

Wyoming Fire Chiefs' Association
Meeting Minutes
April 6, 2013
Riverton Fire Department-Station 1

Call to order: President Chief Craig Haslam called the meeting to order at 9:19 a.m.

Roll call: Board members present were Chief Craig Haslam, President-Riverton, Chief Donny Munger-1st Vice-President-Newcastle, Chief Scott Hannum-2nd Vice President-Rawlins, Chief Gene Diedtrich, Secretary/Treasurer-Newcastle. 51 people were in attendance.

Minutes of last meeting:

Motion #1- Chief Brent Godfrey moved to accept the minutes as written and e-mailed.

Second- Chief Jim Wamsley.

Motion carries.

NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Treasurer Gene Diedtrich reports; April is the annual election date for officers of the WFCA. All current officers have expressed a desire to retain their current positions, including the Missouri Valley for a 3 year term, which is currently held by Chief Jim Wamsley.

Motion #2-Gene Diedtrich makes a motion to keep all the current officers in their current positions.

Second-Chief Lyle Armstrong.

Motion carries.

Chief Chris Riley swears in officers.

VOLUNTEER FIRE PENSION BOARD REPORT: Harry Wales, Deputy Director of the Wyoming Retirement System gave the following report as of December 31, 2012.

The fund balance was \$64,146,167. The following membership information is as of February 28, 2013. Active members totaled 2,229, currently paying 1,113 monthly pensions to survivors and retirees, with a monthly cost to the plan of \$312,090.

Mr. Wales reports that the Big Fund Board is currently taking applications for a new Chief Financial Officer .

A new firm, *Catapult*, was hired to clean up data and make it easier for individual responsible parties at each department to add data. A letter will go out to all participating departments Fire Chief and will provide updated information concerning this new system.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Chief Gene Diedtrich gave the Statement of Cash Position Report for the period January 1- March 31, 2013. Beginning cash balance was \$62,916, Receipts totaled \$196,029, and disbursements were \$71,771, leaving ending cash balance of \$187,174. The restrictions on the ending cash are as follows: \$17,276 and \$146,835 to the 2009 and the 2011 Recruiting and Retention Grants respectively, \$4,478 for the LAST committee, leaving unrestricted cash balance of \$18,585. Motion was made to approve the report, properly seconded and carried.

ASSOCIATION BILLS: Report given by Secretary/Treasurer Gene Diedtrich,

Motion #3 is made by Chief Diedtrich to reimburse Chief Haslam \$400.00 for airfare to attend the Missouri Valley board meeting.

Second- Chief Brent Godfrey

Motion carries.

Motion #4 is made by Chief Godfrey to reimburse hotel expense for Chief Riley to attend the WFCA meeting.

Second-Assistant Chief David Woolery

Motion carries.

PRESENTATIONS: Presentation by Chief Chris Riley, President of the Missouri Valley Division IAFC.
5 Areas of discussion;

- Firefighter Safety- Resources are available on the 16 Life Safety initiatives. Please see the IAFC webpage to access these resources.
- Professional Development Standards- Many resources available on the IAFC webpage.
- Accreditation Process- Be the first WY Fire Department to become accredited. Agency does not need to be a fully career department to qualify. Contact Chief Chris Riley if you would like assistance to become accredited.
- Mentoring Program- Learn, Earn, Return and Continue the legacy.
- Labor Management Initiative- Partnering with IAFC and IAFF, highly experienced and successful fire chiefs and union presidents facilitate this program to help fire departments build and enhance positive, cooperative labor-management relationships.

*IAFC annual conference to be held in Colorado Springs, CO July 12-14, 2013.

*Fire Rescue Conference to be held in Chicago, Ill in August 2013.

*To access IAFC website and access resources, visit <http://www.iafc.org>

*Contact Information; Chief Chris Riley at 719-248-2683 (or) email him at criley@pueblo.us

Presentation; Monica Kolby, NW Regional NFPA Public Education Director. Dennis Estes of Torrington is the WY representative and reports to Ms. Kolby issues and requests and relays the information to departments. A goal of the director is to have each department assign a person who will access information on prevention and education and share the information with their departments. There are several programs and multi-language fliers that can be given to the departments for public safety education issues. Educator of the year program issues a scholarship grant of \$5,000 worth of materials and is given to the recipients department. *Vision 20/20* supports fire prevention and public education, has a one day training end of May 2013, which demonstrated how to provide data for safety courses' held. Home Fire Safety Council has a stipend program for the *Side by Side* program. NFPA has an incredibly amount of resources available and strongly encourages departments to access it.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Missouri Valley Division, IAFC- Chief Jim Wamsley encourages conference attendance.

Wyoming State Fire Council- Chief Mark Young reports that Governor Mead has re-appointed him to another 6 years.

IFAC VCOS- Chief Ron Smith reports; The *Helmets and Hoses* course is still available. New courses available are the *Transition Class-* Volunteer to Combination issues is addressed. New piloted course *Leadership Class-* addresses new volunteer officer's development. ISO is revised and they are hosting a class in Gillette to address the update to the rating schedule. If interested, they need 45 day notice to plan the free class. November is the annual *Symposium in the Sun* conference. Scholarships are available, go to <http://www.vcos.org>. Click the education tab.

National Volunteer Fire Council- Mike Bournazian reports that NVFC needs members!

NVFC has 50-60 sets of gear to give to NVFC member fire departments. Lighthouse Uniforms give a Class A to families that lost a loved one in the fire service at no cost.

Legislative issues focus on suicides in the fire service. A document was drafted addressing this issue and a report will be given as soon as it is available. Contact Mike Bournazian by the end of May if you do not have the report. Our Representative in DC sent a letter to congress requesting they do not cut funding to the AFG and Safer Grants and keep the \$337.5 million to continue to fund the program for 2013. VFA/RFA proposal to the President's budget, are asking for an increase from 11.7 million to 13 million. Medicare Ambulance Access Preservation Act- Bill to increase the reimbursement rate. Due to be cut, asking them to stay on task and ask for a 6% increase for rural transport fees. Support is given to the Supporting Emergency Responder Volunteer Efforts Act- Provide a \$1,000 annual tax credit for active volunteer firefighters. NVFC supports the Fire Sprinkler tax credit for businesses that install or refurbish their sprinkler system. NVFC opposes legislation called the National Preparedness Grant Program, to consolidate all grants into this one grant, to be administered by FEMA. Mike Bournazian will get information out to members as information becomes available.

WFCA Constitutions and Bylaws- Chief Donny Munger reports no news.

WFCA Membership- Chief Donny Munger encouraged attendees to become members.

WFCA Legislative- Chief Don Huber reports the license plate bill was approved. Chief Kocher supports expansion of House bill 43 to include 35-6-105 that has consistent wording and stands a better chance of passing next time. Bill on fire ban; will work on this bill to change the terminology of fire restrictions instead of burn ban. Prioritize issues that need addressed. Next meeting is June 13, 2013 and will re-address these bills.

Speaker of the House, Tom Lubnau II addressed the meeting concerning legislative issues. Discussions include lobbying for profit, use the lobby network before the session begins, the sequester and the 53 million taken from our Federal Mineral Royalties and members of a multi-state coalition are addressing this issue. WYOLINK may be an issue due to Motorola annual maintenance fees, encouraged to get acquainted personally with your legislatures and get statistics to accompany bills. An interim legislative committee studies bills and can be viewed at <http://www.legisweb.state.wy.us>. Click on the Interim Committee Activities tab.

WFCA Membership Communication- Chief Wamsley reports no news.

WFCA Logo and Mission Statement- Chief Hannum & Chief Smith reports no news.

WFCA Residential Sprinkler Committee- Carl Blanksvard of the Rock Springs Fire Department reports; WY has formed a WY Fire Sprinkler Coalition, it is open to all and it educates and promotes the use of sprinklers. Carl suggests the WFCA Residential Sprinkler Committee may no longer be useful but suggests committee should continue to monitor legislation that would prohibit sprinkler use. Carl states new codes are possibly 3 years out. Newly formed WY Fire Sprinkler Coalition's next meeting is April 24, 2013 in Casper, on conference call also. Carl suggests this committee should support the newly formed coalition.

Wyoming Fallen Firefighter Memorial- Chief Haslam reports that the memorial service is today at 1:00 pm at the WFA.

WYO-LINK Update- Chief Haslam and Director Lanny Applegate report. Chief Haslam states, quit selling WYOLINK and start training agencies on this digital communication tool and how to use it. Director Applegate states, overall this system works well. The DFPEs is committed to finding avenues to provide training for those who come on board and require training on this system.

SECTION REPORTS-

Wyoming Firefighter's Certification Committee- Newly elected president Chief Tim Cortez acknowledges former president Captain John Rutherford for his years of service as his term expires. Chief Cortez reports some standards are under revision and a standard for fire brigades is with the DFES. New members are elected to the committee.

Wyoming Association of Fire Marshals- Chairman Carl Blanksvard reports many changes in the code department. Eligibility and dues information reported. State of WY has adopted the 2012 International Codes. ICC Region 2 is a newly formed chapter of the ICC. Next meeting is June 12, 2013 in Gillette, WCBO is having their meeting on June 13, 2013 in Gillette and they are having training on the existing building codes.

STATE FIRE ASSOCIATION REPORTS

Wyoming State Firemen's Association- Chief Munger reports the state convention is in Newcastle, June 13-15, 2013.

Wyoming State Rural Firemen's Association- Chief Don Huber reports, next meeting date will be forthcoming.

STATE AGENCY REPORTS

Wyoming State Forestry- WY State Forester Bill Crapser reports; thank you fireman for your response to the wildland fire season last year. We experienced 1,300 fires last year and had a 98% success on initial attack due to a rapid and aggressive initial response. Despite the loss of \$300,000 from sequestration cuts there appears to be enough funds heading into the 2013 fire season. Helitac is in good shape heading into the fire season and is on early this year and will be at Camp Guernsey.

Fire Marshal's Office- Director Applegate reports; in 2012 the electrical department had 12,000 inspections and contacts, has 13 different types of licenses and has over 12,000 active electrical licenses issued. Over 350,000 miles was driven in 2012 and the state had 7 civilian fire deaths. Training division held 756 classes, 9,000 students instructed, 5,000 hours of instruction, issued 1,000 certificates, 38 fire investigations, over 21,000 incidents, approximate \$8 million in fire loss. The training division added 2 new props, car fire prop and a tank. The Respond WY Conference had over 200 in attendance, and the Wyoming Fire Academy has undergone a remodeling transformation. Mike Carlson of The Fire Prevention department reports; 6 inspectors made 3,000 inspections, plans reviewer inspected 328 plans.

Wyoming Office of Homeland Security- Chief Haslam reports for Director Cameron; WOHS staff is going thru the S130, S190 courses to become more familiar with the fire season so they can understand and better serve the departments.

Wyoming State EMS- Skip Johnson reports; go to the website <http://www.health.wyo.gov/sho/ems/aboutus.html>. To view the WY EMS reports. New curriculum is available. See Jay Ostby- if your service is doing any responding for EMS. Check to see if your data is being put into the data system. Medicare and Medicaid receive this information and it affects your department. EMS will obtain an email list from the WFCFA to distribute information. EMS has updated forms; please call them to request the new forms. The 5 Trauma Regions meetings are coming up. Contact Kelli Perrotti in the EMS office for more information.

FEDERAL AGENCY REPORTS- No news to report at this time.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

Wyoming 2011 Volunteer Firefighter Recruitment and Retention Grant update- Chief Gene Diedrich reports; current contract expires in 2years 3 months. Thru March 2012 \$391,865.00 has been expended, \$556,000 left to expend.

Chief Haslam reports a commitment to support the fire schools, Cody, Riverton, Wheatland and Buffalo and is committed to college tuitions, immunizations and physicals. Expect cutbacks on room and board reimbursements for trainings. Formal information will be distributed when it is available.

DFPES Training Division Manager- Director Applegate gave the report earlier.

NEW BUSINESS

Fire Training for New Dispatchers- Report by Chief Ron Smith; new dispatchers take an 80 hour training course upon employment. Four of those 80 hours focus on fire dispatch. It is being questioned whether four hours is even needed. The fire service strongly opposes any cutting to the four hour training and in fact, questions how one can be adequately trained to meet the needs of fire service calls with the four hours of training. After the motion, it is determined that Chief Haslam and Chief Smith will work together to draft the letter of support of position statement to the Law Enforcement Academy and Community Training Advisory Board.

Motion #5- Chief Wes Johnson makes a motion to draft a letter in support of keeping the 4 hours and requesting additional training.

Second; Chief Chris Kocher

Motion carries.

Chief Cortez – IFC Wildland Urban Interface committee. Contact them for assistance with any issues you may be facing.

MEETING SCHEDULE

Meeting and Convention in Newcastle on June 12, 2013 at 3:00 pm. Meeting to be held at the Newcastle Fire Hall.

ADJOURNMENT- Meeting is adjourned at 12:20pm.