

**WYOMING FIRE CHIEFS' ASSOCIATION**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**JUNE 17, 2015**  
**LANDER VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT – LANDER, WY**

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by President Donny Munger at 3:00 PM. Meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call:** Officers present were Donny Munger, President – Newcastle; Scott Hannum 1st Vice President – Rawlins; Chris Kocher – 2nd Vice President – Worland; Gene Diedtrich – Secretary/Treasurer – Newcastle.

26 individuals signed the roll call roster that was circulated during the meeting.

**Memo – All motions that were made were passed unanimously unless otherwise stated.**

**Minutes of last meeting:** President Munger asked if there were additions or alterations to the April 11, 2015 minutes that were e-mailed to the membership. There were no changes, Motion to approve made by Ray Weidenhaft and seconded by Jeff kehl.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Gene Diedtrich presented the cash statement for the dates of April 1, 2015 through May 31, 2015. He reported the following:

Beginning Cash Balance	\$47,789.82
Deposits	38,539.93
Disbursements	<u>(57,649.60)</u>
Ending Cash Balance	<u>\$28,680.15</u>

Cash restrictions for the L.A.S.T. checking account and the 2011 safer grant total \$11,736.58 leaving an unrestricted cash balance of \$16,943.57. Motion by Jerry Munger to accept the Statement of Cash Report, second by Nick Hudson.

**Association Bills:** Treasurer Gene Diedtrich reported no unpaid bills at this time.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Missouri Valley Division, IAFC:** Craig Haslam reported that he and several other members attended the Missouri Valley Division conference at Sioux Falls, SD and that Wyoming was well represented. Other items he spoke to are as follows:

1. Congratulations to Jim Wamsley as the newly elected 1<sup>st</sup> VP of the MVD of IAFC
2. Next year's conference will be held in Springfield Missouri
3. Currently other states are passing legislation to offset the lack of reimbursement from Medicare/Medicaid. This legislation helps them to continue service, it has been passed in California and Washington. I have information available to anyone interested and there will be a push from the MVD to get the information and legislation out there.
4. The MVD is working on our Strategic Plan, anyone interested in the plan can see it on the website. If they are interested in helping please let me know.
5. If you are purchasing equipment you may be able to get some better pricing from the Fire Rescue GPO.

**IAFC VCOS:** Ron Smith reported that the annual conference is coming up November 12 – 15, 2015 at Clearwater Beach, FL., he encouraged those that will be attending to register early, and that motel rooms are filling up fast.

**National Volunteer Fire Council:** Rusty Dunham reported as follows: The NVFC unveiled its new Make Me a Firefighter campaign, a SAFER-funded project designed to help local volunteer fire and EMS departments recruit and retain members. Through the campaign, local departments will be able to post their volunteer opportunities, generate customized recruitment materials, plan department recruitment events, and more. Potential volunteers can go to a designated web site to find volunteer opportunities and connect with their local department. The NVFC is working on PSA's for Cancer Awareness in the Fire Service (pushing to keep your turnouts clean). The NVFC has a new Chairman, Kevin Quinn from Rhode Island. The NVFC also received an award for the "Share the Load" suicide prevention program. Dave Finger the Chief of Legislative and Regulatory Affairs for NVFC has offered to help the State Association draft a letter to our legislators to help support an increase in VFA funding for 2016 (I forwarded this letter to Donny and Gene). The Volunteer Responder Incentive Protection Act (VRIPA) is about to be introduced in the House of Representative. This is the bill that would exempt the first \$600 that volunteers receive in R&R benefits from being subject to federal income tax. Representatives Larson and Reichert are circulating the attached Dear Colleague letter to try to attract original co-sponsors.

**Legislative Committee:** Jeff Kehl reported the legislature committees are meeting this summer, one thing he talked about was HB 199 reference to special districts, he stated if you want to do a Special District do it before July 1, 2016. He advised against going to the legislature and asking for money now, as things are very tight. He mentioned the WSFA golf tournament in Riverton, which starts about July 10, 2015, there currently 15 teams registered and room for 2 more.

**WFCA Residential Sprinkler Committee** – Report presented by Justin Smith as follows:

- Mission is to educate all about the life saving benefits of residential sprinklers by addressing myths and explaining how the residential fire threat has changed in the past 4 decades.
- Recent public education opportunities with the Wyoming Insurance Claims Association, Big Horn Homebuilders Association (Sheridan), Respond Wyoming, etc.
- Side-by-side (SBS) demonstrations are the core of the education efforts. SBS props located throughout the state including Cheyenne, Laramie, and Casper. Brad Carroll with FM office secured \$1000 stipend to build another SBS prop; location TBD.
- Looking for more opportunities to get the word out – please reach out if interested (Smith, Carroll, and Young).
- Meetings held 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month (June 18, July 16, etc.) Call in number to attend via telephone is Toll Free: [1-855-747-8824](tel:1-855-747-8824)/Participant Pin: 446676#. Meetings usually held in Casper, but always looking to have meetings around the state if anyone is interested.

**Wyoming Volunteer Pension Board** – Jerry Munger reported on the board activities, mentioning the new bill that will become effective July 1, 2015. The following info was derived from the Pension Board meeting held at 7:00 PM on the 17th, 3 hours after the Chiefs' meeting. Information dated May 31, 2015:

Current membership	2,172
Current number of monthly pensions	1,259
Monthly pension payments to retirees and survivors	\$ 359,362.30

**Wyoming Association of Fire Marshals** – Report presented by Justin Smith as follows:

- Mission is to provide educational and networking opportunities to members in order to ensure consistent and informed prevention efforts statewide. Membership is typically facing the same problems and thereby benefit from each other's' experiences.
- WAFM works closely with Wyoming Conference of Building Officials and holds meetings and trainings together.
- Upcoming NFPA 72 (Fire Alarm Systems) Class in Casper. Cost is \$75 each; July 20, 9-4:30 p.m., Casper College Energy Institute Room #100. Discounted rooms available at Ramkota Hotel.
- Explained WAFM being very grateful for the support and guidance Wyoming State Fire Chiefs provided during legislature and that the WAFM body determined that it would be beneficial to contribute to the WSFC legislative

efforts rather than establish own fund etc. As a result a check for \$1000 presented to WSFC to assist in funding past and future legislative efforts.

- Next meeting to be held November 4<sup>th</sup> in Casper at the Ramkota Inn; Classes follow on Nov 5 & 6.

**Wyoming State Firemen's Association** – Association President Jeremy Bingaman reported to the meeting body that Lander was indeed ready to host the 2015 Wyoming State Firemen's convention starting with registration going on right now, down in the truck bays, he went over the schedule for the next 3 days, and invited everyone to participate in the activities.

**Wyoming L.A.S.T. Team Update** – Mark Young reported on the activities of the team, and is reported herein as follows:

Upcoming team training at the Wheatland Fire School Sept. 18-20, 2015. 4 hour Basic Training on Sept 18. 12 hour Advanced Training Sept 19-20.

Fundraising Initiative - Have contacted two Game and Fish Commissioners asking for their consideration to donate a hunting tag to the LAST Team. Both commissioners are very supportive and asked us to author a letter formally requesting the tags in October of 2015. The request is for the 2016 hunting season.

The next Fallen Firefighter memorial service is set for April 2, 2015 at 1:00 PM at the WFA.

## **STATE AGENCY REPORTS:**

**Wyoming State Forestry** – Director Bill Crapser reported that the group preparing the Forest Task Force report completed it last fall, it is final and is endorsed and supported by Governor Mead. The legislature in 2015 voted to fund a Forestry Outreach Coordinator for 1 year. Dick Terry accepted the District Forester Position in Newcastle, and Jesson Vasey has been hired as the new Fire Training Specialist. Director Crapser reported that he has met with Wyoming's Legislation Delegates to Washington, trying to hold in line and increase the Federal grants to his agency. Bill mentioned that Ashley Basich from the Shop is currently attending the Federal Excess Property meeting in Charleston, South Carolina. Bill reported that his agency is currently planning WYOFIRE 2016, has a problem with scheduling, currently doing a L-280 class at the end of June in Newcastle, and a L-380 at the Wyoming Fire Academy in October. He reported the Helitack assisted with the All Fire Days in Sublette County and with the Lusk Flood.

**Wyoming State Fire Marshal** – Mark Young gave the report from the SFMO, and is reported herein as follows:

- Hired a new Fire Inspector in Worland. His name is Kevin Rohrer and he replaced Dale Link.
- The agency has two job openings. One is a fire trainer and one is an electrical inspector both located in Green River. We are expected to interview for both positions in the near future.
- The Fire Council and Electrical Board met and are both in the rule making phase. The Fire Council is expected to adopt the new 2015 codes and locals should plan on following suit and adopt the codes by January of 2016.
- Our agency is in our new offices located at 320 W. 25th St - 3rd Floor. We like our office space and invite everyone to come see our new space.
- Exception budgets were recently due and we are starting to prepare our 17/18 Budget.  
Ian Kraft reported updates within training division. One of the things he reported, was the possibility of the Academy obtaining a Rail Car from Burlington Northern for Haz-Mat training.

**Wyoming Office of Homeland Security** – Kim Lee gave the report for the Wyoming Office of Homeland Security. Kim reported on the All Hazard training going on, had a section chief planning meeting on June 2-5, on October 13-15 a Section Chief operations is planned, and on October 16-19 a Finance and Administration training is scheduled. All the training has been or will be held in Riverton. Kim reported that the RERT compensation plan update was approved by the SERC at its meeting in Thermopolis on June 9. Kim reported that Past Gillette-Campbell County Fire Chief Don Huber, who represents the Fire Service on that committee will stay on the committee and retain his office as chairman. Kim reported on the Niobrara County flood, he said it was very devastating, and if it hadn't been for

the Lusk Volunteer Fire Department members, and their Rescue operations, there would have been many people perish in the flood. He reiterated that the Department did a super good job.

### **CONTINUING BUSINESS:**

**Wyoming 2011 Volunteer Fire Fighter Recruitment and Retention Grant Update** – Ian Kraft reported on the current status of the Grant. He reported that the 2011 Grant is coming to its end, the date being July 30, 2015. He reported that if you have qualifying Grant items, you have 45 – 60 days after July 30, 2015 to have the Association cut you a check, the Grant items have to be dated July 30, 2015 or before. He indicated there's about \$5,000 left in travel, \$45,000 left in Physicals, \$59,000 left in College Scholarships. He has not heard anything yet on the New Grant application applied for in March of 2015. He indicated as soon as he heard something he would put it out on the internet.

### **End of old business**

**New Business** – None

**Motion for Adjournment** – made by Nick Hudson, seconded by Ron Smith.

### **MEETING SCHEDULE:**

December 9, 2015, 2:30 PM meeting of the Chiefs' Association, followed by a 3:30 PM meeting of the Legislative Committee, in conjunction with registration for the Rural Fire Association Meeting at Lander, scheduled for the rest of the week. Meetings to be held at the new Community Center Building in Lander.

January 8, 2016, along with Mid-Winter Fire School at Riverton.

April 2, 2016, along with Fallen Fire Fighter Memorial at Riverton.

**TIMES OF THE MEETINGS, WILL BE SENT TO ALL, NOT SET UP YET**