

Minutes of Iowa Firefighters Association
Convention Business Meeting
September 7, 2019
Manchester, IA

The meeting was called to order by President Jim Shutts at 9:04 a.m.

President Shutts announced that credentials and proxy voting will close in 10 minutes.

Resolution #1 – Mark McNees

To the members of the Iowa Firefighters Association assembled here in Manchester, IA on this 7th day of September in the year 2019.

WHEREAS: We would like to thank the Manchester Fire Department, the City of Manchester, and the Delaware County Fairgrounds for their gracious hospitality.

THEREFORE: Let it be resolved that this resolution be passed by a standing ovation from all members present at this 141st Convention meeting of the Iowa Firefighters Association.

Respectfully submitted by the Resolutions Committee.

Resolution passed by standing ovation.

Guests:

MDA – Derek Harrigan

An overview was given and a Thank you to the Iowa Firefighters Association for the opportunity to be a part of your Convention meeting. Discussion and a video were presented on Gene Therapy Research. MDA boot passed with \$509.00 donated.

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Fire Marshal – Dan Wood

-The State Fire Marshal's Division has purchased a new explosives Canine. The Canine will be located in eastern Iowa and will be operational in November

-The State Fire Marshal's Division has one person retiring in the Building Code Bureau. This position will not be filled so that we may fill the 2 open positions at the Fire Service Training Bureau.

-The State Fire Marshal's Division 2 new inspectors are fully trained and are inspecting on their own. They are located in northern Iowa and western Iowa.

-As of this meeting there has been 40 fire deaths in Iowa in 2019. This is 11 more than this time last year.

-The State Fire Marshal's Division issued 621 fireworks licenses in 2019. The in down from 891 in 2018. There was one death that was caused by fireworks and at least 12 documented injuries. There was a widespread problem throughout Iowa of illegal fireworks sales. Many vendors were selling commercial grade fireworks instead of consumer grade.

-The State Fire Marshal's Division along with the Fire Service and Emergency Response Council (FSERC) awarded 12 fireworks grants totaling over \$300,000.

FSTB – John Kraemer

- I. Staffing Update:
 - a. Hired a Fire Service Technical Assistant and Accounting Technician
 - b. Transitioned FSTB field staff from ISU employment to DPS employment in November 2018.

- II. Budget Update:
 - a. \$835,000 given to FSTB for salaries and benefits
 - b. \$825,000 re-appropriated to the Volunteer Firefighter Training Fund
 - c. \$50,000 appropriated to the Volunteer Firefighter Training Fund to help off-set some of the lease expense suffered by the FSTB and to preserve training opportunities.
 - d. FSTB has no true appropriated operation budget
 - e. Operational monies obtained through administration fees assessed to the training funds when courses are requested, sponsored, and/or coordinated through the FSTB. This is a non-sustainable business practice.
 - f. ISU increased FSTB lease fee on facilities from \$60,000 to \$112,400 beginning on July 1, 2018.
 - g. ISU began assessing a monthly finance fee for handling FSTB accounting/finance activities.

- III. Operational Changes:
 - a. Transitioned all finance/accounting practices from ISU to DPS in March 2019.
 - b. Beginning July 1, 2019, no more free re-takes of certification exams
 - c. September 1, 2019 FSTB began to assess training partner programs a 6% administration fee for course/training support provided.
 - d. September 1, 2019 FSTB was allowed to assess a 10% administration fee to fraternal organizations for seminar, conference, AV, certificate, and other such support.
 - e. In June 2019, computer-based testing (CBT) was officially rolled-out in Missouri Valley, Iowa at a test site. It was successful. The computer-based testing roll-out will grow as our computer tablet capacity increases. We currently have done an addition 5 CBT test sessions.

- IV. Poor Pass/Fail Certification Exam Ratios:
 - a. FSTB had no data to help determine where issues are in why the pass fail ratios for the HazMat Ops and FF1 exams are so poor.
 - b. FSTB came up with a Trident-Approach Solution to try to improve the passing rates on certification exams. This approach includes improving curriculum and instructor packages to FSTB and all other fire service instructors, reviewing and re-validating the certification

exams by Iowa subject-matter-experts, and also creating new and improved instructor and student Codes of Conduct and expectations.

- c. Practical skill evaluation sheets are now posted on the FSTB website for students and instructors to utilize in their trainings.

V. 2017 and 2018 AFG Grants:

- a. The FSTB was awarded a 2017 AFG Grant.
 - i. Purchased a mobile car fire prop
 - ii. Purchased two pick-up truck tow vehicles
 - iii. Purchased 6 cargo trailers
 - iv. Purchased first-due engine equipment and tools
 - v. The 6 trailers will be placed in 6 regions for training, testing, and disaster response use.
- b. The FSTB was recently awarded a new 2018 AFG grant.
 - i. Purchases pending.

VI. FSTB Facility and Training Ground Needs:

- a. Iowa's fire service training needs have woefully outgrown the current FSTB facilities.
- b. Both the FSTB building and training grounds are in disrepair, budget is tight, and training needs continue to grow and outpace what the FSTB can provide with current classroom and training ground space.
- c. Support is needed for newer and large building and training grounds.

- VII. The FSTB thanks the IFA Board and its membership for the warm support and encouragement Bureau Chief Kraemer has received since his hire and looks forward to our continued partnership in supporting and improving Iowa's fire service.

IFA Attorney – Skylar Limkemann

Topics discussed to include IFA Firefighter Day on the Hill, Emergency Driving and video presented.

IFCA – Duane Hendrickson

Thank to Iowa Firefighters Association for allowing me to be a part of your Convention Business Meeting. Review given and dates of upcoming Volunteer Chiefs Workshop will be held March 28th in Ames, Iowa.

Washington National Insurance – Terry Beek

WASHINGTON NATIONAL - CANCER, ACCIDENT and HEART/STROKE INSURANCE

Terry Beek, representing Washington National Insurance Company, presented an overview of the supplemental insurance coverage offered to **ALL volunteer firefighters**. Because of the partnership with the Iowa Firefighters Association (IFA), these policies can be offered at **GROUP RATES**. Which saves a

considerable amount when compared to purchasing outside of the IFA group. Rates start around **\$5-\$8 / week** for individual coverage. All policies can include spouse and children coverage too.

Studies have shown that firefighters face a higher risk for Cancer, Accidents and/or Heart issues than the general public. All of these policies provide 24/7/365 coverage. With the higher risks and the relative low costs, these have been very popular with firefighters.

Terry also pointed out that the **Cancer** policy also has a **Return of Premium** feature. After a certain period of time of having the Cancer policy in force, Washington National will send you a check for *all the premiums paid - minus claims occurred*. So if you never have a claim, your premiums are returned.

The **Accident** policy provides **24-hour coverage**... both on and off the job! The policy offers accident benefits for: hospital stays, ICU, ambulance, ER, doctor visits, broken/dislocated bones, dismemberment, and accidental death to name just a few.

Terry encourages fire departments to contact him to set up a presentation for all of the firefighters during their one of their nightly department meetings. If interested in learning more or to set up a department presentation, Terry can be contacted at **terry.beek@pmagent.net** or **319-883-1121**.

Approval of minutes of Mid-year minutes will be tabled and will be approved at the Mid-year meeting to be held in April 2020 due to resignation of Administrative Assistant and minutes not being completed prior to Convention meeting.

Motion to approve was made by Dave Shipper, LeMars. It was seconded by Bob Platzs, Dyersville. Motion carried.

Executive Director's Report/Financial Report – Interim Gene Evans

On July 16 President Shutts and I traveled to Sigourney to carry out a visit to the IFA office and conduct an employee review with Amber Kephart. This visit was unannounced by design.

Upon our arrival to Amber's residence, her Realtor was showing the property to a prospective buyer, and as would be expected during a Realtor showing, Amber was not home.

I placed a call to Amber at 1321 HRS, and she did not pick up. I attempted to leave a voicemail, but due to poor cell coverage, the call was dropped.

President Shutts then called Amber at 1330 HRS and after several rings, she picked up his call. When President Shutts inquired as to her whereabouts, Amber replied: "I'm at lunch".

She was then instructed to meet us at County Bank to add President and Vice President signatures to the accounts held there. Amber arrived at the bank moments after the call was placed.

When Amber was informed that we were going to conduct her Employee review, she stated that "She didn't want us at her home". We then proceeded to a nearby coffee shop and sat down with Amber.

The review was conducted, and eleven serious concerns were discussed. Amber had no valid reason for any of these deficiencies.

Amber was then presented with a fourteen-point Memorandum of Expectations for the office of Executive Director. Each point was reviewed and Amber then signed a receipt and verification of understanding of the document. It should be noted that there were three points covered in the review that had concrete due dates.

For the record, the entire review conversation was audio recorded.

As mentioned above, there were tasks that had been assigned due dates. One of the most critical ones was the files needed for the Audit. Amber was given a deadline of August 01 to have these files in the hands of VP Evans. That date came and went. On August 04, Amber was sent an email by IFA Attorney Skyler Limkemann directing her to add President and 1st VP names to the IFA credit card and to have the audit files sent to VP Evans by close of business on Tuesday, August 6th.

On Monday, August 5 at 2025 HRS the Board received an email from Amber Kephart giving notice of her resignation, effective August 30, 2019.

Given the uncertainty of the status of critical tasks necessary for a successful Convention, plus grave concerns about Amber's commitment to the IFA at this point, it was decided to plan on picking up all IFA files, records, computers and related equipment on Wednesday, August 07.

Arrangements were made with Amber, and President Shutts and VP Evans traveled to Sigourney with a rented trailer to gather our items. President Shutts was informed by Amber that she will not be at her home during the time we were loading the items.

Due to this situation, a Keokuk County Deputy was requested to be present for a Civil Standby during the time we were at Amber's residence. Chief Deputy Adam Pence was present for the entire time we were on Amber's property.

To put it mildly, the condition of the office was deplorable. Files were unorganized, literally thrown into cardboard boxes with no rhyme or reason to the system.

Sensitive items such as checkbooks, active files, membership information, credit card, PO box key, laptop, etc. were scattered in several boxes. President Shutts needed to make numerous contacts via text message and telephone with Amber to ascertain the location of these items, finally insisting that she present herself to locate the credit card and PO box key prior to us leaving her residence.

All the IFA office was transported to VP Evans' home in Osage. VP Evans has assumed all the Executive Director duties in the interim.

Since the IFA office has been removed from Amber's care, custody and control, several deficiencies have been noted.

Some of the more serious ones are- It appears that Amber ceased processing of memberships on or about April 19, 2019. At current there are 123 Departments with 2582 members that have not been entered into our database. That number changes daily as I am getting emails from Departments that

have not had checks cashed, received cards, or have issues with a duplicate check being requested and after that check was cut, the original "Lost" check being cashed. There are also numerous membership forms and checks that are missing.

Other issues include overdraft fees, late fees on the IFA credit card, Amazon purchases that do not appear to be IFA related, delinquent and incorrect reports to the Iowa Secretary of State and PAC Reporting, and missing financial records for February 2018.

On August 21, 5th VP Roger Carr, PP Ellen Hagen and 1st VP Evans conducted a preliminary internal audit of the financials from January 2018 to June 2019. Numerous irregularities were discovered during this audit.

It is the opinion of this group that a full external financial audit be performed per a third party.

Unfortunately, it appears that these issues are the tip of the iceberg, with more appearing each day.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gene A. Evans, 1st VP

Acting Executive Director

Discussion was held for an audit of budget to be completed by State Auditor. Motion to approve was made by Dave Shipper, LeMars. It was seconded by Ellen Hagan, Jewell. Motion carried by voice vote.

Financial Report – Interim Gene Evans

Budget - \$230,825.75

July 2018-July 2019 - \$271,343.62

Over Budget - \$40,517.87

Motion to approve financial report was made by Rodney Kolthoff, Wellsburg. It was seconded by Cliff Renslow, Stuart. Motion carried.

Officers Reports:

1st VP – Geve Evans

I would like to begin by thanking Chief Mike Ryan, the Manchester Fire Department, the Delaware County Fairgrounds and the good citizens of Manchester and Delaware County for making this 141st Convention a grand success!

As you are all aware, the IFA is presently without an Executive Director. One would like to believe that when an individual is hired for a position such as the Executive Director of an organization that is comprised of mostly members that volunteer for a job that a large amount of the population are

unwilling, or incapable of performing, that there would be a high level of dedication and commitment to those that they serve.

As we have learned in the past several weeks, our former employee was neither dedicated nor committed to the Firefighters of Iowa.

Moving forward, it is the Board's intention to revise the job description for the Executive Director to give a more detailed picture of the requirements and commitment needed to perform the job. We will then conduct a very thorough vetting process, to include Criminal history and Credit checks. We will also solicit references from the applicant's community other than the ones provided on their resume. We will form a hiring committee drawing on IFA members from across the State. Once a short list of candidates is selected, initial and potentially secondary interviews will be conducted. A selection will then be approved by the Board based on the recommendation of the committee.

Since my last report, I have had the pleasure of presenting a 32-year retirement award to Nora Springs Chief Dean Kock. Chief Kock, along with many, many other firefighters in Iowa, show the spirit of dedication that is the backbone of the Volunteer Fire Service.

In closing, I would like to touch on the increasing trend of Firefighter suicides. This is fast becoming a national epidemic among all first responders.....Fire, Law and EMS. A recent study shows that more Firefighters and Law Enforcement Officers died by suicide than in the line of duty. Another study on EMS providers shows nearly double the suicide rate compared to the general population.

This has struck very close to home during the past months with two of our brother Firefighters taking their own life. There may well be more that I am not aware of. The impact of a suicide, whether it be Fire, Law or EMS is not only devastating to the individual's family, but also the respective agency, the community and everyone that had been touched by that person.

PTSD is real, Compassion Fatigue is real. We who are normally the caregivers can no longer compartmentalize, suffer in silence or be told to "Just shake it off".

The leaders in an organization, the peers of those who serve, the families of responders all need to be open, caring and willing to step up and assist with recognizing the indications that there may be something that an individual is no longer able to process on their own.

Every Fire Station, every Fire Officer, every firefighter needs to have this number posted and programmed in their phone. 888-731-FIRE (3473)

The number is staffed 24/7 and a trained intake Counselor will answer your call. This line is available to all responders and their family members. The Counselor will take information and respond with resources needed to provide the caller with the necessary help that they deserve.

Remember, Not All Wounds Are Visible.....

2nd VP – Nick Riley

3rd VP – Jason Barrick

Good morning everyone, First off, I would like to thank Manchester Fire Dept for the great job they have done as convention city. As a Department that is in the early stages of planning convention you have set the bar once again. Congratulations to all the participants in yesterday's drills contest. I feel we should not only recognize the winners of these events but everyone that put in the time to participate. As you know this board over the past year has done a lot with the drills and the rules. I thank you for the support of this and we will continue to improve them with the members support. Marv Trimble thank you for your service to the members of the IFA. You have thought me a lot the last 3 years. Jim you made it. If half of the people in this campground today had as much love of the IFA as you do I could only imagine how this association would be.

4th VP- Chuck Raska

Thank you, Manchester for your hospitality. It's been a great convention.

As most of you know Jason and I worked throughout the past year attempting to improve the drills. As the sunset on the 2019 drills yesterday it seemed to have made a difference. The one major change we saw yesterday was running single brackets for leader line and water fights. Personally, I thought the environment around those two drills yesterday was great. Having the crowd and competitors lining the street focused on the one event created an environment that was a lot of fun to compete in. I'd like to thank all the competitors for participating as well as the drill officials for everything they do to keep things fair and just. While I'm on this topic I'd like to thank Jason for his time and efforts in getting the drill officials lined up and organized. He also went above and beyond his regular duties during the drills to make sure things run smoothly. Thank You Jason you done a great job!

The whole point of our efforts was to increase our number of contestants and after looking through my info from last year to this year it didn't change much. Some drills were higher some were lower but having it on Friday probably didn't help. I'll continue to work to promote and improve them and look at a better way to register and assemble the running order brackets. After being a part of that process, it is the general consensus of the board there's got to be a better way.

Jim and Gene, thank you for getting us through this past year. I'm really looking forward to next year as we get started on getting things moving forward in the proper direction and I'm confident that Gene will lead us in the right direction.

5th VP – Roger Carr

Is there anyone that this is your First attendance at a Board Meeting, please stand. Let's give them a round of applause in Welcome. Also please get together at the end of the meeting for a picture.

Thank you to Manchester Fire for Hosting a GREAT Convention, and a special Thank You and Commendation to their members that helped at the Drills. Everything that was needed was taken care of, (They were Great to Work with).

Being last to report, those before me have covered many of the things I was going to bring up, so my report will be short and sweet. It has been a very busy and interesting year to say the least. And I am still learning as we go along. My Thanks to President Evans for stepping up and assuming the duties as Executive Director. I am very Sad to say that I have attended more funerals than LOS since my last report. Thank you to all who have offered support and help along my journey.

Past President – Marv Trimble

First of all, thanks to the Manchester fire department and Chief Ryan for hosting and ordering beautiful weather. I have attended only a few events on behalf of the IFA since the memorial meeting. July 23rd first VP Gene Evans and I met with our attorney Skylar to discuss roles and responsibilities for the next legislative session. On July 30th Gene Evans and I represented the fire service in Iowa on an Iowa Public Radio segment called “River to River” They wanted to know our take on the decline in volunteerism in the fire service. And in August I assisted with the Hall of Flame.

We put it together on Tuesday before the fair started and took it down on Monday after the close. This is a wonderful opportunity to educate both the young and old on fire safety. I say this every year, but volunteer next year if you can. Every fire we prevent is one we don't have to fight.

On September 9, 2012 I was elected to the board in Manchester and will be leaving on September 7, 2019 in Manchester. To my knowledge, I will be the first president to come on and go off at the same city.

I want to thank you, the members of the IFA, for your dedication to public safety and encouragement throughout my time on the board.

I have thanked all the board members I have served with for the past seven years. My first year on the board Roger Bissen was President, Jack Runge Past President, 1st vp All Esch, 2nd VP Brad Yeager, 3rd VP Mark McNees, 4th VP Bill Halleran. Since then Jim Schutts, Gene Evans, Nick Riley, Jason Barrick, Chuck Raska, and Roger Carr. I have learned so much from each of you.

I want to thank the Garrison fire department for all their support. They have helped in every way and stepped up to make my Mid-year and Presidents party great successes.

Last, but the most important is my sweet young bride Michelle. I could not have done it without you.

President – James Shutts

See attached detailed documentation provided by speakers.

Credentials Report – Brian Platz

Towns – 33

Total votes – 1,177

Proxy/absentee – 4 towns – 120 votes

Thank you to Joan and Mike Reuman for their help in this process.

Resolution #2 –

Resolution #2

Whereas, in the interest of transparency and to align with accepted accounting practices for Non-Profit organizations, be it resolved that from this point forward, the following persons, by position of office and/or title shall have access to, and be allowed to transact business to include issue of checks, transfer of funds between Iowa Firefighters Association General Savings and Checking accounts and the Iowa Firefighters Association Foundation (Memorial) Savings and Checking accounts. In addition, the named individuals will be allowed to have access to Certificates of Deposit held in the name of the Iowa Firefighters Association and the Iowa Firefighters Association Foundation.

This action shall apply to all Banks or other Financial institutions, brick and mortar or virtual in which the Iowa Firefighters Association and the Iowa Firefighters Association Foundation holds accounts.

Individuals who will be allowed to have access to these accounts are:

Seated President

Seated First Vice President

Executive Director

The terms of access will be rotated annually for the President and First Vice President as the President moves to Past President status. The newly elected First Vice President will then assume the secondary role. This rotation will continue in perpetuity unless acted on by another Resolution passed by a majority vote of the membership. Validation of the occupancy for the office of President and First Vice President shall be confirmed by the minutes of the annual Convention business meeting held in September of each year.

Regarding the Executive Director, access will be granted/terminated at the behest of the Board of Directors of the Iowa Firefighters Association/Iowa Firefighters Association Foundation.

Explanation

The practice of having more than one named individual on the IFA business accounts is needed to ensure that IFA funds are accessible to the organization if the Executive Director is terminated or resigns.

Respectfully submitted by the IFA Board of Directors. Shutts, Evans, Riley, Barrick, Raska, Carr, Trimble.

NOTARY

State of Iowa, County of Delaware- This resolution was passed by a majority vote of the Members of the Iowa Firefighters Association present here at the 141st Annual Convention in Manchester, Iowa on this 7th day of September 2019.

Notary Signature _____ Date _____

Motion to approve was made by Kirk Rice, Iowa Falls. It was seconded by Cliff Renslow, Stuart. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Drills Rules Committee – No report

State Fair Committee – Rusty Hockman – No report

Memorial Committee – Mike Reuman – No report

NVFC – Roger Bissen/Marv Trimble – see attached detailed documentation provided by speaker.

Legislative – John and Cyndi Pederson

First and foremost, we want to thank, the Manchester Fire Department, the city and the many volunteers for hosting such a great convention. Our thanks to Marv Trimble for his many years as an officer for IFA.

We have a short legislative update.

Getting your license plate renewals should be much easier as there is a new form that does no longer require a notary. As soon as the form is available it will be sent to you.

There are two bills from last year that remain on the UNFINISHED Business Calendar in the House. This means we have a head start on this legislation for next session because they did not have time to run them.

Use of Lights SF 478

Emergency Responder SF 442

We have been working with the board to identify our focus for the 2020 legislative session. In fact we met with Rep Hein & Sen. Zumbach who represent Delaware County here at convention last Wed to introduce our suggested ideas.

- Training Bureau
- Pension Retirement for Volunteer Firefighters
- Raise tax credit, currently at \$100

- Cancer Benefit for Volunteer Firefighters
- Banning flame retardants
- Suicide Prevention/Mental Health for First Responders

We need to prioritize this list and then identify a legislator who will help us by sponsoring them through the legislative process.

I realize we say this every year, but it is important to get to know your legislator.

It is imperative that we have a grass roots system in place in case we need a “CALL TO ACTION.” A call to action is sometimes needed to help show legislators that their constituents care about certain issues. This proved to be very effective last year when some gap funding for the training bureau was removed from a bill at the eleventh hour. Thanks to a focused collective effort, members contacted their legislators in a timely manner and the funding was restored.

Firefighter Day on the Hill will be on Thursday, January 16th, 2020. Please mark your calendars. It is great to see the Capitol filled with firefighters. If you can't join us, please mark your calendars to call or email your legislator asking for them to support volunteer firefighters needs this session.

John & Cyndi Pederson

Other Committee Reports – No report

Unfinished Business – None

Election/Installation of Officers –

Rodney Kolthoff, Wellsburg made a motion to move all officers up one position and elect a new 5th Vice President. It was seconded by Cliff Renslow, Stuart. Motion carried.

Outgoing IFA President James Shutts, Belle Plaine presented the gavel, name badge, name tag and business cards to Gene Evans, Osage as he moved up to the position of President of the IFA. James said he was very honored and thankful for all the opportunities he has had over the past year, if has made a significant impact on his life.

President Gene Evans: Gene thanks his wife Carrie, she has been a huge supporter of him, and his time spent with this organization. He also thanked the board for their support and Manchester Fire for all of their hard work organizing this year's Convention. He is looking forward to this next year as President.

Gene presented James Shutts with his name badge, pin, hat and Lifetime Membership card and certificate as he moved to the position of Past President.

Nominations for 5th Vice President-

Jeff Gohr – Eldora – Hello, I'm Jeff Gohr, from Eldora, it was 20 years ago I was President. I would like to introduce a fellow Firefighter Aaron Clemons, he has been on the department for 9 years, served as President, Fire Fighter 1, been a lead captain for 5 years. Aaron and his wife Ann have 2 young children Brody and Hudson. He is the owner of his own construction company, Aaron Clemons Construction, which makes him more flexible to help out the Association. It's a great privilege to nominate Aaron Clemons as 5th Vice President of Iowa Firefighters Association, Aaron has been an outstanding member and support of the Eldora Fire Department and I am sure he will do the same for the Association. Thank you.

Nomination motion seconded by Dave Lloyd, Eldora. Motion carried.

Cliff Renslow, Stuart, made a motion that nominations cease and we cast a unanimous ballot for Aaron Clemons as the new 5th Vice President of the Iowa Firefighters Association. It was seconded by Kirk Rice, Iowa Falls. Motion carried.

5th Vice President Aaron Clemons –

I promise I'll keep it short and sweet. I can't thank everyone enough; I've met a lot of new faces this year and gotten many good ideas moving forward. I want to thank my wife, she was unable to be here, she is a schoolteacher and it's a little hard to get off. I'd like to thank my department, the last couple years I have announced I'd like to do this and its finally here. I'm excited and ready to move forward with it, promise I will do the best I can, I am sure if I do something wrong, you'll let me know. I'll leave it right there, Thanks again and I look forward to meeting everyone.

New Business –

Ed Tibbot, Manchester

Good Morning, thank you to everyone for attending the 2019 Iowa Firefighters Association Convention, the weather has been very cooperative.

As some of you are aware the electrical boxes used for the past many years are in unacceptable shape. Many repairs were made prior to this year's convention to get them in good working condition. There has been a recommendation to look in to new and safer boxes. The information found so far shows an approximate \$600.00 cost per box. There have been ideas brought forward to look in to local schools/trades to help with construction and wiring of boxes or a flat rate to increase dues slightly for 5-6 years, nothing definite has been set, more discussion will be needed. Would need approximately 200 boxes to have adequate amount to host future conventions.

Concerned regarding a few departments that registered last minute, did not register wives and did not camp onsite.

Mike Ryan, Manchester

Registered Convention guests – 1800

Spots sold – 1475

Bowling participants – 280

Golfing – 130

Detailed report to come soon once all information re-tallied.

Huge Thank you to Ed Tibbets for all of his work and dedication to this year's Convention here in Manchester.

Selection of Convention City 2020-2021

Grinnell Fire Department - Grinnell will be host city for the Iowa Firefighters Association Convention in both 2020 and 2021, the theme will be "Game Shows", emphasis is being placed on entertainment. The camp sites have been laid out; visuals are available. Facebook page is ready, information being posted.

Good of the Association -

Kent Brix - Grand Mound – Good Morning, I am from Eastern Iowa and would like to announce that I will be running for 5th Vice in 2020. I have several years of experience and look forward to the opportunity. Thank you.

Jason Barrick – Iowa Falls is considering hosting Convention 2022, more information to come. Thank you!

Gene Evans – there are some handheld radios missing from the drills yesterday, if you have one please return. Also, a couple headsets missing from the Huey rides yesterday, return if you have one the those.

Ed Tibbot - As you've heard and seen on the Manchester Convention Facebook page there have been reports of inappropriate behavior. We all need to be respectful, this behavior is unacceptable.

Motion to adjourn – Cliff Renslow, Stuart. It was seconded by Ellen Hagen, Jewell. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 12:36.

Respectfully submitted,
Gene Evans, Interim Executive Director

