

WYOMING FIRE CHIEFS' ASSOCIATION
MEETING MINUTES
Fire Academy, Riverton, Wyoming
April 11, 2026

Called to order by President Fox at 9:00AM

Motions - All motions made and seconded were unanimously passed unless otherwise noted.

Meeting Minutes - The Meeting Minutes of the previous meeting held January 9, 2026, at the Fire Academy in Riverton and were presented as emailed to the membership. Motion by Gene Diedtrich, seconded by Chris Kocher.

Treasurer's Report/Association Bills - Eric Quinney submitted a written financial report for January 1, through March 31, 2026. Total Chiefs Balance is \$44,160. (\$38,835 unrestricted, \$5,325 restricted for Consortium) Total LAST Team balance is \$51,583. Legislative expenses were \$8,430. Office Equipment/Supplies \$1,341. The Merchandise Website set up of \$295. Motion to approve Financial Report and Association Bills made by Lanny Applegate and seconded by Gene Diedtrich

Presentation - Janet Lewis of the Wyoming Red Cross gave a presentation about the services provided by the Red Cross. She highlighted that Fire/EMS can call 833-583-3111 which is a special first responder number for the Red Cross which provides quicker access for a Red Cross Response. She gave an overview of a smoke detector program, youth programs and disaster support services.

WFCA Elections - Eric Quinney presented to the group that nominations were received for JR Fox as President, Jim Wamsley as 1st VP and Fred Baldwin as 2nd VP. Nominations were solicited from the floor. No other nominations were received. Byron Mathews made a motion to close nominations. Gene Diedtrich seconded the motion. Motion was made by Chris Kocher to cast a ballot by acclamation for the officers to serve a second term as nominated. Seconded by Gene Diedtrich.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Missouri Valley Division, IAFC - Chief Harnish gave the following report and provided the following information

Winter Meeting March 31, 2026 Oklahoma City

- Conference updates
 - Lincoln, NE June 3-5
 - Annual MVD meeting
 - FRI 2026 August 12-14 Kansas City , MO
 - FRI 2027 August 11-13 Anaheim, CA
 - FRI 2028 August 9-12 Orlando, FL
- Conference updates Chief Jeremy Young from Frederick Firesburg in Colorado will be running for 2nd VP, MVD
- The MVD Board is endorsing MVD Chief Mike Sneider for IAFC, 2nd VP
 - A reminder to vote if your are an IAFC member
- ATT First Net Update, lots of lobbying going on in DC, asking for continued support
- Ongoing discussion on dues increases. All but 2 other divisions have a higher dues structure than we do. We have not had a dues increase for at least 35 years. Each \$10 increase in our dues

brings an increase of roughly \$13,000/year to our budget. The constitution says it is necessary to give 120 days notice to the membership prior to voting on the dues increase. A 2/3 majority is required to pass.

- Changes last year pro rated dues for new members for first year, decline in funds
- Dues throughout the divisions range from \$10-65, MVD is \$20 and has been going back to the early 1990's
- Recommendation to increase the dues to \$40 will be presented to the membership at the annual meeting in June
- Lynne Washburn Scholarship
 - 12 Applicants
- Wyoming still has a \$1500 stipend available for the Lincoln, Conference and MVD Annual Meeting
- \$1500 State stipend (to attend the Division Conference, Lincoln, NE June 3-5), if interested submit a letter of interest to me by May 1, 2026
- If interested contact me for assistance

Special District Association - Chris Kocher reported that the SDA held their annual meeting this past week. Craig Haslam has stepped down as the President. Darren Edmonds is the new president for the Special District Association.

Wyoming Council on Fire Prevention and Electrical Safety - Chief Johnson submitted a email report that there have been no appeals before Council nor any pending for the last quarter. The Council will conduct its next semiannual meeting on the 21st of April at 14:30.

IAFC VCOS - Chief Caughey submitted an email update. "Hustle worth having" National volunteer marketing campaign. Free materials available. Limited staffed fire ground operations with a few spots left held June 5,6,7 in Cheyenne. Course is free reach out to Chief Caughey if interested. Fall symposium in Sun registration opening soon! Also, Fire Leadership Facebook closed group! May 7 virtual check in features LODD presentation on refrigeration truck fires!

National Volunteer Fire Council - Chief Eric Quinney reported out on the NVFC. He highlighted the Grant Programs of the NVFC, the drinking water program and training opportunities. The spring meeting will be in DC in May with the fall meeting being in Kentucky in September. Work continues with OSHA and cancer prevention.

National Fire Protection Association - Nick Hudson reported out on the NFP. Bob Sullivan sends his regrets, his mother passed away on Thursday night so he was not able to make it. The standards that are in the process of being updated are 1400, 1750. New standard 1800 for battery safety is making its way through the process. The only standard at this time that has anything to do with batteries is 855 for energy storage systems. Wildfire community preparedness day is May 2nd. There are lots of resources for this on the NFPA website.

Wyoming Firefighter Memorial - Due to scheduling conflicts - the Memorial will be moved from Saturday, August 15 to Saturday, August 22nd. The schedule of events will be coordinated by State Fire Marshals office, State Fire Academy Staff, Wyoming LAST, and WFC Assoc. Topic is open for discussion and/or comment.

WYO-LINK UPDATE - Chief Kocher reported out on the PSCC. The last meeting was held Feb 4th and 5th in Cheyenne. The new 911 legislation is in the process of being implemented with \$3 million in grant funding available for PSCC projects. Law Enforcement and the Forest Service submitted an application for a communication channel and that was approved. Next meeting will be April 29-30 in Casper.

Legislative Update - There were a lot of bills related to State Forestry and the creation of 2 Fire Modules. These modules are in the process of being stood up in Lander and Douglas. Hazard pay was implemented and positions will have the ability to participate in the State Retirement Plan. Money approved in the budget for increased funding for State Forestry for more positions with PIO and the Honor Farm in Newcastle. The increased fire mil levy legislation failed to advance in the process but may be brought back for future consideration.

Special thanks to everyone who contributed to the session by lobbying in Cheyenne or contacting your legislators. Also special thanks to Lanny Applegate for continuing to lead the efforts. Name tags this year were considered a success and will continue to be implemented in the future.

WFCA Residential Sprinkler Committee - Nick Hudson reported that the Side by Side Demonstration Trailer is available and to get in touch with him to get it scheduled between May 1st and October 31st. The goal of the committee is to educate, educate and promote. A busy August is scheduled but he would like to get it out more throughout the year.

Wyoming Volunteer Fire, EMT and Search and Rescue Pension - Lanny Applegate reported on the most recent status of the pension plan. 2410 current members. 1530 retirees. 303 spouse pensions. \$673,000 is being paid out monthly in pensions. The smallest monthly pension is \$35.14, the largest is \$810 with an average pension of \$367. 121 departments are currently participating.

Director of the Wyoming Retirement System David Swindell gave an update on all of the pension plans. Plan B is very healthy and is over 100% funded and should be eligible for a COLA soon. Plan A is at 96% and is healthy. The Public Employee Plan is 91%. The Volunteer pension is nearing 100% and will also be eligible for a COLA. All COLA's have to be approved by the Legislature. 2025 investment results were strong at over 17%.

Wyoming Fire Academy - Ian Kraft reported on the Fire Academy.

2026 1Q Stats

- Trainings, meeting and events held - 47
- Students and attendees contacted - 749
- Contact hours - 731
- Online classes - 8 with 155 students
- Spring career recruit academy - 19
- Meet & greets conducted by training staff - 11

Updates

- The WFA is still in the process of trying to convert and upgrade the existing gas prop field to offer both natural gas and propane training fires. This will include the addition of a few new props.
- The new FFI methodology task book has been submitted to Pro Board for review and approval. The goal is to implement this as a concurrent methodology or another "track" for obtaining FFI certification in Wyoming. The new methodology task book replaces the multiple-choice written test with a locally tested "workbook" portion based on the current NFPA standard. The current standard being administered, that includes the multiple-choice test, will remain in place.

Upcoming Training (May/June)

- Cody Fire School, Cody WY, 5/1-3/26
- IAAI Evidence Collection, WFA-Riverton, 5/13/26

- PICO, WFA-Riverton, 5/15-17/26
- ELDT, WFA-Riverton, 6/5-7/26
- WY IAAI Conference, Laramie WY, 6/10-12/26

2021 SAFER Grant Report - 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 2021 Grant has a balance of \$539K and will expire in November 2026. Reminder that all grant expenditures must be preapproved through the grant administrator Gene Diedtrich.

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.

SECTION REPORTS

Wyoming Firefighter's Certification Committee - Chief Allen Robinson reported on several ongoing projects of the committee. Work continues on Technical Rescue. The Cancer Awareness Module is being implemented for FF! requirements to help promote cancer prevention among new firefighters.

Wyoming Association of Fire Marshals - Nick Hudson reported out for WAFM. Excellent conference this last week. Record attendance with about 59 attendees. Covered some great topics to include code and standard related and community risk reduction practices. It is a small but mighty group.

Industrial Fire Chiefs - Donnie Stevenson submitted an email report as he was unable to attend. They have looked at several foam testing in the past few months and the US Fire Pump has looked promising as the new green foam has proven not very effective on crude oil tank fires. They have also found that the application rate normally used in NFPA as .16 we have needed to increase this to .24 application rate which now increases to the amount of foam required. Director Byron Mathews also added an update on the effort to get rid of the old foam and making sure everyone has participated in the survey to aid in that effort. There will be a upcoming demonstration of new foam products in Casper in the Fall sometime.

Consortium Section - Chief Fox reported that the section met last night. They adopted By-Laws of the section. Discussions were held about the 7220 Conference. Cost will be \$75. The conference will be held October 29-30th in Gillette. Recruit academies are successful with a 3rd one being considered. An Officer Development program being considered for implementation.

STATE FIRE ASSOCIATION REPORTS

Wyoming State Firefighter Association - The 93rd Annual Convention will be held in Wheatland June 18-20, 2026. The Association is once again having a benefit raffle with several prizes (rifle, set of tires, gun safe, smoker, knife set, etc) to support the legislative efforts. Tickets are \$5 each and contact him as wsfa.stofflet@gmail.com for tickets and more information. There was a call for more departments to field drill teams to help continue the tradition and help reach 100 years.

Wyoming State Rural Firemen's Association - JR Fox reported that the Fire Advisory Board met last Wednesday in Casper. Lots of discussion on mutual aid periods, EFSA rules and the new fire modules. An update also given on the Mini Mob Guide will be published this coming week. Also, more movement is happening with the new US Wildland Fire Service but not much in the way of details.

L.A.S.T Team Update - 1/2 of a G&F Commissioner hunting tag was donated by Rusty Bell (Campbell County). The LAST share of this tag after auction amounted to \$16,425.00. Thanks go to Commissioner Rusty Bell for this donation. The LAST team will make a donation to the Game and Fish Access Yes Program to support Game and Fish efforts. If you know any Commissioners - Lanny Applegate and/or Dan Johnson can meet with them to discuss possible future support of the LAST program. Caisson Project is making progress. It is in the auto body shop at Casper College. The pumper is stripped of everything and awaiting paint. Stainless steel pump panel is being designed and cut out. Seats have been demoed and will be reupholstered. Replacement gauges will be ordered soon. The Caisson Project is scheduled for completion in May of 27. Still need to complete the process of transferring CAST responsibilities over to Chief Allen Robinson.

307 CRR - Director Mathews reported on some data numbers. Right now going through data from the last few years to determine what problems and hot issues are. As a state, there are tons of medical responses but not much information so working on trying to get further information on what types of medical calls everyone responds to. This will help determine some of the next steps. Current Carbon monoxide initiative has been mostly happening at the local levels with local funding. Have identified a company that might be able to help with purchasing alarms and getting them distributed free of charge. They would ask that they can benefit with their tax deductible donation so where they get donated matters. More to come on this.

Wyoming Firefighter Cancer Support Network - No report given.

STATE AGENCY REPORTS

Wyoming State Forestry - No Report Given.

Wyoming State Fire Marshal's Office - Director Mathews was present and reported that the agency is progressing with getting staffing filled. He gave a report on the progress of the Caisson Project in Casper. He also reported on the state of the electrical education programs across the state. He updated the group on the US Fire Administration and the effects of the government shutdown on classes at the academy. The NEIRS transition is moving forward. He also discussed the new FLAMES program which will be a new evaluation tool for departments for insurance companies that will be more effective for departments to get credit for what is going on in your communities. Contact the Fire Marshal's Office for more information. Reminder about Primary Election on August 18th. Recruit Academy graduates in May.

Wyoming Office of Homeland Security - No Report Given. It was noted that the Office of Homeland Security is now a stand alone State Agency.

Wyoming Office of EMS - No Report Given.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

By-Laws Update - JR Fox reported that the Executive Committee met yesterday to continue to work through the By-Laws. Chief Wamsley will do a red line for the By-Laws and get it out to the membership. A plan to vote on the new By-Laws in June.

Fire Service Website - Work continues to purchase the old domain name. Still trying to figure out who owns the domain before any money changes hands for the domain. Chris Kocher does have access to the current website and can make some changes.

Challenge Coins - Eric Quinney presented a design for a challenge coin done by Symbol Arts. A discussion was held about the idea behind having challenge coins for the WFCA. Pricing and quantity were discussed. Chris Kocher made a motion to allow Eric Quinney to finalize the design of the coin. Merritt Pederson second the motion. Byron Mathews made a motion to authorize the Executive Committee to finalize the order for challenge coins with quantity to be determined but not to exceed \$4500 and to allow the President to determine how challenge coins will be distributed. Motion was seconded by Chris Kocher.

WFCA Merchandise Website - Chief Fox gave an update that the merchandise website is up and running. They did have to close for two weeks so are a little behind in getting the initial orders out, but things should start to flow smoothly and he encouraged people to order.

NEW BUSINESS

Fire Service Directory/Data - Chief Wamsley was not able to attend the meeting so this item was layed back to be discussed in further detail at the June meeting.

Leadership Award - 2nd VP Fred Baldwin presented the idea of creating a WFCA Leadership Award to be given to outstanding leaders of the WFCA and to display a list of recipients at the Fire Academy. This award will only be given out as determined by a process and not necessarily every year. He proposed that the Leadership Award be named the Gene Diedtrich Fire Service Leadership Award in honor of everything that Gene has done for the Wyoming Fire Service. Lanny Applegate made a motion to create the award and to allow the Executive Committee to develop a process for the award. Chris Kocher seconded the motion. Those in attendance gave Gene a standing ovation and thanked him for his tireless efforts on behalf of the Wyoming Fire Service.

Secretary/Treasurer Stipend - President Fox discussed a possible stipend for the Secretary/Treasurer position due to the amount of work involved. Currently the SAFER Grant pays an administrative Fee to Gene Diedtrich for the Grant Administration. Without another SAFER Grant in place yet Chief Fox presented the idea of a possible stipend being allocated. Lanny Applegate proposed that the Secretary/Treasurer report back after a year to see how much time was involved before being given a stipend. No motions were made regarding the topic.

With no other business being brought before the body. A motion was made by Gene Diedtrich to adjourn the meeting. Second, by Lanny Applegate. All present voted in favor. The Chief's portion of the Meeting was adjourned by Chief Fox at 11:45AM

FUTURE MEETING DATES

- June 17, 2026, starting at 3:00 PM at the Wheatland Fire Department held in conjunction with the Annual Convention of the State Firefighters Association.
- December 3, 2026, starting at 8:00AM at the held in conjunction with the Rural Firefighters Annual Conference at a location TBD in Cheyenne
- January 8, 2027. Legislative Meeting at 10AM with Fire Chiefs Association Meeting to Follow at 11AM at the Fire Academy,
- April 3, 2027, 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.