

FIRE LINK

• COLORADO • IOWA • KANSAS • MISSOURI • NEBRASKA • NORTH DAKOTA • SOUTH DAKOTA • WYOMING •

From the President

by J. Robert "Rob" Brown, Jr.

Recently "your" Executive Board of the Missouri Valley Division met in Columbia, Missouri, to reflect on our efforts so far this year under the Strategic Plan developed for our Division in January. The "E-Board" was quite pleased with the progress made so far this year and the decision was made to focus on the recently developed "A Time to Lead" strategic plan that was recently completed at the IAFC Strategic Planning Session in Colorado Springs as we revisit our MVAFC Strategic Plan this upcoming February.

As you can imagine, the events of September 11, 2001, continue to drive our profession in many ways that were not even imaginable a couple of years ago. Information is being disseminated at such a rapid rate, that it is hard to react to in a timely fashion. Changes in structure, responsibility, and funding are constantly taking place at the Federal, State, and Local level. Federal funds are continuously dangled before us. As such, the MVAFC Division is fortunate to have Chief Steve Westermann

representing our Division on the IAFC Board to be sure that our Division is well represented and informed. In an effort to see to it that this information is well communicated, we will begin a monthly conference call of the Division E-Board in December. If this effort proves successful, I would like to expand the call to include all Division officers and potentially the presidents of the State Fire chief organizations.

2003 will be an exciting time for our Division! The MVAFC Division Strategic Planning session will be held February 7 and 8, 2003, in Kansas City, Missouri. At this meeting, we plan to set a new direction in Board representation and mentorship of the future successors of our profession. As always, this meeting is open to any member who is willing to give of their time to participate. But beware! If you show up, YOU will be tapped to help out! I encourage you to attend.

In closing, my wife, Beth, our four boys, J.R., Ben, Spenser, and Joshua, wish all of you and your families a Happy Holiday season. ☐

Season's Greetings
&
Best Wishes for a
Happy, Healthy,
New Year!



Calendar of Events

January 3, 2003
State Chiefs Meeting
Riverton, WY

February 7-8, 2003
MVAFC Board of Directors' Meeting
Kansas City, MO

February 28, 2003
State Chiefs Meeting
Bismark, ND

April 5, 2003
State Chiefs Meeting
Riverton, WY

April 6-9, 2003
ICC Spring Education Conference
Overland Park, KS

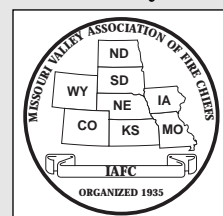
May 3-5, 2003
IAFC EMS Conference
Las Vegas, NV

June 11-13, 2003
MVAFC Public Education Conference
Topeka, KS

July 11-13, 2003
MVAFC Annual Conference
Kansas City, MO

August 22-25, 2003
IAFC - FRI
Dallas, TX

July 13-15, 2004
MVAFC Annual Conference
Sioux City, IA



International Director's Report

by Steve Westermann

As I become more involved in this position, I continue to be amazed at the amount of activities that go on every day within the IAFC. Here are a few highlights of recent activities:

Colorado Springs was the site of the Strategic Planning Session in October. Six of Missouri Valley's eight states were represented by their state chiefs' associations, with a total of over 100 people collaborating on the final document. It is a fairly aggressive and dynamic strategic plan and has been adopted by the Board of Directors. Costs are being associated with each goal and being incorporated into next year's budget. Since this is a two-year plan, the Board of Directors will also be considering a two-year budget at the January meeting. **The actual Strategic Plan can be seen and downloaded at www.iafc.org.** The plan outlines goals and strategies for the following areas:

- Building Relationships and Partnerships
 - Fire and Life Safety
 - Leading the Fire Service
 - Legislative/Political Action
 - Marketing, Branding and Communications
- New Revenue and Association Growth
 - Professional/Executive Skills Development

A main emphasis remains to work on a single voice for America's fire service leadership. To that end, the parent corporation is urging all divisions and state chiefs' associations to adopt strategic plans that are in line with this document where applicable. There will also be a push for all divisions to align their name and logos with the IAFC. The Missouri Valley Board will be discussing these issues at their strategic planning session in February.

Legislatively, the IAFC has been working very hard on Capitol Hill.

While the SAFER bill was defeated, we were able to garner some support and we will be seeing that bill again next session. The Public Safety Officer's bill also failed in the last moments before the legislative break. We have been successful in keeping the FIRE act funds separate from the Homeland Security funding that would travel through the state governments.

There has been quite a bit of discussion in the eastern portion of our nation regarding union firefighters volunteering for a neighboring department. As a result, there is quite a lot of tension that has ended up in some civil suits involving volunteer chief officers who are members of the IAFC. The IAFC has issued a letter of its position, which can also be viewed at our web site.

Essentially, the position states that we believe that everyone should have a right to volunteer their services at any time for anyone they desire. However, at the same time, we also

recognize and respect the full right of any organization, association, or department to set rules for its members. I'm sure this is one chapter that we will be hearing more about in the future.

For those of you that attended FRI in Kansas City last August, you may have signed a petition to start a new fire prevention section. That petition did receive enough signatures and the board has approved the new section. While a formal name has not been chosen yet, those people who have signed the petition will be contacted for membership. If you are interested in joining this section and did not sign the petition, contact Chief Jackie Gibbs of Marietta, GA.

These are just a few of the items going on. If there is anything that you have an interest in that I have not covered, please give me a call. I hope everyone has safe and happy holidays! □

Heart of America Conference – Are You Ready?

The Heart of America Metro Fire Chiefs Council will be hosting the 2003 Missouri Valley Conference in Kansas City, Missouri, July 9-11. Even though we have not gotten through the holidays as of yet, the snow shovels will be put away and the conference will be here.

This conference is shaping up to be one of the best, with a theme of "Meeting the Challenge." The Hilton Airport will be the site for the conference which is just minutes from the airport, shopping and eating. The Hilton is assisting the conference committee in providing an "all inclusive" confer-

ence. Participants will not need a vehicle for transportation, if they choose. Hotel rooms are quickly being reserved. To do so, please call 1-800-HILTONS, at just \$95/night. Registration forms will be mailed to all MVAFC members in March.

Scheduled speakers will include Fire Administrator David Paulison, IAFC President Randy Brugeman, Chief Jack Snook, and Senior Director for Response and Recovery, Mike Byrne. □

International Code Council and the IAFC

The International Code Council (ICC) was established in 1994 for the expressed purpose of developing a single family of codes for the built environment. In September, 2002, the three model code organizations (BOCA, ICBO, and SBCCI) met in Ft. Worth, Texas, and overwhelmingly voted to consolidate the three organizations into the ICC. The target date for the three model code organizations to combine all their assets, programs, and staff into the ICC is January, 2003.

Along with the amalgamation will be some changes. The code development cycle will change from a 12-month cycle to an 18-month cycle. The membership makeup will change, as well. Any governmental unit with the authority to enforce codes will be allowed to join with a specified number of representative votes based on the population served. In other words, instead of a city, county or state being a member, each fire department can be a member as well as each building department or any other department that has the authority to enforce codes published by the ICC. If your fire department serves a population of less than 50,000, you can have four voting representatives; if the department serves a population between 50,000 and 150,000, you can have eight voting representatives; and if the population served is in excess of 150,000, you can have twelve voting members.

All voting members will vote on ICC business matters, bylaws and the

codes. (Example: in a city of 65,000 population, the fire department can join with eight voting representatives and the building department can join with eight voting representatives.) All voting representatives will have the authority to cast votes on proposed code changes regardless of whether or not the code change proposal is to the

debate and recommendation of proposed codes, but the final vote is by code officials representing their member governmental units.

The ICC has established the International Fire Code Council (IFCC) which represents the common interests of the fire service and the ICC by pro-

It is important to understand that the family of I-Codes is not a new set of codes. The code provisions within the I-Codes could be described as "the best of the best" because they came from existing codes. An example would be "service stations." The drafting committee for the IFC pulled the best provisions from the four existing model fire codes relating to service stations and placed them into the draft of the IFC. No new provisions were added to the draft. Now the IFC has been published and has gone through a complete code cycle. Also, the code provisions throughout the family of I-Codes are correlated with each other so as to eliminate conflicts between codes.

fire code (IFC), building code (IBC), mechanical code (IMC), or any of the ICC published codes. All voting representatives will have the right to vote on bylaws as well as elect the board of directors of the ICC.

The key to the success of the family of I-Codes is the governmental consensus process which allows code officials to make the final decision on code matters, not special interest groups. In the ICC code process, all interested parties can participate in the

viding leadership and direction on matters of fire and life safety to meet government, industry, and public needs. The International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) appoints eight members to the council representing the eight divisions of the IAFC. Other organizations also have representation on the IFCD such as the National Association of State Fire Marshals (four members) and three members-at-large

(continued on page 4)

MVAFC Web Site: www.mvafc.org

ICC and the IAFF

(continued from page 3)

appointed by the ICC.

The ICC has also made a commitment to the fire service by appointing four full-time fire service representatives: Dan Lane, northeast region (518-782-1708); Larry Bazaar, midwest region (708-799-2300 ext 215); Page Dougherty, western region (562-699-0541 ext. 3303); and Mel Cosgrove, southeast & southwest region (205-591-1853 ext. 229).

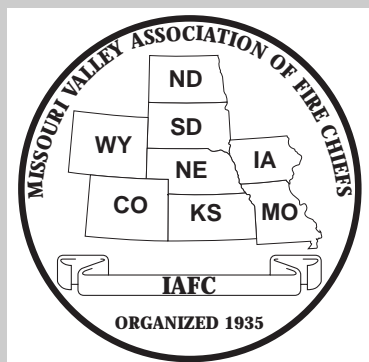
The ICC is currently working with the IAFC to develop a memorandum of understanding (MOU) that would grant the fire service greater influence on fire service related matters. One such example would allow the IAFC to make recommendations for the appointments of members to various code committees and possibly fund the member's participation.

There have been some questions as to how the consolidation will affect current fire inspector certificate holders from the three model code groups. All current certificates upon renewal will be issued by the ICC, and all test questions for fire inspectors taking a certification examination will be validated based on the IFC, IBC, and the IFSTA

Fire Inspectors Manual. More good news is that the applicant will no longer have to carry a wheelbarrow full of books. All the test questions will be answered from the three books.

It is important to understand that the family of I-Codes is not a new set of codes. The code provisions within the I-Codes could be described as "the best of the best" because they came from existing codes. An example would be "service stations." The drafting committee for the IFC pulled the best provisions from the four existing model fire codes relating to service stations and placed them into the draft of the IFC. No new provisions were added to the draft. Now the IFC has been published and has gone through a complete code cycle. Also, the code provisions throughout the family of I-Codes are correlated with each other so as to eliminate conflicts between codes.

And, most importantly, the ICC has assured the fire service that no services that are currently provided will be dropped. You will always get the same great customer service you have been accustomed to receiving. □



MVAFC Web Site:
www.mvafc.org

**Looking
 for a
 Challenge?**

If you want to get involved in the MVAFC, two offices up for election. The International Director's job will be filled for a three-year term. This elected position is the Division's seat on the IAFC Board of Director's and requires attendance at several IAFC meetings each year and attendance at several MVAFC meetings each year. The position of 2nd Vice President will be filled for a one-year term with the incumbent expected to move to the office of 1st Vice President the next year and President of the MVAFC the third year. Duties of these positions can be found in the Division's Constitution & Bylaws on the web site.

If you wish to run for either position, you must file with the Secretary of the Division 120 days prior to July 11, 2003.

All State Vice Presidents will be selected for a three-year term by their States at the Kansas City Conference. □



Missouri News

by Chief Richard R. Carrizzo

The Missouri Fire Chiefs' Association met in Osage Beach on October 25-26, 2002, for its annual conference. The conference did see a small decline in its participation this year compared with past years. There was much discussion regarding this issue and it was determined to conduct a survey of the membership of this organization. A survey was mailed to over 440 member departments of the 900-plus fire departments in Missouri. Results will be available at the Winter Seminar at Big Cedar in Branson, Missouri.

The conference was a great success with much information given to those in attendance. Our President, Wally Dawson, conducted the General Session. Under reports, Missouri State Fire Marshal advised of the decline and budget slashes in the State and to his Division which would create an effect on the Missouri Fire Service, cuts in education, fire investigations, and inspections. State Fire and Rescue Training Institute (MFRTI) was going through a restructuring in its organization, but reported much success in last year's training numbers. IAFC Director Steve Westermann reviewed the accomplishments of the IAFC over this past year. Chief Richard Carrizzo reviewed the IAFC Strategic Planning session attended in Colorado Springs earlier that month and highlighted the major goals of IAFC and the need to have Divisions and State Chief associations adopt the same type of goals. Future conferences were then discussed and it was determined to wait till the Winter Seminar to determine if any action was needed.

After a hosted lunch, MFRTI gave a class on ways to better fill out applications for grants. Foundations and private grants were reviewed and ways to increase the change of getting money

was discussed.

On Saturday, the morning started off with the 7th Civil Support Team's presentation on how they could assist the fire service. The presentation was very informative and provided a means of additional support to departments.

State Emergency Management Agency then reviewed the different Haz Mat teams in the State and how they were set up regionally to provide additional resources to departments throughout the State. They also discussed the process for the grants that were being issued by the State, from



Wyoming News

This past October, leadership of the International Association of Fire Chiefs and 29 state fire chiefs associations met in Colorado Springs to review and update the IAFC's Strategic Plan that was adopted in 2000. The Wyoming Fire Chief's Association was represented at this two-day planning session by Chief Brad Sarff. Chief Sarff is the Fire Chief for the City of Rock Springs and is also President of the Wyoming Fire Chiefs' Association. The Wyoming Fire Chiefs want to extend their thanks to IAFC President Randy Bruegman and the IAFC Board of Directors for the invitation to participate in this important planning event.

Many fire departments and fire districts across Wyoming have applied for grants under the Federal Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program. As of November 2002, we are pleased to announce that 18 have been successful receiving approximately \$1,300,000 in funding to enhance their specific operations.

FEMA, and how the money would need to be distributed quickly.

After lunch, the Lee's Summit Fire Department discussed the Metropolitan Medical Response System's drill and what was learned from it.

The election was then held and Chief Bill Stewart, Excelsior Springs, was elected as the new President, replacing Chief Dawson who stepped down due to time commitments.

The conference ended with a wonderful banquet. The Winter Seminar is scheduled for February 28-March 3 at Big Cedar Lodge, a favorite for attendees, not to mention their spouses. □

The Wyoming Fire Academy has increased its staff due to increased funding from the State of Wyoming, specifically, the State Fire Marshal's Office. The fire academy is also increasing the size of the existing building to accommodate more classroom and staff space.

Several important fire services issues will be introduced in the Wyoming Legislature this January. Numerous homeland security bills including the establishment of a Regional Hazardous Materials/WMD Response Program will be introduced. Other important fire service issues will include the adoption of the International Codes, the funding of the wildland fire suppression account and authorization of special firefighter license plates.

The next Wyoming Fire Chiefs Association meeting is being held in conjunction with the Mid-Winter Fire School in Riverton, Wyoming. The association's meeting is on January 3, 2003. □

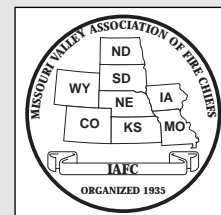
Missouri Valley Association of Fire Chiefs

P.O. Box 80003
Lincoln, NE 68501

PRSRT STD.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
LINCOLN, NE
PERMIT NO. 1147

Want to host a MVAFC Conference?

Cities usually work with their Chamber of Commerce to host an Annual Conference. The next open year to host a conference is July 2005. If your department and city is interested, go to the web site and look at the RFP to get the requirements for hosting a conference.



The Missouri Valley Association of Fire Chiefs is dedicated to supporting professional development of its members through educational, leadership, and networking opportunities, while serving as a liaison between State Chiefs' organizations and the International Association of Fire Chiefs.