

Iowa Firefighters Association
Convention Business Meeting
Vinton, IA
September 8, 2013

Present: Roger Bissen, President; Al Esch, 1st VP; Brad Yeager, 2nd VP; Mark McNees, 3rd VP; Bill Halleran, 4th VP; Marv Trimble, 5th VP; Jack Runge, Past President and Wendy Lensing, Executive Director. Also present: Randy Novak, FSTB; James Shutts, Belle Plaine; Cathy Bradley, Belle Plaine; Dawn Renslow, Stuart; Cliff Renslow, Stuart; Donald J. Cox, West Des Moines; Jim Huber, West Branch/Solon; Marlyn Lyons, Van Horne; Jim Kenkel, Waukee; Dick & Shirl Frank, Forest City; Kent Brix, Grand Mound; Jeff Gore, Eldora; Dave Lloyd, Eldora; Clay Morris, Toledo; Curt Raue, Toledo; Jacob Johannsen, Toledo; Jacob Suchanek, Toledo; Merlin Clemens, Dyersville; Brian Arnold, Key West; Tim Pins, Dyersville; Dea Ann Bissen, Harlan; Doug Kolkman, Yarmouth; Dave Lensing, Humboldt/Vinton; Chip Mathis, Elkhart; Dennis Drabek, Garner; Dana Julian Leitzman, Hawkeye; Jim Dinan, Edgewood; Kenny McAdoo, Tama; Mike Tomas, Tama; Richard Jimenez, Tama; Jeff Dostal, Tama; Scott Sieck, Grinnell; Kris Sieck, Grinnell; Dan Sicard, Grinnell; Kelley Buckley, Tama; Brent Dostal, Tama; Craig Muhlhausen, Maquoketa; Bryan Hafner, Maquoketa; Al Muhlhausen, Maquoketa; Trent Whipple, Maquoketa; Jamie Beck, Story City; Tyler Oberender, Story City; Travis Doyle, Story City; Jake Severson, Story City; Eric Norris, Story City; Kevin Doyle, Story City; Justin Braland, Story City; John Novak, Traer; Jeff Swisher, Anamosa; Mike Gettler, Walnut; Justen Tooley, Walnut; Pam Smith, Walnut; Brett Petersen, Walnut; Tim Gansemer, Dyersville; Andrew Faser, Forest City; Nate Nelson, Forest City; Jared Schnebly, Forest City; Thomas Nolton, Forest City; Steven Lillquist, Forest City; Rick Schmidt, Low Moor; Harold Brown, Liscomb; Bruce Blum, Harlan; Terry Jacobsen, Harlan; Bob Hagen, Jewell; Todd Edeker, Jewell; Kevin Rausch, Dyersville; Tony Scherbring, Dyersville; Rob Honkomp, Dyersville; Tim Leibold, Dyersville; Ryan Leibold, Dyersville; Richard C. Harman, Cedar Rapids; Mike & Joan Reuman, Traer; Steve Lansing, Dyersville; Mike Brown, Dyersville; Jason Phillips, Dyersville; Al Wessels, Dyersville; Dave Leibold, Dyersville; Bill Willenborg, Dyersville; Jeremy Honkomp, Dyersville; Duane Weber, Dyersville; Danny Vodochodshy, Tama; Eric Haughey, Tama; Ellen Hagen, Jewell; Kurt Angell, Osage; Gene Evans, Osage; Rodney Kolthoff, Wellsburg; Leon Abels, Wellsburg; Kenny Primus, Steamboat Rock; Dave Deeringer, Wellsburg; Walter Cook, Walker; Dave Schipper, Le Mars; Wayne Schipper, Le Mars; Curtis Maddux, Madrid; David Abbas, Ackley; John Pederson, Des Moines; Rusty & Peggy Hockman, Jewell; Kent Clasen, Bellevue; Chris Smith, Bellevue; Bret Margeson, Bellevue; Lyn Medinger, Bellevue.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by President Roger Bissen.

Resolution # 1 – Gene Evans:

Resolution #1 –

To the members of the Iowa Firefighters Association, assembled here in Vinton, Iowa on the 8th day of September in the year 2013.

WHEREAS: The cities of Vinton and Garrison and the Vinton and Garrison Fire Departments have given the warmest welcome to our 135th annual convention and have been outstanding in their support of this convention meeting;

WHEREAS: We ask Chief Gary McKenna to convey this resolution of appreciation to all the residents and the City of Vinton and Chief Steve Meyer to convey this resolution of appreciation to all the residents and the City of Garrison for their hospitality;

WHEREAS: Many hours of hard work were put in by the Vinton and Garrison Fire Departments 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.

Guests:

Muscular Dystrophy Association – Erin Steffen – Executive Director for Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois:

Erin talked about the Fill the Boot, the longest standing tradition that MDA has. It was started in 1954. Since then it has raised over \$50 million for families across the United States. Essentially the fire service has been there through every major breakthrough that MDA has had whether it is research or any other program that MDA has started. Researchers are hoping for breakthroughs in cures and treatments within the next 5 years than there have been in the last 50. In 2012 firefighters in Eastern Iowa raised over \$226,188. For the MDA of Eastern Iowa office the fill the boot program is the single largest fundraising program. Their goal this year is to hit over \$230,000. Many departments went out over Labor Day weekend or before that or plan to still do so. On behalf of MDA and the families that they serve they thank you. Besides research the money raised helps with the clinics that MDA has at the University of Iowa, medical equipment for the families, and of course the MDA summer camp that is held each year.

A collection was taken for MDA and \$345.61 was collected. Wendy will send a check to MDA for that amount.

FSTB – Randy Novak –

Fire Marshal Ray Reynolds was not able to be there and so Randy Novak reported on a few things for him.

Commissioner Brian London resigned as Commissioner of Department of Public Safety and Commissioner Larry Noble is now back in that position.

Ray is asking for support from the fire service to continue to support the fire marshal's office and to serve as the voice for the fire marshal's office. Training dollars, investing in inspections, investigations and building codes is a smart way to move forward. The assistance is really needed. They are thin at the operations level and are in the process of rolling back some of the services that they provide. The budget has been reduced over the last few years from \$5.2 million to \$4.4 million.

The attempt at breaking the World's Record for most people doing Stop, Drop and Roll at the Iowa Speedway fell short.

On October 12th the FM office is working with the City of Des Moines to install upwards of 10,000 smoke detectors in a one day window as part of the State Fire Marshal's Smoke Detector Project.

FY 13 Annual Report: July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013

Activity	Number of Offerings	Number of Participants
Classes (conferences, field programs, workshops, etc.)	1,294	20,043
Certifications	243 (test sites)	3,663
Total Programs	1,537	23,706

FSTB Budget: The Bureau is level funded for FY14. The Volunteer Firefighter Training Fund is also level funded at \$725,520 for FY14. Funding will continue in the Firefighter Preparedness Fund (income Tax Check-Off) and the Paul Ryan Memorial Fund (fee on vehicle FF tags).

Grants: The Bureau has the following federal grants:

- FSTB received our National Fire Academy "State Training Support Grant" for \$24,000 for federal FY 13 (October 1, 2012 to September 30, 2013). This will be closed out in October, 2013. Federal FY 2014 NFA "State Training Support Grant" for \$22,000 has been submitted.
- FSTB received \$250,000 for a Mobile Fire Investigation Training Lab in the 2011 AFG/FP&S Grant program. SFM (through the IFA) received \$245,000 for the Statewide Smoke Detector Project in the 2011 AFG/FP&S Grant program. Both of these grants will be closed out in August 2013.

Considerations for Future Development:

- Will be offering on-line/blended learning later this year (FFI & II now available, we will be adding HazMat Ops, Fire Inspector I, Instructor II & III, Driver/Operator later this fall, Fire Officer I & II this winter).
- Incorporate the "16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives", the "National Firefighter Near-Miss Reporting System" data, and "Situational Awareness" examples into new/existing course materials when possible.

Major Accomplishments over the past year:

- New Firefighter I & II have been handed off to our field instructors. These new courses will be available in a traditional delivery, and now in a "blended" delivery (classroom portion on-line, practical skills face-to-face).
- New "Arson Investigation" mobile lab placed in-service in March 2013 (funded by AFG-FP&S grant).
- Incident Safety Officer (5-6-hours) course, developed by NVFC.
- The Bureau is now working with the State Advocates for the Everyone Goes Home program to promote the 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives, and to provide (at no cost) CTBS and LACK.

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

- FSTB Programs (2013):
 - NVFC Health & Wellness Advocate T-t-T, October 10 at FSTB
 - Live Fire Skills, October 12 at FSTB
 - Hazardous Materials Symposium, October 24-25 at Ames
 - Instructors Conference, November 15-16 at Ames
 - NVFC Wildland Urban Interface T-t-T, TBA at FSTB
 - Announcement for various open enrollment classes will be mailed to Iowa fire departments throughout the year.
- FSTB Programs (2014)
 - Annual State Fire School, February 14-16 at Ames
- National Fire Academy (NFA) Courses:
 - Department Wellness Coordinator, September 12-13 at FSTB
 - Politics and the White Helmet, December 7-8 at FSTB
 - We have selected half of the Federal FY 2014 direct and regional deliveries from the NFA. The second half will be selected in early fall 2013.

NFIRS: see the State Fire Marshal's website (at www.dps.state.ia.us/fm) for updated information. The Bureau is now managing the Iowa NFIRS.

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 – President Doug Kolkman:

The Instructors Conference is coming up November 15th & 16th in Ames. The ISFSI and the Training Bureau work together to put that program on. The Society has taken some additional responsibility in bringing in the guest speaker Doug Cline, from Horry County Fire & Rescue in South Carolina. He is also the President of the International Society of Fire Service Instructors.

The Iowa Society of Fire Service Instructors was formed in 1964. Next year they will celebrate 50 years during their conference.

Doug thanked the Society board for the hard work they've done this year. The work is focusing on meeting the needs of their instructors and members and having the needed resources available to them.

State Fire Marshal Ray Reynolds –

Ray doesn't anticipate any major changes with the change in Commissioners.

There were about 1000 people at the Iowa Speedway for the Stop, Drop and Roll event. Considering possibly trying another attempt at the record during next year's convention.

October 12th they will be installing 10,000 smoke detectors in Des Moines. They are currently at 639 lives saved by smoke alarms in Iowa since 2010. This year they are at 88 saves. There have been 13 fatalities this year compared to 27 last year. They would like to see a record for lowest fatalities. Currently that is 22.

Iowa Fire Chiefs Association – President Brian Arnold

Brian congratulated Vinton and Garrison on the great job that they did hosting the convention.

The IFCA conference will be held November 1st – 2nd in Story City. There is a block of rooms at the Comfort Inn for anyone planning to attend that will be held until October 15th.

Brian thanked the IFA board for their cooperation and working between organizations.

Legislation – John Pederson –

John thanked Vinton and Garrison for all their hard work and the great job that they did. As a quick review Governor Branstad is a Republican. The Senate is controlled 26 – 24 by Democrats and the House is controlled 53 – 47 by Republicans. The Governor is obviously very key to what we want to accomplish in this next year. He had some vetoes this year that we didn't like very well. The mix of control makes it very hard to pass things on one side and then get them to also pass on the other. That will be the same scenario next year but next year will be an election year. We will be asking for more help from everyone this next year to get to know your legislators. Invite them to your station. Invite them to your pancake breakfast or whatever else you do. When you get to know them and you are the ones talking to them it helps us in a multitude of ways.

Training dollars stayed the same. We fought back and forth over it and in the end it stayed the same.

This coming year we are going to go to the Governor and the Department of Public Safety and ask for \$1 million instead of \$725,000. The state budget is in great shape. Between the rainy day fund and the other reserve funds we have between \$1.4 and \$1.6 billion in reserve right now. We will also be asking them to build on the \$50 tax credit for volunteers. We will also be asking for the new multi-discipline training facility. We will be asking the Governor for his help on this. We will be asking communities if this passes to find sponsors for certain aspects of this.

We have quite a few people across the state in place now but can use more so that when we send an e-mail out asking you to contact your legislator we really need your help in doing this. It's not going to

take a lot of time. We will make the message as simple and easy as we can. We don't want it to be convoluted. If you can help us out with that we would sure appreciate it.

President Roger Bissen thanked John and Matt and also Kyle from Capture Marketing for really opening up the door for communication around the state. We are working to grow that in the coming year.

American Legion – Michael Etzel –

Starting in 2010 the American Legion began giving a Firefighter of the Year Award to a firefighter who has exceeded the requirements expected of his or her position and has shown a distinct pattern of community service and professional achievement. The award, which takes into account heroic acts, is given annually at the Legion's State Convention.

In conjunction with the local American Legion Post, fire departments are encouraged to submit nominations to their state's American Legion department adjutant. Nominations must be submitted by November 30th to be considered. The winner from Iowa will be submitted on to the American Legion National contest, with that winner being recognized at the National Convention. Nominees are not required to be veterans or members of the American Legion. More information and complete rules for this award can be found at www.ialegion.org and click on the "Support Programs" tab on the left side of the page and select "Law Enforcement Officer and Firefighter of the Year". You can also contact Programs Director Kathy Nees at 1-800-365-8387.

Approval of Minutes –

Motion was made by Jim Shutts of Belle Plaine to approve the minutes of the last business meeting, held April 6, 2013 in West Des Moines. It was seconded by Ellen Hagen, Jewell. Motion carried.

Executive Director's Report – Wendy Lensing –

Thank you to Vinton and Garrison. You did a fantastic job as I knew you would. Dave and I lived in Vinton for a lot of years and we were very involved when convention was held here in 2003. I started this job in September 2004 so with this convention I am now starting my 10th year with the IFA. I'd like to thank Jack for everything that he has done during his time on the board and Roger for his leadership this past year as President as well as the rest of the board for all they've done. I look forward to working with Al in the coming year. Good luck to Al Muhlhausen and Jim Shutts in their bid for 5th Vice President and to Story City for 2015.

A big thank you goes to everybody that helped with the drills – John Novak and everyone that helps him in getting everything set up, Chris Seymour for helping me clerk, Tim Pins and Mike Reuman for announcing and Joan Reuman and Ellen Hagen for clerking on the other trailer, and to all the drill officials. We can't do this without all of you. There are a lot of things that the IFA does that we need the help of the volunteers to accomplish. It seems when we get into summer all of my articles are asking for help at either the Hall of Flame or the drills. It takes a lot of people to fill these spots and we appreciate all of you that offer to help at either one or both of these events.

We did have a few minor issues yesterday that mainly relate to clarification in the wording of some of the rules. The drill rules committee will probably be taking a look at some of those things and maybe bringing some changes forward at Mid Year. The results of the drills were Chariton was the over-all winner with 31 points and State Center was runner-up with 17 points.

Most of what has been being worked on in the office right now are the things that were mentioned. A lot of time has been spent in the past couple of months with the scheduling for the Hall of Flame and preparations for convention. By the end of October bills will be going out for 2014 dues.

1st VP – Al Esch –

I begin by thanking the Vinton and Garrison Fire Departments for hosting this year's convention. You and your families need to be commended once again for the successful organization, hospitality and execution of this event.

And welcome each of you to the convention meeting. While each board member possesses unique experiences and talents, this association remains viable because of your participation.

My first inclination was to report at great length about all the accomplishments of the past year, but we need to look ahead, as we the board step up to accept new responsibilities and you choose a 5th vice president to lead our association. Both candidates are qualified and are willing to further dedicating their lives to Iowa's fire service.

This coming year will again be filled with opportunities and challenges. Recruitment and retention, training and safety shall be a few of the initiatives that the IFA will continue to champion on your behalf. As certain and as often as the weather changes, Iowa's political landscape seemingly changes. The one constant throughout the years is Iowa's fire service and its role in public safety, no matter who is in control of the house, senate or governor's office!

Roger, thanks for your leadership and guidance through the years. The insight you possess and the relationships you have developed plays a large role in our continuing success. Regretfully, I will accept your position as past president and look forward to your continued involvement as well as advice.

Jack, I hope the offer to spend a night in Buckeye will be extended this year as I begin to venture further and more often. Thanks for your service. You have earned the respect of your contemporaries and future fire fighters but you leave some pretty big boots to fill.

Now for a dollar's worth of free advice. Wendy, Brad, Mark, Bill, Marv; with a group as diverse and busy as ours, please continue to strive for excellence in all aspects of your lives, try new things, set attainable goals, do not forget your values or to relax when possible. I promise each of you this will be an interesting year and our membership shall be the beneficiaries.

2nd VP – Brad Yeager –

Thank you to the Vinton and Garrison firefighters and their families. I love coming to these communities each year and finding out what they have to offer. It's always interesting to see the buy in from the community at large and to me it's a gauge to see how a particular town feels about its fire department. It's abundantly clear that the city of Vinton has a great deal of pride in their firefighters and the job they do. If this week is any indication of the service they provide to this community they have certainly earned that respect.

First I want to thank Roger for this year. It's not always easy dealing with the legislators, and us, but your leadership and the job you have done has been outstanding. We get to meet a lot of great people and I've enjoyed getting to know DeaAnn as well. She is a great lady. Jack, you've brought this board to a new plateau bringing John and Matt on board and we do have big boots to fill. Thank you for everything you've done for this board.

Wendy, the job you've done this week, dealing with all of you is one thing, but we try to fill in and help when we can and dealing with us might be worse. This is a long week for Wendy and I thank you for all of your efforts.

My report is going to be brief and all I'm going to do is plead with each and every one of you to get involved in politics. This year at the capitol we again struggled with keeping the training fund at least at status quo. We continued to push the legislature to begin funding a joint training facility with law enforcement that would bring our facilities out of the 70's while also adding some structure to the regional training centers. As well as \$150,000 in one time funding to the regional training centers.

So, here is how it went this year. Every year the Governor's budget initially comes out with lower than level training funds. The board is forced into a position to fight for the money to bring our training fund up to where it was last year, never mind trying to get an increase. We spin our wheels for weeks trying to gain this funding while most likely missing opportunities to further our cause in other areas.

And this year there was some additional tax money from the sale of safe cigarettes that was earmarked for the regional facilities as well as 50k for a task force to begin bringing the joint training facility to fruition. Both of which made it through legislation but were vetoed by the governor. That's like a punch in the gut, really. Investing money, energy, and most importantly time into these initiatives only to have the rug pulled out.

I realize this kind of thing isn't everyone's cup of tea but our organization is over 15,000 strong and should be a political force to be reckoned with. With your buy in we can be that force. But, it starts with us getting information to you. We met last month with our lobbyist and grass roots firm to figure out a plan to do that. A few more legislative updates will be hitting your inbox this year and I beg you to take action on those.

We do carry some clout at the capital that opens doors for us. But in order to accomplish our goals we have to educate our elected officials that our agenda isn't a list of things we'd like but is a list of needs that have gone unfulfilled by our elected representatives. This is an important.

Again, thank you Vinton/Garrison for a great week. I look forward to another year of visiting departments and working hard at the capital.

3rd VP – Mark McNeas –

I'd like to thank Vinton and Garrison and Chiefs McKenna and Meyer and all the guys on the departments that worked to make convention a success. I'm well aware of the work that goes into it and you did an awesome job. I'd like you to thank the entire community as well. As Brad said you can really tell how welcome we are and how much they want us here by how they react when we are in town whether it's going into the stores or just in traffic. Vinton has been extremely welcoming.

Good luck to Louie and Al in running for 5th Vice. It shows your commitment to the fire service and to this organization. Good luck to Story City as they vie for 2015.

I'd also like to thank John and his entire crew for the work at the drills. A lot of work goes into that and all the judges, timers and when there is a little controversy things went pretty well and worked it out with good sportsmanship. Congratulations to Chariton on winning.

Also, thank you to Wendy for all you do. Convention is a tremendous job for her and she did a super job with that as well and everyone that helped her.

Atlantic for several years has been collecting can tabs for the Shrine Hospital burn centers. We were notified this week that another \$5K from our efforts and your efforts went to the Shriners this week. That is \$10K over the last couple of years. We set a new record this year with just about 40 lbs. short of 3000 lbs. brought in. The first ones to show up were the winners – Cedar/Mt. Auburn with 1079 lbs. themselves.

I had some good conversations while sitting in the booth talking to people about possibly being a county contact. It's very important to try to get someone in every county and more than one would be even better. We are working on filling in some of those holes. It is not that time consuming, but we need to make that effort. We try to make it as simple as possible and try to keep our message as focused as we can. You will know what to say, you won't have to come up with it yourself. Getting to know your local legislator is really important and there are potentially some new ones coming in next year.

Capture Marketing is working now to combine the billing for services survey results we got last year that were returned on paper with the ones that we received on-line. We had a great response. We have totals from both versions and are just trying to get them combined into one report. There aren't a tremendous amount of departments that charge but some have been doing it for several years, most of

it is on the EMS side but there are some fire. There is a large percentage that are considering it. This is an issue that the legislature is looking at and we are interested in keeping that door open so that if it is necessary we have the ability to do that and the decision can be made locally. I find it interesting that there seems to be a dragging of feet on being receptive to charging for fire services because they pay taxes yet they charge for EMS and a lot of them are paying taxes for that so I don't quite get where the line is.

With the legislative contacts again one thing that I think is important in getting to know them is not only invite them to your station for a meeting or a training meeting to see what you do but we've got fire prevention week coming up very shortly. A lot of us do a week of going to schools, being out in the community, etc. Invite them to that. Show them what you are doing in your communities. Show them how much time we spend not actually out on a call. Guys are taking days off and weeks off of vacation from their jobs to educate the kids and the community on fire prevention. We know that, the kids know that, but our legislators may not think of that. We do a tremendous amount of things that are on top of going on a call. That is a good opportunity to bring them in for a day to sit in or maybe help out. Next month Marv and I are going to Texas to the National Benefits Summit. Roger and I got to go to New York a couple of years ago. We made a lot of great contacts and came away with a lot of good ideas and a lot of great information. I look forward to that again this year. We came away with a lot and I also think we have a lot to bring to share with them. Each state has similar set ups and issues that may be the same but how people approach them and deal with them and overcome them differs. I'm not above stealing from another state. We've done that with FireBridge and now our AD&D benefit. It's a good deal.

I want to thank Jack and Terri for all your efforts over the years. You truly did bring professionalism to the board. We do have big boots to fill. Your leadership will be missed, but we know we can call you. Roger, I thank you for your leadership this year and you and DeaAnn for your friendship for several years. It's been both a good and challenging year. You've worked through some tough times but you represented us all very, very well. It was a great year and thank you for your service. Al, I look forward to your year and working with Kell as well. I learned of Al's commitment to the service when he was running and I saw him at a committee meeting and said if he had time and wanted to come down to Atlantic sometime to come on down and he jumped right on that and showed up and that's a long drive. I knew that he had it in his heart and that we had a good man there. I am confident Al, that the board will continue to work in the way that you have challenged us to do.

I'd like to thank everyone for coming and for their support of this board.

4th VP – Bill Halleran –

I'd like to thank Vinton Fire Chief Gary McKenna and Garrison Fire Chief Steve Meyer for another great convention. It's always a pleasure to get together with everyone and network as well as visiting with fellow brothers and sisters.

This year has been much like the others with all the activities that the board has going on. The biggest thing is our networking at the state capitol. We are trying to be represented and seen in Des Moines. We are gaining ground but we can always do more. We have 15,000 brothers and sisters out there. We are strong. We feel if we push the bus in the right direction we can really get things going.

The Chili Cookoff was really big at Firefighter Day on the Hill this year. There was a great turnout. We are going to try to get even more teams there next year for "Crockpot Creations". It was very well received by the legislators.

Please continue to notify us of any upcoming events and awards presentations, the earlier the better. We will try our hardest to get to your events but everyone's schedules are very busy.

The joint training facility has been talked about. We will be talking to the Governor about this. It would benefit many throughout the state. With the proper education and communication about this project we feel we can keep this moving forward.

Jeff Gargano from the "Iowa Firefighter" newsletter asked me to pass along if we would make sure to continue sending those action shots in to the newspaper. He does appreciate those and he will try to get them in the paper as much as he can.

As was mentioned, for those that helped at the Hall of Flame at the Iowa State Fair or helped with the drills yesterday, your help is greatly appreciated.

When you are networking with neighboring departments that may not be members of the IFA please let any of the board members know and let the departments know we'd be happy to talk to them. We are trying to get more and more members.

Roger, thank you. It's was greatly appreciated serving with you this year as IFA President. Wendy, for all that you do. Jack, enjoy your retirement. Louie and Al, good luck to you both.

5th VP – Marv Trimble –

On a personal note, it's been a lot of fun hosting convention and it's been a lot of fun seeing all of you and I hope you all had a good time. Believe it or not we've already had more than one person ask "Are you going to run again in 10 years?" That's kind of like asking someone after they just ate Thanksgiving dinner, "What's for supper?" We're not going to talk about that right now.

The legislative report – I always thought the politics was not for me and other people were going to do it. Guess what? We're the other people now. We have to get out there. We have to make our voice heard and work hard to get what we want. Even if we don't get it the first time we ask, we have to keep asking.

I had the chance to go to some awards presentations this last quarter. It's really enjoyable when you see someone that has put 50 years of service in. That's a long time. The next one I went to was for a 25 year award and the front row there was full of members that were younger than 25 years old. I thought "Wow, these guys are doing a great job. They are doing a great job of recruiting and a great job of retaining." We all need to be sure that we do that.

The legislative stuff this year was kind of a roller coaster. Wendy gives me a bad time about not answering e-mails right away. During the session we'd get good news, and then we'd get bad news. So Wendy, sometimes I don't reply because I'm waiting to see what happens tomorrow.

I'm looking forward to the National Benefits Summit. When I started this last year the very first thing I got to go to was the States Networking meeting with the neighboring Mid West states. I really enjoyed that and got to visit with a lot of nice people. I learned a lot of things and I'm looking forward to going to a national format for that.

Thanks to Roger for his service this last year. He's been a great benefit to me along with Bill. Whoever becomes 5th Vice, remember to ask the guy in front of you, "Hey, what did you do?" Wendy puts this blue book together that we call our "bible". It has almost everything in there but sometimes something comes up that slips through the cracks. Good luck to both of you and whoever wins, don't be afraid to call.

Jack, thank you for your help and your leadership throughout this whole time and I'm very much looking forward to working with Al. I think we're going to have another great year. Al has everything he needs to be the leader of this organization.

Marv asked all first time attendees to stand and be recognized and to gather for a picture at the break.

Past President - Jack Runge –

I too want to thank Vinton and Garrison for the convention they put on and you've heard all the accolades but I think the most important one to me is that we sit around the campfire as our group reconvenes each night and have our closing thoughts and throughout the day as our people went downtown the way they were treated, "We're glad you're here", our group truly felt welcome here to the point that we talked about it. I think that says a lot for the community and to me it also says a lot about the two fire departments. You know when the communities are behind the fire departments and we really know that the quality of the Vinton and Garrison fire departments is shown in the respect that

the community has for them. And it's been a very busy week but Paul Schellhase was shaking hands as people pulled out of the campgrounds this morning.

I don't have a lot to report on. It's been kind of fun to sit back in the rocking chair a bit this year. It's fun to see leaders come along and Roger has stepped up and I appreciate the year you've had and where you have taken the board.

We spent a little bit of time talking about the political arena. I think we need to give a big thank you to John and Matt for what they do down there. The doors they open for us, the information they get to us is keeping us on the forefront. The one thing we can never do is take our budgets for granted. If you were setting on the outside and you looked back 10 years and you looked at the training fund and well it's kind of stayed the same and you'd think you almost don't need to worry about that. I don't think there is anyone on this board now or in the past that doesn't know how hard it is just to maintain status quo. It's been a fight for us to maintain that and I think there have been some prime initiatives taken by the IFA board to address that. The kind of reinstatement of the old director system where we can have someone in each county that when we have a legislator that John or Matt tells us "these guys are kind of on the border on this, we need to talk to them", we can talk to them, the red coats can go to the capitol and talk to them there, but when they come back to their town hall meeting and their fire chief or firefighter comes to them and says "this is a problem" that is how things get changed. I hope we can continue to build on that.

As you look down the board, I want to thank the people that served on this board ahead of me that gave me guidance. I have some mentors. If you read my last newsletter article I kind of recognized them because they kind of prodded and kicked and told me when I was getting off course. I want to thank them. When you look at the future of an organization and you look at the individuals on this stage and the two individuals that we have running for 5th VP, you know this association is in good hands. It's going to continue to move forward. If you read that last article, I had read a business article that talked about the 5 key points of a good business. I won't cover that all but go home and read that article and I compared the IFA to those 5 key points. There are a lot of similarities between what we are doing as a board of an association and a good business. Customer service; are we doing the right thing, are we heading in the right direction? Does leadership have commitment? I can truly say that they do.

Wendy, you've shown me a lot of patience. I don't think anyone that's been on the board with me would say that I'm always a structured person. I shoot from the hip a lot of the time. I kind of liked that comment about waiting to see what happens the next day. That's kind of the way I've been. Thank you Wendy, for your patience. True to form she is not getting a written report for today; I wanted to keep my record perfect.

In closing, I want to thank you, the membership, for giving me the best opportunity of my life. Last September I decided it was probably time and I got home from convention and thought about it for a while and talked about it to Terri and Charlie and I kind of thought it was time for me to take a step back from the active fire service. It was a big decision and I wanted to think about it for a while and on that Friday morning I got up and unplugged my pager and my handheld and took them back to the station and sent my letter of resignation in. It was kind of tough and you miss the people, but I don't miss 2 a.m. calls. This has been a wonderful capstone in my career in the fire service. I don't know how it could have ended any better. I have you folks to thank for allowing me to serve in this position. Again, to those that I have served with, those sitting up here and those in the audience, thank you for your guidance and leadership and get ready for a great ride into the future.

Louie and Al, it's too bad we only need one. There are two great people out there, two dedicated people to the fire service and whoever comes up here later today and whoever doesn't, you are still a part of the fire service. You are both active. It's just too bad we have to pick one person. Thanks for putting your hat in the ring and thanks to the folks that are putting your hat in the ring for convention. About two months ago we were talking and thinking we will be voting on this at convention and no one is running yet and now not only do we have a department running for 2015 it looks like as I drove around the campgrounds that we have some future interest as well. That kind of one of those things that can be taken off your back as you worry about it.

Keep involved politically. Be aware of what these folks are going to be asking you to do. We can't take anything for granted down there at the capitol. Sometimes you think common sense is going to prevail and eventually I think it does but it does because people like you go down, they see their legislators, they go to their town hall meetings and tell them what the issues are. Again, thank you for letting me serve as an officer of your association.

President Roger Bissen –

Thanks Jack. A year ago I can honestly say I stood up here and I had some butterflies in my stomach and I was thinking how am I going to take the reins and move forward? Al, I know you well enough that you may have a butterfly or two also. But it's o.k. because I found out this year that being President isn't all that difficult. You know why? Listen to the reports that were given. When you are dealing with such professionals as we have up here, you don't have to make decisions on your own. We have a wonderful person in the office, Wendy. She's the one that reminds us what needs to be done. She does a lot of the legwork. I was really amazed this past year that everything went as smooth as it did. We had some tough decisions that we had to make and we did it, but we did it as a group and I think everything worked out just wonderful.

Again, I will repeat, Vinton and Garrison you did a great job. Thank you for everything that you've done for us.

Thank you to the association for voting me on to this board. I hope that I have not disappointed anyone in any way. I've always made decisions that I felt were the best for the whole state of Iowa and that's how I've always run my department. I try to look at what's best for the entire group. This is about the same, just a much bigger group.

I'd also like to thank DeaAnn for all your support. I know there have been a lot of times that she has been very patient with me. She'll say "what's your schedule this week?" and I'll say I really don't have anything and then I look at my calendar and say "I have a meeting tonight, sorry, see you later." She's been very patient with me on that.

I'd also like to thank the Harlan Fire Department for their support throughout the year. I've got Bruce and Terry sitting out in the audience, two of my officers. They have really stepped up to the plate when I haven't been in town and I appreciate that.

If you weren't at the contests yesterday it was announced that Past President Carl Svenson raised \$520 for the sidewalk project at the memorial in memory of Vince Hornberger from Cresco by selling some of Vince's fire collectibles at the registration building.

Throughout our travels this year one of the many, many places I've gone going to Washington, DC and meeting with the folks out there is really a great experience and I'm glad I had the opportunity. We had a lot of good meetings while we've been out there the last couple of years and good travels with Wendy and Al both times. The last time we were out there we were sitting around in the evening and somehow we got to talking about going on a bike ride down to Mt. Vernon. Wendy about fell out of her chair and asked "You really think you're going to ride a bike down to Mt. Vernon?" Wendy got me this coffee cup that says "Bike DC" and I think that's pretty cool. Thank you.

Thank you all for a great year.

Credentials Report – Jeff Gore –

Adair – 29, Alden – 25, Anamosa – 30, Andrew – 20, Anita – 30, Asbury – 32, Atlantic – 48, Audubon – 46, Belle Plaine – 41, Bellevue – 40, Blairstown – 20, Britt – 26, Brooklyn – 27, Buckeye – 20, Carson – 27, Cedar-Mt. Auburn – 21, Cedar Falls – 63, Deep River – 26, Delmar – 24, DeWitt – 31, Dyersville – 60, Edgewood – 27, Eldora – 32, Elkhart – 16, Epworth – 60, Exira – 27, Forest City – 37, Garner – 30, Garrison – 33, Grand Mound – 24, Grinnell – 40, Harlan – 61, Holland – 19, Holy Cross – 27, Hopkinton – 26, Independence – 44, Indianola – 94, Iowa City – 29, Iowa Falls – 43, Jewell – 23, Key West – 28, Lacona – 29, Lake Mills – 37, LaMotte – 13, Latimer – 21, LeMars – 58, Lincoln – 17, Liscomb – 20, Lost Nation – 26, Low Moor – 1, Lowden – 20, Madrid – 32, Manchester – 44, Maquoketa – 41, Mechanicsville – 23, Miles – 19, Monticello – 40, New Vienna/Luxemburg – 26, Oelwein – 56, Osage –

48, Plainfield – 25, Polk City – 42, Preston – 44, Rowley – 18, Saylor Twp. – 34, Sigourney – 28, Solon – 38, Spencer – 49, Steamboat Rock – 18, Story City – 24, Stuart – 31, Tama – 49, Toledo – 28, Traer – 33, Van Horne – 1, Walker – 35, Walnut – 36, Waukee – 33, Wellsburg – 27, West Des Moines – 38. Total of 80 towns with a total of 2608 votes.

Proxy/Absentee Report – Dave Schipper –

There were a total of 43 towns that voted proxy for 1345 votes and 2 departments that voted absentee for a total of 40 votes for a grand total of 1385 proxy/absentee votes.

Committee Reports –

Drill Rules Committee – Gene Evans –

There were just a couple of questions. Sometime in the next couple of months the drill rules committee will take a look at clarifying some of the language in both the general rules and the contest rules. We will just clean up some language. It's been several years since we've gone through them with a fine toothed comb. You can expect a full report from us with some proposed changes at Mid Year.

State Fair Committee – Rusty Hockman –

We will have a full report at Mid Year but I'd just like to take this time to thank everybody. It takes a team to put that thing together and take it down and so thanks to everyone. I think we had a record time on taking it down this year. On behalf of the fair booth Mr. President enjoy this as a token of the booth (Rusty presented President Roger Bissen with the 2013 license plate from the Hall of Flame fire truck)

Memorial Committee – Mike Reuman –

Roger mentioned it a bit ago that Vince Hornberger who used to be the Chief in Cresco passed away a few months ago from cancer. He had a large collection of fire memorabilia and he didn't want it to get sold to just the general public. He talked to Carl Svenson and the stuff he had was donated and Carl brought it down and had it at registration and people could come and get a fire truck or a coin or whatever Vince had and leave some money for the sidewalk project at the memorial. Carl said he had hoped when he came down that they could get somewhere around \$300, and they got \$520. That's pretty cool. Thanks to Carl for doing that and thanks to Vince for wanting to do that. Last weekend Joan and I and our son went up to Wisconsin as kind of a day trip and I wanted to go up and see Wisconsin's Firefighters Memorial in Wisconsin Rapids. If you are ever up in the middle part of Wisconsin be sure to stop. They did a fantastic job. It's beautiful. It's worth the drive. Thank you for your continued support of the memorial.

National Volunteer Fire Council – Brian Seymour –

Bob Platz had to take off to go read grants so he left me to report on the NVFC. I don't have that much to report at this time. We haven't really been able to move anything too far legislatively as they are working on other issues with budgets and health care, etc. Our next meeting will be the fall conference in College Station, TX at the end of October. Both Bob and I will be attending that. Hopefully we will have some new news following that meeting. Motorola did provide some grant dollars and NVFC will continue to look for some other grants. Globe did a Gear Giveaway of 125 sets of turnout gear to departments that were in need. AFG/ SAFER for 2014 the President hacked at those. The House stepped up and approved flat-funding it rather than cutting it. Still waiting for Senate approval. Cardioiva is now an NVFC partner with Heart Healthy in trying to overcome high cholesterol. They held a contest where people who had a story to tell about overcoming high cholesterol could compete for a \$10K award a \$5K fitness makeover for their station.

NVFC is also partnered with Chevrolet. The truck was supposed to be on display here but that must not have panned out.

Unfinished Business – None

Election of Officers –

Cliff Renslow of Stuart made a motion to move all officers up one position and elect a new 5th Vice President. It was seconded by Al Muhlhausen of Maquoketa. Motion carried.

Roger presented President Al Esch with the gavel, new business cards and new name badges.

Bruce Blum and Terry Jacobsen from the Harlan Fire Department presented Past President Roger Bissen with his Past President's hat and pin, new business cards and name badges, his Lifetime Membership certificate and Lifetime Membership card.

Nominations for 5th VP:

Craig Muhlhausen – Maquoketa:

I'd like to thank Vinton and Garrison for the great job they did. I'm here this morning to nominate not only my brother in life, my brother in the fire service but my best friend, Al Muhlhausen.

He's a 25 year member of the fire department. He is currently serving as assistant chief.

He's here today with the support of his whole family, our chief and the whole fire department. His work ethic and dedication to our department will only carry over and make the IFA a better organization.

He has made contact with our local state legislators on various fire service related issues and he is going to be a strong advocate here for the state on future legislative issues regarding our fire service.

He now serves as a field service instructor for the FSTB.

I am asking for your support for Al Muhlhausen for 5th Vice President. Thank you.

Ellen Hagen – Jewell:

I would like to nominate James 'Louie' Shutts from Belle Plaine to be your next 5th Vice President.

Louie has been a member of Belle Plaine Fire Department for 23 years. He is a FF-1. He has also been a member of Belle Plaine Area Ambulance for 15 years. He is an EMT-B. He is Vice Chairman of the Benton EOC and on the Tama, Iowa and Poweshiek 911 Board. Louie is a member of St Michael's Church in Belle Plaine where he has served on the church council. He is a member of Knights of Columbus. He is a Grand Knight holding a Local 4th degree with the Grinnell branch.

Louie has worked for Manatts Inc for 22 years, first as a truck driver and now as Dispatcher. Because Manatts has winter shut down, Louie will be very available during the Legislation months.

Louie began his campaign for Vice President in 2006. That year I was elected to the board; I believe because I was recognized for my work for the IFA. Louie has listened to some of the Past Presidents who suggested he needed to become more active in the IFA and work on his appearance. He has taken these discussions to heart. Louie has been to every Midyear and Convention meeting and has only missed 3 or 4 Board Meetings since then. He has been asked to serve on IFA committees and is currently an election official. He has been very active in finding workers for the Hall of Flame. He has been a drill official at

Convention for 6 years. He is an active member of the Local Assistance State Team for Line of Duty Deaths.

Louie's dedication to the IFA since 2006 is obvious. He is a new man who cares about his fire family, the IFA family and himself. He has earned my respect. I ask that you cast your vote for James 'Louie' Shutts and make him your next 5th Vice President.

Cliff Renslow of Stuart made a motion that nominations cease and ballots be cast for the new 5th Vice President of the Iowa Firefighters Association. It was seconded by Ellen Hagen of Jewell. Motion carried.

Dave Schipper announced the results of the election. 35 towns cast ballots. There were 32 good ballots and 3 spoiled ballots due to department not being written on the ballot or department did not file credentials. Al Muhlhausen received 793 votes by ballot and 1136 votes by proxy for a total of 1929. Jim Shutts received 367 votes by ballot and 249 votes by proxy for a total of 616. Al Muhlhausen is the new 5th Vice President of the Iowa Firefighters Association.

President Al Esch extended his condolences to Jim Shutts on his loss. He told him he put on a good campaign. He said it was a shame we had to choose just one candidate.

Cliff Renslow made a motion to suspend the regular business meeting and open the meeting of the Iowa Firemen's Foundation. It was seconded by Jim Shutts. Motion carried.

Bill Halleran made a motion to nominate Al Esch as President of the Iowa Firemen's Foundation and Brad Yeager as Vice President. It was seconded by Mark McNeese. Motion carried.

Brad Yeager made a motion to adjourn the meeting of the Iowa Firemen's Foundation and reconvene the meeting of the Iowa Firefighters Association. It was seconded by Marv Trimble. Motion carried.

The business meeting of the Iowa Firefighters Association was reconvened.

Selection of Convention City 2015:

Leon Abels, Wellsburg said that Kendal Warne has been coming to fire convention for over 50 years, Bud Hollar has been coming for 54 years, and Walt Cook has also been coming for 54 years.

Leon Abels nominated Story City as hosts of convention in 2015. They have the blessing of the City Council, the police department, and the sheriff's department. They have 45 acres for camping and they can go up to 400. They have hotels there. Ames is close with more hotel rooms. Golfing and bowling will be in Story City. It was seconded by Kenny McAdoo, Tama.

Leon Abels, Wellsburg made a motion that nominations cease and that a unanimous ballot be cast for Story City Fire Department to be the hosts of the Iowa Firefighters Association's Convention in 2015. It was seconded by Richard Harman, Cedar Rapids. Motion carried.

Story City will host the 2015 Iowa Firefighters Association Convention.

Jamie Beck – Story City FD thanked everyone for voting for them. They look forward to doing a good job for convention 2015.

Good of the Association:

Cliff Renslow – Stuart: Central Iowa Firefighters raised \$720 for the scholarship fund with their hog roast on Thursday night. He thanked Don Scott and the Redfield Locker for their help and support of the hog roast and Indianola Firefighters Auxiliary for the desserts.

Jim Shutts – Belle Plaine: Thanked those that voted for him for 5th VP and said that he is running again for next year. Please consider him at Grinnell in 2014.

Richard Harman – Cedar Rapids: Grand opening of the new central fire station in Cedar Rapids will be October 8th, 2 – 7 p.m. This station replaces the one that was flooded out in 2008.

Brad Yeager – Forest City: Forest City would like to announce that they are running for convention for 2017.

Marv Trimble – Garrison: Brief preliminary report for convention – 2107 registered, 1474 campsites sold, 142 golf teams, 265 bowlers. They also had a very good time thanks to everyone that attended.

Rusty Hockman – Jewell: Don't forget to take a moment Wednesday to remember 9/11.

5th VP Al Muhlhausen: Thanks to everyone and to Nancy, my family and my fire department. Thanks Louie for good campaign. I have a big learning curve coming up but I am really looking forward to it. It took a lot of soul searching to decide to do this and I know I made the right decision. Thanks everyone. I appreciate it.

Al Esch: Announced the formation of the Iowa Volunteer Firefighters PAC. For those that don't know, a PAC is a Political Action Committee. This is something that we have been looking at and exploring for a couple of years. We felt it was time. We have the political clout in Des Moines and now it's time to back it up with some cash. Wendy had taken the steps to start the process and the only thing we need is donations. There will be some articles coming up in the newsletter. There are some specific steps that have to be taken in order to be certain that funds we take in and disperse are recorded. We won't have much of a war chest to begin with, more like a hope chest before the next election cycle.

Al thanked his wife Kell and family for coming to the meeting from Dubuque, Dyersville and Epworth. He thanked them for their support throughout the years.

Meeting adjourned: 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Lensing, Executive Director

