

WYOMING FIRE CHIEFS' ASSOCIATION
Meeting Minutes
January 11, 2019
Wyoming Fire Academy

Call to order: President Kocher call the meeting to order at 12:00 pm.

Roll call: Board members present were President Chris Kocher – Worland, 1st Vice President Byron Mathews – Cheyenne, and Secretary/Treasurer Gene Diedtrich – Newcastle. Forty-five members were present.

Minutes of last meeting: President Kocher asked for the approval of the minutes as sent out for the November 29, 2018 meeting.

Motion #1: Craig Haslam made a motion to approve the minutes.

Second: Jim Wamsley

Motion Carries.

Treasurers Report: Treasurer, Gene Diedtrich reported the following for the dates of November 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018. Beginning cash \$32,997.51, Deposits of \$9,669.12, Expenses of \$5,359.00, leaving an ending balance of \$37,307.63. A total restricted amount of \$19,908.45, which leaves an unrestricted balance of \$17,399.18.

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

Second: Jim Wamsley

Motion Carries.

Association Bills: Gene Diedtrich reported that the Volunteer Fire Council has over 500 members now so the dues for 2018 have been refunded. There will be no dues for 2019 if we stay above the 500 members mark.

Motion # 3: Gene Diedtrich motioned to contribute \$4500.00 for lobbying.

Second: Lanny Applegate

Motion Carries.

Presentations:

Dale Anderson - Casper College Fire Science Program: Dale Anderson gave information on the Fire Science Program at Casper College. Help is needed with recruiting. Please pass the word. The program is 60 credit hours, which includes general education, electives and fire service classes. He talked about the SAFER Grant paying for the classes. The program administrator for the SAFER Grant is Gene Diedtrich. Dale Anderson's contact information is (307) 267-9104 and anderson@caspercollege.edu.

Everyone Goes Home: Scott Low wanted to let everyone know that there is an opportunity for free training on the Fire Hero Learning Network. The goal is to reduce the line of duty deaths in the United States. The website is everyonegoeshome.com.

Committee Reports:

Missouri Valley Division, IAFC: Craig Haslam reported that Iowa has had a Line of Duty Death. The International Association Fire Chief's will be updating their strategic plan at the meeting in March. Jim Wamsley stated the conference is in Grand Junction, CO on June 26-28, 2019. Attend if you can. He also thanked the WFCFA for the letter they sent endorsing Cheyenne Fire to hold the conference in Cheyenne.

Special District Association: Craig Haslam stated that they could get more accomplice with synergy when working with the other special districts. Dues are \$100.00 but if you cannot afford that please send in your application anyway. An email was sent out with a questionnaire on the bottom please fill that out and send it back. Get people involved to help protect special districts. If you see Bobby Frank from the Conservation Districts thank her. She has done a lot of work for special districts.

Wyoming Council on Fire Prevention and Electrical Safety: Dan Johnson stated that was no report at this time.

IAFC-VCOS: Ron Smith reported that the Symposium of the West is in Phoenix on May 2-4, 2019. Scholarships are available. There are classes that you can take on the website vcos.org. If you are a member, you should have received the Lavender Cancer Prevention and the Yellow Mental Health reports. Make when you renew your membership check the box to become a member of VCOS if you are not already.

National Volunteer Fire Council: Chris Kocher reported that there are 709 members and the goal is to reach a membership of 1000 by the end of 2019 so spread the word. The bid for the fall meeting in 2021 is in the works. There will be a motion on it later this month. Eric Quinney will give more details later. The next meeting will be April 25-27, 2019 in Washington DC.

NFPA: Dennis Estes said that they are for public education. The website has been updated and there are free tip sheets for everything. The codes & standards are free to see online. It is a great resource.

Wyoming Fallen Firefighter Memorial: Mark Young stated that their meeting is later this month to finalize a date for the memorial. They date they are looking at are May 18th or 25th.

WYO-Link Update: Mark Harshman reported that sixteen million from the transportation commission is being used to build sixteen sites. The site is moving forward with environmental and archeological research, getting right a ways or acquiring land. It is possible that five site might be started by this summer. PSCC training pilot program is starting with fire service training towards spring. The fake bills are still going out but they are looking for a permanent solution.

WFCALegislative: Jeff Kehl stated that there are a few bills to watch this session. Senate File 9 is Audit requirements for special fire and water districts. It will exempt fire protection districts and water and sewer districts from the audit requirements of the Uniform municipal Fiscal Procedure Act.

Motion #4: Jim Wamsley motioned to support Senate File 9.

Second: Craig Haslam

Motion Carries.

Senate File 26 is Fire suppression account appropriations. This bill relates to state lands and to appropriate continuing and one-time funds to the emergency fire suppression account with a cap of twenty-five million.

Motion #5: Shad Cooper motioned to support Senate File 26.

Second: Mark Harshman

Motion Carries.

House Bill 49 is Reversion of fund-emergency fire suppression account. This relates to state lands; providing that unexpended, unobligated general funds appropriated to the division of forestry shall revert to the emergency fire suppression account at the end of a biennium.

Motion #6: Craig Haslam motioned to support House Bill 49.

Second: Brent Godfrey

Motion Carries.

Jeff mentioned an amendment to the Fire/EMT Pension Fund. Lanny Applegate explained that they are asking for a 5% increase for Fire Premium Tax, which goes from 70% to 75%. It also states that the firefighters' contribution would increase by one dollar a month.

Motion #7: Craig Haslam motioned to support this amendment to the Fire/EMT Pension Fund.

Second: Jim Wamsley

Motion Carries.

House Bill 35 is Worker's compensation-air ambulance. This bill says that worker's compensation will not pay more than double of the amount Medicaid pays for air ambulance. The patient pays the rest.

Motion #8: Craig Haslam motioned to oppose House Bill 35.

Second: John Rutherford

Motion Carries.

Senate File 64 is School Safety and Security. It adds to the duties of the superintendent to consult with the office of Homeland Security, the Attorney General's office, the State Fire Marshal and the State Construction Department to create a model of school safety and security.

Motion #9: Jim Wamsley motioned to support Senate File 64.

Second: Craig Haslam

Motion Carries.

Senate File 57 is Public Records. This bill will require the release of public records within a specified time; requiring the designation of a public records person for each agency, institution and political subdivision of the state; requiring applications for public records to be made to the designated public records person; requiring the state chief information officer to investigate complaints and violations of the public records act as specified; modifying penalties and providing remedies for violations of the public records act; and providing for an effective date. Please fill out the questionnaire that Craig Haslam is sending out.

Motion #10: Jeff Kehl motioned to oppose Senate File 57.

Second: Brent Godfrey

Motion Carries.

WFCA Residential Sprinkler Committee: Mark Young reported that their mission is education on the benefits of sprinkler. The NFSA will give support if you want to locally implement fire sprinklers in new construction. He will send out an email to inform you of the next phone conference.

Wyoming Volunteer Fire Pension Fund Report: Jerry Munger reported that the total number of participates is 7,679, the termination number is 3,773, and the number of deaths was 407. Survivor pensions came to 255 with retirees numbering 1,235. Monthly pension totals were \$516,952.25 with the smallest pension being \$44.88 and the largest pension being \$731.58. The total fund balance is \$77,655,335.03 as of November 30, 2018.

Wyoming Fire Academy Training Report: Ian Kraft reported that the academy has had 3036.5 class hours, 254 classes, and 3106 students. The most taken classes were FFI, FFII, FO, and HMA/HMO. Our online schedule is on WSFM website under Fire Training/Training Calendar. Trainers are still traveling to train in your department. NFA classes will be used for continuing education. Our investigators were called out to 52 fires this year. The fire cause breakdown is as follows 63.8% Unintentional, 14.9% Undetermined, which is half of last years, and 21.3% Incendiary. The breakdown of causes are: 38.3% operating equipment, 10.6% hot or smoldering object, 4.3% explosives/fireworks, 25.5% other flame/smoking material, and 2.1% other fires. If you need a State Investigator, please contact the Highway Patrol Dispatch, 307-777-4301. The academy is getting upgrades, including electronic in the classrooms. The transition to Emergency Reporting has gone smoothly and has been very positive. State Fireman's Golf Tournament is August 3-4, 2019 in Lander at the golf course.

Volunteer Firefighter Recruitment and Retention Grant Update: No Report

Section Reports

Wyoming Firefighters Certification Committee: Aaron Zent stated that the new member is Dan Griswold from Casper Fire. At the meeting, they updated NFPA 1072 standard for HazMat and recertification for HazMat Tech. They approved ADO – Pumper and ADO – Aerial. The committee started a preliminary discussion on certification of Cause & Origin and Fire Investigator. They started a list of courses for lapses in certifications. They updated the Policy & Procedure for Project Based Evaluation.

Wyoming Association of Fire Marshals: Sam Wilde stated that the Community Risk Reduction training will be at the spring meeting in Casper on May 29-31, 2019. Everyone is welcome to join us.

Industrial Fire Chief's: Ryan Wells reported that more industries have joined. They are building relationships and working on recruitment. They have been working with Ian at the Academy about training grounds and they have had other offers for placing training ground in other parts of the state. The next meeting is in April.

State Fire Association Reports

Wyoming State Firemen's Association: Kevin Brown reported that the convention will be in Wheatland on June 13-15, 2019.

Wyoming State Rural Fire Association: Willy Watsabaugh stated that the Lessoned Learned take home points from the Fire Advisory Board should be coming out. The association will be getting Byron Matthews a support letter for the Missouri Valley 20-21 conference. If fire wardens would like to see the operation plan for wildland fires, please contact your district foresters. The fire restriction language is being looked at. The plan is to open the rules with the Land Board and change the language. It should take about two years and there is a committee working on the changes. The next Fire Advisory Board/Rural Fire Association meeting is in Cody, WY on December 4-7, 2019.

L.A.S.T. Team Update: Mark Young thanked the WFCA for their donation. The Honor Guard Symposium in Cheyenne was a success and they are going to move it around the state each year. There has been one mission this year so far. We will have some basic and advance tabletop trainings.

Wyoming Firefighter Cancer Support Network: Shad Cooper stated that if you need assistance you can get a request form here: <https://firefightercancersupport.org/request-assistance-state/wy/>. We need volunteers in every county, <https://firefightercancersupport.org/i-want-to-help/volunteer/>. He asked the associations to put the link to the Cancer Support Network. The network needs survivors to mentors. Shad will come to your fire departments and teach Train the Trainer classes free of charge. They are making plans to talk to county commissioners and legislators. They are going to get booths and place them around the state with pamphlets of information.

State Agency Reports

Wyoming State Forestry: No Report

Fire Marshal's Office: Director Reed reported that the academy has a new wall that was built by Job Corp & Ken Metzler. The fiber optics for the higher speed network is at the final stages. We are waiting on CenturyLink. Director Reed had a meeting with Governor Gordon and he is supportive of the fire service and 1st responders.

Wyoming Office of Homeland Security: Chris Kocher stated that Lynn Budd is the new Director and Leland Christenson is the new Deputy Director.

Continuing Business:

2015 SAFER Grant Amendment: Gene Diedtrich reported that the amendment to include wildland to the grant. He stated that the half waypoint was December 2, 2018. We have spent \$308,460.00 and have \$665,915.00 left.

Writing a new grant was discussed and it was decided to write it. Ian Kraft, Scott Hannum and Chris Kocher are to work on writing the grant.

Motion #11: Don Munger motioned to start writing a new grant.

Second: Brent Godfrey

Motion Carries.

Pre '81 Fallen Firefighters Memorial Walk: Scott Hannum talked about the Pre-1981 Walk of Honor. This is for Line of Duty Deaths before 1981 and Wyoming has 30 firefighters who qualify. They have raised \$5250.00. Construction will begin in the spring and \$3000.00 was sent to the NFA for our 30 bricks. There is \$2250.00 left that we would like to use for logo 8 x 8 bricks for \$250.00 each. The logo brick will be seals for five logo bricks and the Wyoming State seal at 16 x 16 if they can.

Motion #12: Lanny Applegate motioned to add the WSFD logo, which makes six-logo bricks and the Wyoming State seal.

Second: Brent Godfrey

Motion Carries.

Motion #13: Ron Smith motioned to put the Wyoming State seal in the center and the other six-logo bricks around the outside.

Second: Bryon Matthews

Motion Carries.

NVFC in Wyoming 2020: No Report

New Business:

Black Hills Energy & Plugging Gas Lines: Jerry Parker Stated that Black Hills energy has stopped training local fire departments in plugging leaking gas lines. Black Hills Energy wants fire departments to stop plugging leaking gas lines. It was discussed to have the Industrial Chief's to talk to the Pipeline Association. It was also discussed to bring up the situation to the SERQ committee. A committee was put together consisting of Jerry Parker, Ryan Wells, and Ron Smith to go before the SERQ committee in March.

WFCA Dues for 2019: Gene Diedtrich discussed keeping the dues the same for 2019.

Motion #14: Gene Diedtrich motioned to keep the dues the same for 2019.

Second: Jerry Munger

Motion Carries.

Meeting Schedule:

The next meeting will be April 6, 2019 at the Riverton Fire Station #1 at 9:00 am with lunch to follow.

The held at the WSFA convention will be on June 12, 2019 at the Fire Training Center, 759 E. Cole Street, Wheatland, WY.

Adjournment:

Motion #15: WFCADennis Estes motioned to adjourn the meeting at 3:01 pm.

Second: Brent Godfrey

Motion Carries.