

Wyoming Fire Chiefs' Association  
Meeting Minutes  
January 6, 2017  
Wyoming Fire Academy

**Call to order:** The meeting was called to order by President Hannum at 12:33pm.

**Roll call:** Board members present were President Scott Hannum – Rawlins, 1st Vice President Chris Kocher – Worland, and Secretary/Treasurer Gene Diedtrich – Newcastle. Forty members were present.

**Minutes of last meeting:** President Hannum asked for the approval of the minutes as sent out for the December 1st, 2016 meeting.

**Motion #1:** Brent Godfrey  
Second: Donny Munger  
Motions Carries.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer, Gene Diedtrich reported the following for the dates of November 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016. Beginning Cash \$37,829.83, Deposits of \$9,021.63, Expenses of \$4,088.49, leaving an ending balance of \$42,762.97. Recruiting and Retention Grant Income restriction is \$761.22 and the L.A.S.T. account was \$22,609.24 leaving a total restricted amount of \$23,370.46, which leaves an unrestricted balance of \$19,392.51.

**Motion #2:** Jerry Munger motioned to accept the treasurer's report.  
Second: Craig Haslam  
Motion Carries.

**Association Bills:** Gene Diedtrich reported that the NVFC for \$500.00 is coming due with the Chief's paying half and the Association paying half. The WFCA will again pay for hotel and airplane tickets for the Chief's representative to go to the Missouri Valley Division, IAFC Conference.

**Motion #3:** Eric Quinney  
Second: Brent Godfrey  
Motion Carries.

**Presentations:** William T. "Bill" Panos the Director of WY. Dept. of Transportation talked about WYOLINK. WYDOT has taken over the WYOLINK project. They are going to turn it into a viable network. He mentioned that the towers to vehicles are almost done and then they will begin the vehicle to person portion. The system was discussed at length. If you have any questions please call Bill Panos at 307-251-8280.

**Committee Reports:**

**Nominations & Elections:** Gene Diedtrich mentioned that nominations are being taken for the next meeting on May 13, 2017. Please contact Gene if you have a nomination for the board.

**Missouri Valley Division, IAFC:** Craig Haslam stated that there has been discussion about some divisions joining together. Our division is very strong. The next meeting is in March.

**Wyoming Council on Fire Prevention and Electrical Safety:** Dan Johnson reported that there have been no appeals before the board. There are two new members Shane Cates and Spencer Pollock.

**IAFC-VCOS:** Ron Smith stated that the VCOS Symposium in the West is on May 4-6, 2017 in Reno, NV.

National Volunteer Fire Council: Rusty Dunham stated that the next meeting is in April in Kearney, NE. Every Fire Hall should have "Share the Load" suicide prevention poster if you do not contact Rusty or Eric and they will get you some. They are moving forward with the presumptive cancer seminar. Membership is just under 200 and membership fees are \$15.00 a year.

Wyoming Fallen Firefighter Memorial: Mark Young reported that the Fallen Firefighter Memorial is May 13, 2017 at 1:30 at the Wyoming Fire Academy. They are hoping that moving the date later in the spring will make it easier travel for survivors to attend. Anyone with Drummers, Bag Pipers, or Honor Guards please contact Mark Young or anyone on the committee. Get hotel rooms early for the memorial because of the other events going on in the area.

WYO-Link Update: There is no update at this time.

WFCA Legislative: Jeff Kehl stated that there are 6 bills that were discussed at their meeting. It was discussed to support House Bill 73: Interference with a person providing emergency services.

**Motion #4:** Lanny Applegate

Second: Willy Watsabaugh

Motion Carries.

It was decided to monitor Senate File 16: Special Districts Elections.

**Motion #5:** Russ Wenke

Second: Craig Haslam

Motion Carries.

It was discussed to support House Bill 112: EMS licensure-interstate compact.

**Motion #6:** Willy Watsabaugh

Second: Eric Quinney

Motion Carries.

The Presumptive Cancer Bills was discussed and it was decided to support the bill.

**Motion #7:** Craig Haslam

Second: Mike Bournazian

Motion Carries.

Senate File 19: Snow Plow Lights was discussed and it was decided to actively oppose.

**Motion #8:** Craig Haslam

Second: Jerry Munger

Motion Carries.

Senate File 15: Special district budget requirements was discussed and opposed strongly.

**Motion #9:** Craig Haslam

Second: Brent Godfrey

Motion Carries.

It was also state that there were 2 rooms left at the Fairfield for anyone who would like to come to the Legislative session.

WFCA Residential Sprinkler Committee: There was no report at this time.

Wyoming Volunteer Fire Pension Fund Report: Jerry Munger reported that the total number of participates is 7,177, the termination number is 2,228, and the number of deaths was 318. Survivor pensions came to 225 with retirees numbering 1,119. Monthly pension totals were \$457,909.11 with the smallest pension being \$44.88 and the largest pension being \$719.70. The total fund balance is \$99,686,322.96.

Wyoming Fire Academy Training Report: Ian Kraft stated that the Structure and Wildland training schedule is on the SFM website [wsfm.wyo.gov](http://wsfm.wyo.gov) and on the registration site [wyofirecourses.com](http://wyofirecourses.com). The statistics for the academy and the trainers is as follows: 3,002 class hours, 639 travel hours, 2,038 students, and 208 classes. The trainers are also Fire Investigators and they had 37 investigations this year for a total of 1,180.5 hours. If you need an investigator you call Highway Patrol Dispatch. There were 532 state certificates issued and 320 accredited certificates issued. Upgrades to the Academy are being worked on. The burn building and tower are going to be refurbished in the future. The gas props have been refurbished and are adding another prop.

Volunteer Firefighter Recruitment and Retention Grant Update: Ian Kraft reported that \$3,106.00 has been spent so far and 35 departments have signed up to participate in the grant which means 1,473 volunteers can be serviced. There are 3 parts to the grant including; Training and Travel at 100% participation, Immunization and Physicals at 83% participation, and College Tuition at 80% participation. There are 10 different cadet programs with 53 cadets being helped. Sign up and take advantage of the grant. The application and survey are on the SFM website [wsfm.wyo.gov](http://wsfm.wyo.gov). To get reimbursed send Ian an email stating what you would like reimbursed and if the course is board approved he will email back and you are good to go otherwise Ian will check with the board and get back to you. Then send in the itemized reimbursement form and send it to Ian.

### **Section Reports**

Wyoming Firefighters Certification Committee: Tim Cortez stated that they are trying to cut back on the test boxes. The boxes will have four main test including; FFI & FFII, HMA & HMO. Whether to keep the committee term limits or not was discussed. A decision was not made at this time.

Wyoming Association of Fire Marshals: Sam Wilde reported that on the last weekend in April in Casper there will be a speaker on Juvenile Firestarter's.

### **State Fire Association Report**

Wyoming State Firemen's Association: Dennis McDonald reported that the convention will be in Afton on June 15-17, 2017.

Wyoming State Rural Fire Association: Russ Wenke stated that there is no report at this time.

L.A.S.T. Team Update: Mark Young said that the L.A.S.T Team had one level 1 mission, six level 2 missions, and five level 3 missions. The services are being asked for more and more. Basic and advanced classes are being planned and will be in Cheyenne. Thank you for all your support. The cancer support committee is now being supported by the L.A.S.T. Team mission. If you need CSFM feel free to contact Mark Young.

### **State Agency Reports**

Wyoming State Forestry: No report at this time.

Fire Marshal's Office: Mike Reed stated that the Sapphire program which is an electrical licensing program is having problems. They are trying to move to a new program. The new emergency reporting program is moving forward. They are working on new inspection software. They are enhancing arson investigation abilities and work with DCI and their crime lab. Upgrades to the Academy for training are being discussed. Trying to make the Academy more user friendly.

Wyoming Office of Homeland Security: No report at this time.

**Continuing Business:**

**Medal of Valor Committee:** Mark Young gave a purpose statement. Anyone who received the Medal of Valor would be a nominee for the federal medal. There will be a seven member review board from many associations. It was discussed that the WFCA would nominate a representative for the review committee. Lanny Applegate was nominated to be the representative for the WFCA.

**Motion #10:** Gene Diedtrich

Second: Dennis Estes

Motion Carries.

**New Business:**

**2017 Combined Rural and WFCA meeting in December training money:** Chris Kocher said that it was discussed to get a good keynote speaker and increase the quality of the training with the amount of & \$2,500.00. It will be talked about at the June meeting.

**Blaze Publications:** Gene Diedtrich discussed the idea of a monthly newsletter. A free option called mailchimp.com was discussed. It was decided not to pursue a newsletter at this time.

**Dues:** Gene Diedtrich discussed the dues and it was decided that they would stay the same.

**Motion #11:** Gene Diedtrich

Second: Jerry Munger

Motion Carries.

It was asked that you please like the WFCA Facebook page.

It was mentioned that Lanny Applegate and Willy Watsabaugh have 40 years of service. Willy Watsabaugh is retiring. Let Gene Diedtrich know of anyone else that may have many years of service.

**Adjournment:** Brent Godfrey motioned to adjourn the meeting at 3:34pm.

**WFC Meeting Schedule:**

The next meeting will be May 13, 2017 at the Riverton Volunteer Fire Station #1 at 9:00am. Lunch will follow. Fallen Firefighter Memorial will be at 1:00pm.

There will be a meeting right before convention on June 14, 2017 at 3:00 pm at the Afton Fire Hall.