

FIRE LINK

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

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

by Jim Keating

I want to offer my, and the Division's, sincere congratulations to our current International Director, Steve Westermann, on his successful bid for the position of 2nd Vice President for IAFC. Steve will put the same effort forth in his new position as he has in his many years of service to this Division. Steve's strong and fair leadership qualities will help to move the IAFC solidly forward to our rapidly changing and evolving emergency services. As a Division, we offer our full support to Steve as he begins his new leadership role.

Your Board of Directors held a very successful meeting and Division Strategic Plan Review in Kansas City on February 10 and 11, 2005. The Plan Review Work Session was led by past Division President Rich Lehman. Retired Chief Lehman's past experience in the original plan development allowed for an expedient and effective plan review and update. Your Board of Directors thanks the Division and especially those who have taken an active role in working to accomplish many of the goals set forth in the Strategic Plan. Much emphasis on the Plan for the coming year will be to continue to improve member communication and services. Some issues of interest discussed in our Board Meeting were:

- The Board approved raising the maximum stipend amount to \$3,000 for educational programs. The stipend program use increases each year and has become a very useful and important member benefit. The importance of submitting a post-event report of a stipend event to the Division Secretary was discussed. That report must be filed by a past stipend recipient state before that state would again be eligible to apply for a new stipend.

- The Division continues its effort with the Board's full support in re-establishing the EMS Section. If you or your staff would like to have this section activated or would

be willing to help with the effort, please contact Chief Gary Shepherd at Rapid City, South Dakota, 605-394-4108. As EMS continues to become an important part of the Fire Service, an EMS Section could be valuable to the Division.

- The strategic plan attendees held a spirited discussion on their views of the importance of the IAFC's support of a fire chief in trouble. From that discussion, the need arose for the Division to look at providing training in the following areas to our membership: Mentoring, Diversity and Communicating to the press was discussed with plans to offer such at future Division events.

Highlighting some of the coming events:

1) Our active and growing public education section will again hold an Annual Conference. This year, the Conference will be located in Wichita, Kansas, with a pre-conference seminar offering on May 2-4, 2005 and the main conference held on May 5-7, 2005. For more information, contact Janet Cusick-Jost at 316-946-5048. The Board extends its thanks to the many who work so hard to make this section so successful and a great asset to Missouri Valley.

2) The Annual Division Conference is to be held this year in Columbia, Missouri, on July 6, 7, and 8, 2005, with the Columbia Fire department and Chief Bill Markgraf as hosts. This Conference will be one to not miss as Chief Markgraf and Staff have already put a great Conference Brochure to be mailed soon.

3) The Fire-Rescue International 2005 will be held in Denver, Colorado, August 11-13, 2005. The Conference brochures have been mailed. The Conference Staff, IAFC and the City of Denver are mounting an all out effort to coordinate this with other

simultaneous events to be held in Denver to make this one not to miss and one that will be enjoyable for your entire family. The Missouri Valley Hotel is the Denver Marriot. The main Conference Hotel is the Grand Hyatt just one block away. All of the Conference activities will be held in the new Colorado Convention Center. The Missouri Valley luncheon will be held at 11:30 a.m. Friday, August 12, 2005, in the Convention Center, the event will again be sponsored by 3M.

Obtain the maximum benefit from your IAFC membership, attend Division and IAFC Conferences.

In closing, I want to commend and thank the Division membership for the tremendous interest and response for the call for Fire Act Evaluators. And remember!! Always think, practice and expect compliance to fire ground safety practices. ☐



Calendar of Events

March 29-31, 2005

Ames, Iowa
Iowa Chiefs Conference

April 20-22, 2005

Las Vegas, NV
IAFC-Fire Rescue Med

April 28-30, 2005

Wichita, KS
MVD Public Education Seminar

July 6-8, 2005

Columbia, MO
MVD Annual Conference

August 11-14, 2005

Denver, CO
IAFC-FRI

STEVE WESTERMANN ELECTED 2ND VICE PRESIDENT OF IAFC

MVD International Director Steve Westermann will become the next 2nd Vice President of the IAFC at the Denver Conference.

Congratulations from all members of the Missouri Valley Division on your election. The MVD membership appreciates the outstanding leadership and service Steve has given to the Missouri Valley and the IAFC during his tenure as International Director.

Steve's insight and vision has helped our Division be thoughtful on issues, better informed, more organized and a leader in delivering services to the membership. Steve is always there to listen and discuss issues and concerns of our membership as he takes a strong leadership role in developing policy and direction at the Division and International level.

Steve's leadership, service and skills

have prepared him for the position of 2nd Vice President of the IAFC. The membership of the MVD knows he will do an outstanding job as an officer of the IAFC and eventual President of the IAFC.

MVD is proud of Steve Westermann - "He is the BEST." ☐

Chief Steven Westermann

Central Jackson County Fire Protection District

Chief Westermann is a 33-year veteran of the fire service, 16 as chief of department. He has been a member of the IAFC since 1987. He currently serves on the Board of Directors representing the Missouri Valley Division. He also chairs the National Centers Task force. He is the past president of the Missouri Valley Division, Missouri Association of Fire Chiefs, and the Heart of America Fire Chiefs Council. Westermann has an MPA degree, is an EFO graduate, and is a Chief Fire Officer Designate.

PLATFORM

Single Voice in the Fire Service

The fire chiefs of America can have the ear of Congress, but as the leaders in the American Fire Service, we need to insure that we speak with one voice so they know the strength of our message. In order to carry this out, it is imperative that the IAFC continues to strengthen the relationships with the local fire chief through the divisions, and their state chiefs organization. We must also open the doors to a national policy center where the major stakeholders can come to help formulate national policy.

HUMAN RELATIONS

I firmly believe that we must strive to treat each individual, fire service or not, with respect and compassion so they will be able to carry out their duties to the best of their abilities, in a safe and stress free environment.

FIREFIGHTER SAFETY

We, as the leaders in the fire service need to support our membership as we change the culture and philosophy in our fire stations so that firefighter safety becomes an institutionalized practice, not a buzzword.

SERVANT LEADER

A servant leader is one who, once the mission and vision are clear and articulated, makes sure that the resources are provided to your co-workers so the task can be accomplished. This doesn't mean that I am only here to serve the employees and that there is no leader. I have always been a believer in participative management and I'm only in this position because of our team members. I don't have all the answers to the issues that face our national fire service, but I am a firm believer in continuity of where the IAFC is going. I will provide the continuity through following the strategic plans that are set forth. Further, if a particular issue comes up, I will give them straight answers on decisions, even if they may not like them.

LEADERSHIP PARTNERSHIP

I am a firm believer in the Leadership Partnership initiative. It is how you treat the employees and the values that you as a chief officer hold and act on. Mutual respect, a sense of spirituality, honesty, compassion, along with the golden rule-treating others like you would like to be treated. If you truly utilize those mainline values, you won't be afraid to "submit" or feel vulnerable when you delegate to your co-workers. Even with a labor/management situation, you are not "giving in" to the union all the time, it is a matter of shared power using the same concepts. We won't always agree, but on priority items, if we can work together, we can get a lot more accomplished.

FIRE RESCUE GPO AND YOUR SAVINGS

by Chief Richard Carrizzo

We are approaching one-year into the FireRescue GPO and I know there are some who still are saying, "yes, I go to Fire Rescue each year, but what is this GPO?" You are not alone. Fire Rescue GPO is a "Group Purchasing Organization" for the members of Missouri Valley Division. As a matter of fact, it is a group purchasing for all but one of the IAFC's Divisions. The New England Division is still holding out on whether to participate or not (at the time of this printing the NE Division may have already voted to participate at their February meeting).

GPO enables contracts for products to be set at reduced rates. Manufacturers and providers of goods benefit by a larger volume of sales by a larger audience that may not have bought at a higher price in the first place.

Our GPO was originally setup by the Western Chiefs, who are still using the old contracts and saving money for their departments and citizens. They realized that if more departments joined with them they would have a bigger voice and more strength to lower prices even further. Thus, the push to have IAFC and all the Divisions come on board.

FireRescue-GPO contracted with Amerinet GPO last year, creating a larger network for us. They are the largest GPO that provides services and contracts to a target audience of hospitals and healthcare providers. How does this help the fire service, our departments and Divisions? Contracts to products on a lot larger basis; 40,000+ contracts. Of the total, approximately 80 percent have signed on as a FireRescue-GPO contract as well.

An example, Boise/Office Max, who has a contract with Amerinet, thus allows FireRescue-GPO to be included in the contract. We all buy office supplies and such for our departments. Boise's contract allows us to buy for under our current prices. Presently, my department buys almost all of our office products through this contract. Prior to this contract we were buying our supplies

through them without the GPO contract. Since the contract, last year we joined FireRescue GPO, we have seen a reduction in our prices of up to 65 percent. Over this past year this has provided a significant savings to not just the department but, most importantly, my citizens.

How do I sign up to get these savings?? As an IAFC member you are almost already signed up. Being a member of IAFC is the first step. The next step is just as simple. On your web browser type in: www.firerescue-gpo.com, then, you hit the "Register Now to Sign In" link and follow the simple steps. Most importantly, there is NO COST - yes - no cost to you or your department. In the future, the Board still projects a "no cost" to the user because the vendors are making money due to the high volume of sales. The "Not for Profit" FireRescue GPO support staff are paid through the percentage that comes back to them from the vendors, based on each individual contract.

Understand that you as the end user are not paying any type of surcharge for this service. You are just paying a reduced price for goods and saving your department and citizens tax dollar. It is a win-win for you.

Hopefully you are now receiving your free FireRescue GPO e-Newsletter. In it you will stay abreast of all that is happening at GPO, including free classes and target buys.

I will continue to keep everyone posted through email and Fire Link articles to assist with the abilities to purchase at reduced rates and assist our Division. But, I need your help in letting me know if there are any problems with buying, receiving, if there are different items you may want, etc. Without your input, we cannot make this a better program for all. In the mean time if you have any questions, please contact me at rcarrizzo@spfpd.com ☐

INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR ADVISORY ELECTION

The IAFC nominations process is closed for 2005 and there are no contested elections. Our own MVD International Director Steve Westermann will become the next 2nd Vice President of the IAFC at the August IAFC Convention in Denver.

As a result of Steve's election, an opening for MVD International Director for the remainder of Steve's term will occur. The MVD Constitution & By Laws calls for the President of the MVD to appoint someone to the position until the next election at the MVD Conference in 2006.

Since there are several individuals interested in this position the current MVD President Jim Keating and incoming President of the MVD Mark Young feels the best way to fill the remaining term for MVD International Director would be to have an Advisory Election at the Columbia Conference. Although the election is not binding and Advisory only to the MVD President the election will give an indication of who the membership feel would make a good International Director. The appointment will be made by the MVD President after the IAFC Conference in Denver.

Candidates for the position of MVD International Director need to submit their information and intent to MVD President Jim Keating by June 1, 2005. ☐



Reel in Winning Strategies by Using the Right Bait!

*Missouri Valley Association of Fire Chiefs Sixth Annual
Fire, Burn and Life Safety Public Education Conference 2005*

May 5-7, 2005

Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Specialist I Class and Certification Test

May 2-4, 2005

Wichita, Kansas

Pre-conference Monday through Wednesday, May 2 - 4, 2005

NFPA 1035 Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Specialist I (JFSIS I) class and certification test

JFSIS I will provide the participant the knowledge and skills to successfully conduct an interview with a firesetter and his or her family using prepared forms and guidelines and who, based on recommended practice, can determine the need for referral for counseling, implement intervention strategies, or both, to mitigate the effects of firesetting behavior. This class is being offered by Kansas Fire and Rescue Training and being taught by Pat Mieszala. Class size and testing is limited.

Reel in Winning Strategies by Using the Right Bait! Thursday through Saturday, May 5- 7, 2005

This conference is targeted for fire, burn, and life safety educators (novice to expert) who are concerned about the fire and burn problems in their communities. One of the strong focuses for this year's conference is "**small actions lead to big consequences.**" The conference will conclude with a panel of survivors — people whose lives have been forever changed because of a fire or burn incident. These people are the real reason we do what we do.

General Sessions

The Fish! Philosophy. A Better Way to Live at Work

What's New in Youth Firesetter Assessment and Intervention

Changing Paradigms in Fire Safety and Burn Prevention

Burn and Fire Disasters: What have we learned? Are we repeating our mistakes?

Legislative Issues in Burn and Fire Safety

Hi-Tech Communication in a Hi-Tech Era

After the Fire. After the Burn. Survivor Panel. These people will share the true consequences of fires and burns.

Plus

11 great breakout sessions to choose from!

Resource sharing

Fire safety and burn prevention resource list



Conference Location and Lodging

The **Hotel at Old Town**, located in the heart of Old Town Marketplace at 830 E. 1st has been selected as the conference hotel. Conference rates are \$95 per night plus taxes single or double occupancy. To make reservations call 877-265-3869 or 316-267-4800. Reference **Pub Ed 2005** to receive the conference rates.

Registration Available After March 1, 2005 Only! To be added to the mailing and email distribution list contact:

Janet Cusick Jost 316-946-5048 / burnandfire@via-christi.org

Patti Peterson 316-744-0471 / ppeterso@sedgwick.gov

**COLUMBIA, MISSOURI
FIRE DEPARTMENT
HOSTS
2005 MISSOURI VALLEY
DIVISION CONFERENCE**

**LEADERSHIP VISION
INSPIRATION ACCOMPLISHMENT
"SHOW ME STYLE"**

WEDNESDAY, JULY 6, 2005

Golf Outing

THURSDAY & FRIDAY

Speakers:

Robert DiPoli – President of IAFC

Gary Wilson – Topic: Fire Service Leadership

Garry Briese – Executive Director of the IAFC

John Buckman – Past President of IAFC and Fire Academy
Instructor; Topic: NIMS – What you need to know –
What you need to do

Mark Wessel – Keokuck Fire Chief –
Topic: Fire Fighter Safety & Training

FUN AND BANQUET

Theme Night: Dinner & Casino Night
"Show Me The Money"
Banquet and Installation of New Officers

OFFUTT AIRFORCE BASE FIRE STATION IN OMAHA, NE, RECEIVES FACELIFT

by Chief Robin Gullie

The new Offutt Airforce Base's (located in Omaha, Nebraska) \$11 million CFR facelift was specifically designed to meet all of the safety requirements of NFPA Health and Safety Standards. Ground was officially broken for this new station on 10 September 2003. Participants in the ceremony included Dean Mathisen, Congressman Lee Terry's constituent liaison; Brigadier General Timothy C. Jones, 55th Wing Commander; Colonel Thomas Schluckebeir, 55th Mission Support Group Commander; Colonel Kurt Ubbelohde, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Omaha District Commander; Fire Chief Robin Gullie; and Mr. John Taylor of Weitz Construction Company.

This new facility is the largest and most advanced, state-of-the-art fire station in the United States Air Force. The facility is over 40,000 sq. ft. on one level. The schedule move-in approximately on 26 March 2005. The ribbon-cutting/



open house ceremony is scheduled for 11 May 2005 at 1330 hours. The street leading to the fire station is dedicated to one of Air Force fire protection pioneers, Chief Warrant Officer Louis F. Garland. Chief Garland took charge of the fire school at Chanute AFB IL in 1965 and

began a ten-year quest for excellence that led to the accomplishments of countless milestones. Most of which laid the ground work for Air Force Fire Protection, as we know it today. □

NEW MEMBERS

A BIG WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Chief David Dollins—N. Kansas City, MO
 DC Shaun Coffey—Lawrence, KS
 Chief Albert Lewis—Reserve, KS
 AC Keith Wolven—Branson West, MO
 Chief Mark Campagnola—Aurora, CO
 Dir. Comm. James Raymond—
 Franktown, CO
 Chief Dave Baldwin—Denver, CO
 Capt. Robert Standen—Evans, CO
 Com. Bret Vance—Larmie, WY
 Chief John Danley—Des Moines, IA
 Chief Kevin Halloran—St. Louis, MO
 BC John King—Raymore, MO
 TO Robb Watkins—St. Charles, MO
 BC Vince Turner—Parker, CO

DC John Schilling—Ankeny, IA
 AC Michael Wenger—Norwalk, IA
 BC Jason Ekis—Kansas City, MO
 BC Brian Hershberger—Kansas City, MO
 BC Kevin Joles—Kansas City, MO
 BC Grant Wernicke—Overland Park, KS
 Chief Kevin Fourday—Overland Park, KS
 BC Darrel Swanson—Overland Park, KS
 BC Matthew Goudy—Castle Rock, CO
 DC Leonard Guiliano—Thornton, CO
 Chief John Kilpatrick—Golden, CO
 AC Pat Schreiner—Golden, CO
 DC Pat Smith—Golden, CO
 DC Mike Chard—Loveland, CO
 Comm. Don Johnson—Laramie, WY

Want to host a MVDFC Conference?

Cities usually work with their Chamber of Commerce to host an Annual Conference. The next open year to host a conference is July 2007. 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 Colorado Fire Mechanics' Association

*proudly announces
its 16th Annual
Emergency Vehicle
Maintenance
Academy
July 25-July 29,
2005*

Once again the Academy will be co-hosted by the Aims Community College in Greeley, Colorado, the Union Colony Fire Department and the Colorado Fire Mechanics' Association.

Greeley is located on the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains just east of the Rocky Mountain National Park. Denver is one hour to the south and Cheyenne, Wyoming about an hour to the north by car.

Steeped in western tradition, this rural community offers plenty of diversion for all. The classes offered herein are designed to provide current information for maintenance service, and repair of today's Emergency Vehicles and equipment. No students will be enrolled without complete registration information and payment. Enroll early as some of our offerings fill up early on! **Registration deadline is June 30, 2005.** For additional information contact us at:

Financial info:

Brett Dorland - 1-970-213-3495

President

Jay Powell - 720-865-3850

Academy Coordinator

Mike Davidson - 303-478-4091

E-mail

triss@comcast.net Admin. Asst.

Visit our web page www.co-fma.com

IS FRI IN DENVER IN YOUR TRAVEL PLANS?

On August 11-14, 2005, Fire Service Leaders from around the world will meet in Denver, Colorado to attend the International Association of Fire Chiefs' Fire Rescue International. This is the premier fire conference and trade show for fire and EMS managers in the United States. On the FRI exhibit floor there will be more than 600 exhibits of the newest fire service innovations in apparatus, technology, equipment and more.

FRI 2005 workshops will cover the most critical and timely issues facing fire chiefs around the world. Presented by renowned, respected fire service leaders, comprehensive pre-conference workshops and conference breakout sessions will provide you with the practical, valuable information you need to lead your department. FRI's educational sessions are designed to meet the needs of all fire service leaders - from aspiring chiefs to the most seasoned chief officers in all types of departments (volunteer, combination, career, metro, suburban, rural, etc.).

Conference attendees may want to arrive (leave) a few days before (after) the conference's scheduled dates to have time to do and see all that there is in Denver. While Denver is the 20th largest metro area in America it has the

10th largest downtown area. All of the conference hotels as well as the conference center are located in the downtown district and all are easily accessible by a short walk. The heart of the city is the 16th Street Mall, a mile long pedestrian path built of granite blocks in shades of gray, rose and pink. It is lined with trees and flowers and flanked by outdoor cafes, shops, fountains, open plazas and parks. This is where Denver comes to see and be seen.

For those who enjoy shopping, Denver is a delight. From the many quaint shops and boutiques along the Mall to the upscale Cherry Creek Shopping Center, home to 140 stores including Neiman Marcus, Tiffany's and Saks. Also in the area are more than 60 restaurants (most with outdoor cafes).

The summer climate in Denver is very pleasant as Denver receives only 8-15 inches of precipitation a year (about the same as Los Angeles) and records 300 days of sunshine making for a mild, dry and arid climate.

The Missouri Valley Division has selected the Marriott Hotel as our headquarters for the conference. There is so much to do in Denver! ☐

INTERNATIONAL FIRE CODE

by Marc Sampson, Longmont, CO

In mid-January, the International Fire Code Council Code Coordinating Committee met in Ft. Worth, Texas. As chair of the North Central Code Action Committee (CAC), I was present to participate in the review of over 275 code change proposals. The purpose of the meeting was to formulate a fire service position on the code changes prior to the ICC code hearing to be held in Cincinnati, Ohio, February 22-March 4, 2005.

From that meeting, approximately 75 code changes affected the fire service enough as to assign a speaker from the committee to voice the fire services' concerns or support.

I will be attending the ICC code hearings February 22-26, representing the North Central (CAC), as well as the Code Coordinating committee. Should any member have comments or marc.sampson@ci.longmont.co.us ☐



The Missouri Valley Division 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.

IAFC Strategic Planning and Leadership Forum...

by Mark Young, 1st Vice President

The mission of the International Association of Fire Chiefs is to provide leadership to career and volunteer chiefs, chief fire officers and managers of emergency service organizations throughout the international community through vision, information, education, services and representation to enhance their professionalism and capabilities.

190 fire service leaders and staff members of the IAFC met in Denver, Colorado on October 15 and 16, 2004. The weekend was filled with energized presentations from fire service leaders and included: "Opening Remarks and IAFC Accomplishments" by Chief Bob DiPoli, IAFC President; "Changes That Will Rock Your World" by Garry Briese, IAFC Executive Director; "Financial Resources and Demands of IAFC" by Chief Julian Taliaferro, IAFC Treasurer; "Oklahoma State Success Model for Homeland Security" by Chief Jerry Bower, IAFC Board of Directors; "Spreading Like Wildfire: Fire Forecasting, Climatology and the Future of U.S. Wildland Fires" by Ronald P. Nelson, Bioclimatologist, USDA Forest Service; "NORTHCOM-Interaction with Local Fire Departments and Terrorists Events" by

General Ed Eberhart, Commander NORAD and NORTHCOM; and "When Cultures Collide, A Look at the 'Real World' Challenges of Inclusiveness" by Effley N. Brooks, III, Director University for Public/Private Sector Cooperation, University of Colorado at Denver.

Presentations were just a part of the agenda for the participants. We were also there for Strategic Planning. The IAFC Strategic Plan Working Document (Straw Document) was developed based on 2003-2004 plan as well as input from the IAFC needs assessment and surveys, and input from IAFC Members, Divisions, Section and Committees. This document was used as the starting point for developing the 2005-2006 Strategic Plan. The identified categories for the goals are: I Leading the Fire and Emergency Services; II Building Relationships; III Enhancing Association Growth; IV Integrating Homeland Security; V Legislative and Administration Involvement; VI Marketing, Branding and Communications; VII Embracing Diversity; VIII Professional/Executive Skills development; and IX Fire and Safety.

We were divided into break-out groups and assigned a volunteer facilitator. Each group was

given one of the categories from the straw document and asked to review, edit, add, or delete the category. We developed strategies and objectives and identified possible action steps for each strategy. Each group presented to the main group. The groups were focused and the general consensus was success in the fact that we as members had a review of the goals that we expect our Directors to accomplish or at least implement in next two years. The next step is submission to the Board of Directors for review and budget analysis. Look for the goals, objectives and action items to be published. The group enjoyed meals together that allowed for networking and building relationships with other members of the IAFC and Staff. My personal interaction time with the Board of Directors and IAFC Staff educated me on their passion and commitment that these professionals have for our Association and for each member. They shared their vision, provided me with information, and educated me. The Missouri Valley Division allowed me to represent them at the forum to enhance my professionalism and capabilities to serve as your First Vice-President. □