

Iowa Firefighters Association
Convention Business Meeting
September 11, 2016
Waverly, IA

Meeting was called to order at 9:03 by President Mark McNees.

Resolution # 1 – Ellen Hagen

To the members of the Iowa Firefighters Association, assembled here in Waverly, Iowa on the 11th day of September in the year 2016:

WHEREAS: The city of Waverly and the Waverly Fire Department have given the warmest welcome to our 138th annual convention and have been outstanding in their support of this convention meeting;

WHEREAS: We ask Chief Dennis Happel to convey this resolution of appreciation to all the residents and the City of Waverly for their hospitality;

WHEREAS: Many hours of hard work were put in by the Waverly 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.

Guests:

Fire Marshal – Jeff Quigle:

The SFM Division currently has 27 confirmed Fire Deaths reported for 2016 to date. The SFM Division had 20 Fire Deaths reported for 2015 on this date. 21 out of the 27 2016 Fire Deaths did not have working smoke detectors in their residence.

Acting Fire Service Training Bureau Chief Kyle Gorsh completed and submitted an AFG-FPS (Assistance to Firefighter Grant/Fire Prevention and Safety) this Fiscal Year to continue to purchase smoke detectors for installation throughout the state. The SFM Division continues to partner with the IFA and the Central Iowa Chapter of the American Red Cross regarding distribution and installation of smoke detectors throughout the state.

Our new web based Image Trend Licensing Management system went on line on June 7, 2016. The website address is <https://iowa.imagetrendlicense.com/>. Currently all above ground storage tanks that are required to be registered and all licensed fire protection companies through the State Fire Marshal Division are listed in the database. We are now in the process of bringing Fire Alarm Contractors/Installer Certifications and Explosive Contractor/Individual Blasters to this web-based data base. The final part of this data base will be to add Building Code Plan Reviews/Inspections which will be started in the very near future.

I am in the process of completing the required paperwork to request approval to fill the Accreditation and Certification Program Fire Service Coordinator position at the Fire Service Training Bureau.

Interviews for our new Fire Inspector position located in Southwest Iowa were completed last week and the candidate should be announced in the very near future. It has been approximately 4 years since we had a Fire Inspector in this region of the state. We will now be able to provide faster service, complete more inspections, have less windshield time and overall save money.

Our internal posting for transfers for our vacant Southeast Iowa Special Agent/Bomb Technician position closed on Friday, September 09, 2016. We will begin the process of interviewing and selection of a candidate.

We are in the process of hiring a new Electrical Inspector for a 3 county territory in Western Iowa due to a retirement.

We are in the process of posting (1) Construction Engineer position within the State Building Code Bureau. We currently have 3 vacant funded Construction Engineer positions. During FY 2016 our Construction Engineers reviewed 713 sets of construction plans with a total construction value of \$1,122,635,900.

Our International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) is due in 2016. We have already asked for an extension regarding the upcoming site visit. Acting Bureau Chief Kyle Gorsh and State Fire Marshal Jeff Quigle will be traveling to Charlotte, North Carolina on September 22, 2016 to appear before the (IFSAC) Board of Governors to answer any questions that they may have.

President McNees : Today as we all know is September 11th. Let's take a moment of silence to remember all of those lost.

FSTB – Kyle Gorsch:

Certification - As you probably are already aware, we've found some significant errors in some of the tests that were previously scored. This has resulted in some firefighters incorrectly receiving certifications. The INTEGRITY of program is at stake. We are in the process of updating the tests used for certification using subject matter experts to ensure we are using good tests. We have increased the number of questions on the Haz Mat test from 25 questions to 50 questions. We are in the final stages going back and re-scoring certification exams utilizing IA State University. To do the right thing, we have an obligation to re-score any exam that we have the capability to re-score. If a firefighter has failed a test, they will be notified and an opportunity to re-test will be given at no charge. LINE IN THE SAND--- (We are committed to do things the right way and EARN back your trust).

In the early stages to open up the Certification/Accreditation Manager position.

Accreditation - ProBoard - Early May 2016, informed accreditation was suspended by ProBoard due to the FSTB not having a site visit conducted within the required timeframe. We stopped sending out certificates with the ProBoard seal immediately. We are working to re-obtain this accreditation.

IFSAC - We have not lost our accreditation with IFSAC. We are due for re-accreditation this year. We have requested an extension to have a site visit conducted and receive re-accreditation by February 2017. SFM Quigle and I will be attending the Board of Governors Meeting this month to answer any questions they may have before voting on our request.

Pearson Vue - As some of you may know, the FSTB has been working with Pearson Vue for quite some time to start utilizing the computer based testing model at Pearson Vue Testing sites. We are in the final stages of this process and will be looking to use these sites in early October. Each person will be notified immediately if they passed (or) failed the test before they leave the testing site. The FSTB will be sending out information very soon to each department. Starting with 15 testing sites across the state. We hope to add more sites as we move forward to minimize drive times.

ACCLAIM – Online badging (Access your list of certifications on your computer or mobile device)

President McNees asked about rumor that was circulating that Pearson Vue would be only testing option. Kyle said it is the main testing option but in some cases they would still be able to come to a department. They want to get away from having only 3 or 5 people testing at a site if they come out. They want to use their resources wisely.

It was asked how far back they were going to re-check tests and Kyle answered they were going back to 2012.

Iowa Fire Chiefs Association – Henry Westhoff –

I'd like to thank the IFA board for keeping us posted with the goings on at the state capitol last year. We had a lot of work and a lot of meetings put together. The goal was accomplished this year, but we have a lot more work coming again next year. Let's keep the good work going.

We have our Fire Chiefs conference coming up October 21st and 22nd in Spirit Lake. One of the topics that is going to be discussed is the use of drones for search and rescue. We'll be staying in Milford at the Boulder Inn. Room rates are only \$55/night.

Iowa Society of Fire Service Instructors – Doug Kolkman-

ISFSI Conference is November 11th & 12th at the Scheman Building in Ames. I'd like to thank Kyle and Jeff and Jim and everyone at the Training Bureau, we continue to have that partnership with them as we put the conference together. On Friday afternoon we'll have a couple of things – one is "Training Today's Fire Service" as well as "Today's Fire Service Instructor and the Law". Saturday the keynote speaker is Doug Cline from South Carolina. He will be talking about "Tactical Renaissance: "Making Sense of Modern Research and the S.L.I.C.E.-R.S. Acronym to be Successful on the Fire Ground". Also, last year's 2015 Instructor of the Year, Greg Neville, will be doing a class on "The Professional Fire Department". To close the conference I will be doing a class along with Cliff McFarland on mentoring the instructor. One announcement – January 12th & 13th in Coralville there will be a Training Officer Credentialing Program presented by the International Society of Fire Service Instructors.

California Casualty – Stephanie Whitmore –

I just want to quickly let you know that the IFA offers you and your departments many benefits and we are just one of them. I'm not in sales. I am here to serve you and your departments. California Casualty – the name scares some people off. They think some West Coast person is going to be trying to sell you and work over your family. We are a family owned business. We've been in business serving first responders and educators exclusively for 102 years. We are not a public insurance company. That's why you don't hear about us. We're not like those other big companies that you do hear about. We want you because statistically, believe it or not, you're a lot more responsible than the general public. Because of that we can return a lot of benefits directly to you and your families. We have a lot of specific benefits like we will cover your turnout gear, we will erase your deductible if your vehicle is damaged on department property when you are serving the public. A big thing I want to tell you today is we have a

7% rate reduction. It's pretty rare in the insurance industry to have someone tell you they are going to lower your rates, they usually are going up and the trends are pretty ridiculous right now, but our company just dropped rates 7%. We'd like to serve you. We're very, very honored to serve you. I've had the pleasure of visiting some of the departments and amazed hearing the stories about you guys saving peoples' lives and then it's "O.k., next on the agenda". I don't think you all realize how valued you are in your communities. My goal is to get out to all the departments and let your members know what is available to them. I just want to say "Thank you for what you do!"

President McNees thanked Stephanie and added that California Casualty has helped the IFA out also by helping us at the Firefighter Day on the Hill and also provided tickets for the CFSI banquet out in Washington, DC in the past.

Approval of the Minutes :

Nick Riley made a motion to approve the minutes of the last business meeting, held April 2, 2016 in West Des Moines, IA. It was seconded by Marv Trimble. Motion carried.

Executive Director's Report – Wendy Lensing:

Thank you to the Waverly Fire Department and the city of Waverly for all of their hard work. They had a lot to deal with from Mother Nature this week and they did a great job.

There is a lot of preparation that goes into getting ready for convention and I am always very worried that I'm forgetting something. When I got here Wednesday I couldn't find my name tag. I decided that everyone probably knew who I was by now or could figure it out. Late yesterday I realized I forgot my blue dress shirt so that is why I am dressed in my IFA polo shirt today instead of my red coat. I'm going to call it a win if that was all I ended up forgetting.

I'd like to also thank everyone that helped yesterday in any way at the drills. John Novak and Rick Schmidt did a great job getting everything ready and keeping things going. It was tough this year getting enough drill officials but we finally got the spots filled and I thank everyone for helping out. I was super happy to get Chris Seymour back to help me this year. This year's state waterfight champion is Urbana #1 – Trent Kramer, Warren Richart, Jr., BJ Cook and Jim Takes. The overall runner up in drills was State Center with 26 points and the overall state champion was Chariton with 31 points. I'd like to congratulate everyone for a great job and thank everyone for their cooperation and patience with the checking of IFA memberships and convention registrations.

This year has been full of challenges for me and I've tried to get through them and keep things going the best I can. It hasn't been easy but I am very grateful for the support and understanding of the members and of the board. Brad, it has been great working with you these past years. I'm going to miss having you on the board. I don't intend to let you get by without letting me still utilize you as my IT guy though. Mark, you did a great job this year and I appreciate your support, understanding, encouragement and friendship. Bill, I'm sure you will do a great job this coming year as well and I look forward to it and continuing to work with you and the rest of the board.

Good luck to our two 5th Vice candidates.

1st Vice President - Bill Halleran:

Thank you to Chief Happel and the Waverly Fire Department for their hard work and fantastic convention. I'd like to also say thanks to Wendy for all of her work getting everything ready for convention as well.

I have been working on preparing for the coming year and have filled our IFA 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 as well as those that travel to attend the meeting. The only down side to that is that it somewhat limits the area of the state where meetings are held. I have attempted to keep the meetings relatively close to the events that it coincides with. I am pleased we will be going to Humboldt, Riverside and Pleasant Hill in the coming year and encourage members in those areas to attend the meetings.

As the board, we had another productive year. Executive Director Wendy, President McNees and I as well as our wives traveled to Washington DC in May to attend the NVFC conference and also to visit with our delegates and staff. They were in recess during our time there, but we had very good meetings with staffers. We discussed several bullet points to let them know where we as a unified board stand and request their backing.

It would be wrong of me to not state that we've had a sad year within the IFA family as a whole and the loss of some great people. It makes you think how precious life is and to value and treasure each day.

Reminder that this year's Mid-Year meeting will be in Coralville at the Marriott on April 21-22. They do have a block of rooms set aside for us at a reduced rate. I believe they are \$109.00. We will be sending out a survey monkey to everyone reference Mid-Year and the meals. This has been a hot topic item for several years. Attendance has gradually going down and were trying to decipher why. Is it meal cost, location, entertainment venue, raffle stuff, etc. Please be on the lookout for this. Please support this information collection and reply with honest opinions so we can make potential changes.

I would like to wish good luck to the two, 5th- Vice candidates - Jason Barrick from Iowa Falls and Chris Hinds from Perry.

2nd VP Marv Trimble:

This meeting is being held on 9/11. The worst day in the history of the United States fire service. I mourn the loss of the 343 from the FDNY, but also NYPD and Transit Authority personnel. This date also marks the best of my life. I married my sweet young bride, Michelle, 34 years ago. She is back at the campgrounds sick as a dog. If you see her, tell her happy anniversary.

Since last year in Story City I have logged over 4300 miles representing the IFA.

This year we have lost more long time, committed, and determined firefighters than any year I can remember. In the first half of the year I attended services for Tom Hancock, Brian Seymour, Lt. Mark Kakert from Davenport, and one of the Battalion chiefs when I started with the CRFD, Jack Kepler .

On July 18th I attended the funeral of Glen Gadke 51 year member of the Stanwood FD. July 30th was Bud Hollar's memorial in Iowa Falls, Bob LaGrange Memorial in Vinton, August 8th and Roger Duello funeral, August 15th. The services for these firefighters represent 325 years of service to their communities.

July 30th Jim Shutt's and myself drove from Bud's memorial to Rowley to present a 50 year certificate to Bill Davis. He sent me a thank you card. I answered a call for assistance on August 9th, Rusty needed help with the Hall of Flame setup. I took off after the funeral service for Roger with my sweet young bride, Michelle and her sister for Des Moines on August 15th to staff the Hall of Flame. I have been doing this since before I ran for the board and enjoy it every time. Help out if you ever get the chance.

The fireworks bill died in the Ways and Means committee this year. There is more opposition than some expected after last year. I had a nice young firefighter ask me at the club house after golfing, why the IFA opposes legalizing fireworks. **With increased access will come increased incidents.** Our first priority is life safety, ours first. Every time our pagers tone us out we are at increased risk of injury or death. The IFA cares about all emergency responders and will do what we can to protect all. This is why I drove two hours, testified at a senate sub-committee meeting that lasted 15 minutes, and then drove home two hours. After I explained our position he agreed with our position.

We see articles on a fairly regular basis about states regretting legalizing fireworks. Let's not follow the states who folded like a cheap suit, due to greed and pressure from the fireworks lobby.

Safety talk: It's fall. Watch for slow moving farm vehicles. My dad always told to never pass a tractor near a farm drive. They may not be able to see or hear you. Don't assume they do.

Stay safe.

3rd VP Jim Shutts:

I would like to begin by giving out a Big thank you to Chief Happel and the whole Waverly Fire Department for their hospitality and a job well done this week. It was a very fun week.

I will say congratulations to Chariton for being the winners of the contests and to Urbana for winning the water fights and being the best squirts in the state.

Since midyear I have been to numerous departments to present service awards. These awards were ranging from 20 to 50 years. So many years of knowledge(it's really too bad we must grow old).

The IFA has lost several Past Presidents and Past Officers this year and all are very dear friends and all loved, lived and breathed fire service and the IFA.

The future IFA President Bill Halleran I am very sure has a good many things in store for us the board to work on in the coming year. Congrats to Mark heading into his cool down lap with moving to sitting Past President and to Brad with his tenure on the IFA board complete and his trip back to the floor so he can heckle us from the audience. Good luck to our 5th Vice candidates.

4th VP Gene Evans:

I would like to also echo the rest of the Board in thanking Chief Happel and the Waverly Fire Department for hosting this 138th IFA Convention. The hospitality provided by the Fire Department and the Waverly community truly has made this yet another Convention to remember.

I would also be remiss if I did not mention the Memorial Service held last June in Coralville. If you have not attended this service, please consider it for next year. The Memorial Committee does a tremendous job, with both the Candlelight service and the Memorial ceremony paying a powerful tribute to those who have served before us.

Another topic that I would like to bring up is the Smoke detector program. This partnership between the IFA, the State Fire Marshal's Office and the American Red Cross is an excellent way to reach out to your respective communities and provide what perhaps could be a life-saving service. The Osage FD sponsored an install this summer, and we had a grand total of over 400 detectors placed in homes in 2 hours and 40 minutes. A special nod to SFM Quigle for distributing the detectors and supporting the program. If we can save one life by doing this, it is well worth the time and effort expended.

To the 5th Vice Candidates, Jason and Chris, good luck. To Forest City, get ready, we're heading your way!

In closing, I would like to reflect on the events on this fateful date 15 years ago. On one of the darkest days in the history of the Fire Service, we saw all of those who Serve and Protect from all over the Country rally to save those who could be saved, and to then soldier on to recover those who had perished. I would ask that you remember in your thoughts and prayers the families of those who died on that day, and also to those who are still suffering from both visible and invisible wounds.

5th VP Nick Riley:

I'd like to start by thanking Chief Happel and the Waverly Fire Department for hosting this year. When I decided to run last year for 5th Vice I knew what I was getting into, but then again I didn't know. I knew the IFA does a lot for us. After being elected I remember sitting at the table afterwards and I think it was Bill that said it might seem a little overwhelming at first but sit back and take it all in and if you have any questions, ask, because it will go by quick. He was right. This past year has gone by very quickly.

It's been a year of firsts for me. This is the first year I've gone to the capitol. I missed it in 6th grade because I had to have my appendix taken out. Going there and working to defeat the fireworks bill was a neat experience and Firefighter Day on the Hill and the chili cookoff was where I really realized what it meant to wear one of these red coats. All the legislators were there telling us how much they appreciated us for what we did for our communities and for them.

My first certificate Jim helped me with and it was kind of a neat one because I gave it to Marv Boldt, on my own department in Traer. In total, I've handed out 8 certificates for 254 years of service. For me, it's an honor to do that because I'm presenting certificates to the guys that have paved the way for me and the younger generation of firefighters.

Like everyone else has mentioned, we lost quite a few people this year. They are the ones that paved the way for all of us and showing my respects was my way of saying "Thank you" to them.

In closing, I'd like to thank you for letting me serve on the board. I'd like to thank Mark for his leadership over the past year and making this a memorable experience for me. Bill, I'm looking forward to serving with you this next year. Good luck to the 5th Vice candidates.

Past President Brad Yeager:

I just want to say this year has been a little challenging for me and I appreciate the board's support through the year and the membership's support. Hearing Nick talk just now took me back to when I first started and I probably said the exact same thing. A lot of things change, but a lot stays the same. I want to tell everyone that I've appreciated this opportunity very much. It has been an honor to serve you and I look forward to what this board has in store for us in the future. Thank you all very much. It's been a pleasure.

President Mark McNeas:

Thanks to the Waverly Fire Dept. , Chief Dennis Happel, Rob Edgars and the entire crew for a successful convention. It was challenging with the water issues and we thank them.

Thanks also to Wendy, the board, John Novak and crew, drill rules committee, judges, etc. for all hard work for drills on Saturday.

Some of the highlights of the past year:

Legislative success- Fireworks stopped, FSTB funding was level, but DPS increased which helps FM office, CO detector bill passed, the E911 bill ended up sending more funds back to local 911 centers. Work on other issues are progressing- retirement, cancer presumption, code changes.

IFA policies and procedures were adopted to strengthen the association.

The IFA was shocked by the loss of 3 PP's and Roger Duello. However, it was heartening to see how the association pulled together at those times.

Committees are functioning and taking some load off Wendy and are involving more newer faces.

The IFA is continuing to increase our communication and work with other Emergency service groups giving even more power to our issues and voice.

We started education efforts to help departments avoid issues with their associations and organizational questions.

Looking forward we are working to see what can be done for a retirement program.

We put together a long range committee that will be reporting at the next mid -year meeting.

We have a memorial long range committee established.

We are hoping to make some progress on cancer presumption legislation.

I want to thank everyone for their support this year. The board has been fantastic to work with and is engaged in bettering the association and benefitting our members. Wendy has been challenged this year but has done a great job balancing work and our needs. She has made my presidency much easier than it could have been.

I thank the past presidents who have supported me in many ways. Their friendship, advice and leadership have been very appreciated by me. I thank the Atlantic Fire department for all of their support during this entire term. They have picked up some duties for me and have taken on additional responsibilities. I could not have remained their chief and done this to a level I would expect without their support.

Finally I thank my family. Serving on the board is like being a firefighter. Your family serves as well. I am thankful Ian and Maren have gotten to experience some of this with me and have met many of you. I know they have enjoyed the experience. And of course my wife Bobbi has been extremely supportive and understanding, especially the past year. She supported me running for the board and has understood when I have been distracted by working on IFA things. I look forward to being able to focus on our things now. This has been a great adventure and a pleasure to lead this association. Thank you.

Credentials Report – Cliff Renslow:

Adair – 32, Adel – 21, Alden – 26, Anamosa – 30, Andrew – 21, Atlantic – 51, Belle Plaine – 44, Breda – 25, Brooklyn – 32, Buckeye – 19, Cedar-Mt. Auburn – 20, Cedar Falls – 58, Cresco – 38, Dyersville – 63, Edgewood – 29, Eldora – 36, Forest City – 42, Garner – 31, Garrison – 31, Gilman – 13, Granger – 1, Harlan – 65, Hills – 26, Iowa City – 22, Iowa Falls – 40, Jewell – 25, Lake Mills – 40, Le Mars – 59, Low Moor – 20, Madrid – 36, Manchester – 44, Maquoketa – 43, Mechanicsville – 22, Monticello – 39, New Vienna – 25, Oelwein – 57, Osage – 47, Parkersburg – 35, Perry – 42, Renwick – 13, Rowley – 19, Sigourney – 30, Solon – 41, Steamboat Rock – 21, Stuart – 34, Traer – 30, Van Horne – 20, Walker – 22, Waverly – 45, Wellsburg – 26, West Des Moines – 49, Yarmouth – 2. Total Towns – 52. Total Votes – 1702.

President McNeas – The Election Officer today is Bill Halleran. The election judges are Al Wessels, Al Muhlhausen, Mark Johnson, Duane Weber, Brad Lamping and Tim Cappel.

Proxy/Absentee Vote Report – Dick Frank:

There were a total of 23 towns that voted Proxy or Absentee with a total number of votes of 642.

NVFC –

President McNeas reported that Bob Platz was home ill. He will be going out to South Carolina later this month for the NVFC Fall Conference.

Roger Bissen hurt his back and is unable to attend today. He is unable to attend South Carolina.

Jack Runge reported on a proposed change to NFPA 1001 standard that went out in an e-mail that he had read that caused him a lot of concern. It would include EMT certification as part of the 1001 requirements. (He later found out that the e-mail had been sent with incorrect information. It will include a recommendation for EMS training but mandatory EMS certification will not be included.)

Unfinished business: None**Election/Installation of Officers:**

President McNeas made a motion that all officers be moved up one position and elect a new 5th VP. It was seconded by Gene Evans. Motion carried.

Past President McNeas presented the gavel to new President Bill Halleran.

The members of the Atlantic Fire Department presented Past President Mark McNeas with his Past President hat, pin, name tag, business cards, lifetime membership certificate and card.

President Halleran asked for nominations for 5th Vice President Candidates.

Jack Runge: Mr. President it is my privilege and honor to place the name of Jason Barrick in nomination for 5th Vice president of the Iowa Firefighters Association.

Jason serves two fire departments, the Alden Fire Department where he serves as Training Officer, and the Iowa Falls Fire Department where he serves as Captain and Training Officer. Involvement in the Fire Service is a Barrick family tradition, Jason's father Dennis serves as 1st Assistant Chief in Iowa Falls and two of Jason's brothers serve with him on the Alden Fire Department.

Jason is a Nationally Certified FFI & II, Instructor I, Driver Operator Pumper & Driver Operator Aerial

If you read Jason's letter you know that two of his passions are Firefighter safety through proper training, and honoring the Tradition of the Fire Service.

One of the things that Jason did not mention in his letter was that in 2014 he received the Governor's Award for his part in the successful rescue of an individual involved in a grain bin accident.

In conclusion it is my opinion that Jason is the person to successfully lead our organization into the future, all while honoring the rich heritage and tradition that has guided our Association for over 137 years.

Thank you.

Cliff Renslow:

Mr. President, I'd like to nominate Chris Hinds from Perry. Chris has been involved in the fire service for about 36 years. He started in Adel and then moved to Perry where he currently is the Chief. He has also been involved in the Iowa State Sheriff's and Deputies Association.

He has certifications of FFI, FFII, Fire Inspector I, Fire Instructor I and Driver Operator.

Thank you.

President Halleran offered both 5th Vice candidates a chance to address the membership.

Chris Hinds:

This is my second run for 5th Vice President. I started with the fire service in 1980 with the Adel Fire Department. In 1984 I moved to Perry and served on both departments for about 4 years. In 1988 I resigned from Adel and continued with the Perry Fire Department. I have served as Chief since 2006. I've been to 11 conventions. I've been a camper at 10 of those and would like to thank Waverly for the job they've done hosting this convention. I have experience of 36 years with the fire service. I'm a retired Chief Deputy of the Dallas County Sheriff's Office. I served on their Board of Directors as President in 2005. I have experience at the state capitol for legislation. I'm retired now except for the fire service. I have the time and the desire to serve and would love to serve this great organization. I feel I'm bringing a lot of years of experience and knowledge to this position.

Thank you.

Jason Barrick:

As was mentioned, I'm on the Iowa Falls and Alden Fire Departments. I've been on Iowa Falls for 15 years and Alden for the past 4. One of the questions I've been asked most is "What do you bring to the table? What are you going to do?" My best answer to that is -My experiences. My Dad has been on Iowa Falls for 27 years and is 1st Assistant Chief. I grew up with the "old guys". That's who I watched and looked up to. Now, taking over the FFI training that I do, I'm teaching the new guys. I can see that there is a huge gap between the "old guys" and the "new kids". My biggest thing I would like to work on is getting that fixed so we can work together because it is an issue. I appreciate everyone's time. Thanks Waverly for having us. Thank you.

Scott Hagenson made a motion that nominations cease and a new 5th VP is elected. Larry Renslow seconded it. Motion carried.

President Halleran:

There were 1552 votes cast with 29 towns casting votes. There were 2 spoiled ballots both due to no name of the fire department being on the ballot. Chris Hinds had votes of 119 and Jason Barrick had votes of 1433. Jason Barrick is your new 5th Vice President.

Cliff Renslow made a motion that the meeting of the Iowa Firefighters Association be suspended and the meeting of the Iowa Firemen's Foundation be opened. It was seconded by Mark McNees. Motion carried.

Meeting of the Iowa Firemen's Foundation was called to order. Mark McNees made a motion to move Bill Halleran up to President and Marv Trimble up to Vice President of the Iowa Firemen's Foundation. It was seconded by Gene Evans. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Gene Evans to adjourn the meeting and re-convene the meeting of the Iowa Firemen's Association. It was seconded by Marv Trimble. Motion carried.

Meeting of the Iowa Firefighters Association was re-convened.

President Halleran:

Thanks to President Mark McNees and the rest of the IFA Board. Outgoing President McNees has really raised the bar for the rest of us as we climb through the ranks. He has done an outstanding job this past year and I am planning on staying on his current path in my attempt to make us even better.

Thanks to outgoing Past-President Brad Yeager, it was a pleasure serving on the board with you. I am sure we will stay in touch. Every board member is always jealous of the outgoing Past-President.

Thanks to my parents Bill and Betty Halleran as well as my sister Tina Thomann and my brother Rick Halleran. Every one of our family members is in Fire/EMS. This journey all started with my Great-Grandfather who passed the fire bug onto my Grandfather and onto my Father and on down the line. I tallied it up and the Halleran family has served to date 214 years in the Fire and EMS field supporting our communities.

Great Grandfather- Irving O'Halleran- 13 years on Floral Park, NY

Grandfather- Irving William Halleran- 61 years on North Merrick, NY

Father- Bill Halleran Sr.- Still active with 41 years on Riverside, Iowa

Bill Halleran Jr.- Still active with 26 years on Sigourney, Iowa

Rick Halleran- Still active with 23 years on Riverside and Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Betty Halleran- 25 years on Riverside, Iowa

Tina Thomann- Still active with 25 years on Riverside, Iowa

As you can probably imagine when we get together, our conversations revolve around calls, apparatus, training and in general catching up on other Fire Dept. discussions. I have modeled my Firefighter career around my Dad's values, morals and beliefs and I cannot say thanks enough for getting Rick and I into the Fire Service.

As I pass out the thank you's, I cannot miss my wife and family. Amy has been around this for so long, she doesn't even ask questions anymore. She has always been supportive of me in my undertakings revolving around the Fire Dept and IFA Board. My (2) boys, Tanner and Brock, Thanks for the understanding of many years of missed events, dinners and family time. It is on everyone's mind, but this is who we are. We are there to make someone's crappy day better with no questions asked.

Thanks to the members of the Sigourney Fire Dept. We are truly a team department. Everyone steps up when I am gone or whenever they are asked to do anything. I am honored and humbled to be the Fire Chief of an amazing group of guys and gals.

As we progress through the board I have been happy that any former and current IFA Board member has always been about the big goal. That goal is to make Iowa Firefighters safer, smarter and all around better in their communities they protect. Thank you for the support and vote of confidence.

A couple of this year's goals are to:

Continue to support the FSTB and their current issues they are in.

Participate in the Long Range planning committee that Past President McNees implemented.

Continue the fight against the Fire Works Bill. This will be a team effort by many.

New Business – None

First time attendees to the Convention meeting were asked to stand and be recognized and asked to stay for a picture afterwards.

Good of the Association:

Mike Reuman – Thanks to Jack Runge, we have some new decals for the memorial that we'll be selling for \$5.

Mike read a thank you note from the Connie Huber and Bev Hollar and family for everyone's support of their family at the time of Bud's passing.

Mike received a note along with a check for the memorial in memory of Bud Hollar and Jerry Hoffman from Shirley Johnson. Shirley is the widow of Past President Darrell Johnson of Bode that died several years ago. She said in her note that she wished she had been notified so she could have attended these funerals. Mike said there are these spouses of former officers that have passed away and they sort of fall through the cracks unintentionally. Some of them were VERY involved in the fire service. Mike also just found out that Past President Mike Schechinger's widow, Mary, passed away 2 days after Bud Hollar did and nobody knew that. He proposed that the board include past spouses in sending them the newsletter and in the contacts of mass e-mail list and the calling tree so when there is a death these people are notified. Joan put together a contact list of those spouses. There are only eight of them.

Selection of Convention City 2018:

Dave Zimple – To the board and members of the IFA I have a nomination to make for Convention City for 2018. The Waverly Fire Department has done an awesome job this year. Waverly Fire Department has offered to host in 2018 pending some approvals that they need to get. There are some issues with the campground regarding provisional use of the property because it is zoned for residential. They do also want to make sure that the community is still behind them. So, pending the approval of the city, I would like to nominate Waverly for Convention City 2018.

President Halleran – This was discussed a bit earlier today with Waverly and pending the approvals that Waverly still needs this really can't be voted on today so it will be voted on at Mid Year.

Rob Edgar, Waverly – Thanks to everyone for coming and everyone had to deal with a lot but one thing we noticed was there were still a lot of smiling faces. It was not only noticed by us but also by the community. We had a lot of phone calls and a lot of good remarks from the community. It was appreciated and we hope we can have you back in 2 years.

There were 1543 campsites sold and just short of 2200 registered guests. It was a learning experience for us but it was also a lot of fun. There were a few times we had our heads down but it all worked out.

Motion to adjourn was made by Cliff Renslow, Stuart. It was seconded . Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned 11:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Wendy Lensing
Executive Director