



Iowa Firefighters Association

November Board Meeting
November 12, 2023 – Pleasant Hill Fire Department

President Roger Carr called the meeting to order at 9:00 am

Board Present: Roger Carr, Aaron Clemons, Kent Brix, Mike Kime, Rick Schmidt, Lonnie Newhall and Chuck Raska.

Guests: Executive Director Taylor Moore, John and Cindy Pederson, Jami Schroeder-Carr, Andrea Kime, Colette Newhall.

Guests:

Fire Marshal: Dan Wood was not able to attend and had nothing to report.

EFTB: Jess Dunn was not able to attend and had nothing to report.

911 Council: Eric Dau joined the meeting and gave an update on the first 911 Council meeting they had. There was discussion about whether or not the 911 Council would be merging with a different board. Eric said that would not happen at this time.

Approval of Minutes: The board reviewed the minutes from the meeting in Tiffin, IA. **A motion was made by Rick Schmidt and seconded by Kent Brix to approve the meeting minutes. All approved.**

Executive Director Report:

Taylor reported that since the last meeting membership renewals have gone out and are coming in steadily. Posters for the poster program are starting to come in and are being forwarded to Gene Evans. I also spent some time reaching out to the surrounding states and inviting them to this weekend's meeting and finalizing arrangements with the hotel.

Approval of Financial Report: Taylor gave a brief financial report. **A motion was made by Aaron Clemons and seconded by Rick Schmidt to approval the financial report. All approved.**

Committee Reports:

NVFC: Nothing to report.

Legislative:

EMS as an essential service was -assed on a vote in 4 counties

We will follow the lead on the elimination of the 911 board.

Day on the Hill is Jan 24th. Need a list of dept bringing chili. Members will consider bringing displays and props.

We need to give Taylor info for posters, flyers and tri-fold brochures by Dec 15th for Day on the Hill Brochures: LOSAP, NVFC memberships, more training departments.

Discussion regarding Career Firefighter bill draft on education for Public Safety Officers. We will watch and see how the bill is drafted and make decisions regarding support.

A list of checks will be sent to Taylor regarding contributions to legislators.

Officer Reports:

Aaron Clemons: Thank you to the Pleasant Hill Fire Department for allowing us to have this meeting here today. Since our convention meeting, I have not had the opportunity to be involved with much. The board and I attended the states networking meeting yesterday at Stoney Creek Hotel. That meeting is always informational. I can't speak for the rest of the board, but I always have so much information to take away from the meeting. The attendance was amazing to see and the ideas we all discussed were overwhelming. Can't wait for next year's meeting. That is all I have for today and thank you all.

Kent Brix: Thank The Pleasant Hill Fire Department for allowing us to use their facility for the meeting. I have been out and about visiting departments at their fund raiser I have had many great pancakes and steaks in the last several months. Also, I have been contacting departments that are not members presently informing them of the benefits of belonging to the IFA. I have several more departments lined up to meet with in the next few months. At the fund raisers and department meeting I have been explaining the fire bill along with giving them an update on what we want to work on with our representee in the next year.

Mike Kime: First, I would like to say thank you to the Iowa Falls Fire department and your community. Also, the businesses for a great fire convention. The hospitality, and the campground, all the work before, during and after convention does not go unnoticed. There is a strong commitment, and it shows. Thank you again for having us in your community and all your work.

Since my last report, unfortunately I attended a couple of funerals to show my respect to fallen brothers and to their families and departments during this difficult time.

Funerals are never easy to attend, however very honorable to show respect to members that are committed and dedicated to their communities.

Was nice to see the support from the legislature and get the tire bill passed. I was able to use this bill myself and save 40%. I encourage all members to take advantage of this tire bill. This is a savings that stays in your pocket immediately. I cannot thank those who helped to continue to pursue time to help get the tire bill passed. I am happy to continue to take phone calls with questions or help to point a firefighter in the right direction to help each and every fire fighter to use this bill.

I went to help take down the Hall of Flame, was extremely hot. However, we had a good turn out so things went smooth and it was nice to have great help. Thank you to everyone that donates time to make the Hall of Flame successful and to continue teaching about fires and fire safety.

I have been working on the golf tournament. It will be on June 22, 2024, at Fox Ridge Golf course in Dike, Iowa. Looking forward to this great fundraiser for the IFA.

Went to Iowa Falls for the convention walk through and drill set up. Iowa Falls Fire Department made a few changes, that in my opinion worked out great for the drills.

In closing, I am looking forward to this year legislation session and continue working for the Iowa Firefighters.

Rick Schmidt: Good Morning, Thank you to the Pleasant Hill Fire department for hosing our meeting this morning.

We had a great meeting this weekend with representatives from our surrounding states, and some great ideas were shared on how to continue to strive to add benefits to our members. Hopefully, we can use some of these ideas to help us push our legislators to pass beneficial legislation that will give us new benefits that could help our departments with recruitment and retention in the future.

I am reaching out to some of the departments in my area that are not members of the IFA currently, and trying to convince them that there is a value to become members of the association.

Vice President Kime and myself are running the Golf Tournament this year. I would encourage all to participate that are able so that it will be a successful fundraiser for us. You can reach out to Mr Kime or me if you need to get information on Hole Sponsorship or to register a team. Individuals are also welcome. We will put you with others to make a team. We would really like to fill the course this year.

In closing, I just want to thank everyone who attended our meeting today.

Lonnie Newhall: Hello Everyone, I would like to take a moment to thank the Pleasant Hill Fire Department for hosting today's meeting. It has been a busy, rough start to my term on the board. Having four funerals in the first six weeks with a line of duty death, and the passing of a past president. I attended the Fayette and Buchanan county meetings explaining the tire bill and promoting the LOSAP bill and empathizing the need for fire

departments to be heard by the state government when there is a "Call to Action" giving out there senators and Representatives phone numbers and email addresses so they could be prepared. I also talked about voting for important IFA business. After spending two years campaigning for this position and watching the statistics, less than ten percent of the membership actually votes. And that is a number I would like to see increase, I will continue to travel to County meetings and department fund raisers trying to persuade departments to take an active roll in the IFA by letting there voices be heard by voting. I plan on visiting departments that are not members of the IFA to explain the benefits they could receive and try to convince them to join. Yesterday was the States Networking meeting. Getting together with 28 representatives from the states surrounding Iowa to share ideas and to see how other states are helping firefighters through legislation was very interesting and informative.

Chuck Raska: Good morning. Lately I attended the funeral of retired Buckeye firefighter and friend Larry Klaffke and I send my condolences to their dept. and family as well as others that have lost their loved ones lately. I've been working on comparing our current membership and our recently dropped to our non-members throughout the state. Once completed we will take this list and continue our mission of recruiting new members to join the IFA. Reminder to our membership that Fire Prevention posters are due by December 1st. If you haven't already please get these sent to Past Pres Gene Evans. Convention city hosts continues to be is a rising concern of the board. As of today, we do not have a host town for the 2025 convention and would like to invite any cities that have any interest in hosting to contact the IFA to have a conversation about hosting. We understand that times are changing and we need to consider that there needs to be some changes to our event to attract new cities to host. We will continue to work with the convention committee to come up with a solution to this and continue the traditions of the IFA Convention. Thank You.

Roger Carr: Thank you, Pleasant Hill Fire for the use of your station and services today. Since our last meeting I have had the honor of presenting several Length of Service awards and always enjoy the fellowship that goes with that.

We just completed the States meeting with 25 attendees from IL, NE, KS, WS, MN, SD, MO and IA. I always enjoy these meeting to learn what is and isn't working for the other State Assoc. surrounding us.

I will close with a sad note that there have been many of our Brothers and Sisters that have passed away this year with a Line Of Duty Death of a Firefighter from Ionia. Also, this past year we laid to rest 5 past Presidents. Their experience will be missed.

Old Business:

New Business:

FF Day on the Hill: Firefighter Day on the Hill for 2024 will be on January 24th. We will be having our annual chili cook off once again.

IFA PAC Golf Tournament: June 22nd at Fox Ridge Golf Course in Dike, IA

Good of the Association:

Firefighter of the Year and Fire Department of the Year nominations are due December 15th.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Mike Kime and seconded by Aaron Clemons to adjourn at 10:19 am. All approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Taylor Moore
Executive Director