

FIRE LINK

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PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

by *Andy Rocca*

It's hard to believe that nearly a year has passed since we met in Kansas City. Customarily, this has been another productive year for the MVD. The MVD has attended the IAFC leadership Summit, reviewed the strategic plan, revised our position statements, attended IAFC Board of Directors' teleconferences, conducted monthly MVD teleconferences, attended state fire chief association meetings, provided educational stipends, prepared for the annual conference, and communicated with you, our loyal membership. I would be remiss if I didn't thank the people that are responsible for these many accomplishments. First, my thanks to the MVD Executive Board. First VP Jim Keating (KS) and Second VP Mark Young (WY), you have been excellent to work with. These chief officers offer a very bright and prosperous future of the MVD. International Director Steve Westermann (MO) has once again done an exceptional job of keeping the MVD informed on the activities and business of the IAFC and will soon be on the campaign trail for Second Vice President of the IAFC-2005. Secretary Merwick has the responsibility of keeping the division on task and within budget. Thanks for everything. Your assistance has been invaluable! Past President Rob Brown (MO) provided mem with advice when I needed it the most. Okay, now for the work-horses, our Board of Directors: VP Jerry Rhodes (CO), VP mark Wessel (IA), VP Dennis Meyer (KS), VP Richard Carrizzo (MO), VP Jim Rowell (NE), VP Peter O'Neill (ND), VP Gary Shepherd (SD), and last, but certainly not least, VP Brad Sarff (WY). Thanks to all of you for your hard work and dedication to the MVD of the IAFC! It has been my sincere pleasure to work with each and every one of you.

Looking to the coming year, it's obvious

we still have a lot of work to do. Issues such as but not limited to, homeland security, WMD, interoperability, fire service funding, staffing levels, fire prevention and public education, fire fighter health and safety, and the National Incident Management System will continue to require our collective effort if we are to be successful. I challenge each and every one of you to get involved and make a difference right in the communities that you live and serve in. Actively I participate in your state associations and stay connected with the MVD and the IAFC. Through our collective efforts, we will continue to make a positive impact on the fire service.

Congratulations to many MVD fire departments on your successful 2003 Assistance to Firefighters grant awards. Grant awards totaled just over \$74.3 million to MVD fire departments. At the risk of repeating myself, write your respective members of Congress and let them know how much you appreciate their support and hard work to maintain this funding for the fire service.

My thanks to the Wyoming State Fire chiefs Association for their hospitality in April at their meeting and memorial service. It was a privilege to be in attendance and learn about the many initiatives and activities you are endeavoring to achieve. Please accept my sincere wishes for your continued success.

It's not too late to register for the MVD Annual Conference. The conference is scheduled for July 14-16, 2004, in Sioux city, IA. this will be an excellent opportunity to "Rediscover the Fire Service Along the Lewis & Clark Trail." Fire Chief Bob Hamilton and the Sioux City Fire Department has assembled a tremendous line-up of educational seminars with national leaders.

In closing, I'd like you to know that it has

been an honor and a privilege to serve as your president this past year. You can be proud of th MVD legacy. Our predecessors had the vision and foresight to establish a solid reputation as a leader among the IAFC divisions. Without a doubt, the experience that you've entrusted me with is certainly one of the highlights of my career. I can't think of a better way to conclude my term than to be in my home state of Iowa and I'm looking forward to seeing all of you in Sioux City for what promises to be an excellent conference!

As always, be safe! ☐



The Missouri Valley Association of Fire Chiefs is dedicated to supporting professional development of its members through educational, leadership, and networking opportunities, while serving as a liaison between State Chiefs' organizations and the International Association of Fire Chiefs.



Calendar of Events

July 14-16, 2004
MVD Annual Conference
Sioux City, IA

August 12-15, 2004
IAFC-FRI
New Orleans, LA

FRI NEW ORLEANS MVD LUNCHEON

The luncheon sponsored by 3M Corporation for the Missouri Valley Division members, spouses, and friends at FRI New Orleans will be held on Saturday, August 14, 2004, from 11:30 to 1:00 p.m. at the Convention Center. Tickets are \$5.00 and will be available from your State Vice President at the Sioux City Conference or you can contact him anytime after the conference. □

NEW ORLEANS – A CITY OF MANY TASTES

New Orleans reputation may be more fiction than fact (except during Mardi Gras), but the beauty of the city is no tall tale. Wander through the famous French Quarter, the historical Garden District or the New Orleans Riverwalk and discover some of the South's most distinctive architecture and culture. Along the way, be sure to sample of the magnificent Cajun and Creole cookery that has made this region famous.

SIGHTS TO SEE:

- **The Aquarium and Audubon Zoo:** One of the top five aquariums in the U.S!
- **The French Quarter:** A ten block mosaic of colors, sounds, and tastes like no other in the world.
- **Garden District:** Magnificently landscaped area known for its Greek Revival and Italianate architecture.
- **Jackson Square:** Entertainers and sightseeing – the St. Louis Cathedral tow-

FRI HOSPITALITY ROOM

A hospitality room sponsored by the Missouri Chiefs Association to support the candidacy of our International Director Steve Westermann for 2nd Vice President of the IAFC in 2005 will be hosted on Friday, August 13, 2004, from 5:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. at the Hilton Riverside Hotel. □

ers over the square, located in the French Quarter.

- **Royal Street Antique Shops:** Many treasures from the past in the many shops and galleries.
- **Harrah's Casino:** Try your luck. The largest free-standing casino in the U.S. Open 24 hours.
- **National D-Day Muesum:** Celebrates the courage and sacrifice of the men and women who won World War II
- **Jazzland Theme Park:** Fun for all the family. Twenty-minute drive from downtown.
- **St. Louis Cathedral:** Visit the oldest cathedral in North America.
- **Riverwalk Market Place:** Home of 120 stores and restaurants and one-of-a-kind pushcarts.
- **Jackson Brewery:** Over 50 stores, restaurants, and cafés. Great clothes and great Cajun spices. □

THE COLORADO FIRE MECHANICS' ASSOCIATION 15TH ANNUAL EMERGENCY VEHICLE MAINTENANCE ACADEMY

Once again, the Academy will be co-hosted by the Aims Community College in Greeley, Colorado, the Union Colony Fire Department and the Colorado Fire Mechanics' Association.

Greeley, CO, is located on the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains just east of the Rocky Mountain National Park. Denver is one hour to the South and Cheyenne, WY about an hour to the north by car. Steeped in western tradition this rural community offers plenty of diversion for all. The classes offered are designed to provide current information for maintenance service, and repair of today's Emergency Vehicles and equipment. These classes are filled on a first-come, first-serve basis. Choices of classes have minimums and may be canceled due to lack of enrollment. No students will be enrolled without complete registration information and payment. Enroll early as some of our offerings fill up early on! Registration deadline is June 30, 2004.

For additional information contact us at 720-865-3850 (Jay) or 303-478-4091 (Mike). E-mail: triss@comcast.net Admin. Asst.

Visit our web page www.co-fma.com
□

Sioux City Resolutions

If any member of the Missouri Valley Division has an action they would like the membership to act on at the Sioux City Conference, they should mail that resolution to Resolutions Chairman Mark Young, 200 North David, Casper, WY 82601, or e-mail him at: myoung@cityofcasperwy.com
NOT LATER THAN JUNE 15, 2004

MVD Web Site

The Missouri Valley
Division web site is
www.mvdiafc.org

FireRescue-GPO of the Future

by Richard R. Carrizzo

Being invited to serve as an advisor to Fire-GPO, as a Missouri Valley Division representative, provided me with uncertainty and confusion. Last year when the Division signed onto Fire-GPO, the Board understood that this could be a great tool to order department goods and services at a contracted price.

FireRescue-GPO has been overhauled completely. Not only are you going to see a name change, but also a whole new structure and product opportunities await us all.

You may still be asking, "What is GPO and how does it work?" GPO is Group Purchasing Opportunity that enables contracts for products to be set at reduced rates. The manufacture or providers of goods benefits is large volume of sales from a larger audience that may not have bought at a higher rate.

Our GPO was originally set up by the Western Chiefs, who are still using the old contracts and saving money for their departments and citizens. They realized that if more departments joined with them, they would have a bigger voice and more strength to lower prices even further. Thus, the push last year to have IAFC and the Divisions come on board.

FireRescue-GPO most recently contracted with Amerinet GPO. They are the largest GPO that provides services and with over 40,000 contracts, contracts to a target audience of hospitals and health-care providers. Of the total, approximately 80 percent have signed on as a FireRescue-GPO contract.

As the Advisory Board attended the conference and exhibit of Amerinet, I was confused as to how some of Amerinet's contracts could benefit my department and Division. I was not alone, others on the Board were just as confused. As we walked through the show and spoke with the exhibitors, I became amazed at the possibilities of products and how the reduced costs could benefit the fire service. Two such examples were Boise/OfficeMax [Boise bought out OfficeMax at the beginning of the year] and Sysco foods.

Boise/Office Max has a contract with Amerinet, thus allowing FireRescue-GPO to be included in the contract. We all buy office supplies and such for our depart-

ments. Boise's contract allows us to buy for under our current prices. I know that my department buys copy/printing paper on a regular basis and buys in bulk when a sale is run. Boise's GPO contract price is less than I am paying on sale.

Sysco Foods, who would have thought? My mind went running while talking with them. I thought of department function where I normally bring in food, rehab kits, long on scene events, etc.... Sysco Foods provided the rehab food for the Florida Wildland Fires. The possibilities are endless and provide a benefit back to the Divisions and State Chief Associations.

When products or services are purchased via the FireRescue-GPO or Amerinet-GPO, a portion is paid to the FireRescue-GPO. This is a fee that the contractor pays, not our departments, for having the contract. I cannot stress this enough. Whatever the contract price is for the product or services is our cost, nothing more with the exception of shipping costs. You could compare this to the health insurance field that contract with doctors. Same form of system.

FireRescue-GPO is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 Corporation. Once the fees are collected from FireRescue-GPO, they are divided in equal shares of 20 percent to the following: Amerinet, Western Chiefs, Division in which the purchaser is a member, Katsap County and IAFC. I should explain how this is derived. IAFC and the Division is self-explanatory, one of the benefits of doing this for both the Division and the IAFC. Amerinet has joined on as a benefit to them and to the fire service. At this

time they have employed the president of the GPO to run it for FireRescue GPO and Amerinet.

Many changes will be coming very quickly. E-Surge, a Seattle company, was hired to revamp the present web page. The first version of this new page is scheduled for July 9, with the second version in the fall and final completion in 2005. It will enable a purchaser to get on the web page, do a search for a type of product and the corresponding contracts would emerge. This will allow the purchaser to determine which price is best and with which contract.

Not only will the web page allow for product purchasing, but along with the mission of FireRescue-GPO of bringing better pricing to the fire service along with safety and education. The web page will be hosting E-University, designed to assist with training of the fire service by posting classes submitted by instructors across the country for on-line training. Eventually, it will be to track and be reportable. E-News will be another feature that will post current events and searchable archives.

Further, "target buys" will be posted on a regular basis. A "target buy" will be a special offer by one of the current vendors with reduced pricing. These "target-buys" will be anything from paper to cascade filling stations.

I will continue to keep everyone posted through e-mail and Fire Link articles to provide departments with information to purchase at reduced rates and assist our division. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please contact me. □

MVD Members

Code Action Committee of ICC

Four members of the Missouri Valley Division have been appointed to represent the MVD in the Code Action review process for the International Code Council. Members are Marc Sampson of Longmont, Colorado Fire Department; Jeff Hudson of the Shawnee Mission, Kansas Fire Department; Gerald Ambrosecchia of West Overland Fire District in St. Louis, Missouri; and Roger Jensen of the Iowa

City, Iowa Fire Department.

The Committee meets once a year to review code change proposals submitted for review and to present code change proposals submitted by members of the MVC. The recommendations of the Committee are forwarded to the ICC Code Correlating Committee for final review and prioritization prior to being sent to the IAFC. □

Missouri Valley Division

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NEW MEMBERS

A BIG WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Chief Karl Bauer - Leadville, CO
Chief Brian Arnold - Dubuque, IA
Director Darrel Graf - Bismark, ND
AC Gerald Ambrosecchia - West Overland
Fire, MO
Manager Don Flynn - St. Louis, MO
DC Travis Trent - Rogersville, MO
DC Jerald Karr - Lawrence, KS
AC James Clark - Sioux City, IA
Chief Gary Birch - Liberty, MO
Chief Don Elmer - Pittsburg, KS
Chief Robert Forbes - Hutchison, KS
Chief Doug McBee - West Metro FPD,
Lakewood, CO

Summit County - Frisco, CO
BC Tom DeMint - Fort Collins, CO
BC Warren Jones - Livermore, CO
Chief Robert Tade - Denver, CO
AC James Sestrich - Denver, CO
BC Arthur Morales - Castle Rock, CO
BC Ian Bennett - Castle Rock, CO
Chief Wayne Millo - Whiteman AFB, MO
Chief Scott Mullins - Eureka, MO
Chief Bruce Schreiner - Garrison, ND
Chief Terry Kesterke - West Burlington, IA

NEW 2ND VP

Chief Richard Carrizzo of Southern Platte FPD in Kansas City, Missouri, ran for the office of 2nd VP of the MVD unopposed and will be sworn in as the new 2nd VP on the MVD at the Sioux City conference banquet. Congratulations, Rich. ☐



MVD Web Site

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