

Iowa Firefighters Association
Convention Business Meeting
September 13, 2015
Story City, IA

Present: President Brad Yeager, 1st VP Mark McNees, 3rd VP Marv Trimble, 4th VP Jim Shutts, 5th VP Gene Evans, Past President Al Esch, Executive Director Wendy Lensing. Absent: 2nd VP Bill Halleran.
Also present: Larry Renslow, Stuart; Cliff Renslow, Stuart; Randy Novak, Fire Service Training Bureau; Jack Runge, Buckeye; Dave Lloyd, Eldora; Dick & Shirl Frank, Forest City; Don Foxy Cox, West Des Moines; Chip Mathis, Elkhart; Jeffrey Quigle, SFM; Dave & Brenda Zimple, Badger/North Liberty; Jim Kenkel, FSTB; Jeff Swisher, Anamosa; Tony Whitmore, Iowa Falls; Kurt Angell, Osage; Chris Hinds, Perry; Todd Edeker, Jewell; Denny Drabek, Garner; Greg Leerar, Garner; Jim Huber, Solon; Rob Edgar, Waverly; Donnis Soash, Waverly; Jeff Soash, Waverly; Darren Green, Waverly; Caleb Carr, Waverly; Scott Hagenson, Lake Mills; Mike Reuman, Traer; Joan Reuman, Traer; Jay Reuman, Traer; Nick Riley, Traer; Richard C. Harman, Cedar Rapids; Maren, Ian, Bobbi Jo McNees, Atlantic; Travis Kinney, Cedar Falls; Julia & Russell McNees, Atlantic; Marilyn Vernon, Atlantic; Rick Schmidt, Low Moor; John Novak, Traer; Henry Westhoff, New Vienna; Curt Maddux, Madrid; Chris Young, Breda; Jared Schnebly, Forest City; Marcus Jensen, Forest City; Jay Westerberg, Forest City; Thomas Nolton, Forest City; Andrew Faser, Forest City; Doug Gust, Forest City; Trent Anderson, Forest City; Mark Johnson, Forest City; Nate Nelson, Forest City; Jacob Umbaugh, Forest City; Steve Lillquist, Forest City; Bob Hagen, Jewell; Al Muhlhausen, Maquoketa; Tony Scherbering, Dyersville; Rob Recker, Dyersville; Mike Brown, Dyersville; Jeremy Honkomp; Corey DeMoss, Dyersville; Dave Naber, Dyersville; Merlin Clemen, Dyersville; Al Wessels, Dyersville; Lenny Heims, Dyersville; Jay Degenford, Edgewood; Bill Willenberg, Dyersville; Matt Meyers, Dyersville; Rusty Hockman, Jewell; Ellen Hagen, Jewell; Duane Weber, Dyersville; Jeff Gore, Eldora; John Pederson, Des Moines; Brian Eiteman, Perry; Jason Bane, Perry; Aimee Bane, Perry; Marvin Boldt, Traer; Bud & Bev Hollar, Iowa Falls; Tim Cappel, Atlantic; Mitch Peerbolte, Atlantic; Doug Sandbothe, Atlantic; Marty Petersen, Atlantic.

Meeting was called to order by President Brad Yeager at 9:00 a.m.

Resolution # 1 – Dave Zimple:

Resolution #1 –

To the members of the Iowa Firefighters Association, assembled here in Story City, Iowa on the 13th day of September in the year 2015.

WHEREAS: The city of Story City and the Story City Fire Department have given the warmest welcome to our 137th annual convention and have been outstanding in their support of this convention meeting;

WHEREAS: We ask Chief Lysle Macdonald to convey this resolution of appreciation to all the residents and the City of Story City for their hospitality;

WHEREAS: Many hours of hard work were put in by the Story City 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 Yeager announced the Election judges for the meeting will be Scott Hagenon, Dave Zimple, Rusty Hockman, Tim Cappel, Mark Johnson and Duane Weber. The election officer will be Mark McNees.

Guests:

Muscular Dystrophy Association – Erin Steffen, Executive Director for MDA:

Erin thanked everyone for being there and thanked the departments that participate in the Fill the Boot campaign.

Erin introduced Chevy, Sarah and Ty Albers. Both Chevy and his son Ty are affected by a form of muscular dystrophy. Chevy was diagnosed when Sarah was 8-1/2 months pregnant with Ty. Ty was tested right away. His symptoms started showing up when he was about 3 years old. They try to let him do as many things as he is able to do. He enjoys going to Camp Courageous in Monticello.

They Albers thanked everyone for all they do to support MDA.

President Yeager presented an IFA bank to Ty and a boot was passed for donations. We collected \$454 for MDA.

Fire Service Training Bureau – Randy Novak:

FY 15 Annual Report: July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015

Activity	Number of Offerings	Number of Participants
Classes (conferences, field programs, workshops, etc.)	1,197	19,773
Certifications	216 (test sites)	2,110 (exams)
Total Programs	1,413	21,883

FSTB Budget: The Bureau is level funded for FY16. The Volunteer Firefighter Training Fund is funded at \$825,520 for FY16. 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 (\$100,000 to purchase new mobile training units and related equipment) was passed and signed

Budget planning for FY 17 has begun – DPS requesting all budgets for level funding.

FSTB Staffing: The Bureau has submitted a budget proposal for a Curriculum Developer (Fire Service Coordinator).

Grants: 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 16 (August 1, 2015 to July 30, 2016). 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 a 2013 AFG grant for a new mobile live fire simulator (\$350,000).
- FSTB received a 2014 AFG grant for a new mobile drill tower (\$220,000).
- FSTB has applied for two 2014 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:

- Fire Officer I & II (updated, based on changes to NFPA 1021, 2014 Edition)
- Forcible Entry training – supported with Forcible Entry training unit
- FHWA National Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Responder Training Program (meets the new NFPA 1091, 2015 Edition)

Courses under development:

- Fire Officer III & IV (based on NFPA 1021, 2014 Edition)
- Fire Inspector I & II (based on changes to NFPA 1031, 2014 Edition)
- Instructor III (based on NFPA 1041, 2012 Edition)

Certification Program:

- Both the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) and the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications (ProBoard) now accredit the Bureau to 12 levels. We are preparing for our “re-accreditation” visits from both in 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 (2015-16)
 - Live Fire Skills, October 3 at FSTB
 - Fire Service Instructors Conference, October 9-10 at Ames
 - Hazardous Materials Symposium, October 22-23 at Ames
 - 92nd Annual State Fire School, February 26-28, 2016 at Ames
 - Fire/Arson Investigators School, March 14-25, 2016 at FSTB
 - Announcement for various open enrollment classes will be mailed to Iowa fire departments throughout the year.
- National Fire Academy (NFA) Courses (2015-16):
 - Shaping the Future, November 12-13 at FSTB
 - Leadership III: Strategies for Supervisory Success, December 3-4 at FSTB
 - Incident Safety Officer; Training Operations for Small Departments; and Fire Service Culture: Who Protects Firefighters from Firefighters, February 27-28, 2016 at the 92nd Annual State Fire School
 - Command & Control of Incident Operations (TRADE Region VII delivery), June 13-18, 2016 at FSTB

- Four (4) additional NFA courses for 2016 will be selected in September.

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 – Jack Runge:

Jack passed along thanks from President Doug Kolkman for the ability to work together with the Iowa Firefighters Association and they hope to continue that down the road. The Instructors Conference is October 9th and 10th.

State Fire Marshal – Jeff Quigle:

The SFM Division currently has **20** fire deaths reported for 2015 to date. This is a sharp decrease over the same time period in 2014 with **30** reported fire deaths. **17** out of the **20** reported fire deaths occurred in residential occupancy fires. Only **4** of the residential occupancy fires had known working smoke detectors. **2** out of the **20** reported fire deaths occurred in a vehicle. **1** out of the **20** reported fire deaths occurred in an auto repair shop.

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 American Red Cross - Serving Greater Iowa partnered with Sidney Volunteer Fire & Rescue on Saturday, August 29, 2015 to make sure residents have working smoke alarms and know how to escape if there is a fire. Volunteers knocked on 294 doors and installed 189 new smoke alarms and 43 new batteries. This project was very successful as volunteers were welcomed inside 52 percent of the homes to check for working smoke alarms and go over how to create a fire escape plan. The Sidney Volunteer Fire Department will continue to install new smoke alarms in the community. We have upcoming smoke alarm installation events in Burlington, Correctionville, and Fort Dodge. If you are interested in volunteering in Burlington, on September 19, 2015 please contact Nick Jost at nick.jost@redcross.org. If you are interested in volunteering in Correctionville on September 19, 2015 or Fort Dodge on October 24, 2015 please contact, Jean Knox, jean.knox@redcross.org. We continue to work at identifying communities that we would like to target for future smoke detector installation programs.

Bureau Chief Randy Novak completed an (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. This is a matching grant where the SFM Division contributes \$10,000.

The State Fire Marshal Division Fire Prevention Bureau is currently completing all required paperwork to fill the vacant Southwest Iowa Fire Inspector position. This will not be a new position for the Bureau. We received approval to reclassify a vacant funded position. This area has not had an assigned Fire Inspector for many years and through the creation of this position the SFM Fire Prevention Bureau will be able to serve the Fire Departments, Law Enforcement Agencies and the Citizens of Iowa. Through the creation of this territory in Southwest 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. Currently the counties in Southwest Iowa are divided between our Fire Inspectors stationed in Storm Lake and Denison. This will greatly decrease windshield time and vehicle operational costs. The State Fire Marshal Division continues to explore ways to save time and money without sacrificing the important services that we provide.

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 **24** Accidental, **34** Arson, and **37** Undetermined Fires. SFM Agents have assisted or been case Agents in several high profile cases this year

throughout the state. The Bureau currently has **64** open case investigations. SFM Bomb Techs have safely completed **45** Explosive Disposals to date. SFM K-9's have responded to **27** requests for service to date and have conducted **11** Protective Details to date. The Bureau has opened **266** cases to date. The Bureau has received approval to fill the vacant Northwest Iowa Special Agent position due to Terry Johnson's retirement. The Bureau will be taking delivery very shortly of a 3rd Sprinter Bomb and Explosive rapid Response Vehicle for Eastern Iowa.

The State Building Code Bureau staff is working diligently through the process of the adoption of the 2015 I-Codes. The State Fire Marshal Division is currently using the 2009 I-Codes. We are hopeful the adoption process will be completed during this current Fiscal Year.

We are currently working with Image Trend (Fire Bridge) regarding fire alarm and sprinkler licensing software and have options to add additional licensing modules in the future. Our intention is to start testing this software during this calendar year during our fire alarm and sprinkler licensing renewals.

During FY 2015 and FY 2016 we have turned in or will be turning in to auction 8 state vehicles from model years 2006 through 2009 with current mileages ranging from 142,720 to 189,535. We have purchased 7 replacement vehicles. We are currently purchasing fuel efficient 4-cylinder GMC Terrains and V-6 Impalas.

Through watching our spending and implementing good budget practices the State Fire Marshal Division finished FY 2015 approximately \$44,500 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.

This year the Iowa Healthiest State is partnering with the State Fire Marshal Division for the 2015 Healthiest State Walk to encourage walks in conjunction with fire drills as part of National Fire Prevention Week. During National Fire Prevention Week we encourage you to teach your community's children practical fire safety so they are better able to protect themselves. We hope you will practice one of the required four fire drills at their schools on Wednesday, October 7, 2015. Since the students will already be congregated outside, it is the perfect opportunity for their teachers to take them on a 1-kilometer (0.62 mile) walk and teach them the importance of healthy lifestyles.

We also encourage your department to organize a public walk for everyone else interested in participating. To register your organization for a walk, visit www.iowahealthieststate.com/healthiest-state-walk. After signing up, be sure to share your walk information so others can join your walk. Use #WalkAtTheWhistle when sharing your walk via social media!

If your fire department is registered by September 18, 2015 you will be entered into a drawing. The winner will be randomly selected and one department will win a \$1000 cash prize for fire equipment. The State Fire Marshal Division and Iowa Healthiest State looks forward to seeing your participation. With your support, we can continue to make strides toward becoming a safer and healthier Iowa.

Iowa Fire Chiefs Association – Henry Westhoff:

Henry thanked the IFA for the information that was passed on to them during the legislative session, especially during the discussions on fireworks.

The fall conference for IFCA will be October 23rd & 24th in Harlan, Iowa.

The upgrading for the thumb drive for the Iowa Fire Chiefs Association manual is taking a little longer than anticipated. They will get more information out on that as they go along.

Lobbyist – John Pederson:

John talked about the session. Right now the Governor – Governor Branstad is a Republican. The House is Republican 57 – 43. Linda Upmeyer became the new speaker after Craig Paulsen from Hiawatha stepped down and Chris Hagenow will be the Majority Leader. The Senate is controlled by the

Democrats. Out of 50 members there are 26 Democrats and 24 Republicans so it is a very tight margin. If the Democrats want to pass something they can't lose one single vote. This upcoming session is scheduled for 100 consecutive days beginning the 2nd Tuesday of January.

To recap the 2015 session we maintained the funds in the training fund at \$825,520. We received \$100,000 for mobile training units.

The \$100 tax credits continue. They are worth approximately \$2 million out of the general fund. We don't know how many people are taking advantage of that yet.

One of the things that we put a lot of work into and thought we had a really nice thing going to the Governor's office was the PSAP dollars had an increase going from 46% to 53%. The Governor ended up vetoing it because the study hadn't been completed yet that he wanted to see. We'll have to put a lot of effort and work into it in the next year.

One last thing, we do have a PAC now. It doesn't have a lot of money in it right now but I would like the members to consider donating to it. It needs to be donations from individuals. It will help us when we have meetings with leadership. We don't have to give money to everyone but if we can give leadership \$500 at one of their fundraisers it helps with access and getting their attention a little bit. So if you have an inclination to give a donation to the PAC we would appreciate that.

We will start setting up meetings with the Governor's office very soon. We'll have at least one meeting before the session starts to go over whatever agenda we want to have for the next year.

We will also meet with the leaders in the House and Senate so that they are aware of our agenda.

For 2016, it is an election year. Some of the bigger issues are expected to be education. From Preschool – 12 and all the way up to the regents dollars you can expect a fight all the way through on education dollars. There will be some tax cut proposals; either tax credits or income tax relief. How much they will spend on mental health in the state will be another topic. The Medicare contract you read about in the papers and the whole redesign of that will take up a lot of time at the Capitol.

For us, I think we'll see the rest of the fireworks bill coming up. We don't know how that will end up.

There are a lot of groups fighting against it, including us. We are gathering information and supplying it to legislators. We will be discussing if we are going to ask for an increase in training dollars or asking for an FTE. PSAPs and how they are funded without taking the fund down to nothing will be another issue for us this year. That will be our biggest fight along with the fireworks.

Another thing we may be looking at that will take more than one year would be some type of a retirement plan like some other states have.

A motion was made by Mark McNees to approve the minutes of the last business meeting, held March 28, 2015 in West Des Moines, IA. It was seconded by Jim Shutts. Motion carried.

Executive Director's Report – Wendy Lensing:

Thank you to Chief Lysle MacDonald and the Story City Fire Department. They did a fantastic job. I talked to Lysle many times beginning back when they were thinking about doing this and I know he was worried. They did a lot of planning and put a lot of work into everything and did a great job.

I'd also like to thank everyone that helped with the drills yesterday. It's a huge job to get enough people to help with everything and so I thank everyone that helped in any way.

The results of yesterday's drills: State Center was the runner up with 19 points and Chariton was the overall champion with 31 points. Randy Bowers, Bruce Bowers, Phillip Bowers and Stephen Wylie from Riverdale won the Water Application drill. Congratulations. Everything seemed to run smoothly, at least I haven't heard anything yet.

Back in the office, the big thing this year has been our database and converting everything over to the new database, or not. Right now that is just completely at a standstill. Apparently the company oversold their capabilities. We were told it would be able to do some things that we need it to do that it is not yet capable of doing. They had tried to do work arounds for some of the issues and we've told them we

aren't interested in doing that. We need it to do the functions that we were told it would be able to do in a way that is user friendly. We are still using the old system. That is the way the billing will be done and going out at the end of October for 2016.

The information for the poster program went out to all the departments with the convention mailing and letters went out to all the schools at the start of the school year. The theme for this year is "Hear the Beep Where You Sleep". I encourage all the departments to work with their schools and enter posters in the contest this year.

The IFA Scholarship and the IFA Awards Program both have application periods that will be open October 1st – December 15th. You can find information on both of those on the IFA website at www.iafireassn.org and in the Iowa Firefighter newsletter.

CITA Fire School will be the end of September in Cedar Rapids. I will be at our booth there.

I'd like to thank the board for everything this year. It's been kind of a challenging year for me and the board has been supportive and understanding. Al, it's been great working with you. Good luck to our 5th Vice President candidates Chris Hinds and Nick Riley and good luck to Forest City.

1st VP – Mark McNees:

Thank you to Chief Lysle MacDonald and the Story City fire department for their hard work and fantastic convention. Proof that you don't have to be big to be successful at hosting convention. Thanks to Wendy for all of her work getting everything ready for convention as well. It's a huge job. I will keep this report short as I will have an opportunity for some comments later in the meeting. I have been working on preparing for the coming year and have filled our committees with some new faces to go along with some of the more experienced ones that have agreed to continue. I think it's important we try to expand our base of volunteers and work to create an atmosphere welcoming and training new people. I thank those who have agreed to serve.

Previous boards began scheduling meetings to coincide with other events and meetings the association was conducting. This makes good economic sense and helps cut down on the time commitment of the board. The only down side to that is that it somewhat limits the areas of the state where meetings are held. I have attempted this year to hold to the policy, but I have also taken us a bit farther out in an effort to expand our reach and give everyone a chance to attend a meeting in their area. I wish I could have expanded even further, but logistics does play a part in planning. I am pleased we will be going to Storm Lake, Pella, and Mount Pleasant in the coming year and encourage members in those areas to attend the meetings.

In the past couple of weeks I attended the funeral visitation for 40 year Stuart firefighter Jake Schwartzkopf and was again heartened by the community and surrounding area's outpouring of support for the family and department. I was not at all surprised. The Stuart Fire Department did a wonderful job of honoring one of their own.

I also went last Monday evening to the visitation of Helen Bissen, the mother of Past President Roger Bissen. Her funeral on Tuesday was the same as the visitation and funeral for Past President Cliff Renslow's mother. Due to the timing I was unable to attend, but my condolences go out to the Renslow and Bissen families, and to Past President Ron Miller who's wife Joan passed away a couple of weeks ago as well.

I had a call regarding license plates and would just like to once again address this briefly. The IFA worked hard, and over a long period of time, to get the DOT to permit firefighters to get their old numbers on their renewal plates if they so choose. The new forms have a new box to fill in to get your old number. If you wait until the last minute you may have to have other firefighter plates on your vehicle while your new ones are made. This only pertains to those with old plates the state is now replacing due to their age, but it will continue from now on. There is also the \$25 fee to do this. I pushed for a lower cost, but this is what the state would agree to do. We also realize that the new firefighter plate numbers don't

contain the letters FF, FD, or plain F. That is because they ran out of those numbers years ago and you now get what comes out. So if you want your old number then I would suggest planning ahead. If you don't care you don't have to do anything as they will replace your old plates with new plates and numbers just like any other Iowa plate.

I've been concerned about the way our society is going and the violence that is being shown again responders and in particular law enforcement right now. It is happening and it happened last week. Firefighters and police were at a call of a disturbance and were attacked while trying to aid a victim. It seems people are getting a lot lippier and talking back. They don't have respect for authority. It's in rural Iowa too, not just the big cities. I'm concerned that we may be victims. We need to talk in-house to our own firefighters about how to diffuse a situation or at least not escalate it and I've talked to Randy to see if something can be done beyond in-house. If anyone has any ideas maybe we can come up with some sort of short training session on how we need to respond if someone becomes violent with us. John mentioned some of the legislative issues. We are going to be meeting to discuss what will be our priorities for the next year. The Fire Service Training Bureau of course is going to be on there, a curriculum developer, Fire marshal's office and whatever funding we can get there. We will work on the PSAP funding. I talked to John a lot about the tax credit. I don't mind the tax credit, but I think if we approach it right with the state and approach it from the standpoint that an investment into a retirement fund would be a much bigger bang for the buck it would be a much better recruitment and retention tool for fire departments.

I wish good luck to our two 5th vice candidates and to Forest City for convention 2017.

2nd VP – Bill Halleran – unable to attend meeting

3rd VP – Marv Trimble

On July 11th the Garrison Emergency Services personnel hosted a youth safety fair. This was the third year and had 36 vendors. We gave away twelve bikes with helmets for all ages, yard games, fishing poles, and games for outside use. Each child received a goodie bag with safety related information, activity books and pamphlets for parents to review with their child. Every year this has grown. Thanks to Amanda Henkle and the rest of the responders and families that helped.

My wife Michelle and I went to Vinton on Saturday August 22nd to honor the volunteer fire careers of Dan Albert and Scott Geissinger. I have been friends with both for decades and am sorry to see them leaving the fire service. Thanks Dan and Scott, for your decades of service to Vinton and Benton County.

The Fire Marshal's office is making the Iowa Fire Bridge software (iowafirebridge.com) available to all Iowa fire departments at no charge. I would like to stress the importance of making your reports as complete and detailed as possible. Recently I had to testify to details of a fire that occurred two years ago. In court these details are very important. The case I was involved with resulted in a conviction for first degree arson and first degree criminal mischief.

We did dodge a bullet with the fireworks bill this year. I know I'm beating this issue like a rented mule, but it is important to all of us. I've said it before and I will continue to repeat it, "With increased access will come increase incidents". I don't want one of those incidents to cause harm to us or the general public.

Those of us in small towns have an additional burden when it comes to our response to emergencies. We know almost everyone we respond to. Our Garrison First Responders did CPR on a classmate of mine from Garrison. I rode in with the ambulance and Paul Schellhase drove to pick me up. On the way back to Garrison Paul asked if I thought she would make it. I told him it didn't look good. This is one time I'm glad I was wrong. She had made an almost full recovery and attended our First Responder's

fundraiser to thank us in person. What a great feeling to know she has returned to work and has many more days ahead.

Stay safe.

4th VP – Jim Shutts

I would like to begin by sending out a very sincere and heartfelt thank you to Chief Macdonald and the whole Story City fire department.

Since the Memorial weekend board meeting I have had a few certificate presentations equaling many years of service. I want to think that we are replacing our retiree's with a good stock of young people. The true fact of this is that we are not, as per many conversations I have had with different Chiefs this week at convention. I know this to be true because my department seems to be going further and further on mutual aid calls and this is becoming a great concern to many of you out there around the state.

This week started out rough but all in all we had great weather for convention.

Congratulations going out to Chariton for being the winners of the drills and congratulations going to Randy Bowers and team from Riverdale for winning the waterfights. I know they have been pushing to win this for several years.

I would like to wish good luck to our two candidates for 5th Vice Nick Riley and Chris Hinds. We bid farewell to Al Esch as he completes his tenure on the board. To Brad as he begins his cool down year as sitting Past President and to Mark for advancing to President. I can say that my first year on the board has been great and I'm looking forward to the coming year.

5th VP – Gene Evans

I would like to begin my report by thanking the Story City Fire Department and the Community of Story City for providing yet another successful convention. I had the good fortune of being able to speak with local residents while awaiting the start of the parade, and was very pleased to hear from them how appreciative the community was to host us.

It seems like only yesterday that I was elected 5th Vice. The past year has been filled with new experiences and challenges, all of which were rewarding, to say the least. I would also like to thank the Board, especially President Yeager, for their help in guiding me through my journey as a newly elected Board member.

With the 137th Convention behind us now, our thoughts will be turning to fall activities. I wish everyone a safe and enjoyable end to 2015, and would like to urge everyone to focus on Fire Prevention as the year unfolds.

In closing, I would like to wish good luck to the 5th Vice candidates, and also wish Forest City well in their bid for Convention 2017.

Past President – Al Esch

Good morning and thanks everyone for attending today's meeting.

There are a number of people who put in countless hours to make this year's convention a truly memorable event. Thanks to all the fire fighters, families, neighboring departments and Story City/Lafayette Twp. First Responders for your hard work.

At the 2009 convention meeting, I stood to thank a number of people and in doing so forgot to mention my wife Kell. She has been an amazing partner throughout these 6 years and without her support, being able to deliver my final officer's report would not happen. Going into this, we both realized there were going to be schedule conflicts and sacrifices, losses and gains in our personal and professional lives, but definitely not to the extent realized. Thanks Dear! The relationships and friendships that grew from service to the IFA shall be cherished by both of us.

Congratulations to President Yeager, for a job well done. Mark, Bill and Marv: I believe each of you will do well this year. Congratulations and good luck!

Gene and Jim, you made through your first year and learned much. Continue to learn, contribute and grow personally and professionally for you too shall lead this association in the near future.

Wendy, without your persistence, organizational and people skills, the duties of the board would be much more difficult. You have acted as advisor and confidant throughout the years, only once having taken me down a stray path south of DC. Thanks.

Good luck to Nick Riley and Chris Hinds in the election of 5th vice president's position. Your desire to represent the membership at association related functions is to be commended.

With that, I would like to extend a final word of thanks to the members of the IFA, Epworth & Dyersville Fire Departments, the ownership and management team of Lumber Specialties for this unique opportunity and experience.

President Brad Yeager –

President Yeager thanked all those that have come before him on the board for everything they have done and the current board for their hard work.

Credentials Report – Jeff Gore:

Adair – 30, Algona – 41, Anamosa – 32, Atlantic – 51, Belle Plaine – 41, Bellevue – 41, Breda – 26, Britt – 26, Brooklyn – 32, Cedar Falls – 61, Cedar-Mt. Auburn – 19, Charlotte – 24, Deep River – 27, Dunkerton – 21, Dyersville – 62, Earlville – 24, Edgewood – 29, Eldora – 37, Elkhart – 17, Epworth – 59, Forest City – 38, Garner – 34, Garrison – 31, Harlan – 64, Hartwick – 16, Hudson – 40, Iowa Falls – 42, Jewell – 23, La Porte City – 34, Ladora – 19, Lake Mills – 38, Le Mars – 59, Low Moor – 25, Madrid – 33, Maquoketa – 42, Mechanicsville – 21, Nevada – 29, New Vienna/Luxemburg- 26, Oelwein – 54, Osage – 47, Perry – 36, Pleasant Hill – 42, Sigourney – 34, Solon – 42, Steamboat Rock – 18, Stuart – 34, Toledo – 27, Traer – 32, Van Horne – 19, Vinton – 47, Walker – 25, Waukee – 31, Waverly – 45, West Des Moines – 52. Total of 54 towns and 1899 votes.

Proxy/Absentee Report – Jack Runge:

There were a total of 28 towns casting proxy votes for a total of 906 votes.

There were no resolutions.

Drill Rules Committee – Marv Boldt:

Drill rules committee of Marv Boldt, John Laing and Brad Pfantz are currently working on some drill rules resolutions for the Mid Year Meeting in April, mostly cleaning up and clarifying some language.

Memorial Committee – Mike Reuman:

Mike read a letter he received from Patrick Foye, the Executive Director of the Port Authority of NY & NJ.

For the past 14 years, The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey has remained committed to honoring the people who were lost on September 11, including the first responders who paid the ultimate sacrifice and those who continue to face challenges from that day.

We are dedicated to preserving the memory of the men and women who faced the tragic events on September 11 with unparalleled bravery, ensuring that we never forget their selflessness and heroism, and that those who reside within and outside the New York/New Jersey region do not either. Thanks to your help, we have been able to accomplish just that.

On behalf of The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, I thank you for your commitment to honoring these first responders and all the other lives that were lost on September 11 by accepting an artifact from the World Trade Center and creating a public display in your community or at your organization.

While the facts of that day have been well documented, many throughout the country are unaware of the health impacts still faced by thousands of responders and survivors who live not only in the region that we serve but also around the country.

With the 14th anniversary of September 11 approaching, you or your organization may be having memorial events in the coming days. These events present an opportunity to raise awareness about the continuing health impacts to responders and survivors. The information below conveys the scale of the issue and comes from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's World Trade Center Health Program, which was established by the Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act:

- *There are more than 71,000 responders and survivors receiving medical monitoring and/or medical treatment for their September 11 injuries. In the past year, more than 3,600 responders and survivors enrolled in the WTC Health Program.*
- *September 11 responders and survivors enrolled in the program are in every state and in 429 of 435 Congressional districts. Approximately 8,000 responders enrolled in the WTC Health Program reside outside of the NYC Metropolitan Area.*
- *More than 33,000 responders and survivors have at least one injury or illness related to September 11 – more than 22,000 have two or more. More than 3,700 responders and survivors have cancer related to the events of September 11.*

We thought it important that you and your organization know about the scope and magnitude of the health issues faced by September 11 responders and survivors across the country.

Sincerely,

*Patrick J. Foye
Executive Director*

NVFC – Bob Platz – unable to attend

Unfinished Business – none

Election/Installation of Officers:

Motion was made by Cliff Renslow and seconded by Scott Hagenson to move all the current officers up one position and elect a new 5th Vice President. Motion carried.

Brad Yeager presented new President Mark McNees with the gavel, his business cards and new name tag.

President McNees:

I want to thank you all again for the opportunity to serve you and the members of this association, and I can hardly believe it's been five years and I am now in the president's position. I will admit it was fairly comfortable in a vice president position.

I have to say some thank yous at this time.

1. My parents Russell and Julia. They are the reason I am here, beyond the obvious. They have demonstrated over their lifetime, the virtue of volunteering and getting involved. They continue to this day in that regard. They are an example to all of giving service to others. I thank them for their service. And I want you to think of those people who were the example to you as we give them and all of our examples a round of applause.

2. My wife Bobbi has been a constant support for me in all of my activities. I will be honest she has asked me several times when I will learn the word NO! I thank you for being my constant rock, for taking care of our business when I was out doing something else, for assisting me, for being another example of service to others, for being a great wife and mother. Oh, and for being the REAL Chief.

3. My kids Ian and Maren. I have to thank you as well for accepting the times I was not around or had to leave something early. I wish I could get the time back. I am proud of the adults you have become and how you both have also taken service to heart and how much you have both done already, and you are just getting started.

4. The the Atlantic Fire Department members here and at home. They have supported me fully in every phase. They have taken up the slack and extra duties when I was gone. They are the backbone of the department. I proud to be an Atlantic firefighter and honored and humbled to be their chief.

I have said before I have gained so much from knowing the board members here and the previous ones I have served with. Everyone brings something to the table. I look forward to continuing to work with them. I always look for the best qualities in leaders and try to implement it if possible. We give Brad a hard time for his temper. It really is a joke as Brad exhibits a quiet steadfast leadership. He takes time to think about issues before he makes a comment. It's a good quality. He doesn't blow his stack often, which makes it stand out and become more effective when he does. You have done a very good job.

For the upcoming year we will set our priorities, and see what we think we can get thru.

1. FSTB
2. Fire Marshall office
3. Cancer presumption for volunteers
4. Defend our interests against the unknown

Brad's wife Denise, his children and his parents presented him with his Past President's hat, pin, lifetime membership certificate, lifetime membership card, business cards and name tag.

Past President Brad Yeager: Before I leave as President I want to take a minute to thank the past board members I served with. Cliff, Ellen, Roger, Jack, and Al, thank you your leadership through the years and setting a great example for others to follow. To the current board, I wish you all great success for the remainder of your terms and during your year as President. It does go fast. Wendy, you are the rock of our Association and I can't imagine doing this without you. You continue to keep us on track and never let the board or our members down. Thank you for everything you do for all of us.

I would also like to thank my wife, Denise and kids Austin and Elsa for letting me do this. I've enjoyed being able to share some of the experiences that come with this position and I hope we've made some lasting memories from my years on the board. My mom and dad also deserve some recognition for the time my dad spent in the fire service and for being a great leader. It was easy for me to step into this role because of the knowledge he shared and the no-nonsense approach he took in the fire service. To the members of the Forest City Fire Department, I've been grateful for your support and glad we got to experience this together.

Finally, to the members of the association. I've been honored to serve on this board and proud to represent you the past several years. Thank you for placing your trust in me and giving me this opportunity.

President Mark McNees asked if there were any nominations for 5th Vice President.

Brian Eiteman from Perry nominated Chris Hinds, Perry as candidate for 5th Vice President.

Marv Boldt from Traer nominated Nick Riley, Traer as candidate for 5th Vice President.

Larry Renslow, Stuart made a motion that nominations cease. It was seconded by Rusty Hockman, Jewell. Motion carried.

The two nominees each gave a brief introduction of themselves.

There were 1742 votes cast by 54 towns. There were 2 spoiled ballots due to no town being written down. Chris Hinds received 360 votes and Nick Riley received 1382 votes. **Nick Riley is the new 5th Vice President of the Iowa Firefighters Association.**

Selection of Convention City 2017:

Cliff Renslow, Stuart made a motion that a unanimous ballot be cast for Forest City to be the hosts of the 2017 IFA Convention. It was seconded by Jeff Gore, Eldora. Motion carried.

Good of the Assocation:

Waverly Fire Department thanked Story City for their hospitality and commented that they were looking forward to seeing everyone next year in Waverly for the 2016 IFA Convention.

John Novak: Two of the starter pistols were missing following the drills. Please check your gear to make sure you didn't accidentally pick them up.

Mark McNees: West Des Moines Marriott will be the location of the 2016 Mid Year Meeting April 1st – 2nd, 2016. Phone number is 515-267-1500. Tell them you are with the Iowa Firefighters Association.

The next IFA Board Meeting will be November 15, 2015 in Pella, Iowa.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Wendy Lensing, Executive Director