

General Meeting

October 14, 2023 – Utah State Firefighters Museum

President Eddie Hales called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm

Pledge – Sam Ashman

Prayer – Mark Hales

Roll Call –Gina Bell

In Attendance:

President Eddie Hales
1st VP Andy McBride
2nd VP Austin Knight
Secretary Gina Bell
Treasurer Brent Marshall
Membership Steward Sam Larson
Trustee Roger Christensen
Trustee Ryan Mellor
Trustee Kevin Beck
Trustee Steve Hales
Chaplain Mark Hales
Sergeant-At-Arms Sam Ashman
Historian-Photographer Tya Well
Coy Porter
Jolene Nuttall
David Hammond
Joseph Bona
Robert Harrison
Harold Chadwick
Mike Ahlstrom
Brady George
Rowe Harrison
Perry Skaug
Errol Dearden

Excused:

Trustee Chris Shubert
Coty Chadburn
Lance Nay
Lynn Jones
Drew Rasmussen
Ron Harris

Motion to accept previous meeting minutes

Motion: Brady George/2nd Ryan Mellor. Approved.

Treasurer Report –Brent Marshall

Taxes are filed. License Plate Grant increased last year. 35 received grants of the 32 that received theirs, 6 never completed their grant process. Bryan Head, Draper, Helper, Henrieville, Panguitch, and Riverdale City never made contact or did anything to complete their grant and now it's too late. Financial Expenses: Third Quarter Expense: \$4,514.27. Dues deposited in the third quarter totaled \$12,230.00. Starting balance is \$90,159.54. Ending balance is \$97,875.27. Savings has \$25.67. License Plates Grants balance started at \$173,767.55. There total for written grants checks was \$132,000.00. The balance is now \$41,767.55 (plus \$25.00 in savings) The flowers fund had a starting balance of \$1,326.06. There was

a total in deposits of \$170.00 with no checks written. The current balance is \$1496.06 (plus \$25.00 in savings).

Motion to accept: Dave Hammond/2nd Mike Ahlstrom. Approved.

NVFC – Brent Marshall

Lance and Brent just came back from New York. They went a day early and went into 911. Very humbling experience and sacred place. Went to Station 10. Paid for their own rooms at the 911 experience. Something that came out of the meeting was the Hero Act – designed to help deal with mental health issues. Doctor also talked about the fire cancer incentive initiative. Galary Testing. Austin said that American Fork just did testing for his department and he can see where they are mailing it to and how much they had to pay. Lance was put on the cancer committee. This is the committee that came out with the purple ribbon book. AFG Safer grant has been approved by congress this year for \$360 million. Discussions on railroad and pipe safety. IFSTA is seeking applications for a validation committee for 2024 for HazMat 1st Responder 7th Ed., Protection and Detection Systems, 6th ed. Only individuals with technical expertise only.

Motion to accept: Brady George/Roger Christensen. Passed.

Membership Steward Report - Sam Larson

Most departments have paid and only a few who haven't paid. Nothing else to report.

Motion to accept: Gina Bell/Kevin Beck. Passed

Senior Trustee Report: Roger Christensen-

Allocated \$2,000 for new laptop. Steve Hales brought up Winter Fire School and we voted to spend \$1,000 to purchase a smoker if we can't get one donated as a raffle to get booth interest. Our four new Area Stewards are working hard to get information about our Association out to departments who aren't involved as well as working on increasing our membership.

Motion to accept: Brady George/2nd Rowe Harrison. Passed.

L&L Committee: Ted Black

Ted handed out 2-page list of items. (Attached at bottom of minutes). Ted mentioned that there are a few simple things missed as well as a fireworks cleanup bill. It's been called a class c and it hasn't been that term since 1991. It's 1.4 g that's the correct term. May see some additional fireworks bills considered. Cleanup for forestry fire and state lands. EMS bills coming up as well. Moved out of Health Dept to the Department of Public Safety is Sandy. Fire Caucus will be February 5, 2024, and there will be a special pin and challenge coin.

Motion: Sam Larson/2nd Ryan Mellor. Passed.

Secretary Report – Death benefit request for Luke Adams from Layton and Terry Lee from ATK Fire (now Northrop Grumman). Forwarded information to Brent so he could get checks mailed out.

I have contacted Belfor Restoration and indicated that they are approved for a business membership and they can send a check and access to their logo so I can get Ron to add it to the website.

Spent quite a bit of time trying to figure out how to remove Brady, Dave and Trisha's emails from the Jot Forms so that they aren't getting anymore submissions. I talked to Dave and found out that these were

piggybacked off of Trisha Thomas' JotForm account. I think we are going to need to get our own account. I'll need to recreate all the forms. The free account only allows us to 5 forms and minimal features. Dave thought that the offer an account for non-profit businesses at a discount. I'm looking into it.

The Firefighter's Chili Cookoff is next Saturday from 11-3 at the American First Field Pavilion (east side of the RSL Stadium). There's over 20 teams and all the money will go to the burn camp. Admission is free, you buy tickets from FFCU's booth so that you can get samples of the booths chili and vote for your favorite. The Utah Emerald Society Pipes and Drums will kick off the competition at 11. Air Med will have a chopper there. It's a lot of fun! Come by and say hi to me in the Credit Union booth!

Motion to accept: Ryan Mellor/2nd Dave Hammond. Passes.

Gina presented Brady George his president book.

Utah State Fire Board Report – Coy Porter

Welcomed 4 new members: Russ Young, Larry Owens, Coty Chadburn, who is the new board chair. The Vice Chair is a South Jordan member.

Motion to accept: Sam Larson/2nd Ted Black

UFRA Report– Jolene Nuttall

Fiscal year budget closed. Completed all scheduled classes and testing. Further report on finances in November. Brad is always looking out of testers/instructors so got them a pay increase to \$41.11. Travel Stipend increased to \$16.86. ARFF Prop is in the works. Received approval from Provo City to have a prop at the Provo Airport. Two props (fixed and mobile). Looking for finding funding through the AFG Grant. Cancer testing – last year Brad and Jolene met Gallery at Winter Fire School. Utah FF Cancer Initiative. Departments are jumping on board and adding money to their budget to get tested. Went up to Logan and watched them get tested. The company has offered the testing to cost \$649 each and its regularly \$849 each. Did date research to come up with a \$1.5 goal. FFCU has donated \$25,000 to the fund. Straight tip is going digital. This is our first issue that is digital. There's a flyer you can scan to get on the mailing list. Hard copies will still go to Chiefs and stations. UFRA working hard on grants. They were able to get 2 new vent props and a new fast prop. Just got a new semi truck to get the props out and delivered. UFRA annual report will be out this month. Got approval NFPA 1006 on 30 levels of testing. Winter Fire School will be January 19&20 in St. George. Kevin Bowman is the IC for this next Winter Fire School. There will be a Chief Mixer on Thursday from 6-8.

Motion to accept: Mark Hales/2nd Ted Black. Passes

State Fire Marshal's Office – Ted Black

Office is fully staffed and doing well. Moved Steve Highley to HazMat Training Section. If their office can do anything to help let them know.

Motion to accept: Ryan Mellor/2nd Sam Larson. Passes.

Convention: Andy – Registration links online garlandfd.com

Motion to accept: Gina Bell/2nd Ryan Mellor. Passes.

Old Business – None

New Business – Dave Hammond – Does anyone know how long this museum building has been here. 23 years, last Saturday. Thanks to the guys helping him get ready for this meeting.

Eddie- Layoffs issue.

Legislative actions – bring forth now to get new bills open. If you have anything you want to get pushed forward through the joint council. Ryan talked about the job that our Area Stewards are doing. Amazing kick-off to a new program.

Nominations for Trustee:

None. Closed until January meeting.

Nominations for 2nd VP:

None. Closed until January

Nominations for 1st VP.

None. Closed until January meeting

Nominations for President:

Ryan nominating Andy McBride.

2nd by Mike Ahlstrom

Closed until January.

Nominations for Treasurer.

Nominations Closed until January

Nominations for Convention 2025. None.

Meeting ended at 5:15

Meeting closed – Motion Ted Black/2nd Brady George. Passes

Note: Please respond to the email you receive to let us know if you will be attending. It helps the host Department plan for enough food. Thanks.

Utah State Firefighters' Association - Quarterly Meeting - 14 October 2023

Legislative Report

Retirement Items:

1. Re-employment option (60 or 90 day separation) *This would be a committee bill

There are some downsides to this option. a) Returning employee could not receive any new 401k benefit, up to a 15% reduction in on-going retirement pay benefit. b) Employer would have to also pay for an actuarial cost
2. The Utah Retirement System (URS) will be running their annual "Clean-Up" bill
3. There is a reduction in the Tier I contributions as it is over the 110% funding cap. There is a projected 2% reduction anticipated that would go back to the employer's side. There are different opinions about any potential use for these monies. The League of Cities and Towns is proposing that reductions in Tier I go to help fund increases in the Tier II program. The Fire Service is proposing that the Firefighter contribution be set at 16% and any reduction be used to fund increases only to the Firefighters in the Tier II system; not all Tier II participants. Currently, just over 55% of employees (Police & Fire) are in the Tier II system. Tier II may see increases in costs over the next few years. Proposed language might read that employers "May" pick up increases; we are asking that employers be required to pick increases up for Firefighters.

Fire Service related Items:

1. There will be a "Clean-Up" bill for the Utah Fire Code as per the State Fire Marshal
2. Fireworks proposal to increase the number of days for sales and discharge and also an increase in the number of items that would be allowed for discharge.
3. There will also be a "Clean-Up" bill for Forestry, Fire & State Lands regarding Historic Wildfires; updated payment plan; and hopefully working toward an Inter-State Compact.

EMS Items:

1. Mental Health Transports - ambulance billing and the rural areas. Some discussion about "payment certainty" versus "cost certainty". Some insurances are balking on payments. This may be addressed under rule, but if no progress is made, a legislative fix will be requested.
2. RFA for EMS Rural liaisons and an increase in EMS grant funding
3. Regulating EMS professionals working outside of licensed and designated EMS

agencies.

4. Expansion of EMS Volunteer health insurance
5. All sharing of DHHS's EMS data with the Clinical Health Information Exchange

Other Items:

4. Cannabis use and PSOB death benefit eligibility. What if injured or death while "under the influence"? Workers Comp coverage?? Personal insurance through employer; if FF has a cannabis card and tested "positive", is that FF still covered?? Difference between "prescribed" and "recommended" by a physician?? Cannabis is still illegal federally - difficulties lie in definition and/or determination of "Impairment"....
5. Some discussion about penalties for a "frequent flyer", one case where a single individual had called 911 over 250 times, generating 180 cases. Currently a Class B misdemeanor - should we ask that the penalty be increased to a Class A?? Make it an accelerating crime?? How many 911 cases in how many months would constitute these penalty increases? Perhaps an automatic push into the Mental Health Court...
6. The annual Fire Caucus luncheon will be held on **February 5th, 2024...** planning to have a special lapel pin as well as a challenge coin struck for this year.
7. Next meetings of the Joint Council will be the first Thursday in November & December.

Items of interest:

4. The Utah State Fire Chiefs Association is working with UFRA in a Cancer Testing Initiative. Want to use the **GRAIL Galleri test...** A blood test that can detect 50 different types of cancer. It looks for patterns in circulating DNA that can signal the presence of cancer in a person's body. They need help in spreading the word. Both organizations are actively looking for additional funding to make this happen.
5. UFRA is working to secure an Airport Crash Rescue Mobile Prop and also have access at their fixed site. This would allow departments to train who need part 139, FAA certification. There are 46 other smaller airports that volunteers are covering and who could also receive Airport Crash Rescue training.