Next FFAM Board Meeting
August 9, 2020 • 9:00 A.M. • Sedalia, Missouri

USPS 183-320
I will hold my thoughts to a minimum in this edition. My main thoughts these past few months have been to reflect on the amazing ability of the fire service to adapt and overcome.

The fire service has once again proven they can step up and respond to any, and all emergencies and crises that arise. COVID-19 has NOT discouraged the firefighters which serve this great state.

I will only say, great job brothers and sisters. Your teamwork has made this virus epidemic look easy to conquer. So many of you have come together and have done anything and everything asked of you. I can’t even begin to list every job performed, but as president of your association, thank you for putting everyone’s safety and well being before your own. True hero’s.

The FFAM State Fair Fire Department Committee has been working many hours preparing for the 2020 state fair. The fair will look different this year with no concerts but the fire department will adjust and still provide outstanding service to the fairgoers. Everything is shaping up for another great time at the 2020 Missouri State Fair.

A full staff of FFAM members from throughout the state have been selected to work and I am looking forward to another great time seeing old friends and making new ones. Terry Plumb from the Southern Stone County Fire Protection District will serve as the fire chief again this year. Please come visit your organization at the state fair if you have the opportunity.

Many hours are given by many FFAM members. Thanks to each one of you that volunteer your time so the fairgrounds will be safe and protected.

I am very thankful for all the FFAM officers, directors, assistant directors, committees, and many others serving the needs of the fire service of Missouri.

Enjoy your summer and as always, I am available in the event you have any questions or comments. You may contact me at 573-473-4001 or chiefhoover@sbcglobal.net.

Kenneth Hoover
President
Fire Fighters Association of Missouri

CONTENTS

Meeting Minutes ......................... 4
News From District 2 .................. 8
From the 2nd VP ....................... 10
Mayview FPD Awards................. 12
Auxiliary Minutes.................... 14
From the 1st VP ....................... 16
History’s Corner ....................... 18
Mapaville FPD Training .......... 25
From Around The State .......... 27
Obituaries .......................... 28

Cover Photo: A Roseburg Oregon Fire Fighter Ennis raises the American Flag for Independence Day July 04, 2011, in Roseburg, OR.

Kenneth Hoover - President, Mexico, MO
Jaime Miller- Secretary/Treasurer, Warrensburg, MO
FFAM NEWSLETTER STAFF
Jaime Miller - Editor, Warrensburg, MO
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Address correction to: FFAM PO Box 1153, Warrensburg, MO 64093
Greetings from the thirteenth floor. I'm happy to report we all are doing well. No COVID-19 issues, so far. I pray daily for the protection of all first responders, fire departments, EMS, police departments, and health care providers as you serve across our state. Thank you for all you do 24-7, 365! Being the best boots on the ground and leaving things better than you found them!

We have been able to re-establish our normal work position here on the thirteenth floor. With that being said we have some work to do to accommodate the over 7,000 requests for state-certified testing. If you want to attend and take a state-certified test, please visit our website and click on “Firefighter Training” (dfs.dps.mo.gov/programs/training/) and then “Testing Update.” Here you will find times and locations of test sites and new procedures.

We have scheduled testing dates and sites listed on our website. Click on “Programs and Services” under “Firefighter Training and Certification” you will find the “Course Calendar” (dfs.dps.mo.gov/programs/training/course-calendar.php). We will update the calendar moving forward. Due to a large number of tester’s, and limited staff, please be patient with us as we process your test results. I promise we will get those to you as quickly as possible. If you have any questions please try and use email to communicate with the training division when possible. Please reach out to us at the following emails:

• becky.trapani@dfs.dps.mo.gov
• greg.landwehr@dfs.dps.mo.gov
• debbie.plank@dfs.dps.mo.gov
• tim.bean@dfs.dps.mo.gov

Contact us for your training needs!

We at the Division are waiting for the Governor to sign the State’s budget for the 2021 fiscal year which begins July 1. Our budget will likely be impacted in some way due to the overall financial impact of COVID-19. With that being said, at the time of this article, we do not know what our firefighter training dollars will be. When we get visibility on those amounts, we will push that information out to you through the different media outlets and our website. We will continue to be committed to you, our Missouri fire service in fire training and firefighter certification and provide the best possible services and be transparent as possible moving forward.

Congratulations to Ron Thompson on his new position within the Division as the Regional Chief with the Fire Inspection unit. He will also be assisting the training division with different specialized programs.

Since becoming your state fire marshal I have attended many retirements, fire chief promotions, firefighter funerals, and will continue to do so. I want to recognize our Missouri fire service members anytime I can. I feel I miss opportunities across our state and want to capture as many as possible. We have created a “Missouri Fire Service Recognition Program” application form linked from our home page at dfs.dps.mo.gov. If you have someone who you would like to have recognized, please fill out this form. I will attend if possible, if not I will send the certificate in the mail.

In closing, I’m excited that we are having the Missouri State Fair. I look forward to joining many of you there. Thanks again for everything you do to serve and protect our great state. Judy and I wish a Happy Independence Day to our great nation and each of you.

Be safe and keep the faith!

J. Tim Bean
State Fire Marshal
Division of Fire Safety
President Ken Hoover called the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Fire Fighters Association of Missouri to order at 9:00 a.m., Sunday, June 7, 2020, at the Missouri State Fair Fire Department in Sedalia, MO. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OTHER OFFICIALS

OFFICERS
President Ken Hoover, Little Dixie FPD; First Vice President Larry Jennings, Johnson County FPD; Secretary Treasurer Jaime Miller, Johnson County FPD #2.

DIRECTORS
District 2, Greg Wright, Shelbina FD; District 3, Larry Jones, Madison/West Monroe FPD; District 5, Terry Plumb, Southern Stone FPD; District 6, Gary Berendzen, Cole County FPD; District 11, Monty Thompson, Kearney FPD.

ASSISTANT DIRECTORS
District 1, Janet Cain, Braymer Fire Rescue; District 3, Rob Erdel, Little Dixie FPD; District 6, Alan Braun, Cole County FPD; District 6, John Scheper, Gravois FPD; District 10, Harriett Vaucher, Eureka FPD; District 11, Josh Koepke, Kansas City FD; District 14, Glen Dittmar, Dearborn Area FPD; District 14, Emily Sweet, Gower FPD.

OTHERS
None.

GUESTS
Tim Bean, Eric Hartman, Missouri Division of Fire Safety; Kevin Zumwalt, the University of Missouri Fire and Rescue Training Institute; Jeff Kempker, Missouri Lagers; Larry Eggen, Joe Jennings, Johnson County FPD; Matt Frankenberg, Washington FD.

AGENDA
President Hoover asked for additions to the agenda. Gary Berendzen moved to accept the agenda as presented. Monty Thompson seconded the motion and all approved.

MINUTES
President Hoover asked for corrections to the February 2, 2020, meeting minutes. Greg Wright moved to accept the minutes as presented. Larry Jones seconded the motion and all approved.

FINANCIAL REPORT
President Hoover asked for a review of the January – April 2020 financial report. Terry Plumb moved to accept the financial report presented. Monty Thompson seconded the motion and all approved.

REPORT OF OFFICERS AND SPECIAL GUEST(S)
Kevin Zumwalt with the University of Missouri Fire and Rescue Training Institute reported that the University of Missouri is projecting a $100 million loss in funding this year. MU Extension has to cover $700k and are looking at $5 million being redirected. The new fiscal year starts July 1. FY 2021 will also see a reduction. They are continuing to look for ways to cut expenses.

The replacement for his position has been put on hold so there won’t be a transition period between his retirement and a new person starting the position. John Wordon will serve as the interim chair. Every Extension employee’s salary is taking a 10% reduction and hourly employees are furloughed a week with no pay.

There has been a suspension of in-person classes due to the pandemic. They are now in a push to get airport training done to meet FAA requirements, so they have been doing some of those classes.

Summer Fire School has been canceled this year.

Part of MU FRTI staff has returned to the office and the rest of the team will return by the end of June.

MU FRTI will no longer be printing and mailing certificates. They will be sent by email.

They are continuing to look for opportunities for more online training.

Fire Marshal Tim Bean with the Missouri Division of Fire Safety introduced the new mutual aid coordinator, Eric Hartman. Hartman advised he has been working on PPE distribution and pandemic supplies. Supplies have been sporadic so if your department is not getting any PPE, contact him. Make sure your department is registering as this is how supplies are distributed.

Phase II of the process will be a build-up of supplies in a warehouse and then an ordering system will be put into place for departments to request supplies.

There were some strike teams in Region F as part of the protests and to help with any mutual aid requests. Bean advised they have been reaching out to departments that may be impacted by protests.

The training division is getting back up and running after the shut-down. They have approximately 3,500 back logged now that need written testing. They are working through those with social distancing restrictions as they are not doing any testing at DFS currently. They are also reviewing the possibility of having third party proctors for testing.

In reference to the firefighter recognition program through DFS, it is now an online request process to receive a
109 volunteer fire associations were contacted via email on May 18 to see if they were having budget issues due to the pandemic. They only received back 9%. The DFS is unable to help if they do not know about your situation. Keep your email address current with DFS and if you are a volunteer fire association, please get back with them.

They are trying to get legislation updated through the Cares Act to include volunteers since it is tied to employment. They are wanting to get funding for volunteer departments who cannot have their fundraisers due to the pandemic. This is often the only source of income for many departments.

If you receive an email from DFS, please read it. This is how they get their data.

There is a department in need of an engine so if your department has one, please contact DFS.

DFS has been tasked with removing $81 million from their budget. If this goes forward, they might loose two investigators which will reduce their response platforms when requested.

Jeff Kempker with Missouri LAGERS was present and advised the board and guests that LAGERS retirement system remains financially solvent through this economic time and are 95% solvent. They currently have $8 billion that they manage for their members. They currently have 800 employers and represent 5,000 current and retired firefighters. One legislative priority did get passed which allows more flexibility for employee contributions to their retirements. EMS, dispatch and jailers are now part of public safety definition and can retire at 55.

President Hoover advised that due to gathering restrictions in Clay County, the 2020 convention has been canceled. Kearney Firefighters Association has been instructed to provide a report in August of their financial losses due to the cancellation.

Matt Frankenberg with Washington Fire Department did state that Washington is willing to push their convention to 2022 and let Kearney host in 2021 if they would like. Monty Thompson advised he would take that back to Kearney and will advise their decision at the August meeting.

President Hoover received a request to appoint Billy Smith as Assistant Director of District 11. Terry Plumb moved to accept the appointment. Larry Jones seconded the motion and all approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

AWARDS COMMITTEE
Joe Jennings advised that 18 total nominations were received with 13 awards given. With the cancellation of convention, a virtual presentation will be done on Facebook on July 11 and the District Directors will be asked to hand deliver the awards to the recipients. 32 department grant applications were received. Decision letters will go out this week.

BUDGET COMMITTEE
Larry Jennings advised two investment CD’s matured, so the funds were reinvested in 6 month CD’s at 0.2% interest, which was the best rate at this time. Budgets will be due in October.

BYLAWS COMMITTEE
No report was given.

CHAPLAIN COMMITTEE
On behalf of David Hedrick, Jaime Miller reported at this time the Missouri Fire Chaplains Corp is still planning on conducting their annual meeting and training session September 14-15, 2020, in Grandview, MO. There will be three classes offered: CISM Assisting Individuals in Crisis; Essentials of Fire Chaplaincy; and Chaplains Tool Box. The Essentials class is a core training class for new Chaplains and taught through the Federation of Fire Chaplains. Additional
information on the conference will be available in the near future.

The pandemic has delayed training development of the SEMA Disaster Chaplain program. Training sessions are expected to be set up and conducted during the fall.

The Chaplains organizations continue to pray for the safety and well-being of our emergency responders as they deal with the added stresses brought about by the pandemic and civil unrest that is occurring throughout our country. You are in our thoughts and prayers. Take care and be safe.

CONTEST COMMITTEE
No report was given.

CONVENTION COMMITTEE
No report was given.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE
No report was given.

FIRE PREVENTION COMMITTEE
Joe Jennings advised that the committee will be doing an electronic poster contest. Those with submissions will be asked to send pictures to the committee. More information will go out this week.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
No report was given.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE
Jaime Miller reported the following membership counts: 473 Directors/Councilman; 354 Retired; 20 Associate; 14 Sustaining; 22 Corporate, 354 Fire Departments; 6257 Active; 10 Educational; 121 Juniors; 7 EMS Department, 97 EMS individuals.

NOMINATION COMMITTEE
No report was given.

NVFC COMMITTEE
Rob Erdel reported that he will be attending the fall meeting in October. On behalf of Keith Smith, NVFC provided a one-time COVID-19 impact work assistance stipend of $300 during March and April. This was funded through internal reserves and outside grants. They also quickly ran out of money. Any volunteer who was laid off work due to COVID-19 impact on employment (staff reductions) could apply but they had to meet one of two requirements. They had to either be an NVFC member or they had to be a listed member with a FFAM department. There were fourteen applications in Missouri before funding ran out, but only eight approved. One was an NVFC member and seven belonged to FFAM. Of the remaining six, four were from department who were not members of FFAM and while two were with FFAM departments their name was not listed (one was a department only and each member had to pay individual dues (they had not) and the second submitted their list, but did not have the applicant name.

The PPE cost impact has hit all of emergency services very hard, but especially the small (largely volunteer) departments. Their inventories were largely gloves ONLY and now they needed masks, gowns and best practice face shields. This was a did not have, did not budget and could not get situation for many. NVFC has tried to assist with all three, but state governments largely dominated.

NVFC Share the Load (free counseling) is up 30% over 2019 due to wider acceptance and the current situation with COVID-19.

While the impact of COVID-19 on career departments has some national understanding, it is not so clear or understood with the volunteers, especially with the EMS side. NVFC is attempting to get more data on this with a goal of future reporting. They are running head long into the same challenges as cancer reporting. We know it is happening, but reporting/collecting of case data is hit/miss.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE
Larry Eggen reported that they will also be recognizing the scholarship winners during the online virtual awards presentation.

STATE FAIR COMMITTEE
Monty Thompson reported the Governor is supposed to announce this week if there will be a fair. 73 applications were received, equipment has been lined up.

WEBSITE COMMITTEE
No report was given.

NEWSLETTER
The deadline for the next newsletter will be June 24.

HISTORIAN REPORT
No report was given.

FIRE FUNERAL TEAM REPORT
Harriett Vaucher reported that the two surplus trailers have been sold. They are still waiting on funds for the LODD trailer.

EMS FUNERAL TEAM REPORT
Greg Wright reported that the team assisted in Lebanon last week. Everything went well.

The 2020 Missouri EMS/Fire Funeral Team annual banquet will be held October 24, in Lake Ozark.

FOUNDATION REPORT
President Hoover reported that the walk-in door is finished, and they are working on drainage issues.

The drawing for the beef raffle will be held on July 11.

Monty Thompson moved to adjourn the meeting. Gary Berendzen seconded the motion and all approved.

President Hoover adjourned the meeting at 11:15 a.m.

Jaime Miller
Secretary
Fire Fighters Association of Missouri
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Cole County Fire Protection District - Jefferson City, MO
Congratulation on the delivery of this Danko 3,000 gallon pumper tanker on a Freightliner M2-106.
Separate is the easy way out. Together is the strong way in. This thought came to me, in a moment of crazy, at my new job in Jefferson City. I am now one of the Directors of Clinical Services at Hospice Compassus. Here is the story of that crazy day.

It was non-stop. A continual one crisis to another. People needing people to help them, sometimes in the smallest of ways.

A nurse called in sick, so we figured out who would cover her visits. Then a family member called because their loved one, on service, needed a bath that wasn’t scheduled. So, we figured out how to make that happen. Then I got a call from a daughter, of one of our patients, that hasn’t been able to see her dad in almost three months. He is in a long-term care facility that does not allow anyone in since “Mr. COVID” showed up. We got that daughter on Zoom so she could see her dad’s face.

There is not a day that goes by that someone in need will not need you. Whether you are a brother, a sister, a dad, a mom, a nurse, a first responder, a police officer, a firefighter, or just a good Samaritan.

Separate is the easy way out. Together is the strong way in.

Blessings, Judy Bean.

Well usually at this time I thank everyone that attended the memorial services in May. As you know that was postponed. Make sure you have marked your calendar for October 10-11. The Missouri State Fire Marshal 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb is also that weekend. It will be held in Jefferson City on Saturday, October 10. Bring a team or donate to the stair climb on their website. Then make the drive north thirty minutes to the candlelight service that evening.

As you know the FFAM annual conference has been canceled for this year. However, the annual meeting will be held Sunday, August 9, 2020, at 9:00 a.m. at the State Fair Fire Department building on the grounds of the state fair in Sedalia. See information about it in this issue.

The Missouri Firefighter’s Educational and Historical Preservation Center is now up. Work remains on the outside and we are now raising money to finish the inside. Thanks to all the folks that purchased tickets for the beef and congratulations to the winners.

Not a lot going on in my area as many departments are just cranking up their meetings again due to COVID-19.

At the FFAM meeting on Sunday, June 7, the fire marshal announced that the Division of Fire Safety has implemented a program to recognize members of the Missouri fire service. It is called a “Salute to Service.” There were several categories. One was for senior fire officers and other members that were hired or promoted to fire chief in the state of Missouri. The second one was for the family of any current member or retiree death. I believe it was regardless of rank. And the third was for members of the fire service here in Missouri that have retired. You can get more information on the Division of Fire Safety website.

It looks like the state fair is a go. We are not sure we know what it will look like. If you are coming to the fair stop by the fire station and say hello.

The National Honor Guard Academy from Seminole, Florida, is coming to Missouri on October 23-24, in Lake Ozark, Missouri. They will be presenting a 2-day intensive program. Want to learn about honor guard procedures? Go to mopublicsafetyweekend.org for more information. At the end of the weekend, a banquet will be held. Juliann Ashcraft from Prescott, Arizona, will be the guest speaker. There will be a portion of the evening where they will honor those that have given the ultimate sacrifice and honor those that have passed away in 2019 and 2020. Till next time be safe.
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July/August 2020 • FFAM 9
The Mapaville Fire Protection District hosted an “Open House” to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the formation of the Fire District from a Fire Association. The open house was held on June 8, 2020. A luncheon was provided after the dedication for the new pavilion was held. The public was encouraged to attend to visit the station, speak with the firefighters, and see the recent improvements that have been accomplished.

Fire prevention educational materials were available for all that attended.

On June 9, 2000, the voters of Mapaville Fire Protection District elected to form the tax-supported fire district to replace the previous arrangement for fire protection with the Mapaville Fire Association. The Fire Association was financially supported by the sale of fire subscription tags and bingos.

The Fire Association is still active as it provides equipment and monetary support for the fire district operations and personnel through fundraising efforts.

Currently, the Mapaville Fire Association has several fundraising projects in progress. This includes the sale of address road signs for $15 each, Mapaville Fire Protection District challenge coins for $10 each, leather portable radio microphone carriers for $10 each, and raffle ticket sales for a firearm will be available again very soon.

The raffle tickets and other items are available by visiting the station at 3687 Plass Rd., contacting a Mapaville firefighter, or calling the fire station at 636-937-6302.

The FFAM really appreciates being invited to this great event.

My first invite was from the Mayview Fire Protection District. They hosted a picnic for their members and handed out awards for years of service. Some of their members received awards for 35 and even 40 years in the fire service and still serving. Thanks, Chief Kris White and your wife Jessica for the invite. I totally enjoyed the night.

The FFAM is in its busy season, to say the least. We will be attending the Revolutionary Fire Tactics at the lake on July 17. The FFAM is a vendor for this training and also the sponsor for the coffee for the attendees. Thanks go to David Woodward and the Lake FOOLS for the invite. Hope to see you there.

August will be here before you know it, which is the biggest promotional month for the FFAM. The Missouri State Fair
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The Mayview Fire Protection District (MFPD) celebrated their volunteer firefighters with an annual appreciation dinner on Sunday, June 14, 2020. The Board of Directors hosted a picnic in the park and provided hamburgers, hot dogs, and brats. The Mayview Fire Ladies Auxiliary provided the sides, desserts, and drinks. An informal awards presentation was given by Chief Kris White.

The awards presented were as follows:

**YEARS OF SERVICE AWARDS**
- 10 years - Tim Wright
- 20 years - Chief Kris White / Assistant Chief Jeff Ryun / 1st Captain Jake Hayward
- 35 years - Warren Hawthorne
- 40 years - Kenny Fiegenbaum
- 2019 Jeff Sanders Memorial Firefighter of the Year - Travis Fricke.

2nd Captain Chris Liles was recognized for his service above and beyond within the department’s training and junior firefighter programs.

A commendation award for service above and beyond within the department’s maintenance program was also awarded to Travis Fricke.

Pastor Brooks Stotts was officially recognized as MFPD’s Chaplain

On behalf of the Mayview Fire Protection District’s Board of Directors, a sincere thanks to all MFPD volunteer firefighters and their families for their service and dedication to their community and beyond.

Chief Kris White presents Tim Wright with his certificate for 10 years of service.

Chief Kris White presents Kenny Fiegenbaum a certificate for 40 years of service as a volunteer firefighter.

Chief Kris White presents 1st Captain Jake Hayward with his certificate for 20 years of service.

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Meeting called to order by First Vice President Jessica Miller at 9:00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT
Jessica Miller, Norborne FPD; Theresa Cox, Wentzville FPD; Sheri Berendzen, Cole Co FPD; Ann Jones, Madison West Monroe FPD; Joyce Thompson, Kearney Fire and Rescue; Joni Fields, Paris Rural Fire Protection District.

MINUTES
Jessica Miller asked if there were any changes, comments, or corrections for the February 2, 2020 meeting minutes. Ann Jones made a motion to accept the meeting notes as written, seconded by Theresa Cox, motion passed.

FINANCIAL REPORT
Sheri Berendzen read the report with a total of $4,510.37 in our account at the closing of the February meeting. There were five deposits for a total of $315.00 and four expenses for a total of $1,112.00, with a new balance of $4,510.37. Joyce Thompson made a motion to accept the financial report, seconded by Joni Fields, motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS
MEMBERSHIP
Theresa Cox reported a new auxiliary joined, Mayview Auxiliary. There is now a total of 98 active auxiliary members and 11 honoraries currently.

Theresa reported that we still have a few auxiliaries that have not paid their dues this year and she is planning on reaching out to those auxiliaries.

AUXILIARY MEMBER OR AUXILIARY OF THE YEAR
Jessica Miller stated that they had someone picked out to receive the award since the convention has been canceled the person(s) will be put on hold until next year.

POSTER CONTEST
Diane Wynne was not available to give a report. She doesn’t know what to do with the posters that were done for this year.

CONVENTION
This year convention was rescheduled for July 10-12, 2020. Now the convention is canceled because of COVID-19. Waiting to hear from the FFAM to see where it will be next year.

CONTEST
Sheri had no info to report on.

HISTORIAN
No info to report on.

OLD BUSINESS
The cooler that was purchased for the convention drawing will be saved for next year’s convention drawing.

Joni Fields said she and Carrisa Mueller have been talking to business owners and have lots of donated items for the convention silent auctions. These items will be held onto for next year’s convention.

Sheri Berendzen has the new name tags and they will be given out to the new officers.

Jessica Miller has the tablecloths, they will be stored until next year’s convention.

NEW BUSINESS
Sheri Berendzen reported that $125 was made from the sale of fundraiser items at winter expo.

Since the convention was canceled the election of officers has been postponed until another board meeting.

Jessica Miller stated that we need to find out what the FFAM was going to do about their elections. It was discussed that the list of new officers being considered needs to be published in the newsletter.

Tim Bean introduced the new Mutual Aid Coordinator, Eric Hartman. Tim also spoke on budget cuts being made and why.

Ann Jones made a motion to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Joyce Thompson. The meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting will be August 2 at 9:00 am in Sedalia, MO.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sheri Berendzen
Cole County FPD
FFAM Auxiliary Secretary-Treasurer

AUXILIARY NOMINATION COMMITTEE
Past Presidents Kim Voss, Beaufort-Leslie Fire, and Chris Turner, Warrenton FPD report the slate of officers recommended for 2020-2022 as follows, 2-year term, and can extend duties another 2 years for the same position:

Nomination for President: Jessica Miller, Norborne FPD
Nomination for 1st Vice President: Diane Hanes, Galt FPD
Nomination for 2nd Vice President: Sheri Berendzen, Cole County FPD
Nomination for Secretary-Treasurer: Theresa Cox, Wentzville FPD
Nomination for Sergeant at Arms: Joni Fields, Paris FPD
Nomination for Historian: Carissa Thompson, Holt-Summit FPD

Jessica Miller, Norborne FPD
Diane Hanes, Galt FPD
Sheri Berendzen, Cole County FPD
Theresa Cox, Wentzville FPD
Joni Fields, Paris FPD
Carissa Thompson, Holt-Summit FPD

This will be presented at the August meeting due to the postponement of the FFAM Convention this year. You are encouraged to make it to the meeting to ensure your vote!
In 2019, the FFAM offered a reimbursable equipment grant program as a benefit for FFAM member agencies for the first time. Forty FFAM member agencies submitted applications for the total $3,000 available for the entire program and three agencies were awarded $1,000 grants in the inaugural year. With the exceptional number of applications in 2019, the FFAM Awards Committee, who is tasked with overseeing the grant application process and awarding the grant, requested additional funding for 2020.

The 2020 budget allocated $5,000 to be available for the equipment grant program. 32 agencies submitted applications for the 2020 grant with these agencies having budgets ranging from nearly no guaranteed annual funding to nearly $15 million. As the Awards Committee reviewed the applications, it was determined four $1,000 grants and two $500 grants would be awarded to at least partially fund the awarded projects.

The FFAM Awards Committee is proud to announce the 2020 FFAM Equipment Grant awards:

- Fair Grove Fire Protection District, Fair Grove, MO - $500
- Higbee Area Fire Protection District, Higbee, MO - $1,000
- Matthews Volunteer Fire Department, Matthews, MO - $1,000
- Paris Rural Fire Protection District, Paris, MO - $1,000
- Park Hills Fire Department, Park Hills, MO - $500
- Urbana Rural Fire District, Inc., Urbana, MO - $1,000

Begin planning your applications for the 2021 grant process. Applications are due May 1, 2021, with the award(s) being made on or before July 1, 2021. As a reminder, agencies must meet FFAM membership requirements which include being FFAM members for the grant application year and the previous calendar year. If your agency is interested in applying in 2021, you must ensure the agency is a 2020 and 2021 member. For more information on the FFAM Equipment Grant, visit www.ffam.org/benefits.
I am not sure if I took a longer nap than I thought, but did I miss the convention? It was certainly unfortunate that the convention had to be postponed and then canceled after all the hard work the folks in Kearney put into making it an event to remember. My thanks to everyone involved in the planning for the event as I know what commitment that takes. With the cancellation, it looks like we will be holding the annual meeting at the August 9, 2020, Board Meeting in Sedalia at the fair fire station. If you have the opportunity, join us.

I would like to visit with you in this article a little bit about “doing the right thing.” This topic was discussed in a recent training I attended and brought about some additional thoughts beyond what that training was focused on. When you hear the words “doing the right thing” what comes to mind? Does your mind see the picture of the diligent Boy Scout escorting the little old citizen across the street? Do you envision a world where there is no “evil” and everyone acts in the best interest of their fellow citizen? Do you conjure up memories of being rewarded because you did your chores without being told? We called that “getting to eat supper” Do you see the image of a gallant knight galloping through some mid-evil time to rescue the damsel in distress?

No matter where your mind goes when you hear those four words we all have some concept of doing the right thing. The point that sometimes can be a bit blurred is who gets to determine what the “right thing” actually is? There is not an easy answer for that and each instance dictates what the right thing is and that is compounded further by the person making that decision. What one person may think is the right thing can often vary greatly from the next person and due to that we can often develop conflict in our lives or departments by taking actions not completely embraced as being the right thing.

Somehow we have got to reach a happy medium to figure out how to balance what is the “right thing” across the board. If we can reach this step I firmly believe we can relieve a lot of conflict in the fire service and our personal lives. Not an easy task, but something that we need to work towards.

Now with all that said, what right things are you doing? Take a minute, get a container of your favorite beverage, and sit back and give that some thought. It doesn’t matter if you are a member of the fire service, a member of the legislature, an elementary student, or an aged old sage. Surely you are doing something that is the right thing. It may be little in nature or it could be something huge, but we each do something that is the right thing for the situation we are involved and hopefully it is done for the right reasons and outcomes.

Let’s face it, in this line of work we all have our opinions about other personnel, administration, the staff, or even other agencies. Does it do any good to constantly downgrade them and point out only the shortcomings and never the positive? It is so easy to destroy working relationships with misplaced words and it is extremely difficult to repair what has been torn down. I am not saying that we will always get along and we will always wander around with stars in our eyes looking at the world through rose-colored glasses, but I am saying we can each do our part to act appropriately and make sure we are doing the right thing.

Is achieving various levels of training and then refining your skills and continuing to learn and grow in your profession the right thing? I would put money on that being the right thing as it is likely the thing that is going to keep you and your partners alive. When we have been in this business for a long time we tend to drift towards the “been there done that” attitude and become a little complacent.

I don’t think sitting around waiting on the world to accommodate us is the right thing in this constantly evolving line of work. I believe we each have to seek out the things that make us better in this profession to keep ourselves and the industry vibrant and functioning efficiently.

Have you looked at the new members who come into your agencies and think, well this one is a lost cause? If you have then maybe you should step up and do the right thing and take that person under your wing and be the mentor they need to make it in this profession.
It is likely if you have been around for any amount of time you have a vast knowledge base that needs to be shared.

It is also likely that when you started in this business someone made the same remark about you, but apparently, someone stepped up and did enough to keep you alive and in this profession.

Could it be your turn now?

During that training I mentioned earlier the instructor asked that we do a little self-evaluation.

I will pass these questions along to you for consideration:

“Why are you here?” Seriously, what brought you to the fire service, and why have you stuck around? What right things have happened along your path to make you want to continue and how do you use those experiences to help others? What do you want out of the profession? If you can’t determine why you are still here perhaps it is time to seek other options before something tragic happens.

“When was the last time you did something on your own to make yourself better?” Remember what I said earlier about keeping current with knowledge and skills. If we don’t do the right thing and make ourselves better how do we expect to serve our communities beneficially? How you treat your health can easily fit in this area. Remember this is a demanding and non-forgiving profession.

“When was the last time you made someone else better?” Think about being that mentor to the new members. Think back to when you last did positive things to make others grow instead of dismantling their spirit one slap at a time. We all know we needed help to be where we are now. Why shouldn’t we want to help others succeed?

“Would you want you to be your mentor?” If the answer to this one is no then you might want to examine where you are in the profession and what you can do to improve to the point that you would want you to be your mentor.

All of these questions affect “doing the right thing” in our daily pursuits both professionally and personally. Are you doing the right thing for the right reason? Are you doing the right thing to be successful, to help others grow, or to make your agency better than when you joined or have you taken a back seat and are watching the world pass by without it benefiting from your knowledge, input, and guidance? It is never too late to reset your attitude and do what you can to do the right thing.

As always if I can be of any assistance to your or your agency please contact me. Be safe!
Some told me once that, “time flies when you are havin’ fun.” I cannot think of anything that would be more fun than creating a fire department where there has never been one in the past. That is what happened in Columbia, Missouri, but it started several years before the date stated in the title of the article.

In the early 1960s, a small band of citizen band radio operators took on the challenge of developing a fire department that ultimately became the third-largest fire agency in the state of Missouri.

In 1962 a tragic house fire took the life of a mobility-challenged elderly woman. The fire occurred on what is now I-70 Dr NW, just outside the city limits of Columbia. City ordinances prohibited the Columbia Fire Department from responding to fires outside the city boundaries.

1963 was a difficult year for fires in rural Boone County. The Harrisburg School was nearly destroyed by fire and in December the Quisenberry Hardware Store in Hallsville burned.

The Central Missouri Radio Squad had been active in the county for many years as “a helping hand” in the community.

Sheriff “Bud” Elkins recognized that having a group of citizens that were community-minded and had a common communications network was a valuable asset to his operation and he called on them frequently. Nearly all the members carried special deputies commissions and assisted in searches for lost individuals and other emergency duties. The members decided over coffee one day at the Wigwam Café that “we can do this fire department thing.” So they embarked on the project!

The 1942 Chevy pumper in the center of the photo was acquired from Missouri Surplus Property for the huge sum of 500 dollars. Like many pumpers of that era, it had a 150-gallon booster tank and a 500 GPM mid-ship-mounted pump. It had a strange pink (faded red) color when it left the surplus property but soon had a coat of white paint to make it look official.

The 1953 White/Howe pumper was purchased from the Flora, Illinois Fire Department. It had such a beautiful red paint job we couldn’t bring ourselves to paint it white. A Central Missouri Radio Squad (CMRS) decal on the doors was all it needed and it was “in service”. The 500 gallons of water it carried was a huge deal over the 150 on the 1942 Chevy. The White powered engine and being eleven years newer was also a huge asset.

The 1953 White lives on to this day under a new name and responsibility. If you have attended any Missouri football games in the last several years you have seen it driving around the field transporting cheerleaders and other folks with a new power train and MU colors!

The bright white 1947 Chevy panel truck was a donation by radio squad member
John Patrick Barnes and had been used in his milk delivery business. Pat was without a doubt the driving force to lead this pack of radio rats into the fire department business. He never met with a stranger and held the first assistant fire chief position in the CMRS department and well into the Boone County Fire District era, until his untimely death in February 2011.

He was so enamored with the fire service he sold his milk business and became a City of Columbia firefighter. Chief Max Woods of the Columbia Fire Department (CFD) was no real fan of this new upstart group in “his” town but Pat had a way with people that would melt the most hardened heart. Max hired Pat and allowed him to continue all his Boone County activities on his off duty days.

Chief Woods was an ex prizefighter, short, and stout and reminded you of a bulldog. He was also definitely of the old school. There was an incident well into the fire district era when one of the Boone County Fire Protection District (BCFPD) firefighters who taught at MU, Bill Pugsley, was responding from campus to a county call running his blue light bar and electronic siren through town. Max chased him down with his chief’s car and chewed him out for using warning equipment in “his” town.

As a result, Max was charged by a city Judge for illegal use of his warning equipment and was fined five bucks. Needless to say, we didn’t get many mutual aid calls from CFD for a while after that.

Years later after Max retired and Columbia City Manager Richard Gray recruited me to be the Columbia Fire Chief in 1983, Max and I had a much more cordial relationship.

Pat started a trend with his interest in being a career firefighter with Columbia. Another very active radio squad member, Erman Call was an Orkin Pest Control man and the training chief for the District for quite some time. He and his wife Donna lived in Pine Grove Trailer Court directly across the street from BCFPD headquarters and Donna was one of the primary dispatchers in the CB radio days. The firebug bit Erman and he quit Orkin and worked for CFD, retiring as an assistant chief.

Space in this article will not permit a listing of all the career firefighters who came out of the Boone County ranks and went to Columbia and other departments but the list would be quite long. You all know who you are and you have my thanks and congratulation for awesome careers.

NOTABLE INDIVIDUALS ON THE ROSTER

Some people came and never departed for any reason. John Wilke was not an original member of the radio squad but was a 21-year-old student who had a CB radio and invented a device to put on the end of your CB antenna that would light up when you transmitted called a “glowworm.” I think John just joined so he could market them to all the members.

He became a permanent fixture in the Midway area of Boone County and is still assigned to Fire Station Nine. His job with State Farm Insurance has kept him in town except for trips to ride various trains around the country and world, which is his other passion. John is also the official fire investigator for the District. Back in his student days, he became the first station resident in a basement bedroom that was in the original fire station on Clark Lane.

He is pictured in the “Don’t look now boys” photo in this article on the back row far right, standing next to “Smokey” Dyer, who was ultimately the fire chief in Lee Summit and Kansas City, MO. Several individuals were members of the Boone County crew and went on to hold major titles in other departments.

• Chief Richard Dyer – Lee Summit and Kansas City
• Chief Robert Rennick – Jefferson City
• Chief Bill Markgraf - University City and Columbia
Another alumnus of the student firefighter team is a Journalism School graduate from the St. Louis area that made history. Dave Busse was the photojournalist for ABC News in California who shot the footage from a helicopter of the famous O.J Simpson Bronco slow-speed chase through Los Angeles in 1994. I wonder how many million people viewed that!

A LOCAL GUY WHO JUST STAYED
Assistant Chief Doug Westhoff received his forty-year service award a couple of years ago from Fire Chief Scott Olson. His story starts many years before as a high school student and photo bug becoming the official photo division of the BCFPD. He frequently responded with me on calls and many of the archive photos that staff members ask about are his work. When asked why he can name every individual in the picture his response normally is, “because I took the picture”.

His first job was a dispatcher for Columbia Joint Communications and later an EMT and paramedic for Boone Hospital. He was the EMS Director for that ambulance organization and during that same time, the station captain for station one of the BCFPD.

He was hired by Chief Steve Paulsell as a full-time employee of the district and is responsible for the operation of the federally funded urban search and rescue unit housed at Boone County as MO Task Force One.

Donna followed my academic lead and attended Oklahoma State University and received a degree in Fire Protection and Safety. She was active in Boone County as a paramedic. She has a successful fire protection consulting business.

We were both fortunate to be station residents in the campus fire station at Oklahoma State University while attending school. It was my experience there as a student firefighter with 25 other students that brought about the idea of a residency program at Boone County years later.

Editors Note: Since all my kids get a copy of the newsletter let the record show that we are very proud of all six of our children, thirteen grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren!

ANOTHER LOCAL GUY WHO HUNG AROUND
Steve Paulsell was one of the local young people who became interested in the fire department and had to purchase a CB radio to be in the “in-crowd.” He and Jeff Scott worked for one of our first board members Jim Adams, who was in the business of selling and installing anchor systems for mobile homes. He soon discovered that at the end of the workday, many projects were just dropped because Jeff and Steve had rapidly departed the job site to go to a fire call. According to Steve, they were fired and rehired by Jim several times because of fire responses.

To the advantage of the citizens of Boone County and the District, that attitude on both their parts prevailed over several decades of their lives.

Jeff went to work for CFD and when he retired from there returned to the District as an employee for another decade or so.

Steve continued as a volunteer firefighter and in the early seventies was hired by the District as its first full-time employee. That came about as a result of a conversation I had with the first Board of Directors President Coy Again.
Coy was a huge supporter of the district and owned a large farming operation. He was a great asset because of his business background and the fact that he was a fine gentleman. By this early time in the district, we were operating several apparatus and stations and as the fire chief, I had the feeling the overall maintenance of all of this was more than we could expect volunteers to accomplish. The Board of Directors agreed and as a result, Steve was hired to fill this first position.

Steve Paulsell over the years became not only my replacement but also became the driving force that allowed the organization to become what it is today. He, in my judgment, and many other individuals in the fire service nationwide, has been the Sam Walton of the BCFPD. During the thirty-one years he was chief so many awesome things happened we could write pages about it.

As the sign on the front of the station reflects, when the move to the actual fire station was made we had modified the name to Boone County Volunteer Fire Department (BCVFD). The purpose was to get residents more in line with the thought of a tax-supported district. CMRS was being funded by the sale of memberships or what was known as “fire tags.” A movement was also started to get equipment out into the county and the original 42 Chevy pumper was moved to Rocheport, Missouri. Rocheport had a fire truck of sorts and a few people like Orville Dickerson, the town marshal was authorized to push it out the door of the station and get it started by rolling it down the hill in front of the station. We recruited a few younger residents like Paul Corbin and Ronnie Turner and station two of the Boone County Volunteer Fire Department was born.

The origin of station three in Hallsville came about around the same time, as did station four in Harrisburg. The photo of the first headquarters shows a rather nice Chevy tanker and pumper on the right side of the drive. The Chevrolet/Central rig was purchased from Valley Park FPD in St. Louis County and the tanker was a 1,200-gallon fuel delivery rig from MFA Oil Company converted to a water tender and both were assigned to headquarters.

We worked to befriend some nice folks in Hallsville. John Richard and Dale Toalson agreed to start recruiting other folks. Dale had a service station and garage and he agreed to house the 1953 White/Howe pumper inside his shop at night. John was the mayor and also served on the board of directors of the district in later years.

The first real fire headquarters for the CMRS was located at 3901 Clark Lane in Columbia. Several blocks from I-70. The metal building was delivered and deposited on the lot. Most of the individuals in the previous photo then stood looking at all the pieces and decided it could not be any more difficult to put it up than an erector set.
The 1½-ton Chevy in the picture looks a little like a tire repair truck because it was in its previous life, another gift from MFA Oil Company. It was converted to a mini-pumper by fire department members and became pumper four in Harrisburg. Roy Francis ran a shop in “downtown” Harrisburg and agreed to house that unit in his shop at night. John Timmerman and others in town came forward and now we had four functioning fire stations in Boone County. Roy Francis retired as the fleet supervisor of BCFPD several years ago and Timmerman retired from CFD. Pumper four was credited with saving John’s in-laws home shortly after it arrived in town with a 250-gallon booster tank and a portable pump mounted on the back step.

Neither of these small communities in rural Boone County ever had a fire truck in the towns of less than 1,000 population.

The fire tag concept for raising money was not anything new in Missouri. As a young volunteer, I went door to door in O’Fallon where my Dad was the fire chief selling fire tags to neighbors for five bucks. Our income for the first year in Boone County was around twenty thousand dollars. That is a lot of five-dollar fire tags and a lot of neighbor contacts.

We had many hard-working members like Bob and Patti Tripp and Larry and Joyce Wilson who would go door to door in their neighborhood of Sunrise Estates to sell tags to every household. The concept of fire tags also dates back to colonial days when insurance companies would “tag” the property they protected with a metal plaque with their company logo on it.

Towne Comee, an early member of the CMRS firefighting crew was a radio celebrity on a local radio station and was continually promoting the new organization and the purchase of fire tags.

By this time, with some of the community awareness we had developed, we started to attract interest from some MU students who needed a little excitement in their lives. In addition to John Wilke, we accepted Dave McConnell, an electrical engineering student as a firefighting member. He became so dedicated to the cause he packed a suitcase-size Plectron...
brand fire radio to classes with him every day so he wouldn’t miss any calls. He also later served on the board of directors of the district.

That had to be the start of what would turn out to be several hundred MU students who have served and continue to serve the BCFPD and move on to be doctors, state troopers, and other related fields because of their experiences.

Many locals were attracted to the organization. Don Morris, who owned a service station and wrecker service joined. I recall him showing up at a brush fire one day in his wrecker with a client’s car tagging along behind and the customer in the cab with him. Now, that’s dedication.

Bill Kyger was a very skilled union brick and stonemason. His real passion was serving the public. He was a charter member of the Central Missouri Radio Squad and a special deputy for the Sheriff’s Department. He and Pat Barnes both served as the second in command well into the formation of the tax-supported fire district.

MOVING ALONG

On July 11 of 1970 the taxpayers of Boone County, Missouri changed the direction of emergency services in their county forever. No longer would the small communities in that area of the county have no fire stations or fire trucks to rely on for protection. There would also be assistance for fire and medical emergencies and rescues from vehicle accidents and agricultural equipment incidents and someone to search for lost individuals. The most satisfying was those services were being provided by their neighbors in their communities.

Tax supported fire districts were not common in outstate Missouri until the legislature modified the governing statues allow for their formation. St. Louis and Jackson Counties had fire districts in the 1950s. I remember going to fire training programs with my Dad and seeing license plates on vehicles that would have CCFPD on the bottom and asking him why it didn’t say just CCFD. It seemed that around the time of the Boone County election many other districts were formed, including my hometown of O’Fallon. In St. Charles County it was easy because all thirteen fire departments had agreed years before by forming a county association and determining boundary lines for the fire tag sales.

Of the 647 fire departments registered with the Fire Marshal’s office today, 464 of them are tax-supported districts.

To illustrate the impact of districts lets just look at one small town Hallsville and BCFPD station three and the changes over the years.

First new purchase by BCFPD, three purchased from Towers Fire Apparatus in Freeburg, IL. Around $30,000 each. Can’t buy a decent used pickup for that now.

BCFPD station three in Hallsville around 1973. A 750 GPM IH/Towers 4x4 engine, 1500-gallon White tanker, and IH Scout medical response vehicle. There were three exact engines also in station one in Columbia and in Rocheport in station two.
BCFPD AND ITS’ CURRENT STATUS

Present-day BCFPD under the able leadership of Fire Chief Scott Olson is currently operating fifteen fire stations within the confines of the 500 square mile district. A fleet of fifty district-owned fire apparatus is present in the stations along with over one hundred individual staff bedrooms for live-in resident staff.

The district also operates a thirty-acre training facility North of Columbia and a 54,000 square foot headquarters facility where six million dollars worth of task force equipment is stored and ready for deployment to any place in the country.

Boone County Fire Protection District is a great example of what has been done in communities all over Missouri because of the fire district legislation that allows areas to provide for their citizens. I have been around long enough to remember local fire departments being supported by fish fries, pie suppers and in some cases just down right begging to fund local fire service efforts.

Fire districts have now provided hundreds of locations to have up to date equipment and effective organizations that save lives and property.

No article about BCFPD would be complete without this photo. It was the brainstorm of a photography instructor from Stephens College by the name of Marvin Kreisman. After he had it published in Life magazine it went viral.

Most every radio squad member is in the picture and several members of the Sturgeon Fire Department. John Wilke can tell you every person’s name and lots of them are mentioned in this article.

Doug and I ran a medical call to Marvin’s house in October of 1980 in Crescent Meadows Mobile Home Park. The CPR we did was unsuccessful.

When Doug lived at home, we ran lots of calls together. A large part of the fifty years there were two Westhoff’s on the membership list. That changed in 1983 when I accepted the offer to become the Chief of the City of Columbia Fire Department. Doug carried the family torch for all those years since. The number is returning to two in July of this year. Dylan Westhoff has returned home from his Air Force Fire Service experience and will be moving into BCFPD Station nine in Midway. Dylan is the fifth generation fire person in our family and the third generation to serve Boone County.

One of the major highlights of my fire career has been to know and work with the hundreds of fine folks who spent their lives being a “helping hand.”
The Mapaville Fire Protection District has been utilizing a vacant house on Highway Z for “hands-on” fire training. The homeowner graciously allowed free reign to use this structure for any training that was needed.

The residential structure has been available to the Mapaville Fire Protection District and surrounding fire districts and departments since August of 2019 for personnel to hone their skills on various techniques such as breaching walls and ceilings, ventilation, fire attack, and search and rescue. Local firefighters have spent many hours performing training evolutions in this house.

On Saturday, June 20, the Mapaville Fire Protection District along with personnel from the Goldman and DeSoto Rural Fire Protection Districts conducted a controlled live fire burn to practice fire hose deployment, water supply, fireground strategies, and communications for firefighters to gain more experience in these practices. After the training evolutions were complete, the structure was allowed to burn completely.

We have received support and assistance from Woodard Fire Restoration.

Photos by Mapaville Fire Protection District Photographer Barb Brown
2020 FFAM Annual Board of Directors Business Meeting
Due to the cancellation of convention, this meeting will serve as the annual meeting of the delegates.

Sunday, August 9, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.
Missouri State Fair Fire Department, Sedalia, MO

Fill out your delegate information and mail the registration form to the address below.
An FFAM membership card may be required for membership verification.
Mail to: FFAM, PO Box 1153, Warrensburg, MO 64093

FFAM BYLAWS: ARTICLE VIII – DELEGATES

Section 1. Each member fire department in good standing with FFAM shall be entitled to representation at the annual convention. A maximum of three delegates from each fire department shall be allowed. In the event any special meeting of this association is called, the number of delegates allowed shall be determined in the same manner as that of the annual convention. All Board of Directors shall be delegates at annual conventions.

Section 2. All delegates must be active members in good standing with the FFAM and be current members of the fire department which they represent.

Section 3. No fire organization may be represented by proxy.

Section 4. Credentials of each delegate and alternate should be in the hands of the Secretary-Treasurer or his/her designee at least one hour prior to the annual convention business meeting. These credentials shall be on forms supplied by the Secretary-Treasurer, and signed by the chief officer or his/her designee of the department the delegate represents.

Section 5. Alternate delegates may vote in the absence of the regular delegate.

Section 6. Any active member may take part in the discussion of all orders of business at the annual convention however, only a duly authorized delegate may place a motion or cast a vote.

Section 7. Only one vote shall be allowed to each delegate.

Section 8. The Secretary or Sergeant-at-Arms shall poll the delegates by number and department prior to the business meeting of the convention.

Department ___________________________ FDID _________________
Delegate (print) Alternate (print)
1. ___________________________ 1. ___________________________
2. ___________________________ 2. ___________________________
3. ___________________________ 3. ___________________________
Chief (print) Chief (signature) ___________________________
Fair Grove Fire Protection District is pleased to announce the promotion of Randall Hoskins to Fire Chief. Mr. Hoskins joined Fair Grove Fire as a volunteer in 2009 after graduating from Fair Grove High School. He left the Fair Grove area for the opportunity to further his fire service career as a firefighter in Parsons, Kansas, and Rogersville, Missouri. After returning to the area, in 2013 he was hired at Fair Grove Fire as a firefighter, he moved up the ranks as a Captain and then Assistant Fire Chief. He was promoted to Fire Chief on March 12, 2020. Mr. Hoskins lives in Fair Grove with his wife and two daughters.

The Cole County Fire Protection District has received a new 3000-gallon tanker manufacturer by Danko Emergency Equipment. The tanker took ten months to produce. This is the first large purchase since the voters in Cole, Miller, and Osage counties approved a tax increase for the district. This is the first tax increase since the district was formed in April 1993. As promised, the tanker will replace a 35-year-old piece of equipment. As funds become available the District will continue to replace trucks that are over ten years old.

The tanker will be stationed at Station 4 on Monticello Road which gives the tanker versatility to respond to any part of the District in a timely matter. The tanker will enhance the ability to deliver much-needed water to rural areas with no fire hydrants. The tanker can dump the full 3000 gallons in two minutes into a 3000-gallon portable tank, which came with the tanker. The new tanker will complement the District’s fleet of tankers to provide much-needed water on a fire scene. We will continue to be progressive when purchasing equipment for the firefighters to protect the citizens in the District.

1967 KAISER 6X6 5 TON
Osage Valley Fire Protection District, Warsaw, MO. For information, contact Ron at 660-438-7220 and leave a message.
NORMAN G. JARRETT
December 26, 1940 - May 21, 2020

Norman George Jarrett, son of the late Jesse Howard and Olive Lavern Jarrett, was born December 26, 1940, in Mountain Grove, Missouri, and passed away at his home in Theodosia, Missouri, May 21, 2020. He was 79 years, 4 months, and 26 days of age.

Norman grew up in Mountain Grove and went to Mountain Grove School. He married Sandy Elliott on May 23, 1963. One son was born to this union.

Norman was baptized at Pleasant Hill Church. He worked for thirty years for the City of Mountain Grove and on the Mountain Grove Fire Department where he served as Fire Chief. He and Sandy moved to Theodosia in 2000 to retire, but Norman didn’t really retire because he loved working and fighting fires. He worked for the Theodosia Fire Department for eighteen years. Norman was a respected mentor to many young men on the fire departments.

Norman was a hardworking man who would do anything for anybody. He enjoyed visiting with people and made many friends wherever he was. He was very proud to serve the communities where he lived but most of all, he was extremely proud of his family.

Besides his parents, Norman was preceded in death by three brothers, Ruban Jarrett, Elza Jarrett, and Walter Jarrett, and by one sister, Avis Kennedy.

He is survived by his loving wife of their home, Sandy Jarrett, one son, Ted Jarrett and his wife, Marsha, of Mountain Grove, Missouri, three grandsons, Nathan Jarrett and his wife, Andrea, of Ozark, Missouri, Heath Jarrett and his wife, Callie, of Woonsocket, Rhode Island, and Levi Jarrett and his wife, Hannah, of Nixa, Missouri, one granddaughter, Jessica Delker and her husband, Jacob, of Crane, Missouri, thirteen great-grandchildren, four sisters, Barbra Barnes of Mountain Grove, Grace Gott of Kansas City, Missouri, Dorothy Harris of Lebanon, Missouri, and Emma Nungesser of Mountain Grove, Missouri, and other relative, neighbors, and friends who will dearly miss him.

GERRY D. GILLENWATERS
December 17, 1953 - June 15, 2020

Gerry Dan Gillenwaters, 66, passed away in his home in Rogersville, MO, on June 15, 2020. Gerry was born in Springfield, MO, on December 17, 1953, to Gerry Gene and Mary Ellen (Steury) Gillenwaters. Gerry grew up and attended school in Springfield. Gerry devoted his life to working as a firefighter in Springfield and Logan Rogersville. He was also active as a volunteer firefighter and first-responder in neighboring communities and worked as a dispatcher for law enforcement, and was currently working as a U.S. Postal mail carrier in Strafford, MO. Gerry’s love for life, his family, and his devotion to serving the community will be greatly missed.

Gerry was preceded in death by his father, Gerry Gene Gillenwaters, and his brother John Anthony Gillenwaters. He is survived by two daughters and two sons: Amber Bartley and husband Kevin, Ashley Markle and husband Jeff, Christopher Gillenwaters, and Gregory Gillenwaters, eight grandchildren: Christian and Jacob Bartley, Xander Gillenwaters, Kirstin, Tanner, Abbanie, Shiloh, and Payton Markle, his mother Mary Ellen Carter, sisters: Darlene Skinner and husband Milton, Diana Byrd and husband David, and a brother Richard Gillenwaters and wife Vicki, as well as many nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, please support your local firefighters’ associations or make donations to the Greene County 100 Club to assist families of fallen first responders.

Missouri Fire Service Funeral Assistance Team
mofirefuneral.org • 1-888-4911HELP

Non-Urgent or Routine Assistance?
CONTACT US:
info@mofirefuneral.org
314-973-0685
GRANITE MOUNTAIN HOTSHOT SURVIVOR TO SPEAK IN MO

By George Wright, Missouri Fire Service Funeral Assistance Team

On June 30, 2013, nineteen members of the Granite Mountain Hotshot fire team out of Prescott, Arizona, gave the ultimate sacrifice fighting the Yarnell Hill fire in Arizona. The Missouri Fire Funeral Assistant Team went to Prescott, Arizona, to assist with the funerals.

One of the Hotshots was 29-year-old, Andrew Ashcraft. Andrew was 29 at the time of his death. He left a wife and four children.

The Missouri EMS Funeral Team and the Missouri Fire Service Funeral Assistance Team are proud and honored to announce that the keynote speaker and special guest at their conference in October will be Andrew’s wife, Ms. Juliann Ashcraft. The conference will be held Friday and Saturday, October 23-24, 2020, at the Regalia Hotel and Conference Center in Lake Ozark, Missouri. The National Honor Guard Academy out of Seminole, Florida, will be the instructors for the conference. Ms. Ashcraft will be the keynote speaker at the banquet on Saturday night. Seating starts at 5:30 p.m. and the semi-formal banquet will begin at 6:00 p.m. Tickets for the banquet are $45 and are available at www.mopublicsafetyweekend.org.

For more information about the weekend or the banquet, go to the website or contact George Wright @ gwright000@gmail.com.

FIRE FIGHTERS’ FIELD OF FLAGS
A FIRE FIGHTER MUSEUM FUND RAISER

For only $35 each you can designate a flag to be flown in memory, honor, or appreciation of an individual you choose. Flags will be raised in early October and be flown until October 30, 2020, at the Firefighters Memorial in Kingdom City, Missouri. All proceeds will benefit the Firefighter Museum Project. Proceeds benefit Fire Fighters’ Museum Fund and are tax deductible.

If you would like to have your flag mailed to you, please add $5 per flag for postage.

Deadline for ordering flags is September 25, 2020!

Name ________________________________
Address _________________________________________________
City ______________________  State ________ Zip _________
Phone ______________  Email _____________________________

PAYMENT OPTIONS

☐ Check  ☐ PayPal
1. Sign into PayPal at: www.paypal.com
2. Send Total Amount to ffammuseum@gmail.com
3. Include your Name and “Flag Order” in the “Note” section
4. Email the completed form to ffammuseum@gmail.com

If you have multiple names for flags, please use a separate page if necessary for the requested information.

Number Of Flags _____ X $35.00  Total Amount Enclosed ___________
Name On Flag #1 ____________________________________________
Name On Flag #2 ____________________________________________
Name On Flag #3 ____________________________________________
☐ In Honor Of  ☐ In Memory Of  ☐ In Appreciation
☐ Firefighter  ☐ Veteran  ☐ Active Duty  ☐ Army
☐ Navy  ☐ Air Force  ☐ Marines  ☐ Coast Guard
☐ Other___________________________________________________

MAIL TO: Dr. Ron Baker
P.O. BOX 245
FULTON, MO 65251

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
“FFAM MUSEUM”

Email Question to:
ffammuseum@gmail.com
I begin with a salutation of goodbye. It has been a pleasure to be affiliated with the Fire Fighters Association of Missouri for 45 years. This will be my last article as the Director of the MU Fire and Rescue Training Institute.

This year so far has certainly been unprecedented! I am sure you all have heard this term used many times lately. I will also say that is has been challenging both personally, and professionally.

As we began the new year MU FRTI was prepared for a very busy schedule of course deliveries. Traditionally, the busy time for course deliveries ramp up in March and go strong through the end of May. Then the coronavirus struck! MU took the lead in restricting the delivery of in-person classes by mid-March to help slow the spread, which later was adopted by other state agencies and the fire service community we serve. MU FRTI was able to start course delivery by May 16, but was limited again on available funding that had been withheld from the state budget and by agencies still under their own restrictions due to the coronavirus.

While our fiscal year ended June 30, our numbers are still preliminary as we complete the year-end processes. However, it appears we will have canceled over 150 classes and have reached nearly 5,000 fewer students than the previous year as a result. I am saddened that the pandemic has affected our first responder community in the ability to receive valuable training that MU FRTI and other partner agencies provide to better protect themselves, as well as the communities they serve. I hope that this situation resolves itself soon and we can get back to serving those who need our service.

Looking forward, with our Division of Fire Safety partner, the state budget is still being determined concerning firefighter training funds. While the legislature met their statutory obligation to provide a balanced budget to the Governor, everyone involved understands that it was not final and there will be more movement to ensure there are adequate funds to meet the needs of the state budget. In discussion with the state fire marshal, he believes there will be some funding available for subsidized training for firefighters, but he is unsure as yet what that amount might be. He is hopeful to know more by the end of summer after the Department of Revenue can provide better revenue numbers for the state. Watch for more information from the Division of Fire Safety and the MU Fire and Rescue Training Institute.

MU FRTI launched a newly updated Hazardous Materials Incident Response: Awareness (HMIR:A) online course on July 1. This updated version brings the course up to the new NFPA 1072 standard. Also, with this launch, you will see a student fee of $25 will be required to access the course. Course subsidy has been unavailable for a few years now and after exhausting efforts to find alternate funding, we were faced with the difficult decision to implement a low-cost fee to offset costs incurred to provide this valuable service to our first responder community.

As previously mentioned in the last edition, I decided last fall to retire from MU FRTI after a 37-year affiliation. This decision was far before the pandemic and leadership and I established a plan for succession that would provide for hiring a new director and having a couple of months of overlap service to assist in the transition. The plan was in place until the pandemic hit and state budget withholdings created economic uncertainty which led to a hiring freeze across all of the UM System. For the immediate future, John Worden, Senior Director for the Center of Excellence for First Responder Education will assume to duties of Interim Director for MU FRTI. Under John’s administrative guidance and the staff of MU FRTI having many years of experience serving the fire and emergency services community, I have the utmost confidence they will continue to provide the expected quality of service in training and education that the first responder community has grown to expect!

As I close, I want to again say goodbye to a great group. I literally grew up in the fire service and consider all of you as family. It is a bitter-sweet moment, but I know I am leaving happy to have been a part of so many of your lives, whether directly or indirectly…it has been a pleasure!

Train safe, Be safe!

Kevin D. Zumwalt
Director
MU Fire and Rescue Training Institute
Thank you to the entire FFAM family for allowing me the opportunity to meet the board and auxiliary back on June 7, and for extending the invitation to be a part of this newsletter, providing a forum to share valuable information to each of you!

A quick snapshot of me, I am a 33-year veteran of the Missouri fire service, serving in volunteer, career, and military departments. I retired from the Columbia Fire Department in October 2019. Almost immediately, I was brought into the Missouri Division of Fire Safety as the Program Manager for the Fire Fighter I/II, and Hazardous Materials programs. On April 6, 2020, I was promoted to Statewide Fire Mutual Aid Coordinator. My move into this new position certainly came at a very challenging time for Missouri and the Missouri fire service. COVID-19/PPE, followed by civil unrest, and a tropical depression were just the first sixty days of my “trial by fire.” To those who have reached out and helped guide me through the last ten weeks, fire chiefs, regional coordinators, Matt Luetkemeyer, Chief Bean, and former co-workers, I cannot thank you enough.

With the gradual reopening of the state, it is allowing me to get out to some of the regional chiefs meetings and meet you folks in person!

On June 2, we officially went live with a Fire Fighter Recognition Program. This program recognizes anyone promoted to the rank of fire chief with a Missouri fire department, death of any current, active, fire department member or retiree regardless of rank, death does not need to be in the line-of-duty, or retirement of any member of your department regardless of rank, retirement status determined by individual agency guidelines. Please visit dfs.dps.mo.gov for more information and click on the link to complete the recognition request. There is no charge for this program. You’ve earned it!

Please ensure your fire department registrations are accurate, up to date, and have current email addresses on file for your leadership team. We use the staffing numbers you provide for things such as COVID-19 PPE calculations and the email addresses to contact department leadership for important announcements. The registration link is dfs.dps.mo.gov.

The USDA has funding opportunities available to provide fire apparatus, fire stations, and station repairs to eligible rural departments. Unlike many USDA programs, where a county population threshold must be met, the Community Facilities Direct Loan and Grant Program only requires your fire jurisdiction to be under 20,000 and meet low-income guidelines. Please contact Amy Dati at 573-876-0995 or amy.dati@usda.gov for more information.

Last fall, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR) changed their response protocol for responding to fuel and oil spills of less than 300 gallons. The DNR also noticed a sharp corresponding drop in the number of spills reported to the spill line. Please be aware the laws and regulations governing the reporting of spills over 50 gallons have not changed and must still be reported. The only change is that DNR will not automatically respond to an incident of fewer than 300 gallons. DNR will respond to a spill of any size if assistance is requested by the fire department on-scene.

Please stay safe out there!
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