

FIRE LINK

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And the Change is Now

by John Mullin, President

While I have enjoyed the opportunity to visit many of our member States, it has been disheartening to hear the struggles that this economic recession has been having and continues to have on America's Fire Service. I have heard many chiefs speak of budget cuts resulting in trying to maintain older equipment and operating with fewer personnel. Terms are now more familiar to us, such as "rolling brownouts," "furlough days," and "the new normal." Not long ago, the Fire Service enjoyed such a state of respect that we were held sacrosanct when it came to budget cuts. The hard economic times that we are experiencing make that no longer the case.

Here is what has not changed. During all my travels as your Missouri

Valley President, I have had the privilege of talking with many of our members. I am encouraged by the "can do" attitude that our members maintain. In spite of lack of funds, diminishing resources and rising number of calls for service, fire

*"I cannot imagine a person becoming a success who doesn't give this game of life everything he's got."
Walter Cronkite*

chiefs continue to get the job done.

This January, I was given the opportunity to attend the IAFC Strategic Planning meeting in Washington D.C. In light of our economy, the number of participants was limited to about 60. But, as usual, representatives were there from all IAFC Divisions. We were asked to identify and discuss challenges coming

at us and ways that our organization could take a leadership role in addressing those challenges. Our work was turned over to IAFC staff and the results will be out soon. What was encouraging is that during these discussions, I never

heard the words "we have tried that before," or "status quo is good enough." The fire service has felt the earth

move beneath our feet and we are improvising, adapting, overcoming. I have never experienced such tough economic times in my career. And I have never been more proud of America's Fire Service and the leadership that you continue to provide. It is this leadership that will pull us through. ■

IAFC / FRI Atlanta

The International Association of Fire Chiefs
FRI Atlanta Conference is scheduled for
August 23-27, 2011.

The Missouri Valley Division Hotel is the Hilton Garden Inn which is located two blocks from the Convention Center. Division members should make your room reservations ASAP to ensure availability.

Atlanta is a great place for the FRI Conference.

The MVD luncheon will be on Thursday and tickets can be purchased from your State Director after June 1, 2011.



Calendar of Events

Wyoming State Chiefs
April 2, 2011 • Casper, WY

CFSI
April 6-7, 2011 • Washington D.C.

Iowa Fire Chiefs
April 12-14, 2011 • Ames, IA

MVD Conference
July 13-15, 2011 • Wichita, KS

IAFC - FRI
August 23-27, 2011 • Atlanta, GA

News from Colorado

Top Honors for Colorado State Director

by Karlyn Tilley, City of Golden Public Information Officer

Golden Fire Department Chief John Bales received the John Buckman III Leadership Award at the IAFC/VCOS Symposium on November 12, 2010 in Clearwater, Florida. The award recognizes a Chief Officer or a volunteer or combination fire department who stands out on the local and/or regional level as a true professional who demonstrated leadership, integrity and outstanding moral values within the fire service. "This award is a testament to both Chief Bales' leadership and to the entire department," said Mayor Jacob Smith.

The highlight of the presentation by the VCOS Board of Directors and Provident Benefits was when Captain Steve Bales of the Denver Fire Department presented the award to his Dad. This was a complete surprise to Chief Bales and was arranged by the Golden Staff and the VCOS Board of Directors.

Chief Bales was nominated by Deputy Chief Jerry Stricker, Division Chief Gene Quador and Fire Administrative Assistant Debbie Testroet. They were told Chief Bales won the award "hands down." And when you look at his accomplishments, it's easy to see why.

Chief Bales approached City Council to approve a Volunteer Firefighter Length of Service Award Plan in order to recognize the dedication and commitment of the Golden's volunteer firefighters to the citizens and community of Golden. This was unanimously approved by Council. The Golden Fire Department is a combination department with a volunteer fire and emergency response force. There are currently 85 volunteer firefighters and nine career administrative staff, five of which respond on daily calls.

Because of Chief Bales' efforts, the GFD received over \$65,000 in grant funding to purchase new gear and \$15,000 to purchase new extrication equipment. He also wrote a SAFER (Staffing for Adequate Fire & Emergency Response) for the Volunteer Coordinator



position, which expanded the volunteer ranks to both residents and non-residents contributing to a 115 percent growth in the department over the last four years. Under his command, the newest fire station on 10th Street was built with many sustainability features and still came in under budget. Now, two years after it was built, the fire station dropped its energy cost by over a third of what the older, smaller building used to cost.

Chief Bales has worked in the fire service for more than 40 years. He came

to Golden in 2000 as the Division Chief of Training before his promotion to Fire Chief in 2001. Written on the award application, "He is very passionate about the fire service and has fought hard to get the volunteers the best of equipment, ease of certification processes, safety equipment and overall approval of the citizens of Golden and he does not hesitate to put credit where credit is due."

Congratulations to Chief John Bales on a job well done. ■

North Dakota

by Chief Craven

The North Dakota Fire Chiefs Association appreciated the stipend from the Missouri Valley Division to help us hold the First Annual Leadership conference in Bismark, North Dakota January 21-23, 2011. The stipend was an important part of the funding required to bring this much-needed training to the Fire Chiefs of North Dakota.

The Conference was a great success with over 50 attendees and the training was excellent. Dr. Dennis Onieal was the keynote speaker and gave an inspiring speech at the banquet. Rich Gasaway taught the "Mental Management of Emergencies" and Anthony Kastros presented "Calm the Chaos" Mastering Fire Ground Command. The National Fire Academy Course "Incident Safety Officer" was also a big success.

Once again thanks for the support of the MVD of this worthy Conference - it meant a lot to the North Dakota Fire Chiefs Association. ■

News from Nebraska

by Chief Bill Bowes

The dominant topic of conversation in Nebraska, as with many other states, is the economy. The State is looking at a budget shortfall this year that lawmakers will be attempting to deal with. While most communities are operating within their means, budgets are very tight. There are some signs that the local and statewide economies might be recovering, but no one is declaring the recession over yet. It seems that every day we see articles in the national news about firefighters being laid-off or making concessions in order to keep positions. We in Nebraska have not experienced any of this – yet.

On the residential fire sprinkler front, the home builders again had legislation introduced that would negate the applicable section of the 2009 IRC code. The proposed law would allow the state to adopt the 2009 IRC without the residential fire sprinkler section. It does allow communities or AHJ's to opt-in the sprinkler section. The reality is that if it doesn't make it in the state code, it's not going to make it into many local codes. The bill has made it through the committee and to the floor of the Legislature. There are some amendments that have been added, but those have not yet been published. We don't know yet how the majority of the State Senators feel about it.

We do know that most of the career-department Fire Chiefs were prohibited from providing testimony in opposition to the bill. The home builders are a powerful force. We will continue to work towards full adoption of the 2009 IRC.

In other legislative news, there is a move to ban the sale of most novelty lighters in the state. This bill is still in committee. An interesting side note on this is that arguably the state's most listened to radio station took a very strong stance against this bill. It was viewed as an unnecessary government intrusion into citizen's lives. Interesting.

The Municipal Fire Chief's Association met on February 28 in Lincoln for their semi-annual conference. Legislative issues were the main topic of conversation.

The next Nebraska Fire Chief's Association meeting will be in Grand Island on April 2.

The State Fire School will take place May 20-22 in Grand Island. This is always a much-anticipated weekend in which over a thousand firefighters from across the state come together to learn and network. Details can be found at <http://www.nsvfa.org/fireschool.htm> ■

When Asked, Take Action!

by Chief Sandra K. Schiess, 2nd VP

This article will be short and direct! Prior to representing and reporting for our division at the Missouri Fire Chief's conference February 24 and 25 at Big Cedar Lodge in the Ozark Mountains (the term mountains being relative) of Missouri I reviewed all the activities and benefits of belonging to the International Association of Fire Chiefs and in particular to the Missouri Valley Division. The educational opportunities, the communications, the networking, the list goes on and on.

On arrival at the conference, I was met with two things:

1) Time at the business meeting will be tight; you will have three minutes.

2) The fire service around the state is being faced with challenges of a magnitude not seen in decades. The second point is not confined to the state of Missouri, the Missouri Valley region or the nation.

My report became much shorter as has this article. The message is this: now is the time to become active, we have challenges, the MVD of the IAFC, have resources, the most important are each of us. When the message goes out "Immediate Action Needed" do it, do it immediately. We would not sit idle if a fire were threatening, letting our firefighters and fire trucks go unused. Do not sit idle when the threats are to our funds, to building and life safety codes, to training, use the resources – all the resources from the organizations you belong to and to you personally as a professional – take action! ■

Chief William Markgraf Retires

Chief William Markgraf of the Columbia, Missouri Fire Department retired January 5, 2011 after 22½ years with the Department. Chief Markgraf has spent the last 55 years in the Fire Service and has been involved in leading the way for innovation throughout the State of Missouri. His leadership and mentoring has left its mark on Missouri's Fire Service, and we wish Bill and Linda the best in retirement and will hopefully see them at future Missouri Valley Functions. ■

Host a MVD Conference

If your Department or City would like to host a MVD Conference, they should go to the Division web site and copy the RFP that has all the details for hosting a Conference. It takes a lot of planning but is an opportunity to showcase your Department, Community and State. If you have any questions, consult the Division Secretary.

The web site is www.mvdiafc.org

News from Iowa

by Chief Don Cox

Fire Chief Acquitted – we are pleased to announce that Fire Chief Mark Regenwether of the Clinton, Iowa Fire Department was recently reinstated, along with his EMS Director after an appeal process to the Civil Service Commission. The three commissioners decided the city did not show enough evidence to justify the terminations of the two highly respected fire department officers. They reversed the termination and awarded the two backpay, retroac-

tive from the date of their termination. They were terminated in 2010 after a lawsuit alleged they exaggerated ambulance bills in order to obtain more reimbursement funding from Medicare and Medicaid. Chief Regenwether wanted to convey his sincere appreciation to all the fire chiefs and professional colleagues that stood behind him during this ordeal. Justice was finally served in the end.

Spring Meeting and Pre-Conference Seminar for the Iowa Association of

Professional Fire Chiefs – Iowa President Bob Platts has announced the spring meeting will take place in Ames, Iowa at the Fire Service Training Bureau from April 12-14th, 2011. The one-day, pre-conference seminar (April 12th) will feature Tim Sendelbach to conduct a program on “Leadership Lessons Learned from the Tragic Charleston Super Sofa Fire.”

The City of Cedar Rapids, Iowa has a vacancy for their Fire Chief position. ■

NEW MEMBERS A BIG WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

- Fire Chief Michael Heim – West Burlington, IA
- Fire Chief Tim Hay – Wellington, KS
- Chief Karl Bauer – Leadville, CO
- Battalion Chief Keith Long – Golden, CO
- Asst. Chief Jerrod Vanlandingham – Erie, CO
- Battalion Chief Patrick V. Borer – Lincoln, NE
- Battalion Chief Anthony R. Lang – Omaha, NE
- Fire Chief David A. Luers – Fort Dodge, IA
- Division Chief Ken Potter – Gladstone, MO
- Fire Chief Chris Kocher – Worland, WY
- Deputy Chief Mike Whitsell – West Des Moines, IA
- Captain Scott Ridings – Colorado Springs, CO
- Deputy Chief Bill Pater – Derby, KS
- Fire Marshal Steve Gettemeier – Florissant, MO
- Chief Jock T. Johnson – Hudson, CO
- Interim Chief James Grimmitt – Coffeyville, KS
- Division Chief Clint Fey – Golden, CO
- Division Chief Gene Quador – Golden, CO
- Asst. Chief Harold Hollingsworth – Buckner, MO
- Battalion Chief Mark Stenger – O’Fallon, MO
- Division Chief James King – Lawrence, KS
- Battalion Chief David A. Lewis – St. Charles, MO
- Division Chief Lyle Schwartz – Lawrence, KS
- Battalion Chief Gary Bird – St. Charles, MO
- Battalion Chief Brian Redelsheimer – Shawnee Mission, KS
- Mechanic J. G. Powell – Littleton, CO

YOUR ANNUAL REPORT

The MVD web site has a new category titled “Members Annual Report.” Send your current electronic Annual Report (pdf) to the Division Secretary and he will have it posted on the web site.

This will give all members a source of information on what other departments are doing.

Send Your Annual Report to
merwick1@aol.com



2011 Missouri Valley Fire Chiefs Conference
July 13-15, 2011
Hyatt Regency Hotel
Wichita, Kansas



Blackbear Bosin (1921–1980)
 WICHITA, MY SON, 1965
 Gouache on illustration board
 Wichita Art Museum, Gift of Mr. and Mrs.
 Henry A. Humphrey
 1965.3

Featured Speakers

I. David Daniels, *Fire Chief and CEO of the Woodinville (WA) Fire and Life Safety District*

Dr. Gerald Graham, *R.P. Clinton Distinguished Professor of Management, Wichita State University*

Bobby Halton, *Editor in Chief of Fire Engineering magazine*

Check out our conference website at
<http://www.wichita.edu/conferences/mvfc>

Exhibitor/Sponsor Registration is now open

Attendee Registration will be available April 1.



WICHITA FIRE DEPARTMENT

Wichita's Bravest

Missouri Valley Division

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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.

FEMA AFG 2010 Award Announcements

Award Date February 11, 2011

Organization	City	State	Fed Share	
Olin Fire Department	Olin	IA	\$64,103	Personal Protective Equipment & Training
Overland Park Fire Department	Overland Park	KS	\$508,800	Equipment
Lisbon Rural Fire Protection District	Lisbon	ND	\$2,090	Training
Monticello Fire Department	Monticello	IA	\$35,706	Equipment & Training
Viborg Fire Department	Viborg	SD	\$25,650	Equipment
Harper Fire Department	Harper	KS	\$26,037	Equipment
Jefferson County Fire District #3	Perry	KS	\$59,119	Equipment & Personal Protective Equipment
Watertown Fire Department	Watertown	SD	\$19,746	Personal Protective Equipment
Oketo/Balderson Rural Fire District #5	Oketo	KS	\$228,314	Equipment
Olpe & Fire District #1	Olpe	KS	\$82,745	Equipment
Crocker Fire Protection District	Crocker	MO	\$166,250	Vehicle Acquisition
Birmingham Volunteer Fire Department	Birmingham	IA	\$170,050	Vehicle Acquisition
Lawson Community Fire & Rescue Protection District	Lawson	MO	\$161,880	Vehicle Acquisition
Central Taney County Fire Protection District	Kirbyville	MO	\$251,894	Vehicle Acquisition
EagleRock-Golden-Mano Fire District	Eagle Rock	MO	\$142,500	Vehicle Acquisition
Grand River Volunteer Fire Department	Keldron	SD	\$88,350	Vehicle Acquisition
West Douglas County Fire Protection District	Sedalia	CO	\$261,250	Vehicle Acquisition
Manchester Volunteer Fire Department	Manchester	IA	\$98,230	Vehicle Acquisition
Waynesville Rural Fire Protection District	Waynesville	MO	\$285,000	Vehicle Acquisition
Jackson Fire and Rescue	Jackson	MO	\$598,500	Vehicle Acquisition