

Iowa Firefighters Association
Board of Directors Meeting
January 24, 2015
Storm Lake, IA

Present: President Mark McNees, 1st VP Bill Halleran, 2nd VP Marv Trimble, 3rd VP Jim Shutts, 4th VP Gene Evans, 5th VP Nick Riley, Past President Brad Yeager, Executive Director Wendy Lensing.

Also present: Randy Novak, FSTB; Ellen Hagen, Jewell; Bob Hagen, Jewell; Robert Platz, Dyersville; Rosie Platz, Dyersville; Jeffrey Quigle, State Fire Marshal.

Meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by President Mark McNees. He thanked Chief Mike Jones and the Storm Lake Fire Department for hosting the meeting.

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

Brad Yeager made a motion to approve the minutes of the last board meeting, held November 15th, 2015 in Pella, Iowa. It was seconded by Gene Evans. Motion carried.

Executive Director's Report – Wendy Lensing:

Thank you to the Storm Lake Fire Department for hosting our meeting. The board met in Humboldt yesterday. They audited the books and then we worked on the budget for the next fiscal year. In the office I've been busy with all the dues that are coming in. Dues are delinquent February 1st. Mid Year Meeting will be April 2nd and the meeting info will be mailed out the end of February. Keep up to date with what is going on by signing up for the e-mails, checking the website and our Facebook page. We will start getting more information out as the legislative session gets busier. We still haven't made any progress with iMIS and the new database we were trying to implement.

Financial Report – Wendy Lensing:

Financial report for the Iowa Firefighters Association as of December 31, 2015 – Total assets of \$466,529.61.

Total assets for the Iowa Firemen's Foundation as of December 31, 2015 - \$52,330.86. \$3,830.99 of that is money that is still part of the Smoke Detector Project leaving assets for the Foundation itself at \$48,499.87.

A motion was made by Marv Trimble, seconded by Bill Halleran to approve the financial report. Motion carried.

Proposed FY 2016-2017 budget – Wendy Lensing:

We reduced the estimated income down just a bit due to decreased membership. We are holding pretty close to 14,700 members which would give us an estimated income of \$191,110.00 from dues. We didn't make many changes to expenses other than increases for newsletter and salary. We ended up with a total estimated income of \$221,310.00 and estimated total expenses of \$228,593.10 with a negative net income of -\$7283.10.

A motion to approve the proposed budget was made by Jim Shutts and seconded by Nick Riley. Motion carried.

Officer Reports:

1st VP – Bill Halleran:

Thanks to Chief Mike Jones and the Storm Lake Fire Department for hosting today's meeting. I attended Pella Fire awards banquet handing out several length do service awards.. Chief Doug VanGorkom runs a top notch fire department and it was my pleasure handing these out to several Firefighters I've known for many years..

We as a board are taking a very productive approach with budgetary status with Iowa fire departments. We keep hearing of issues and we're not in a position to take a personal interest, but we are there to assist those with questions.. George Oster for those that know him is an absolute remarkable asset to us. We've been in contact several times to assist us, assist you.

We're still on the fence reference this year's Chili Cook off that's been held in the Capital rotunda. Participants have been down. Last year we had 6-7 teams and IFA board members were 4 of the teams. It is hard to network with legislation and serve chili. I'd like to keep it going, but it's looking more bleak.. However, we are in contact with the Capital reference them possibly making all the chili..

Marv, Gene and I attended the Governors address. Tight budget is what we've been told.

In meeting with our lobbyist, we're working diligently to get our agenda message across on our bullet points.

- Protect 911 funds for local PSAP's
- Increase funding for the Iowa Fire Marshalls Office and Fire Service Training Bureau including a curriculum director..
- Continue to oppose any effort for the legalization of fireworks.
- Establishing cancer presumption coverage for Iowa Volunteer Firefighters.
- Support legislation language for the requirements of installing CO detectors in residence that currently mandate smoke detectors.
- Continue the efforts to support Fire and EMS services through existing codes.

2nd VP Marv Trimble:

Thanks to the Storm Lake fire department for hosting our meeting.

Well I like to think around February winter is almost half over. One of my co-workers stopped their emergency vehicle, an SUV, and waited for six cars to clear a red light intersection. He then proceeded to be struck my number seven. We can't assume we are seen or the driver in another vehicle is paying attention at all. Unless you can see their eyes looking at you and they have adjusted their driving to allow you to proceed, you must stop in a negative intersection. This concludes the winter driving class.

Tax time is upon us. If you haven't already had yours completed remember the \$100 tax credit. Not all tax preparers are aware of the credit. Be sure to mention it. We fought for a tax check off, please consider it also. If we don't utilize the check off we will lose it. Here is a link to more information.

<http://www.iafireassn.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/checkoffinfo2014.pdf>

This is a link to your benefits as an Iowa firefighter on the NVFC website. <http://www.nvfc.org/hot-topics/iowa>

By the time this is published we will be knee deep in politics. Please take the time to contact your legislator and stress the priorities of the fire service. I am inviting all firefighters to attend "Firefighter day on the hill" March 17th. When we take time and make the effort to meet with our lawmakers at the capitol it demonstrates our commitment to our causes. Some of our priorities this year are protecting local E911 funds, fighting against the fireworks bill, and funding to create a curriculum developer position for the state fire institute.

When the IFA receives a request for a representative to present length of service awards Wendy will email everyone to find out who can attend. Recently a request from Spirit Lake, I replied that I was working. I received a call from Chief Daly's wife Colleen. She knew I was working on Saturday Jan. 9th and informed me my brother-in-law, Art Cummings, is being awarded "Firefighter of the Year" for their department. Then I talked to my boss and was able to go. I was very proud to present the awards.

Garrison Firefighter Mark Lint is a self-employed mechanic. He is always available for fire and EMS calls. Mark has been laid up for months. We all know about sick leave for self-employed people, none. We held a benefit for him on January 16th. Firefighters are a family and we support each other.

January 16th was a busy day. After the Mark Lint event I went to Urbana for a Length of service presentation for two long-time friends. Jim Takes 30 years and Bill Kuhn 45 years. Congratulations to both.

The last event I will attend in January 2016 is winter waterball in Coralville Jan. 30th. This is the first time I get to see my friends from around the state since convention waterball.

3rd VP Jim Shutts –

I would like to start my report by saying a big "Thank you", to Chief Jones and the rest of the Storm Lake Fire Department for hosting our first meeting of 2016 for the Iowa Firefighters Association.

Since the meeting in Pella last fall there has not been much going on. I did present a certificate for 50 years of service to a firefighter in Wheatland, Iowa. That always seems to humble me with presentations like these the dedication people like this have is amazing.

Now the big fight at hand will be the folks trying to pass the bill to legalize fireworks in Iowa. This is being done on their part just to make money not caring about the injury, death, and destruction that it will bring with it. The pro fireworks people will stop at nothing this year to get their way so we have to be extra vigilant in our fight of this. Give a call to your legislator and tell them to vote NO on this bill. We are also working on numerous other bills like protecting the PSAP funds from the state using them to build their state wide radio system. We are behind the CO detector bill and getting a cancer presumption in place for all firefighters.

The Legislative Breakfast will be Thursday January 28th, 2016. I hope any firefighters that are free that morning make sure they come to the State Capital. This is a great opportunity to have a chance at voicing your opinions to your Representative or Senator. You will have another chance to do this on March 17th 2016 which is Firefighter Day on the Hill. These two dates are wonderful chances to get to know your legislators especially if you are ever thinking of running for the IFA board.

4th VP Gene Evans:

I too would like to echo my thanks to Chief Jones and the Storm Lake Fire Department.

One of the things that strikes me is when we were in the Capitol for the Governor's address, sitting in the rotunda having coffee waiting to go upstairs, the respect and fellowship if you will, with the folks at the Capitol is just overwhelming. When the Commissioner of Public Safety walks across the room to specifically come and say "Hello" to us, that says a lot about the relationship that we have with the folks up there.

Regardless of what your personal opinion is on the fireworks bill, we can't let this pass. The data that we've received shows that in states where fireworks are legal, 65% of the injuries are to children 16 years old and under. That is just unacceptable. Regardless of your personal opinions, we need to protect our children.

The legislative session is upon us. Please be in contact with your local legislators for the points we are supporting and opposing and let them know that our 14,700 voices will be heard.

5th VP Nick Riley:

I'd also like to thank Chief Jones and the Storm Lake Fire Department for having us here this morning.

I presented 3 awards to members of Parkersburg Fire Department. The 3 individuals had a combined 99 years of service.

I had heard about a member of a department that responded to a call on New Year's Day where a family of 5 from Minnesota was involved. Two adults were taken to one hospital, two adults were taken to another hospital and an infant was airlifted to Iowa City. This firefighter took it upon himself to gather the 4 adults from the 2 separate hospitals and take them to Iowa City to be with the infant. I thought that was pretty commendable of this individual to go above and beyond after the call.

I agree we need to get a stop on the fireworks bill.

Past President Brad Yeager:

Thanks to Wendy for getting everything ready yesterday and for today. The budget is what it is for the most part. We are sitting in a good position.

Thanks to those that came to the meeting.

President Mark McNeas:

I want to thank Chief Jones and the Storm Lake Department for hosting the meeting.

I will try to be brief and not repeat much of what you have heard from the others, but we did have a good session yesterday doing the budget work, reviewing Wendy's job performance, and discussing several issues and policies. I will address some of the legislative issues later on.

I want to thank Bill, Marv, and Gene for attending the Governor's address as I was unable to do so due to some health concerns at that time. We are getting prepared for the legislative breakfast coming this week and we will be addressing our issues with them and working with the IAPFC and IFCA and IEMSA to coordinate our messages and work on issues together. I encourage anyone who can to attend and meet their legislators and to do so again on March 17th at the Firefighter on the Hill Day.

I have been working on re-instituting a long range planning committee for the IFA to look at what the previous committee suggested and its progress, and to work on a new plan for the board and IFA. We have been compiling some names to contact to see if they would be interested in serving. Roger Bissen has agreed and was on the last committee. I feel it's important to have someone for some continuity and to have knowledge of what and why the previous committee made suggestions. I hope to have the committee assigned so they could meet at mid-year and begin their work and have a report the following mid-year meeting.

We also worked on a board policy to guide future boards in protecting the associations reserve funds. I brought the issue up previously and we have been working to find some good business practices guidelines. We voted to make a policy that the board will carry over undesignated reserve funds equaling one year of operating expenses. Any undesignated reserve funds would then be available for operating expenses. Funds for the memorial, scholarship, Hall of Flame and the like would remain untouched except for their stated purposes. This is an effort to try and maintain the dues structure for members, and to protect the association from depleting reserves without a mechanism to correct any finance issues. I have been associated with organizations that have blown through all of their reserves and now barely survive. We can't ever let that happen to the IFA after all the hard work previous boards and members have put into the association.

I have worked to get our committees to function as they should. I am pleased at the response. The fire prevention committee is working the poster contest, the drill rules committee will be proposing some resolutions at mid-year to clean up some language and to address hose size for two drills. They will be posted on line and in the next issue of the paper. The Hall of Flame committee has also purchased the new trailer for the set and we had good assistance from several departments in transferring the items. We do however, need to find a new coordinator as it was thrown onto the executive director's position a few years ago and Wendy does not have time to do that along with everything else. So I will be speaking with Rusty to see what can be done about finding someone to do the scheduling and ticketing. It is the committee's responsibility.

Last September we created a recruitment and retention committee for board officers. The mission is to identify members who have either expressed an interest in running for the board, or for those who may have been encouraged by a board member, or one someone feels may be a good candidate. This is NOT the board trying to pick candidates, but an effort to identify those who may have an interest and to offer information to them on the duties and responsibilities and to encourage them. I strongly believe the membership is better served by candidates announcing at convention or mid-year at the latest so members have a chance to get to know those who they will be voting for in the fall. I also think it is ideal if more than one is running at the same time. So we have started a list so that in the future the committee can see who may have expressed an interest in the past, but wasn't ready at the time. We all don't know who someone else may have talked to so this is a valuable tool. We hope to be approaching some and have some candidates announce soon for 5th vice.

We started a series of articles with the help of George Oster. We have had several discussions and I asked George to help after several negative stories regarding fire department financing practices. The board is going to have a workshop to educate ourselves even more, so we can help answer questions and guide departments. We want to help everyone function legally and to avoid the negative press that hurts all of Iowa's fire service. The first article starts with the very basics and we will proceed to build upon the information to hopefully keep it from getting more confusing. When you throw in associations and corporations and benefitted districts there become many issues. I thank George for agreeing to help us out again.

On an activity note, I attended a presentation in Essex where 9 firefighters were honored for 25 or more years of service, including George Ross who has been on the department for 60 years and is still active. That was a first for me in a length of service presentation. They are a great example of Iowa's fire service and it was a pleasure to be in attendance.

Committee Reports:

NVFC – Bob Platz:

It's great to be back again. It will take a little while for me to get up to par.

Just before I took sick I did get my share of the Globe grants read and submitted. Globe gave 13 sets of gear to fire departments that really needed them.

With me being sick I got a doctor to write a letter to the airlines, so we should get most of our money back when we go to the next conference.

I have been spending most of my time on conference calls. Since we got a new chairman, Kevin Quint, he has been having calls to get us on the right page with his ideas. We want to get the PSOB up to date; some people are still waiting too long for their money. The NVFC is also looking at getting cancer deaths on PSOB. A committee has been set up to track the kinds and number of cancer deaths we have in the fire service. The AFG grant just closed last month for this year. We are trying to get a micro grant increased to more money, and also easier to fill out.

The grant budget for next year should be a few million greater than this year.

The spring conference will be May 5-6-7- 2016 at the Crown Plaza in Alexandria, VA.

I plan on going to the Baltimore area to read AFG grants February 21 thru 26.

Discussion took place about insurance, physicals, and what would be taking place in the future.

Legislation - President Mark McNees:

I've been researching states that have the cancer presumption and hopefully we can get a bill written up pretty soon. In talking to Senator Danielson previously he was interested in being a sponsor for this. I have no illusions that it will pass this year but we need to get the process started.

The CO Detector bill is in committee. They don't see any tremendous opposition to it.

Fireworks, we have word the bill is coming back out and something must have changed somewhat because they think they have the votes now to go through. We will continue to fight against this.

E-911 funding we are pleased that in the Governor's budget it is in RIF Funds and not in the E-911 surcharge monies.

We will be having the legislative breakfast on January 28th. We plan to meet with John and some of the board members of IFCA, IAPFC and IEMSA the night before so that we are all on the same page.

Convention Committee – Marv Trimble:

I've been in contact with Rob Edgar in Waverly and they have met with Story City and exchanged information things are proceeding.

Fire Marshal Jeff Quigle:

Myself and Fire Inspector Dan Wood attended a National Fallen Fire Fighter Foundation “Leading and Living Life Safety Lessons Learned” meeting from December 7 – 9, 2015 in Annapolis, MD. The outcome of the meeting was the creation of a defensible document for fire departments, legislative representatives and other partners to use regarding smoke alarms, residential sprinklers and other related issues. Dan and I also spoke about the success of the State Fire Marshal, IFA, and Red Cross Smoke Detector Program in Iowa.

The SFM Division received our first shipment of 2500 smoke detectors on Friday, January 22, 2016. This first shipment of 2500 smoke detectors is spoken for. These smoke detectors are required to be installed by the Fire Department and cannot just be handed out for individuals to install by themselves. If your Fire Department would like to be placed on the list to receive smoke detectors, please contact Steve DeJoode at 515-725-6145.

The SFM Division is optimistic that the vacant Northwest Iowa Special Agent/Bomb Technician position will be filled in the next two months as this territory has not had an assigned Special Agent since June 2015. We continue to respond to fires in this area. If you need an Agent just contact Storm Lake State Radio at (712) 732-1341.

Administrative Rules were filed in November 2015 to adopt the 2015 International Fire and Building Codes. We are optimistic these new Codes will be adopted during Fiscal Year 2016 with an implementation date of July 1, 2016.

We are currently working with Image Trend (Fire Bridge) regarding fire alarm and sprinkler licensing software and have options to add additional licensing modules in the future. We are in the process of verifying the data that was exported into the web based software. This new web based software will allow a licensee to purchase their license on-line and print out a license card. This will save everyone valuable time and money. Our first project of applying for registration of Above Ground Storage Tanks on line has a go live date of February 1, 2016. A big advantage for the Fire Service in Iowa is access to this software to check on individuals for valid licenses in current real time.

Nine fatality fires have occurred within the state as of today’s date. The need for working smoke detectors is paramount and increases your chances of surviving a residential home fire by 50%. The American Red Cross will have a booth at Winter Fire School this year. If you need assistance with installing smoke detectors in your community the Red Cross is very interested in speaking with you. The Central Iowa Chapter of the American Red Cross has been tasked with installing 5000 smoke detectors in homes during this Fiscal Year.

The Department of Public Safety is currently working on a much needed update of our web-site. There is a team of individuals who have been assigned from each Division to work on this project. Watch for more information on this in the future.

Fire Service Training Bureau – Randy Novak:

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

Budget for FY 17 – level funding.

FSTB Staffing: The Bureau has submitted a budget proposal for a Curriculum Developer (Fire Service Coordinator). We will be filling our Account Tech 3 position within the next few weeks (after we finish up the background check).

Grants: The Bureau has applied for the following federal grants:

- FSTB received our National Fire Academy “State Training Support Grant” for \$20,000 for federal FY 16 (August 1, 2015 to July 30, 2016). This is being used to support the delivery of NFA Approved Courses (Instructor I & II, Fire Officer I & II) and NFA 2-Day Courses.
- FSTB received a 2014 AFG grant for a new mobile drill tower (\$220,000). We have issued a PO for the new mobile drill tower (\$219,777). We expect delivery in April 2016.
- FSTB has applied for two 2014 AFG-FP&S grants: A \$200,000 (through IFA) on behalf of the SFM for smoke alarms, and a \$20,000 on behalf of the SFM for the Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Program. The smoke alarm grant has been funded, while the Juvenile Firesetter grant has not.
- We have applied for a 2015 AFG for a new mobile hazmat rollover tanker (\$130,000 with \$113,044 federal share and \$16,956 state share).

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

- FSTB Programs (2016)
 - Regional and State Fire School Announcement – see attached.
 - 92nd Annual State Fire School, February 26-28 at Ames.
 - ISFSI Principles of Modern Fire Attack: SLICE-RS, March 5 at Ames – see attached .
 - Fire/Arson Investigators School, March 14-25 at FSTB.
 - Volunteer Fire Chiefs Workshop, April 9 at Ames.
 - Announcement for various open enrollment classes will be mailed to Iowa fire departments throughout the year.
- National Fire Academy (NFA) Courses (2015-16):
 - Incident Safety Officer; Training Operations for Small Departments; and Fire Service Culture: Who Protects Firefighters from Firefighters, February 27-28, 2016 at the 92nd Annual State Fire School.
 - Leadership I: Strategies for Company Success, April 28-29 at FSTB.
 - Fire Service Safety Culture: Who Protects Firefighters from Firefighters, May 12-13 at FSTB.
 - Command & Control of Incident Operations (TRADE Region VII delivery), June 13-18, 2016 at FSTB.
 - Incident Command for Highrise Operations, September 13-14 at Des Moines.
 - Leadership II: Strategies for Personal Success, September 15-16 at FSTB.

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.

NOTE: NEW MAILING ADDRESS:

**Fire Service Training Bureau
1015 Haber Road
Ames, IA 50011-3104**

Unfinished Business:

President Mark McNees – New trailer for Hall of Flame has been delivered and the props have been transferred to the new trailer.

New Business:

The Drill Rules Committee has been working to come up with resolutions to clean up some of the drill rules. They have these done and they will be printed in the paper and posted on the website and will be presented at Mid Year.

Good of the Association:

Mid Year will be held April 1st – 2nd at the West Des Moines Marriott. Information is on the website and will be in the paper.

Dave Schipper – I think it's been good this year with the IFCA, IAPFC and IFA working together. The more we do that and involve IEMSA and IEMA and stand our ground on things like the E-911 money and fireworks the better.

Adjourned – 11:55 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Wendy Lensing
Executive Director