

# Missouri Valley Division of the IAFC

4th Quarter Newsletter



## Inaugural Electronic Newsletter

Feedback from our recent survey indicates that the Missouri Valley Division Board needs to communicate more openly with our membership on a regular basis. This is our first quarterly newsletter to address that need.

- Iowa Association of Fire Chiefs Conference. Oct 15-16
- Colorado Fire Leadership Challenge. Oct 19-22.
- Kansas State Association of Fire Chiefs Annual Conference. Oct 22-24.
- Wyoming Fire Chiefs Conference. Nov 30 - Dec 2

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## From President Chief David Rierson

The year 2020 is one that many of us would like to forget. The pandemic changed how we conducted business and forced cancellation of state and national conferences and meetings. This held true for the Missouri Valley Division as our 2020 conference in Fargo, North Dakota was cancelled. As such, it was nice to be able to hold an in-person conference in Cheyenne, Wyoming this year and have an opportunity to catch up with friends and colleagues. I would like to thank the Cheyenne Fire Department for hosting the conference and working through all of the pandemic issues that forced a change to the initial dates. Additionally, I look forward to our 2022 conference, which will be held in Independence, Missouri, July 13 – 15.

In March of 2020, at the Winter Board Meeting, discussion was held concerning services provided by the Division. Specifically, was the Division meeting expectations and providing value to the members. In January of 2021, a survey was sent out asking for input on how we could better serve the membership. When the results were tallied, it was evident that some changes needed to be made. As a result of the survey, the Board made some initial changes that included the following:

1. The MVD website has been completely revised. The Board made the decision to hire a web designer/consultant to handle the redesign. While still a work in progress, the result is a website is easier to use, will contain more information, and will be updated on a regular basis. Please take a moment to log on at [www.mvdiafc.org](http://www.mvdiafc.org) and look around.
2. A scholarship program for smaller career and combination departments was established. The purpose was to allow for conference attendance by members of smaller departments that did not have the finances to send them. Each State in the Division was provided one scholarship of up to \$1500. For the Cheyenne Conference, three states took advantage

of this opportunity. It is my hope all eight states will take advantage of this program in 2022.

3. If you are reading this, you are taking advantage of the third change. Communication was a common theme in the items the membership wanted to see change. As such, the Board established a quarterly newsletter to be sent to members. It is our hope that between the revised website and the quarterly newsletter that communication issues are improved.
4. It was requested that the Executive Board members be more active and attend the individual State Chiefs Conferences. That will occur beginning in September with Nebraska, followed by Iowa, Colorado, and Kansas in October, Wyoming and South Dakota in December, Missouri and North Dakota in February.

Moving forward, the Board will continue to revise and implement changes the membership asked for and keeping the Missouri Valley Division as an asset to all our members. Please watch the website and newsletter for information.

Lastly, I am honored to be able to serve you as President of the Missouri Valley Division! I look forward to seeing and visiting with you at the State Chiefs Conferences.

## **From Past President Chief Joel Boespflug**

It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve as the President of the Missouri Valley Division of the IAFC over the past year. I want to thank the membership for the opportunity, and I thank the Executive Board and the State Directors. Their dedication to serve the membership and State Fire Chief's Associations is sincere, they are hard-working individuals working together to advance the fire service. Chief Taylor who serves as the Secretary Treasurer is an enormous asset to the MVD, he is a leader that operates quietly and behind the scenes. The many successes of the Board and its continuity are because of Chief Taylor.

This past year was not a normal year in regard to travel and in-person conferences, however the goals of the Division were constantly pursued. We are all excited as Chief Rierson enters into the MVD President role, he will demonstrate enormous energy and a clear vision. The Missouri Valley Division of the IAFC is a golden opportunity for chiefs. Please involve and recruit chiefs from your area to be a part of the MVD. The information from conferences and the networking amongst similar departments from an eight-state area, is extremely beneficial for any chief.

## MVD Annual Conference in Cheyenne, WY

The MVD annual conference was conducted in Cheyenne, Wyoming August 31 thru September 3, 2021. It was a great opportunity for education, networking, and entertainment along with conducting the business of the Division. Our thanks to the City of Cheyenne and the Cheyenne Fire Department for their hard work and hospitality. Special thanks go to Division Chief Byron Mathews for his exceptional work in coordinating the conference.

## Your new slate of officers for 2021-2022



Past President; Chief Joel Boespflug; President Chief David Rierson; 1<sup>st</sup> VP Chief Steven Dirksen; 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Chief James Silvernail; International Director Chief James Wamsley.

## MVD Website

Be sure to visit the new MVD website at [www.mvdiafc.org](http://www.mvdiafc.org) for your information needs. The website includes many resources regarding the Division including the Constitution and Bylaws, Strategic Plan, meeting minutes, and contact information for board members. There are also conference dates and locations, job openings and a variety of leadership/management articles. Finally, the membership list and contact information can be found behind the members only section.

## Suggestions

We are open for suggestions to continue improving our newsletter. Please forward them to [jtaylor@emporia-kansas.gov](mailto:jtaylor@emporia-kansas.gov)