

Iowa Firefighters Association
Board of Directors' Meeting

Sunday, January 13, 2018

Deep River, IA

The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m.

Guest reports:

FSTB

1. Staffing and budgets remain status quo for the FSTB.
2. FSTB facility lease increased from \$60,000/year to \$112,400/year. ISU states this was done to bring FSTB in line with what other facilities are being charged and for internal equity. ISU does not want us to leave campus. FSTB needs to assess if staying at ISU is financially feasible or if new facilities/locations are viable and if they are financially better options.
3. FSTB Field Staff have been migrated over from ISU Payroll to DPS Payroll. We are still trying to upload everyone into DPS payroll system and hope to have that completed by end of month.
4. Additional FSTB research has helped resolve questions surrounding HazMat certification. Based on when a firefighter certified in FF1 or FF2 will dictate if they had HazMat awareness and/or HazMat Ops. A memo from the FSTB will be forthcoming and this will also be explained in the February IFA Newsletter.
5. Computer-based testing is coming to fruition. We are currently validating our test banks for each certification level and working with our vendor on uploading the questions into the NetExam platform. Beta-testing and roll out will be in the very near future.
6. We are beginning to spend our AFG grant money we were awarded last year. We are writing specifications for RFBs to purchase 6 trailers to store first due engine equipment on. These trailers will be used for training and certification exams. We will also purchase two pick-up trucks to tow these trailers. A car fire prop and associated trailer will also be purchased from this grant.
7. We are working on obtaining ProBoard certification and anticipate having this accreditation by mid to late year. We must first be able to implement computer-based testing and write associated policies/procedures for this new process before review and inspection is performed by ProBoard.
8. FF Day on the Hill is January 31, 2019 at the State Capitol rotunda. The FSTB will be in attendance and we hope to see as many FFs attend as possible to help educate and inform our legislative body about the importance of fire protection in Iowa.
9. Annual Fire School is February 23-24, 2019 at Schemen Building in Ames, Iowa. We hope to see many firefighters and emergency responders attend and we also hope to see as many of our classes fill up. We currently have around 200 people already registered. Please go to the FSTB website to see the

brochure describing what is being offered this year and to register for fire school. We have some new topics and lecturers to come see!

10. The annual Iowa Volunteer Fire Chief's Workshop is scheduled for March 30, 2019. This will be held at the Scheman Building in Ames.

REMINDERS:

Please view the FSTB's "Certification Exam Procedural Guides" for each of the certification levels. These are up-to-date and should be referenced when planning to register for a certification exam.

Please always feel free to stop by the FSTB when you are in Ames to say "hi" or if you need any questions answered or any other assistance.

Please don't hesitate to contact the FSTB with any questions or concerns that are fire-Service or emergency response-related.

Report for State Fire Marshal's Office

1. Fire Marshal Wood and SAC Ron Humphrey attended the funeral of Lt. Eric Hosette. It was a very dignified ceremony. Fire Marshal Wood just asks that you keep the family of Lt. Hosette in your thoughts and prayers. FM Wood also asks you keep Adam Cain in your thoughts and prayers. He was also injured during the blast and is currently at the U of I.
2. The new Commissioner of Public safety Starts 1-14-19. His name is Steve Baynes. FM Wood stated he is very excited to work with the new commissioner and expects there will be good things to come.
3. Two new Fire Inspectors started on 1-11-19. Jake Allspach will be working out of the Spencer area. Jeremy Mueller will be working out of the Mason City area. These are not new positions. These are filling positions that have been open for a while.
4. A new plan reviewer, Mike Loew, started on 1-11-19. Again, this is not a new position it is just filling an existent vacant position.
5. The current budget is status quo
6. The fireworks online website opens on 3-1-19 to start taking applications.

Washington National Insurance- Terry Beek

Gave quarter 4 report. He has seen 15 fire departments and was able to give a check to the Memorial for \$80. As well as \$160 to local fire departments. There are several meetings scheduled for the future. Struggling with getting meetings scheduled with chiefs.

FSERC- Alicia Lidtkke

Feels that they have the most people on their council and that needs to be used. Need better communication. There was discussion about the rent being raised at FSTB facility and where a new location could be.

American Income Life- Sue Akers

Gave a report on the services ALL offers as well as the services provided over the time being partnered with IFA. The concerns of aggressive sales representatives was discussed. A contract was not signed with the board having further discussion and a decision being made at a later time.

Manchester Fire Department-

They proposed a convention schedule change moving everything up a day with drills being Friday and business meeting being Saturday. These changes could impact the outcome of contests, but they don't know if they don't try. They have published the schedule on their website, Facebook and the newsletter.

Committee reports were moved on the agenda due to weather and the travel for committee members.

NVFC:

Legislative:

The 88th General Assembly will begin on January 14th . There will be 9 new Senators, two were former Representatives and 22 new Reps. The Republicans still maintain the majority in both chambers.

IFA has a pretty full agenda this year with proposed legislation on many issues that will help the fire service.

A few bills we have partnered with the Fraternal Order of Police as they impact fire responders in general

We have already met with many legislators to ensure they are aware of our concerns where the code does not quite protect first responders as they intended. It is great to have attorney Skylar Limkemann on our team as he works on the front lines of dealing with litigation trying to protect our members. We will need each and every one of you to help contact your legislators to let them know how certain laws are impacting your community. We will send out LEGISLATIVE ALERTS to you throughout the session when this CALL TO ACTION is needed. We will provide talking points and legislative contacts. Thank you in advance for being an advocate!

A few bills we are working on:

*We are trying again to get some action on a Length of Service award. With new committee leaders this year we hope they will at least bring it to the table for discussion. This legislation will be one benefit to help with recruitment and retention for our departments.

*Emergency Responder Code Updates: The Iowa Code is out of date when it comes to emergency response procedures. It basically has not changed since the 1980's, including many technology updates. We all know how much technology has changed since the 80's. This language updates many parts of Iowa Code Section 321.

*Tort Liability: This is important legislation that is needed to protect first responders procedurally. The way the Iowa Code is currently written there needs to be more clarification to protect individuals and communities. All first responders want to do their jobs as they were trained without the fear of being personally liable. Without this protection it will be harder to recruit members to protect our communities. This is a nationwide issue but we need to make sure the Iowa Code is up to date. This amends Chapter 669 and 670.

*Peace Officers Bill of Rights: This legislation is designed to enhance the basic procedural and substantive protections for peace officers including law enforcement, fire, and EMS. These code changes will reduce the risk of legal issues and should simplify investigations.

We will also be monitoring the fire service training dollars. We submitted a formal request to the Governor for an increase of \$100,000 to the Fire Service-Training Bureau. It has been 5 years since there was an increase and we need to make sure the bureau has the resources needed to properly train our members who volunteer their time keeping our communities and citizens safe.

We are watching to see if the Administrative Rules Committee will take up the new DOT rules we worked out with the DOT, we are expecting this to be on the agenda in Feb at the earliest.

We will be auctioning off a vintage liquor decanter from the centennial year that commemorates the 100th anniversary of the IFA at the mid-year meeting. We will also be unveiling a new collectors limited edition bottle that will be available at the convention in September. We will be taking pre-orders as we expect them to sell out. All proceeds will go to the PAC fund so we can continue to gain support for our issues.

We look forward to working with BOTH the new Bureau Chief and the new Public Safety Commissioner. IFA attorney Skylar Limkemann gave a report.

We have been working hard the last 3 years to make it safer for emergency responders. He gave an update regarding the bills lobbyist John Pederson is working on. He gave an update on the Critical Incident issue and how important it is for first responders to remain silent in those situations. He shared his contact information for these situations. There was discussion that Skylar would do videos on educating firefighters and we would publish them on the IFA website. Skylar requested a budget to work with because meetings come up out of no where sometimes. Things start to add up. He knows this year will be higher than normal because of a lot of bills being worked on.

The minutes from the October 28, 2018 meeting in Stuart was approved by 5th VP Roger Carr and second by 4th VP Chuck Raska.

Executive Director's Report:

Membership dues are coming in heavy. Q4 taxes and W2 have been completed. I worked the proposed budget for FY 2020. We chose not to present the proposed budget in January and will move it to the June meeting.

Proposed budget:

None to present

Officer reports:

1st VP Gene Evans: Several of us attended the funeral for Eric Hoesette. Please keep Adam Cain in your prayers if you so believe. We have our Mid Year meeting coming up, please attend.

2nd VP Nick Riley: Thank you Deep River for hosting. I have presented several years of service awards. We met in November to discuss Convention Drills. That was a great meeting with a lot of discussion.

3rd VP Jason Barrick: Thank you Manchester for stepping out and wanting to make changes. We are attending a lot more funerals as a board and we take a lot of pride doing this. It is sad to attend but it is necessary to show our support. Thank you Deep River for hosting.

4th VP Chuck Raska: The drills meeting that we held in Story City was a good meeting. We are still fine tuning things and will send them off to the drills committee for approval with voting taking place at Mid Year. There was roughly 45 people at the meeting from all over the state. We would like to change that the judges need better preparation. The drills committee will meet sooner to get prepared. Some of the rules changes are that the judges be treated better and that only the team captain can address a judge. There should be a penalty for harassing judges or timers. The rule book does not state how the starting signal is so we would like to address that for all drills. Clarify the rule of running order if no teams are competing. Possibly allow water fight teams to be from multiple towns. Hitching post will change to the rope must lay in a straight line. Manchester suggested adding a new drill.

5th VP Roger Carr: I was given direction at Convention this year to request anyone that is new to a meeting to please stand. I am still in the learning process. I want to thank the board for being so supportive and for Amber being so gentle and walking me through computer stuff. The drills meeting we had was a positive learning experience. We have been busy delivering years of service certificates and attending funerals. So far this has been a very positive experience. Reach out to me because I am available and I am here for you.

President Jim Shutts: Thank you Deep River for hosting our meeting. I have presented years of services awards in Manchester and Dyersville. We are working on the legislation this year and we are just getting started, but so far it is positive. I attended Eric Hoesette's funeral and it was very touching. Keep Adam Cain in your prayers. We met with John Kramer the new FSTB Chief, things are moving forward.

Good of the Association:

Jim reported that we will be judging the posters today of the Poster Contest. Please stay and help us judge the posters. The poster luncheon will be held in Belle Plaine this year.

Gene reported that at the advice of our attorney the Vice President and President should be a signature on all bank accounts. 1st VP Gene made a motion for the Vice President and President to be added to the signature card for all bank accounts second by 5th VP Roger Carr.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:22 p.m.