

South Dakota Firefighters Assn
Fall Board Meeting at Pierre, SD
Sept 30 – Oct 1, 2017

Call meeting to order Saturday 30 September 2017 @ 9:10am at Pierre FD, Pierre, SD

Members present: Charlie Kludt, Don Ward, Dennis Gorton, Damon Hartmann, Mark Stoks, Rick Gustad, Chad Baumgarten, Dave Jorgensen, Jack Dietz. Absent Ron Hines.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Moment of Silence

Approval of agenda add one item

Christmas tree at Capital at 13.1

Motion to approve by Gustad, seconded Dietz. Carried.

Approve minutes of Board meeting @ Mitchell, June 2017 Motion by Jorgensen, seconded by Ward. Carried.

Treasurer's Report – Gorton, was included in the email. Shows a balance in all accounts at \$166,163.22. Motion by Hartmann, seconded by Stoks. Carried.

Secretary's Report – Gorton said he had nothing. President Kludt said he will get an updated dues letter to Gorton. It was suggested that additional information could be included in the dues letter. Fischer Rounds said they could furnish a flyer on the benefits of AD&D and A&H policies. They will get to the Secretary in early November.

District Directors Reports –

Badlands – Jack said they had 55 attendees with 2018 in Murdo. Several Firefighter 1 & 2 classes going on and the on-line classes seem to be going well.

Southeast – Dave said they had 47 attendees with good classes. Will continue with two schools per year. Brandon might host the spring 2018 school with several ideas for how many classes to host.

Northwest – Chad said they had 47 attendees with 23 fire departments attending. Good turnout with 2018 school in either Selby or Mound City. It was noted that Mound City does not have a fire department any longer. The main issue seems to be that Mound City does not have the 15 firefighters needed to be a recognized fire department. They are trying to work out the issues.

Northeast – Mark said it was quiet. Next fire school will be the spring of 2018 in Watertown. They are looking at using some of the facilities at the airport.

South Central – Rick said he was not able to attend the school held in Delmont. Very light turnout approximately 16 attendees. Next school is scheduled for Parkston. South Central hosts two fire schools per year with the fall school generally being better attended.

Black Hills – Damon said fall district school will be Oct. 6-8, 2017 with the class on CAFS and a planned live burn fire in Belle Fourche and the classroom in Spearfish. An additional class is planned for the Mid-Winter Muster in Rapid City. Damon said this will be his last Board meeting as he has accepted the position of Deputy Fire Marshal with the State. He will be resigning. A new representative will have to be appointed to fill out the term. President Kludt said he was contacted by the Black Hills District about the upcoming vacancy. He said he wanted the District to submit name(s) to him. Kludt said he would review the list(s) and then make the appointment with the concurrence of the State Board.

Vice-president – Don said it has been a quiet summer for their department. Belle Fourche and Spearfish will be co-hosting the District fire school in Oct.

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Secretary – Gorton handed out two thank you notes received. One from Zack Hesper scholarship recipient and Jim Strain who retired from State Wildland.

Membership & Public-Address Session – This is an opportunity for members or the 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 currently.

BUSINESS

1. **Membership issues** – Gorton reported the Association finished the year with 5,470 paid members, with 216 fire departments and 54 Department only members. This is very good representation of the fire school. Gorton said he put an article in the October newspaper about the membership. Dues structure and membership, if the department is at least Department only, the individual members could pay for their membership and receive all the benefits.
2. **First Responder Assistance Program through Provident Insurance.** This program called FRAP is not a part of the regular Provident policies currently in effect. Bob McIntyre Regional Director from Provident explained the FRAP. It would allow firefighters who are having a mental issue with fires. A firefighter could call and would be similar to an employee assistance program. This would be basic level program. There is also a Mental Stress Management Benefit that would provide up to \$10,000 of mental health counseling benefit for each firefighter. There are no limits as the number of firefighters who would be eligible. A recap of the policies was discussed as to when the AD&D, A&H policy apply.
 - a. The Board discussed the FRAP and mental health programs and decided now to not provide these two. It was felt that the NVFC and other organizations provide similar programs and that the cost was not in the budget for this year.
3. **Bond for SD Firefighters Board** – Shane Lehrkamp explained the overall bond policy for the entire board which is up for renewal for three years. The total premium is \$760/3 years. The coverage is \$200,000 total. If the Board wanted, they could have \$150,000 coverage in their current policy they have for errors/omission policy at an additional premium. Motion by Ward, seconded by Gustad to renew the Travelers Casualty Bond policy. Voting: Kludt, Ward, Hartmann, Gustad, Stoks, Baumgarten, Jorgensen, Dietz, Gorton. Motion Carried.
4. **State Fire School 2017 closeout reports** – Gustad said there were a total of 476 total registrations which includes, fire marshal's office, instructors, board, etc. There were 371 students who attended classes. Approximately 15 registered but did not ever show up. The 476 is the 2nd most registers since 2012.
 - a. **Evaluations** – some noted that they didn't feel there were enough classroom only classes for those who didn't want to take a hands on or outside class. Rick ran some info and in 2012 approximately 24% of students took a hands-on class, 75% were in a classroom only class. In 2017, 60% of students were in a hands-on class, 40% were in a classroom only class. This is showing an interesting trend change in and the Board must be sure to allow an adequate number of classroom only.
 - b. **Certified firefighters** – of the 476 registered, approx. 360 were certified firefighters.
 - c. **Age data collected** – in 2014 average age attending was 43 years old.

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- d. **Fire School costs** – long discussion on the various costs, detail expenses, cost for instructors, motel rooms, similar classes. After all expenses/income are totaled up, the fire school the SDFA \$56,992.60 with revenue still to come of \$10,303.90.
 - e. **Class Evaluations** – the Board went over all the evaluations that were received and Don said he was willing to write an article for the newspaper and recap some of the ones received. The Board said it was important that we acknowledge the shortcomings and positive.
5. **Future Fire School Planning 2020+**
- a. Suggestion for future fire schools was that for fire schools in 2019 and beyond any a department should provide a proposal in the spring of 2018 so we have adequate time to prepare. There was discussion on continuing hosting the school in Mitchell and going to other locations each year. The thought was what would another location have to bring to the Board a proposal for what they would pay for, instructors, meals, facility costs, etc.
 - b. Kludt will contact MTI and see if the facility will be available for 2020, 2021, & 2022, motion by Hartmann, seconded by Baumgarten. Carried.
 - c. Guidebook for those who desire to help with fire school. It was felt that the current guidebook is adequate for now with the Board member who is charged with a section knowing what is needed.

The Board recessed for lunch at 12:34 PM. Reconvened at 1:30 PM

- 6. **Guide Book changes** – motion by Ward, seconded by Dietz that any changes to the guidebook must be made to the Board for review. Carried.
- 7. **Legislation for 2018** – Charlie said he has discussed several items with Willard. Couple things that might be up, are
 - a. retired license plates for firefighter, and motorcycle license plate. Charlie has contacted the State to see what would be involved if we pursued these. He is waiting to hear back from the State. Discussion on firefighter plates and what is available and the rules.
 - b. Radio communications at the local and state level. The proposed switch to full P25 for the digital radios. FirstNet/ATT was discussed.
- 8. **High School Scholarship program** – the deadline for 2017 was March 15. It seemed that this deadline was workable, and we could review and make the recommendations. We set the deadline for 2018 as March 15. The Auxiliary has not paid the SDFA for theirs.
- 9. **States Networking– Des Moines, IA**, - Don Ward said the meeting is the last weekend of October. Charlie said they have done some checking and last year the SDFA reimbursed Don over \$700 for travel. They checked some airlines and can fly round trip for approx. \$350. Motion by Hartmann, seconded by Stoks to approve Don to attend the session and pay for airline ticket. Roll call vote: all in favor.
- 10. **Media** – the article rotation was sent out by Charlie. Please make sure to let Jeff know which paper this should be placed in.
- 11. **Webpage updates** –
 - a. we should have on the webpage those departments that are 100% and Department only, etc. It could be a simple spreadsheet with those members highlighted.
 - b. Provident insurance could have a simple flyer for some of the benefits.
 - c. Link to cancer site. Board seemed not to be interested in allowing this link on our webpage.

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- d. Email listed on webpage, if you want to have your personnel emailed linked to the SDFA let Grapevine Design.
 - e. Update Minutes from draft to approved.
 - f. Nebraska & Iowa newspaper to Board all members not getting them would like to. Send note to Jeff and get Board added to their mailing list.
12. **Review of administrative position – Executive Session: (SDCL 1-25-2.1)**
13. **NVFC (National Volunteer Firefighters Council)**
- a. Charlie said he will continue to work with NVFC president to attend 2018 fire school.
 - b. The Share the Load program is handling nearly 3 calls per day from around the country.
 - c. Nebraska forest individuals have developed a drone that could drop the ping pong balls used for wildland fires.
 - d. NVFC office has been following the various grant programs at the federal level. The AFG Micro Grants will be continued, these grants were for less than \$25,000. All 2016 AFG grants have been awarded to date.
 - e. Jeff Cash from North Carolina was elected as the Secretary/Treasurer for the NVFC.
 - f. Norn Hoff, Nebraska rep was honored for his 40 years of NVFC membership.
 - g. 2018 fall meeting will be in Bismarck.
14. **FDIC 2018, Indianapolis** – Infor for 2018 presented info on the upcoming 2018 FDIC. Pre-registration has been paid and a room at the Omni has been reserved. General discussion on the value of spending approximately \$2500 for one firefighter to attend. The concept was to find new instructors and innovative ideas and thoughts back to our fire school. Much discussion on the idea of paying the expenses for someone to attend and then come back and develop a class(s) to deliver at fire schools.
- a. Motion by Gorton to work with the State Fire Marshal office to jointly send a fire marshal's employee to FDIC to develop a program, seconded by Hartmann. Carried.
15. **Fire School Planning – 2018 – Mitchell**
- a. Mike Erickson and the Board met to go over a prospective class list. (see attached sheet)
 - b. Auxiliary members said
 - c. Opening date for registration is currently set for March 1, 2018. If that is the date, then all items need to be finalized by Feb. 15 to have in the paper. The latest date of opening registration would March 15 and in the paper for the April issue.
 - d. Cabela's said to return for their community outreach.
 - e. Cooperate sponsors – should look for various sponsors, each Board member should come up with a list of potential sponsors. Get list from Charlie.
 - f. Workers for many items, helpers Charlie asked each director to come up with 2 people to help. We can put out request for help in paper.
 - g. Tools and equipment – what do we need for truck and how many? What tools and/or equipment do we need? What items for essential class such as ladders, pike pole, nozzles, etc.?
 - h. On the preliminary instructor contact form, we can ask for additional info. Then when the secretary contacts the instructor we can get more specific and what they need.
 - i. Vendor, Kathy from Auxiliary said they have looked at the area and have figured out how to come up with more space. Vendor opening would be 8:30 AM both days. Final hours to be determined.

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- j. Social time question was some thought there was too many items going on Friday evening, with water fights, evolutions, social, etc. Discussed to have social on Thursday evening.
 - k. Class time, should start at the same time on both days, at 8:30 AM
 - l. Memorabilia need to have the year on t-shirts and larger sizes.
 - m. Schedule of events -
16. **State Fallen Firefighters Memorial**
17. **Statewide committee reports**
- a. **Public Safety Communications**
 - b. Joint Council of Fire Service, the meeting will be Jan. 12, 2018 with the SD Arson Assn. is the chair for 2017 and must set up the meeting for January.
 - c. SD Fire Chiefs – meeting is first weekend in Dec. No details out yet.
 - d. Fire Marshal's advisory board met for the first time in a long time. They have had a vacancy to get filled before meeting. The Board is not complete and will be meeting again.
 - e. Christmas Tree at Capitol – the Board agreed to apply for this year.
18. **Next meeting** Next meeting will be Saturday, Jan. 27, 2018 at MTI with snow day of Feb. 3. Gorton will book a room for ALL board members for Fri & Sat. along with a meeting room at the Comfort Inn.

Board recessed till 8:30 AM Sunday, Oct. 1, 2017.

Board reconvened at 8:30 AM Sunday, Oct. 1, 2017

19. **Executive Session –**
- a. motion to go into executive session for personnel reason by Dietz, seconded by Ward. Carried
 - b. Motion to come out of executive session, by Hartmann, seconded by Stoks. Carried.
20. Black Hills District registration – Motion by Gustad, seconded by Stoks to accept the resignation for Damon Hartmann from the SD Firefighters Assn. board of directors with regrets, and to officially remove Damon Hartman from all financial accounts effective October 6, 2017. Carried.
21. **Final comments & Pay expenses –**
- a. Motion to pay expenses by Hartmann, seconded by Jorgensen. Roll call: Ward, Hartmann, Gustad, Stoks, Baumgarten, Jorgensen, Dietz, Gorton.
22. Motion to adjourn by Stoks, seconded by Hartmann at 10:00 AM. Carried.