

**Wyoming Fire Chiefs' Association
Meeting Minutes
Wyoming Fire Academy**

Date: January 6, 2012

Time: 12:30 P.M.

Call to Order: 12:40 P.M.

ROLL CALL: See roster

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Lyle Armstrong enters motion to approve minutes from November 30, 2011 in Gillette. Moved Jim Wamsley. Second Gari Gill.

RESIGNATION OF OFFICER: Second Vice President Marlene Aitchison put in her resignation on November 28, 2011. Donny Munger was appointed Second Vice President for the time being.

TREASURERS REPORT: Secretary Treasure Chief Gene Diedrich. Beginning balance from November 29, 2011 to December 31, 2011 was \$85,247.31, with an income of \$65.58. Disbursed \$3,470.46 through the recruitment and retention grant; which leaves ending balance of \$81,776.85. \$14,035.86 is unrestricted, and the remaining balance of \$50,465.25 is restricted for the recruitment and retention grant.

Lobbying- In years past the Chief's Association has contributed \$4,500 to lobbying efforts. Gene feels as though \$4,500 is an appropriate amount and would like a motion to contribute \$4,500 again. Second Chief Hannum. Motion carries.

2012 Dues- In 2010/2011 the membership dues were \$100 per department which covered the fire chief or other member representing that department, any other person enrolled in the associate would be charges \$30. This year the association is hoping to make the following changes to the membership: continue to charge \$100 for the first member of the department, add other memberships to include Chief Officer, Corporate, Associate, and Affiliate. The cost for a Chief Officer would be \$30, an Associate \$25, Affiliate \$25, and a Corporate \$500. These members will have no voting privilege and cannot hold office. By doing this it allows other members of departments and organizes to participate in the association where they did not fit under previous membership categories. This will also help by increasing the members of the association. Gene Diedrich enters motion to adopt new positions within the association. Second Craig Haslam. Motion carries.

NVFC- Membership dues are \$500 which is split between the association and the State of Wyoming, with each party paying \$250. Gene Diedrich enters motion to provide the needed \$250 for the NVFC membership dues for this year. Second Jim Wamsley. Motion carries.

April Meeting Meal Options- The Riverton Volunteer Fire Department has offered their services once again to provide the meal following the April 14, 2012 association meeting. Last year they provided a steak dinner at Riverton Fire Station #1 and charged approximately \$10 a plate. Motion to have the Riverton Volunteer Fire Department provide the meal following the April 14, 2012 meeting by Rick Cozad. Second Jim Wamsley. Motion carries.

Travel Reimbursement- Lyle Armstrong is requesting the Chief's Association sponsorship to attend IAFC/MVD board meeting in Kansas City on March 1, 2012. Motion to provide travel reimbursement for the flight for Lyle to attend by Mark Harshman. Second by Chief Watsabaugh. Motion carries.

PRESENTATIONS: Chief Mark Young, Chief Randy Vickers, retired-Wyoming Local Assistance State Team (LAST)- Chief Mark Young provided a presentation on the LAST team and the services that they provided in the event of a line of duty death. He is currently working on a date for another LAST Team training time and date to be announced.

COMMITTEE OF REPORTS

MISSOURI VALLEY DIVISION, IAFC: Presented by Chief Mark Young- Mark Young is the Vice President of the Missouri Valley Division with new President being Sandra Schiess from Independence, Missouri. The conference will be held on June 13-15, 2012. The international conference will be in August in Denver, Colorado. The Pueblo, Colorado fire chief will be back to speak at the meeting in April. March 1, 2012 Mark Young will be going to Kansas City for the annual meeting. Mark provided information on Fire Rescue Group Purchasing which is a website that provides discounts to fire departments ordering equipment through them. In addition to providing discounts to the fire department a percentage of the ordered supplies will go back to the Missouri Valley Division. Fire Rescue International conference is coming up August 1-4, 2012 in Denver, Colorado.

WYOMING STATE FIRE COUNCIL: Presented by Chief Mark Young. The State Fire Council is currently in the process of adopting new rules and regulations and this was discussed at the last meeting in December. They currently have a new member in the council and he is from Jackson. They are also working to get the new codes approved and new department rules.

IAFC-VCOS: Presented by Ron Smith. There are currently 27 members in the VCOS from Wyoming. The annual symposium was held in November in Clear Water Beach, Florida and there were nearly 500 participants. The symposium will be held in Clear Water Beach, Florida again this year on October 30- November 2, 2012. There are scholarships available that will pay for registrations and conference fees. They are currently working on Orange River Reports that deals with EMS service delivery by a combination fire departments. This is due to be released in May in Las Vegas at the Fire

Rescue Med. Conference. This will deal with regulations, funding operations, deployment, and training. ISO workshop in Indianapolis March 29, 2012 free of charge except for travel expenses to Indianapolis. This workshop will deal with ISO ratings as they relate to volunteer and combination departments and well as rural fire departments dealing with tanker shovel and hauled water operations.

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER FIRE COUNCIL: Presented by Mike Bournazian. Currently working on moving forward with Life Safety Initiatives and benefits. There are currently only two members in this organization for new members are needed badly. There is a conference in April in Washington DC.

WYOMING VOLUNTEER PENSION BOARD: Presented by Tracy Brown. There are currently 2,288 active members as of November 30, 2011. There were a total of 171 deaths, 163 survivor pensions, 843 retirees in 2011. The smallest pension is \$38.40 and the largest is \$689.62. The total monthly pension paid out as of October 31, 2011 was \$279,179.21. Total amount receivable \$8,978,423.56. The total fund balance is \$59,009,001.35

WFCA CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS: Presented by Chief Craig Haslam. Bylaws will be provided at the April 14, 2012 meeting to be adopted or reviewed.

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS: Presented by Chief Gene Diedtrich. Annual elections will be at the April 14, 2012 meeting. It has been customary in the past that the election committee has provided the names of the previous officers and put the names up for re-election. Those officer positions have been in place for two years and this is the end of the term. Any further nominations will be opened up to the floor. If there is more than one nominee on the floor it will be opened up to a ballot voting. There should be a position open for Second Vice President. Each person wishing to be a nominee will need to present an overview of their intentions for the organization. The Missouri Valley Division Vice President position will also be coming up for vote.

WFCA MEMBERSHIP: Presented by Lyle Armstrong. Lyle spoke on the need for more members within the WFCA and mentioned the new memberships approved earlier in the meeting should provide more members.

LEGISLATIVE: Presented by Chief Don Huber. The legislature will meet for 20 days starting February 13 - March 9, 2012. All budget items must be a 2/3 vote in order to pass. Don requested people to attend the legislation and passed a sign-up sheet. Some items to be presented this year include; pension changes, especially changes to Pension A, which could possibly be switched over to the York System for new hires only and cost of living increases. All of these issues are currently being monitored. Residential Sprinkler Alarms, upgrades to WYOLINK system. There are currently 6.3 million dollars needed to upgrade software. The Governor did not approve the funding for this upgrade. Without the funding for this upgrade there will be issues in the future with people being able to get on the system. Motion made by Chief to talk to the Governor regarding this issue and if needed Chief's Association is willing to write a letter for the support of this

issue. The Legislative Committee has chosen to monitor the State Fire Marshall and the State Forestry's budget and oppose another 2% budget cut, in the event that it goes over the 2% they will then get involved. The committee is also choosing to monitor the discussion on Workers Compensation and illness related to cancer for firefighters. They are also monitoring the pension and retirement for firefighters. Currently Plan B is an option for all future Wyoming firefighters but all past will still have the current pension. Don Huber would like to bring to the committee that we continue to monitor the retirement and pension changes, residential sprinkler systems, State Forestry and State Fire Marshall's budgets, changes to Wyolink, and county block consensus. Motion to approve Nick Hudson. Second Craig Haslam

WFCA MEMBERSHIP COMMUNICATION: Presented by Chief Jim Wamsley and Chief Craig Hannum. Discussion was held regarding using social media to promote membership for the WFCA including Facebook, Twitter and the current website that has been created. They have created a logo for the website and which includes the Wyoming bucking horse that will need to be trademarked, which takes approximately 24 hours to complete. If the logo that is created is approved they will go forth with the trade mark step. If anyone has any experience with graphics and creating logos they are open to assistance from them. Currently they wish to publish the website with it under construction and go forth with the Facebook page, although they do not have an official name and logo. Motion to move Chief Craig Hannum. Second Gary Gill. Motion carries.

WFCA LOGO AND MISSION STATEMENT: Discussion on this matter was held during the WFCA Membership Communication

WFCA RESIDENTIAL SPRINKLER COMMITTEE: Presented by Chief Don Huber. Requested that this committee be included and be taken on by the Wyoming Association of Fire Marshall's. This was accepted by Carl Blanksward with the Wyoming Association of Fire Marshall's and they will be reviewing matters of residential sprinkler systems. Motion by Don Huber. Second Chris Kocher. Motion carries.

FALLEN FIREFIGHTER MEMORIAL: Presented by WFA Coordinator Jay Phipps. The Fallen Firefighter Memorial will be held on April 14, 2012. Due to the Easter weekend falling on first weekend in April. If anyone would like to participate in the planning contact Jay at the Wyoming Fire Academy.

WYOLINK TRAINING: Presented by Chief Mark Harshman. Currently the committee will monitor the software update and let the WFCA know if they need any help with issues resulting in funding.

NEW BUSSINESS

EMS SUPPORT TO WILDLAND FIRES: Present by Chief Watsabaugh. At the Rural Firefighting meeting in November issues were brought up regarding EMS response to wild land fires. Currently several EMS services are being better organized for the needs

of wild land firefighters to better assist on wild land fires and working with members of the wild land community.

NARROW BANDING: All systems not on Wyolink must be narrow banded by January 1, 2013. They will be a change in licenses and equipment in order to be narrow band compliant. The ECC should have notified all departments that who have not converted of the changes that will need to be completed.

SECTION REPORTS

WYOMING FIREFIGHTER'S CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE: Captain John Rutherford. Mike James' resignation from the office has been accepted. The committee approved term limits. Standard for Industrial Fire Brigade, Fire Officer Certification Path. Path 1 uses NFA courses and they have agreed that path will suffice. They will use Wyoming certification and not utilize the test bank for these tests. The committee also approved pilot classes that were created by Shad Cooper.

WYOMING ASSOCIATION OF FIRE MARSHALS: Presented by Carl Blanksvard. Wyoming is currently changing to the 2012 codes with local jurisdiction. The next meeting will be in March and they would like people involved with the local jurisdiction to be present so that they can discuss how they want to deal with the changes.

STATE FIRE ASSOCIATION REPORTS

WYOMING STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION: Presented by Jerry Munger. The annual State Firemen's Convention will be held on June 14-16, 2012 in Wheatland. The Pension Board Meeting will be held on June 13, 2012

STATE AGENCY REPORTS

WYOMING STATE FORESTRY: Presented by Chief Lyle Armstrong, for WY State Forester Bill Crapser. The WSFD will be moving their headquarters on January 23rd to 5500 Bishop in Cheyenne which is the old National Guard building. The shop will remain where it is at and all numbers will remain the same. The Federal Budget has been approved. There are currently significant cuts nationally to the State Fire Assistance and the Volunteer Fire Assistance Programs. They are unsure at this time how large an impact this will have on Wyoming. FMO Graham is attending national meeting of Fire managers, supervisors and coordinators next week. He will be discussing the cooperative agreement and the issues regarding fire billing and works comp. in detail there. He has been in contact with the State Assistant Attorney General and the works compensation representatives as well. He will have a more detailed report after the meeting. The cooperative agreement remains unsigned at this point. State Forestry is continuing the to process revisions that were required in the Office of the Inspector General audit, and working with the U.S. Forest Service to meet the January 31st deadline for the documentation. State Forestry has filled the lead heavy equipment mechanic position at the headquarters with Brian Ott from Cheyenne. His start date will be January 17th.

Applications have been received for the Crew Supervisor position in Riverton and interviews will be scheduled soon.

FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE- Director Lanny Applegate. The Budget process meeting will be January 11th and they will meet to see what the current budget cut will be, currently they are looking at 2% reduction. New hires within the agency are Eric Siwik, who was hired as the NW regional trainer and took Ian Kraft's position when Ian was promoted to Training Division Manager. Pamela Perea replaced Ashley Kroner in the Cheyenne office. No legislation changes through our office. The office is currently adopting the new 2012 codes. There will be a class in March which will provide information on the code changes. The HazMat WMD conference will be in March, in Riverton, for all regional response teams.

WYOMING OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY: Presented by Kim Lee for Director Guy Cameron. Kim held a discussion on the Niobrara oil plant and the 2012 force act. There is \$516, 000 for regional response teams and these teams do not just provide response to HazMat calls. Corneal Phillips, Commander of the 84th Civilian Support Team provided information on his specialized HazMat response team and their response to assistance and the different services they can provide.

FEDERAL AGENCY REPORTS

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE: Presented by Meteorologist Chris Jones. Provided information on incident support calls the NWS through Wyolink. You can use this service for the most current weather conditions in your area during a fire or other call. There is a possibility to have a agent on scene if the need arises. Wyolink services are currently only available in Riverton and Cheyenne. Chris encouraged members of local fire department to get the word out about spring burning and contacting NWS for current weather conditions. They are working on a Wild Fire Ready program to assist people in rural mountain areas.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

WYOMING 2010 VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION GRANT: Presented by Ian Kraft. There were 13 fire departments that participated in this grant in 2010 those numbers are up in 2011 to 30 fire departments. The grant provides assistance in three main areas, training, physicals, immunizations, and college scholarships. Training and college consists of 87% of the total money. There were 1, 312 firefighters that are currently using the grant for college funding. The initial amount available was \$997,850 and they have currently used \$46,034.75. The grant also provided funding for all firemen at Riverton, Cody and Wheatland fire schools.

NEW BUSSINES

WYOMING RURAL FIREFIGHTER ASSOCIATION: The Wyoming Rural Firefighter Association is to donate \$1,500 to the Last.

MEETING SCHEDULE:

- Annual meeting in conjunction with the Wyoming Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service in Riverton on April 14, 2012 at 0900. (Easter is April 8)
- In conjunction with Wyoming State Firemen's Association convention in Wheatland June 14-16, 2012. The meeting is scheduled for June 13th.
- In conjunction with Wyoming Rural Firefighters Association convention in Jackson, November 28 to December 1, 2012
- In conjunction with Mid-Winter Fire School in Riverton January 4, 2013 at 12:30

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:55 P.M. Motion by Gary Gill.
Second by Don Huber. Motion Carries.