

**South Dakota Firefighters Assn. Membership Meeting
June 19, 2015 at Pierre, SD**

The meeting was called to order by President Kludt at 7:30 AM at the Riggs High School.

Minutes of 2014 meeting, motion by Brian Baker, Tea VFD, seconded by Austin Allen Beresford. MC

Tres. Report: Kludt said that an audit committee of Don Ward, Belle Fourche and Maynard Konneche, Kimball will conduct the audit report, and report at the Saturday PM Membership meeting.

Newspaper: Question was asked why a member gets more than one copy of the newspaper. Kludt said that we try to control the number of copies mailed out by purging duplicate mailing address's, but some get missed, or there could be a small difference in the names, or are firefighters, EMT's, etc.

NVFC Report: LeRoy Koopman, NVFC delegate, noted that a report was published in recent paper. Items of note: By-law change to read that there will be two delegates from each state, rather than primary and alternate. The NVFC is leading on many of the legislation that affects all volunteer firefighters in the nation and South Dakota. Koopman said he is on the by-law committee and a couple others. Kludt said the NVFC is promoting a program called, "Share the Load" which is designed to help firefighters with a number of consolors' who are there to help no matter what issues a firefighter maybe facing.

Legislation: Steve Willard gave his annual update on the past session. Steve explained the history of legislation originating out of the Groton/Brown County area, which was proposing to allow fire districts to "bill" for services rendered on a fire call. The bill was pulled by the fire service and it was determined that we need to gather some basic information on fire departments who send a bill for services, how much, etc. In the near future the Joint Council of Fire Service Organizations or SD Firefighters Assn. will be sending a survey to many. The question was asked if the judge's decision was towards a fire district or fire department. The decision was directed to a fire district that does not have the expressed authority to collect for services. It did not address the fire departments ability to bill.

Nationally the NVFC is working on legislation that would allow volunteer responders to receive credit of up to 300 hours or approximately \$6000 for firefighters. The department would have to account for the volunteer hours and it will most likely be the responsibility of the department.

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Future Fire Schools: June 2-4, 2016. Mike Koopman, Baltic Fire Chief said that the school is planned for the Ramkota Inn.

Vice President Elections: At this time Ron Hines, Cavor/Huron FD has been nominated. Rhonda Schilds from Belle Fourche VFD, nominated Don Ward, Belle Fourche VFD. Candidates were given time to make comments. Voting times will be from 11 AM – 2 PM on Saturday, with results announced at the 2nd Membership meeting on Saturday evening.

Koopman moved to close nominations, seconded by Brian Baker. Motion carried.

Discount Drug Network Card: Kludt said the Board has been working with a company to provide discounted drugs. It is available to all firefighters. In return the SDFA will receive \$1.25 per prescription as a donation. There is no cost to have the card to the members or association. All departments are encouraged to take these cards with them.

Action Training: Currently the Fire Marshal's office has a grant to allow fire departments/firefighters to check out many training videos, or for \$20/per year would have internet access to view the videos. The program will administer through the SD Redbook Fund. It is planned to start the program in August 2015 and the \$20 annual fee is good for one year.

New Certified Firefighter Scholarship: those firefighters who have completed their firefighter 1 & 2 and been signed off by the Fire Marshal's office this year were eligible to receive a \$50 cash card for the SDFA. Those firefighters who received a scholarship this year were recognized.

Mitchell Fire School years 2017, 2018 & 2019 Kludt asked anyone who would like to assist in planning/coordinating or helping in any way to contact any Board member. The Board is looking for various departments or individuals to take a committee, activity, or any part of hosting fire school. Those assisting will be given recognition and incentives for their efforts.

There being no further business at this time, the Membership meeting was recessed until 5:30 PM Saturday for the second session.

Reconvene meeting 5:35 PM

Election results for vice presidents position between Ron Hines and Don Ward. Don Ward will be the next vice president.

Motion by Glenn Sealey 2nd by Derwin Kampa to destroy ballots. MC

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Recognition of past SDFFA members – Glenn Sealey, Duane Hofer

Welcome New Black Hills director – Damon Hartmann

\$1000 Scholarship winners – Darbi Nelson from Winner and Taylor White from Flandreau.

\$500 Schmidt Scholarship winners – Carly Sternhagen from Tabor and Tanner Kraft from Timber Lake.

Evolution results; Three firefighter evolution; Fort Pierre and Beresford, five firefighter evolutions; Avon and Madison. Over all champion for the 3-firefighter evolution was Fort Pierre, over all champion for the 5-firefighter evolution was Madison.

Motion by Derwin Kampa 2nd by Mike Ahartz to accept the financial audit. MC

Saturday September 12th there will be a firefighter benefit in Pierre.

A huge thank you goes out to the Pierre Fire Department and Auxiliary for a job well done. It was a great 2015 State Fire School.

Passing of the ball to the 2016 host Minnehaha County. See you all in Sioux Falls June 2-4, 2016.

Recorded by

Deedra Gesinger, Secretary

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