

Iowa Firefighters Association  
Board of Directors' Meeting  
Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
Riverside, IA

Present: President, Bill Halleran; 1<sup>st</sup> VP Marv Trimble; 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Jim Shutts; 3<sup>rd</sup> VP Gene Evans; 4<sup>th</sup> VP Nick Riley; 5<sup>th</sup> VP Jason Barrick; Past President Mark McNeese; Executive Director Wendy Lensing.  
Also present: Bob Platz, Dyersville; Rosie Platz, Dyersville; Jim Kenkel, FSTB; Bob and Ellen Hagen, Jewell.

The meeting was called to order at 11 a.m. by President Bill Halleran.

A motion to approve the agenda was made by 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Jim Shutts. It was seconded by Past President Mark McNeese. Motion carried.

A motion was made by 1<sup>st</sup> VP Marv Trimble to approve the minutes of the last Board of Directors' Meeting, held October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016 in Pleasant Hill. It was seconded by 4<sup>th</sup> VP Nick Riley. Motion carried.

Executive Director's Report:

The backlog in the office from the dues was cleared up by Mid Year and letters went out to individuals and departments that had not yet paid. Those dues are coming in now also. I will get a list to the board this week of those departments that have not yet paid or at least contacted me so that they can start calling.

Financial reports are all up to date and will be posted on the website this week.

Several of us went up to Forest City for the pre-convention meeting the second weekend in May. Everything is going well. The only issue that I'm aware of at this time is that we have a hotel problem again. We ended up with no hotel rooms. I've been in contact with a department that I was told had a bunch of rooms and was told that they do not have any extra rooms to turn back over. If anyone out there was able to get rooms somewhere that they do not need I would appreciate it if they would contact me. I'm looking for about 10 or 12 rooms.

I've had a few calls from people volunteering to be drill officials. Please let me know if you are willing to help.

We also need volunteers for the Hall of Flame. Please contact Ashley Hockman if you would like to help out there.

Financial Report:

Total current assets of the Iowa Firefighters Association as of May 31, 2017 are \$540,728.55. Total assets of the Iowa Firemen's Foundation as of May 31, 2017 are \$61,888.69 with \$20.40 of that being a small leftover amount from the Smoke Detector Project.

Motion was made by 4<sup>th</sup> VP Nick Riley to accept the financial report. It was seconded by 5<sup>th</sup> VP Jason Barrick. Motion carried.

Officer's Reports:

1<sup>st</sup> VP Marv Trimble:

Since our last meeting I went down to Keokuk for a firefighter's funeral. One of their members, Ron Summers died, not in the line of duty.

On May 8<sup>th</sup> I met with Commissioner Ryan, FM Jeff Quigle and some others on some administrative rules for the fireworks and then went to the preconvention meeting up in Forest City on May 13<sup>th</sup>. They have a pretty sweet deal up there. Winnebago takes care of a lot. That's good for everybody.

June 1<sup>st</sup> fireworks became legal to use. Cedar Rapids had it's first fire caused by fireworks then on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. We've had other fires caused by fireworks also and as a matter of fact we had one before June 1<sup>st</sup> that was caused by fireworks. Someone was jumping the gun. June 1<sup>st</sup> they were doing a live news report from downtown and they were going off like crazy. Other than that I don't have much to say other than I can not purchase or use fireworks with my CRFD uniform on. That is how much we hate them. All of our run reports since June 1<sup>st</sup> now have a tab for "Were fireworks involved?" and "Was anyone injured with fireworks?" So we are going to be keeping track of that.

2<sup>nd</sup> VP Jim Shutts:

There hasn't been much going on since the midyear meeting. I had the pleasure of going to the fire prevention poster contest at Osage to help 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President Evans and Past President Ellen Hagen honor all the aspiring young artists. I attended the preconvention meeting in Forest City. F.C.F.D. has all their ducks in a row and are moving forward with some great plans for convention. I did go to Des Moines on May 18<sup>th</sup> for a meeting at the Department of Public Safety. This was on the Administrative Rules regarding consumer fireworks which as you know became legal in Iowa this month. This went as well as could be expected. The rep for TNT Fireworks was there and talked with Roger Bissen and myself. He did offer to send me the safety literature that his company puts out. Roger thought this would be good to post on our web site, but I have not yet received anything from them. Other than that it's just been crickets chirping on my front lines.

3<sup>rd</sup> VP Gene Evans:

Poster awards luncheon was held in Osage. There were 6 of 9 winners there. It was a very rewarding experience for the members of the department. The kids got a ride in our fire truck.

I attended the preconvention meeting. My only concern was they have a county ordinance against bringing in firewood from out of the county. Not sure if they have plans yet to make firewood available at the campground. I asked about this as many departments would like to buy it there.

4<sup>th</sup> VP Nick Riley:

I really don't have much to report since Mid Year. I have had a couple of the fire chiefs in our area call and ask me about having to fill out the forms for license plates. They questioned me about having to fill this out now and whether or not there was something we could do to get that requirement changed from then having to fill it out every year.

There was discussion that it's always been this way there had just been some treasurer's offices that had been accepting lists of "o.k." members and allowing that rather than going by the way the rules were written. As the I.D.O.T. became aware of this they started to crack down and sent letters out to all the counties letting them know that they needed to follow the rules. It had been brought up to the DOT to ask what would have to be done to change and allow a notarized list but there were no guarantees it could be done and the fireworks and other issues took front burner and the license plate issue was dropped this year.

5<sup>th</sup> VP Jason Barrick:

Since Mid Year I went to Ackley Fire Department and presented two 45 year members with certificates. Both of them were active members that were retiring for medical reasons. They have a lot of younger members coming on and an active Junior Firefighter program. Aside from that there has just been lots of discussion on the fireworks.

Past President Mark McNees:

Thank you to the Riverside department for hosting today's meeting. I see all the signs for the future birthplace of Capt. Kirk. I haven't yet seen the sign as the birthplace of Bill Halleran, perhaps I haven't driven around enough yet.

I had the opportunity on Memorial Day to attend a retirement party in Auburn for a presentation to two firefighters, one a 40 yr veteran and the other a 50 yr. veteran. It was a great ceremony capping a community celebration and was attended by many community members. I am always humbled to hear of the great work so many have done for their communities and those two gentlemen have contributed mightily to their department and the fire service. Congrats to Kenny Ortner and Larry Thobe.

Fireworks have been the major pain we expected it to be. I have signed on as an inspector for Atlantic in an effort to oversee my community and to help out the fire marshal office. I am kind of regretting that decision. I have put in way too much time trying to educate myself and our local officials on the rules and codes and daily changes in the implementation. The FM office staff has been working long hours every day of the week to institute the licensing and inspection program and I wish the legislators who voted for this had to deal with it like the rest of us. It's a disgrace they pushed this thru with such a short implementation time frame. I really think they will also find out we were correct in asking for more funds and people in the FM office to oversee fireworks. There just aren't enough people to work it with everything else they have to do. Many communities have addressed ways to protect their property and residents, but I have found the counties have no real involvement and it is leaving the unincorporated areas wide open. I have heard nothing but complaints from city officials. I hope after this first season the League of Cities and the County Associations speak loud a clear to the legislature about their concerns and issues.

I know Bill will be discussing this, but I would add that we have been in conversations regarding the promised interim director for the FSTB. Our frustration level is still high over all of this and it appears the DPS commissioner is still reviewing the possibility of a community college taking it over. I think it's pure

folly to move it. There are many reasons I think that is true. I still think a properly funded and staffed FSTB under the FM office is the best place for it to remain at this time.

I am looking forward to the memorial service, but am saddened that we will be adding three LODD to the wall and a PP and past officer. However, it is a very meaningful service to all those involved.

President Bill Halleran:

I'll kind of tag on to what Mark was saying. I spoke with Matt Eide, he is our lobbyist. The frustration is there. Matt wants all the groups to be on the same page. I've had discussions with the Emergency Response Council, Iowa Fire Chiefs Association and the Iowa Association of Professional Fire Chiefs. We'll have Eric Sells and Tim Hainey presenting a program in a bit. Eric came to Sigourney and talked to me about the Dynamic Scrip concept. I think it's a neat idea.

Fireworks are here. The frustration is real. I can see someone that isn't licensed setting up a tent for a few hours and then just moving on down to another location. They are trying to get the state patrol and county deputies aware of what the official license looks like so they know what to look for if they see a tent set up somewhere. This is going to be a learning curve year.

There was talk amongst the board about meetings. Today other than those that are here to talk about something there is no one here. That goes back to convention. There was talk about moving the meeting from Sunday morning to Friday morning to try to get more people in attendance. We're just throwing that out there. It might interfere with those that golf or bowl but adjustments can be made accordingly. Jim Kenkel said that when he was on the board they talked about doing away with the meeting at convention all together and just voting on 5<sup>th</sup> VP and convention at Mid Year also. Mark McNees said he was open to trying the change to Friday. Bob Platz talked about how Missouri and Wisconsin have a 3 or 4 day conference and the meeting is held during that but they have training and programs, etc. Mark and Bill stated that those states' conferences are more like our annual fire school than our convention. Bill mentioned that the table that was auctioned off at Mid Year went to Waverly FD for \$1900 and the money from that went to John Pederson's fund to help with his financial costs for rehab from his stroke. There is a blog that they are updating on his progress. He is in China right now for some treatment. Bill did a 45 year presentation in Muscatine.

Committee Reports:

NVFC – Bob Platz:

Congress passed AFG and SAFER at \$345M each which was the same as before. They also funded USFA at \$44M which is also flat from FY 2016 and not enough. They funded \$15M for Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) which helps with grants for wildland fire.

There is a bill circulating for National Suicide Hotline Improvement Act which we support. Suicide has increased 14% in the past 15 years. The bill would require the FCC to study the feasibility of designating a 3 digit code (like 9-1-1) that you could call if you were depressed and considering suicide.

Mark McNees asked where the Cancer Registry bill was at this time. Bob said it was still being worked on.

Jim Shutts asked if Bob had any literature on the suicide hotline. Bob told him that the Share the Load program had information and it should have gone to the departments. The number on the bulletin is staffed 24/7. (1-888-731-FIRE(3473)) Information is on NVFC website at [www.nvfc.org/programs/share-the-load-program/](http://www.nvfc.org/programs/share-the-load-program/)

The NVFC Fall Conference will be in Kearney, NE September 27 – 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Bob said that he wanted to mention the fact that it was in Nebraska because back when he was on the board it was in South Sioux City on the Nebraska side and then President Darrell Johnson invited the whole board to go to the NVFC conference to see what it was all about. Bob said he knew several board members had attended back when it was held in Coralville a few years ago also.

#### Memorial Report:

Mike Reuman asked me to give a quick report for him. The candlelight service will be tonight at dusk. Mike said they can use help with set up and tear down. Looking for wives to help with the merchandise sales. Mike asked everyone to get there to help tonight around 7 or 7:30 p.m. and in the morning about 8 or 8:30 a.m.

#### Legislation:

#### Guests:

Fire Marshal/FSTB – Jeff Quigle was unable to attend but sent a report:

The SFM Division currently has **20** confirmed fire deaths reported for 2017 to date. The SFM Division had **26** Fire Deaths reported for 2016 on this date.

The SFM Division web based Image Trend Licensing Management system is now fully operational and on line. The website address is <https://iowa.imagetrendlicense.com/>. Currently, all above ground storage tanks that are required to be registered, all licensed fire protection companies, fire alarm companies, nurse call companies, security alarm systems, fireworks retailers, and explosive contractor/individual blasters who are licensed by the State Fire Marshal Division are listed in the database. We intend to add Building Code Plan Reviews/Inspections in the near future.

The State Fire Marshal Division has been very busy during the final quarter of Fiscal Year 2017. Unfortunately, the State Fire Marshal Division was impacted by the shortfall in the State of Iowa's budget for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2017 which ends on June 30, 2017. The Division had to absorb a \$72,000 cut which did have an impact on the fiscal operations in some of our Bureaus; however, the Division will finish Fiscal Year 2017 in the black. The Fire Service Training Bureau was not impacted by this cut. We have been informed the SFM Division will experience a budgetary cut for Fiscal Year 2018. We have already had an initial budget meeting this week to discuss the State Fire Marshal Fiscal Year 2018 budget and another budget meeting is scheduled for next week where we should know the final FY 2018 budgetary cut for the SFM Division.

The Iowa Fire Service and Emergency Response Council has a meeting scheduled for Tuesday, June 13, 2017 at 10:00 AM at the Fire Service Training Bureau. The agenda for this meeting is posted on the Fire Service Training Bureau web site at <http://www.dps.state.ia.us/fm/fstb/index.shtml> along with prior meeting minutes.

The State Fire Marshal Division is currently very busy with implementation of the new Fireworks Law that was signed by Governor Branstad on May 9, 2017. Emergency Administrative Fireworks Rules were

filed before May 31, 2017 and the Image Trend Fireworks Licensing Software was in use on June 1, 2017. Currently there are 31 licensed fireworks retailers in the State of Iowa and an additional 253 license applications are in process. We are continuing to receive fireworks retailer applications and received 73 applications on Friday, June 09, 2017. For further information about Fireworks, please go to the following link on the State Fire Marshal Division web page <http://www.dps.state.ia.us/fm/building/licensing/consumerfireworksindex.shtml>. We continue to update this web page with new information.

Unfinished Business: none

New Business:

Dynamic Scrip – Eric Sells & Tim Hainey:

Eric Sells is an account manager for Dynamic Scrip and Tim Hainey is the Executive Vice President of Dynamic Scrip. They presented their fundraising program as a way for the IFA to earn money and the membership to save money. It is basically an app that you put on your smartphone and you use it to pay for purchases much like scrip programs. You can purchase gift cards to retailers for the things that you always shop for anyway. A percentage of the purchase is rebate or reward and that is split between the user's wallet and the IFA. The member pays a \$25 annual fee for the program and \$10 of that goes to the IFA. With rewards that build up in the user's wallet they can even pay the fee directly from rewards that they've earned. The scrip is available for use at hundreds of retailers including grocery stores, spas, golf courses, airlines, hotels and restaurants. There is no cost to the association and the potential to raise lots of funds. Funds would be direct deposited to the IFA quarterly.

The board decided to discuss this opportunity and let them know their decision.

Iowa Pipeline Emergency Response – Ellen Hagen said she and Jim Kenkel had attended the Iowa Pipeline Emergency Responders Initiative (PERI). There were 32 people there. In the interest of promoting pipeline safety, PHMSA is working with emergency responders, pipeline operators, and other stakeholders to develop voluntary statewide private-public partnerships to maximize response to a pipeline emergency. PHMSA's goal is to establish PERIs similar to the Georgia PERI nationwide. Ellen said that they are saying that only 11% of firefighters are getting the training from Iowa Pipeline Association but she said that she knows that more people are getting the training than that because you get a thumb drive with the training on it and it gets shown at departments. Members just aren't all going to the meetings that are held.

Meeting Adjourned 12:41 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Wendy Lensing, Executive Director