

Iowa Firefighters Association
Board of Directors' Meeting
October 29, 2017 – 10 a.m.
Saylor Twp Fire Department – Des Moines, IA

Present: President Marv Trimble; 1st VP Jim Shutts; 2nd VP Gene Evans; 3rd VP Nick Riley; 4th VP Jason Barrick; Past President Bill Halleran; Executive Director Wendy Lensing. Absent: 5th VP Chuck Raska. Also present: State Fire Marshal Dan Wood and lobbyist John Pederson and wife Cindy.

The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m. by President Marv Trimble.

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

Guests:

State Fire Marshal Dan Wood –

Dan reported that the inspections bureau is down 3 inspectors, one being his former position and the other 2 have been open for a while.

They don't anticipate any code changes for 2018.

They are averaging about 3 years behind on school inspections due to lack of people.

There have been some changes in health care CMS – Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services – did a code update last November. Part of that code change is that they have to do two drills a year; one can be a tabletop and the other has to be an actual evacuation. One thing that CMS wants to see is that the towns participate – fire departments, police departments, public works, etc. They aren't required to actually evacuate the patients but they have to go through the motions.

Arson and Explosives Bureau – Currently at 10 employees. Jeff Cullen retired. He is now with building inspections. They have about 60 open cases right now.

Building and Electrical – really no changes.

The NFIRS reporting system is upgrading to Image Trend Elite on January 1st. This will have fire now on the same system as EMS. Jeannie Guttenfelder is taking care of that program now.

Fireworks – right after the season was over the Administrative Rules Committee asked how things went. Dan said it wasn't good from their perspective. It required a lot of staff and a lot of hours. Most days they were in at 5 a.m. and leaving at 10 or 11 at night. They brought in around \$224,000.00 which was completely spent plus some on updating the computer system and paying employees so it actually cost them. They didn't get any more people or any more in the budget other than licenses. There were 664 licenses issued. Around 330 of those licenses were the exempt amount that went into like Lowe's, Menards, Home Depot, Walmart and Target, etc. where TNT sent them a crate that was put up as an endcap display and sales were tracked and when they got to a certain level TNT would send them another crate and that was all that was on site.

E-mails have been sent out to all of the permanent structures asking if they plan to do December sales. Some have responded and a handful have said they would be open.

A stakeholders meeting was held on September 8th. There were legislators there, people from the fire service and people from the industry. Fire service people would like local control. Another thing brought up by some legislators was that they wanted just the Fire Marshal's office to do inspections. Dan said they had 28 cities that helped this past year and they still didn't get them all done. Building inspectors from small towns called and said they would help and they did. Dan said just having the Fire Marshal's office do the inspections will not work. There will be another stakeholders' meeting at a later date, possibly end of November. They hope to have new rules in place by February or March and open up new licensing period at the end of March or beginning of April.

Gene asked if there had been a spike in injuries. Dan replied that there was only one hospital – U of I – that had decided on their own that they were going to track fireworks injuries. They had so many injuries that they were sending people on to Rochester and St. Louis. Dan said he is hoping that through the EMS reporting system they are able to get a drop down box added for fireworks related injuries so they can be tracked easily.

Fire Service Training Bureau –

They have received the okay to hire the person they selected to fill the accreditation manager position. That person will start working on part time on his days off from his current job and then will start full-time January 1st. The training bureau has been reaccredited through IFSAC now at every level they had previously. This person along with others there is going to start working on rewriting policies and procedures as well as field staff training. He will also be going to Kansas and Illinois to see how they do testing and certification there. They are still not accredited through Pro-board yet. The next thing they will be sending in are the test banks which is what they just sent in to IFSAC. Pro-board wants to see their policies and procedures and so that is why that is a priority for the new person.

Dan reported that he had received bad information prior to the last meeting. He was told that when the paperwork had been submitted to hire the accreditation manager that it had also been submitted for the bureau chief position. That was not the case. Dan submitted it the day that he found that out. It is now in administrative services and then process will begin on filling that position.

An RFB – request for bid- has been put out for computer based testing. With computer based testing the test site receives a case with tablets in it with user passwords for each and the students take the test and when they hit the submit button they know immediately what their score was. The bureau will receive two lists from whoever is collecting that data; one list of those that passed and they will receive a certificate and one list of those that did not pass and they will receive a letter.

Dan also said that the skills testing needs improved and they need some additional mobile props to fulfill new skills testing that should be done. IFSAC would like to see more scenario based skills testing.

One thing they also want to look at as far as testing goes is that they can't keep running out to 220 test sites. Dan doesn't know what this would look like yet but they discussed it at the Emergency Response Council meeting and he asked each group to bring back some ideas as to what they would like to see. Possibly make 6 fire zones and have quarterly testing in each zone. Repeatedly they have had people call wanting to do testing and they have said they have 14 people and when the time comes there is only one that shows up. They've even had a couple where no one showed up.

A reminder – makeup testing ends December 31st.

Motion was made by Nick Riley to approve the minutes of the Board of Directors' meeting held June 10, 2017 in Riverside, IA. It was seconded by Jim Shutts. Motion carried.

Executive Director's report – Wendy Lensing

Wendy reported that she turned in her resignation to the board after convention due to family responsibilities. The board has begun the process of finding a replacement.

Wendy advised that the desktop computer in the office was purchased in 2010 and the laptop was purchased in 2005. She recommended that the board approve purchasing a new desktop so that she could start transferring needed programs to that computer so that everything was set up and running correctly for the new person. Past President Brad Yeager was looking at laptops a while back and at the time the laptops that were purchased for with the SAFER grant for the Recruitment and Retention program were done being used and transferred back to the IFA so we decided to try that. It was a very bare bones laptop and doesn't do what is needed.

The scholarship application period is open now. The nomination period for the IFA awards is also open at this time. The poster contest information was sent out to the schools by the committee. There was an error and last year's theme was accidentally printed on one of the pages so there have been some questions as to which theme was correct. It's important for the departments to talk to their local schools so they know the correct theme. The theme for this year is "Every Second Counts: Plan 2 Ways Out!"

The billing will be going out hopefully by mid-November.

Past President Kendal Warne's wife, Shirley, had a stroke a week ago. She is currently at Madonna Rehab Hospital, 17500 Burke St., Rm 29L, Omaha, NE 68118. She is expected to be there at least 3 weeks.

Membership Report – Wendy Lensing

Membership as of October 25, 2017 is at 14,066. That is down quite a bit from last year at this time but the billing was sent out later than usual also so the departments that were delinquent were just recently deleted. I have already had some that have called and are sending in the dues and I received one department that needs to be added back in.

Mutual aid is down also but that is normal attrition. About half of the mutual aid members at this point are older members that have continued to pay on their own and as they pass away our numbers drop a little each year. We don't have as many younger members keeping the benefit.

Financial Report –

Total assets for the Iowa Firefighters Association as of September 30, 2017 were \$478,339.41. Total assets for the Iowa Firemen's Foundation were \$63,811.28.

Motion was made by Jason Barrick to accept the financial report. It was seconded by Nick Riley. Motion carried.

Officers Reports:

1st VP – Jim Shutts –

Presented a 54 year certificate in Ainsworth.

2nd VP – Gene Evans –

Nothing to report

3rd VP – Nick Riley –

Yesterday we had a meeting but didn't have anything else since convention.

4th VP – Jason Barrick –

Presented a 40 year award in Badger.

5th VP – Chuck Raska – unable to attend due to previous commitment

Past President – Bill Halleran-

States Networking meeting yesterday went well. We had a meeting on Friday with John Pederson. I'm on the hiring committee for the Executive Director's position and applications are coming in.

President Marv Trimble –

Following up on a couple points – November 10th is the deadline for applications. I'll get them to the committee. I have 2 Past Presidents, myself and Bill on the committee. We hope to interview by November 19th and hopefully we have someone hired by January and they can come to the meeting and start training either before or after. I'd like to thank Wendy for her years of service and for being so good to us by training her replacement. She didn't have to do that. I appreciate it. We did talk on Friday about the office equipment Wendy brought up and decided to wait and let the new person decide what they wanted.

Committee Reports:

Legislation – John Pederson:

John introduced his wife Cindy who will be helping him at the capitol this year.

Senator Dotzler reserved Room 116 for the legislative breakfast on January 18th. Chili will be in the rotunda that afternoon. Nothing has been decided for sure on how the chili will be done this year – if it will be catered or if we'll go back to trying to have departments bring it in.

With looming budget cuts the big worry is the training fund, the FSTB and Fire Marshal's office. John will continue to work with the Justice Sub and House and Senate to be sure that they are well aware to please not take money from us.

He is going to continue to work on some type of retirement fund.

Fireworks will be interesting again. They will talk to the hospitals about reporting.

They will talk to the DOT about licensing renewals and try to get a meeting set up with them.
They will look at ways to get some cancer stats.

Unfinished Business:

Wendy reported that she received a check from Dynamic Scrip for \$95 for the first income earned off the new IFA Rewards App. Eric has been sending emails and flyers and information to her and she has been sending out e-mails and posting on Facebook and the website. He sent her a list of e-mail addresses for people that had begun the sign up process but not completed it. She sent an e-mail to those addresses with instructions on what to do to complete the sign up process.

The signup fee for the app is \$25. Of that \$10 goes to the IFA and \$10 goes back into your own digital wallet if you use the app within the first 30 days of signing up. The remaining \$5 goes to Dynamic Scrip. You earn rewards on all of your purchases that you make through the app and that money goes into your digital wallet with a percentage going to the IFA. When renewal time comes for the app if you have enough money in your digital wallet you can just pay the renewal with rewards money. The app is linked to your credit card or checking account and it pretty much eliminates the chance of fraud because it generates a gift card and you aren't handing over your credit card to a retailer or restaurant worker.

No new business

Meeting adjourned at 11:09 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Wendy Lensing
Executive Director