

■ OSFA Executive Board Highlights January 18, 2018 MEETING

Roll Call: Matt Lay- present and presiding; Dereck Casady, Present; Mike Kelley, Present; Eric Harlow, Present; Mike Duncan, Present; Dana Cramer (ORFA), Present; Others Present: Phil Ostrander, Steve Lumry, Sheri Nickel, Tim Bartram, Caroline Reed, Eric Hamilton, Les McGee. Guests: Jim Minx, Chris Neal.

Presentation from AirEvac: Les McGee, presented the possibility of discounted memberships for the OSFA members (normal membership is \$65 annually).

Correspondence: Thank you card from Buddy Lumms Family. Thank you card from Chris Bain. Thank you card from Cynthia White & Family in regard to Jeff White.

Fire Marshal Commission Report: Matt Lay

Lay stated that he is not aware of anything going on right now. He said that everybody is watching legislation to see what is out there and he knows they will be doing a couple of classes for our Fire School.

Fire Service Training Report: Caroline Reed

Reed discussed that they have a couple of regional fire schools coming up. Hugo will be Jan. 26-28, the Destry Horton Wildland School in Fort Sill will be Feb. 17-18.

You do have to preregister for Destry Horton and will have to fill out the security forms to get on base. You can still get on base if you show up without it but it will take you about 45 minutes to go through security. It would be beneficial for those students to fill out the forms prior to the school so they can get cleared and get on base.

They also have Atoka Conference March 9-10.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Legislative Committee: Steve Lumry

Legislative Committee met Jan. 10 and they were brought up to date on the current legislation. There were no bill numbers at that time. They discussed the Hunting and Fishing Licenses for volunteer firefighters. A sub-committee was put together to address specific language for that.

They will be meeting with Don Armes and Wildlife to work out their parameters for the negotiations with the Wildlife Commission to see if there is a way to get that to happen. COLA Bill's have been introduced and all of the systems are in one.

There is also a bill on the Fire Subscription fees.

Public Education Committee: Lumry

Public Education Committee had their very first meeting on Jan. 10. They had a really good turnout, people seem to be very excited about it and as a matter of fact, for a very first meeting this was one of the few that had pretty close to 100% participation. Some were on the conference call but there was only one person that did not make it or call in.

Bob Noll acted as a facilitator for that meeting which helped them out a lot to get off the ground and moving forward. They discussed developing standardized Public Education Curriculum for the state. Lumry stated CR Net is a resource for Public Education nationwide.

One of the things they spent quite a bit of time talking about is that there is no real Public Education training out there established for Public Education people. The training they get, they find on their own mostly from on-line sources, reading it and trying to interpret how to put that into practice.

They discussed establishing ways to provide training for Public Education. They leaned toward a game plan of offering classes at the State Fire School, and if that track fills up and stays full then they will look at doing something similar to what our Volunteer Caucus does, by bringing Public Education people together to meet and discuss their various needs.

If that continues to go well, then they can build that into a Statewide Public Education Conference with potential for a Regional or National Conference. They are going to take it in steps and as each one is successful they will move to the next one.

The committee is looking at doing different public education articles and putting them in the OSFA newspaper. That

Upcoming Dates to Remember:

April 4-6, 2018 -- 96th annual OFCA Conference -- Hilton Garden Inn, Lawton

May 3-6, 2018 -- State Fire School -- Tulsa Community College & Tulsa Fire Department Training Center

June 12, 2018 -- 37th annual ORFA Convention -- Hyatt Regency, Downtown Tulsa

June 13-16, 2018 -- 124th annual OSFA Convention -- Hyatt Regency, Downtown Tulsa

Oct. 7, 2018 -- 19th Statewide Memorial Service -- Oklahoma Firefighters Museum, Oklahoma City

would not be public education articles in the sense of educating the public on fire safety, but to educate the fire service on what Public Education does.

They are also working on their mission statement, identifying and addressing their various audiences and they're talking about doing short videos on Public Education type topics that can be put out through social media accounts.

There was discussion about possibly having one of the committee members serving on a Public Education Committee for NFPA and approaching this Board when that time comes for the Board to pay for half of that cost and their department paying the other half of that cost.

Educational Advisory Committee: Tim Bartram

The Educational Advisory has met a couple of times since the last Board meeting. They went to Tulsa yesterday and met. They did some more work on classes that the committee had some questions about. Most of them we did some negotiating with and came to an agreement on. There was one that they did table; they want to continue to look at from Chief Naum. They would like to look a little more as to the logistics of it.

Fire Engineering did announce four names they would be bringing in: John Norman, Chase Sargent, and two others. Brian Brush got excited when he heard the four names and he feels that they are four really good names. There was another instructor that had applied through OSFA that Fire Engineering was going to go back and talk with. They may pick up the cost for him as well because it is somebody they are excited about coming.

Bartram stated they did meet with Chief Lloyd afterwards and went over specifically the Hot Classes. From that discussion there was one class that we decided not to offer. Bartram is going to notify that instructor of that decision. They have tentatively scheduled a meeting for next Tuesday to begin the scheduling process to keep us on track to have the enrollment live February 1st. There was some discussion by the Board.

Safety and Health Committee: Lumry

The Safety and Health Committee met on Dec. 12 and have changed up their sub-committees. They now have a Cancer Awareness Sub-committee that will help advise our members to keep you, your bunker gear, and all those other things cleaned. They are trying to get on the cutting edge of that.

There is also a Risk Education Sub-committee and an Injury Prevention Sub-committee. They had a report of the number of firefighters' deaths from 2016. They broke that down and discussed it. They talked about Hazardous Exposure Prevention Procedures which were recently implemented in Tulsa.

EMS Committee: Lumry

The EMS Committee met and there is some interesting things coming out of it. They found some potential partnerships with people who are already working on GEMT (Ground Emergency Medical Transport) reimbursement

above your normal cost that you can get back from the Federal Government.

The Ambulance Association has already done quite a bit of work in that area. We are going to try and see if we can partner on it, if it is something going in the direction that we anticipate. We will help as much as we can because we think that will bring in a lot of money to the departments that run their ambulance service.

They have identified all the issues they want to address and there are 11 different areas, some of that is going to be combined and some of it will be addressed by the Oklahoma Department of Health. They are going to invite some people from the Oklahoma Department of Health to their next meeting to try and address some of those issues.

Museum Expansion Committee: Lumry

Lumry stated that the Museum Expansion Committee made a recommendation to the full Museum Board that we move ahead with fundraising efforts.

Museum Report: Gene Brown / Jim Minx

Brown stated that everything is going very well in the Museum. They have several more nozzles refurbished and have them on the trucks that are period correct with the trucks that we have.

One of the things that he would like to mention is that spring is on the way and they just cannot keep up with the lawn. After taking some bids and talking to different people, it is going to be very expensive to hire somebody to take care of that for us, bids are approximately \$25,000 a year.

Brown would like to discuss hiring another full time employee since their staffing is down to him and two part time employees. He believes that if they can hire the right guy, they can maintain the yard and have somebody here full-time to do a lot of other things.

Lumry stated with the Museum Expansion coming up and being in the middle of fundraising, the grounds need to look pristine. There will be people driving by to see how it is being maintained.

They have gone back and forth trying to see what will be the best financial aspect, do we hire a lawn care company or do we hire an additional employee. Lumry stated that Brown has put together a work plan that should be able to allow us to keep up with what needs to be done in the Museum and the lawn care if we hire an employee. Or, we can choose to hire a lawn care company to make sure it is looking like a park out there all the time.

The value of that extra employee is that they would be available for other things and to keep the Museum covered. There were days when Buddy still worked here that he had to go to a doctor's appointment. Gene would need to run a Museum related errand and there was nobody but OSFA staff to cover the Museum.

It is also a situation where Brown is not really in a position to manage two or three days a week, take care of the overall business of the Museum or tasks he has been given because he has to be in there watching the Museum and running the cash register.

At this point after going through it all, it is our recommendation to the Board to allow us the authority to hire another full time Museum person to implement Brown's plan. Lay asked, do you foresee any change in what we already budgeted for personnel or basically be about the same? Lumry stated that it would fall right into what is budgeted now. Lay stated that if we are not changing the budget line from what was approved back in November, the Executive Director recommends who and we can approve the hire. The Board gave the authority to hire a new full time employee for the Museum.

Minx discussed that they did a historic thing when they met as a Museum Board and they interviewed Art Cotton. They eventually came to a motion on the floor to contract with Cotton Consulting for the expansion of the Museum, based on what we are trying to complete with the Museum.

It was a 100% unanimous vote and we are now bringing that vote to you to confirm or denied as you please. The Museum Board met Jan. 9, 2018, and discussed possible action and approved contracting with Cotton Consulting for Museum Expansion Fundraising beginning Feb. 1, 2018.

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Minx stated that back in the days when he was first hired to be the Executive Director in the 60s, he used to think, "what do we need to do here, do we need to build an add on to the Museum or do we need to have a Memorial" and he debated that over and over with himself.

Finally he decided on the Memorial, which he felt was right and now it's so wonderful to be a part of perhaps doing that other dream of expanding the Museum. The more he thought about it and spoke with Art Cotton after his presentation, it seems so fundamentally right for us. He feels that God has sent us this Firm.

Minx stated that he does not know the bottom line numbers yet but the preliminary was a monthly amount over a 30 month period. We were originally talking about raising \$4.5 million. Moving forward, realized that was getting bigger and bigger.

Minx said that one time while Cotton was here, he said that he would raise \$10 million or less for that figure and he feels that we should visit with him some more. Minx stated he has a proposal for the Board; say if we end up at \$9 million, he would like to see us discuss an early completion bonus on that 30 months. For instance, if he did it in two years instead of 30 months, that we give him a bonus and if he gets it in 29 months, he would have a bonus equal to his monthly retainer or something like that. It is something we need to think about.

Minx would like to see us do this quicker, he said he might be able to do it quicker but we never talked about a bonus or anything. Almost any contract you see now days has a time phasing to it and there is a bonus for completing it early.

Volunteer Recruitment & Retention Report: Sheri Nickel
Nickel stated that she has it all finished for last year and we came within \$20 of spending all of the allocated money.

Reports were filed; we started approving people under the PFI portion and have already approved eight. They all have been scheduled for their Pension physicals, to get fitted for their gear; they are all already enrolled in their Firefighter I Programs.

A Lakewood firefighter was our first one, he enrolled and the class canceled. So he is going to enroll in one in Stillwater. She had to deny Mooreland, Red Oak, Boggy and Owens and Company. She is working with them to get properly qualified.

Nickel presented a Map, showing all the counties that are left to meet with and where her and Brown are going to work on getting to in the next few weeks.

She is scheduled to go to Muskogee next month and she is working on going to Okmulgee.

We were at the KNID Agri-fest last week in Enid for two days; with OSU. OSU set their Grain Trailer and Nickel set up a booth. She stated it was the best show she had been to as far as talking to people.

NVFC Report: Mike Duncan

Duncan stated that on Gateway 18 today at 1:00 they are going to do a phone call, first on understanding the AFG Grants. Dave Lewis from Maryland was the one who was going to talk about it. He taught a couple of classes last year at the State Fire School. The classes filled up completely and nobody else could get into it. They are going to record the phone call to distribute.

Globe Gear has a giveaway of 52 sets of gear to 13 departments around the United States. He stated that Missouri was the closest to us that received it. There was 870 departments apply for it, so the need is out there. The first 500, they paid their membership to the NVFC for a year.

They have a Training Grant from Josh Cellars Wines. Their son, Joseph Carr, did it in memory of his dad, who was a volunteer firefighter. They are giving \$5,000 for training to ten fire departments. They have approved two so far and still have eight more to go. One of the selection criteria is that the town has to be less than 25,000 population and there are more things through their application process.

OFCA Report: Steve Lumry

Lumry discussed the Chiefs Winter Workshop next week. It looks like it is going to be a well attended workshop; with

currently a little over 125 people signed up and about 50 for the New Chief's Workshop. Lumry expects close to 150 with walk-ins.

The OFCA Conference is coming along pretty well, it will be in Lawton and they have been working hard.

ORFA Report: Dana Cramer

The Oklahoma Retirees have not met this month and there is not really any big news. Cramer stated that they are here to help OSFA in this legislative session that starts next month. He believes we might see some challenges there and not to be afraid to holler at them.

Cramer said that Brown made contact with Firelake Golf Course yesterday and pretty much confirmed the Retirees Golf will be there again this year with the same deal as last year. It will be on Oct. 10 with the way it is right now. They have been great to work with and seem excited to have us back.

Executive Directors Report: Phil Ostrander / Steve Lumry

Ostrander stated that they all pretty much know what is going on. He discussed our current policy with American Income Life. Ostrander stated that Lumry is working right now to find out about the 9/11 Golf Tournament that Hooters Restaurants held and the beneficiary was supposed to be our Museum/Memorial. Evidently, the original contact is no longer employed there and Lumry has been working them to find out a solution for receiving the promised donation. There are some other things that we need to look and see if we would like to participate in them again, like the Smoke and Guns. Wagoner County Emergency Preparedness Expo Sponsorship, we were there last year and there was a pretty good turnout. Do we want to participate in that again this year? There was discussion by the Board.

Ostrander discussed the Oklahoma City National Memorial has requested a donation. Now, they are working with us on the Museum and are going to participate with a representative on the Museum Board. They are reaching out and wanting to participate to help make ours a better facility.

Ostrander appreciates the Board for allowing the hire of the new Museum employee, Joe Thompson, retired from The Village. We have worked with him before; he has volunteered painting the restrooms and stuff like that. He should be a good addition; he brings skills to the table.

We are currently up to 200 electronic newspaper subscriptions. For awhile now, we have been mailing all the newspapers to the legislators and Ostrander thinks he is going to change that to electronic subscription. That way we can save on the production. Lumry stated the Facebook post we did on the electronic subscriptions generated more than we have had in quite a while. Ostrander reminded everyone about turning their articles in.

They have been doing a good job on getting the membership summaries in. We are already at over 8,000 firefighters dues paid for 2018. It is moving really well and we are at about 560 out of 555 fire departments that have already come in.

The outreach in the field, what Nickel has been doing out in the field is about the most important thing we have done in this organization in a long time. We have more and more fire departments calling and asking for help on issues with the Pension System. They have a meeting scheduled to meet with fire departments that want to get in the Pension System. We are back to becoming the resource that we used to be.

Nickel receives a lot of phone calls that she deals with from departments with questions about the grant, membership, department operations, etc. Five different departments have contacted her in the last five days to get help with writing their grants for them. She will help them review them and help in anyway but we cannot write their grants for them.

Lumry went to Southeast Oklahoma on an invitation from Amy Howard because she was teaching a Firefighter I class down there. She invited Lumry and several other organizations for a Roundtable discussion with her Firefighter I class. The staff is working real hard on outreach for us.

We are reviewing our website because it is still reported it is kind of hard to navigate. Lumry stated that we have a certificate from the Chamber of Commerce meeting from a

website company to come in and give a full blown review.

He had that done last month and she went over everything, as difficult as it is to sometimes find things, her own criticism was she thought our logo on the front page in the top corner should be a little bit bigger. Outside of that, the information we provide with the number of organizations that we have and the amount of information we have available to people, she said we cannot tell you a better way to distribute it.

She said as far as search engines go, we are on the first page of every kind of search that she could come up with when typing in firefighters, Oklahoma State firefighters, etc. One suggestion she did have, that we may look at later in the year when we see how the budget is actually flowing is Social Media, not your normal Twitter and Facebook but things like Yelp that can help us to make sure we pop up when searching.

Ostrander would like for all to remember it is time for Awards for Convention. Lumry said that we have some suggestions for that. He passed out a list with all the Awards to be discussed in Executive session.

RedCross - Chris Neal

Neal discussed one of the things he has been doing is pushing their local managers to get out to the fire service. They are looking at opportunities to really serve the fire service.

He stated they work with you on Canteens and in some areas on the smoke detectors. They do not want to get out in front of our programs; they want to be supporters in the fire service programs. He said hopefully you will be getting to see more of their folks.

Similarly with Red Cross volunteers, they began to look at opportunities where some of our retired firefighters may be able to stay connected to the fire service. He plans on sitting down and visiting with Dana and the ORFA Board soon.

Neal stated it has been a great adventure, he loves their volunteers and they are absolutely amazing people with great hearts. They have folks that spend 30-40 hours a week volunteering. They would like to begin to work closer, catch our meetings and anything they can help us with, please let him know. One thing that has been pushed out in the last few days, that they have been under an incredible work load and it is amazing what they have had to face. With that, there have been a lot of fire deaths and it has been hitting their folks in the heart as well.

NEW BUSINESS:

Consideration 501 (c) 3 for OSFA

Lumry stated that Ostrander came to him and they discussed exploring the possibility of establishing a 501 (c) 3 Foundation for OSFA. Basically, run our Fire School and other things like that through there, so when people make donations it would be tax deductible. The new tax policy, we do not know how that affects anything yet but it is something we need to explore. There was more discussion by the Board.

FTAC representation at Volunteer Caucus (forms and explanation)

Lay discussed that the Fire Marshal Commission has a set of three Commissioners as their Firefighter Training Advisory Committee (FTAC), with the remainder to be filled out basically from that group. Recipients of the Wildland Firefighting Gear Grant Program should be receiving those now. With this being the first of the year, they are hooked up on tax forms.

On the Agenda here, they will be at the Volunteer Caucus to provide forms and advice. They will be using OSU to verify training as much as they can. Reed stated they are partnering on a lot of things right now and believes that the FTAC Certificates will be embedded in their system. They will do some queries based off the training that is logged in to kick those out. They are working through that process now.

Adjournment: 11:54 a.m.
Next meeting: Feb. 15, 2018