

**Wyoming Fire Chiefs' Association
Meeting Minutes
June 12, 2019
Wheatland Fire Training Center**

Call to order: President Kocher call the meeting to order at 3:00 PM. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll call: Board members present were President Chris Kocher – Worland, 1st Vice President Byron Mathews – Cheyenne, Second Vice President Eric Quinney – Uinta County Fire and Secretary/Treasurer Gene Diedtrich – Newcastle. Seventeen members were present.

Minutes of last meeting: President Kocher asked for the approval of the minutes as sent out for the April 6, 2019 meeting.

Motion #1: Greg Hoggatt motioned to approve the meeting minutes.
Second: Donnie Munger Motion Approved.

Treasurers Report: Treasurer, Gene Diedtrich reported the Statement of Cash Position for the period of April 1, 2019 through May 31, 2019. Beginning cash \$42,949, Deposits of \$47,568, Expenses of \$29,738, leaving an ending balance of \$60,779. A total restricted amount of \$47,041, which leaves an unrestricted balance of \$13,738.

Motion #2: Lanny Applegate motioned to approve the Treasurer's report.
Seconded by Shad Cooper. Motion Approved.

Association Bills: Gene Diedtrich reported that there were no bills at this time.

Committee Reports:

Missouri Valley Division, IAFC: Craig Haslam was unable to attend this meeting, but wanted to reiterate that The Missouri Valley Division of the IAFC will hold their 2021 conference in Cheyenne at Little America in early June of that year.

Special District Association: Craig also passed along, that the open book rule will take effect on July 1, 2019. Information will be forthcoming from the Association. Each District will need a custodian to handle the public information requests. The new Audit rules go into effect on July 1, which mandate the method of reporting each district uses to report their information to the Department of Audit.

Wyoming Council on Fire Prevention and Electrical Safety: Mark Young reported that there have been no appeals and nothing to relay to the membership.

IAFC-VCOS: President Kocher reported that Aaron Zent, who had consented to be our IAFC-VCOS representative at our last meeting was taking a Chief's position in Idaho, so the WSFA is without a representative at this time, the position is open, and anyone that is interested, in filling the position, please get ahold of President Kocher.

National Volunteer Fire Council: Rusty Dunham reported that not much had taken place since our April meeting. He did report that Anheiser Busch had a free canned drinking water program available to volunteers, info can be obtained on the website NVFC.org.water.

NFPA: Dennis Estes reported that he is going to the NFPA conference starting this weekend. Mark Young reported at the last meeting Nick Hudson would be transitioning into being the NFPA representative.

Wyoming Fallen Firefighter Memorial: Mark Young stated that the Fallen Firefighter Memorial held May 11, 2019 was very successful. The LAST team is looking to work with the WFCA regarding the 2020 Memorial date.

WYO-Link Update: President Kocher indicated that he attended the presentation held in Gillette on May 15th reference the idea being presented that local agencies should pay for the backbone of Wyoming false bills. Shad Cooper stated his commissioners talked if this happened that the fire agencies would be involved in double taxation.

Greg Hoggatt brought up the news that there will be a lot of Federal money available in the near future and a new state - wide coordinator will be appointed who will be a WyoDot employee, which is essential to benefit from the Federal dollars.

WFCA Legislative: President Kocher stated that Byron Matthews had consented to be the Legislative Committee chair when the present chairman Jeff Kehl abandons his position at the end of the 2020 session. Gene Diedtrich mentioned an attempt is being pursued by the VOL/FIRE– EMT pension board to pass a bill to acquire the balance of the fire premium tax of 20% into the plan. More on this as attempt progresses.

WFCA Residential Sprinkler Committee: Mark Young stated that the committee if attempting to reorganize and get started again. The committee has been lagging do to the former chairman Justin Smith resigning.

Wyoming Volunteer Fire Pension Fund Report: Lanny Applegate reported that the plan was going to increase on July 1, as the Search and Rescue volunteers are to be admitted into the plan. The S and R members are projecting 600 new members to the plan, in the legislative bill that brought them into the Vol/Fire/EMT plan, it included 10% of the fire premium tax, increasing the total to 80% that is going into the plan, and raised the membership fees of the new S and R members only to \$30 a month. Total number that have participated is 7,780, number of deaths is 429. Survivor pensions number is 259 with retirees numbering 1,255. Monthly pension costs total \$527,297 with the smallest pension being \$44.88 and the largest pension being \$731.58. The total fund balance of the plan is \$81,804,920 as of April 30, 2019.

Wyoming Fire Academy Training Report: Ian Kraft reported that our busiest classes are FFI, FFII, HMA, and HMO. There is not much change the attendance since the last update in April. The number of Fire Investigations is at 15 so far this year. There are a couple job positions open right now at the Academy. The Fall training schedule will be out in the near future. Information on classes can be obtained off of the web site. The Academy is moving ahead with on-line testing for the certification program. If you need a Fire Investigator contact the Wyoming Highway Patrol at 307-777-4321, they will initiate the investigator's response to your fire site, callout is 24/7. Have enlarged the training grounds and have a new MAC Fire Box for training.

Volunteer Firefighter Recruitment and Retention Grant Update: Gene Diedtrich reported that we are behind in spending. We have spent \$386,000. and have \$592,000 left to spend. The grant expires on 12/2/2020 we're approximately 61% completed at this point in time. Had about a dozen attendees qualified for reimbursement that had attended the Buffalo Fire school.

Section Reports

Wyoming Firefighters Certification Committee: Aaron Zent, whom moved to Idaho was the committee chairman, Rusty Dunham was the Vice Chair, and has been elevated to the Chairman position. Busy reviewing standards at this time. Currently have 3 positions open on the committee, so if you are interested, obtain the application off of the Wyoming State Fire Marshall's web site.

Wyoming Association of Fire Marshals: Byron Mathews stated that the annual conference was held May 29 – June 1, 2019, and was a huge success. Nothing else happening at this time.

State Fire Association Reports

Wyoming State Firemen's Association: Kevin Brown stated that the convention is here in Wheatland starting today and will continue through Saturday the 16th. The Association meeting starts tomorrow AM at 9:00 with the drill team evolutions contest starting at 11:30 AM. Please come and join us.

Wyoming State Rural Firemen's Association: Bill Crapser stated that they talked about amending and changing the Fire Restriction rules across the State of WY. with the Forest Service. The next Rural meeting is currently scheduled to be held in Cody December 4 – 7, 2019.

L.A.S.T. Team Update: Mark Young reported that Dan Johnson is the new Co-Coordinator replacing Chief Vickers after his passing. Had a very good mission for Chief Vickers, was well attended. Have had 8 missions in 2019. Had 1 LODD, Calvin Sanders from Powell. There will be an honor guard training sometime this fall.

Wyoming Firefighter Cancer Support Network: Shad Cooper reported that they are increasing the network support, the membership has increased to 13. Shad would like to have one member from each county in the state be represented in the network, he will teach all the train the trainer people who ask. Trying to get the awareness message out to the Fire Service membership. Have had 2 missions in the state this year. If you have a firefighter with cancer, please contact him.

State Agency Reports

Wyoming State Forestry: Bill Crapser stated that the Heli tack crew with the chopper will start on June 10, have 105-day contract, which can be extended if needed. Half of the departments are reporting wildland fires into Emergency reporting which shows that over half of all wildland fires are human caused, having more departments reporting this year has really helped the department. It is Smokey Bears 75th birthday this year. If you would like him for an event, let them know, the Agency now has two Smokey's. The fabrication and maintenance shop facility are completed. The Agency has signed on to Globe Reporters for a new accounting system, which will enable firefighters to submit their claims on-line.

Fire Marshal's Office: Director Reed stated that WY. state government had approved the hiring of 3 people to fill the recent vacated positions. The office has a new Facebook page, on the page there is a sub group called Surplus items, which has listing of items available for the asking on it. Joyce Knapp is the program manager in the office in charge of the NIFRS reporting, a reminder to all, that your 2018 reports need filed by July 1, 2019. Mark Norford, the PIO for the office, is currently working on promoting a valve to stem fires in oxygen breathing systems, caused by smokers, ½ of the fire deaths in the last 18 months in WY. were caused by this happening. A note to all people reading this, if you haven't done so, you need to go to the Fire Marshall's website and update the information relevant to your fire department reference current officers and contact address and phone numbers.

Continuing Business:

2019 SAFER Grant: Writing New Grant: President Kocher stated that they still have full intention to write a new grant. The fixing of the Dun and Bradstreet number, and getting squared away with SAM.GOV again is complete, so that grant writing process will start soon.

Pre - Fallen Firefighters Memorial Walk: Director Reed reported that the money has been raised and the logo bricks, state seal and the fallen fighter bricks are being placed. Once it is constructed they will send photos. Thank you for your support.

New Business:

Driving Simulator: Director Reed reported that his office is pursuing this project. It is a very pricey item, and the one thing they have to obtain is funding to finance the project.

Meeting Schedule:

The combined Wyoming Rural Fire & Wyoming Fire Chief's meeting will be in Cody, Wyoming on December 4-7, 2019. I'll forward info as it becomes available.

The Mid-Winter meeting held in conjunction with the Fire School in Riverton is scheduled for January 10, 2020 at 12 Noon at the Wyoming Fire Academy.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn made by Donnie Munger, seconded by Byron Mathews, motion carried.

Adjournment was at 4:46 PM.