

SD Firefighters Association, Inc. Winter Board Meeting  
Pierre, SD – Pierre Fire Station #1  
January 11, 2019  
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President Kludt called meeting to order @ 8:25 am at Station 1 on January 11, 2019. Board members present were: Charlie Kludt, Ron Hines, Dave Jorgenson, Rick Gustad, Mark Stoks, Chad Baumgarten, Adam Kuenkel, Dennis Gorton. Absent: Diez. Guests: Mike Erickson, SD Fire Marshal's office.

Roll Call: Hines, Jorgenson, Gustad, Stoks, Baumgarten, Kuenkel. Abstain Kludt, Gorton.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Moment of Silence a moment of silence was observed for all firefighters.

Approval of agenda motion by Hines, seconded by Kuenkel. Carried.

Additional items: none

Approve minutes of Board meeting @ Pierre, Sept. 29, 2018 motion to approve by Jorgenson, seconded by Kuenkel. Carried.

Treasurer's Report – Gorton said he emailed several financial reports to the Board earlier in the week. Motion by Gustad seconded by Hines to approve treasurer reports.

- Net worth reports: Currently it is \$229,935.01 as of Dec. 31, 2018. Included is a comparison for the past three years of net worth for Board's information.
- District Fire School Reimbursement: Have reimbursed district schools for 2018 in the amount of \$11,271.96. A recap was emailed to Board members.
- Monthly Transaction Report: Check register for Nov and Dec 2018 report was included for both the State Fund and General Fund accounts.
- Fire School 2018 the total income was \$29,897.00 total expenses \$72,792.40 for a net cost of \$42,985.40.
  - **Action Required:** Gorton will post the 2018 financials for net worth, state and general fund as DRAFTS.

Secretary's Report – Gorton said he believes that all minutes and financial reports have posted on the webpage. The 2019 high school scholarship application has been posted on the webpage. Minutes of the Board meeting at fire school have been posted. Gorton also emailed his Time Log for 2018 to the Board.

District Directors Report -

Black Hills – Kuenkel said there are several Firefighter 1 & 2 classes, several other classes, the Mid-Winter Muster held March. Several classes for wildland, emergency management, EMT, National Fire Academy, evening seminars. Also, there is planning on doing the Black Hills Interagency Wildland Fire training session in May.

Northwest – Baumgarten said there was no fall district fire school, will have a spring 2019 school, doing a certified firefighter class in Lemmon, Timber Lake is doing active training, It was noted that the Mobridge fire department has been shut down due to various reason, are looking at reopening with new firefighters in near future.

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Northeast – Stoks said planning on spring school in Webster, other than that, there isn't much going on.

Southeast – Jorgenson said spring school in Brookings, several certified classes in the area will be going on soon, Vermillion will be hosting some training, Canastota maybe hosting a spring 2020 training. Special Note, LeRoy Koopman will be retiring as Fire Chief at Colton in the spring after nearly 40 years as chief, Kludt will get more info as later.

Central – Hines said spring school will be in Pukwana, Highmore maybe hosting a FF1 class, not much else at this time. Have not found a district director to replace Ron.

South Central – Gustad said several departments are considering FF1 classes, spring school maybe held nothing definite at this time.

Badlands – planning on doing a spring school, and some type of wildland one day class dealing with size up.

District Fire School Scholarships: - President Kludt asked the directors to come up with at least three (3) departments in their districts who have not been to State Fire School. This would be an attendance incentive to come to fire school and the SDFBA Board would reimburse for some direct expenses; the requirement is that the fire department must be at least Department Only.

New Certified Firefighter – if completed certified FF 1 & 2 class, passed the final practical's, etc. they are eligible for a \$50 cash card, and no cost registration. (see written policies)

Fire Department going GOG #1 depts would get this too.

**Action Required:** mention in articles and post on webpage

Membership & Public Address Session – This is an opportunity for members or the general public to speak/present to the board. Items brought forth during this time are for informational purposes only. No official action will be taken on topics during this time. Please, limit speaking time to five(5) minutes or less. Nothing was brought forward.

## **BUSINESS**

1. Credit Card Renewals – Kludt noted that the three credit cards are slated to expire in January 2019. Current card holders are President Kludt, Sec/Tres Gorton and past secretary Gesinger. Discussion on need for the past secretary to have a credit card, and that Vice-president Ron Hines should have one. Motion by Gustad, seconded by Jorgenson to remove Gesinger from that credit card and reissue in the name of Ron Hines, Vice-president. Motion carried.
  - a. **Action Required:** Gorton will contact Dakota Star and make the necessary changes.
2. Membership report Gorton reported the Association finished 2018 year with 5,719 paid members, with 233 fire departments and 54 Department only members. Total income from membership/dues was \$145,015.00.
  - a. Kludt said he was asked if “alumni” firefighters would be eligible for the supplemental or buy-up insurance. Gorton said that it is the decision of the Association. The Board said as long the fire department was a 100% Member, then “alumni” firefighters would be eligible for the supplemental or buy-up AD&D.
3. District Directors Contacting Departments – Each director needs to be contacting the departments in their district and encourage them to be members.

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- a. **Action Required:** Gorton will get district breakdown to each director as soon as possible, understanding that the list of members can change daily.
4. Thank you for membership – discussion on putting a list of those departments who have 100% membership and department only in the newspaper. The May paper would be the best to allow for the most departments to pay their dues, etc.
  - a. **Action Required:** Gorton will get a list similar to last years for the May paper.
5. Central District Representative appointment - Kludt said he has not received names for appointment as of this date. There has not been much interest from the fire departments and/or individuals. The SDFa is trying to recruit a representative from the western end of the district.
6. Executive session for review of administrative position – Executive Session: (SDCL 1-25-2.1) Motion to go into executive session by Gustad, seconded by Stoks. Carried. Kludt declared out of executive session at 10:50 AM. Motion by Gustad to set the treasurer’s reimbursement effective January 1, 2019 at \$1800 per year and the secretary reimbursement at \$5200 per year, paid semi-annually, seconded by Jorgenson. Roll Call: Voting yes: Hines, Jorgenson, Gustad, Stoks, Baumgarten, Kuenkel. Abstain Kludt, Gorton.
7. Honorary Lifetime Membership – Kludt said he will do some clarification as to who has expressed interest in lifetime membership.
8. High School Scholarship program – application has been sent to Grapevine and posted on our webpage. Deadline is March 15, 2019. 2019 Review committee is Jenifer Lavier, SD Auxiliary, DOT’s Paula Jarding, Dennis Gorton, SD Firefighters.
9. Insurance policies – Insurance policies for fire school are One Beacon and the SD Insurance Assn. It was noted that there is a grant open to fire departments through the Insurance Association.
  - a. **Action Required:** Kludt will check into this.
10. Legislation for 2019 –
  - a. Facetime w/legislators - need to spend time with legislators, discussion on trying to do some type of “day” to meet socially meet. The Board will discuss with Willard.
  - b. Fire Insurance Premium Tax Rebate – do we pursue this or wait. How do we present the legislation? The Board felt that we need to develop a position paper, build relationships with legislators, the governor. It should be presented to the firefighters, etc. Also, how it will affect each fire department financially.
  - c. License Plates – 3852 firefighter plates in 2017.
  - d. Retirement funding for volunteer firefighters – the question is how to fund.
  - e. The Board will set a time to meet with Steve Willard and come up with a game plan.
  - f. Motion by Gustad that the SDFa Board supports the position of the PSCC to have a substantial funding for the State Digital Radio system as proposed by the PSCC, seconded by Hines. Carried.
11. NVFC – Discussion that firefighters can become members of the NVFC for only \$18 [per year. Meetings for 2019 are April 25-27 in Alexandria, VA, and October 23-25 in Augusta, GA. Motion by Gustad to pay expenses for two representatives for 2019 to attend the spring and fall meetings, seconded by Kuenkel. Roll call vote: Voting yes, Hines, Jorgenson, Gustad, Stoks, Baumgarten, Kuenkel, Gorton. Abstain: Kludt.
  - a. **Action Required:** Need to verify if LeRoy Koopman is willing and/or planning on being the State Representative after retirement from the Colton VFD?

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- b. **Action Required:** NVFC legislative representative Dave Finger, said they are watching the proposal from President Trump to cut funding for forest fire suppression costs.
- 12. State Fallen Firefighters Memorial – Sept 29, 2019. Motion by Hines, seconded by Jorgenson to add David Fischer, Sturgis VFD, to the Fallen Firefighters Memorial. Carried.
  - a. **Action Required:** Name has been sent to the engraver. Completed.
  - b. **Action Required:** Kuenkel will contact the Rapid City FD and Ellsworth FD for honor guard.
  - c. **Action Required:** contact Capitol Buildings & Grounds.
- 13. National Fallen Firefighter Memorial – is October 5 & 6, 2019 – discussion on who might be interested in attending. It was noted that generally the district director from the firefighter's area are first to attend, if they are unable then it is open to other board members. For 2019 it would be the Black Hills District Director. Motion to send one SDFA representative to the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial.
  - a. **Action Required:** Gorton said that whoever goes should make their own arrangements, travel, motel, etc. and submit for reimbursement. Airlines and/or motel can be charged to the Association credit card.
- 14. Regional States Networking Report – apparently these are working well and the NVFC is considering including them. Don Ward attended in Oct of 2018. The Board felt it was needed to continue South Dakota's representation at these.
  - a. **Action Required:** The Board will support one person attending.
- 15. Newspaper Media – Charlie has set a schedule for the directors to include articles in the paper.
  - a. **Action Required:** Directors and Board Members note the months when you are being asked to submit articles by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month.
    - i. **January:** Black Hills, Southeast & Central
    - ii. **February:** Northeast, Northwest, Badlands
    - iii. **March:** South Central, Southeast, Black Hills, NVFC
    - iv. **April:** Central, Northeast, North West, Treasurer (financial reports)
    - v. **May:** Badland, South Central, South East, Secretary (minutes)
    - vi. **June:** Black Hills, North East, Central
    - vii. **July:** North West, Badland, South Central
    - viii. **August:** Southeast, Black Hills, Central
    - ix. **September:** North East, North West, Badlands
    - x. **October:** Southeast, South Central, Black Hills, Secretary
    - xi. **November:** Central, North East, North West, Secretary, Treasurer, NVFC
    - xii. **December:** Badlands, South Central Treasure, Secretary
- 16. Website Updates – some discussion about some changes to the webpage.
  - a. **Action Required:** Any Board members who have suggestions should contact Grapevine Designs direct or send them to Gorton and he will forward to Grapevine.
- 17. Statewide committee reports:
  - a) Public Safety Communications Council – Motion by Gustad to have Kludt send a letter to reappoint Gorton to this Council, seconded by Hines. Carried.
    - 1. **Action Required:** Gorton will get some info to Kludt on this appointment.
    - 2. **Action Required:** Kludt will send letter to Jeff Pierce.
  - b) Joint Council of Fire Service Organizations – just met. A work study group will be formed, and Ron Hines will be there to represent the SDFA.

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- c) Fire Chiefs – it was a good conference. It has grown and most likely will be at Deadwood again. The conference will be in late November. Location to be formally announced later.
  - d) Instructors – will be meeting this weekend. The class is very good.
  - e) Fire Marshal's Advisory Board – held a web-conference meeting. Chris Blair is replacing Jim Strain who retired from State Wildland Fire
  - f) LAST – have established a bank account at Black Hills Federal Credit Union. Dawn Kludt is the treasurer. The account name is SD LAST.
18. Fire School Planning – 2019 - Mitchell
- a. Finalize class listing (Update from Mike E)
  - b. Registration open date 31 March 2019
  - c. Other items –
    - c.1 – Spring meeting date - 29-31 March 2019 @ Mitchell
    - c.2 – Arrival date for setup, final checks Tuesday, June 4
    - c.3 – communications; phone listing
    - c.4 - tools/equipment; - Chad, Jack, Adam
    - c.5 – apparatus; - Chad, Adam , Dave
    - c.6 – workers
    - c.7 – Food – planning on using the lunch meal and the register pays.
    - c.8 – Vendor show; Auxiliary
    - c.9 – Memorabilia – Auxiliary
    - c.10 – Signage/posters/arrows – Mark
    - c.11 – Sanitation - Ron
    - c.12 - Utility vehicles – Dave
    - c.13 – Memorial & meeting setup – Charlie, Ron, Adam
  - d. Finalize Schedule
  - e. Final registration costs
19. Final comments, none currently. Check names on memorial add whoever.
20. **NEXT MEETING** March 29 – 31, 2019 at Mitchell, full Board meeting at 8:00 AM with a meeting room for all day Saturday, and Sunday AM.
- a. **Action Required: reserve rooms for full Board and meeting room.**

Pay Expenses: Motion by Hines to pay expenses for meeting, seconded by Kuenkel. Roll call, Hines, Jorgenson, Gustad, Stoks, Baumgarten, Kuenkel, Kludt, Gorton all voting yes.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Dennis Gorton, Secretary