

Wyoming Fire Chiefs' Association Meeting  
January 11, 2013  
Wyoming Fire Academy

Call to order: Vice-President, Donnie Munger called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

32 individuals signed the roll call roster passed around.

Roll call: Board members present were Donny Munger, 1st Vice-President – Newcastle; Scott Hannum, 2nd Vice-President – Rawlins; Gene Diedtrich, Secretary/Treasurer – Newcastle. Craig Haslam, President – Riverton, was not present at the meeting.

Minutes of last meeting: Vice-President Munger asked if there were any corrections to the meeting minutes for November 28, 2012.

**Motion #1:** Wes Johnson moved to accept the minutes as e-mailed.

**Second:** Gary Gill.

Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer, Gene Diedtrich, gave this report for the dates of November 1 – December 31, 2012. The beginning balance was \$62,910.06, with a deposit of \$105.29; expenses of \$99.49, which leaves an ending cash balance of \$62,915.86. Of that the restricted cash for the 2009 SAFER grant is 17,275.73; the restricted cash for the 2011 SAFER grant \$30,502.73 a new checking account has been set up to administer the funds for L.A.S.T., and its restricted balance is \$1,481.51, total restricted funds is \$49,259.97; leaving a unrestricted balance of \$13,655.89.

**Motion#2:** Jim Wamsley moved to accept the treasurer's report.

**Second:** Jerry Munger.

Motion carried.

Association Bills: Gene Diedtrich advised the members, historically the Chiefs Association has paid half of the yearly \$500.00 dues for the National Volunteer Fire Council, and the Fireman's Association pays the other \$250.00.

**Motion#3:** Gene Diedtrich moved to pay \$250.00 toward the dues for the National Volunteer Fire Council for 2013.

**Second:** James Wamsley.

Motion carried.

Wyoming Fire Chiefs' Association dues for 2013.

**Motion #4:** Gene Diedtrich moved to assess \$100.00 for each member department Chief Officer and \$30.00 for each additional department member.

**Second:** James Wamsley.

Motion carried.

Presentations: Tiffany Rayner of the MDA advised the members that \$100,000 was raised to benefit MDA patients in Wyoming. She explained the many ways these funds help MDA patients with travel expenses, wheel chairs, leg braces, along with summer camp. She encouraged all departments to help raise funds for MDA, by participating in Fill the Boot.

L.A.S.T. Team update: Chief Mark Young reported the L.A.S.T. Team efforts are going well. Treasurer Gene Diedtrich has set up a separate checking account for the L.A.S.T. Team, contributions will be captured and tracked, and Gene will write the checks for any expenditures. If there is anyone in your community who would like to donate, please pass the donation through your department, and then pass those funds to treasurer, Gene Diedtrich. Donations so far: Chiefs Association, \$1500.00; Lusk Fire Department, \$500; \$1500.00, Rural Firefighters Association.

There are 28 members on the team; if you would like to become a member please contact Mark Young or Randy Vickers. You do not need to be a firefighter, you can be a civilian. New members will be required to complete a basic 2-4 hour course. A course, as part of the Riverton Fire School is scheduled to be held on Saturday January 12, 2013, starting at 8:00 a.m. for new members and 1:00 p.m. update for members who have previously been involved.

Randy Vickers asked the members to have their sponsoring agency produce a letter that firefighters on the department work for the agency/district. This is important, as liability issues can arise after the fact, and the document may not be forth coming after the fact. Information packets were handed out to help departments keep this information in a concise format.

## **Committee Reports:**

Missouri Valley Division, IAFC: Chief Jim Wamsley advised he did not have any new issues to report to the members at this time, however, he did have an award from the Missouri Valley Division of the International Fire Chiefs Association to present to Fire Chief Mark Young. Mark served on the Missouri Valley Division as a board member from 2000 – 2012, he served as past president of the Missouri Valley Division in 2006.

Wyoming State Fire Council: Mark Young reported a meeting was held in December, 2012. James Holloway chaired the meeting. No appeals, no new business was reported from the meeting. The Council meets three to four times a year, if you have any issues to bring before the Council, please contact Mark and he will put them before the Council on behalf of the fire service.

IAFC VCOS – (International Fire Chiefs Association - Volunteer and Combination Officers Section): Ron Smith reported the VCOS is developing a Fire Officer Course specifically for volunteer fire officers. The course is being piloted, after that the course will be available for delivery. The ISO class is available again, this helps department heads understand what ISO is requiring. If you are interested in hosting this course please contact Ron Smith. The beyond Helmet and Hoses class is still being offered; the only cost is lodging for the instructors. VCOS offers a stipend scholarship for anyone wishing to attend the FRI or the annual VCOS conference. <http://firechief.com/>

National Volunteer Fire Council: Mike Bournazian reported the president of the NVFC has also been appointed president of the NFPA. The NFPA has various subcommittees, of which the members of the NVFC have been asked to participate as alternates on some of these committees. Membership has tripled; there are now 12 members from the state of Wyoming. Also, four department memberships have added: Big Horn County Fire District #1, Lander Fire Department, Crook County Fire District, Laramie County Fire District #2, and Park County Fire District #2.

Funding has been obtained from a grant, to format one standard program regarding home owners and fire mitigation protection. This course is geared toward volunteer firefighters, which can be delivered in a short period of time. The course will be offered at 10 sites across the country in an 8 hour train the trainer format. Mike has put in a request to have the WFA as one of those sites.

Mike will be attending the annual meeting of the Fire Council scheduled for May, 2013, in Washington DC. <http://www.nvfc.org/hot-topics>

Wyoming Volunteer Firemen Pension Board: Board member Tracy Brown reported, as of November 30, 2012 there have been 188 member deaths from the program inception till now, current active members total 2,228, currently survivor pensions being paid number 173 and current retiree pensions number 931. The lowest pension paid is \$38.40, the highest is \$689.62. As of November 30, 2012 the fund has \$62,686,242.84, which is \$4,338,937.19 more than at this time in 2011.

WFCB Constitution and Bylaws: No report.

Nominations and Elections: Gene Diedtrich reported elections will be held during the April 6<sup>th</sup> meeting. If members have nominations please contact Gene Diedtrich.

WFCB Membership: Chief Donny Munger reported, during 2012 the association has lost 17 members due to change of officers in the fire departments. The association would like to encourage officers who have relinquished their positions to stay on as a member of the association, as the experience is needed. The association has gained 31 new members in the past year.

WFCB Legislative: Chief Don Huber reported, on the following legislative bills:

Senate File 0030 – Require each special district in this state, no matter how formed, to report to the department and to the board of county commissioners of the county where the special district is located its proposed budget for the next fiscal year. The report shall be made not later than June 1 of each year. The format of the reports required by this paragraph shall be established by the department of audit by rule.

This bill mandates each fire district must report their proposed budget to county commissioner by June 1, to the Department of Audit by December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year. The state would like to have more transparency regarding the fire districts and the amount of money they have available. The June 1<sup>st</sup> deadline may cause a problem as most districts do not have complete budgetary information by that deadline. Failure to follow these rules - the county board of commissioners can refuse to approve additional mill levy for the district.

**Motion #5:** Jim Wamsley recommended the association should be against this bill, it is more detrimental than helpful to the fire service.

**Second:** Chris Kocher.

Motion carried.

13LS0490 – H.B. No. 0155 Burn order violations-restitution.

Sponsored by: SEMLEK

AN ACT relating to penalties for violating fire bans; increasing penalties for entry into or use of any area closed by a board of county commissioners because of extreme fire danger; requiring restitution for firefighting services necessary to respond to incidents caused by persons violating a fire ban as specified; and providing for an effective date.

Burn Ban, this is a new piece of legislation which will take the place of the bill now on record. The new legislation increases the fine to a maximum of \$750.00, a maximum of six months in jail, and cost can be recouped for response to the incident.

**Motion #6:** Members are for these bill changes.

Motion carried.

13LS00300 – HB0043: 6-3-106. Failure to extinguish or contain fire outside of a structure, with a penalty provision.

A person is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not more than seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750.00) if he lights a fire ~~in any woods or on any prairie~~ **outside of any structure** and leaves the vicinity of the fire without extinguishing it or containing it so it does not spread and is not likely to spread the fire or taking appropriate action to reasonably ensure that the fire is contained. In any wood land or on any prairie stricken, replaced with outside of any structure.

**Motion #6:** Members are for these bill changes.

Motion carried.

HB0235: 31-2-218. Firefighter's license plates.

A firefighter employed by a city, county, state or duly created fire protection district, or a volunteer

Firefighter as defined by W.S. 35-9-601 or a firefighter retired from his department with at least ten (10) years of service may apply for distinctive license plates for any motor vehicle that is not a commercial vehicle or multipurpose vehicle owned or leased by him upon registration of the vehicle.

Addition of a firefighter retired from his department with at least 10 years of service.

**Motion #6:** Members are for these bill changes.

Motion carried.

HB0045: Fireman pension plan A.

Sponsored by: MADDEN

AN ACT relating to a firemen's pension program; modifying increases in benefits after retirement as specified; making legislative findings; specifying applicability; and providing for an effective date.

Plan A pension plan was put in place many years ago, were told they had an automatic COLA increase, there are 330 people in Plan A. Now a bill is in the works to delete the COLA from Plan A.

**Motion #6:** Members are against changes.

Motion carried.

WFCA Membership Communications: Scott Hannum gave this report. Face Book page <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Wyoming-Fire-Chiefs-Association/180488078717777> Webpage <http://wyofirechiefs.org/> if you have anything for the webpage please send it to Chief Hannum at [shannum@rawlins-wyoming.com](mailto:shannum@rawlins-wyoming.com).

WFCA Logo and Mission Statement: Scott Hannum gave this report; the Logo is complete, still working on the mission statement. Ideas regarding the mission statement will be shared with the membership for their review.

WFAC Residential Sprinkler Committee: No Report

**Section Reports**

Wyoming Firefighters Certification Committee: John Rutherford reported the Public Fire Life Safety Officer III standard has been approved. The Fire Brigade Standard has been tabled until the April meeting of the committee. Willy Watsabaugh has resigned from the committee due to his many commitments. John presented Willy with a plaque of appreciation for his time on the Certification Committee 2008 – 2012.

Officers elections were held, Chairman of the committee is Tim Cortez, Vice-Chairman, Rick Cozad. NFPA revision cycle for 1001 and 472, 2012 edition will be peer reviewed this year. Study guides for each standard have helped to improve the percentage of candidates passing the written exams.

Wyoming Association of Fire Marshals: No report.

### **State Fire Association Reports**

Wyoming State Firemen's Association: Donny Munger reported the Fireman's Convention will be held on June 13-15, 2013 in Newcastle.

Wyoming State Rural Fire Association: The rural fire association convention will be held December 4-6, 2013, Jackson, WY.

### **State Agency Reports**

Wyoming State Forestry: Mike Bournazian reported for State Forester Bill Crapser. The governor's budget recommends a lighter budget cut than expected for the Wyoming State Forestry Division. The budget for fire suppression for the coming year is \$60 million. The long range weather forecast for the upcoming 2013 fire season will probably exceed 2012 fire season. Ike Muniz, district forester in the Cheyenne office has retired, as well as, Dana Stone, district forester from Evanston area. Brian Anderson has been hired for the Casper area and Brook Lee has been hired for the Evanston area. The division plans to replace and assist district forester in the Laramie and Lyman area.

The VFA grant application is due at the end of January, applications should be sent to the assistant fire manager Chris Falback in the Cheyenne office. Remember to submit your fire reports to the online reporting program, the reports must be submitted by the State Forestry Office by the end of January. Wild Fire Weekend will be at Camp Guemsey May 17-19, 2013.

Wyoming State Fire Marshal's Office: Academy Coordinator/Training Division Manager, Ian Kraft reported for Director Lanny Applegate. The fire academy has undergone major upgrades to the facility and fire ground area. The agency has partnered with Homeland Security and State Forestry to purchase equipment for training. A SIMS tables for wild land training, a vehicle fire prop and a large vessel fire prop have been purchased for the fire academy. WYDOT has helped with improvements to the parking lot and fire ground.

Wyoming Office of Homeland Security: Chief of Operations, Kim Lee reported for Director Cameron.

WYO Link, Mark Harshman is the representative from the fire service for the Public Safety Communication Committee. Status of WYO Link, members meet monthly at WYDOT head quarters in Cheyenne, a copy of the most recent minutes from those meetings were handed out to the members.

Regional Response Teams nine year cumulative statistics total 357 missions. Mission types have been broken down in the highest to lowest number of responses; pipe bombs, truck wrecks, meth labs. For the year 2012, the RERT teams responded to 85 missions, which is a high number for the history of the program. Over the past nine years the RERT missions have covered all counties and federal parks in the state and four out of state responses. Funding stream will remain the same, approximately \$100,000 is allocated per team, per year. This funding comes from the 80% pass through from Homeland Security grants. In 2012 Wyoming Homeland Security was awarded 2.8 million dollars by the federal government for the 23 counties and two Indian Tribes, 80% of those funds are passed through to the county commissioners, of that 80% the State Office of Homeland Security takes off \$80,000.00 which is used to fund the RERT to continue their efforts. The annual Hazardous Materials Conference has been expanded this year to include emergency management, law enforcement, EMS and county officials. The conference name has been changed to Respond Wyoming, the conference will be held on March 23-25, 2013, at the Wyoming Fire Academy and Central Wyoming College.

Wyoming State EMS: Administrator Andy Gienapp reported for EMS and Department of Health. Mr. Gienapp recognized Chief Dan Johnson, City of Laramie Fire Department. Chief Johnson working in partnership with the State EMS, sold one his department's replacement ambulances to the Ethete, WY first responders, for a nominal price of a one dollar. The Department of Health has created a new Health Readiness and Response Section; this incorporates Public Health Emergency Preparedness. The annual Trauma Conference will be held August 15-18, 2013.

EMT classes – Basic and EMR courses have been aligned to meet the national standard. An education advisory committee has been created is represented by Roger Hespe, Newcastle; Scott Murphy, Lovell; Russ Christensen, Casper; Patrick Currie, Cheyenne; Amy Long, Pine Bluffs EMS.

The Intermediate level has been replaced by the Advanced EMT level. There are two (2) pilot programs for the Advanced EMT being held in Powell and Laramie. The Education Committee has monitored the progress of these pilot courses.

The second pilot program on the Advanced EMT level will be held in Fremont County and web-streamed to Newcastle. When this process is complete there will be two curriculums in Wyoming, as it relates to Intermediate EMT – Advanced EMT and the Full Mod-Intermediate EMT. Those who are now classified as EMT Intermediates will be able to maintain their EMT Intermediate level.

**Federal Agency Reports** No Report

**Continuing Business**

**Wyoming Volunteer Firefighters Recruitment and Retention Grant update-** Ian Kraft reported  
Current grant performance period of are July 2011 thru July 2015,

The SAFER grant is a four year grant, totaling a little under \$1 million dollars.

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Training – 2 years</li> <li>2. Physicals, shots – 2 years</li> <li>3. College scholarships – 4 years - \$600,000</li> <li>4. Fire symposium – 1 year</li> </ol> | } | 6 more months left as of January, 2013. |
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Monies have been transferred from the scholarship fund to support fire schools and the two symposiums in Casper and Cheyenne. At this date a full four year degree is not possible, if the student signs up now it may be possible to earn a two year degree.

Most of the money has been used for training, meals and lodging to support travel for training.

As of January 11 there is a total spent of \$338,132.45 with a remainder of \$659,717.55 left in grant. We have two and half years of the grant left.

The grant guidance document will be available for review on the State Fire Marshal's Office website.

There are only 45 of 145 departments signed up to use the grant at this time.

**New Business** None

**Meeting Schedule**

**April 6, 2013:** Wyoming Fire Chief Association meeting - Riverton Fire Station #1 at 9:00 a.m. Lunch will follow at Fire Station 1 after the meeting.

**Motion #7:** Gene Diedtrich moved to have the Fire Chiefs meeting at 9:00 a.m.at Riverton Fire Station #1, with lunch to follow.

**Second:** Wes Johnson

Motion carried.

**April 6, 2013:** Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service – Wyoming Fire Academy 1:00 p.m.

**June 12, 2013:** Wyoming State Fireman's Convention, 3:00 p.m. Newcastle Fire Department.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.