

SDFA Fall Board Meeting Minutes  
Pierre, SD  
September 25, 2020

Call meeting to order at 8:33 AM at Ramkota Convention Center, Pierre, SD

Board Members Attending: Charlie Kludt, Ron Hines, Dave Jorgenson, Rick Gustad, Mark Stoks, Samara Erickson, Rick Cronin, Chad Baumgarten and Dennis Gorton. Members absent Adam Kuenkel.

SD Firefighters Auxiliary: Jenifer Laurvick, Hallie Lutter

Guests: Mike Jones, SD Fire Training,

Roll Call Voting: Hines, Jorgenson, Gustad, Stoks, Cronin, Baumgarten, Erickson, and Gorton

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Moment of Silence was observed for all firefighters and those who have died in the line of duty.

Approval of agenda, motion by Hines to approve as emailed, seconded by Erickson. Carried

Approval of Minutes of Board meeting, June 12-13, 2020 motion by Cronin, seconded by Baumgarten. Carried

**Action Required: Remove DRAFT from past minutes and post on website.**

Treasurer's Report – Gorton handed out several reports.

Net Worth report shows a total balance of all funds in the amount of \$193,096.42

2020 Fire School Income/Expense report. Currently we have received \$3,845.92 income and \$3,187.12 for expenses.

Motion to approve by Erickson, seconded by Jorgenson. Carried.

Secretary's Report – Gorton

Membership Report - handed out the final total number of 100% paid departments and number of members. Final membership for 2020 was 5,754 members with 242 departments and 46 Department Only. In 2019 the numbers were 5,696 members with 232 departments, and 50 Department Only.

2021 dues – reminder that in the next couple months the membership dues notice will be sent out in early November.

**Action Required: Letter from President, Fischer Rounds**

**Action Required: Send copy of dues packet to Board for review.**

Christmas tree at the Capitol – have sent the application to the State, decorate times are Saturday Nov. 21 or Sunday Nov. 22. The theme this year is "Deck the Halls". Decorations must be removed by Sunday, Dec. 27.

**Action Required: Erickson will be the contact point if we get approved.**

**Action Required: Order tree ornaments for Dwain Hudson.**

District Directors Report -

Black Hills – Kunkel was not in attendance for Board meeting. Pennington County has not made any announcements. Term expires June 2023.

SDFA Fall Board Meeting Minutes  
Pierre, SD  
September 25, 2020

Northwest - Baumgarten reported they did not have their fall school, as it was cancelled. They will plan on a fall 2021 school. The fire chief of Roscoe was killed in a farm accident in late August or early Sept. The Roscoe VFD was a Department Only member.

Northeast – Stoks reported they are planning on a fall 2020 school, but still working on a class maybe in January 2021. Term expires June 2021

Southeast – Jorgenson reported that they had cancelled both the spring and fall 2020 school. Vermillion is planning on a spring 2021 school. Nothing else at this time. Term expires June 2022.

Central – Erickson reported had a good turnout at the spring school. Planning on a spring school in May 2021. Term expires

South Central – Gustad reported said he was not at school due to a family medical issue. Kludt said they had about 50 attendees. Planning on a 2021 fall school in Tripp. Gustad said he will submit a reimbursement request for expenses for the Platte VFD and hosting the live fire portion due to not have it at State Fire School. There was a good turnout with firefighters from all over the state. Term expires ?

Badlands – Cronin reported did not have school and planning on another fall school in Burke the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in September 2021.

Membership & Public Address Session – No one attended. 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.

**Business:**

1. Review Survey on Finances – had approximately 25 responses to the June survey. Kludt said he was going to rerun the survey later. It is asked that remind Directors to notify fire chiefs to reply. General discussion on the reimbursement from the State CARES funds and it was noted that all seem to be having a difficult time getting any actual reimbursement through the fund.
2. Legislation 2020 -2021
  - (SB56) – 34-48A-55 - Billing on Public lands
  - Will be scheduled for further discussion at the June 2021 State Fire School. There is already a state law on billing for fire suppression. There was discussion by the legislators on how local fire departments are funded. They were not real familiar with the funding.  
**Action Required: Have the front page in the newspaper, “How funding Affects Your Local Fire Department”.**  
**Action Required: need to have a couple articles in the newspaper on how fire departments are funded.**
  - (HCR 6023) Summer study for Mental Health issue – ready for 2021 Kludt said he met with a couple of the legislators who are working on this. The general discussion was how important this is to the fire service and especially the volunteer firefighter and fire departments. There seems to be support from the insurance industry and others to provide support and care for those firefighters who need assistance. Steve Willard said there is an

SDFA Fall Board Meeting Minutes  
 Pierre, SD  
 September 25, 2020

insurance policy that can provide some coverage for a specific amount. It seems that the policy is available, but agencies are not purchasing.

**Action Required: The SDFA should work on scheduling a “legislative” day during session. The next Task Force meeting is Oct. 15 and available through the LRC to go on-line, phone- or live-in person.**

**Action Required: Now is the time to contact legislators as they are running for office and invite them to department/county meetings. A one-on-one personal contact is the best approach.**

- CARES Funding – considerable discussion on how VFD’s could qualify for CARES funds. If there is a way to reimburse VFD’s for loss of fund raising. There was discussion on how to justify any need for funds. It was suggested that the SDFA should go to the State and see if there is a possibility of funding to the VFD’s.

**Action Required: Willard will contact the State and see if the State feels reimbursing VFD’s for Covid is reasonable.**

- Move Over Law – requires vehicles to move when on a public highway.
- Amendment

The Board recessed for lunch at 1:15 PM.

3. NVFC

- a. Director position – Kludt said the Board is still looking for future replacement for LeRoy Koopman as our NVFC representative. There were several possible names. Kludt said he was planning on sending the NVFC links to be able to sit in on various meetings. It was planned that the Board would appoint a rep in early January.
- b. Wildland training information from the NVFC and how the National Wildfire Coordinating Committee training is geared towards timber, not so much for grass land. The NVFC is looking for those states that have training geared towards grass.
- c. Encourage Dept Officers to join the NVFC from those States that do not have any membership.
- d. 2024 – South Dakota bid - Rapid City (submit to NVFC office by summer 2021). Kludt said that Kansas City will be doing 2024, and the earliest South Dakota would host would be 2025. Kludt will resubmit next fall for 2025.

2020 – cancelled held virtual	14-16 Oct – Virtual
2021 – 28 April-1 May Alexandria, Va	13-15 Oct – Jackson, Wy
2022 – 6-9 April Alexandria, Va	21-23 Sept – Wilmington, NC
2023 – 22-25 May Alexandria, Va	20-22 Sept – Cooperstown, NY
2024 – 24-27 April Alexandria, Va	Date ?? – Kansas City
2025 - Alexandria, Va	Date ?? – Rapid City, SD ???

\*Spring includes DC Congress office visits

4. State LOSAP / Deferred Comp nothing at this time.

- a. SD Retirement System – update on communications with SDRS for administering a LOSA program but were not allowed to handle this. They offered several companies to contact for this type of program.

SDFA Fall Board Meeting Minutes  
Pierre, SD  
September 25, 2020

- b. National Company for Admin (NVFC recommendations)
- 5. State Fallen Firefighter Memorial Service; **September 26, 2021**, 2:00 pm; Memorial Site/Rotunda;
  - No additions in 2021 at this time.
  - Pipe & Drums
  - Governor
  - Honor Guard
  - shrub maintenance
- 6. National Fallen Firefighter Memorial –
  - a. 2020, October 3-4 will be virtual; will be doing 2019 & 2020
  - b. 2021, October 2-3;
  - c. Denny was approved for 2020 should keep this open at this time.
- 7. Media –
  - a. Group photo hopefully have a new photo and have removed the old Board photo on our website.
  - b. Website update/upgrades review  
**Action Required: update Gustad's term expires to July 2024.**
  - c. Newspaper articles for Directors & month
    - a) January: SE, BH, Cent
    - b) February: NE, NW, BL
    - c) March: SC, SE, BH, NVFC
    - d) April: Cent, NE, NW, Tres (**half of directors due to fire school**)
    - e) May: BL, SC, SE (**half of directors due to fire school**)
    - f) June: BH, Cent, NE
    - g) July: NW, BL, SC
    - h) August: SE, BH, Cent
    - i) September: NE, NW, BL
    - j) October: SC, SE, BH, Sec
    - k) November: Cent, NE, NW, NVFC
    - l) December: BL, SC (**at least 6 directors to promote 100% membership**)
- 8. Statewide reports:
  - a) Public Safety Communications Council - Online – Maybe at Fire School 2021; Presentation/radio class; there was discussion about the new mobiles and/or portables have to have a specific feature added to the radios, prior to it being on the full P25 system.
  - b) Joint Council of Emergency Service Organizations (recommend future change of date) discussion as timing with Municipal League Convention and legislation. The times suggested were fall of October, June fire school.  
**Action Required: Put on Joint Council meeting agenda for discussion at their next meeting in January 2021.**

SDFA Fall Board Meeting Minutes  
Pierre, SD  
September 25, 2020

- c) Fire Chiefs – December 4-6, 2020 Deadwood it has been agreed to have a Chief's Conference in Deadwood at the Cadillac Jacks Convention Center. Final details are being worked out at this time.
- d) Instructors – January 2021, Pierre
- e) Fire Marshal's Advisory Board Gustad said there is nothing to report.
- f) LAST - [www.SDLAST.org](http://www.SDLAST.org) ; several deployments to assist departments with planning and arrangements for members who have died. Kludt said that after each time they have assisted some department there seems to be a lot of interest in the SD LAST. There have been no LODD this year. Kludt said they are thinking they may host another training event.
- g) SD-PERI – SDPA like to establish contacts w/various emergency agencies; meetings/conferences; local provider training; ND/SD Training presentation October; next meeting 3 Dec 2020.

9. SDFA Fall Conference discussion

- a. Future should we continue the fall conference. Discussion on the pros and cons of having doing a fall conference. Some activities could be held during the fall and not held at State fire school. It was felt that the fall conference attendance would grow. It was basically agreed to continue the fall school and look at a commitment of five years to truly gauge reception by the membership.
  - a) **Action Required: Board will continue planning and hosting fall conference.**
  - b) **Action Required: Board will work on instructor ideas, classes, program, etc. for fall conference.**

10. SDFA 2021 Fire School Planning; Fire School Dates will be June 10, 11, 12, 2021.

- a. Class & Instructor listing
  - a) Gorton said that all the instructors he contacted after cancellation said they would be willing to come back for 2021. It was suggested that we should basically rerun the same list of classes planned for 2020. It would be reasonable to expect a couple may not be able to return for various reasons.
- b. Registration open target date March 31, 2021
- c. Other items –
  - c.1 – Spring meeting date - Saturday, March 27 & 28 2021 @ Mitchell
  - c.2 – Arrival date for setup, final checks Tuesday, June 8
  - c.3 – communications; phone listing
  - c.4 - tools/equipment; - Chad, Cronin, Adam
  - c.5 – apparatus; - Chad, Adam , Dave
  - c.6 – workers
  - c.7 – Food – Ron, Samara,
  - c.8 – Vendor show; Auxiliary and Kludt will meet to discuss vendors
  - c.9 – Memorabilia – Auxiliary
  - c.10 – Signage/posters/arrows – Mark

SDFA Fall Board Meeting Minutes  
Pierre, SD  
September 25, 2020

- c.11 – Sanitation - Ron
- c.12 - Utility vehicles – Dave
- c.13 – Memorial & meeting setup – Charlie, Ron, Adam

- d. Finalize Schedule –
- e. Final registration costs

Fire School Follow Ups:

There have been firefighters who signed up and attended the live fire classes and have not completed the required FF 1 & 2 classes to the point that some have never had an air pak on, fire streams, etc. The question is what requirements does the SDFA have for someone to attend the live fire class, NFPA 1403 says the attendee should have received training in various aspects. Is the issue liability or the time to “train” those who have not had the pre-requisites?

**Action Required: Need to verify that attendees have completed the Firefighter 1 & 2 classes before they can attend the live fire classes. This would apply to both the Platte VFD class and Iowa live fire classes.**

**Action Required: Contact SD Fire Instructors Assn. about the need/requirement to have some training prior to live fire.**

**Action Required: Articles in newspaper about having the training before signing up for specific classes.**

**Action Required: Make motel room reservations for March Board meeting and June Fire School.**

- 11. Final comments – none from Board members.
- 12. Pay expenses – Motion by Hines to pay expenses for Board meeting and Membership meeting, seconded by Erickson. roll call vote: Hines, Jorgenson, Gustad, Stoks, Cronin, Baumgarten, Erickson, and Gorton all voted yes. Motion Carried.

**NEXT MEETING** Friday, January 8, 2021 at Pierre, 8:30 AM

**Action Required: Make motel reservations for Thursday, January 7 night.**

**Action Required: The SD Joint Council meeting will be January 8, afternoon. With Covid it may work better to have Joint Council at Ramkota.**

Adjourn Board meeting motion to adjourn meeting. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Dennis Gorton, Secretary