

MINUTES OF THE
WYOMING FIRE CHIEFS' ASSOCIATION
RIVERTON, WYOMING
January 7, 2000

- ▶ The meeting was called to order by President Wenke at 1:04 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.
- It was announced that if anyone wanted information on the September meeting of the State OSHA presentation there were copies up front. Also, after the Association meeting there would be a presentation by Gary Scott on Firefighter's Role in School Safety.
- ▶ A roll call roster was sent around for signatures. Officers present were Gene Diedtrich, Russ Wenke, Brad Sarff, Don Huber and Bob Taylor.
- ▶ A motion was made by Bob Taylor to approve the minutes of the previous meeting held in September as mailed. Jim Noel seconded. Motion carried.
(Motion #1)

- ▶ The Treasurers' report was given by Secretary/Treasurer Diedtrich. Starting Balance as of 6/1/99 was \$10,243.00. Took in \$400.00 in dues, state association reimbursed \$150.00 for their half of National Volunteer Fire Council dues, \$193.00 in interest for a total of receipts - \$743.00. Paid out \$100.00 on a Treasurers Bond, \$157.00 on postage, \$46.00 on envelopes, \$121.00 on the Website Grant and \$440.00 on the Recruit and Retention Grant. Total Expenditures were \$864.00. Total left is \$10,122.00. Of that \$7,299.00 is dedicated to specific grants - \$2,825.00 to Recruit and Retention Grant, \$1,871.00 to Missouri Valley Fire Chiefs Grant and \$2,603.00 to the Website Grant. There are currently unrestricted funds of \$2,823.00.

A motion was made by Gary Scott and seconded by Jerry Munger to accept the Treasurers' report. Motion carried.
(Motion #2)

The bill on the Web site for \$250.00 was clarified by Carl as being for maintenance. It will be paid out of the Website Grant.

The dues for one half of the National Volunteer Fire Council is \$150.00. A motion was made by Gary Scott and seconded by Jim Wingert to pay this bill. Motion Carried.
(Motion #3)

Gene announced that the NFPA representative Steve Rondinelli is no longer at the Denver Office but has been replaced by David Nuss.

Russ introduced Fred Ragsdale from the National Terrorism Preparedness Institute in St. Petersburg Florida. Their job is to prepare First Responders for terrorism. They travel around the states giving presentations. He gave a presentation to the group to inform them what is available. They will give

classes if 25-30 students are enrolled. If anyone is interested they can contact the institute. He introduced four of his instructors.

Don Huber introduced a group from DCI who gave a presentation on methamphetamine labs. Members of DCI who were there were Dan Stewart, Supervisor in Casper for the Northern DCI, Brian Eggleston - Riverton, Albert Bennett - Casper, and Rick Spencer - Team Leader for the Northwestern portion of the state. They discussed the types of labs, the materials used, and what is expected of first responders so that people would be aware. A DEA film was shown that covered the types of training officers receive and the dangers of these labs. They also sponsor a four hour recognition class for police, ems, and firemen. Contact the DCI office if interested.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- ▶ Missouri Valley (Bob Taylor): The Fire Chief's will co-host with Casper Fire Dept. the Missouri Valley conference in 2001. It will be held in Casper at the Parkway Plaza. This year the conference is in Joplin Missouri on July 12-14, 2000. The Wyoming dates will be July 11-13, 2001 and we would sure like a good showing. There is no program put together at this time but Bob Taylor will work with Casper Fire Chief Mark Young. Please contact one of them if you know of any buzz words or current topics that should be considered. Don Young has also volunteered to help with the planning. Mark Young asked for some help in getting vendors for the conference in Wyoming. The International Meeting this year will be in Dallas, Texas on August 25-28, 2000. Bob Taylor encouraged people to join the International Association of Fire Chiefs Association which automatically makes you a member of the Missouri Valley Association. It was moved by Gary Scott and seconded by Ken Sutton for the Fire Chiefs to support the hospitality room in Joplin. The motion carried. Bob Taylor also asked for help in doing the hospitality room.
(Motion #4)
- ▶ Certification (Nancy Eagle): A report was given on the new testing program that the Certification Committee will be implementing. It was purchased with a Haz Mat Grant because it included Haz Mat Awareness and Haz Mat Operations tests. There will be a scanner for grading and there will be 10 questions on each module instead of 6 per module on the test. It should be in place by July 1, 2000.
- ▶ Legislative (Lanny Applegate): This is a budget year and there will only be a 20 day session pending what they come up for funding. The things the legislative committee will look at are the License Plate bill which is a bill to provide a prestige plate for firefighters which can be purchased. Please talk to your legislators and encourage them to support the bill. A firefighter employed by the city, county or firefighter district or volunteer firefighter or retired firefighter may apply. If a firefighter became a member of a department after January 1, 1995, he shall have a minimum of one year on the department and be Firefighter I certified or Engine Boss Wildfire certified in order to apply. The Fire Chief or his designated assistant will sign a written statement that the applicant is eligible. There is no distinction between career and volunteerism. A list was passed out that contained the legislators that opposed it last year. Some of those will support it this year. Please contact the legislators and visit with them and explain what this is about. Ken Sutton stated that it is good for volunteers to help them be recognized and will maybe stimulate more people to

be volunteers. On the career side it is recognition for being a firefighter. It has to be sold.

Another piece that will be watched is the position paper on the Retirement System. This may not be a bill but should be watched. It is a move to try to put the Retirement System under A&I. The Retirement System is opposed to that. The Volunteer Fireman's Pension Board voted to endorse the position paper. They are also trying to get other Boards to endorse this and keep them from moving into A&I. The individual Boards would probably lose the ability to set policy if this transfer goes through.

Another one they are watching is the Mineral Royalty monies and the de-earmarking of it. The governor has proposed to use some of this money to support some areas of state government. If we want to hold on to this money we need to talk to the Legislators. Offer suggestions on how to raise more revenue. If we lose this money it will take away the 50% funding on fire equipment.

Jim Wingert moved and Charlie Carpenter seconded that the Fire Chiefs Association will support the effort to pass the License Plate bill. Motion passed.

(Motion #5)

Russ clarified that the Retirement System includes the Volunteer Firemen's Pension Fund. This move would put the Retirement System under Administration and Information and would no longer be a stand alone agency. Lanny moved we support the position paper from the Retirement System and Speed Hartbank seconded. Motion carried.

(Motion #6)

Jim Wingert moved that we resist the effort to de-earmark Mineral Royalty money. Brad Sarff seconded this motion. Motion carried.

(Motion #7)

Lanny reported that Jim Noel has asked the Fire Chief's Association to support the Fire Marshal's Office in the budget process. Russ reported that Jim has suggested that some of the services the Fire Marshal's office supplies be funded by plan review fees and permit fees instead of General Fund money so he would appreciate support for these user fees. The Plan Review Fees are still the 1997 schedule. Ken Sutton moved and Larry Lee seconded that the Chief's support the Fire Marshal's Office in their budget process. Motion carried.

(Motion #8)

Ray Weidenhaft reported that Forestry's budget hearing is next week. The Mineral Royalty money was one item of concern but it has already been addressed by the Chiefs. Forestry has requested \$50,000 .00 for contract fire training which includes the 1/2 time Forestry secretary in Riverton and the Governor has recommended to deny this amount. It was discussed at the Rural meeting and it will effect the fire service. Forestry can survive with their budget but no contract training would be available. It is rumored that Forestry Division will be moved from State Lands to the Department of Agriculture. Forestry will support that move but they are asking for support that all positions, budget, inventory, property, etc. will be moved. It is still in the rumor stage. Russ commented that the Legislative Committee

needs to keep a close eye on this. Speed Hartbank moved that the Fire Chief's support Fire Marshal's Office and Forestry in the programs they supply for us including getting the \$50,000.00 back in Forestry's budget. Mark Harshman seconded. Motion carried.
(Motion #9)

Gary Scott talked about legislation that would be sponsored by Campbell County on School Fire Drills. The bill would be amended to include not only fire drills but lock down procedures, or in house sheltering plans, or school safety.

The session starts February 14th. The schedule is Gene and Lanny will be there the 1st week, Russ and Brad will be there the 2nd week, Bob Taylor and Ken Sutton will be there the 3rd week and Mark Young and Gary Scott will be there the 4th week. We need more people. The legislative committee pays your expenses while you are down there. Anyone who is interested contact the officers or Lanny. There is nobody scheduled for the last week. It really helps you understand the process if you go down there. Ken suggested the Fire Chief's write issues down and send to the Departments so they know what to talk to the legislators about. Ken will do it for the Rural Association and Russ will do it from the Fire Chief's.

WIERS (Ken Sutton) - Donna Depew resigned and Elaine Codianne has replaced her. The committee discussed departments reporting and the importance of these reports. Be sure to send your cards in. NFIRS 5.0 is getting real close. Forestry and the Fire Marshal's Office are looking at different vendors programs. They are also looking at training programs that would be provided through these two offices. Hardware could possibly be gotten through the surplus property. No date has been set for implementation since that depends on the training. Start looking into it and get involved. Call Elaine if there are any questions. You can use the 5.0 report now if you want to.

Fallen Fire Fighter Memorial (Gerry Dewey): The Memorial is scheduled for 1:00 pm on April 1, 2000. She asked for help in getting the missing pictures for the memorial wall. The committee would appreciate any help they can get.

Constitution and Bylaws (Emily Howery and Brad Sarff): Nothing to report.

Officer Development (Gary Scott): They have had several classes with a total of 75-100. The class is being offered again this weekend at Mid-Winter.

Wyoming Fire Academy (Carl Jungck) - Carl reported for Larry David, the Coordinator, who is home sick. Larry has been with us about a year and does a great job. He spends about 8 hours a day here and deserves recognition. They are putting in 10 natural gas sites and Ken Metzler and KN Energy have been working on this as well as putting natural gas in the burn building in the near future. The academy is running quite a few S&I courses this year.

National Volunteer Fire Council (Carl Jungck): Carl is the director from Wyoming and he attends the meetings in fall and spring to represent the volunteers. He is helping put on seminars in Georgia and Texas concerning urban interface and volunteer firefighters. When he receives legislation from the national office he sends out to several people around the state. You can get on the website at nvfd.org to find out about current legislation. There

were 7,284 hits on the Wyoming Fire Academy website which was paid for by a grant through National Volunteer Fire Council. The address for the Academy website is wyomingfire.org. If you have used equipment you can advertise it on this website.

Recruit and Retention - NVFC and Provincial Insurance is providing a free video to all schools and libraries. There are also posters that need to be sent out around the state. He asked for help and Green River offered their help. Gene asked about a bill from AT&T on the 1-800 line and Carl referred him to Ron

Council on Fire Prevention and Electrical Safety (Russ Wenke) - Anytime anyone has an objection to a State Fire Marshal ruling or wishes to have consideration for alternative materials or methods to provide for fire safety in a building they can appeal to this council. Last meeting was in Sheridan to discuss the closure of a roping arena. The council upheld that order. The next meeting is February 25th in Cheyenne.

International Association of Fire Chiefs - Volunteer Officers(Gary Scott): They are changing their name to Volunteer and Combination Officers Section. They are hosting their second annual Volunteer and Combination Officer Symposium in Clearwater Florida, May 17-20th. If you have training funds this is a good opportunity for training with excellent instructors specifically to help volunteer departments. They are involved with the Fair Labor Standards and how you use your volunteers locally. This is scheduled for senate hearings next month. They are actively participating in NFPA Standards. Pierce Fire Apparatus has signed an agreement called the Pierce Initiative with this board that gives funding to training in volunteer departments. It pays for instructors from all over the country, expenses, room, etc.. Your only obligation is to assemble a group of 40 people. School Safety is becoming a hot topic in the Fire Service. The Association Board is working with the Department of Justice on a special grant dealing with school safety and how firefighters in communities interact in dealing with those kinds of issues. If you are interested in one of the programs through the Pierce Initiative let Gary know.

Public and Fire Service Educators (Emily Howery, President) - The annual conference will be held in conjunction with TRADE in Thermopolis sometime in the spring. More information will be forthcoming.

Association of Arson Investigators (Mark Keiser) - He thanked the Fire Chiefs for all their support.

Haz Mat (Don Huber) - He thanked Ron Smith and the instructors for all the work they did on the Haz Mat Incident Commander class. At the meeting this morning we discussed not getting started again until March and discussed our game plan. If anyone has any opinions, comments, etc. please contact Don. Don then introduced Virgil Lewis, chairman of the SERC.

Virgil Lewis reported that they had a working session in Thermopolis. SERC is here to support the Fire Service. They will send a letter of support of various pieces of legislation that the fire service wants sponsored. They would also like the Fire Chiefs to support their issues. They looked at the role of SERC and decided they tried to tackle too many issues.

They are redefined as an all hazards type commission and try to get out of the management end. They will be an administrative function over the LEPC's. The big issue is money. Training in Haz Mat at the state level is 2300 fire personnel versus 120 ems so we need to get them more involved. It has been mandated by the federal government as what makes an effective LEPC. The LEPC has to meet 7 levels of criteria. SERC will administratively monitor this. SERC will be taken to the state of Wyoming. On March 30th there is a meeting in Riverton from 1:00 to 5:00. Invitations are forthcoming. The Haz Tech conference will be in Laramie County in May or June. SERC's excess money will be given as scholarships at this conference. The SERC is expanding and they need one Public at Large representative. If interested contact Bobbie at 777-4910.

Fire Marshal's Office (Jim Noel and Nancy Eagle): Jim thanked the fire service for their support. He gave a report on the Arson Task Force and the findings they took to the Certification Committee. The Certification Committee has asked them to expand and continue to work on this. He discussed the three levels of certification that has been recommended. He encouraged people to contact Jim Wingert if they want any information. The Fire Marshal's Office offers Cause and Origin or Fire Investigation services so if you need help contact Rich Hallcroft or the State Fire Marshal's Office. Wyoming is 6 to 10 percent below the national level in arson. His belief is that it is under reported. There will be 6 electrical inspectors in the Fire Marshal's office and eventually 7. They are Master Electricians and they are accessible to the fire service so if you have a fire you believe is electrical or if you are building and need advice on something please give them a call.

Nancy recognized and thanked Elaine again for taking the fire reporting position and doing such a good job. Ron was recognized for developing policies and procedures for the Live Burn Coordinator program. Ken was recognized for traveling around and trying to establish a model program for training. In the area of Haz Mat we received \$40,000.00 for 1999 and will receive \$80,000.00 for this year. Since 1997- 3,092 first responders were trained in Haz Mat. Of that - 1,797 were fire, 412 law enforcement and 198 ems. We are trying to get the ems numbers up. The program would not be a success without the trainers. She thanked the Fire Chiefs for their support.

Ken Sutton and Jackson/Teton County are hosting an Incident Safety Officer class on March 3-4, 2000. In Cheyenne, they are hosting a Leadership I course on March 18-19, 2000. Contact Chief Wingert for that one. NFA classes are offered at Mid-Winter and will also be offered at Cody Fire School.

The Wyoming Fire Safety House is coordinated by PFSEW. Ken Metzler has an administrative function. It is being worked on and switched from diesel to gasoline at a cost of about \$3,000.00. The Fire Chief's Association, Public Fire Service Educators and Laramie County Community College are working together to get it fixed. It should be on the road by February 1st.

There is a media event at the Cody Fire School to give out 750 free smoke alarms. Contact Ken Metzler if you are interested. If you received some last year please give someone else a chance.

As far as fire reporting, we have had 2 civilian fire deaths, 14 civilian injuries and 7 firefighter injuries. If you need any information on fire reporting or have questions, contact Elaine Codianne.

Forestry Division (Ray Weidenhaft): Most of his report was given during the legislative report. This last year, Forestry was below the 17 year average on number of fires and acres burned. However, 117 engine people, 42 engines, 15 overhead from 14 counties responded to fires in 8 different states.

WEMA (Russ Wenke) - A fax was received from Bob Bezak apologizing for not being able to attend. He discussed the SERC and that Virgil would give his presentation to the Chiefs. He stated that WEMA would support the Fire Chiefs and would appreciate their support in return on legislative issues. There is one bill that deals with Search and Rescue submitted by a Representative from Jackson. It adds administrative issues to a previous legislative initiative. WEMA wants to be a part of any first responders safety and/or response issues.

An addition to Carl's report on the Wyoming Fire Academy - Wheatland Fire Equipment (Howard Cozad) is donating a half dozen Scott airpaks to the Academy. He will take the Survivairs.

New Business

- Russ brought up the dues for the organization. The Executive Board has recommended that the dues be raised to \$50.00 for the first member and \$30.00 for each additional member. Jim Noel moved and Lanny Applegate seconded that the dues be raised. Discussion was held. Motion carried.
(Motion #10)
- ▶ In 1998 the Chief's provided \$1,000.00 to the legislative effort, in 1999 they provided \$1,500.00 and it is recommended that we provide \$1,500.00 again this year. Mark Young moved and Don Huber seconded that we provide that amount. Motion carried.
(Motion #11)
- Mark Young was recognized as the new Fire Chief of Casper Fire Department and Mark Harshman as his Division Chief. George Nomis was recognized as the new Fire Chief from Green River and his new Assistant Chief, Mike Kennedy was also recognized.
- Bob Symons was recognized for helping a firefighter from Hudson that was choking during lunch.

Russ announced that the Firemen's Association would meet right after this meeting and that Gary Scott would give his presentation of Firefighters and School Safety after that meeting.

The next meeting will be on April 1, 2000. The Executive Board will meet at 9:30 a.m. and the Fire Chiefs at 10:00 a.m. The Fallen Firefighters Memorial will follow at 1:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 3:22 p.m.