

**Minutes of the Wyoming Fire Chiefs' Association Meeting  
June 17, 1998  
Torrington, WY**

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by President Gene Diedtrich at 5:05 p.m.

**Roll Call:** See attached roster sheet

**Acceptance of Previous Minutes:** Ken Sutton motioned to dispense with the reading of the April 8, 1998 minutes and accept said minutes as mailed to the membership. Jerry Munger seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** Gene Diedtrich reported that the Association has, since the last report, a beginning balance of \$12,286 in the account. He has collected an additional \$280 in dues, the account has accumulated \$46 interest and he has paid out \$1,411 leaving an approximate balance, as of this report, of \$11,201.

Carl Jungck reported on the status of grant monies from the National Volunteer Fire Council (\$59 of which is carryover money from the first \$10,000 grant). Mr. Jungck stated he is not aware of any outstanding bills for this grant money. Mr. Jungck provided a brief update of the 1-800-FIRELINE program and stated Prudential Insurance is willing to provide videos and posters for every school if we had a way to distribute these materials. Gene Diedtrich asked if the Public & Fire Service Educators group could help get this program into Wyoming's schools.

There being no further issues to discuss with the Treasurer's report, Lanny Applegate motioned to accept the report and Jim Noel seconded. The motion carried.

**Committee Reports:**

**Missouri Valley** - Chief Robert Taylor announced the conference would be held next month in Omaha, NE.

**Certification Committee** - Chief Robert Taylor reported the next meeting of the Wyoming Firefighters Certification Committee would be held in Rawlins on July 24, 1998. The chair of that committee, Chief Byron Stahla is preparing the agenda.

**Fire Academy** - Gene Diedtrich announced that Jack Coppock is the new coordinator for the Wyoming Fire Academy. KN Energy has piped natural gas into the training facility at the academy which allows for different staging areas and two props per area. Sinclair Oil and Texaco have committed to provide pipes and props (which should be completed within the next few weeks). Dave Burns of Task Force Tips has donated \$10,000 worth of nozzles.

**Legislative Committee** - Lanny Applegate reported that for the next session their group would be focusing on at least two issues, the firefighter pension funds and workmen's compensation as it affects volunteers.

**National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC)** - Carl Jungck stated this organization is involved with promoting additional monies for the RCFP program (\$10 million instead of the current \$2 million dollar funding level) and a grant pertaining to the FSLA (CJ has manual explaining what this grant is about). The leadership conference for the NVFC is coming up this fall in Austin, Texas.

**Hazmat** - Don Huber stated this committee is currently drafting legislation and there will be a meeting July 27, 1998 at 10:30 am in Lander to address legislative issues. The Lander meeting is the corporate committee of the State's legislative body. Because much is changing, even on a weekly basis, and given the number of different entities involved., i.e., Wyoming Emergency Management, Wyoming State Fire Marshal's Office, the fire service, etc., Don Huber asked that chiefs wanting updated information send him an e-mail request and he will provide a status update as it occurs electronically. Mr. Huber stated that a Technical Committee has been formed as a sub-committee to the Hazmat group to focus specifically on equipment needs and costs.

Mr. Bezek of Wyoming Emergency Management provided an update of his agency's involvement with this issue, and explained WEMA had entered into a memorandum of understanding with the State Fire Marshal's Office to provide for \$20,000 to be used for hazmat training. WEMA has committed to provide \$52,000 this year for awareness training. Mr. Bezek stated the "draft legislation" as being worked on by his agency, the State Fire Marshal's Office and the Chief's Hazmat Committee is down to 15 pages and provides that the SERC be the oversight committee for state hazmat related issues. The Fire Marshal's section of the proposed legislation is not on the scheduled agenda for the legislative meeting set for Lander but hoped that body will try to work through the entire proposed legislation. Mr. Bezek stated the committee intended to work through two bills pertaining to Title 19 and Title 13. Concern was expressed for the makeup of the SERC committee and its impact for the proposed legislation. Mr. Bezek explained that nine positions exist on the SERC committee as proposed through legislation; he will serve as Executive Secretary for that group and eight others with technical expertise will be appointed by the Governor. Mr. Bezek stated the current SERC group would provide names of individuals with technical expertise for the Governor to consider for appointment to the new SERC Committee.

Jim Noel of the State Fire Marshal's Office reported on the work plan for hazmat awareness and operations levels and for ICS. A funding stream of approximately \$60,000 is needed to fully implement the work plans and the Fire Marshal's Office intends to use funds received through anti-terrorism grant monies (approximately \$40,000) for this purpose. Mr. Bezek of WEMA stated his agency would try to make up the needed additional monies.

Nancy Eagle, Training Division Manager for the State Fire Marshal's Office, provided an update on the training completed to-date for the hazmat program (note hand-out with total number of hazmat classes given and total number of students attended).

Those interested in commenting on the proposed hazmat legislation should do so within the next 6 days.

**Wyoming State Fire Marshal's Office** - Director Jim Noel stated the Training Division section is fully staffed as of today - LoRayne has accepted the position of Certification Secretary. However, within the agency there are several vacancies; two electrical inspectors, one plan reviewer and an executive secretary position. Nancy Eagle distributed copies of a flyer

announcing program details for the 2nd Annual State Fire Marshal's Conference which is set for August 27th-August 29th in Casper, WY. She reported that 2,400 students have been trained to-date (which includes hazmat classes and students). Over 8,000 people have visited the Fire Safety House to-date. Donna Depew reported that the state fire reporting system will shift to NFIRS Version 5.0 sometime after the first of the year and that all future fire reporting classes will focus on the new system which is an all incident reporting system.

**Wyoming State Forestry** - Ray Weidenhaft reported that Colleen is the new contract person in the Riverton office (taking LoRayne's former position).

Mr. Bezek of Wyoming Emergency Management stated his office is conducting two surveys which may be of interest to this group; one is a risk assessment by county and the other pertains to weapons of mass destruction.

**Old Business** - WFCA can receive a \$2,500 grant intended for a fire service leadership development program through the Missouri Valley section of the National Volunteer Fire Council. The deadline date for application however is 7/16/98. President Gene Diedtrich asked that Don Huber, Jim Wingert, Nancy Eagle, Brad Saarf, Bob Taylor and Ken Sutton (as committee members) take action to secure the grant and take necessary steps to fulfill grant requirements (i.e., sponsoring a leadership class, etc).

**New Business** - The next meeting of the Wyoming Fire Chiefs Association will be held at the Buffalo Hunt and is scheduled for Saturday, September 26, 1998 at 10:00 am.

Phil Dumars, Secretary for the Public & Fire Service Educators group stated the Fire Safety House schedule has been developed for the 1998-1999 school. This group is still researching ways to equalize insurance premiums charged fire departments using the safety house and will report back to the Chief Association. In the interim, Mr. Dumars reminded the group that if any member of the fire department is a state employee, that is the person to utilize to drive the fire safety house as they are covered under the state's insurance coverage.

**Meeting adjourned at 6:15 pm on June 17, 1998.**

Minutes prepared by Donna Depew, Wyoming State Fire Marshal's Office