

SD Firefighters Association, Inc. Spring Board Meeting  
Mitchell, SD – Comfort Inn Meeting Room  
March 30, 2019  
Page 1 of 7

Call meeting to order @ 8:00 am at Comfort Inn Meeting Room by President Charlie Kludt. Board members present Charlie Kludt, Ron Hines, Dave Jorgenson, Rick Gustad, Mark Stoks, Jack Diez, Dennis Gorton. Absent: Adam Kuenkel, Chad Baumgarten. Guests:

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Moment of Silence observed for all firefighters and families.

Approval of agenda by Hines, seconded by Jorgenson. Carried

Approve minutes of Board meeting @ Pierre, January 11, 2019. Motion by Diez, seconded by Gustad with a couple minor spelling corrections to approve the January 11, 2019 minutes. Carried.

Treasurer's Report – Gorton had emailed several financial reports prior to the meeting.

1. Net Worth report as of March 28, 2019 total \$243,504.73 with no outstanding bills.
  2. General Fund Checking as of March 25, 2019 listed checks written to date.
  3. State Fund Checking as of March 25, 2019, there were no checks written to date
- Those reports will be made a part of these minutes.

Secretary's Report – Gorton had emailed a recap of the membership to date for 2019.

District Directors Report -

Black Hills – Kuenkel was not in attendance recap of BHFAB, Muster. NVFC had submitted the name of Gail Schmidt, Rockerville VFD Fire Chief as Volunteer Fire Chief of the Year.

Northwest – Baumgarten was not in attendance. Generally, have a fall district school. Nothing known at this time.

Northeast – Stoks reported district school in early April 13 in Webster.

Southeast – Jorgenson reported district fire school April 27 in Brookings, fall school will be in Vermillion. LeRoy Koopman did retire as fire chief of Colton after 40+ years and 55 years on the Colton VFD. General concerns of the various flooding issues. Emergency Management director has been appointed for Minnehaha County. One issue is the county air cascade system truck and who and where it will be located.

Central – Erickson will be appointed, not in attendance. Ron Hines reported he thought they were going to have a spring district fire school in Pukwana. Some local flooding in various area.

South Central – Gustad reported nothing much going on. Spring district school is being planned for this weekend. Generally, have a fall district school. Some flooding on ranches, farms but not much impact to residential. At this time the Fort Randal dam is shut down completely.

Badlands – Diez reported fall district school will be in Midland. Mike Jones from Burke has apparently taken the fire marshal's position for training. He will not be able to instruct his SCBA Confidence Course for fire school this year.

SD Firefighters Association, Inc. Spring Board Meeting  
Mitchell, SD – Comfort Inn Meeting Room  
March 30, 2019  
Page 2 of 7

**Action Required:** Find a replacement instructor for SCBA class. Mike Erickson said he would take the class in place of Mike Jones.

**Fire School Scholarship** – Kludt asked the directors which department they had contacted about the fire school scholarship program.

Membership & Public Address Session – This is an opportunity for members or the general public to speak/present to the board. Items brought forth during this time are for informational purposes only. No official action will be taken on topics during this time. Please, limit speaking time to five(5) minutes or less.

**Old Business:**

1. Membership report – Gorton reported that as of March 28 there were a total of 5,491 paid members, from 221 100% Membership Departments, and 48 Department Only. In 2018 we had 5,719 members from 233 100% Membership Departments and 54 Department Only.
  - a. Current numbers /members – Did District Reps contact depts?
  - b. Thank you list in paper for the May issue.
  - c. Mobridge Fire Department did pay their 2019 100% Membership dues.
  - d. Rick said he received a request for donation from the SD Sheriff's Assn. asking for individuals to donate. The question was should the SDFA market to individuals to become associate members, with no direct benefits. We should be getting vendors who are at fire school with a booth. An individual would get a window sticker, something else for their support.
  - e. On line Membership Dues. Gorton said that departments wanting to pay their dues via credit card can use the ABC Signup website and then simply email or mail the Secretary a copy of their membership roster. Gorton said then he simply electronically transfers funds from one account to our checking account.

**Action Required:** info on how many claims have been paid out in 2018 put in Oct paper.

**Action Required:** Jeff has a mailing list of vendors he sends newspaper

**Action Required:** Mail newspaper to each paid vendor at fire school.

**Action Required:** try to find out how successful the SD Sheriff's office campaign.

**Action Required:** make change to webpage for dues, with separate button.

2. Central District Representative appointment – this position has been open for nearly one year. There has not been much interest except that Samara Erickson, Pierre Fire Department which is a 100% Member, has expressed an interest in the position.
  - a. Motion by Hines to approve Samara Erickson with the Pierre FD to fill out the remaining term of the Central District Director whose term will expire on June 30, 2022, seconded by Jorgenson. Carried.

**Action Required:** get new picture, address to Brenda at grapevine. This was completed.

SD Firefighters Association, Inc. Spring Board Meeting  
Mitchell, SD – Comfort Inn Meeting Room  
March 30, 2019  
Page 3 of 7

- b. Honorary Lifetime Membership considerations - mentioned from January meeting for either Hoven or Midland. Nothing more currently.
3. High School Scholarship – received 9 girl and 9 boy applications. All applicants qualified fully. Gorton said he did allow an extra day to receive applications due to the weather. Review committee is SD Firefighters Assn. VP, Ron Hines; Past President, Denny Gorton; SD Firefighters Auxiliary, Jen Laurvick; and Dear Old Timers, Paula Jarding. The committee will select a recipient before April 15. The applications have been mailed to the Review committee.
- a. **Action Required:** Thank you for applying letters/emails will be sent out.
  - b. **Action Required:** Notice will be sent to the individuals who are not selected.
4. SDFFA Decal – \$1.46 (500) ; 10-year vinyl; switch flags; 7-10 days
- a. Membership – possibility it could be mailed to each department that is 100% membership, for each member, then only as they add new members.
  - b. Retired and/or lifetime membership,
  - c. License plate – have to be a specific type and approved by SD Dept. of Revenue for attachment to plates.

Motion by Gustad to purchase 1000 decals, and then provide one decal in each registration packet at state fire school and firefighters can purchase additional decals at either state fire school or a district fire school only for the price of \$5 per decal, seconded by Hines. Roll call: Hines, yes; Jorgenson, yes; Gustad, yes; Stoks, yes; Diez, yes; Gorton, yes.

**Action Required:** Charlie will order decals.

Motion to purchase approximately 100 decals for marking the SDFFA equipment with an ID type decal. Roll call: Hines, yes; Jorgenson, yes; Gustad, yes; Stoks, yes; Diez, yes; Gorton, yes.

**Action Required:** Charlie will order ID decals.

Board recessed at 10:03 AM. Reconvened at 10:20 AM

5. Deferred Compensation System - statewide, self-funded volunteer emergency services deferred compensation fund. There was discussion that a “working” group was formed from the SD Joint Council meeting, with Tom Kurtenbach from Yankton as the chair of the working group. It was noted that the SDFFA should make sure the Joint Council Working Group is aware of our position. If the Joint Council Working Group does not pursue this issue, then the SDFFA would be willing to spearhead this item.
- a. Establish a committee to create guidelines for a viable self-funded system
  - b. Proposal to present SDRS
  - c. Guidelines for contribution & distribution
  - d. Administration of funds & department accounts

SD Firefighters Association, Inc. Spring Board Meeting  
Mitchell, SD – Comfort Inn Meeting Room  
March 30, 2019  
Page 4 of 7

- e. Establish time for preliminary discussion with SDRS board or advisors for feasibility (Willard)  
**Action Required:** Contact Kurtenbach to insure he is aware of the SDFFA desire to see this proposal is considered.
6. PennyMac information – offer for benefit – review information – see Power Point slides which is a loan discount program. They would to know if this could be a benefit to our members, and to put a link on our webpage to their program.  
Moved by Gorton not to pursue the PennyMac program at this time, if they desire to write articles and/or purchase advertising they are welcome, seconded by Gustad. Carried.
7. Independent Insurance Association of SD information – review data collected, as to how many fire departments charge for their services and the amounts. The general discussion was that many insurance companies will not pay the fire department service charges if the fire department has or is fire district since they collect taxes.
8. Newspaper – Kludt said that he had visited with Jeff Gargano about several items.
  - a. The current contract will need to be renewed in 2020.
  - b. Postage increase recently.
  - c. PDF for website can be done as an archive from past months. Discussion on adding the newspapers for the entire year, once a year. We do not want to make the PDF version available too soon as the Assn. uses it as a benefit for membership. Also adding some other past items such as photo's, etc. This would require us to make some changes to our webpage.
  - d. Contributing newspapers – it is truly appreciated to those local newspapers that allow Jeff to publish photo's and stories about local fires. It was noted that the Rapid City Journal and Sioux Falls Argus Leader do NOT share stories with our paper. Thanks all that do.
9. Topics for Membership Meeting at Fire School
  - a. School location – 2022 and beyond. Charlie said at the membership meeting he will bring this up for discussion and if the membership would desire the Board to consider a different location. The SDFFA By-laws and Constitution state the Board will set the date/time/location for annual fire school.
  - b. Class selection what classes would the membership like to see at fire school, their ideas, on the evaluations and/or a flip chart in the hallway with a couple pre ideas.
  - c. Membership benefits reiterate the benefits of 100% membership and others.
  - d. What the SDFFA is working on for the benefit of all firefighters. Retirement, insurance payments, prescription, scholarship, new firefighters, high school scholarships, district and/State fire school.
10. NVFC-.

SD Firefighters Association, Inc. Spring Board Meeting  
Mitchell, SD – Comfort Inn Meeting Room  
March 30, 2019  
Page 5 of 7

- a. All state membership program – \$18 effective Jan. 1, 2019, SDF A-NVFC - (board members)
  - b. Future NVFC meetings:
    - a) April 25-27, 2019 – Alexandria, VA Charlie and LeRoy will be leaving on April 23 for the meeting. Anhauser Busch will be doing a reception for NVFC attendees to discuss their “canned water” program. Congress is in recess that week, but have meetings set up with the staff personnel.
    - b) Oct 23-25, 2019 – Columbia County, Augusta, GA
    - c) April 2020 – Alexandria, VA
    - d) Fall 2020 – North Carolina
    - e) Spring 2021 – Alexandria, VA
    - f) Fall 2021 – Jackson, WY
11. State Fallen Firefighter Memorial Service; 29 September 2019, 2:00 pm; Memorial Site or the Rotunda for bad weather;
- a. Add David Fischer - Sturgis FD – contact engraver by ?
  - b. Pipe & Drums, contact by Kuenkel to them
  - c. Honor Guard, contact by Kuenkel to them
  - d. Shrub maintenance and/or general cleanup – Gorton will contact Capital Grounds
  - e. Invite of Governor Noem by Charlie.
  - f. Board will have their fall meeting on Saturday, September 28, 2019, in Pierre.
    - a. **Action Required:** follow up on items above
    - b. **Action Required:** Reserve rooms for Board in Pierre.
12. National Fallen Firefighter Memorial – 5-6 October 2019
- a. Sending representative – the person representing the SDF A should plan on attending the planning meetings at least the day prior as there is a lot of information as the protocol and what is expected of attendees. The motion to approve a representative from the Board was made at a previous meeting.
13. Statewide reports:
- a. Public Safety Communications Council
  - b. Joint Council of Fire Service Organizations – setting the working group with Kurtenbach as chair. Funding for radios,
  - c. Fire Chiefs – Gustad said had a good conference in Deadwood and will be in Deadwood like the weekend of Dec 6 & 7, 2020.
  - d. Instructors – nothing noted as this time. Dave said that Turtle Tile has a “tube” available for departments to use prior to the full rescue system. Rick will get in touch with Jess from the Instructors Assn. and see what can be done for the instructor’s class.
  - e. Fire Marshal’s Advisory Board – nothing to note currently. Jim Strain has been replaced by Chris Blair from State Wildland. They have used a couple of conference calls.
  - f. LAST - 31 March – Cedar Shores, Chamberlain -1:00 pm is the next meeting/training to look at training meetings in the future. Also looking for some advanced training classes.

SD Firefighters Association, Inc. Spring Board Meeting  
Mitchell, SD – Comfort Inn Meeting Room  
March 30, 2019  
Page 6 of 7

Portable radios for Board during fire school. Rick had two proposal for 12 portable radios, chargers. SL300 is \$4302 and EVX-S24 is \$3500 from B&L Communications.  
**Action Required:** Board will review the proposals and act later.

The Board recessed for lunch at 12:15 PM. Reconvened at 1:15 PM

2. State Fire School 2019;

a. Sponsorship updates –

a. Mitchell Sport Events Authority has donated \$3,000 to the SDFA for fire school. Charlie said they appreciated the fact we are here for several days and would use the donation at the local level. They should be mailing a check in the very near future.

b. Fischer-Rounds and Provident said they will donate \$1,000 towards the book with three (3) different spots in the book.

c. Rosenbauer said they will be donating \$500 for advertising in the book.

**Action Required:** Gorton will send an invoice to Fischer Rounds and Rosenbauer after fire school.

d. Sanford and Avera should be contacted for support. It was suggested that we request each facility to support the funding of the noon time meal. Avera has on their website a Community Support form.

e. Billion Auto should be contacted for support beyond their 1<sup>st</sup> Responder discount.

b. Finalize class listing – board went over each class for class descriptions, instructor bio's, class size, class needs, class number,

**Action Required:** Gorton will revise the Contact Instructor Sheet.

c. Registration open date 1<sup>st</sup> week of April 2019-ish

d. Other items –

c.1 – meeting date - 5 June 2019 @ Mitchell

c.2 – Arrival date for setup, final checks Tuesday, June 4

c.3 – communications; phone listing

Updates c.4 - tools/equipment; - Chad, Jack, Adam

c.5 – apparatus; - Chad, Adam , Dave

c.6 – workers – Mitchell FD (?)

c.7 – Food – On site??

c.8 – Vendor show; Auxiliary

c.9 – Memorabilia – Auxiliary

c.10 – Signage/posters/arrows – Mark

c.11 – Sanitation – Ron said the local company will do what it can.

c.12 - Utility vehicles – Dave will work with a local ATV company.

c.13 – Memorial & meeting setup – Charlie, Ron, Adam

SD Firefighters Association, Inc. Spring Board Meeting  
Mitchell, SD – Comfort Inn Meeting Room  
March 30, 2019  
Page 7 of 7

- e. Finalize Schedule
- f. Final registration costs

3. Meeting with SDFA Auxiliary

- a. Discussion on the “cost” of the AD&D and A&H insurance provided by Board. The actual cost of the two insurance policies is \$11.59/member. The Auxiliary in 2018 paid the SDFA \$25/member for 72 members total \$1800. Diez moved, seconded by Stoks that the SDFA Board the annual amount for the Auxiliary would be \$12/member per year, payable after state fire school.
- b. Vendor tables. Will have to find the cost from MTI and work with Auxiliary. The Auxiliary will reimburse the SDFA for the cost of tables used for the vendors.
- c. Auxiliary will make vendor and auxiliary attendees name tags.
- d. Motel rooms, the SDFA will pay for the Auxiliary rooms up front and then request reimbursement for their rooms.

**Action Required:** Gorton will send an invoice after fire school to the Treasurer of the Auxiliary for their number of members.

- 4. Final comments registration will be turned on Wednesday, April 3, 2019 late afternoon. Any class info not received by noon Wednesday will not be included and/or scratched from the class offerings.
- 5. Pay expenses, motion by Diez to pay expenses for meeting, seconded by Jorgenson. Roll call: Hines, yes; Jorgenson, yes; Gustad, yes; Stoks, yes; Diez, yes; Gorton, yes.
- 6. Motion to adjourn by Jorgenson, seconded by Stoks. Carried

**Next meeting will be June 5, 2019 at Mitchell.**

Respectfully submitted,



Dennis Gorton, Secretary