

WYOMING FIRE CHIEFS' ASSOCIATION
MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 14, 2023
RIVERTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Call to order – Pledge of Allegiance: Meeting called to order by President Quinney at 3:00 PM. With the Pledge cited.

Roll Call – There were 20 members and guests present.

Motions – All motions made and seconded were unanimously passed.

Minutes of previous meetings. The meeting minutes of the Joint Meeting held with the Wyoming Rural State Firemen's Association on December 1, 2022, in Casper and the Annual meeting of the Wyoming Fire Chiefs' Association on April 1, 2023, were approved as emailed to the membership. Motion by Jim Wamsley, seconded by Craig Haslam.

Treasurer's Report – Gene Diedrich reported on the Statement of Cash for the period March 1, 2023, through May 31, 2023. Beginning cash balance of \$63,830, deposits of \$9,370, disbursements of \$11,998. Leaving an ending balance of \$61,202, with a restriction of \$29,098 for the LAST Fund and the 2 Safer Grant Funds, leaving an unrestricted cash balance of \$32,104. Motion by Bob Glasson, seconded by Lanny Applegate.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Missouri Valley Division, IAFC – Craig Haslam reported the division was having a meeting next week June 19-24 at Fargo, N.D. Chief Wamsley reported that there was nothing to report at this time from the IAFC.

Special District Association – Craig Haslam reported that training requirement for board members of all districts starts on July 1, 2023, is required to be completed by next nears budget time, no later than 6-30-2024. You can access the website by going to the Wyoming Department of Audit and clicking Wyoming Special Districts. He recommended doing it as a group, takes approximately one hour.

Wyoming Council on Fire Prevention and Electrical Safety – Dan Johnson reported that there had been no activity since our last meeting.

IAFC VCOS – This year's meeting is scheduled for Clearwater, Florida in November. Please check the website for information.

National Volunteer Fire Council – Eric Quinney reported that he and Larry Erdmann represent Wyoming on the Council. Eric is planning on attending a training summit in Oklahoma City. Recommends registering with the National Cancer Registry, by getting on the council's website. Eric reported that Anheuser Busch are providing free water delivered to firefighters, go to the NVFC website, click Anheuser Busch to participate. He stated there are a lot of training benefits available on the website. Recommends all fire personnel getting involved and joining the NVFC. He indicated this fall's meeting will be held in Cooperstown, NY.

National Fire Protection Association – Nick Hudson reported that the NFPA conference starts on Sunday June 19. He indicated the public education section are gathering a day early to communicate and get to know each other better. If you are planning on attending the conference, there are free passes available to the EXPO. A new overview of training class is going to be a future offering, it's about a 2-hour class. There is a lot of good reading on the blog section of the website. A lot of training resources are available on the website.

Wyoming Fallen Firefighter Memorial – Dan Johnson reported that this year's Memorial and 2023 Hall of Fame Award ceremonies will be held on Saturday August 19, 2023. With the Hall of Fame ceremony commencing at 10:30 AM and the Fallen Firefighter ceremony commencing at 1:30 PM. The Committee does have a big tent reserved for both ceremonies. Dan also reported that he had received no input on moving the ceremonies back to an April date in the future.

Dennis Estes, the Chair of the Hall of Fame committee reported that there are 3 new inductees to the Hall of Fame this year, they are Glen Hill – Green River, Jerry Munger – Wheatland and Rich Hauber from Gillette.

Wyo-Link Update – Chairman Mark Harshman couldn't attend the meeting and didn't have a report. Chief Wamsley stated that Wyo-Link is moving away from the fake invoicing to departments. The Legislature did approve future funding for Wyo-Link in the future.

Legislative Committee – Chairman Lanny Applegate reviewed the results of the 2023 Legislature session. Shad Cooper reported on the proposed Firefighter Retention and Recruitment legislation which was the result of the fire service promoting their thoughts to the Legislature Management Council, who then assigned the project to the Joint Labor, Health, and Social Services Committee. The Committee agreed to have the LSO draft legislation on the following topics.

1. Creating eligibility for volunteers eligible to participate in the Wyoming State health insurance program.
2. Allowing employees of the State of Wyoming to have 24 hours off for volunteering.
3. Create a State Volunteer marketing program and funding it with funding.
4. Create a designated hunting week each year for volunteers.
5. Creating a tax exemption that is equal to veterans.
6. Allow an employer to rehire a career firefighter who has retired without suspending the retired members pension benefit. Note this legislation was by Plan "B" personnel.

The committee meets on June 23, 2023, at 9:40 am to continue discussion on the proposed legislation. There will be a survey forthcoming to get each department's input on supporting all the bills or prioritizing the legislation. The committee will meet again on September 21-22, 2023, at Saratoga.

WFCRA Residential Sprinkler Committee – Ian Kraft reported for Director Mathews. The monthly meetings are still being held, if interested, please contact Director Mathews. Nothing new to report since the April 1, 2023, meeting.

Wyoming Volunteer Fire, EMT and Search and Rescue Pension – Lanny Applegate reported that the plan currently has 2,392 active members, 1,412 retirees, smallest pension \$35.14, largest pension \$752.17, average pension \$361. Total fund balance on January 31, 2023, was approximately \$98 million. The board met the evening of this meeting June 14, 2023.

Wyoming Fire Academy – Ian Kraft presented the following Wyoming Fire Academy training report. Year to date classes presented 101, hours 1,942, 1,272 students, having a good year training, currently up to full staff. The unit has performed 18 total investigations, with a total of 350 hours. The Certification office has issued 341 certificates (223 State and 118 Pro-Board accredited). Conducted 27 Skills Tests, 87 students accredited, Certification office has provided 493 written tests, 392 passing or an 80% pass rate. Top 5 training categories are (Firefighter, Hazmat, Instructor, ADO, and Fire Officer). The Training Division is back up to full staff with the addition of John Bates down in the Cheyenne Area. The Academy training grounds project is on hold due to no bids received. The State Construction Department is working on it. The CDL program is in full swing and working on providing train the trainer components. Questions about the program can be directed to Training Coordinator Eric Siwik. Contact Eric for Train The Trainer classes in your department. Ian wrote an AFG grant request for the Academy for a fire ground mobile ventilation unit from Fire Vent, which was recently awarded. Features will include training props with items like a forcible entry door with a cutting station, overhead door cutting station and a bailout window.

Safer Grants – Gene Diedtrich reported that the 2019 grant has a remaining balance of \$272K and is set to expire on November 21, 2024. The 2021 grant has a remaining balance of \$763K and expires November 19, 2026. The grants provide reimbursement for qualified training, college tuition/books and one-time physicals for volunteers in the fire service. If you have any questions regarding the grant availability, contact Gene at 307-629-1532.

STATE FIRE ASSOCIATION REPORTS:

Wyoming State Firemen's Association – President Matt Lee invited all to participate in the 90th convention scheduled to begin June 15-17, 2023. Meetings will be held Thursday and Saturday, with a banquet scheduled for Saturday evening. The annual drill field competition runs all three days, starting at 11:00 AM. There is a raffle being held to help with the tournament expenses. Currently have 105 firefighters and guests registered for the event. For the drill field competition, there are 8 teams participating from 6 Wyoming communities.

Wyoming Association of Fire Marshal's – Nick Hudson reported The Wyoming Association of Fire Marshals in conjunction with the Wyoming Fire Marshal's Office held its annual meeting and conference on Community Risk Reduction in early May. Classes were offered on CPVC Sprinkler system installations and inspection, an entire day of all things Wildland Urban Interface and capped off the conference by offering a basic class on Food Truck Inspections to bring to life our statewide 307 CRR Initiative for standardized inspections of Mobile Cooking Units. Discussed future statewide initiatives for the Community Risk Reductions Group to tackle. Next Year's Conference will be in Casper April 10-12th, 2024 at the Ramkota Hotel and Conference Center. Save the date, more info to follow.

Wyoming State Rural Firemen's Association – Shad Cooper reported that the annual Rural Fire Association meeting is scheduled for November 29/December 1, 2023, and will be held at the Ramkota Inn at Casper, WY. Schedule will be like last years, with meetings starting on Wednesday afternoon, Thursday meeting jointly held with the Wyoming Fire Chiefs' Association and Friday will be the training day. Registration will be starting in August.

L.A.S.T. Team – Dan Johnson reported that the team received 50% of a Wyoming Game and Fish Commissioner's license permit from Commissioner Rusty Bell from Gillette. The permit is shared with the Wyoming Game Warden's Association. The WGWA tried an auction, did not have any bids, through Lanny Applegate's contact with the Wild Sheep Foundation, it was auctioned on June 3, 2023, the permit sold for \$30K, the fee for the auction was 10%, so the L.A.S.T. received ½ of the net or \$13,500. Thank you to JR Fox for contacting Commissioner Bell. The 75th anniversary Winchester Model 70 rifle, new in box, donated to the Team is going to be raffled off. The plan is to limit the number of tickets, Sportsmen Warehouse has agreed to let LAST team members sell tickets at their business outlets and will take care of the processing and transfer of the gun to the lucky raffle winner.

Firefighter Cancer Support Network – Shad Cooper reported for Paul Juergens. Trainings: brought the FCSN class to the spring Cheyenne Fire Department recruiting class of 10 plus 6 officers. Scheduled a class at Cody Fire School, was canceled due to lack of students, was able to have a booth and pass out information and personal wipes. Plans are to teach classes at Casper and maybe a Laramie recruiting class later this year, Buffalo, Story, and Evansville are interested in a class. In the past 6 months, have had 3 requests for assistance, two people were interested in a mentor. Brought on a new trainer/rep in Cheyenne and a new mentor. Any questions contact Paul at 307-751-5990 or email pjuergens@fcsn.net

307 CRR – Ian Kraft reported for Director Mathews. Discussion at the last Wyoming Association of Fire Marshal's meeting to begin work to reinvigorate smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms. Meetings with stakeholders to see how that plan looks moving forward.

STATE AGENCY REPORTS:

Wyoming State Forestry – Jerod Delay reported via email, as he was double booked at meeting time. There is no new information on the State Forester yet. The State Helicopter is on contract and available out of Duncan Helibase, which is located on the Duncan Ranch, State Trust Lands, approximately 3 miles south of the town of Glenrock. The State SEATS (single engine air tankers, WSFD has 2 on contract during the season based out of the Casper Airport) are flying into Casper today (June 14) and be available tomorrow afternoon. Finishing up the A.O.P.'s (annual operating plan which is part of the COOP Agreement with their Federal Partners) just waiting on a couple signatures. Still working on the Fire Reporting platforms and what the future will look like. If anyone has any questions or ideas, please feel free to reach out and contact me.

Wyoming Fire Marshal – Ian Kraft reported for Director Mathews. Been very busy with the many legislative discussions going on. Have been working diligently to bring a Deputy Fire Marshal on board, and hire additional electrical inspectors, if you know any candidates interested in the jobs, please send them to Director Mathews. Discussion continues about Records Management and License Management options. Imagetrend has provided very positive opportunities for many levels of integration within the operating systems. Please reach out to Director Mathews if you like him to come and visit you or your communities.

NEW BUSINESS:

Calendar of Events – Chris Kocher has taken over that portion on the Fire Chiefs' website. He would like everyone to view the website, and if you have events to add to the calendar, you can contact him.

Insurance Work Group – Ian Kraft reported for Director Mathews. Many studies have been published lately discussing what options exist to keep folks insured and how to find ways to address the insurance industry. Work at the state level is continuing to find solutions to address this issue. Look for more discussions as the Insurance Commission is working to engage additional stakeholders to assist with a solution. Lots of work to go but things are moving in a positive direction.

Records Management System – President Quinney spoke on the demise of the current Records Management System (RMS). The WSFM and WSFD are currently considering new programs. A working group of members from those two groups is being formed to provide recommendations for a new system. If you are interested in serving on the working group, please contact WFCR President Quinney or President Cooper with the Wyoming State Rural Fire Association.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 4:40 PM.

Future Meeting Dates:

- **Meeting in conjunction with the Wyoming State Rural Firemen’s Association annual convention November 29 through December 2, 2023. Meeting will be at the Casper, Wyoming RAMKOTA INN. Meeting information will be available in several months.**
- **January 12, 2024 – 12:30 pm Meeting in conjunction with the RIVERTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT’S annual fire school. Meeting to be held at the WYOMING FIRE ACADEMY.**
-
- **Annual meeting to be held at Riverton Volunteer Fire Department Station 1 on April 6, 2024, at 9:00 AM.**