

The meeting was called to order at 11 a.m. by President Jim Shutts.

A motion by 4<sup>th</sup> VP Chuck Raska with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from 5<sup>th</sup> VP Roger Carr for approval of the last board of directors meeting minutes, January 13, 2019 in Deep River.

**Fire Marshal's Office/ FSTB- John Kramer:**

They have had 2 staff retire. They have 8 applications for fire service technical assistant position and 41 applications for the accounting tech 3 position. Applications are being gone through now for the fire service technical assistant position and after that is complete they will move on to the applications for the accounting tech 3 position.

The budget is status quo. Due to the IFA and the work of everyone as well as John and Cyndi Pederson, we were able to secure an additional \$50,000. That will help take the stress off of paying our lease and preserve money in the training accounts. Thank you for staying persistent. Thank you to the IFA board, John and Cyndi and all of the members for making phone calls, posts and emails.

We are still looking for a better, newer option for a facility. We currently have no a/c at FSTB and are using box fans. The temperature is in the 80's. The windows leak during a rain fall and the air vents are filthy. These photos are being sent to Dan Wood and the commissioner. We are going to get people in to tour the building and show our facility as well as our training abilities.

Essentials 7 is out. The curriculum will be sent out to everybody, field staff and not. Everything will be a one stop shop. The number of hours for FF1 will go up to be able to cover all of the combined curriculum. A committee will be established to make sure that the information in the curriculum matches the content that is being tested. The goal for this was July but it may be August. The goal is to turn these test scores around. The skill assessment sheets will be public. Everything has been checked to get our accreditation.

We have received a lot of requests to use Jones and Bartlet text for Instructor, Officer, Inspector II and investigative. This will widen our scope. We will still have IFSTA available too.

At the board meeting in Deep River there were some concerns about the Iowa Administrative Code and the NFPA 1001 Standard that is in there as well as issue with the legalities. I went in and updated the Administrative rules pertinent with the Bureau. The changes were reflective of dates that could be changed year to year. I wanted the code to be flexible with NFPA.

We will be rolling out beta testing this month for the computer based testing. We will have tablets which will make things more flexible for testing.

I was given approval to add 20 field staff. We are looking for instructors for firefighter I, firefighter II and HazMat. If you have not filled out the new paperwork that must be filled out. Field staff will be limited to 780 hours. Funding for the new field staff is in the budget.

As of July 1, 2019 we will not offer free test retakes. We are hoping this will reduce retakes.

We received the 2017 AFG Grant close to \$500,000. This has been applied to 2 Ford trucks. A F250 and F350 and 6 new trailers full of supplies and equipment for certified training. The trailers are to be spread out in the 6 regions across the state. We are also looking into a fire vent prop for car fire training. We are still waiting to hear if we received the 2018 grant.

Chuck Raska mentioned that Story City has a few options available for a facility.

**Executive Director Report:**

I traveled to Minnesota for the National Benefit Summit. This year was about growing. I met with representatives from GrowthZone. We have done a web meeting also regarding their program. This would be a new database program. Nebraska Fire Association also uses this program. I have another follow up scheduled with them. Our current database was designed specifically for our association and if there are issues with it, I don't have someone that can help me debug it. We currently cannot run the "Convention List" report that is needed for credentialing. States Networking is scheduled. WE now have to make a \$300 deposit. This was Stoney Creek's policy and has not been enforced in the past. I wanted to have a Mid Year report to show income versus expense, but I am still getting bills and payments. Our current total assets are \$463,463.25. I was asked to sit on a subcommittee for Automated Transportation and I feel that a board member or someone in the association would be a better fit for this subcommittee because they are wanting someone with expertise in the fire service. Nick Riley volunteered for this subcommittee. I was able to get in contact with Jason Beckman from American Income Life regarding the letter they are requesting to send to our members that have additional policies with AIL.

**1<sup>st</sup> VP Gene Evans:**

Thank you Newhall Fire for hosting our meeting today. On behalf of the Association I would like to publicly thank Toyne Fire Apparatus for the donation of 10 links of new 2.5" fire hose to the Association for use at Convention. Hopefully that will set the tone to other Apparatus organizations. Another brother took his life. Not all of the signs are visible. The toll free number is 888-731-3473.

**2<sup>nd</sup> VP Nick Riley**

I attended the National Benefit Summit in Minnesota with Amber and Jason. You make great contacts when you attend these events. Georgia and New York are on top of the game for cancer supplemental insurance.

**3<sup>rd</sup> VP Jason Barrick**

I went to Manchester for the Convention meeting. I also was in Minnesota for the National Benefit Summit. One thing that I got was the group called SAAVIK, it is a buying group where our members can take advantage of their discounts.

**4<sup>th</sup> VP Chuck Raska**

I was in Belle Plaine for the poster program luncheon. It was a great turnout and thank you Ellen for putting that on. Ackely will host the luncheon for 2020 with a date of April 25. The time for the knots drill is working.

**5<sup>th</sup> VP Roger Carr**

I had some computer issues, sorry for the lack of communication. I have given out 3 length of service awards and attended a funeral in Waukoma.

**Past President Marv Trimble**

I went to DC for the NVFC Spring Conference. We talked to our legislators about key topics for firefighters across the state. Roger Bissen and I went to committee meetings also. I was in Belle Plaine for the poster luncheon and went to Manchester for the pre convention meeting. The firefighter license plate change took effect April 17, no notary is needed.

### **President James Shutts**

Thank you Newhall for hosting. I have presented several length of service awards. Belle Plaine hosted the poster luncheon and it was a great turnout. We met with all staffers when we were DC. I received a call from Cindy Axne herself to follow up with the notes her staffer took from our meeting. I also went to Manchester for the pre convention meeting.

### **Committee Reports:**

#### **NVFC- Delegate Marv Trimble**

There is a scholarship fund to Columbia University that will cover 60 units.

June 16-22 there will be a Safety Stand down.

Firefighter Strong has been released.

Capturing the Load addresses suicide awareness. It is free to the first 1000 sign ups, it is usually \$49.

You can go the NVFC website for all of this information.

#### **Memorial- James Shutts**

We could use everyone's help at the memorial. We will need help setting up, selling merchandise, lighting candles and getting everything put away. Parking is allowed on the cement drive at the quarry across the street. The board will help with the placing of the gear at the wall.

#### **Legislation- John Pederson**

The 88th General Assembly came to a close mid-afternoon on Saturday, April 27th. They tried to power through on Friday but the House stood at ease for 10 hours, into Saturday morning and then adjourned without voting on remaining bills. There were a few major bills that were bouncing back and forth that were preventing a Sine Die. (Adjourn) There were also many bills that were thrown overboard that were not allowed to complete the process. The legislators could be paid until May 3rd so for those who had bills that did not make it, it was frustrating to see an early close.

Here is a final wrap up of the bills of interest to IFA:

BILLS signed by the Governor:

#### **HF 694 EMS COMPACT**

Establishes an EMS licensure compact. Includes various provisions on EMS licensing, use of fees and for states to recognize licensing from another state. Makes the DPH the lead agency. Becomes effective when ten states have approved the compact.

The House PASSED the bill 96-0

The Senate PASSED the bill 50-0

#### HF 779 TAX MATTERS, DIVISION IIIV

Extending the firefighter tax check-off was added to this bill for two more years. We hope you are all using this check-off when filing your taxes. They evaluate the use of these check-offs every year as they only allow a small number of them. If they are not being used they will remove your check-off and let another organization have it. PLEASE use the check-off and encourage your family and friends to use it too!

SF 377-TORT LIABILITY FOR NON-PROFITS: This bill now gives tort liability immunity coverage to all non-profit fire and ambulance service departments in Iowa. Other departments that have city or county contracts are currently covered through their contracts or 28E agreements, but non-profits did not have this coverage. There are many of these in our state and we feel ALL first responders should be covered equally. Please thank Senator Schultz Jason.schultz@legis.iowa.gov and Representative Bergan Michael.bergan@legis.iowa.gov for pushing this legislation through. It could have easily been set aside from the final step in the HOUSE like many bills were at the end, but with our gentle persuasion they agreed to get it to the floor for a final vote. The Senate PASSED the bill 49-0. The House PASSED the bill 98-0

#### SSB1052 ALL IOWA SCHOLARSHIPS FOR SURVIVING FIREFIGHTER CHILDREN

This bill modified the age requirements for eligibility for this scholarship program. The bill changed stating the surviving child of a peace officer, firefighter, sheriff or deputy sheriff be under the age of 26 or under 30 if the child is a veteran to be eligible. The current law was 23 years to be eligible.

#### SF 615 JUSTICE APPROPS-Public Safety Survivor Benefits Fund (Division VII)

2. b A public safety survivor benefits fund will be established in the state treasury under the control of the department. The department will deliver 50% in the form of grants to nonprofit organizations that provide resources to assist surviving families of eligible firefighters killed in the line of duty for paying costs associated with accident or health care coverage.

#### SF 638 STANDINGS APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Kapucian tim.kapucian@legis.iowa.gov and Senator Brietbach Michael.breitbach@legis.iowa.gov were instrumental in providing additional funding for the Fire Service Training Bureau. Due to the unexpected raise in rent from \$60,000 to \$12,000 from Iowa State in one year we secured an additional \$50,000 as a line item into the Standings bill. This extra funding will help soften the rent increase, which will allow more firefighters to receive training. Please send them a THANK-YOU email! This will also allow DPS time to find a new location that is more cost effective.

BILLS PLACED ON UNFINISHED BUSINESS CALENDAR: the following bills are on the unfinished business calendar which means they will have a little head start next session, but will still need to go back to the full committee.

SF 442 EMERGENCY RESPONDER: relates to uses of authorized emergency vehicles

SF 478 USE OF LIGHTS ON EMERGENCY VEHICLES: relates to the proper use of lights on emergency vehicles.

## BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS

HF 558 and SF 55 are bills that dealt with expanding EMS service in either a county or a township. The new bill that limits the way communities can raise taxes SF 634 unfortunately replaced these bills.

## SSB 1171/HSB 190 PEACE OFFICERS BILL OF RIGHTS

This is an act relating to the peace officer, public safety, and emergency personnel bill of rights.

## HF 711 LENGTH OF SERVICE AWARD

This bill relates to establishing a length of service award program for volunteer firefighters who complete a number of years of service. This legislation needs lots of work to figure out how the funds can be collected and managed. We are researching other states and talking with a variety of resources to find a solution to making it work.

To read these bills go to:

[www.legis.iowa.gov](http://www.legis.iowa.gov)

Click on: LEGISLATION

Under BILLS on the right hand side, enter the number of the bill, click GO and you will be able to read the bill.

REMEMBER: As an Iowa Firefighter you still get the \$100 tax credit you can claim when you file your taxes, and DON'T FORGET the firefighter check off. Your family and friends can check the "firefighter check-off" too!

It is now time to start thinking about next session ideas.

Some suggested ideas:

- 1) Emergency Responder-Unfinished business
- 2) Lights-Unfinished business
- 3) Flame Retardant bill-
- 4) LOSAP

Please let us know if you have other suggested legislation we should be considering.

Don't miss the deadline to reserve your 2019 IFA commemorative liquor bottle. There will be a new bottle every year honoring the out-going IFA President. This year Marv Trimble is honoring all past Presidents by listing them on the bottle along with his Garrison Fire Department. The Foundry owned by Scott Bush, former founder of Templeton Rye, makes the vodka especially for us. These will be collectable items so you don't want to miss the first one. Each year there will be a different spirit. Orders end soon and bottles will be delivered to convention in September. Wouldn't it be great if EVERY department bought one to display in their respective departments? They will be numbered and collected each year.

We look forward to working with you over the off-session to plan the legislative agenda for next year. Please connect with your legislators over the summer to ask for their support, not only at local fundraisers for your department but also at the Capitol for important legislation that is needed for the work you do!

We will see you at convention in Manchester!

1<sup>st</sup> VP Gene Evans made a motion for the IFA to purchase 250 vodka bottles to sell at Convention and 3<sup>rd</sup> VP Jason Barrick second.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 p.m.