

**SD Firefighters Association Spring Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Teleconference at 9:30 AM CDT/8:30 AM MDT**  
**Saturday, April 18, 2020**

Special Note: The scheduled SDFFA Board meeting for March 21 & 22, 2020 in Mitchell was postponed until April 18, 2020 to be conducted via Zoom teleconference. The following minutes are from this meeting.

President Kludt called the meeting to order @ 8:50 am MDT/9:50 AM CDT via teleconference

SDFFA Board members present: Charlie Kludt, Ron Hines, Dennis Gorton, Rick Gustad, Jack Diez, Mark Stoks, Adam Kuenkel, Chad Baumgarten, Samara Erickson. Member absent: Dave Jorgenson  
Auxiliary Members present: Jenifer Laurvick  
Guests present: Rick Cronin, Director-elect.

Vote Roll Call Voting:

Hines, Gorton, Gustad, Diez, Stoks, Kuenkel, Baumgarten, Erickson.

Moment of Silence was observed for all firefighters and their families.

Approval of agenda as emailed by Hines, seconded by Gustad Carried

Approve minutes of Board meeting in Pierre, January 10, 2020 by Gustad, seconded by Stoks. Carried.

**Action Required: Send PDF copy of minutes for webpage.**

Treasurer's Report – Gorton presented several reports which are attached.

1. Gorton said he has all the 2019 payable and financial statement ready for the audit committee at the 2020 Membership meeting.
2. Gorton reminded the Board that the SD EMS paid their entire amount in January for the 2020 year.
3. Presented the following reports for Boards information and approval
  - a. Net Worth Report – as of March 16, 2020 \$216,992.32
  - b. General Fund checks written – see attached list
  - c. State Fund checks written – no checks were written in Feb.
4. Treasurer's' reports were accepted as emailed prior to this meeting.
5. Motion by Gustad, seconded by Erickson that the SDFFA will reimburse individuals for direct costs that may have been incurred due to the cancellation with reasonable documentation of costs. Carried.

**Action Required: Gorton will reimburse on a case-by-case basis.**

Secretary's Report – Gorton presented a recap of the membership dues received to date.

As of March 16, 2020, there were 5,529 paid members, 228 100% Membership department, and 44 Department Only members. Comparison in as of March 24, 2019 there were 5,491 paid members, 221 100% Membership departments, and 48 Department Only.

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Gorton noted that as of March 16 there were 13 departments that in past years were 100% Membership and have not paid dues to date. This represents approximately \$8,750 in unpaid dues. The total amount of unpaid dues is \$14,875.

**Action Required: District Directors need to contact departments and request them to get their dues paid.**

District Directors Report – no individual reports from district directors

Black Hills – Kuenkel

Northwest - Baumgarten

Northeast – Stoks

Southeast – Jorgenson

Central – Erickson

South Central – Gustad

Badlands – Diez

**BUSINESS**

1. By-law proposed amendments – Kludt said a proposed by-law change should read it must be made so many days prior to annual membership meeting rather than by a specified dated. Motion by Gustad to rescind the motion from Jan. mtg not allowing nominations from the floor, seconded by Diez including the part that concerning one 3-year term for past president. Motion carried by show of hands.  
**Action Required: Will be continued to the next Board meeting. Copies of by-laws and info will be included in the agenda for next meeting.**
2. Honorary Lifetime Membership – Board opened the meeting to receiving any lifetime membership nominations. None received.  
**Action Required: Nothing at this time**
3. High School Scholarship – Gorton said he has received 5 boys and 6 girls' applications. One application could not be considered since the department does not have 100% Membership. Those applications had been copied and mailed to the review committee of Ron Hines, Dawn Kludt and Jenifer Laurvick. It was noted that the Association pays the students after the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester and receiving verification from the school of their attendance and enrollment in the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester. Discussion followed should the awardees be one boy and one girl or could it be simply the top two applications. The Committee agreed that it should be the two most qualified applicants, regardless if boy or girl. The two selections are Ember Fluck, Custer and Cheyanne Deibert, Webster. Motion to approve the selection as presented by Gustad, seconded by Erickson. Motion Carried.  
**Action Required: Future scholarship applications will be compiled, reviewed and the final selection determined based on the top two applicants. The Committee will rank the top four applicants, in the event one applicant is not able to accept the scholarship.**

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4. NVFC –
  - a. Kludt asked about a board member or other individual who would like to be considered for representative from South Dakota to the NVFC.  
**Action Required: Nothing at this time.**
  - b. Hosting the 2024 fall NVFC meeting in South Dakota, the bid must be submitted by Sept. 10, 2020 to the NVFC. The SDFA Board will continue to pursue the NVFC meeting after contacting the Civic Center to assure that possible dates are available.  
**Action Required: Kludt received email from Civic Center and will follow up with them on possible dates.**
  - c. Future Meeting dates:

<del>2020 – 29 April-2 May</del> Alexandria, VA	14-16 Oct – Wilmington, NC	
2021 – 28 April-1 May	Alexandria, VA	13-15 Oct – Jackson, WY
2022 – 6-9 April	Alexandria, VA	21-23 Sept – KC, KS
2023 – 22-25 May	Alexandria, VA	20-22 Sept – Cooperstown, NY
2024 – 24-27 April	Alexandria, VA	2024 Rapid City, South Dakota ???

\*Spring includes DC office visits
  
5. State Fallen Firefighters Memorial – September 27, 2020 at 2:00 PM CDT
  - a. Adding Dwain Hudson for 2020 – Argyle VFD
  - b. Flag Case –  
**Action Required: Gorton will get flag case engraved**
  - c. Honor Guard -  
**Action Required:**
  - d. Pipe & Drums -  
**Action Required:**
  - e. Governor invite -  
**Action Required:**
  - f. Building & Grounds -  
**Action Required:**
  - g. News Media –  
**Action Required:**
  - h. Invitation of family  
**Action Required:**
  - i. Motel rooms:  
**Action Required: Done, rooms at Governor’s Inn for Fri & Sat night, with Auxiliary members.**
  
6. National Fallen Firefighter Memorial – October 3 & 4, 2020 Emmitsburg, MD. The SDFA is planning on sending a representative Diez said he has contacted the NFFF and at this time they are still planning on hosting the Memorial. Kuenkel said he will not be able to attend this year, he said Gorton should attend.  
**Action Required: Contact Diez and get info, airlines, etc.**
  
7. Media – Kludt again gave out the various months that he is asking each board member to submit articles to the newspaper.

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**Action Required:** Directors and others to submit information by 15<sup>th</sup> of each month  
April – Central, Northeast, Northwest, and Treasurer  
May – Badlands, South Central, South East  
June – Black Hills, Central, Northeast  
July – Northwest, Badlands, South Central  
Aug – Southeast, Black Hills, Central  
Sept – Northeast, Northwest, Badlands(note this will Cronin's 1<sup>st</sup> article)  
Oct – South Central, Southeast, Black Hills, Secretary  
Nov – Central, Northeast, Northwest, NVFC  
Dec – Badlands, South Central

8. Statewide committee reports
  - a. Public Safety Communications Council – planning to meet in June
  - b. Joint Council of Fire Service Organizations – nothing at this time
  - c. SD Fire Chiefs Assn. – doing weekly meetings on Zoom about 1 hour long
  - d. SD Fire Service Instructors Assn. – nothing at this time
  - e. SD Fire Marshal's Advisory Board – new appointment for SD Wildland Fire
  - f. LAST – (new website [www.SDLast.org](http://www.SDLast.org))
    - i. Draper VFD had long time member pass away – Erickson said the team did a mini deployment as it was not a LODD. Several members assisted the department and family.  
**Action Required: Hines will get the various flags ordered for the kits.**
  - g. SD-PERI – SD Pipeline Assn. – nothing at this time
9. Covid 19 response – some general discussion on what departments around the state are doing and changing their response. Some are not having department meetings, less firefighters in vehicles, etc.
10. Fire School Planning – 2020 - Mitchell see
  - a. Cancellation of fire school - Motion by Hines, seconded by Erickson that in light of the current COVID-19 Pandemic and with the best interest of attendees, vendors, and all other participants that fire school scheduled for June 12-14, 2020 in Mitchell, SD shall be cancelled until further notice. Carried.  
**Action Required: Attach letters for website and newspaper.**  
**Action Required: Kludt will send official notices for the webpage and newspaper.**
  - b. Cancel Membership meeting - Motion by Gustad to postpone the annual membership meeting and elections scheduled for June 2020, seconded Diez due to the cancelation of fire school. Carried.
  - c. Reschedule membership meeting and elections. General discussion about possibly have the membership meeting during the SD Fallen Firefighters Memorial late September. Ideas included:
    - i. Keynote speakers on specific topics
    - ii. Friday or Saturday night social
    - iii. 4- or 8-hour classes,

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- iv. Membership meeting
- v. Dear Old Timers
- vi. Fort Pierre has their annual dance on Saturday night, could be the social
- vii. Fall membership meeting proposal. It was discussed that having some membership meeting could be good and might also be a way to have a fire school and convention at different times. After much discussion it appeared that a possible basic idea for a fall meeting would be similar to the following:
  - 1. Non formal social on Friday evening.
  - 2. Membership meeting 1<sup>st</sup> session first thing Saturday AM for 2-3 hours.
  - 3. Keynote speaker and/or 2-3-hour class sessions on various topics.
  - 4. Early evening social Friday late PM.
  - 5. Maybe have a lunch on Saturday.
  - 6. Then those attending could attend the Fort Pierre fireman's dance.
  - 7. Sunday AM potential for buffet breakfast, then 2<sup>nd</sup> session of membership meeting.
  - 8. Elections for President could be announced at 1<sup>st</sup> membership meeting, voting on Saturday PM and/or Sunday AM.
  - 9. Finish meeting around 11 AM then have time for Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service Sunday PM.
  - 10. Either low cost or no cost Saturday lunch and/or Sunday buffet. Would need some registration to know how many meals to plan for.

**Action Required: Erickson will check with Ramkota for available on Friday PM, evening, Saturday all day & evening, Sunday AM.**

**Action Required: President Kludt would like to have the membership meeting first thing on Saturday AM, then "keynote" or "classes" to follow in the PM, etc.**

**Action Required: next meeting on this will be May 2 most likely 7:00 PM CDT.**

**Action Required: Gorton will contact any instructors after the May 2 meeting for their available to put on a 2-4 hr. class.**

11. Final Comments –

- a. Hines - Additional District Funding - asked the Board should we add some additional funds towards the district fire schools since firefighters will not be able to attend annual fire school? Motion by Gustad to increase the maximum reimbursement amount for calendar year 2020 to \$3,000, seconded by Baumgarten, the district school will have to be held by December 31, 2020 to qualify. Carried.  
**Action Required: change the district reimbursement form and put info in article.**
- b. Gustad – Firefighter Live Fire Testing - discussed the various certified firefighter classes that were postponed. Gustad said he is hoping to have a special weekend at the Platte VFD for any department that could not complete the live fire class. Gustad said that there would be no cost to any firefighter who is completing their class. Motion by to Erickson to reimburse Platte VFD for their LP and/or instructor costs at a later date, seconded by Diez. Carried with Gustad abstaining.

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**Action Required: Gustad will send out information on their live fire class, that would be held at a later date.**

- c. Erickson – nothing
- d. Baumgarten – nothing
- e. Diez – nothing
- f. Stoks – nothing
- g. Kuenkel – nothing
- h. Gorton – nothing

12. Pay expenses for meeting, motion by Hines to pay expenses, seconded by Erickson. Roll call.  
Carried

13. Motion to adjourn by Baumgarten, seconded by Stoks. Carried, meeting adjourned at 11.30  
AM

**Next tele-conference meeting will be May 2, 2020 via Zoom at 7:00 PM CDT/6:00 PM MDT. Same info for this meeting.** Personal Meeting ID 736 604 8307, password SDFA

**Next scheduled meeting will be June 12-14, 2020 at Pierre, Fort Pierre, or Lemmon???**

**Next scheduled meeting will be September 25 & 26, 2020 at Pierre, 8:30 AM at Pierre Main Fire Station?**

Respectfully submitted,



Dennis Gorton, Secretary

Attachments: