was there representing IEMSA and I asked him to take it back to his board and we can contact them and the Pro-Chiefs and I-Chiefs and whoever else and see what we can do. I'm not interested in turf wars or egos or anything like that I just think we need to lay it all out and come up with a plan that's good for the state. We did also invite a member from Farm Bureau to come to that meeting after we met with them last week. I just want the information out there. A lot of this came from former Senator Hancock and he has a lot of ideas. Our approach is to listen to everyone's concerns and take that into what we think is best. I appreciate his input. He met this summer with Senator Danielson and got George involved in some ideas. It may be brought up but I don't really expect anything to happen this year but we need to get the ball rolling for the future.

This coming week we have a meeting with Red Cross and the Fire Marshal's office about the smoke detector project.

John Pederson was at our meeting Friday for a bit and we are working on our agenda for the upcoming legislative session. He gave his input on the upcoming elections and future makeup of the house and senate.

Chief Huston commented that one of the things that had been brought up at the Pro-Chiefs fall conference might be something that they could work on with us with the volunteer council. They had talked about doing some public education in the form of media type stuff such as bulletin boards or a commercial. With the volunteer council maybe that would help. They had talked about trying to get more people. They had been focusing on some minority issues that some of the departments have and trying to open those opportunities up to minorities and anyone in general that wants to volunteer. They had thought about some media blitzes that could air multiple places across the state to try to get people involved with their local departments.

Brad said that he thought Adam Lounsberry had just started with IFA but we will be giving him contact information for the other groups and pass along his contact info as well.

Chief Huston said that all the groups have different things going on but there are a lot of areas of commonality and that is one area we can work together on.

Brian Seymour mentioned 1-800-FIRELINE as something that was still going on through NVFC.

Wendy Lensing mentioned that Nebraska had utilized a SAFER grant for funding to air television ads for recruiting volunteers.

Brian Seymour also mentioned that with the benefited fire districts discussion he had in the past been part of a negative impact of a benefited fire district so he would hope that if we go down that path we do not follow the 1970's version of it. He said at least in his case it was an added layer between the trustees and the fire district they had difficulty getting people elected on a trustee level and eventually the fire district board dissolved because nobody wanted to be a part of it. He ended up having to go door to door to get signatures to dissolve the benefited fire district.

Committee Reports:

NVFC – Brian Seymour –

Brian attended the NVFC Fall Conference in Lafayette, LA. He gave a report of some of the highlights from the meeting.

Chairman Stittleburg put a webcast on-line of the highlights of the fall meeting. This is great opportunity for those that can't attend or are interested to see and hear what happened at the meeting. The link is https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2OhmUYo_6Ww&feature=youtu.be

A special election was held to fill a vacancy created by Pat Hlavaty from Texas. Dave Jacobowitz from New York was elected to fill this position.

Discussion on Community Paramedicine and Mobile Integrated Healthcare and activities that are taking place. This is still in the discussion state and a stakeholder meeting will be taking place on the federal level on how this might work in the future. This is about paramedics kind of taking the role of home health workers where there isn't a home health care system. There is more going on with this in other parts of the country but it is starting to be discussed in Iowa also.

Discussion on Interschutz Conference in Germany. Budget discussed, Sponsorships are needed to help fund this trip and discussion around how we can do this and the need to tap new corporations that are in the worldwide market.

The Volunteer Advocacy Committee spoke of a new issue coming along that is dealing with downtime prior to work and some in Maryland are interpreting this as not being on call for volunteer fire service before going to your regular job. Jim is keeping an eye on this issue and hopes it does not progress.

There is some concern that with the number of volunteer applications for AFG grants going down we could be losing some legislative support for these grants. One of the problems is that departments that have tried 2 or 3 times and been denied tend to give up trying to apply. They do feel the new micro-grants are successful. The only recommendation from the NVFC's standpoint is to continue them but where they see some of the smaller departments having trouble getting a decent score on the narrative section on the grant that maybe they should eliminate the narrative section.

There is a group called the First Responder Technology Project. This is a company that will assist department with researching technology in whatever products they are looking at purchasing so that

they can make the best choice depending on their needs. This information will be made available on website.

Chief Jeff Johnson spoke on the FirstNet activity and how it works at the Federal Level. It's at a stage now where it's moving out to the states. Meetings that are taking place around the states now are similar to the information that he shared.

FEPP/FFP (military surplus equipment) just an update that this was going away but with our efforts the program was reinstated. This is an example of the power and action if taken by our members will create a change in programs.

OSHA is looking at updating the emergency responder regulations. They started this process once but didn't have the resources to put towards the effort. There is a push again to get this going so NVFC will stay on top of this because the push is this update will start again but it will take years to develop. Stay tuned.

The next conference will be the spring conference in Washington, DC April 17th – 18th, 2015. This will be on the end of the CFSI dinner but future conferences from NVFC standpoint will not be held in conjunction with CFSI. They will be held in May.

The NVFC did receive a \$1,000,000 grant to work on recruitment and retention. They set up a committee and whatever resources that they develop such as PSAs, etc. will be made available to the states. A lot of work is going to be put into that.

NFPA requested a support letter to support their efforts in applying for a grant to build a program to educate FF on the hazards and how to handle incidents for Alternate Fuel Vehicles. This \$1,000,000 grant will go toward all alternate fuel vehicles and expand the current program they have developed on electric vehicles. It was also stated that letters from State Association would be beneficial as well. A sample letter will be placed on the website for States to use.

Past President Al Esch said there had been some questions about EPA Tier 3 and Tier 4 engines and what direction, if any, could be taken to exempt emergency response vehicles from those emission requirements. He asked Brian if anything had been done by the NVFC in that regard. Brian said he wasn't aware of anything being done but he would check with them. He thinks there had been a push possibly from the Fire Chiefs to possibly have the same exemptions as military but he didn't know if it had gone anywhere. Al said it is a very real safety concern when an ambulance engine could be shut down during an emergency run. Jim Shutts also expressed concern over when a vehicle sits for a period of time there is possibility of DEF crystallization clogging up the system. He thought the shelf life was about 6 months.

VP Mark McNees said that going back to the subject of FirstNet there was legislation that was going to be proposed that emergency responders have access to the ICN. That helps with the infrastructure. He attended the meeting in Cass County. He asked Brian if the Interoperability Board going to be tasked with helping to implement that statewide from the feds when it gets down here? He said they made it sound like it was going to be down to the local however you can get it set up. Brian said the state has to submit a plan to the FirstNet group as to how it's going to be developed. The dollars from the federal level are to get the state system up and functioning. It will be up to the local level as to whether or not they want to join that. It is just made available to them, they don't necessarily have to participate. Dustin Huston said that if you are in an area that is covered the ICN will be the backbone. If you are

already in an area that is covered in the umbrella of interstates, bigger metropolitan areas, etc. where the Iowa State Patrol and other state departments function in a large capacity where they want the coverage you won't have to do anything different. You would just buy your equipment and connect to that and pay whatever the rate is but if you are out of that coverage area and you want the coverage then you will have to work with local, county or whatever to get that area covered by another tower.

Drill Rules Committee Report- Gene Evans:

There have been several issues regarding the Drill Rules raised since Convention, and the Drill Rules Committee and the Board are working to "clean up" some of the language in the rules. A conference call was held recently between the Rules Committee and President Yeager to compile the list of issues that need attention. The Rules Committee will be presenting several Drill Rules resolutions for the Membership to consider at the Midyear Meeting

Convention Committee – Marv Trimble:

Nothing to report at this time.

Guests:

State Fire Marshal – Jeff Quigle:

The SFM Division currently has 31 fire deaths reported for 2014 to date. This is a sharp increase over the same time period in 2013 with only 20 reported fire deaths. 24 out of the 31 reported fire deaths occurred in residential occupancy fires. Only 3 of the residential occupancy fires had working smoke detectors. 4 out of the 31 reported residential occupancy fire deaths occurred in manufactured homes. Only 1 manufactured home had working smoke detectors. 5 out of the 31 reported fire deaths occurred outside. 1 out of the 31 residential fire deaths occurred in an apartment that had smoke detectors; however, it is unknown if they were working. 1 out of the 31 reported residential fire deaths occurred in a duplex that had smoke detectors; however, it is unknown if they were working. 2 out of the 31 reported fire deaths occurred in a garage/shed.

The State Fire Marshal Division is continuing our partnership with the Iowa Firefighters Association and the American Red Cross to address smoke detector installation programs throughout the state. A smoke detector installation project was completed in Nevada on Saturday, September 20, 2014. We continue to work at identifying communities that we would like to target for future smoke detector installation programs. Both Nevada Director of Fire and EMS Raymond Reynolds and I serve as board members on the Central Iowa Chapter of the American Red Cross and will continue to work diligently in the installation of smoke detectors throughout the State.

Bureau Chief Randy Novak completed and submitted an Assistance to Firefighter Grant/for Fire Prevention and Safety to continue to purchase smoke detectors for installation throughout the state earlier this year. The Iowa Firefighters Association in cooperation with the State Fire Marshal Division was awarded a \$190,000 grant with a \$10,000 dollar match last month. This grant money will allow us to purchase approximately 10,000 smoke detectors. Bureau Chief Novak is currently working on the bid process to purchase the smoke detectors.

Effective August 15, 2014, the State Fire Marshal Division hired a new Fire Prevention Inspector, Michael Euans. Euans is 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 **88%** 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 Wednesday, October 22, 2014, SFM Agents have investigated and closed **35** Accidental, **36** Arson, and **48** Undetermined Fires. SFM Agents have assisted or been case Agents in several high profile cases this year throughout the state. The Bureau currently has **62** open case investigations. SFM Bomb Techs have safely completed **49** Explosive Disposals to date. SFM K-9's have responded to **40** requests for service to date. The Bureau is currently in the process of purchasing a 3rd Sprinter Bomb and Explosive Rapid Response Vehicle for Eastern Iowa. We are also in the process of conducting interviews to replace Special Agent Joe Lestina who is transferring to the Division of Criminal Investigation. Special Agent Lestina has been with the State Fire Marshal Division for 15 years and will be greatly missed.

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. I have been working with the Department of Administrative Services in completion of the required paperwork for this position. 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 Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services who regulate all Federal Health Care in the State is seeking comments for adoption of the 2012 Life Safety Code. We are currently using the 2000 Life Safety Code for Health Care Surveys which was adopted in 2003. I am also working on switching a position in order to hire a full-time person for NFIRS program.

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 month 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 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.

Next week the Department of Public Safety will be completing our first reaccreditation for our Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies. There will be two on site assessors evaluating our policies, processes, and proofs that we are meeting all required standards for reaccreditation.

FSTB – Jim Kenkel:

We received our NFA State Training Support Grant of \$20K for federal FY 15. This will be used for Instructor I & II, Fire Officer I & II and NFA 2-day classes. We also received an AFG grant for new mobile live fire simulator. Grant covers \$290,500 and we will cover \$52,500.

We have a couple of new courses. A 6 hour VFIS: Highway Safety for Emergency Responders and through the FHWA – National Traffic Incident Management Responder Training Program which is also a 6 hour class with activities.

We have some courses under development. We are working on new revisions to Fire Officer I & II and have had some requests for Fire Officer III & IV so we are working on those new classes. Also new that we are working on for the next year are Fire Inspector II and Instructor III.

Randy has mentioned before that we are accredited to 12 levels under both IFSAC and ProBoard. We are preparing for re-accreditation visits from both of these. We are also using Pearson VUE testing centers for written certification testing as an option for students. There are currently 14 test centers in Iowa.

Upcoming events:

Fire Service Instructors Conference is November 14-15th in Ames

91st Annual State Fire School is February 27 – March 1st in Ames

Announcements for various open enrollment classes will be mailed out to departments throughout the year. You can also check the website for new information at www.dps.state.ia.us/fm/fstb.

National Fire Academy (NFA) Courses:

Leadership III – Strategies for Supervisory Success, December 6 – 7 at FSTB

Politics and the White Helmet – January 31-February 1, 2015 at FSTB

Courtroom Preparation and Testimony for First Responders; Incident Safety Officer; and New Fire Chief 1: Challenging Issues – February 28th – March 1, 2015 at the 91st Annual State Fire School. One issue with NFA courses is they need to know 45 days out that there are at least 15 registrations otherwise they cancel the program. We are going to try to do a better job of advertising these programs as we normally end up cancelling half of them.

Mark McNees said that the IFA was going to try to get the \$450K for the training props into the governor's budget before this session so it doesn't get dropped like it did this past year.

Jim said another thing that he is going to be working on is trying to identify who the fire chief is of each department in the state. They change quite often. He is going to try to coordinate with Emergency Management Directors in each county to see if they can keep us updated on who these individuals are and their contact information and maybe down the road take it even a step further and be able to do some survey work.

Unfinished Business:

Al Esch – Presented Jeff Fiscus of Alden with a plaque recognizing him as IFA Individual of the Year. This award would have been given at the Mid Year Meeting back in April but Jeff was not there so Al went to the Hardin Co. firefighters meeting at the end of September and did the presentation then. Past Presidents Jack Runge and Bud Hollar were also in attendance.

New Business – none

Good of the Association:

Gene Evans – Osage and the Mitchell Co. Firefighters Association will be sponsoring the Tunnel to Towers Foundation 9/11 Never Forget Exhibit over Labor Day weekend. This is a traveling 9/11 museum. It is in a semi-trailer with slide outs. They bring it in and then fly in responders that were on the scene to man it. It will be there Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Labor Day. As details become available we will get more information out.

Motion was made by Gene Evans to adjourn. It was seconded by Jim Shutts. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Wendy Lensing
Executive Director