

WYOMING FIRE CHIEFS' ASSOCIATION

Meeting Minutes

Hilton Garden Inn, Laramie Wyoming

December 1, 2010

Call to order: The meeting was called to order by President Lyle Armstrong at 2:30 pm. A moment of silence was observed for those in the Military.

Roll Call: A roster was sent around the room for members to record their presence.

Minutes of last meeting: Chief Armstrong asked for any additions or corrections to the minutes from the last meeting dated April 10, 2010.

There being no additions or corrections to the minutes, Jim Wamsley made a motion to approve them, seconded by Nick Hudson. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report: Gene Diedrich gave the treasurer's report, which consisted of a statement of cash position, for the period April 1, 2010 through November 30, 2010. Cash balance April 1, 2010 was \$105,781.75, receipts for the period were \$270,315.90, disbursements were \$325,818.58, leaving a cash balance at November 30, 2010 of \$50,279.08, with \$38,061.49 being restricted to the recruiting and retention grant, and \$12,217.59 being unrestricted and available to expend. Ray Weidenhaft made a motion to approve the treasurer's report, seconded by Don Munger. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

There were no reports presented for the following committees: Missouri Valley Division, IAFC, WFCM Constitution and bylaws, Legislative, Wyoming State Fire Council, Wyoming Association of Arson Investigators, Wyoming State Forestry, IAFC VCOS.

Wyolink: Mark Harshman gave a report on the Wyolink project. He indicated the project was doing well. He said that not many departments were calling for assistance, if your department needs help with the system, there people under contract that will meet with your department and provide training using the Wyolink system. If you have any issues, give him a call.

Wyoming Firefighter Certification: John Rutherford reported as the chair of this committee. He stated the committee was in the process of updating some of the standards that have been created in the past. The committee has been doing very well with a lot of support from committee members and departments.

Wyoming Fire Academy: Jay Phipps, coordinator at the Academy reported. He stated the 2011 Fallen Firefighter Memorial Service is scheduled for April 2, 2011 at 1:00 PM. He also reported that a couple of maintenance items were recently completed, such as improving the outdoor night lighting, and a dressing up of the Memorial Wall.

Wyoming State Firemen's Association: Gene Diedrich reported for the Association. The next meeting of the group is scheduled for January 7, 2011 at 2:45 PM, at the Wyoming Fire Academy. The annual convention and drill team competition is scheduled for June 16 – 18, 2011 at Lander, Wyoming, with the convention being hosted by Fremont County Fire District.

State Fire Marshall's Office: See separate attachment or enclosure

Wyoming State Rural Firemen's Association: Reported that the Rural Firemen's Association annual convention was currently being held here at the Hilton Garden Inn, and asked everyone to enjoy the rest of the week attending the convention.

Wyoming Office of Homeland Security: Director Joe Moore reported for his office. He thanked everyone for their help and assistance. A folder containing numerous items about the department, chain of command, and regional response teams was passed out to all members present.

Wyoming Health Department: Director Andy Gienapp reported for his office. He indicated he had nothing much to report, He was glad to be in attendance at the meeting, his office is having growing pains, and will experience more. He indicated his office would be glad to assist in any way, if you need anything, please call his office.

Old Business:

Wyoming Volunteer Firefighter Recruitment and Retention Grant: Phil Oakes gave the group a update of the current grant. He stated there was approximately \$425,000 left in the grant, \$75,000 has been spoken for, leaving approximately \$350,000 left to spend by April 29, 2011. He reported that he had applied for another grant, similar in nature, which will be basically for training, college scholarships and physicals.

Quote by Chief Armstrong 'PLEASE SPEND THE MONEY'

New Business:

Chief Armstrong relayed to the group what the WFCAs by-laws state as to Board of Directors membership. The Wyoming State Firemen's Association and the Wyoming Rural Firefighters Association can each elect two members from their Associations to the Chiefs' Board. Both Associations agreed to review and renew and forward to Chief Armstrong the results of their election.

Chief Armstrong wants to relay to the group, that any member wishing to assist on a committee is encouraged to make their intent known to him. He also is evaluating current committees, and the need for additional ones.

Chief Armstrong stated a desire that he would like to see a membership increase and get more individuals on board. He would like to have everyone respond and get all the leaders of Wyoming Fire Departments involved. This includes the Chief of the Department, Past Chiefs, and Officers of a regularly organized public, governmental, or industrial fire department; Fire Marshal and all active members in retirement; Fire Commissioners and/or Fire Directors who devote time to administration and fire fighting operations.. He stated that there is a lot to offer to the membership, a couple things going on now, are as follows: 1. The recruiting and retention grant for the volunteers, and 2; The Chief Officer Symposium, which will be offered in March, will feature an excellent program and top of the line speakers. A committee consisting of the Executive Committee was appointed to lead the initiative.

Chief Armstrong reported that a review of the Constitution and Bylaws will be conducted by the Board of Directors with a report and any recommendations to be presented to the membership at the April 2011 Business Meeting.

WFCAs electronic media for communications was discussed, items talked about were e-mail, user groups and the possibility of a web page. A committee was appointed consisting of Chiefs Wamsley and Hannum to have a report for the April 2011 meeting.

A committee was formed consisting of Chief Wamsley to pursue the possibility of paying a stipend for volunteers serving as an Honor Guard when they travel to cover their expenses incurred. The current thought is to partner together all three fire Associations to come up with a plan.

Ron Smith reported on the upcoming VCOS volunteer summit in Washington, DC on March 17 – 19, 2011. The program will take a look nationally at volunteerism, review struggles and problems on a national level. One or two representatives from each state are allowed to attend. Three Chiefs, Marlene Atchison, Bill Isaac and Craig Haslam each have indicated a desire to attend, their departments will allow them the time to attend, and pay their expenses. A motion was made by Jim Wamsley and seconded by Ron Smith authorizing two of the three to represent Wyoming.

A request from Science Applications International Corporation to present information on the FEMA Prepositioned Equipment Program has been made. Kim Lee is in favor of a presentation, indicating it to be a very good program. Chief Armstrong will visit with the representative of the company and ask them to come to the January 7, 2011 meeting.

Crosby Grindle, Northwest Regional representative of the NFPA, is planning on attending our April 2, 2011 Meeting. NFPA is a great resource for us in the fire service, and having a rep at our meeting should add to the meeting.

Joe Moore, who is about to retire from Homeland Security, was given a standing ovation for his time, effort and leadership he has provided the fire service in promoting the Regional Response Teams. Joe responded that a lot came about by government windfall, it was a pleasure to work with us, he learned a lot and gained a lot.

Director Applegate stated he has a meeting scheduled with governor/elect Mead on December 16, 2010. Along those lines, a motion was made by Mark Harshman and seconded by Russell Wenke that Chief Armstrong write a letter of support recommending retention of Director Applegate and his staff under the new regime. Motion carried.

Next meeting scheduled for January 7, 2011, at 12:30 PM, at the Wyoming Fire Academy in Riverton, WY. In conjunction with the Mid Winter Fire School.

Motion by Chuck Anderson, seconded by Jim Wamsley to adjourn the meeting. Time 3:30 PM.