

**WYOMING FIRE CHIEFS' ASSOCIATION
VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 9, 2021**

Call to Order: *President Byron Mathews called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.*

Pledge of Allegiance: *President Mathews led the group in reciting the Pledge.*

Motions from the Floor: *All motions that were made during the meeting were passed unanimously.*

Attendance: *Had 32 individuals on board today.*

Minutes of Prior Meeting: *Motion by Jim Wamsley to approve the minutes of the August 22, 2020 Meeting as emailed to the membership. Motion seconded by Lanny Applegate.*

Treasurers Report: *Treasurer Gene Diedtrich reported the Statement of Cash Position for the period August 1, 2020 Through December 31, 2020. He reported beginning cash of \$24,870, deposits of \$26,444, disbursements of \$31,378, leaving an ending cash balance of \$19,935. \$3,252 is restricted to the LAST Checking account, and the 2015 SAFER grant. Leaving an unrestricted balance of \$16,683. Motion by Shad Cooper to approve the report, seconded by Craig Haslam.*

Presentation: *Bob Sullivan, CFPS – Southwest Regional Director/NFPA, currently living in Broomfield, CO. joined in on the Virtual network and spoke about the NFPA and the benefits that are offered through the NFPA. His email address is bsullivan@nfpa.org, cell phone 720-237-1752, website www.nfpa.org. The NFPA has many, many items of interest to help the fire service, go to the website and view all it has. He is going to provide detail to us regarding his presentation, when I get it, I will forward to the membership.*

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Missouri Valley Division, IAFC: *Craig Haslam reported that the plan is still to have the Cheyenne meeting in June of 2021, it may be moved to September. The board is meeting in a couple months and the decision will be made. The 2022 meeting is currently planned to be held in Independence, Missouri.*

Special District Association: *Craig Haslam reported that he is watching Colorado, the Fire Districts down there are navigating through some tax issues. He stated that one of the main things the association provides is online training for all, so the districts can meet the statutory requirements of Wyoming.*

Wyoming Council on Fire Prevention and Electrical Safety: *Dan Johnson reported that the Council has heard no appeals nor are none pending at this time. They are moving forward on adopting the 2021 codes.*

IAFC VCOS: *JR Cox reported that the "Symposium in the Sun" scheduled for November 12-15, 2020 had been canceled and that a Virtual Symposium is scheduled to begin on January 12, 2021, it is free of charge, good chance to get some great training and to attend*

a conference. Here is the link to register for the symposium. <https://www.eventscribe.com/2020/VCOSsun/aaStatic.asp?SFP=WUJOU0INSkFANTA20A>.

National Volunteer Fire Council: Rusty Dunham reported that the NVFC is going to have their fall 2021 conference in Jackson Hole, WY., scheduled for October 13-15, 2021. The last NVFC meeting was spent working on COVID 19 issues and did training of the handling of dry ice as that is part of the vaccine storage. Anheiser-Busch is once again doing the free water to fire departments service, if you are interested, get on the NVFC website and the info is available.

NFPA: Nick Hudson reported that the NFPA has a low of public education virtual training available, lot of training and education available on the Coronavirus, he stated that Fire Prevention week will look a lot different this year. He indicated that if you are doing a program you really like, let him know, so he can pass it on to others. He advocates getting on the website and pursue what is available.

Wyoming Fallen Firefighter Memorial: Mark Young stated the annual Wyoming Fallen Firefighter Memorial is currently scheduled for August 21, 2021 at 1:30 PM at the Wyoming Fire Academy in Riverton, WY.

Wyo-Link: President Mathews reported for Mark Harshman. There are some departments in Wyoming using the 4.9 bandwidth spectrum. WYDOT is managing the 4.9 spectrum and if you want to use it, have to go through them. It is regarded by most as reserving the spectrum for Public Safety. Have 2 more Tower sites completed, one more scheduled for next month. Funding of Wyo-Link has and is an on-going problem.

Legislative Committee: Byron Mathews reported that the Wyoming Legislature is scheduled to convene on January 12, 2021, install members, have Governor Gordon's State of the State address, and then move to postpone the session until a later date. The Hotel rooms have been canceled for 2021, will address as an ongoing issue. Lanny Applegate reported that both he and Byron Mathews joined the Capital Club, it was felt to be a better outcome if both were members, Cost was \$200 each for a total of \$400.

WFCR Residential Sprinkler Committee: President Mathews indicated its working, nothing more to report.

Wyoming Volunteer Fire, EMT and Search and Rescue Pension: Lanny Applegate reported That the Fund Balance at October 31, 2020 was \$98,436,663. Investment return for 2019 was approximately 18.5%, the return for 2020 is approximately 7%. The next board meeting is to be a Virtual meet on January 20, 2021.

Wyoming Fire Academy Training Report: Ian Kraft, Training Director, reported that the Academy had a great year in spite of the COVID restrictions. He noted that the 2020 annual Training Division report will be forthcoming in the near future. The Training Division conducted 163 classes during 2020, had 2,686 total students, issued 789 certifications, were involved in 47 Fire Investigations. The Academy building is fully sprinkled now, new ceiling tile installed in all the facility. The Academy has one trainer

position open. Eric Siwik is the newly appointed training coordinator. Ian reported that they are in the process of getting a different on-line testing vendor, so will soon be able to test on-line again. The Academy is always looking for ways to develop and improve. A new U-Tube system is being worked on and will be a reality very soon. Working on a new callout procedure for the investigators, which will consist of a single telephone line going directly to the investigators, from the call initiator. Will be completed in the not too distant future.

2015 and 2019 SAFER Grant Reports: Gene Diedtrich reported that the 2015 grant expired on December 2, 2020. Have 90 days to submit funding requests for eligible grant items which occurred during the period of performance (12-1-2016/12-2-2020). Used about \$560 thousand of the \$978 thousand available. The 2019 grant is for \$458 Thousand, my contact for the grant indicated that the money is available when it is needed. This also is a 4-year grant. One thing that occurred on the 2019 grant, had to come up with a non-discrimination agreement for the Chiefs, before they would approve the grant, I filled out a Civil Rights Evaluation form, prepared a Civil Rights and Civil Liberty document for the Chiefs, and came up with a non-discrimination form for the viewing of those involved with or doing business with the Chiefs. Motion by Sam Wilde and seconded by Jim Wamsley to adopt the Non-Discrimination document. The 2019 grant application was for \$998K, FEMA approved \$458K. Biggest cut was in the training allotment, a discussion ensued, a motion was made by JR Fox and seconded by Jim Wamsley to apply for an additional grant here in 2021. JR Fox will head up the grant committee and allow him to assemble the committee reaching out to various members and Mr. Kraft.

Commented [MOU1]:

SECTION REPORTS:

Wyoming Firefighter Certification Committee: Rusty Dunham reported that the committee met on January 7, 2021. Brian Coe is the new president of the group. Chris Kocher and Rusty Dunham terms are up. Brian Coe and Jake Ribordy will review the applicants for the 2 vacant positions and give the recommendations of Direct Reed to fill. The board had a busy meeting and accomplished a lot. President Mathews thanked the termed-out individuals for their service and a job well done.

Wyoming Association of Fire Marshals: Mark Young reported for Mark Doyle, Association chairperson. He reported the group held their annual meeting via a webinar, the result was very successful. The mission of the group is to provide peer support to one another and educate the group. Mark Young is the membership chairman, there are currently 50 members, annual dues are \$35, which will also get you into the annual meeting, there's room for more members.

Industrial Fire Chiefs: Don Steveson reported that the group has decided to go with the Jones and Bartlett format for their testing, currently working on getting the test banks to review and sent to the state for review and approval for the new State system.

STATE ASSOCIATION REPORTS:

Wyoming State Firemen's Association: Robert Munger, current WSFA president, reported that the 88th annual convention of the WSFA is slated to be held at Newcastle on June 17-19, 2021. A big effort is being made to make it happen. The raffle that was to happen last year is being carried over to this year, buying a ticket helps the WY. Fire Service. Robert

indicated there is a possibility of a baseball tourney that weekend in Newcastle, so rooms may be hard to come by, reserve early.

Wyoming State Rural Firemen's Association: *Shad Cooper thanked everyone for their patience due to the cancellation of the Rural Fire meeting scheduled for Pinedale last month. The board is currently reviewing and evaluating the options to reschedule that meeting. Stay tuned.*

L.A.S.T. TEAM UPDATE: *Mark Young reported that the Team had 15 missions in 2020, expending approximately \$3,500, annually budget approximately \$10,000. Lanny Applegate is helping with fundraising for the Team, and has people assisting him. That group has been successful in obtaining a couple Wyoming Game and Fish Commissioner Elk hunting permits for 2021. Hopefully the funds obtained would support the LAST Team for several years. Lanny proposed that the group would set up a group to oversee the sale of the permits consisting of himself, Mark Young, Dan Johnson and Gene Diedtrich. Wyoming LAST has a trailer, that has gear in it to support various missions and have agreed to loan the trailer to neighboring states if the need arises. Mark Young talked about the Jerry Behrens Fund, which is a fund that administers aid to the Fire Service. I have sent information to all of you before and also today about this fund. Wyoming LAST was going to hold a Honor Guard Symposium in Pinedale, the symposium had to be canceled due to lack of participants due to the pandemic. A motion was made by Jim Wamsley and seconded by Lanny Applegate to support President Mathews thoughts on forming a marketing team to promote the sale of the two Elk hunting tags. The marketing team is to consist of the 4 members proposed by Lanny, if additional assistance to market the tags is needed, the team is to approach the membership. The west side of the main Fire Academy received a painting a few months back, all the cost including paint and labor were borne by a gentleman named Andrew Titus, with Wild Mountain Painting, our thanks to him for his labor and generosity.*

307 CRR: *Mark Young reported that the committee is a state-wide team that is committed to install home medical oxygen fire prevention devices by year 2025. Mark Norford recently prepared an AFT grant request, and was successful in obtaining a \$100,000 grant to start the program. Full cost to do the entire state will be about \$300,000. Nick Hudson stated that recent information came out on NFPA Community Risk Assessment Pilot Project, that 3 Wyoming departments were going to be involved, as follows: Jackson Hole Fire EMS, Yellowstone Park Structure Department and the Lander Volunteer Fire Department. Congratulations to the 3 departments.*

Wyoming Firefighter Cancer Support Network: *Shad Cooper reported that the Wyoming Firefighter Cancer Support Network currently has 15-member departments, the Network supported 3 missions during 2020. Training to the members of the Network is a vital part of the group. 2020 had a great start in that a half dozen in person classes were held, before the pandemic occurred. The National support network will be offering an online support class virtually in the near future. Shad will keep us posted as to the time. The Firefighter Cancer Support Network (FCSN) is partnering with the IAFF to promote the Firefighter Cancer Awareness Month in January 2021. Each week in January focuses on a specific firefighter cancer related theme. Fire departments are encouraged to use information and tools from the FCSN website to prevent and reduce occupational related*

cancer. Additional information can be found on the FCSN website: <https://firefightercancersupport.org/firefighter-cancer-awareness-month/> Shad and Byron discussed a possible Virtual training within the Chiefs' group, this is currently being pursued.

STATE AGENCY REPORTS:

Wyoming State Forestry: Anthony Schultz reported for the Agency. He stated that they were in the process of filling a mechanic position, due to the loss of a long-time employee. Trainer Ryan Deford has been working on putting together classes, and has a "boatload" of virtual "S" classes lined up. BFA process is in full swing, there is cash available. With all the budget cutting going on, the Forestry has been able to retain all their employees, with the help of some Federal grants. Master Agreement discussions are on-going and continuing, there is a meeting scheduled at the end of this month, to hopefully complete the Agreement.

Fire Marshal's Office: Director Reed reported that they are very happy that the Fire Academy is now fully sprinkled. The NFA agreement to provide the office with the side by side trailer will not happen in 2021. Colorado is in the process of getting theirs refurbished and have offered it up to Wyoming for demonstrations. Colorado recently received authority to demonstrate their safety driving equipment across state lines, and have agreed to bring the unit to Cheyenne sometime in the near future to demonstrate. A representative from WYDOT contacted him recently about a Federal Act that effects bridges and load limits across the Nation, I have forwarded to you the information relative to the signage rules that Director Reed forwarded to me. Budget wise, the department is losing some of it's funding, they have moved some people into special revenue departments of the office, these revenue funds may be in trouble down the road because of the increased burden, and the inability to increase revenues. The office is setting up a meeting of the Medal of Valor and the Hall of Fame committee in early February, if you have nominations to either, please complete the nominating form off of the Fire Marshal web site. Director Reed expressed his gratitude to Rusty and Chris for their many years on the Certification Committee.

CONTINUING BUSINESS:

Pre-Fallen Firefighters Memorial Walk: Director Reed reported that the "Bricks are There", completion of the Memorial Walk has been slowed by the pandemic.

Convenience Fees: Gene Diedtrich proposed a Convenience Fee to cover the cost of the use credit cards for our membership dues. After some discussion, a motion was made by Craig Haslam and seconded by Jim Wamsley that a charge of 4% be made, and the total be rounded up to the nearest dollar.

NEW BUSINESS:

Covid 19 and the Future: President Mathews addressed the Covid challenge. Thanked all for the work that has been done from the Fire Service and the work that is left to do. In closing, his remark was "the goal is to get back to Face to Face".

2021 Membership Dues: Gene Diedtrich reported that January is membership dues time, Gene made a motion to leave the dues the same as they were for 2020, \$100 for each Chief, and \$30 for each additional member. Motion was seconded by Donnie Munger.

Retirement System Plan A: The Wyoming Retirement System distributed a letter to all Plan A members indicating that they need to take action to prevent running out of funds. The present plan will be bankrupt in about 5 years. Director Reed has offered to share Plan A information with Governor Gordon and the Chief of Staff in a planned meeting he has with them.

Cheyenne Fire Chief: The new Fire Chief for the City of Cheyenne John Kopper joined our meeting. Glad to have him on board, and certainly welcome him to our Association.

FUTURE MEETING DATES:

- April 10, 2021 – Where, When and How to be decided later.
- June 16, 2021 – Newcastle Fire Hall at 3:00 PM. (welcome to the WSFA Convention and Tournament June 17-19, 2021. Rooms may be at a premium, as there is a Baseball tournament going on in Newcastle, that same weekend.