

**WYOMING FIRE CHIEFS' ASSOCIATION**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Wyoming Fire Academy, Riverton, Wyoming**  
**January 3, 2025**

Call to order by President Quinney at 12:30PM

Motions - All motions made and seconded were unanimously passed.

**Meeting Minutes** - The Meeting Minutes of the previous meeting held December 5th, 2024, at the Best Western in Casper were approved as emailed to the membership. Motion by Brent Godfrey, seconded by Mark Haines.

**Treasurer's Report** - Gene Diedtrich submitted a written report on the Statement of Cash Position for the period October 1, 2024, through November 30, 2024. There was a beginning balance of \$61,973 deposits of \$18,198, disbursements of \$18,034 leaving an ending balance of \$62,137 with a cash restriction of \$26,625 for the Safer Grants and the L.A.S.T. checking account, leaving an unrestricted balance of \$35,512. Motion to approve made by James Curren and seconded by Brent Godfrey.

**Association Bills** - Gene Diedtrich recommended to the body that the dues remain the same for 2025. There are no unpaid bills. A motion was made by Chris Kocher, seconded by Brent Godfrey to contribute \$4500 to the legislative lobbying effort for 2025.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Missouri Valley Division, IAFC** - Chief Gary Harnish reported the following from the Missouri Valley Division.

- 2025 MVD Board Winter Meeting will be in Rogers, Arkansas on March 25, 2025 in association with the 2025 FORCE Conference (Fire Chief and Ranking Chief Executive)
- 2025 MVD Conference will be June 11-13, St. Charles Convention Center, St. Charles MO  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2025-missouri-valley-division-of-fire-chiefs-annual-conference-tickets-906314510097>
- 2026 MVD Conference will be held in Lincoln, NE
- Chief Silvernail announced his candidacy for Treasurer of the IAFC in 2025
- Continues to encourage registry in the **National Firefighter Registry for Cancer**, <https://nfr.cdc.gov/> , Following the passage of the Firefighter Cancer Registry Act in July 2018, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) is now directed to undertake the collection of detailed data on the occurrence of cancer in fire fighters. The ultimate goal of the registry is to better understand the link between workplace exposures and cancer among fire fighters with the potential to provide a better understanding of cancer risk among under-represented populations of fire fighters.
- Continuing efforts in Single Stairway legislation
- Continuing efforts in Oxygen Thermal Fuse devices

**Special District Association** - Craig Haslam reported via written report that the annual in person meeting and training will be held in Casper on January 23 and 24<sup>th</sup>. He wanted to remind Special Districts that if you have a new board member, they are required to take the Department of Audit approved training. The WASD online training is approved, and they will also be doing in person training around the state. The WASD will be monitoring the legislative session.

**Wyoming Council on Fire Prevention and Electrical Safety** - Chief Dan Johnson reported that the Council meets twice a year and has 5 members. They have not had any appeals as of late and at the last meeting on November 6<sup>th</sup> they discussed Single Stair Legislation, the adoption of the 2024 Code Series and Term Limits of 6 years for Council Members.

**IAFC VCOS** - Chief Caughey reported on the activities of the VCOS Section of the IAFC. VCOS is seeking presentations for the Symposium in the Sun Conference. There are scholarships available to attend Fire Rescue International and the Symposium in the Sun. A new Critical Thinking Academy will be held in Pittsburgh which delivers a new leadership style for combination departments. He encouraged everyone to take advantage of the free webinars that will be starting back up and also all of the Ribbon Reports that are produced by VCOS.

**National Volunteer Fire Council** - Chief Eric Quinney reported out on the NVFC. He discussed the cost of membership being raised from \$21 to \$24 which began on January 1st. The NVFC has 37,000 members and the NVFC is highly engaged in keeping track of the new Proposed OSHA Rules. The public hearing process just ended and Chief Quinney was able to testify during the process. The post hearing public comment period is now open to January 17<sup>th</sup> and he encouraged departments to submit comments on the effect of the proposed standards on their department. Wyoming State dues for the NVFC have been waived because we have enough members but always would be good to have more in Wyoming.

**National Fire Protection Association** - Nick Hudson reported out on the NFPA. He discussed consolidation of the NFPA Standards and reported that the Standards can be accessed for free through the website. He mentioned that there were lots of free training offered regarding electric vehicles and the work has been completed on NFPA 800, a new standard for lithium/ion batteries. The annual conference will be held in Las Vegas, June 15-20.

**Wyoming Firefighter Memorial** - An update for the Firefighter Memorial was given by Chief Johnson. The memorial last year was a success and was held on August 17<sup>th</sup> where Aaron Booker from Cheyenne was added to the wall. This coming year the memorial will be on Saturday August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025 and will be held in conjunction with the Hall of Fame ceremony.

**WYO-LINK UPDATE** - Chief Van Vlack was not in attendance and did not give a report.

**Legislative Committee** - Shad Cooper and Lanny Applegate gave a report on the legislative meeting that was held at the Fire Academy just prior to the WFCA Meeting. 13 bills were reviewed and discussed. They asked the body to approve the recommendations on the 13 bills as discussed at the legislative meeting. Chris Kocher made a motion to move forward with the recommendations on the 13 bills. John Rutherford second the motion. All voted in favor with Brent Godfrey opposing the motion.

**WFCA Residential Sprinkler Committee** - Nick Hudson reported that the Committee meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of each month via Zoom and all are welcome to join. The purpose of the committee is to promote residential fire safety. The committee is CO-Chaired by Nick Hudon and Justin Smith and offers education and resources.

**Wyoming Volunteer Fire, EMT and Search and Rescue Pension** - Lanny Applegate reported on the most recent status of the pension plan. Approximately \$123 million in assets. 2398 total active members in the plan. Board voted at their recent meeting to begin process for rule changes that involve a definition for spouses, adding in search and rescue into the plan and a rule that will clarify the participation requirements for the plan.

**Wyoming Fire Academy** - Ian Kraft reported on the recent completion of the Fire Academy Upgrades. He discussed the new prop - Fire Vent that will be on display during the fire school. The training staff is fully staffed at the Academy and the 2025 training plan is being developed and will be rolled out soon. The 2024 training report will be released soon and he gave an update on the recent recruit academies that were held in 2024 and those planned for

2025. A full wildland training schedule is posted on the website along with all of the other training that is available at the academy.

**2019 and 2021 SAFER Grant Reports** - Gene Diedtrich submitted a report on the current status of both SAFER Grants and encouraged Chiefs to submit for qualified training reimbursements and new hire physicals. The 2019 Grant had approximately 210K left in it and expired in November 2024. He is working on closing out the grant. The 2021 Grant has 656K and will expire in November 2026. Thought needs to be given to beginning work on another grant to be able to extend the benefits beyond 2026.

Highlights of SAFER GRANT coverage.

Training Reimbursement

Includes the Training Cost, Daily meals and lodging incurred within the Wyoming Current Per-Diem rates.

College Books/Tuition

Acceptance will be for a 1-4-year period, depending on the life of the grant, allows 8 semesters of tuition at a qualified college or online teaching college. Allows up to \$1,650 tuition and \$350 for relevant books per semester, passing grade of a C or better per semester to qualify for payment.

One Time Physical

For new members of a department, a department member must be in good standing. Needs to be a NFPA 1582 compliant physical, reimburses up to \$880 per physical.

**By-Laws Committee** - Chief Wamsley did not have a report for the committee and stated that one would be available for the April Meeting.

## **SECTION REPORTS**

**Wyoming Firefighter's Certification Committee** - Chief Fox reported on behalf of the Certification Committee. He stated that a new tech rescue survey will be conducted soon with more detailed questions. The committee approved the new certification standards for Fire Inspector, Fire Life Safety Educator and Live Fire Instructor. The next meeting will be held April 4, 2025, at 1400 Hours at the Fire Academy.

**Wyoming Association of Fire Marshals** - Nick Hudson reported the annual conference will be in Casper, April 9-11<sup>th</sup>. The association is small but mighty with about 40 code enforcement officials across the state participating. The purpose is community risk reduction. Affordable CME is available at the Conference.

**Industrial Fire Chiefs** - Donnie Stevenson from Newcastle reported that Ryan Wells was no longer with the Sinclair Refinery and that they are working to reorganize the section. John Rutherford mentioned that Matt Myers from Sinclair was also interested in getting involved in making the section active again. Chief Shad Cooper asked the section to continue work on the foam issues and report back in the future.

**Consortium Section** - On November 20, 2024, chief officers of the Wyoming fire service met in Casper to discuss the proposed bylaws for the newly formed Consortium Section of the Wyoming Association of Fire Chiefs. Jim Wamsley was elected Chairman, Chief Speiser for the position of Vice-Chair, and Chief Will Gay as Secretary/Treasurer. Based on the newly ratified bylaws, four meetings for calendar year 2025 were established as follows: January 22, 2025, 9 AM. Meeting location is the Public Safety Center at 415 W. 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Cheyenne, April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025, 6 PM. In Riverton at the WFA. October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025, 5 PM. In Casper at the Thyra Thompson State Office Building. This is during the Leadership Symposium. November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025, 10 AM, at the Casper Public Safety

Communications Center, 441 Landmark Drive. Dues were established at \$100 for Chief Officers and also the section discussed the application of an AFG or Safer Grant to help support the recruit academies.

## **STATE FIRE ASSOCIATION REPORTS**

**Wyoming State Fireman's Association** – Cody Scott reported on the upcoming convention this summer in Torrington. He stated that raffle tickets were available for sale and went over the prizes that were available this year.

**Wyoming State Rural Firemen's Association** – Shad Cooper reported that they had record attendance at the recent conference in Casper in December with almost 200 people attending. Next year's conference will be held December 3-5<sup>th</sup> at the same location, Best Western in Casper and invited the WFCA to again hold a joint meeting together on December 4<sup>th</sup> starting at 8:00AM.

**L.A.S.T Team Update** – Chief Dan Johnson reported that the LAST Team received a private donation from a family affected by the Elk Fire for \$2,000. The tag that was donated by Game and Fish Commissioner Ladwig resulted in a net revenue of \$27,000. The Team wrote a check to Access Yes to thank the G&F Commissioners for the donation of the tags. He also reported on the ongoing effort of the Engine Project in Casper, the status of PSOB Claims and that they have completed 7 missions' year to date. If you know a commissioner in your area that would be willing to donate a tag, please get with Chief Johnson or Lanny Applegate. The Fire Truck project in Casper is ongoing and getting closer to completion.

**307 CRR** – Nick Hudson reported on behalf of Director Mathews for 307 CRR. He discussed the thermal fuse project, the statewide initiative for food truck inspections and the carbon monoxide initiative.

**Wyoming Firefighter Cancer Support Network** – Chief Shad Cooper gave a report on behalf of Paul Juergens and the Network. He reported that 5 classes have been taught, 1 case was supported and that a recent fundraiser netted \$1800. A discussion was held about the cancer screen legislation that was recently passed and the process that firefighters need to follow to be covered. This process is outlined on the Wyoming Department of Work Force services website. It was mentioned that future training at a meeting would be a good idea to help firefighters learn the process of getting screened properly. Chief Quinney asked Director Mathews to help line up training for the April meeting.

## **STATE AGENCY REPORTS**

**Wyoming State Forestry** – Kelly Norris and Jerod Delay were not able to attend and submitted the following written report.

- 2024 fires as of 12/31: 2,167 fires and 850,650 acres
  - State/PVT Fires: 1,823 fires and 596,925 acres
- Both helicopter and SEAT contracts have been extended for another year, with the same contractors as in 2024
- Crew Support positions with the Forestry Conservation Camp continue. Follow up calls being conducted with messages left to potential candidates last week.
- 47 VFA grant applications were received, which is a record.

- IQS Training in Cheyenne, Feb. 11-12
- Nationally working on MAFFS MOU with the FS and Military
- Updating WY Military MOU with use of Blackhawks and military support
- Will be scheduling AOP meetings in the near future
- Beginning work on Cooperative Agreement with FS and Federal agencies that expires in Dec. of '26

**Wyoming State Fire Marshal's Office** - Director Mathews gave a report on the vacancies that they have at the Fire Marshal's Office and entertained any questions from the Body. A question was asked by Chief Quinney regarding the rolled out of the NEIRS reporting system and the integration of that with ImageTrend. He reported that he would be attending a meeting later this month to learn more about the rollout and informed everyone that ImageTrend would be adapting to meet the requirements of the NEIRS program.

**Wyoming Office of Homeland Security** - No Report Given

**Office of Emergency Medical Services** - No Report Given

## **CONTINUING BUSINESS**

**OSHA New Safety and Health Standard** - Chief Quinney reported that the public hearing process just ended and that he was able to testify during the process. The post hearing public comment period is now open to January 17<sup>th</sup>. and he encouraged departments to submit comments on the effect of the proposed standards on their department. It is unknown if the new administration in Washington will have an impact on the future of the newly proposed standard, but work needs to be done to find something that is feasible for departments of all sizes to meet.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**SAFER Grant Application** - Chief Dan Johnson made a presentation about a SAFER Grant Application being made through the WFCA to support the recruit academies. The grant would provide money for departments to pay OT to backfill positions that are vacated due to the departments sending instructors to the recruit academy. This would allow funding to help support the academies with instructors and would potentially cover consumables used. The matching funds of 10% would come from the departments utilizing the grant to pay overtime for the backfilled position. A discussion was held about the grant and also making sure it would not compete with the recruitment and retention grant that will be applied for in the near future to help extend those grant funds beyond 2026. Chief Johnson and Ian Kraft would work on the grant application. Chief Kocher made a motion to support the grant application. Lanny Applegate seconded the motion. Motion passed.

With no other business being brought before the body. A motion was made by Jim Wamsley to adjourn the meeting. Second, by James Curren. All present voted in favor. The Meeting was adjourned by Chief Quinney at 2:00 PM

## **FUTURE MEETING DATES**

- April 5, 2025, annual meeting of the WFCA, with elections starting at 9:00 AM at the Riverton Volunteer Fire Department Station #1 meeting room. A delicious lunch will be served after the meeting by the good cooks of the RVFD.
- June 11, 2025, starting at 3:00 PM at the Torrington Fire Department held in conjunction with the Annual Convention of the State Firefighters Association.
- December 4, 2025, in conjunction with the Rural Fire Association Meeting, starting at 8:00 AM at the Best Western in Casper.

