

**WYOMING FIRE CHIEFS' ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
RIVERTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT STATION 1
APRIL 10, 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: *There were 24 in attendance, 18 in person and 6 virtually.*

Minutes of Prior Meeting: *Motion by Lanny Applegate to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2021 virtual meeting as emailed to the membership. Second by Craig Haslam.*

Treasurer's Report: *Treasurer Diedtrich reported the Statement of Cash Position for the period January 1, 2021 Through March 31, 2021. Beginning Cash of \$19,935, deposits of \$15,740, disbursements of \$11,778, Ending Cash of \$23,897. \$1,744 is restricted to the LAST checking account, leaving an unrestricted balance of \$22,153. Motion by Jim Wamsley to approve, seconded by Chris Kocher.*

Association Bills: *President Mathews reported that he met with Mr. Donald Dechert with Triple D Media Works, Inc. from Riverton, an agreement was made between the two consisting of Triple D to continue to host our website domain, for the cost of \$75 a year, the domain cost hasn't been invoiced nor paid for 4 years, Motion by Craig Haslam and seconded by Chris Kocher to pay the \$300 for the years 2018 through 2021.*

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Nominating: *Gene Diedtrich reported that the current officers all have agreed to serve another one-year term if elected, they are as follows: President Byron Mathews, 1st Vice President Eric Quinney, and 2nd Vice President JR Fox. The present Missouri Valley State Vice President Craig Haslam term is for a three-year term, he has agreed to the 3-year term. There were no nominations from the floor, Jeff Kehl made a motion for acclimation, seconded by Jim Wamsley. Jim Wamsley led the installation of all the elected officers.*

Missouri Valley Division, IAFC: *Craig Haslam reported that the winter board meeting was held on March 25, 2021. The division's website is receiving a makeover and the update is currently in progress. The annual conference is scheduled to be held in Cheyenne, Wyoming August 30 through September 2, 2021, all are encouraged to attend. IAFC Director Jim Wamsley related the benefits of belonging to the International, very worthwhile investment for all departments, plethora of knowledge available. President Mathews reported that the conference in Cheyenne will be held at Little America, and a tour of the remodeled state capitol building is on the agenda.*

Special District Association: Craig Haslam reported that all special districts in the State of Wyoming need to meet the Annual Wyoming State Reporting Requirements for Special Districts, or lose their status as a Special District and the responsibility would revert back to the County Commissioners of the formation county.

Wyoming Fire Academy Training Report: Ian Kraft, Training Director, reported that the Academy had a great year in spite of the COVID restrictions. Presented the 2020 training report. The updated training course schedule will be forthcoming. Construction at the Academy of a new street, refurbished curb and gutter, additional parking lot is in the making. The new procedure for contacting a Fire Investigator for assistance is in operation, consists of a phone line directly to the investigator on duty.

Wyoming Council on Fire Prevention and Electrical Safety: Dan Johnson reported that the council has heard no appeals nor are there any pending. The 2021 rules have been adopted, will be completed by mid-summer. The group has a new attorney.

IAFC VCOS: JR Fox reported that the “Symposium in the Sun” is scheduled for November 11-14th, 2021 in Clearwater, Florida. Website has a lot of good information for the Fire Service.

National Volunteer Fire Council: Eric Quinney reported on the passing of the Council’s Executive Director Heather Schaeffer. The whole membership is reeling from her passing. The spring meeting is to be held virtually this month, the fall meeting is scheduled to be held in Jackson, Wyoming October 13 – 15th, 2021. Several Wyoming organizations are assisting with funding for the fall meeting, funding for commemorative coins was discussed, Motion by Lanny Applegate, second by Jim Wamsley for the WFCA to assist with that project with a \$1,000 donation. The WFCA and the WSFA shared the Council membership dues for 2021 of \$500. Eric stated that the membership dues are canceled if the Wyoming membership is above 500 members, only had about 450, hence the dues. He urged all of the Fire Service to join and have the benefits of membership and the website for their use.

NFPA: Nick Hudson reported that the NFPA has a lot of public education available on the website and he highly recommends all departments take advantage of the availability. Robert Sullivan, Southwest Regional Director for NFPA, presented a lot of information and reviewed a number of NFPA updates (11), they all were very informative, that information has been forwarded to the membership under separate cover.

Wyoming Fallen Firefighter Memorial: Mark Young reported that the Memorial is to be held August 21, 2021 at 1300 hrs.

WFCA Residential Sprinkler Committee: Mark Young reported that committee is being reformed. Contacting original team members. Very important program of the Fire Service, needs to be an active group.

Legislation Committee: President Mathews reported that the legislature had a number of challenges this year, nothing much involving the Fire Service.

2015 and 2019 SAFER Grants: Gene Diedtrich reported that the 2015 grant is nearing its end, a two-month extension to January 31, 2021 was received, have 90 days to submit requests for funding that occurred during the period of performance, having funding problems with FEMA, but hopefully will have everything taken care of by April 30 deadline. Received the 2019 grant in the amount of \$458,000 on November 22, 2020, have not drawn any money yet from that grant, do have a couple requests, waiting on information from requestors. Have been attending monthly training webinars sponsored by the DHS Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, this month's training is 3 hours in length.

SECTION REPORTS:

Wyoming Firefighter Certification Committee: Brian Coe the new chair of the committee reported that the committee has been very busy and has accomplished a lot. Brian gave a big Thank You to Chris Kocher and Rusty Dunham for their service on the committee.

AFFF (CLASS B FOAM): President Mathews reported on the foam situation. Indicating that most of the insurance companies probably will address this situation in the near future. President Mathews reported that he has a meeting scheduled with Director Reed to try and figure out a reasonable response to the foam issue.

STATE ASSOCIATION REPORTS:

Wyoming State Firemen's Association: Donnie Munger reported that Newcastle is hosting the annual WSFA meeting and convention with registration starting on June 16, 2021, along with a host gathering. There will be association meetings held on June 17 and 19, along with 3 days of drill team competition, which starts on the 17 through the 19, followed by a banquet on Saturday the 19th. If your planning on attending, there is a baseball tourney in Newcastle that weekend, so rooms may be tough to rent. There is a raffle being held to help raise funds for the drill team competition and other endeavors.

Wyoming State Rural Fire Association: Craig Haslam reported that fire restrictions have been approved and will be posted in the near future. He indicated that the annual meeting of the group will be held in Casper in early December 2021.

L.A.S.T. Team Update: Dan Johnson reported that LAST was awarded 2 Commissioners Hunting Permits, the permit from Commissioner Rael from Lovell, was sold on March 6 with a net to LAST of \$16,590.70. The other permit from Commissioner Ladwig will be auctioned off in a 10-hour auction to be held on May 21, Wyoming Outfitter's Association will assist us in getting the word out to their member outfitters about the auction, which falls shortly after the Wyoming Game and Fish Non-Resident drawing for Elk. Mark Young updated the following statistics for 2020: LAST had 8 missions total, spent approximately \$3,500. The normal budget is about \$10,000, have already had 2 missions here in 2021.

307CRR: Mark Young reported the following, Home O2 Initiative - Our agency has secured a AFB prevention and safety grant. We are purchasing our oxygen fire break kits with this funding. A statewide ordering and distribution plan has been developed

and implemented. We are now ready to start installing them on patients wearing O2. We are encouraging all fire departments to join our effort in installing these devices on patients throughout Wyoming. Contact Mark Norford for more information at 307-777-8772. CRR Risk Assessments - We are also an advocate for our current 307CRR fire department team members who want to start their community risk assessments. Recruitment - If any fire department wishes to join or learn more about the 307CRR program please contact either Mark Norford or Mark Young.

STATE AGENCY REPORTS:

Fire Marshals Office: *Mark Young reported the following:*

- *Budget - Our budget was approved by the Governor and the Legislature did not modify it. It is waiting for final approval by the Governor. Our general fund budget has been reduced. We have not lost any employees but have lost one combination fire/inspector position in the N.E. part of the State. We are now starting to develop our next biennium budget.*
- *Staffing - We are advertising for an open trainer position, and an open electrical inspector position. We have an open plans examiner position and hope to be interviewing for it in about a month.*

- *Adoption of Codes - Currently working on the rules change to adopt the new family of ICC 2021 codes.*
- *Hall of Fame and Medal of Valor - The review board met to consider 2020 nominations for the Medal of Valor and Fire Service Hall of Fame. No nominations were submitted for the Medal of Valor. Nominations for the Hall of Fame were reviewed by the Board. 2 nominations were approved for inclusion into the Hall of Fame. Those 2 recommendations were sent to Director Reed. A date will be set for the Hall of Fame ceremony and advertised to the State Fire Service.*
- *Driving Simulator - The Colorado Division of Public Safety will be demonstrating their driving simulator in Cheyenne on April 20th at 1PM.*
- *New Plan Review Process - We have implemented a new plan review submittal process using our ImageTrend software. This is a 100% digital submittal process. Plans are submitted and vetted within ImageTrend and posted to our individual plan's examiners for their individual plan review work. All plan review work is conducted digitally and archived digitally in ImageTrend. We have successfully graduated from paper plans and mail submittals to all digital processes.*
- *Training Academy Road, Curb and Gutter - The new roadway, curb and gutter project has been approved for phase 3. This has been a few years in the making but we are getting closer to fruition. This is a million-dollar project and will go before the State Construction group for their final consideration during the next budget process.*
- *NFIRS Class - Our agency is instructing a new NFIRS class at the Cody Fire School. We are also available to come to your individual departments and teach this class at no cost to the department. Contact Mark Norford for more information on this class, or scheduling a class, at 307-777-8772.*

Wyoming State Forestry: Josh Van Flack reported that the Fire Restriction rules have been approved and are waiting for the Governor's signature. Helicopter will be on duty starting June 15, as well as 2 single engine tankers based at Casper. Josh reported that the budget of State Forestry was hit about 15%, ending up being able to fund some of the wages with Federal funds, so there were no employees lost. Waiting to see if the COVID stricken Honor Camp hand crews will be available.

Wyoming Office of Homeland Security: Dan Fonseca reported that the S2RC is revamping the website on the RERT and Radiology section. S2RC is working with the military to help smooth the process of possibly using prior experience in reference to traditional course trades. Looking to support those people out of EMAC in ALL-HAZARD training. Working on inventorying the FEMA assets of the state. Thanked the RERT teams for supplying inventory information to them. Currently are at full capacity on state staff employees in the Cheyenne office. Will be going out to RERT locations in the near future to deliver updated radiation meters and meet the teams. Have 1st responder training coming up through the WHIP program. Snow pack looks manageable throughout the state. RERT formed a platform to provide the RERT teams a means of sharing experiences and share all hazard training.

Office of Emergency Medical Services: Eric Quinney reported that Andy Gienapp, the Director of the Office of EMS has left employment with the State of Wyoming and took a position in Georgia. Brandon Kelly is the interim director while the office is potentially being reorganized with the Office of Rural Health within the Department of Health. Budget cuts might lead to not replacing Andy's position. We will have to wait and see how things play out. Brandon Kelly is asking everyone to bear with them as they move through this transitional period. If anyone has needs, please contact the OEMS.

CONTINUING BUSINESS:

2020 SAFER Grant: JR Fox reported that the application for funding from the 2020 SAFER Grant FEMA monies in the amount of \$434,250 was applied for and received by FEMA on May 10, 2021. He wanted to publicly thank Ian Kraft for all the work he did in preparing the grant for the Chiefs'. Notification of our success in the application will forthcoming 6-8 months later in the year.

Retirement System Plan A: Chief Mathews reported that a letter from the Retirement System went out to the Plan A members, stating that the funding would run out in the near future, unless something is done to supplement the current fund. A lawsuit has been filed by 5 members of the plan against the Wyoming Retirement System stating mismanagement as the cause of the deficit. Funding in the amount of \$250 has been requested from the Plan A members to help pay for the lawsuit. The Wyoming legislature is doing an interim study of Plan A this summer.

Recording Equipment: Chris Kocker reported that there is some very good equipment that is reasonable on the market to record and do a virtual meeting.

Website Caretaker: *Chief Mathews reported the need for a Webmaster to take care of the website. It needs to be a person other than the officers so there is continuity of keeping it up. Maybe even hire someone.*

Adjournment at 11:50 AM, motion by Jim Wamsley and seconded by Dan Johnson.

FUTURE MEETING DATES:

- *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.*
- *First Week of December 2021 – Casper, WY. in conjunction with the Wyoming State Rural Firemen’s Association.*