

**WYOMING FIRE CHIEFS' ASSOCIATION
MEETING MINUTES OF ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
WYOMING STATE FIRE ACADEMY
AUGUST 22, 2020**

Call to order: President Chris Kocher called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

Roll Call: 25 members were present.

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

Prior Meeting Minutes: Motion by Jim Wamsley to approve the minutes of the June 16, 2020 Virtual Meeting as emailed to the membership. Motion seconded by Jerry Munger.

A memo was sent out a while back asking all departments to send a department patch and challenge coin either to Byron Mathews or Lanny Applegate. A patch board was created by Byron and Lanny and presented to Eric Quinney for him to give to his son Bryson, who is recuperating from a heart transplant, that was performed on him last spring. The challenge coins were also presented to Eric for Bryson. Eric thanked everyone for the patches and coins.

Election of Officers: Gene Diedtrich presented the officer nomination report, with President Kocher stepping down from the president's position, Gene presented the following report: First Vice President Byron Mathews has agreed to become our new President, Second Vice President Eric Quinney has agreed to become our First Vice President, and J R Fox has agreed to serve as Second Vice President. There being no further nominations from the floor, motion was made by Jim Wamsley and seconded by Shad Cooper to approve the nominations for 2020 officers. Jim Wamsley presided over the installation of officer's and all swore to the "Oath of Office".

At this time, our new President Byron Mathews took over the meeting, and presented Past President Chris Kocher a Past President's pin, thanking him for his years of service and asking his continued support.

Treasurers Report: Treasurer Gene Diedtrich reported the Statement of Cash Position for the period, June 1, 2020 through July 31, 2020. He reported beginning cash of \$25,341, deposits of \$10,758, disbursements of \$11,229, leaving an ending cash balance of \$24,870. \$7,738 is restricted to the LAST Checking account and the 2015 SAFER Grant. Leaving an unrestricted balance of \$17,131. Motion by Donnie Munger to approve the report, seconded by Chris Kocher.

PRESENTATION: A representative of the partnered purchasing group the "Western Fire Chief's Association" and the "Source Well Purchasing Group" telephoned in on the Virtual network and went over the basics of the program that they are offering to the Wyoming Fire Chiefs' Association.

The intention of the agreement is to provide for a cooperative procurement program marketing agreement. Source Well will negotiate all contracts, publish the RFP's and provide day to day operations of the program. Western Fire Chiefs Association will administer the marketing relationship, provide strategy and act as a liaison for the program.

After discussing, Motion made by Jim Wamsley, seconded by Chris Kocher to agree to a one-year contract with the partnership, with the Wyoming Fire Chiefs' Association receiving \$400 consideration. A note to the minutes, A check for \$400 was received by the Treasurer on September 2, 2020.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

MISSOURI VALEY DIVISION, IAFC: Jim Wamsley reported on the happenings at the IAFC, reporting the effects of the pandemic on the IAFC and the things they are doing to keep in business. October 19-22, 2020 there will be some professional development virtual offerings available. The Missouri Valley Division Conference for 2021 will be held in Cheyenne, WY., on June 22-25, 2021. Be a great chance for all to attend the conference, it's close and offering a great program.

SPECIAL DISTRICT ASSOCIATION: Byron Mathews reported that the legislature has had a lot of meetings the last month or so, talking about changing things, if you're not a member of the Association, you need to be. The meetings have the makings of legislation, that may not be good for your districts.

WYOMING COUNCIL ON FIRE PREVENTION AND ELECTRICAL SAFETY: Dan Johnson reported that the council had not met since our last meeting, Their next meeting is scheduled for

IAFC VCOS: J R Fox reported that the "Symposium in the Sun" is still on the agenda for November 12-15, 2020 at Clear Water Beach, FL. He said that the VCOS has a lot of resources pertaining to just about anything you'd like to know about. He agreed with Chief Wamsley's assessment of the IAFC.

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER FIRE COUNCIL: Eric Quinney reported that the fall meeting scheduled for North Carolina in November has now been changed to a Virtual meet. He stated that the NVFC is going to have their fall 2021 conference in Jackson Hole, WY., scheduled for October 13-15, 2021. Eric indicated that the NVFC has a lot of virtual training available, check out their website, a real good source for the Volunteer. If you don't belong, it's only \$15 a year, can't afford not to.

NFPA: Nick Hudson reported that the NFPA has a lot of public education virtual training available, lot of training and education available on the Coronavirus, have a good webinar on Fire Prevention Week, he stated that Fire Prevention week is going to look considerably different this year. He indicated that if you're doing a program that you really like, let him know, so he can pass it on to others. He advocates getting on the website and seeing what's available for Fire Prevention week.

WYOMING FALLEN FIREFIGHTER MEMORIAL: Mark Young reported that the memorial is scheduled for 14:30 this afternoon. All members are invited to lunch, which is jointly sponsored by the Chiefs' Association and LAST. The ceremony is scheduled to start at 13:30, all are invited to attend.

WYO-LINK UPDATE: Mark Harshman sent a note to President Mathews regarding WYO-LINK. He stated that they had put in an application to obtain funding from the CARES, Act. If you have questions about WYO-LINK contact Mark at his Casper office.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE: Byron Mathews reported that the committee had spent a little time and money trying to keep some of our legislature friends in office. There's an awful lot of things going on now and planning being done for the next legislative session. Lot of challenges for all the State, County and Municipal Governments mostly because of the Coronavirus pandemic.

WFOA RESIDENTIAL SPRINKLER COMMITTEE: Nick Hudson reported that there wasn't much to report, other than they are looking for a co-chair to serve with Kathy Clay. Nick reported that there is a lot of ideas for housing and apartment sprinkling available.

WYOMING VOLUNTEER PENSION BOARD: Lanny Applegate reported on the Volunteer Fire, EMT and SAR Pension Plan. He reported the following as of July 31, 2020: Total members that have participated 8,118, Terminations 3,917, Deaths 476, Retirees 1,302 and present membership of 2,423. The Fund balance at April 30, 2020 was \$78,845,543. Currently paying Monthly benefits of \$554,864. 79% of all WRS Pension Payments go to WY addresses.

WYOMING FIRE ACADEMY TRAINING REPORT: Ian Kraft reported that the Academy has had over 1,600 hours of training classes so far in 2020. Training has been hindered by Covid-19. The staff is doing a lot of on-line training. Certifications are down a little in 2020. Have done a number of things to get the Academy socially acceptable to the Covid-19 rules to be able to serve the public. The part of the Academy that is not fire sprinkled, is in line to have sprinklers installed within the next 2 months. The enhancement of the Fire Academy grounds is still on the docket for funding. Currently looking to install another online testing option for online testing. Currently testing new Webinar software to start live streaming classes on line.

VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION GRANT UPDATE: Gene Diedtrich reported that Covid-19 has put us further behind in spending, the grant has expended a total of \$534,053 leaving a grant balance of \$443,947 as of this date. The grant is set to expire in about 3 months on December 2, 2020. I communicated with OIC of our grant, pursuing an extension of the grant for a couple years, she came back and said in her note that "While an extension is not guaranteed, we would need to take a look at it possible closer to the end date, around October or November."

SECTION REPORTS:

WYOMING ASSOCIATION OF FIRE MARSHALS: Mark Young reported for President Sam Wilde. He indicated that the conference is slated to be held September 22nd/25th of 2020. It will be a Virtual conference. Information on the conference will be forthcoming next week, which is free for members, and a \$35 fee for non-members.

INDUSTRIAL FIRE CHIEFS: Byron Mathews reported for Ryan Wells. Ryan has been very busy, he has a family member who is very ill, his employer Holly Refining is currently working on converting the refinery to a BiO-Diesel facility, so that adds to him being unavailable. The industrial chief's have been working on the curriculum on NFPA 1081 Industrial Standards, All the refineries in the state haven't been able to get much done on the industrial training site, due to Covid-19 issues.

STATE FIRE ASSOCIATION REPORTS:

WYOMING STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION: Robert Munger reported that next year's convention is currently scheduled for June 17-19, 2021, to be held at Newcastle. He's been working with the motels getting all of this year's reservations switched to 2021. The prize raffle that was to be held this year, has been switched to 2021, same prizes, all tickets are dated 2020, are to be carried over to the 2021 drawing. Everyone is welcome, take in the convention, spend some time in the Black Hills area.

WYOMING STATE RURAL FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION: Shad Cooper reported that this year's annual meeting is scheduled to be held in Pinedale, WY on December 2-4, 2020. Moving forth with the schedule, planning on concluding the meeting on Friday the 4th this year. Meetings are scheduled for Wednesday afternoon and evening, and Thursday all day, and they have 4 excellent speakers scheduled during the day on Friday. More information will be forthcoming on making motel reservations, the meetings are going to be held at the library.

LAST TEAM UPDATE: Mark Young reported that Senator Barraso is speaking at the Memorial service today at 1430. Last has been involved in 5 missions this year, one level 1 (LODD), one level 2 (active member, non-retiree) and 3 level 3 (retiree). He stated that since inception of Team they have participated in 59 missions. 10 level 1, 15 level 2 and 34 level 3 missions. Funding wise the coffers are getting a little low, try to manage on about \$10,000 a year, are below that at this time, things are looking up, have a couple Wyoming Game and Fish commissioners that have indicated and said they will donate an elk tag for the 2021 hunting season. Lanny Applegate along with the 2 co-directors have done a great job in contacting and helping raise needed funding.

307 CRR: Mark Young reported they are still working on the on organizing the team. Would like to have all the departments in the state involved in a great worthwhile organization. Just had another incident of a fire, while smoking and taking oxygen. The group has monthly meetings, virtually at the present.

WYOMING FIREFIGHTER CANCER SUPPORT NETWORK: Shad Cooper reported that he serves as a National Director on the Cancer network. He indicated that they had a booth at last winter's meeting here in Riverton at the Fire School. Looking to do the same anytime and place. Started doing National training virtually, have contracted with a professional development team to create a down-loads to departments for training. If anyone knows any firefighter with cancer, make sure you let a member of the team know, or Shad himself.

STATE AGENCY REPORTS:

WYOMING STATE FORESTRY: Josh Van Flack reported that they've had a very successful fire season, crews have been out on a daily basis, doing a great job on catching the fires when they are still small. Have been cut 10% on their budget so far as the other agencies have been, the next 10% will be a staff reduction of between 5 – 10%. Covid-19 has had its effect on their agency as it has on other agencies.

WYOMING STATE FIRE MARSHAL: Director Reed reported the budget cuts and meetings are taking place, and the statement "oh come on" is very common with the state employees trying to keep there budget intact. The budget has been reduced 10% the first round, working on the next 10%, but may have a reprieve on part of it, due to a change in revenues. Not having renewed some positions has helped in not having to cut personnel, improvements on the training grounds at the Academy may be sacrificed to keep from reducing staff. Very difficult time to manage without money. He has a question for all to think about and get a response to Mark, Ian or himself, "what classes can the WSFM offer on the webinar, that would be beneficial to you or your department". He commented that the new color scheme on the west end of the Academy looks great.

CONTINUING BUSINESS:

PRE-FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS MEMORIAL WALK: Director Reed reported that all the bricks for both the directory and the organizations are there, and are ready to place. Could be completed in a month or so. It might be noted that other agencies are coping our design as they deem it very attractive.

CREDIT CARDS: Chris Kocher reported on the credit card acceptor Square. It has the ability to accept credit cards 2.60% +.15 for swiped cards, and 3.75% +.15 for inputted cards. Processed in 48 hours. It was agreed by the group to proceed with the Square to handle our credit card business. The group agreed not to charge fees at this time, probably will change and charge a fee sooner than later.

NEW BUSINESS:

COVID-19: J R Fox indicated he received an e-mail from VCOS and indicated there's approximately \$120 million through VCOS of CARES money available for Coovid-19 funding. He indicated that one needed to get on their website to pursue the money.

CAPITAL CLUB MEMBERSHIP: Lanny Applegate explained joining the Capitol Club (club of lobbyists at the Capital). Gene Diedtrich made the motion to sponsor and pay the membership dues for Byron Mathews and Lanny Applegate for the 2021 season, cost of the membership is \$175 for one and \$75 for each additional member or \$250. Motion seconded by Shad Cooper.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Motion to made by Lanny Applegate, seconded by Donnie Munger at 11:14 AM.

MEETING SCHEDULE:

DECEMBER 3, 2020 Combined Wyoming Rural Fire and Wyoming Fire Chiefs' Association Meeting at Pinedale, Wyoming