

Wyoming Fire Chiefs' Association
Meeting Minutes
January 8, 2016
Wyoming Fire Academy

Call to order: The meeting was called to order by President Munger at 12:29pm.

Roll call: Board members present were President Don Munger – Newcastle, 1st Vice President Scott Hannum – Rawlins, 2nd Vice President Chris Kocher – Worland, and Secretary/Treasurer Gene Diedrich – Newcastle. Forty-three members were present.

Minutes of last meeting: President Munger asked for the approval of the minutes as sent out for the December 9th, 2015 meeting.

Motion #1: Craig Haslam motioned to accept the minutes.

Second: Brent Godfrey

Motions Carries.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer, Gene Diedrich reported the following for the dates of December 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015. Beginning Cash \$32,449.01, Deposits of \$3600.00, Expenses of \$0.00, leaving an ending balance of \$36,049.01. Recruiting and Retention Grant Income restriction is \$121.05 and the last account was \$16770.34 leaving a total restricted amount of \$16891.39, which leaves an unrestricted balance of \$19,157.62.

Motion #2: Jerry Munger motioned to accept the treasurer's report.

Second: Jim Prell

Motion Carries.

Association Bills: Gene Diedrich reported on the following bills.

Motion #3: Gene Diedrich made a motion to pay the dues for NVFC in the amount of \$250.00. The State Fireman's Association will pay the other half of the total \$500.00.

Second: Jeff Kehl

Motion Carries.

Motion #4: Gene Diedrich made a motion to pay \$4500.00 to assist with the lobbying effort in Cheyenne.

Second: Jerry Munger

Motion Carries.

There was a discussion on whether to continue the dues of \$350.00 for Wyoming Association of Municipalities. Rick Cozad was appointed by President Munger to be the WAM liaison.

Motion #5: Gene Diedrich made a motion to pay the \$350.00 dues for WAM.

Second: Nick Hudson

Motion Carries.

Motion #6: Gene Diedrich made a motion to leave the WFCA dues the same, \$100.00 for Chief's and \$30.00 for other members.

Second: Jim Prell

Motion Carries.

Motion #7: Gene Diedrich made a motion to pay for the hotel and flight for the chief's representative to go to the Missouri Valley IAFC meeting in March.

Second: Craig Haslam

Motion Carries.

Presentations: Lorraine Werner & Chad Rupe from Rural Development in Casper discussed the Finance and Grant program that they offer. They work mostly with rural communities. The program helps with housing, business, and utility projects for population of 20,000 and smaller. They have 14.5 million to spend. They will help finance sustainable projects, including construction, repairs, and improvements to name a few. There is a 45 day turn around. Some communities have put together a Joint Power Boards. The facilities are built and owned by the JPB. The districts lease the facilities and at the end of the agreement the district buys the facility for \$1.00.

Committee Reports:

Missouri Valley Division, IAFC: Craig Haslam reported that the Missouri Valley Division conference is July 20-22, 2016 in Springfield, MO. If you are interested in going contact Craig or go to the website. During a conference call it was discussed whether the divisions were necessary. The Missouri Valley Division represents our area very well. They help support the smaller areas and the wildland. Some of the leadership may be contacted by the IFC with questions about divisions.

Wyoming Council on Fire Prevention and Electrical Safety: Dan Johnson stated that was nothing new since the last meeting.

IAFC-VCOS: Ron Smith said that there was a conference in November in Florida. The next one is the Symposium of the West in Reno, NV in May. They are working on a one day ISO conference.

National Volunteer Fire Council: Rusty Dunham reported that they have been pushing the new “Find the Firefighter in You” recruitment and retention program. You can sign up for free so you can market your departments with flyers and posters. Joe Lugano has done a PSA for the program. There are posters for a suicide prevention campaign called “Share the Load”. Thank you to Mark Young and the L.A.S.T Team for helping out. We have signed into the state membership which gives us the dues per firefighter at a 50% rate which comes to \$15.00 a year. If you are not getting e-mails from Rusty please contact him so he can get you on the list.

WYO-Link Update: Brian Eggelston said that a committee has been put together to discuss and work with the Governor’s office to come to a consensus on the possibility of user fees being charged or not but at least for the next year the cost is covered.

WFCA Legislative: Jeff Kehl stated that the new session begins February 8th, 2016. It is a good year to stay low and just watch while maintaining contact in Cheyenne. You can call or e-mail Jeff or Russ if you want more information.

WFCA Residential Sprinkler Committee: Mark Young noted that they are here to educate people in residential sprinklers. If you would like to host a meeting contact them. They believe that homebuyers would take the fire sprinkler option at the time of construction if they are educated in residential sprinklers. There have been side by side demonstrations around the state with the use of grant money. If you want to learn more about the coalition contact the committee or go to the website, firesprinklerinitiative.org. There is a 13D Class in installation in March at Respond Wyoming. You can get certified as an installer.

Wyoming Volunteer Fire Pension Fund Report: Tracy Brown reported that the total number of participates is 6979, the termination number is 1939, and the number of deaths was 281. Survivor pensions came to 184 with retirees numbering 1086. Monthly pension totals were \$432,107.64 with the smallest pension being \$44.88 and the largest pension being \$719.70. Employee contribution totaled \$314,514.61 and premium tax contribution of \$1,309,124.00. The total income from investments was \$610,528.96. the expenses of the pension are as follows; retiree benefits totaling \$4,378,583.75 and refunds at \$33,425.44. The total fund balance is \$71,704,880.99.

Wyoming Fire Academy Training Report: Ian Kraft reported that 39 fires were investigated in 2015. There are classes set for the academy thru November of 2016. You can register for these classes at wyofirecourses.com. The academy is going to be sending out a newsletter every quarter to keep you informed about what is going on at the academy and around the state with fire schools and conferences. There have been 524 classes and 10 events in 2015. Between the trainers and the academy there were 5966 students. Class hours totaled 2996 which is 34,117 total man hours. There were 982 written examinations issued which is up 16% from 2014 with a 74% passing rate. The skills examination number was 39 for 2015 which is up 30% and the exams were administered to 191 candidates. Total certificates issued were 803 and 339 of those were nationally accredited which is way up from 2014. The trainer conducted 53 meet and greets this year. The old burn building has been refurbished into a cold smoke and search trainer along with a breaching trainer for Law Enforcement. We have gotten a HazMat MC331 tank car simulator mobile prop. This prop is one of many that the academy is adding to the HazMat training. There is a cooperative effort with DCI and fire investigators. When a DFPEs investigator is dispatched a DCI investigator will also be sent to assist. Investigators are on call 24/7. The DCI dispatch number is 307-777-7545. In 2016 the academy will be revitalizing the drill tower, more HazMat training props and a HazMat training field for all aspect of HazMat training, rail car prop, and internal improvements. Respond Wyoming is March 30-31 & April 1, 2016 at CWC. It is an All Hazards conference with 6 tracks. Mark Young stated that one of the tracks is Fire Prevention. The academy is working on getting an IAFF 80 hour HazMat Tech class sometime near the end of June, 2016. Ian is also working on getting housing at CWC for the students in the class.

Section Reports

Wyoming Firefighters Certification Committee: Rick Cozad stated that they are updating Fire Officer, ADO, Fire Investigator, and Inspector. The L-280 class is an acceptable class to take instead of LSIII. Jesson Vasey has taken Mike Bournazian's seat. You can get recertified to the current standard as long as you meet all the requirements.

Wyoming Association of Fire Marshals: Nick Hudson reported that their goal is to provide training, networking and educating the public with safety and prevention trainings. WCBO is celebrating their 40th anniversary in July. They have been corresponding with some Legislators on the fire sprinkler initiative. The spring meeting has not been set yet. They are an ICC & IFMA affiliated chapter.

State Fire Association Reports

Wyoming State Firemen's Association: Buddy Armstrong announced that the 84th Annual WSFA Conference is in Riverton on June 16-18, 2016. Everyone is invited to attend. If you want raffle tickets to sell contact Buddy Armstrong or a member of the WSFA. Some of the prizes in the raffle are; AR-223, Honda Generator, \$500.00 Cash, Half a Beef, and a Yeti Cooler.

Wyoming State Rural Fire Association: Willy Watsabaugh reported that a task force has been put together to discuss a clearing house for all certifications and qualifications and work with WOHS, WSF, and SFMO. He asked that a representative from each association attend the meetings of the other associations so everyone can be on the same page. It was discussed that a letter should be offered to the WSF & SFMO to work towards one place to report. Cyrus is going to help with this. It was mentioned that if the WFCA & the RFA met on the same day it would be better for everyone. Becoming a member of WAHA was discussed.

Motion #9: Chris Kocher motioned to pay the \$25.00 fee and become a member of WAHA.

Second: Brent Godfrey

Motion Carries.

Ron Smith was appointed as a liaison to WAHA.

L.A.S.T. Team Update: Mark Young stated that there are 65 members in L.A.S.T. The Elk tag fund raiser is ongoing. The tag from Game and Fish Commissioner Klouda is being sent to the wildlife Foundation to be auctioned off. They are close to getting the 2nd Elk tag and the Governor is still deciding if he will donate a Bison tag. The L.A.S.T. Team supports retiree firefighters, police, EMT's, and active duty and non-line of duty firefighters. They are outfitting the trailer that was donated. Thank you to Teton County Volunteer Fire Departments and Associations that came up with the money to get the trailer. The trailer is in honor of Cecil Lynch of Teton County who was killed in the line of duty. His name is on the side of the trailer. Thank you for all your donations. Some recent donation were from Fire Advisory Board, Tensleep VFD, WFCA, Rawlins FD, and Rock Springs firefighters to name a few. Randy Vickers mentioned that the Lighthouse program is collecting Class A Uniforms for burials.

Wyoming Emergency Response Commission: Don Huber said that they have 24 members currently. The next meeting is March 27 & 28, 2016 in Riverton. Along with the commission members the EPA and FEMA attended all the meetings. They meet 2 to 3 times a year.

State Agency Reports

Wyoming State Forestry: Bill Crapser reported that there is a maintenance workshop on February 19-21, 2016 at least 12 people need to sign up. The shop project is still in the works. Out of the six positions that are open they were approved to fill three of them.

Fire Marshal's Office: Lanny Applegate stated that the Fire Prevention Inspector position in Worland has been filled. If the upgrade to Firehouse survives the budget the SFMO will pay \$20,000.00 of the \$40,000.00 to upgrade and WSF will pay the other \$20,000.00. Last year's Pro-Board audit went well and Rita Lee received national recognition and is going to Orlando, Florida to the national Pro-Board meeting. Mark Young reported that there is a new national initiative called Vision 20/20 which is a fire prevention program. Every 2 to 3 years there is a national symposium the next one is in Fairfax, Virginia in March, 2016 and Chris Kocher has been nominated to go for the SFMO and Dan Johnson is going for the WFCA. The Fallen Firefighters Memorial is April 2, 2016 at 1:00pm. The memorial is the day after Respond Wyoming. Two names will be added to the memorial this year. Thank you to the L.A.S.T. Team for all their work.

Wyoming Office of Homeland Security: Guy Cameron reported that there are 8 Regional Response Teams. Compensation for the volunteer firefighter on response teams has increased to; HMA - \$20.00 hr., HMO - \$31.00 hr., HMT - \$40.00 hr., HMO Section Chief - \$46.00 hr., and Incident Commander - \$54.00 hr. They are looking into having a grant pay for physicals for the HazMat teams. There is a new chief from Gillette. Thank you to all the Regional Response Teams. WOHS has been working on filling the training gap by offering more classes to help get ready for the all hazards. There is going to a qualification component. They are researching other states to get a model for a qualification system. There was a discussion.

Continuing Business: Ian Kraft stated that there is no change in the Chief's Grant it still ends January 30, 2016. All expenditures need to be in by January 30, 2016 including receipts and/or invoice when the expenditures are sent in. There is no news on the Chief's Symposium.

Shad Cooper said that there was going to be a Task Force meeting right after the WFCA meeting.

New Business: Rusty Dunham explained that the NVFC was going from 1 Director to 2 Directors with only 1 vote. Eric Siwik is stepping down from his Directors seat. Eric Quinney was appointed as the second Director by President Munger.

Motion #9: Craig Haslam motioned to leave the decision of the appointment for the 2nd Directors position to President Munger.

Second: Russ Wenke

Motion Carries.

The WFCA April meeting is an election meeting. President Munger is not running. Scott Hannum the 1st Vice President and 2nd Vice President Chris Kocher will move up. This leaves the 2nd Vice President seat open.

The Fire Advisory Board will have a meeting on April 4, 2016 at 4:00pm, location to be determined.

The Certification Committee will meet on April 1, 2016 at 2:00pm at the WFA.

Adjournment:

Motion #9: Brent Godfrey motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Second: Craig Haslam

Motion Carries.

WFCA Meeting Schedule:

The spring meeting will be in conjunction with the Fallen Fire Fighter Memorial on April 2nd, 2016 at 9:00am at the Riverton Fire Station #1, Lunch to follow.

The summer meeting will be in conjunction with the WY State Firemen's Convention and Tournament in Riverton on June 15th, 2016 at Station #1 at 3:00pm.