



MSFCA

Meeting Minutes Montana State Fire Chiefs Association Board Meeting Teleconference Wednesday, November 18, 2009, 10:30 am MST

Called to order by 1st Vice President Rich Cowger at 10:32 am MST.

ROLL CALL

Career Chiefs' Section

- Steve Larson
- Jeff Miller
- Jason Shrauger, 2nd V.C

Combination Chiefs' Section

- Rich Cowger, Chairperson
- Tom Kuntz
- Brett Waters

Volunteer Chiefs' Section

- Leonard Lundby, V.C.
- Kraig Hansen
- Bruce Charles

Ex-Officio's: Butch Weedon, Allen Lorenz, Ted Mead
Staff: Jessica Heintz, Jen Winans

Report on benefit for Leonard - Gross \$62,000; still have \$18,000- \$20,000 out in expenses. Lots of folks from around the state came. Leonard came, is doing much better, and today is his Birthday.

OLD BUSINESS

FSTS Strategic Plan Funds - Jessica reports there is approximately \$4,500 left in the account, need the board to vote to keep in the budget. **Moved by Kraig Hansen, seconded by Jeff Miller to keep the remaining funds from the original \$5,000 for FSTS strategic plan in budget. Motion passed.**

Mid-Winter Meeting- Discussion of dates, less conflict with the 9th and 10th of February. **Moved by Kraig Hansen, seconded by Jeff Miller to have the mid-winter meeting on February 9th and 10th. Motion Passed.** Location is still TBD but will be checking on training room in Station 3 (Bozeman's new station). Gather information about possible hotels and get to Jessica. Jessica will make preparations for meeting, including: history of revenue of license plate tags, executive director position description, budget for past three years and proposed budget. Also need to remember to have discussion about having a set location for the conference.

Recognition, Award, Gift Policy- The only things that were changed from last time were to number three and four. What to do when gifts are over \$75 (example: axes that are \$300). Under number three it should say "expenditures over \$75 must have prior board approval". **Motion by Steve Larson, seconded by Jeff Miller to approve the policy after the change has been made to say under number three that expenditures over \$75 must have prior board approval. Motion passed.** The check has been returned to the Association from the payment made to Fire Works for Butch's award. Have not heard anything further, will get the returned check sent on to Jessica. Steve noted that the axes are being engraved. Need to get Ken his axe, which has already been presented. Need to give Chuck his Axe at the next fire council meeting December 2nd. Steve will follow up with what we are going to do for Greg Megaard. Will take Chuck and Greg Megaard out to dinner in Bozeman at 5:00 or 5:30; send Steve an e-mail if you will be able to join. Discussion on whether or not dinner should be paid for by the Association. **Moved by Jeff Miller, seconded by Brett Waters to pay for dinner for Chuck and Greg before the fire council meeting where the axe and a plaque will be presented. Motion passed.**

Request made to add to the mid-winter meeting agenda: Fire Marshall groups, how to make sure two groups are working together and not working against each other.

NEW BUSINESS

Health Insurance Group Purchasing- Could add a "member-benefit" to our Association, and possibly get Association members a discount in the process. Currently, the Volunteers are partnered with EMC insurance so may not apply to everyone. Possible to make

it a benefit of being a member of the Association. Would help get a discount to small districts and to those that are self-employed. Have looked at accident insurance in the past, but things have always gotten very complicated. Jessica reports that she is unaware of any other states that have insurance through their Associations. Bruce asked if we could get a kick back for endorsing a certain health care provider. He also wanted us to remember that the health insurance companies are very volatile, and what may be a good deal for our members one year may not be a good deal the next. Maybe talk with VFIS about adding a supplemental policy or accidental policy. The Association has good ties with Provident and VFIS. Could have a Blue Cross & Blue Shield representative come and talk at a Board Meeting. Rich will gather information and present at the Mid-Winter Meeting. Also important to discuss the misunderstanding that VFIS and Provident are not workers comp. May need to be an agenda item of its own. Need to get in writing to find out the validity- fire districts or fire company is responsible for workers comp whether they have insurance or not. Bruce will put together a package. Maybe save these large topics to discuss outside of meeting time, using another forum, webinar is an example. May not have time in the Mid-Winter Meeting agenda.

WFCAs Presidents Forum, March 18-19, 2010 - Open to President and Vice President, Executive Directors and State Fire Marshals. Can receive two \$500 stipends from WFCAs. Rich would like for Brett to go as a MSFCA rep. Finances were brought up. Jessica reports the costs are similar to Napa. Last year we only requested a \$500 stipend, this year we can request up to \$1000 from the WFCAs. Possibility of sending both Brett and Rich. Discussion that the Associations only form of income in 2010 is from license plates and dues. Make a final decision at our next meeting, as we will have a financial report to look at.

3Q2009 GPO Check - the MSFCA check was for \$3.14. GPO is great opportunity to get office supplies and other such things that help run a station and it gives kick backs to association.

SAFER Grant - Rich will look over rules and if the Association is eligible (would be looking at recruitment and retention). Goal program would be to help increase and support volunteer firefighters. There are programs out there that help apply and manage grants, they helped Idaho and California. Jessica reports that the rules state that the company writing the grant cannot also manage the grant, you have to go through the RFP process. If a company helped to write the grant, it is possible that the Association may incur some upfront costs. This year, do it on our own and if we need help next year look at it again. We can work off of a copy from Wyoming. Jessica will get the DUNS number and pull Oregon's SAFER Grant application and send out to board members along with Wyoming's. Get final comment from board before it is submitted. Discussion came up about hosting/sponsoring a grant writing workshop. Already have a grant for FEMA grant training in place through FSTS; maybe combine the two as long as we do the actual FEMA training. AFG equipment grants are due in April, so would need to schedule this by March.

CHEIFS SECTIONS' REPORTS

Career Chief's Section - Steve reports there is a meeting in Bozeman on January 21st. Fire Marshals should be meeting that day as well. Ken has been taken off the bank account. Steve, Tom, Samantha (WFCAs) and Jessica are now on the account.

Combination Chiefs' Section- Brett reported that Allen Lorenz is going to have a meeting with a few Combinations Chiefs and a few Career Chiefs in Helena on the 30th to talk about fire code implementation so that everyone can be on the same page. Just got back from the VCOS Symposium in Florida. It was a good conference with a lot of practical information on recruitment and retention. There are \$1500 scholarships on their web-site if you would like to go next year.

Volunteer Chiefs' Section- Leonard is going to try and come to the Mid-Winter Meeting. Jessica has been forwarding all information to his e-mail.

STAFF REPORTS

Jessica is working on three options for possible Chiefs Association membership cards. She will have them to present at the next meeting.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Steve- Memorial for State Capitol Grounds. It is a long process that has seen some reinvigoration. We are all curious about what is happening with the money we have sent in.

Next meeting is December 2nd at 10:30 PST.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, the meeting was adjourned at 11:48 pm MST.

Respectfully submitted,
Jessica Heintz, Administrative Staff