

WYOMING FIRE CHIEFS' ASSOCIATION
MEETING MINUTES
SPRING CREEK RANCH – JACKSON HOLE, WYOMING
NOVEMBER 28, 2012

A regular scheduled meeting of the Wyoming Fire Chiefs' Association, (Chiefs') was held on the above date, at the Spring Creek Ranch near Jackson Hole, Wyoming. Association President Craig Haslam called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM, there were 37 members and guests present.

The meeting was opened by honoring our flag, and reciting the PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Roll call of members and guests present was obtained by circulating a couple writing pads, for all to write down there name and the group they represented at the meeting.

A motion was made by Lanny Applegate and seconded by Jim Wamsley to approve the meeting minutes, as sent, that were distributed via e-mail of the June 13, 2012 meeting held in Wheatland, Wyoming. Motion was approved.

The treasurer's report was presented to the membership by treasurer Gene Diedtrich for the period June 1, 2012 through October 31, 2012, as follows: Beginning cash was \$86,233.97, had deposits for the period of \$41,977.93, had disbursements of \$65,301.84, and Ending cash is \$62,910.06. The ending cash is partially restricted as follows: \$47,778.46 for the 2009 and 2011 Safer grants, leaving \$15,131.60 unrestricted Chiefs' funds. A motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by Brent Godfrey, was seconded and the motion was approved.

Treasurer Diedtrich reported that there were no outstanding bills out that he any awareness of.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

MISSOURI VALLEY DIVISION, IAFC – Chief Jim Wamsley reported on a couple items happening in the division. The first being the Near Miss Reporting System lost its Federal funding a couple months back and is currently trying to reestablish funding from another governmental source and/or from the divisions of the IAFC. The near miss program is a means of reporting your close calls, and then is used in this program as an educational tool. The other item he had was there will be a vote in Congress before the end of the year on the continuation of the Assistance to Firefighters and the SAFER grants, he urged all of us to contact our congressional delegation, and urge there support.

WYOMING STATE FIRE COUNCIL – Chief Mark Young reported that the Fire Council has an upcoming meeting on December 5, 2012, if anyone has any issues to bring to the council, please contact him. There were no questions regarding the council.

IAFC VCOS – Chief Ron Smith reported that he will defer his report until the January 2013 meeting.

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER FIRE COUNCIL – Mike Bournazian reported that he attended both the spring and fall meetings, with a lot of things on the agenda. The Chairman of the NVFC was just appointed President of the NFPA, which puts a volunteer fireman in as the President, and may open some doors that were not open in

the past. A lot of training coming our way in the future, a bunch of train the trainer. Recruit USA a media blitz program started on the East Coast is underway, all about recruiting and retention enhancement. Information is available on the NVFC website. Mike encouraged all of us to join the NVFC, they need more members, whether individual or department. Legislatively, working on the same programs as the IAFC, the feds are currently attacking length of service awards, about there taxability. The NVFC has a volunteer firefighter support fund that pays out a \$250 stipend to those members in need of help because of a disaster. There is an EMS program now within the NVFC; Mike indicated that the leadership in this group is of top quality. Mike indicated he was going to get more NVFC info onto the Academy's website.

WFCA CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS – Chief Donny Munger reported that he had nothing new at this time, he indicated the Constitution and Bylaws were recently updated, and anyone that needed a copy, please contact him.

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS – Chief Gene Diedrich reported that he had nothing at this time, and indicated that our normal elections are coming up in April of 2013, and wanted all to keep that in mind.

WFCA MEMBERSHIP – Chief Donny Munger reported that our membership numbers are up from last year, the Association gained 31 new members, but lost 17, part of which is due to officer turnover within the departments. He encouraged that outgoing department officers continue there membership.

WFCA LEGISLATION – Chief Don Huber reported that the Legislation committee was meeting immediately following this meeting, so he had no recommendations at this time, but would present recommendations at the January meeting in Riverton. There several bills being considered, some have been processed by the LSO, and some are being forwarded to the LSO by legislators. One bill has to do with the redefining of a wildfire in the deletion of woods and prairie, and making the person who started the fire subject to a misdemeanor fine of \$750. Another bill pertains to broadening the definition to make anyone who lights a fire during a restricted time a \$750 fine rather than \$100. Chief Kocher from Washakie County is working on the first bill, and Chief Gill from Crook County is working on the second bill. Chief Kehl indicated that the Joint Revenue Committee has a bill pending that has to do with special districts and joint power boards. Chief Wamsley reported there is a bill pending to amend the restrictions on Fire equipment as to height and weight. Chief Huber brought up Hotel rooms for the Fire Service lobby in Cheyenne, the session starts January 8, 2013, Chief Wenke has a contact with the Fairfield Inn, and this is probably where the rooms will be next year.

WFCA MEMBERSHIP COMMUNICATIONS – This is a joint chairman committee, consisting of Chief Wamsley and Chief Hannum. Chief Hannum reported that the logo for the Fire Chiefs' was completed. They have opened a Face Books page, it can be found under the Wyoming Fire Chiefs' Association.

WFCA LOGO AND MISSION STATEMENT – This is a joint chairman committee, consisting of Chief Hannum and Chief Smith. They reported that the Logo was completed, and that they are working on the Mission Statement, and hopefully have a proposal at the Mid-Winter meeting in Riverton.

WFCA RESIDENTIAL SPRINKLER – Nothing to report.

SECTION REPORTS:

WYOMING FIREFIGHTER'S CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE – Captain John Rutherford reported that there is a Certification Committee meeting today at 5:00 PM. The meeting agenda includes finalizing The Public Fire Life Educator, hoping to get through that and get approved. The Industrial Fire Brigade standard hoping to get

through that as well. The committee will also hear the final report on Fire Officer 11 at the meeting, hoping to finalize that as well.

WYOMING ASSOCIATION OF FIRE MARSHALLS – No report

WYOMING STATE FIREMEN’S ASSOCIATION – Chief Munger reported that the next meeting will be at Mid-Winter in Riverton. The annual convention will be in Newcastle in 2013, he encouraged all to attend.

WYOMING STATE RURAL FIREMEN’S ASSOCIATION – Chief Haines reported the Rural convention is going on right now. He also brought up a challenge to the Chief’s association to match the rural donation to the L.A.S.T. committee that the Rural Association made of \$1,500. Chief Diedrich made a motion to donate \$1,500 to the L.A.S.T. committee; motion was seconded, and carried.

L.A.S.T. TEAM UPDATE – Chief Young gave the report. He thanked the various associations and cities for there contributions to the committee, which will be used for needed equipment, supplies, and training. The Team is assisting with two L.O.D.D. that have happened within the last year. The biggest challenge of the Committee Chairs is education and training to Team members. Chief Young indicated that Federal funding for the Team member training is depleted, that’s why additional funding is needed. The Team has formed a partnership with the Wyoming State Fire Marshall’s office; they will be able to provide some funding for the Team. The Team currently has about 30 members, new members are being recruited, the process of appointment in the future, will consist of the Committee Chairs nominating members to the Fire Marshall’s office, the appointment will come from the Fire Marshall. A packet (one each per department) was passed out by Chief Young, he stated that this packet contains very (real) important information for each department, and important information to have there individual members complete.

STATE AND FEDERAL AGENCY REPORTS – These reports will be presented tomorrow at the Rural meeting.

CONTINUING BUSINESS:

WYOMING 2011 VOLUNTEER FIGHTER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION GRANT UPDATE – Wyoming DFPES Training Manager Ian Kraft gave an update on the grand. He stated that we’re currently a year and a half into the 4 years the grant is to exist. He stated that the Grant has helped train 1,500 to 2,000 volunteers, and 200 to 300 new recruits. Budget wise about \$321,000 has been expended of the approximate \$998,000 original grant.

WYOMING FIRE CHIEFS’ ASSOCIATION RECRUITMENT – Chief Haslam urged everyone to enhance their recruiting programs, with the Recruiting and Retention grant, training costs for new recruits can be reduced significantly.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Bill Law, Goshen County Fire Warden, gave a very interesting report on the reading program the Torrington Volunteer Fire Department has instituted in the first through third grades of the Torrington Public Schools. First Lady Carol Mead is a staunch supporter of the program and asked the Torrington Department to present the program they have in place to the rest of the Fire Service, for there review and maybe to adopt the program or one similar.

Chief Haslam said he was approached by the International Fire Relief Board to promote there program, which accepts used fire equipment and sends it overseas to third world countries. They accept just about all fire equipment, there motto for acceptance is “if you had nothing, would you use it”.

Chief Huber made a motion, which was seconded by Chief Kehl, that the Fire Chiefs’ Association approve an expenditure for the Lobbying effort in Cheyenne, in the maximum amount of \$4,500. Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:12 PM.

FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE:

1. In conjunction with the Mid-Winter Fire School in Riverton on January 11, 2013 at 12:30 PM. Meeting place is the Wyoming Fire Academy.
2. In conjunction with the Wyoming Fallen Fighters Memorial Service in Riverton on April 6, 2013 at 9:00 AM. Meeting place is at Station 1 of the Riverton Volunteer Fire Department.
3. In conjunction with the Wyoming State Firemen’s Association annual meeting and convention in Newcastle on June 12, 2013 at 3:00 PM. Meeting place is the Newcastle Volunteer Fire Department fire hall.
4. In conjunction with the Wyoming State Rural Firemen’s annual meeting – TBA.