

Wyoming Fire Chiefs' Association Meeting
September 8, 2005
Fire Academy
Riverton, WY 82501

- I. **Call to order:** The September 8, 2005 meeting of the Wyoming Fire Chiefs' Association was called to order by President Duane Stolns at approximately 2:05 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- II. **Roll call:** 17 individuals signed the roster.
- III. **Approval of Minutes:** Motion was made to approve the minutes for June 15, 2005 meeting as written.
Motion #1: Lyle Armstrong moved to accept the minutes for June 15, 2005.
Second: Lanny Applegate.
Motion Carried.
- IV. **Treasurer's Report:** Gene Diedtrich gave the Treasurer's Report. The financial statement for June 1 through August 31, 2005 denotes a cash balance of \$6,572.00; deposits of \$579.00; expenditures of \$409.00, leaving a current balance of \$6,742.00 at the end of the period.
Motion #2: Mark Young moved to approve the Treasurer's Report.
Second: Speed Hartbank.
Motion Carried.
- V. **Committee Reports.**
1. **State Fire Council:** Mark Young gave this report. The Council met in Sheridan, WY., in August, 2005. There were no appeals presented. There were reports from the Wyoming State Fire Marshal's Office. Mark further stated they are in the process of working through some changes for the council. The weekend prior to Labor Day weekend the Council had been notified of an appeal by the owner of Bull Moose Bar/Restaurant in Alpine, WY. They are appealing an Order to stop their business, which had been given by the Wyoming State Fire Marshal's Office (WSFMO). Mark noted there are obviously issues there -- public safety issues, code issues, etc. The Council had a conference call and discussed the appeal -- the bar owner wanted the Council to stay the Order that the WSFMO had given to shut down their business. The Council chose, after a couple of hours of meeting with the WSFMO and an attorney for the Bull Moose, not to act on issue. The WSFMO Order to close the business is still in effect. The Bull Moose has refused since to stop doing business. Mark further stated it will be an on-going issue for the Council and the WSFMO.
 2. **Missouri Valley Chiefs.** Chief Mark Young gave this report. Chief Young stated they had a successful conference in Columbia, Missouri. The Conference did very well -- it made the most money out of any of the conferences in the history of the Missouri Valley division. They were able to return back \$55,000.00. As far as revenues go, it will open up some doors for the division. Chief Young noted they will be proposing some things for the eight states, and it may open up some more opportunities for stipends, helping with conferences and training events in Wyoming. This may mean money will be available for speakers, etc., and there may be help from the Missouri Valley Chiefs. The IAFC was a good conference in Denver,

Colorado. As the new President, Chief Young noted he will visit all eight states in the next year, meeting with everybody, and invited everyone to let him know if there is anything he can do for them. The next conference is going to be July 19 through 21, 2006 in Omaha, Nebraska. He further stated the conference in Nebraska will be like the one in Casper, it will be a family event. President Stolns congratulated Chief Young for winning as President of the Council. Chief Young thanked everyone for the support from the Fire Chiefs and the financial donations, which helped out with the Hospitality Room.

3. **Certification Committee.** Lyle Armstrong, Training Officer, Rock Springs Fire Department, and member of the Accreditation Committee was available to provide information on the progress of certification for firefighters in Wyoming. Lyle noted the Committee did have a meeting (they had to do a phone conference as there were not enough members for a quorum). From April 2, to September 6, 2005 there were 253 tests proctored and there have been 172 new certifications issued. Lyle gave a detailed report, with a PowerPoint slide show, which emphasized all of the issues the Certification Committee has faced, the progress they have made, and the benefits and drive for having nationally recognized standards. He reported there is a site visit scheduled by the accreditation team on October 18 and 19, 2005 in Cheyenne. Members from Cheyenne Fire and Rescue will assist with the skills testing.

President Stolns asked if there would be an opportunity for any of the Chiefs who are interested in attending to watch the evaluation of the accreditation team. Jim Narva stated as far as he knew, yes. He stated one day of the visit will be site and practical issues at the training facility, and the other day and one-half consists of visiting the Fire Marshal's Office reviewing paperwork and Rita Lee's processes, and those types of things. Lyle continued, stating what the Chiefs might be interested in seeing is the individual skills tests. The written tests will be on the 18th at the Cheyenne Fire and Rescue Academy – Lyle stated he would provide the times. President Stolns stated he thought there would be some interest in some Chiefs being there. Jim Narva pointed out that the focus of the Pro-Board's visit is to certify, and not distract them with questions, because that is not their purpose. President Stolns stated that visitors would be there just to observe how it is going to go, and then that might generate some questions for the following Fire Chief's meeting.

Jim stated the WSFMO has contemplated, and the advice that came from Pro-Board, is to try and coordinate this first year with the Mid-winter Fire School, Cody Fire School and Wheatland, and offer that at those schools. So there is an opportunity for people to see it at those individual places as well. President Stolns said he did not believe there would be a lot of people who would want to be present at the review on October 18th & 19th, but thought there would be a few who would. Jim reiterated that he didn't want to get in the way of the Certification Committee coming in to do what they are suppose to do, and as long as that can be balanced, it can be observed.

4. **Legislative.** Don Huber gave this report, stating there are a couple of things that will come up for Legislature, one is a letter from a widow, Anna Henderson, Evanston, requesting that we take a look legislatively at putting together something providing counseling for families involved with a firefighter killed in the line of duty. The other issue is the training study, there will probably be something by the Legislature, and the Fire Chiefs may want to put together something, probably a financial request to the Legislators to complete the thing on the training study. There is nothing yet, the committee still needs to meet before the study will be released.

President Stolns brought up pension issues. He stated he spoke with an individual in Cheyenne regarding the pension issues, the volunteer Plan B, changing the COLA, etc., so there will be some legislation coming out of that. Don asked if there was going to be a COLA change. President Stolns stated there is a bump in the percentage, or the way the COLA is added back in and the interest is compounded, and not just back to the base rate. Don stated typically those things go through pretty easy and we do not have to work real hard on them. President Stolns stated there would be some money involved on this issue. Don Huber continued, stating Lanny Applegate has been working on hotel rooms, but there may be a change in hotels.

Jim Narva stated that one issue that may come back is regarding the firefighter background check - a flyer which had been sent out from DCI saying the FBI will not do a background check. Senator Mochler has indicated that they are going to make the necessary change (background noise...inaudible) if possible. So the issue is as the bill progressed and finally became law, there was a conclusion of private, basically, ambulance services...or it could be a private fire department, but the word "private" got the FBI concerned and they disallowed any kind of background check. Senator Mochler had indicated that they would try to re-write a lot of the immunity issues, and if it could not be done this year - because it is a budget year - then it will be dealt with next year.

President Stolns stated he would like for Don Huber and Lyle Armstrong to get together and talk about the meeting times for mid-winter so everyone is not on top of each other for the Certification Committee and the Legislative Committee, and the times are available to put down in the minutes that are going to go out now.

Don Huber noted there would be a Legislative Committee meeting, there will probably be one - if the committee does like they have in the past - in December. Larry David stated if Riverton is made aware of how much time each meeting is going to take, the meetings could be coordinated. Lanny Applegate stated that everyone should be careful about what they take to the Legislature as it is a budget year and they are not going to listen to general legislation. President Stolns asked Don and Lyle to confer and come up with some time that they think they're going to need. The Chief's meeting will be at 1:30 on Friday, January 6, 2005. President Stolns stated that the Certification and Legislative Committee took the most time last year, and some meetings may have to be moved to Thursday, which may work better for some committees than others. He asked Ron Smith if he was on the Public Fire Educator's Group, Ken Metzler said he would make contact with Bob Fawcett on that issue. President Stolns stated that issue had not been discussed during the last couple of meetings, and was unsure how active the Public Fire Educators currently are. Bill Hitt stated for the last two meetings he had conflicted with the Certification meetings. Ken Metzler confirmed he would check with Bob Fawcett.

Don Huber asked if anyone comes up with anything to send him an E-mail of laws that they need to go after, he stated he would add it to the list and get it brought up. President Stolns stated if there was something from the EMS side that support is needed for to run it by Don. He further stated they would go after the rural guys again and see if one of the rural Chiefs with someone from our group, and a lot of questions came up with Forestry last year and one of the recommendations was to try

and get somebody out of the rural group teamed with someone out of our organization at the same time, so that will be brought up to them again in December.

5. **Fallen Firefighter Memorial.** Larry David gave this report. The speaker will be the Chief from Casper, Mark Young, and Governor Freudenthal will be invited. If the Evanston Fire Department has a Chaplain, an effort should be made to try to get him to come up as well. Ron Smith has a group out of Gillette who can sing a couple of songs, and get Ron's son to play the bugle again. Larry stated he would get with Ron Smith. Also, that he was waiting for pictures to arrive from Evanston, and would get the exact names, then he would have the stones cut for the two firefighters who died this year. Lyle Armstrong stated he was unaware of how many people actually know we have a memorial service, and that it was a sad thing to say. He then asked how to make it known publicly that we want people to come to the service. Larry David said it is on the Fire Academy website, but he was open to any new ideas. (Discussion ensued, however, with the air conditioner running and several people talking at the same time, it was inaudible). President Stolns asked if Phil Oakes was still in charge of the newsletter, and if so, to add something in there each time as a reminder, as one of our goals and objectives is to recognize the fallen firefighters because we do not want to forget them (this issue was E-mailed to Jim Narva and Phil Oakes from this minute taker – and it was okayed by Director Narva to have notification run in the WSFMO newsletter as it gets closer to time for the service). Larry stated Ron Smith does the brochure; maybe he could put together something that he can send. Mark Young stated he would be glad to ask his PIO group in the Casper area to work with the media. Ron Smith stated it was difficult to get the media to cover this event. However, he added K2 News has a reporter in Lander now. Lyle stated it would be great to get the word out because attendance last year was sad. It's such an important event. Gene stated he thought K2 has a Fremont County spot on their news. He further noted that he tries to put the notice in everything he sends out; there are 120 or 130 members of the Chiefs that get it. Lyle responded that he understood that, and that he did not know the answer to rectify the issue. Gene further remarked that Jim Narva's office has done some E-mails; how would you get it to 4,000 people if you don't go through their leaders. President Stolns stated it could be brought up at the rural meeting to encourage people to come. Mark Young asked how the families of the Evanston firefighters were going to get notified of the event. Gene stated Gerry Dewey does that. Mark asked if it was personal contact. Larry David responded yes, they had been in personal contact with them as far as pictures and everything. He stated Gerry does a pretty good job. Larry remarked that the service does not draw a lot of fire people, but there were past firefighters who still attended the service. Gene stated Gerry has invited those people as well in the past. Gene stated the date needs confirming. Gene noted the by-laws stated the 1st is when it should take place, as the annual meeting is required to take place then. A brief discussion ensued regarding this matter. President Stolns stated the meeting would take place on April 1, 2006 with the same format and barbecue. Gene stated the service would start at 1:00. Again, a short discussion ensued regarding the luncheon and times. President Stolns, with confirmation from Gene, stated the times are 9:00 for the meeting; 11:00 for the lunch; and 1:00 for the service.

(Gerry Dewey arrived later in the meeting; her comments are added to the end of Larry David's report.) Gerry apologized for her tardiness. She stated Chief Mark Young, as President of Missouri Valley, will be the speaker for the Memorial service. Gerry had visited with John Walker, the Irish tenor from Lander, and he will

be singing Danny Boy. The Governor has also been invited, and the Chief's can ask him to say a few words if they like. Reverend Earl has moved, therefore, a letter was sent to Tim Overy, of Evanston, to see if they had a Chaplain. Larry David had suggested seeing if their Chaplain would like to come. Gerry had not received a response yet from Tim. Gerry stated Ron Smith had said the Campbell County Fire Department Quartet would also like to sing. They could do the National Anthem and maybe one other song if they want to. Gerry asked if that was in agreement with everyone. Gene Diedtrich stated it sounded great. Gerry stated those are currently the plans. Gerry reiterated the service will be April 1, 2006. Gerry stated everything will be finalized at around the first of 2006. If there are any suggestions, changes, etc., let her know.

Larry David asked Gerry if she had wrote everyone on the list for the past fallen firefighters. Gerry stated she had. All the families have all been notified. Marrieta McCornick, from Gillette, notifies everyone and she has all of the family names now. Gerry asked Larry if he had the pictures yet. Larry confirmed they had not arrived yet, but once received, work towards putting the names on the Memorial. Gerry stated she would order the plates for the pictures when the pictures are received. President Stolns asked if there was an issue of cost with any of the family members coming to the service. Gerry stated she had not talked to any of the family members regarding that issue. President Stolns stated if there were some concern on that, then possibly visiting with the Evanston contingency. Gerry stated Tim is the one who is working on dealing with the families. She continued, noting Chief Sarff had given that information to her.

6. **Constitution & Bylaws:** Gene stated there were no changes.
7. **Wyoming fire Academy:** Larry David gave this report. He stated most things went well over the year. There is going to be quite a bit of work done within the next couple of months. The lot will be taken care of, sidewalks will be poured outback, and the Academy will try to hook up to the City water so the lawns can be irrigated – the water will not cost anything. Some of the water bills were approximately \$400.00. Bill is going to move the shed out by the burn pit as it sits too close. The S & I classes are all set up thanks to Bill Hitt, who has done a great job. Larry stated he, Bill and Ken have been working together to get a lot of things done. They sorted through a lot of the old equipment. Larry stated there were still issues with the air conditioner in the new classroom, one unit has a compressor out and the repairman could not get it fixed so he was going to call the company.
8. **National Volunteer Fire Council:** Bill Hitt gave this report. He stated there was nothing to really report as far as the last meeting. The next meeting will be October 18, 2005 in Galveston, TX. Bill stated he had posted things on the bulletin board from some of the national organizations – the ICHIEFS , the National Volunteer Fire Council, etc., which have been involved with hurricane Katrina recovery. They are taking donations, which will go directly to firefighters, and there will be no administrative fees allowing the funds to pass straight through. Bill further stated some of the agenda items will be pointed at EMS pretty hard at the Council meeting. Most departments are doing some medical response with its' extrication or transport. The final report will come to the Council in TX. Bill stated if there were any concerns the Chiefs might have to let him know and he would bring it up at the meeting.

9. **IAFC VCOS:** Ron Smith, gave this report. He stated as a result of elections, there is a new board member from Montana. The annual symposium for the VCOS is November 10-13, 2005 in Clearwater, FL. Registration is open for that.
10. **Nominations & Elections:** No report given.
11. **Wyoming Association of Arson Investigators:** Ron Smith reported the Spring Arson Conference will be held in Gillette, April 20 & 21, 2006. Gordon Graham will be presenting on Friday, April 21st.
12. **Fire Marshal's Office:** Director Jim Narva gave this report. He thanked Lyle Armstrong for chairing the Certification Committee, as he had put in so much work on it. Jim also included all the other members, Rita Lee, staff and the Chiefs that allow their training officers to participate in it. Jim then moved on to the Training Study, stating it had been delivered to the Governor, Joint Corporations Committee. The Corporations Committee instructions were not to disseminate it until they had a chance to review it and officially be presented with it. That is what the Legislation stipulated that it go to them. There has been no budget request in for it because it hasn't gone through the committee. There are some no-cost and low-cost items that are in there that the FMO will start moving forward with, which will not take any Legislative approval. Ron Smith has been working with the Fire Instructor's group, to work in coordination with the trainers and get that up and running again. Facilitate communication a little bit better on some of those things. Vacancies – as you are all aware, Nancy Kubulanza submitted her resignation. Jim circulated a copy of that job description and stated if anyone knew of anyone interested to pass it on. It has also gone to the Wyoming Alumni Association and the National Fire Academy, it is going to have the State Fire Marshal's and State Training Directors around the country. Jim asked everyone to help spread the word on it, it is open until filled. He stated there is also a vacant trainer position – the one Ron Smith was in. It will be located (based on recommendations) in southwest Wyoming in our Green River Office. The idea is to have a trainer in each quadrant of the state. As fuel prices go up, it will mean less in expenses for travel. The FMO is also in the process of hiring a Fire Protection Engineer. The position will be placed in Cheyenne so that individual will be able to assist with more of the performance-based code issues. Each time we get more and more questions and they are more and more technical, and as the FMO has received the authority and blessing to move forward that way. This individual will bring some real expertise over and above what we currently have, so he/she will be available to help any of you on questions as issues come up. That will be coming soon. Jim digressed in respects to the trainer position, to include in each quadrant of the state the Buffalo fire investigator, Rich Hallcroft, will still be origin and cause, which is what he currently does, but he will be doing training as well. Legislatively, most everything was covered. There are two or three other bills that the Joint Corporations Committee has agreed to sponsor. It may not be of particular interest to the fire service, but one is Electrocutation Investigations. There have been quite a number of electrocutions and no one has the authority with any real expertise to go in and look at them. OSHA does go in and investigate it and the coroners have some jurisdiction over those investigations, but since we have the electrical expertise, that authority would go to the Chief Electrical Inspector. It is not to find cause to point a finger, it is so we will be able to say "Here is what happened", "This is how it was wired", etc., to help determine what happened. The Committee has been very supportive of that. Another one is Civil Penalties, and Expansion of the Electrical Board. One, which did not go through, was a licensing bill for fire suppression systems and the installers. Whether it was sprinkler systems, hood systems, fire alarm systems, etc.

The industry pushed it really hard, but it was not put together quick enough to be able to work through all of the issues before it went before the committee.

Jim continued his report with the WYOLINK project update. Bob Simons of Sheridan was contracted with through next June 30th for administrative support on this project. The big thing is there is a coverage statement that came out and there has been some confusion about what the system is going to be and how much it is going to cover. The intent of it, when it was initially developed, the statement still with the Public Safety Communications, is to shoot for that 95% coverage, and that is mobile coverage. Certainly, portable coverage will be enhanced in areas, but the bottom line is not to reduce service or capability. It is moving forward on that. There is a Commission meeting next week in Casper. The PILOT project is a bit delayed, but is expected to be finished by the end of October. What is holding it up is frequency acquisition issues. Jim stated he would answer any questions later on this project, or that Bob Simons would help.

Another issue is the PIPELINE project. It is through federal DOT in cooperation with the State Fire Marshal's Association. It is a training program for dealing with pipeline emergencies. We all have numerous pipelines running through our areas. The FMO sent one trainer, Phil Oakes, to a "Train the Trainer". We are going to try and get some additional "Train the Trainers" and this curriculum available to every fire department. All you need to do is request it from us. It has the Instructor's program, there are portions for the student, the workbook, a textbook – it is a really good curriculum.

Strategic Plan, which Jim had also passed out, was required as a State agency to produce. It is straightforward and simple, but a lot of work to arrive at. The WSFO had to ask three questions: (1) What is it that we do; (2) How well do we do it; and then ultimately (3) Is anybody better off? And if they are not better off, then why were we doing it? So we had to look through it and identify our six primary functions and some measures. Incidentally, all of the budget requests must be tied to the strategic plan. So if there are any requests, it needs to be tied to that strategic plan.

Jim continued, with updates on a couple of the publications, and if it had not been received by everyone, to let him know. The Line of Duty Death Manual (LODD) by the Training Division is in a notebook, with a CD inside. It is a step-by-step guide as to what to do if there is a LODD in a department. It arose out of the situation in Evanston and hopefully, we will never have to use it, but there is a process that you can go through, with added resources. Another one that Ken Metzler has been working on with Phil Oakes, is the Fire Service General Operations for Training manual. It can be used by any fire department to implement record keeping, how to structure training, a training division, or record it and get a training program going.

One last thing on dealing with Legislation, from last year, the Firefighter's Dependant Tuition bill, passed to where dependants of a firefighter killed in the line of duty, would get tuition at the University, or a community college. There was some concern because the bill did not go into effect until July 1st, that the dependants of Robert Henderson would not be covered. So an Attorney General's opinion was asked for and they made a determination that those kids will be covered. That is good news that we do not need to go back and try to fix it retroactively. The legal opinion came

down that it is when the dependant requests that tuition, that the bill needed to be in effect. So there are several other firefighters who have been killed in the past number of years, who have dependants who are eligible. So if they are under the age of 22, now that that law is in effect, they would be eligible for dependant's tuition as well. So it really turned out as good as you can make out of a bad situation. Again, Jim stated he would be available for any questions.

13. **State Forestry:** Bill Hitt gave this report. He stated Ray Weidenhaft apologized for not being at the meeting, however, there was a conflict. Ray had not provided bill with any instruction as to anything to report. Bill continued, stating if there were any questions for Ray he would be glad to see Ray got them. Ron Smith asked Bill if he knew what was happening with the helicopter manager. Bill stated Chris is doing that. There was a personnel change on the helicopter, it is covered and it will be backed up by other qualified operators. Gene Diedtrich asked if a report would be given on that. Bill said yes. Bill continued, stating that the helicopter has been busy, there were a couple of fires that everyone at the fire thought that if the resource had not been available that quickly, they would still be on the fire. Upon initial attack, it has really helped our Wyoming firefighters, plus federal agencies in cooperation. It has been requested at a couple of fires, but they don't fly very good in 50 mph winds, so it was delayed in getting there because they couldn't take off. For the most part, there has been nothing but good comments, other than people wanting it at the same time.
14. **Office of Homeland Security:** No report was given.
15. **Emergency Medical Service:** Jim Mayberry gave this report. He stated he would be brief, as they had been living out of boxes and without a phone line for approximately three weeks due to the remodeling that is taking place. At the annual trauma conference in Cheyenne, there were several awards given out. This year Robert Henderson was honored with the EMT of the Year award; State Auditor Max Maxfield presented the award. We also honored Dave Simkins of the Cheyenne Fire & Rescue as the training coordinator of the year for the work that he did with the Cheyenne Pilot Paramedic Program. Chief Alvord, Cheyenne Fire and Rescue put on a get-together, which was well attended by well over 150 people. They footed the bill for all of it, and it was appreciated. Chief Scott, Campbell County Fire Department, was the keynote speaker on Friday morning. Next year the conference will be in Cheyenne the fourth week in August at Little America. Mark Young thanked Jim Mayberry for his work and support.
16. **Wyoming Alliance on Drug Endangered Children:** President Stolns reported on this issue. The second meeting was held, and after everyone had worked on their projects, it was determined that nothing had really been accomplished other than getting started and it was going to turn into a much larger project than first expected. President Stolns stated he was not sure if there would be anything prepared for Legislative session this time; it appears it may not be an organized unit by that time. There are some good policies and procedures, so hopefully if anyone is out dealing with a fire and would happen to come across some drug-endangered children, there will be better opportunities in making sure they get assistance. The next meeting is in October 2005.

VI. **Old Business:** No issues were discussed.

VII. **New Business:**

1. **The new Chief in Sheridan:** Patrick Reitz is the new Fire Chief for Sheridan Fire & Rescue Department.
2. **Mid-winter Meeting:** President Stolns stated anyone/group wanting a slot for time during the mid-winter meeting needs to bring it forward so it can be published in a timely manner. He then asked Gerry if she was going to want to have a meeting with her group. Gerry stated they had been meeting by phone.
3. **Wyoming Fire Service Instructor's Association (WFSIA):** Ron Smith stated this group is in the process of organizing into an active group again. He further remarked the WFSIA would be asking the Chiefs for "a place at the table" once it is organized. The Fire Marshal's Office hosted a meeting at Wheatland Fire School. President Stolns asked Ron to let him know how that goes, and he can add it to the Agenda. Discussion ensued regarding a class for mid-winter, however, the air conditioner running made the discussion inaudible.

Meetings Scheduled for January 2006 are as follows:

THURSDAY, 01/05/06

1:00 pm – Fire Marshal Certification Committee Meeting @ WFA

1:00 – 2:00 pm – Wyoming Fire Academy Foundation Board Lunch @ The Bull Restaurant

2:00 pm – Wyoming Fire Academy Foundation Board Meeting @ WFA

6:00 pm - Public Fire Educators @ WFA

6:00 pm - Volunteer Fireman's Pension Board @ The Bull Restaurant

FRIDAY, 01/06/06

9:00 am – 10:45 pm - Legislative Committee Meeting @ WFA

11:00 am – 12:00 pm – Review/Discussion Reference the Training Study Approved by the Legislation and Handled Through the Fire Marshal's Office @ WFA

1:30 pm – Wyoming Fire Chiefs Meeting @ WFA

3:00 pm – Wyoming State Fireman's Association @ WFA

6:00 pm – Wyoming Fire Service Instructors Association @ WFA

Meeting was adjourned by President Stolns.