

Iowa Firefighters Association  
Convention Meeting  
September 12, 2020 – Grinnell Fire Station

President Gene Evans called the meeting to order at 9:02 am

Chaplain Todd Edeker gave the invocation

Gene informed everyone that Riddles jewelry has kindly donated a firefighters edition "thin red line" watch to be raffled off later today. The proceeds from the watch raffle will go to the families of Brooklyn Fire Chief Chris Keller and FF/EMT Samantha Wierson. Gene also passed around the boot for the MDA and was able to raise \$291.00.

Gene gave a brief update

**Resolution #1:**

Whereas the firefighters association is meeting today in Grinnell, Iowa to hold our annual convention business. Whereas COVID-19 has placed severe limitations on the fire service of Iowa and the Iowa Firefighters Association. Whereas we stand during your email to the Grinnell Fire Department for hosting this meeting and affording us the ability to maintain safety, this is where I submit that we have a standing ovation. Read by Gene Evans. All in attendance gave a standing ovation.

**Introduction of Guests:**

Muscular Dystrophy Association – Julian Harper was not able to attend the meeting, so she provided an update for Gene to report. 2020 has been a tough year for everyone and the impact on fundraising for all non-profits has been significant. However, one thing that never changes is the unwavering support of our Firefighter partners. Firefighters have stuck with MDA for 66 years and this year has been no different.

We have had over 20 departments still participate in traditional boot drives and many had record setting years as the community really rallied behind their efforts! So far over \$50,000 has been raised from traditional boots with more happening!

We also rolled out our virtual Fill the Boot platform that provides the opportunity for departments to fundraise for MDA online. While it is a much different way of fundraising, many departments have had a lot of luck with it! If anyone is interested in doing a virtual Fill the Boot, please reach out to MDA. Websites will be open through the end of the year!

Another thing that has not changed this year is our commitment to our MDA families. We have continued to push forward despite the global pandemic and we have seen some great things happen this year!

First, while the pandemic did not allow us to hold our traditional summer camps we quickly implemented a virtual camp! The great thing is rather than one week we extended it to all campers for the whole summer. There were digital escape rooms, STEM programming, and even classes for aspiring fashion designers whose dream it is to design accessible, but cute clothing. Virtual camp also was able to reach more campers than ever before due to the digital format!

Second, just in the last month we have seen the approval of two new drugs by the FDA. One was for the treatment of Spinal Muscular Atrophy which is the leading genetic cause of infant death. The other was for the treatment of Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. These two approvals mark the 10th and 11th drugs approved in the last 5 years. We are truly in a time of unprecedented progress and that would not be possible without our firefighter partners. You have been a huge part of this progress with your years of dedication, support and funds raised.

Thank you all for not only being heroes in your community, but heroes in the fight against Muscle Disease!

State Fire Marshal – Dan Wood was not able to make the meeting due to a family emergency. Since he was not able to attend Bureau Chief John Kramer will be giving his report. John mentioned that they have received a 20% increase in service calls in arson and explosive cases. Primarily, most of those calls and all of explosives are exterior devices or threats to explosive devices installed. Our agent software is you know, significant increase over the past year, specifically since January. We're expecting a few more retirements for the next couple of years as well. And that we will certainly continue to review plants. This past year of 2019. Our plan review section reviewed about \$1.14 billion dollars' worth of construction projects are within their space. So that's a significant workload.

FSTB – Bureau Chief John Kraemer gave a brief update and the Fire Service Training Bureau. He mentioned that the electric bureau continues to stay very busy. John also mentioned that Iowa has had 22 fireworks related injuries, but thankfully there has not been any deaths. They have had a very busy last couple of months due to covid-19 and they moved from the Ames facility to the Camp Dodge facility. John touched on the new SCBA training trailer, which they hope to receive by the end of December. October 1<sup>st</sup> will be the cutoff date for the use of essential 6 and the state will be moving forward to essential 7.

Iowa Department of Public Safety – Commissioner Stephan Bayens joined us and gave us a brief update. He has been the commissioner for the last 18 months and touched on the floods, covid-19, and civil unrest. He went on to praise the first responders of Iowa and thanked them for their continued service.

Iowa Fire Chiefs Association – Roger Biesen gave a brief update and mentioned that they canceled their chief's seminar and have rescheduled the event for next year.

Iowa Association of Professional Fire Chiefs – No report.

Iowa Emergency Management Association – No report.

Iowa EMS Association – No report.

Consortium of Community Colleges – No report.

Iowa Society of Fire Service Instructors – No report.

Iowa Hazmat Task Force – No report.

Iowa Association of Arson Investigators – No report.

Other IFA Guests – No other guests

Approval of Minutes from Midyear Meeting: **A motion was made by Cliff Renslow and seconded by Al Weston to approve the Midyear minutes. All approved.**

Executive Directors Report: Taylor introduced herself and gave a brief update on the IFA office. She mentioned that herself and the rest of the AAM office rallied to catch up the IFA membership after learning how far behind Lindsey had fallen. Since taking over as Executive Director, we have gone through and updated all department memberships that we have received. She mentioned that she is continuing to learn more and more about the IFA and said to not hesitate to contact the office if they have any questions.

Legislative Report: Cyndi gave the legislative report and mentioned that this year's legislative session will start January 11<sup>th</sup>. They are still trying to lock down a date for the Firefighter Day on the Hill. She reminded everyone that they will be having a chili cookoff again next year. She asked the membership to let her know if they have any ideas for legislation. A couple of the bill they will be bringing forward are SF 442, SF 478, HF 2280, and HF 2487. Cyndi also made members aware of the National Firefighter Registry passed by Congress. It is a large database of health and occupational information on firefighters that will be used to analyze and track cancer and identify occupational risk factors for cancer.

Financial Report: Taylor gave the financial report, which was included with the agenda and previous meeting minutes.

Approval of 2020-21 Budget: Gene went through the budget and answered all questions and asked for a motion for approval. **A motion was made by Mark Lint and seconded by Leon Abels to approve the 2020-21 budget. All approved.**

**Gene Evans asked for a motion to allow Taylor Moore to be a signor and have full access to the IFA financials. The motion was made by Mark McNees and seconded Greg Winger. All approved.**

Quick break at 10:33  
Reconvened at 10:50

### **Officers Reports:**

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Nick Riley – Nick thanked everyone for attending and mentioned that 2020 has been a crazy year. He also informed everyone that he has presented several certificates and have a couple more to do this month. Nick went on to thank Gene for his leadership over the last year.

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Jason Barrick – Jason mentioned that he presented a years of service award to a member. And he mentioned that the members truly appreciate and enjoy having an IFA board member present those awards. He went down to the new training Bureau center and he said it is impressive. Jason went on to thank Gene Evans on a great presidency and James Shutts on his years of service.

3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President, Chuck Raska – Chuck thanked Grinnell for hosting this morning. Chuck attended the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Fire Service Training Bureau, which was a well-organized event. He thanked everyone that works there and encouraged everyone to keep doing what they are doing. Chuck mentioned that we will continue to look at the rules for the fire drills since we weren't able to vote on them at the Mid-Year meeting.

4<sup>th</sup> Vice President, Roger Carr – Roger thanked everyone for coming out today and asked all first-time attendees to stand to be recognized. He mentioned that we was able to present two 65 years of service this year. He thanked everyone for letting him serve on the board this year.

5<sup>th</sup> Vice President, Aaron Clemons – Aaron reiterated that it was a very odd year and he thank Gene and the rest of the board for showing him the ropes during his first year.

Past President, James Shutts – James thanked the Grinnell Fire Department for their hospitality. He mentioned that it was a sad day as today was his final report as an IFA Officer. He thanked everyone for supporting him throughout his time on the board. He mentioned that 2020 has been a hard year, but the Iowa fire and rescue service men and women have never missed a call.

President, Gene Evans – Gene mentioned that he was able to present several years of service awards throughout the year. He mentioned that the years flew by and that 2020 was by far the most memorable. Gene commended the Iowa Fire Service for never missing a call even throughout the craziness of Covid-19. He went on to thank his wife Carrie for all her support and wished Nick the best of luck with his incoming presidency.

**Credentials Report:** Jack reported that we have a quorum for this meeting. There was a total of 27 departments represented and 876 total votes. Steamboat Rock – 19, Wellsburg – 27, Dewitt – 27, Grand Mound – 21, Eldora – 30, Grinnell – 45, Stuart – 34, Holland – 20, Jewell – 23, Belle Plaine – 40, Iowa Falls – 36, Low Morr – 17, Atlantic – 44, Dyersville – 67, Buckeye – 19, Radcliffe – 25, Malcolm – 18, Harlan – 31, West Des Moines – 37, Wheatland – 21, Audabon – 51, Redfield – 22, Osage – 49, State Center – 57, Lowden – 20, Garrison – 31, and Traer – 36.

**Other Resolutions:** No other resolutions

**Drill Rules Committee:** No report.

**State Fair Committee:** No report.

**Memorial Committee:** Mike Rueman mentioned that they had a new memorial brochure made this year. The memorial next year will be June 13<sup>th</sup> for the years 2020 and 2021. Mike had "2020 the year that never happened" t-shirts made and donated \$129 back to the Association from the proceeds of the t-shirts.

**NVFC:** Roger and Marv mentioned that the NVFC have done a lot of virtual meetings. The next meeting will be in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. They also mentioned that the Washington DC trip was canceled, so they will be using the airfare tickets they purchased this year for next year. They requested that everyone go to [nvfc.org](http://nvfc.org) and take a look at all the free information they have available.

**Other Committee Reports:** No other committee reports.

**Unfinished Business:** No unfinished business.

**Election/Installation of Officers:**

**A motion was made by Marv Boldt and seconded by Cliff Renslow that we advance all the chairs up one slot and open nominations for 5<sup>th</sup> Vice president. All approved.** Tyler Thygesen from Audubon Fire Department and Kent Brix from Grand Mound Fire Department were nominated for the 5<sup>th</sup> Vice President. Gene Evans passed the gavel to Nick Riley and presented him with his new President's badge, nametag and business cards. Nick Riley then presented Gene Evans with his new Past President's badge, nametag, and business cards.

Nick asked all department representatives to come forward and fill out a ballot.

Jason read the votes – 405 ballot votes and 47 proxy/absentee votes for a total of 452 votes for Tyler Thygesen. 426 ballot votes and 154 proxy/absentee votes for a total of 580 for Kent Brix. The Kent Brix was chosen as the 5<sup>th</sup> Vice President.

**New Business:** The Grinnell Fire Department updated everyone on the cancellation of the 2020 Grinnell Convention and gave an update on the 2021 convention. They thanked the board for being flexible and continuing to work with their department on developing a plan for 2021. He spoke about how the derecho storm hit the town of Grinnell and their county in August. He mentioned that 2 of the shower trailers were blown on their sides and they will more than likely need to be replaced.

**Selection of Convention City 2022:** Iowa Falls was nominated for Convention City for 2022 and 2023. The dates will be September 7-11, 2022 and September 6-10, 2023. **A motion was made by Marv Boldt and seconded by Rick for nominations to cease. All approved. A motion was made by Mark McNeese and seconded by Rick to approve the unanimous ballot. All approved.**

**Good of the Association:** Jack mentioned that there was an issue with a quorum at the Midyear meeting in Iowa Falls. He mentioned wanting to add virtual/video voting. The board will get together to consider new options for virtual/video voting.

Iowa Falls Representatives spoke and gave an update and mentioned that they will be making a campground to support 1,500 campers.

Gene raffled off the watch.

Tyler thanked everyone for their votes and announced that he will be running for 5<sup>th</sup> Vice again next year.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Gene Evans and seconded by Cliff Renslow to adjourn at 12:27 pm.