

Iowa Firefighters Association
Board of Directors' Meeting

Sunday, January 14, 2018

Humboldt, IA

The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m. by President Marv Trimble.

A motion was made by 3rd VP Nick Riley to approve the agenda. Second from 1st VP Jim Shutts. Motion carried.

A motion was made by 4th VP Jason Barrick to approve the last board of directors minutes. Second from 5th VP Chuck Raska. Motion carried.

Executive director report:

I would like to thank Humboldt Fire Department for hosting. We had planned to come last January and the weather didn't cooperate at all. I was getting worried earlier in the week that would happen again. The dues new renewals were mailed out middle of November and coming in steadily, keeping the office busy. Amber came January 2 to start training. So far we have gone over dues and I think she will do a great job. She came Friday to help get things ready for this meeting and go over the budget. Hopefully things will get transitioned to her very soon. We have been held up waiting on her computer and we are hoping that comes in soon so we can get everything set up there. I would like thank the membership and the board that I have worked with over the years, it has been very rewarding but it's time after 13 ½ years to focus on my kiddos. I am going to miss everybody but I am also glad to go." Wendy will stay on until March until after mid-year.

Financial Report:

Total current assets for the Iowa Firefighters Association are 497,150.31 Total current assets for the Iowa Firemen's Foundation are 65,796.73 with 20.55 left over from the smoke detector account.

A motion was made by 1st VP Jim Shutts to approve the financial report. Second from 5th VP Chuck Raska. Motion carried

We are currently around 14,100 members which would give us an estimated income of \$188,500 from dues. Interest on savings accounts will be dependent on where the accounts end up when they get switched to the new bank. We added a line item in for custodian, Rick Schmitt helps every year. He had been receiving \$50 under drill expenses and will now receive \$100. Only other change was the office expense from change in salary from Wendy to Amber. We have a projected loss of \$12,175.75 A motion was made by 3rd VP Nick Riley to approve the budget. Second came from 4th VP Jason Barrick. Motion carried.

Officers Reports:

1st VP Jim Shutts:

In November I attended the Elks meeting in Des Moines. They have one question, Is there any training simulators that they could buy. I presented 2 years of service awards; one was for 54 years in Ainsworth and another for 36 years in Belle Plaine. I attended the Governor's address of the State. We are hoping that we can stay level funded through the training buearue.

2nd VP Gene Evans:

I want to hank Humboldt for hosting. I would also like to thank Wendy for her service. It is a selfless service, especially during convention trying to get drills sorted out. A heartfelt thanks to you Wendy. I attended the Governor's address of the state. Something that will be presented to the legislator this year will be some cleanup for section 670 of the Iowa code. Our attorney has done a wonderful job identifying some language. There are gaps in the code that could allow significant liability and we want that immunity. Welcome Amber.

3rd VP Nick Riley:

Since our last meeting I have given 1 award for 37 years of service in Traer. I attended the Governor's address. Thank you Wendy.

4th VP Jason Barrick:

Thank you Humboldt for allowing us to use your station and thank you everyone for coming. Chuck, Bill, Gene and myself went to the stakeholders meeting at DPS buildings. The attorney there said that we needed to contact our city and city attorneys regarding fireworks procedures and policies. I would like to thank Wendy. I have only been on for a year and half but I have been around for a little while and know all of the work she does and welcome Amber.

5th VP Chuck Raska:

Gene and I went to the National Benefit Summit in Kearny, NE. They brought in an ambulance simulator that will simulate ambulance to the ER in one truck. I was at the States Networking meeting. The booklet that Minnesota has would be nice to look at for recruiting. I traveled to Lake City to present 2 awards, 1 was for 25 years of service and 1 was for 20 years of service. I am looking forward to Firefighter day on the Hill. Thank you Wendy for all of your time. Your service to this association has been great. Welcome Amber.

President Marv Trimble:

I had the privilege of presenting a years of service award to Bill Smith at his retirement party. I've know Bill for many years. I painted a firetruck for him in the 80s. He is the one who made me think of the fire service for a profession. Bill was a career Marion firefighter. He gave 42 years of service to the citizens of Walker as a volunteer.

In December I got in the car for another presentation and drove 10 minutes to Vinton. I gave a certificate to Mike Barron for 33 years of service. Mike is my accountant. Chief Gary McKinnon was stepping down as chief after 12 years. Thank you Mike and Gary for your service to the citizens of Vinton.

January 9th I was one of six IFA board members to attend the Condition of the State address by Governor Reynolds. She talked about many topics including the budget, water quality, sexual harassment, education, healthcare, mental health, and tax reform. The budget is our greatest concern. We aren't asking for anything that requires funding. We are working to maintain level funding for the training bureau.

John Pederson is going to deliver the legislative report, so I'm not going to steal his thunder.

Midyear is March 23 & 24. Be sure to get your room reserved before March 3rd to get the IFA discounted rate.

Committee Reports:

NVFC – Bob Platz:

We would like to get the grant money back in for safer the budget. The grants total 800 million 745 afg and 755 for safer. 18 million for USFA. We tried to get the sunset out of the bill but ended up with it in 2023.

The NVFC has a cancer committee. They had a webinar in January that I attended. They plan on two more one in March and one in April. They are going to have ten commandments dealing with cancer. We are seeing a lot more cancer around the country because of all the carcinogens in a fire.

The NVFC is looking for 500 new members in Iowa by the First of May we have about 150 now. Will try to set up a booth at Midyear.

Legislation – John Pederson:

We contacted University of Iowa who is the National Cancer registry for the state of Iowa, they collect data. They are very interested and want to do this for firefighters. What they have done is location cancer and identifying environmental causes. They have never done one on occupational causes. We have developed a spreadsheet to send out and hope that the chief can fill out. The more we add to it the more information they will have. This will cost nothing to us.

January 18 is Firefighter day on the hill. It will start with breakfast in room 116. This is the time to pull your legislators down. Please contact your legislators when you get home, they like that personal invite. At noon we will have the chili cookoff. We cannot open it up because of outlet issues in the Capitol. John and I are constructing a funny little trophy for it. Des Moines Fire is bring some stuff that will give a good presence for us on the 1st floor. The more your legislators hear of a topic the better chance they will listen.

Thank you to those who came to the Governor's address. For those that weren't there, they are taking a hit of 20 million dollars in the current budget by July 1st. Next year it will be a 100 million dollar cut through all departments. It is very important that we start making our contacts. We are trying to keep training dollars and looking at a retirement plan for firefighters.

We are worried about DPS because of the budget and getting positions filled that need filled. Reach out to your legislators about how important training is.

We do have a meeting with DOT about the drivers license renewal.

Pro Chiefs want to meet Wednesday night before Firefighter Day on the Hill.

Unfinished business:

The office transition is going well. There is a lot to get through. The biggest hassle has been the computer and getting it delivered. Once that happens we can start getting stuff transferred. Wendy will still be available for advice once the office is transitioned to Sigourney.

New business:

The website and calendar need some attention.

Goods of Association

Reminder of Mid Year Business meeting Sunday, March 24. Room block expires March 2. Ellen Hagen asked the board to stay after the meeting to judge the poster contest.

A motion was made by 4th VP Nick Riley to adjourned. A second came from 1st VP Jim Shutts. Meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Submitted by Amber Kephart, Executive Director