

Quarterly Meeting
Utah State Firefighters' Association
Utah State Fire Museum, Tooele, Utah
January 16, 2015

The regular meeting of the Utah State Firefighters' Association was held at the Utah State Fire Museum, Tooele, Utah on Saturday, January 16, 2016.

Meeting was called to order by President Travis Graff at 4:00 p.m.

Invocation: Offered by – Chaplain Jody McDonald

Pledge of Allegiance: Offered by – Eddie Hales

President Travis Graff: Welcome to everyone.

Roll Call:

Officers Present:

President - Travis Graff	Chaplain – Jody McDonald
1st Vice President – Lance Nay	Sergeant-At-Arms – Clint Gaffa (excused)
2nd Vice President – Mike Ahlstrom (excused)	Historian/Photographer – Leon Hadley
Secretary - Gina Bell	L & L Committee Chairman - Ryan Mellor
Treasurer – Rowe L. Harrison	Rep State Fire Prevention Board – Mike Phillips (not present)
Membership Steward – Perry Skaug	Rep UT Fire and Rescue Academy – Hugh Connor (not present)
Trustee - Eldon Farnsworth	Rep UT Standards and Training – Jason Winn (not present)
Trustee - Brady George	Rep UT Fire Museum - David Hammond
Trustee - David Gillette	Reps National Volunteer Fire Council - R. Wendell Robison & Brent K. Marshall
Trustee - Coty Chadburn (excused)	2015 Convention Chairman - Stan Robins (excused)
Trustee – Eddie Hales	State Fire Marshal – Coy Porter

Past Officers Present:

R. Wendell Robison - Fillmore City	Leonard Miller - Price City	Harold Chadwick - Grantsville City
Brent K. Marshall - Grantsville City	Robert Harrison - Spanish Fork City	Stan Robins - Fire Marshal's Office
Ryan Mellor – Salt Lake City	Brent Halliday-Fire Marshall's Office	Joe Bona - Payson City

Past Trustees:

Brent Marshall - Grantsville City	R. Wendell Robison - Fillmore City	Joe Bona - Payson City
Robert Harrison - Spanish Fork City	Ryan Mellor – Salt Lake City	Harold Chadwick - Grantsville City
Travis Graff - St. George City	Lance Nay - Richfield City	Mike Ahlstrom - Tropic City

Past Secretaries:

David Howell - Cedar City

Past Treasurers:

Steve Demas - Sandy City Marv Kimball - Salt Lake City

Past Law & Legislative Committee Chairman:

Past Historian/Photographer:

Errol Dearden - (absent) Earnie Anderson (absent)

Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

Motion to accept: Joe Bona/Payson
2nd: Brady George/SLC
Motion passes.

Report of the Treasurer:

Rowe Harrison handed out his report to Past Trustees in attendance. Because Rowe was excused from the last meeting, he provided a detail of checks paid out during the previous quarter. He indicated that the Secretary position was in limbo but has been resolved. He went over the checks paid out in the 3rd quarter and deposits received for the 4th quarter. He also indicated that there are still unclaimed grants. Rowe went over the investment balances in the Benefit Fund. He minded everyone when the Association was in higher risk investments and the bottom was falling out of the stock market. At one point as little as \$0.11 was made in one quarter. At that time, Greg Rudd from Wells Fargo he asked if we would want to roll our investments into a more secure element. We may not be making as much off our investments but when the market drops badly like it has the last couple of days, we are still making a good profit from our investments where we weren't prior. We are currently in a safe category.

We applied for a grant with the Firefighter License Plate Support Fund and were granted \$16,000.00. Of that, there is a contribution to the Fire Caucus. Rowe has received invoices from about 4 awardees but he needs to speak to the State Fire Marshal since we haven't received our monies yet. Those who have been awarded the grants are getting their paperwork together to receive their check from the Association. The Association acts as the broker between the grant funding and the recipient because we have a Board of Trustees with Officers which meets the State criteria. There is awarded money unclaimed. Coy indicated that if that money wasn't claimed in time, it would be rolled over. Rowe has now received the paperwork for one of those awards and if is too late, we will need to meet with the committee to see if it can be squared away.

The officers of this Association have donated money through our "where's your pin" or "where's our tie" flower fund program. There was a starting balance of \$474.46 and one deposit in October for \$20.00 bringing the balance to \$494.46. In December one check was written in the amount of \$96.78 for Lynn Iverson's service.

A total of 12 death benefits and 6 markers paid out in the 4th Quarter. Rowe has Association items for sale including: Hats \$10.00, Lapel Pins \$1.00 and Decals for \$1.00. The buckles are gone.

<u>Quarter</u>	<u>GENERAL FUND</u>	<u>BENEFIT FUND</u>
Balance - 1 st Quarter - 2014		\$225,421.94
Balance - 2 nd Quarter - 2014		\$227,097.66
Balance - 3 rd Quarter - 2014		\$228,836.18
Balance - 4 th Quarter - 2014		\$230,547.48
Balance - 1 st Quarter - 2015		
Balance - 2 nd Quarter - 2015		
Balance - 3 rd Quarter - 2015		235,701.33
Balance - 4 th Quarter - 2015		237,463.97

Motion to accept Report: Harold Chadwick/Grantsville
2nd: Brent Marshall/Grantsville

Motion passes.

Report of the Secretary:

Gina Bell indicated that she has been going through all the files on the laptop as well as all the boxes she acquired. She is in the process of going through all the certificates that are in her possession and will be sending them out to the fire departments associated with the names on the certificates, requesting that they distribute them to the individuals. Death benefit letters were forwarded to Rowe for Jerry Lemon/ Bountiful and Jack West/Bingham for payment to the families. A letter has been forwarded to Rowe for marker insignia for Rex Walters/Tooele Army Depot. She has added Jerry Lemon and Jack west to the Memorial list for convention. A 30-year certificate has been reprinted for Brett Wilkins/Vernal Fire who indicated that he received his pin but not the certificate. It will be sent out as soon as Stan Robins can sign it as the President for that year. During the Officers meeting, it was agreed upon to start posting minutes on the website. Gina will be sending out a letter to every past president offering them an option to continue to receive a hard copy of the minutes. This change has been made in an effort to save mailing costs. Gina asked if anyone had any questions. One member asked if it is appropriate for the Secretary to handle the death benefits when the Steward has all the information. Gina indicated that it was agreed by the board that the death benefits will stay with the Secretary but Gina contacts Perry to verify that the member is current before she forwards a request for payment to Rowe.

Motion to accept report: Dave Hammond/Grantsville
2nd: Ryan Mellor/SLC

Motion passes.

Report of the Membership Steward:

Perry Skaug reported that he and his wife went down to Winter Fire School as we had a booth there. He felt that being there was very beneficial. Some of the departments that weren't up to date were worked out and he was able to fix a few other problems. There were some from departments that weren't members who came to the booth and spoke to Perry. If you haven't received your membership card, they are printed and Perry has them with him at the meeting or they have been sent to your department. He also has invoices if you need it. He also handed out a lot of invoices and cards from the booth at Winter Fire School. He sent out around 70 Lifetime membership cards with the change that took place at the last convention. Right now we are looking at about 490 lifetime memberships total. Since last quarter he has received payment from about 5 members and he has more talking about it. We have 41 departments who are paid up with 1,591 members paid up. There are 16 departments who are 1 year behind and Perry is working with them. Perry asked if anyone had questions or comments on things they would like to see changed. It was asked when members can become eligible to be a lifetime member. Perry indicated at 20 years. Perry asked Brady George to clarify to bylaw. Brady indicated that they are eligible at 20 years and the cost decreases the longer they've been members. Once they hit 50 years on their membership, they are automatically converted to a lifetime member if they aren't already one. The cost starts with \$275.00 at 20 years, \$225.00 at 25 years, and it goes down from there. The costs are now listed in the bylaws. President Graff indicated that the board agrees this position is the lifeline of the association and Perry is doing a great job.

Motion to accept report: Leon Hadley/Grantsville
2nd: Leonard Miller/Price

Motion passes.

Report of the Law & Legislative Committee:

Ryan Mellor started his report by thanking Coy Porter who helps to provide a lot of information to Ryan for his report. Ryan asked that everyone put the date of February 8th on their calendars for the Fire Caucus Luncheon. He indicated that they like to have everyone show up by 11:00 a.m. so that they can be briefed about the issues to be discussed. If you have questions regarding the Fire Caucus or the Joint Council information can be found at two websites: www.firecouncil.com (Joint Council) or www.utahfirecaucus.com (Fire Caucus). Coy will be talking about the legislation that his office has their eye on. Ryan spoke about retirement. The fire service was looking at pushing to get Tier II removed and everyone who came in on it move to Tier I and after several years of working on it we are in a pretty good position to try to make it happen. At this time, they have decided not run the bill this year because there are concerns on a nationwide level because while the timing might be good for Utah right now, it might be bad for some of our neighbors who are having this fight right now. We have some time before any of our Tier II people are looking at retirement. The mood on the hill is that those cities that were sold on dividing it up between Tier I and Tier II feel like it isn't saving them the money they were told it would save them and in fact it's a lot more expensive. We are in a good position to get those retirement benefits back to our firefighters but it's going to take some time and we want to make sure it's going to help everybody and not make it worse in the long run. The Fire Service is also involved in:

Other Utah Retirement System Amendments - (Rep. Rich Cunningham & Sen. Todd Weiler):

- 60-day separation prior to re-employment with a different URS covered employer for Law Enforcement, Fire and Educators.
- 60-day separation prior to re-employment for Educators only would have to go to a school district in a county with population less than 10,000, may include Title 1 schools as well. (This won't impact us).
- Increase the maximum of \$15,000 per year to \$20,000 (for that retiree who did not stay out the full year from time of retirement; typically has been school teachers)

State construction and Fire Code Adoption - (Rep. Brad Wilson and Rep. Mike Schultz)

- This bill would adopt all construction codes as outlined in the 2015 International Code Council's set of codes (i.e.: Building Code, Mechanical Code, Plumbing Code, Fire Code, Electrical Code, Residential Code, etc.)

Building Code Review and Adoption Amendments - Rep. Brad Wilson

- This bill would address having a different timeframe for adoption of the International Residential Code (IRC) - would skip the next adoption cycle for the IRC in 2018 and not address it again until 2021. (Note: This bill was introduced in the 2015 session as H.B. 25 but did not get all the way through on the last night of session.)

Ryan mentioned that he went to visit Rowene Westergaard. She's home from Idaho and doing well. She sends her love to all.

Motion to accept report: Joe Bona/Payson
2nd: Harold Chadwick/Grantsville

Motion passes.

Report from State Fire Prevention Board:

Mike Phillips was not present to report.

Report from Standards and Training Council:

Ted Black reported on the Standards and Training Council. Three year audit was done. They audit 5 areas and UFRA is compliant. The certification of the Public Educator was removed previously. They found out the ISO gives points to departments that have members who are certified in the Public Educator, so this certification is being reinstated at UFRA. The Standards and Training Council meets regularly and is fully staffed and functioning well.

Motion to accept report: Eddie Hales/Payson
2nd: Dave Hammond/Grantsville

Motion passes.

Report From National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC):

Wendell indicated that they haven't had a meeting with the Volunteer Fire Council since our last quarterly meeting but he and Brent Marshall participated on a conference call with the headquarters back in Washington D.C. They asked each everyone what their role was and since he and Brent chair committees, they were asked to write an introduction to an NFPA code to explain the HOT topics and explain how it works and what to look for in the code. Wendell indicated that he wasn't sure what they wanted them to do beyond what was already provided. They indicated that they wanted to make it a lower entry level program and that Volunteer Firefighters needed some introduction on reading it so they know what it's about. Wendell and Brent felt that the request is being made to provide a lower level of comprehension for volunteer firefighters, indicating that volunteers may not be smart enough to read the codes on their own. Wendell doesn't feel like Volunteer Firefighters need to be treated differently from anybody else. One thing Wendell is concerned about that it may not affect all departments. Wendell is on NFPA 1851 Care and Maintenance of Turnout Gear. They only HOT Topic that he knew about is when the announced that there was going to be a 10-year life on the turnouts. He would appreciate any comments for Wendell or Brent to take back to them regarding this. Their next meeting will be in May in Washington DC.

Motion to accept report: Dave Hammond/Grantsville
2nd: Brady George/SLC

Motion passes.

Report of the Fire Marshals Office:

Clay Porter indicated that there are two bills on the sheet that Ryan passed around that he wants to address. They are:

- **HB 12 Disaster Recovery for Local Governments and HB 14 Emergency Services Account Load Amendments - Rep. Oda** Municipalities that have a disaster and have that disaster declared - there are going to be State funds available that will be short term-low interest loans so that you can deal with your disasters. It took two separate bills. One is to enable cities to be declared to become an agent to the State.
- **HB 68 - Post Exposure Blood Testing Amendment - Rep. Redd.** If you have someone being detained and it looks like they are going to jail (either first responder or law enforcement) you can ask the judge to have a blood drawn so they can be tested for HIV, etc. and it states that it can be done with reasonable force.
- **HB 100 - Emergency Medical Services Personnel Licensure Interstate CompAct - Rep. Schultz.** This is a national push but a number of the western states are also pushing for this. It basically means that other states will recognize your certification for EMS when you cross state boundaries to assist. Example: Wildland Firefighter and they need EMS help. (details are on the 2nd page of the handout). Every state that wants to join the CompAct will be part of it.
- **HB 121 Building Code Amendments & HB 125 Fire Code Amendments - Rep. Fred Cox.** We are actually running these HBs through Rep. Wilson and Rep. Schultz. Fred Cox is an architect by trade and he has been coming to some of our meetings and filed these bills as a backup. We didn't ask for it, he just did it.
- **SB 57 Public Safety Emergency Management Amendments - Sen. Mayne.** Enables the Division of Emergency Management to do a study to determine whether or not it's a good idea to have postal workers do a windshield survey after a national disaster to determine if there are buildings that have been damaged in their route or individuals that are hurt and waiting for medical assistance to come.

- **There are 4 bills that have to do with drones or unmanned aircraft.** Some of the language is to ensure that the drones do not interfere with fire operations. Chief MacElreath from West Jordan has been doing some research on this and he Googled unmanned drones and he hit Utah and watched a 10 minute video of a fire that his guys were on the week before. They are trying to limit airspace and enables law enforcement to neutralize the drones.
- **Wildfire Mitigation Amendments - Rep. Joel Brisco and Sen. Evan Vickers.** They have been working on this for the last 3 years. This is the last piece to the wildfire items. In the past, certain Counties could participate in insurance funds to help pay for their wildland costs. It allows some Cities to step into this. There are requirements that the Cities use some of their existing force for things like prescribed burns or educational in the schools - things to help neutralize the wildland situation in their Community. They would get in-kind match. What they are trying to do is get all wildfires would be covered by State funds. Waiting to see language.
- **Line-of-Duty Death Benefit for Emergency Responders - Rep. Paul Rey.** He ran this bill a year ago when two officers were killed within 6 months of each other (Sgt. Wright and Officer Johnson). Their widows were on the hill then and at that time, the widows received a \$1,500.00 lump sum payment and at the end of the month when the bills were due, because their spouse was no longer working, they didn't have their medical insurance premiums paid so they lost their medical insurance. What the bill did was if you are police or fire killed in the line of duty it gives the widow a \$6,000 lump sum and the community is responsible to pay premiums for the surviving spouse for medical insurance and for the dependent children. They created a task force and set up a fund so that the Cities could opt in and there will be a cost for that. They task force has met a couples times and they have asked that an actuarial to come up with a cost. We don't know what it will cost but it could be \$1.00 or \$2.00 per firefighter and law enforcement officer per month. It takes the spouse to Medicare age and the dependent children to 26 years of age. The Cities would until June of 2017 to opt in. Representative Rey has come back with another amendment to this bill. Not sure if he's trying to step back and pick up back to 2014 to pick up other fallen families Since Sgt. Wright and Officer Johnson's wives only received the \$1,500.00.
- **Utah Communication Authority Act Modifications & Utah Communications Authority Act Amendments - Sen. Wayne Harper.** This is their replacement from UCAN. Trying to expand 800 mhz coverage along the I-70 Corridor and to get funding to update the aging infrastructure of the old UCAN system.

A reminder that if you have changes to your department members, please send Coy an updated roster so that he can provide accurate information to PEHP. He needs names and hire dates. PEHP is a carrier and they get funding out of the restricted account for long term disability. Every firefighter in the State is covered and there is no cost to the department or the firefighter. The requirement is that an active roster be kept on file with the Fire Marshal's Office. Rosters can be sent to coyporter@utah.gov. Troy Mills has the State Fire Marshal's arson dog and he lives down in the Richfield area so if you need help with your investigation, please feel free to contact their office.

Note: The State Fire Marshal's office is pushing hard to get ALL the International Fire Codes adopted. This would move us from the 2012 codes to the 2015 codes.

Motion to accept report: Ted Black/State Fire Marshal's Office
2nd: Brady Ryan Mellor/SLC

Motion passes.

Report of the Trustees:

Eldon Farnsworth indicated last meeting the Trustees talked about the name change. The name change is official through the State and Federal Government now. The new banners made and a misspelling and those have been fixed and they look great. We talked about the appointments to the License Plate and the Grant Committee as well as the L&L committee. We talked about the duties between the Steward and the Secretary and they are working those out. We are looking at bylaws change for this next convention discussing the wording for the pay for the Secretary, Treasurer and Steward. We are also working on getting things to be more electronic including our minutes from our quarterly meetings by putting them on the website. We will be sending out an informational letter with an option to still receive a copy by mail. We had a past President pass away, Lynn Iversen. The fire school next year will be on the 3rd weekend so we will be having our January meeting the 2nd weekend. We had length discussion on the headstone markers, so watch for something to come out on that. We are looking at putting a video together for roll call at Convention so that when we call out department names, they will see their department patch and/or a picture of crew members/station so watch for information to come out in the Convention packet.

Motion to accept report: Leon Hadley/Grantsville
2nd: Coy Porter/State Fire Marshal's Office

Motion passes.

Report of the Convention Chairman:

Stan Robins is excused from the meeting. Kent Beck from Lehi Fire gave a report on Convention. Cost per person for convention registration will be \$95.00 per person. For preconvention in April the meetings will be at Traverse Mountain. At convention in June most of the meetings will be in the barn at Thanksgiving Point, with the Ladies meetings being held in the Garden Area at Thanksgiving Point. Keynote speakers are lined up. The golf tournament will be at Talons Cove in Saratoga Springs. There will also be a Motorcycle Ride (cars can be included) and are considering a ride over the Alpine Loop. Thursday the parade will go down Main Street in Lehi and end at the Park where there will be there will be a Firefighter Muster and a BBQ. There will be 4 or 5 different events for the Muster so get your Department's Teams together. The Memorial is tentatively scheduled to be at the Officers Chapel at Camp Williams. If a Military Funeral ends up being scheduled for the same day, the backup location will be the American Fork Tabernacle. The website for all the convention info is: www.lehifireassociation.weebly.com/ and there is a link through the State Association's website.

President Graff indicated it's exciting to hold convention in a new community that we haven't had the opportunity to go to and encourages everyone to go back to their departments and encourage their members to come.

Motion to accept report: Harold Chadwick/Grantsville
2nd: Eldon Farnsworth/South Salt Lake

Motion passes.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

President Graff indicated that at convention there will be three positions open for election. They are Photographer/Historian, Treasurer, and 5-year Trustee. Please put the word out for interest purposes. We would really like to see some names of individuals for nomination at our next meeting. There was a question regarding the year that the Treasurer should be up for re-election. Trustee Brady George explained that the bylaws were adjusted when the Stewardship position was created. This change has the Secretary, Treasurer and Stewardship on a 3-year rotation. The Stewardship position was created in 2014, the Secretary position was up in 2015 so the Treasurer will be up this year (2016). Once again, please start looking and/or considering members that you think might be interested.

Rowe asked that leftover copies of his report be returned to him. Also, thank you for Tooele for hosting and arranging/preparing the dinner.

Chief Bucky Whitehouse /Tooele Fire thanked everyone for allowing them to host the meeting and dinner and indicated that their new ladder truck was out front if anyone was interested in seeing it. Indicated dinner is ready in the next room. Also, wanted to acknowledge that Councilman Dave McCall who stopped by to visit and have dinner with everyone.

Next meeting will be held, April 9th in Lehi at Traverse Mountain Outlets meeting room. Hotel rooms are available through the Home 2 Suites by Hilton, located at 3051 W. Club House Drive, Lehi for \$99.00 per night plus tax. Contact them at 801-753-5430 and reference group code: USF.

The Quarterly Meeting was adjourned at 5:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Gina M. Bell, Secretary