

FIRE LINK

• COLORADO • IOWA • KANSAS • MISSOURI • NEBRASKA • NORTH DAKOTA • SOUTH DAKOTA • WYOMING •

From the President

by Steve Westermann

When I was young (and there are days when I feel like that was eons ago), I used to count the days until some long-awaited event arrived, or wished that it was such-and-such holiday. My parents always said to not wish your life away because as you get older, the faster the days will go. In my young foolishness, I thought they were being silly. My parents are getting smarter every day. As I sit and write this last article as President of the Missouri Valley Division, those thoughts come rushing back, because it does not seem like a year has gone by since I was writing my first article for the *Fire Link*.

Part of the reason that the year has gone so fast is simply the array of things going on in the Division. One of my primary goals this past year was to visit each state's chief's conference. With the exception of missing South Dakota and Kansas due to some knee surgery, my travels to the other six states were very gratifying. We have some extremely active states. I sincerely appreciate the hospitality that was extended! I believe that one of the core reasons for the strength of this division lies with the strength and activities of the member states.

In January, the Board met in Kansas City to review and update the Strategic Plan. This year's goal is to focus on membership by utilizing the State Vice Presidents more in their capacity and

to increase the focus on the Division by being the conduit between the IAFC and the various state chiefs' organizations. This also assists in reaching that "one voice" for the leadership of the fire service. This Board is committed to serving the membership. Please contact your state vice president or any officer if you have any concerns or you want to help with a project. This is the third year for our strategic plan process and I hope you are seeing a difference in the Division. One of our concerns in the past has been succession of officers and maintaining the strategic planning process, and I feel that we have addressed those concerns. The Constitution and Bylaws have also been redone and have been approved by the IAFC Board.

Our Web page has been redone with more information and more user friendly. The stipend program started by Chief Lehmann continues to assist states with training conferences. The stipend program was used five times in the last year. The EMS section is starting to gain some momentum and had over 30 people attend an organizational meeting at the EMS conference in Las Vegas. The Pub Ed section had another successful conference in Waterloo, Iowa, with approximately 80 people in attendance. If these sections are going to continue to gain strength and be viable, valuable assets, they will need our strong support. Have the appropriate people in your organization attend those meetings and conferences. In closing, I would like to extend my sincere and heartfelt thanks to all of you for your comments of support and assistance during this past year. It has truly been an honor to serve you as President in one of the best and strongest Divisions in the IAFC. □



Calendar of Events

June 6-9 – Pierre
South Dakota State Fire School

July 10-12
MVAFC Annual Conference
Castle Rock, CO
Contact Chief Rob Brown,
303.660.1069
www.ci.castlerock.co.us/fire
(see related article below)

Fire-Rescue International 2002
August 23-26
Kansas City, MO
(see related article on page 2)

Castle Rock Conference

The Castle Rock Conference to be held July 10-12, 2002, is fast approaching. Hotels are filling fast and if you have not made your reservations, do so now by filling out the registration packet sent by Castle Rock or you can contact DC Dave Becker at dbecker@ci.castlerock.co.us or 303-660-1066 for information.

Incoming IAFC President Randy Bruegman will be in attendance at the Conference to meet the membership of the MVAFC to answer questions and to thank Missouri Valley for their support of his candidacy for IAFC President. □

Lessons Learned from Terrorist Attacks

IAFC Members Can Now Download New Book Free

The RAND Science and Technology Policy Institute has announced the release of a new book titled *Protecting Emergency Responders: Lessons Learned from Terrorist Attacks* which summarizes key findings from a December 2001 working conference sponsored by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Participants at the December workshop, which provided the basis for the book, included emergency response workers who responded to the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, the anthrax bioterrorism incidents that occurred during Autumn 2001, and the bombing of the Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City.

IAFC member John Eversole, former District Chief, Special Functions for the Chicago Fire Department, was a featured speaker at the conference.

The report which includes material from Chief Eversole's presentation, addresses the equipment, training and information required to protect emer-

gency responders. According to the publishers, the book is intended to:

- Help federal managers and decisionmakers understand the unique working and safety environment associated with terrorist incidents.
- Develop a comprehensive personal protective technology research agenda.
- Improve federal education and training programs and activities directed at the health and safety of emergency responders.

IAFC members can download copies of the book for free in PDF format from the RAND Web site at www.rand.org/publications/CF/CF176. (Be advised that the document is 102 pages long. You may want to print excerpts first or save the document to disk.)

IAFC members can also order hard-bound copies of the books for \$20 each through RAND Distribution Services by calling 877-584-8642 (toll free inside the U.S.) or 310-451-7002; fax 310-451-6915; or e-mail order@rand.org. □

Eleven Candidates File for IAFC 2nd Vice President

Eleven candidates have filed for the Office of 2nd Vice President of the IAFC. Listed below are the eleven candidates. If you want more information on the candidates, go to the Web site at www.mvafc.org.

- Robert T. Bettenhausen**
Fire Marshal
Tinley Park Fire Department, IL

- Gregory B. Cade, Fire Chief**
Virginia Beach Fire Department,
VA

- Michael W. Davis, Fire Chief**
Burbank Fire Department, CA

- Karl D. Diekman, Fire Chief**
Woodland Fire Department, CA

- Bob DiPoli, Fire Chief**
Needham Fire Department, MA

- Mark J. Ewald, Fire Chief**
Missouri City Fire & Rescue, TX

- William D. Killen, Director**
U.S. Navy Fire & Emergency
Services, DC

- John R. Leahy, Jr., Fire Chief**
Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue,
FL

- Jeff A. Stricklin, Fire Chief**
City of Concordia Fire
Department, KS

- Kenn E. Taylor, Fire Chief**
Violet Township Fire Department,
OH

- Alberto (Butch) C. Zaragoza, Jr.**
Fire Chief
Vestavia Hills Fire Department,
AL

Castle Rock Resolutions

If any member of the MVAFC has an action they would like the membership to act on at the Conference, they should mail that resolution to Resolutions Chairman Chief Larry Donner at 1805 33rd Street, Boulder, CO 80301 or email to him at donner@ci.boulder.co.us

NOT LATER THAN JUNE 15, 2002

Wyoming News

by Chief Mark Young

The Wyoming Fire Chiefs Association met in Riverton, WY, on April 6, 2002. This meeting was held in conjunction with the annual Fallen Firefighter Memorial Service at the Wyoming Fire Academy. MVAFC President Steve Westermann was in attendance at the meeting and was the keynote speaker at the memorial service. President Westermann also gave an update on Missouri Valley and IAFC issues. That evening, the WFCFA officers were sworn in by President Westermann. The officers are Brad Sarff, President; Don Huber, Vice President; Jim Wingert, 2nd Vice President; and Gene Diedtrick, Secretary Treasurer. The Wyoming Fire chiefs appreciated the attendance of President Westermann and found his presentation of issues and keynote address to be very informative, valuable and heartfelt.

While many issues of concern to the WFCFA were discussed during the meeting, there was notable discussion on the lack of success during the recent Wyoming legislative session with many fire service issues. The State Fire Marshal's office reported on the progress of new certifications and testing requirements and a report was given concerning the development of a proposed regional haz-mat plan for the State of Wyoming. This plan includes the use of six fire department haz-mat teams across the state. These departments will provide haz-mat/ WMD response services out of their home jurisdictions to neighboring counties and municipalities. This plan is under development, with input from the Wyoming Fire Chiefs and will be recommended to the State Emergency Response Commission the first part of July 2002.

The world-famous Buffalo Hunt is rapidly approaching. The hunt is scheduled for September 26-28, 2002. Many Wyoming Fire Chiefs and fire

service members are selling raffle tickets for the Buffalo Hunt. The drawing for the hunt is on August 10. Cost for the tickets is \$5 each. The money raised goes to the Wyoming Fire Academy Foundation to support fire academy programs and projects. For more information on the hunt or to purchase tickets, contact Mark Young at 307.235.8221, e-mail myoung@city-of-casper.wy.com, or see a Wyoming Fire Chief at this year's MVAFC Conference in Castle Rock, CO.

The next meeting of the WFCFA will be held June 12, 2002, in Wheatland, WY.

See you in Castle Rock! ☐

Sioux City, IA 2004

Chief Robert Hamilton contacted the MVAFC about holding the 2004 MVAFC conference in Sioux City, Iowa, in July. Sioux City Fire and representatives of the City will be at the Castle Rock to make a presentation to the Board. Chief Hamilton said the hotel facilities are great, the Conference Center is in the heart of the downtown, and the casino boat is close to downtown. Chief Hamilton is past President of the MVAFC and hosted a past conference about ten years ago. ☐

Missouri News

Chief Dyer Serving on Medal of Valor Review Board

IAFC Past President Richard "Smokey" Dyer, Chief of the Kansas City, MO, Fire Department, has been appointed to the first Medal of Valor Review Board. The Review Board met on March 26, 2002, in Washington, DC, in accordance with the "Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor Act of 2001." The intent of the law and for this program is to establish an equivalent honor for firefighters, law enforcement officers and emergency services officers as is now done to the military with the Congressional Medal of Honor. The Presidential Medal of Valor will be the highest award that can be presented to a firefighter, law enforcement officer or emergency services officer. For more details, see *IAFC On Scene*/May 15, 2002.

Missouri Fire Courses Approved

The American Council on Education (ACE) has now approved 26 courses offered by MUFRTI. On April 3, 2002, ACE approved two courses

developed and offered by Missouri University Extension's Fire and Rescue Training Institute for academic credit recommendation. Six National Fire Academy courses offered by the Fire and Rescue Training Institute were also approved for credit recommendation by the ACE evaluation team.

ACE's College Credit Recommendation Services evaluates and makes credit recommendations for formal educational courses sponsored by non-degree granting organizations. ACE's College Credit Recommendation Service helps adult learners obtain academic credit for learning acquired outside the traditional college classroom by providing college officials with reliable information that can be used to determine credit awards and in turn a fire science degree.

ACE approved the following courses: *Fire Officer II*; *Introduction to Emergency Management for Fire Service*; *Introduction to Wildland and Wildland/Urban Interface Firefighting for the Structural Company Officer*; *Managing Company Tactical Operations: Decisionmaking*; *Managing Company Tactical Operations: Preparation*; *Principles of Building Construction: Combustible*; *Principles of Building Construction: Noncombustible*; and *Introduction to Fire Inspection Principles and Practices*. ☐

Fire Chief Tells All

A new book entitled *Out of the Ashes* authored by J. C. Mitera of Hastings, NE, printed by Boomer Press of Lincoln, NE, is now available.

J. C. Mitera retired as Fire Chief of Hastings, NE, May 31, 2000. He joined the fire service in 1967 serving both as a volunteer and career firefighter/ambulance technician with his hometown of Columbus, NE. In 1971, he moved his family to Lincoln, NE, and served with the Lincoln Fire Department until 1978. During this period of time, he completed his associate degree in fire science, business management, EMTA and other specialized courses.

In 1978, he accepted the position of Assistant Fire Chief with the Hastings, NE, Fire Department. In 1985 he attained the rank of fire chief. Firmly committed to training, Chief Mitera has instructed many fire, rescue, and hazardous material subjects for more than 25 years. He has been a member of the International Association of Arson Investigators, Inc., the International Society of Fire Service Instructors, their affiliated Nebraska Chapters and past president of the Nebraska Chapter IAAI. Beginning in 1970 and continu-

ing throughout his career he has kept diaries of his experiences.

Out of the Ashes relates the emergency, education and station house adventures as his career developed. As the period of time unfolds, many personnel are identified who the author came in contact either as a member of a fire department, serving as an instructor or a member of the Nebraska Chapter IAAI. The author says, "The book tries to reflect some history, humor and happenings over more than 30 years. I have identified most people and communities by name. The book is intended to be a tribute to all who contributed in some way to improve their community and/or the emergency services in which they participated. The book plants a seed of advice to present managers and cultivated with a bit of personal opinion."

Ask for the book at your local bookstores or by ordering direct at Mitera Enterprises, 3019 West 7th St., Hastings, NE 68901. For information contact 402-463-4466 or mmitera@inebraska.com. The book retails for \$16. Books ordered by mail must include \$3.95 for shipping & handling and will be signed by the author. □

Alaska Firefighters Name Mountain for Fallen Heroes

The firefighters of Kenai, Alaska, have established a lasting tribute to the FDNY heroes who lost their lives on September 11; they have convinced the Alaska Historical Commission to name a mountain after the patron saint of firefighters around the world, St. Florian.

A sign will be set up at a city park with a view of the mountain, to explain the name. This summer, a group of firefighters will climb St. Florian to leave a memorial plaque at the top. The expedition will be led by firefighter John Harris, who scaled Mt. McKinley last summer to benefit the National Fallen Firefighters Founda-

tion. The group will invite FDNY firefighters to join them.

The City of Kenai Fire Department has 16 full-time firefighters and serves a population of 7,000 in 36 sq. miles.

St. Florian, the mountain, is 37 miles east of Kenai, across Cook Inlet off the Pacific Ocean. It is visible to visitors when they fly or sail into Anchorage, Walden said.

In a letter sent to NYC Mayor Rudy Giuliani, Kenai Chief Walde wrote, "The naming of this mountain, an enduring symbol of strength that stands forever with such a fitting name, seems to be the most appropriate gesture that we firefighters can make." □

IAFC Membership Survey Background Checks

This survey was conducted in December 2001 to determine the current standards of practice with regard to employee/member background checks in departments across the nation.

Key Findings:

100% of career departments, 97% of combination departments, and 91% of volunteer departments ran background checks. At least half of all reporting career and combination departments conduct ten or fewer checks per year, but 72% of volunteer departments reported this range. Of these background checks, the most prevalent types used, in order of preference were: Local Criminal History, Driving Record, Previous Employee Reference, and Personal References.

All three types of departments reported nearly identical types of checks conducted. In every instance except one, the ratio of type of check reported was highest for career departments, followed by combination department and volunteer departments respectively. The only exception was medical fitness checks.

Over half the number of departments reported lack written policy to outline grounds for rejection of a candidate and state that this is a concern for them. Among other concerns were:

- Difficulty in obtaining a sufficient number of good candidates;
- Reliability and accuracy of info;
- Fear of unknowingly violating civil rights laws;
- Difficulty in obtaining true criminal background info for out-of-state offenses;
- Parameters for incumbent background checks;
- Formal policies or rejecting applicants;
- Lack of time and resources to be thorough.

The complete results of this survey can be reviewed by accessing the IAFC website at www.iafc.org. □

Candidate Bios

INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR
Chief Steve Westermann
Central Jackson Fire, MO



“I have been honored and fortunate to represent Missouri Valley at the International level in their strategic planning processes and as a member of the IAFC’s 1710 Decision Guide Task Force. I feel that I have a fairly good grasp of where the IAFC is going, and since I am just completing my term as President of the Division, this role would be a natural progression in my service to our members. I also feel that I can do well representing all of the members’ opinions and that this role requires that personal opinions be set aside in order to obtain a goal that the IAFC is the “single voice” for fire service management.

Westermann has been Chief of the Central Jackson County Fire Protection District in Blue Springs, MO, since 1988, and an active member in the IAFC since 1987. He has degrees from Oklahoma State University, Central Missouri State University, and Master’s in Public Administration from University of Missouri-Kansas City. He is a graduate of the National Fire Academy’s EFO program and is a past president of the Heart of America Fire Chiefs Council, the Missouri Association of Fire Chiefs and is finishing up a term as president of the Missouri Valley Association of Fire Chiefs. He is currently the chairman of the Missouri Fire and Ambulance District Insurance Trust which is a Workers’ Compensation insurance pool. The MVAFC Board, Heart of America Fire Chiefs Council, Western Missouri Fire Chiefs, St. Louis County Fire Chiefs, Johnson County (KS) Fire Chiefs, Kansas State Association of Fire Chiefs, Iowa Professional Fire Chiefs Association, IAFF Local 3133, North Dakota Fire Chiefs, Nebraska Municipal Fire Chiefs and Wyoming Fire Chiefs Association have endorsed him.

INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR
Chief Larry Donner
Boulder, Colorado



Larry Donner announces his candidacy for Missouri Valley’s IAFC Director. He has been an active member of the MV for over 20 years; he served as MV President in 1992 and currently represents the MV on the IAFC Constitution By-Laws and Resolutions Committee. He also serves on the Editorial Advisory Board for *Fire Chief Magazine*.

Larry Donner’s continual involvement and experience in the Missouri Valley Association of Fire Chiefs gives him a thorough understanding of what it takes to represent you at the IAFC. If elected, he will listen to your concerns, keep you informed, and work to maintain the IAFC as this nation’s premier fire service organization. He pledges to maintain an atmosphere of openness and respect, allowing members to work together, even when we disagree. Chief Donner believes in two-way communication, strategic planning, and the advancement of the fire service through effective partnerships.

The events of September 11, 2001 have accelerated the winds of change. As we meet the new challenges ahead, the fire service will emerge stronger. Chief Donner believes we have an opportunity to create an integrated approach that will bring together emergency preparedness directors, public utilities, and law enforcement agencies to meet our citizens needs. This is the message he will take to the IAFC.

Chief Donner has over 30 years experience in the fire service. He has served as a firefighter, company officer, training chief, fire marshal, and fire chief. He has an A.A. in Fire Science. His B.A. and M.A. Degrees are in Political Science and Public Administration. He is a graduate of the National Fire Academy Executive Fire

Officer Program and the Harvard Program for Senior Executives in State and Local Government.

2ND VICE PRESIDENT
Chief Gary E. Curmode
Sedgwick County, Kansas



As I have written in the *Fire Link* in 2001 and again in 2002, I have stated my background and qualifications for the position of 2nd Vice President of the Missouri Valley Fire Chiefs.

I want to reiterate that I am a hard-working fire chief who values high ethics, loyalty and the pursuit of excellence, and I love the fire service. I know my roots as a firefighter and all the positions in between. I will do my best if elected to listen to concerns, analyze the options, work with the executive board, and do what is best for the fire service and the citizens we serve. Our strategic plan is excellent, and I will continue to work to build upon that.

Thanks for your support!

2ND VICE PRESIDENT
Chief James Keating
St. Mary’s Fire Department



It is with excitement and energy that I look forward to the possible opportunity to serve this organization as second vice president. The Missouri Valley Association of Fire Chiefs has a long and respected history of supporting and representing its members on vital fire service issues.

Today, more than ever, such support must be maintained and expanded in this rapidly changing world to assure the fire service has a strong voice in the development of laws, standards, codes, and regulations that will govern us in the future. As the fire service role expands, we need to assure that we are provided the support necessary to carry out those missions. If

(continued on page 6)

Western Wildland Fire Outlook 2002

The Rocky Mountain area has already experienced several early season large wildfires for this time of year. Decreased winter snow pack, abnormally dry fuels, and above normal temperatures are the main contributor to this early start to the fire season. Without significant precipitation this month, drought conditions will continue to persist.

Several factors alarm us about the fire season. The 1000-hour fuel moistures as of April 28, 2002 are lower than the same time in 2000. This is significant because 2000 was considered the worst fire season in a century. In general terms this means that we would need weeks of precipitation to have any measurable effect on the 1000 hour fuels. Our current measurements are 9-13 percent. As a comparison, kiln dried lumber is 8 percent. They will only continue to drop in the summer months.

To track daily 1000 hr fuel moistures, go to www.fs.fed.us/arnf/fire/DidxFindForm.jsp.htm

Secondly, live fuel moistures are very low. Live fuel moisture (LFM) is the percent of water in the living plant. We would expect LFM in ponderosa pine to be 150-200 percent during spring greenup but we are seeing moistures 90-100 percent or even less in some areas. The live fuel moisture is critical in the potential of crown fire initiation.

The other indicator we are following is the Energy Release Component (ERC) – which considers all the dead fuel classes, greenness and live fuel moistures. It tracks long-term drying trends – showing potential for large fire growth. We are already seeing ERCs about 90 percent of all-time highs.

It is difficult to improve on these factors since they are related to long-term moisture conditions. It would be expected that we will continue to see extreme fire conditions as the drought persists and the summer months continue to heat up.

To follow all our Fire danger info, go to www.fs.fed.us/arnf/fire/fire.html and scroll to Fire Danger/Severity. □

Candidate Bios...continued

elected second vice president, I will work towards the implementation of the Association strategic plan and the continual review and updating of that plan to anticipate meeting our future challenges.

Through my 33-year career in the fire service and numerous years of leadership experience in Kansas Fire Service Associations, I have found that accurate and timely communication of information to those concerns is vital to the success of any endeavor. I am a strong advocate of state level involvement. I will look forward to working with all our member states to assure information from the IAFC on issues is communicated, the implications are understood, and our members' thoughts, suggestions and concerns are communicated through the Board and on to the IAFC.

With my experience in government, leadership ability, strong belief in working as a team, and a desire to give a full commitment of myself, I pledge, with the support of this Association's membership, to continue to make the Missouri Valley the most respected association in the IAFC and to provide our membership with the best representation possible. □

The Positive Side of Life...A Few Observations

- Living on Earth is expensive, but it does include a free trip around the sun every year.
- How long a minute is depends on what side of the bathroom door you're on.
- Birthdays are good for you; the more you have, the longer you live.
- Happiness comes through doors you didn't even know you left open.
- Ever notice that the people who are late are often much jollier than the people who have to wait for them?
- Most of us go to our grave with our music still inside of us.
- If Walmart is lowering prices every day, how come nothing is free yet?
- You may be only one person in the world, but you may also be the world to one person.
- Some mistakes are too much fun to only make once.
- Don't cry because it's over; smile because it happened.
- We could learn a lot from crayons: some are sharp, some are pretty, some are dull, some have weird names, and all are different colors...but they all exist very nicely in the same box.
- A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour.

EMS Section

The EMS Section held its first annual mini-conference in Denver, Colorado, on April 5-6, 2002. While not well attended, the event proved to be a very productive and interesting time.

The business meeting focused on the issues of membership and member services. The newly developed application was reviewed by the group and generally accepted as providing the information we as an organization wish to represent. Identification of a logo was also discussed. Use of a variation of the IAFC's EMS section logo received the majority of interest. The IAFC Section will be asked for permission to use their logo on MVAFC materials.

The discussion on services provided great ideas and methods to extend value-added service to members of the section as well as those of the Division. Services such as reference materials, an annual mini-conference, speakers bureau on fire-based EMS topics, and "administrative mutual aid" services topped the list.

The educational portion of the conference included some very timely and interesting material. A personal reflection and application to mass gatherings

was represented by Marilyn Bourne, EMS Coordinator for South Metro Fire Authority, Colorado. Her experience with the 2002 Olympic games provided a very interesting twist on issues surrounding mass gatherings. Chief John Sinclair, IAFC EMS Section Board, provided information and thoughts on a number of timely national EMS issues such as health care reform, HIPPA, and human resources. The information helped to clarify many questions on the new billing criteria as well as issues on patient confidentiality and reporting.

The Section also held a well attended meeting during Fire-Rescue Med in Las Vegas. The meeting focused on an update of the mini-conference. Discussion on the services and membership efforts received yet another nod of approval by those in attendance. The IAFC EMS Section Board attended the opening of the MVAFC EMS Section meeting and stated their support of the section's efforts and gave their permission to use the IAFC EMS Section logo on our materials.

The Section's next meeting will be in Castlerock, Colorado, at July's annual Division conference. The agenda will be full with work produced from the two meetings this year and election of officers will be held. □

Firefighting's Darkest Day Remembered

Fallen Heroes: A Tribute from Fire Engineering, is a 160-page, 8-1/2" x 11" keepsake that details the devastating effects the World Trade Center attacks had on the New York City Fire Department.

Fallen Heroes: A Tribute from Fire Engineering appeals to both the general public and those in the fire service. The book can be purchased

through the Fire Engineering book catalog, online at www.pennwell-store.com, via e-mail and direct mail campaigns and through resellers. For more sales information contact National Account Executive Francie Halcomb at 1-800-745-3911 or 1-918-832-9240 or francieh@pennwell.com.

□

Tragedy Hits St. Louis

Captain Derek Martin died Friday, May 3, 2002, at St. Louis University Hospital after battling a fire at Gravois Refrigeration Co. He was 38 and a resident of St. Louis.

Captain Robert Morrison, 38, died early Saturday, May 4, 2002, at St. Louis University Hospital of injuries while battling a fire Friday at Gravois Refrigeration Co. Capt. Morrison, along with Capt. Derek Martin, were trying to rescue another firefighter from the blaze inside the building at 2239 Gravois Avenue. Both were promoted to captain posthumously Monday.

Investigators were still sifting through rubble at the Gravois Refrigeration Co. at 2239 Gravois Avenue. The cause of the fire has not yet been determined although investigators have said they do not suspect arson.

Long said fire crews saw little smoke and flame on arrival about 9:30 p.m. Friday at the two-story building, sandwiched among other businesses in the middle of the block. "It just seemed like a routine fire at first. We've done hundreds of these fires before."

But when the quickly dampened flames suddenly flared again, Martin and Morrison went in after a trapped firefighter who radioed for help but then got out the back.

"They gave their lives, they didn't lose their lives," said Capt. Bruce Williams. "They went back in to search for one of their own. And that will happen tomorrow, and that will happen next week."

The Backstoppers organization in St. Louis will assist the families of Capt. Martin and Capt. Morrison. Donations can be sent to Backstoppers, P.O. Box 7717, Chesterfield, MO 63006. □

MVAFC Web Site
www.mvafc.org

International Director's Report...Bob Pottberg

The IAFC Board of Directors' meeting was held on April 26 and 27. The meeting preceded the Terrorism Conference held April 29-30. Both proved to be very informative and a great deal of progress was made at the Board meeting.

President Buckman reported that the IAFC is continuing to build relationships with the ICMA, APCO, and IACP. A task force will be established to further develop the relationship with ICMA and to identify common issues that may be addressed.

Discussion was held on the upcoming election process. To date, 21 packets have been requested and five people have responded with the appropriate paperwork. Just a reminder that the vote for the Second Vice President position is an advisory vote and the incoming President will appoint a new Second Vice President and this must be confirmed by the Board. The other ballot issue is the re-write of the bylaws. The task force assigned to this project has done an outstanding job and the Board of Directors is recommending that membership approve the updated version. It is important that we advise all State and Local organizations of this very important election process. I am encouraging all members to vote in favor of the changes in the bylaws as it will clear up many problems that currently exist. The ballots will be mailed on May 25 and must be returned by July 9.

Deputy Administrator Charlie Dickinson of the USAF, gave an update on the Fire Act Grants. 19,500 grants were received and only 90 were submitted in paper form. The grant process has been recognized as a huge success by those on Capitol Hill. They are very impressed at what was accomplished without the Federal staff for the first process. We must continue to work on the grassroots support! The new grant money that will be going through the States is a concern of most emergency service organizations. It is imperative that we work closely with the State and Local governments to

ensure the money is dispersed as the Federal guideline requires.

The Administrator also reported that USAR will be put under the USFA. In addition, an effort is underway to certify all 28 teams to a WMD level.

The USFA has committed to be the lead agency on a National credential system. We must make every effort to control the emergency scenes, eliminate unauthorized responses and ensure that those responding are trained to perform tasks on the emergency scene.

Officers and Directors gave activity reports and it is evident that the organization is continuing to move forward. Other Divisions are tackling Strategic Plans and Position Statements. The Board was advised that our newly updated plan and statements were available on our Web site.

The auditing company was present to provide a report on the audit of the year 2001. The letter indicated that our organization is in great financial shape and that staff is doing a great job. It does appear that some shortfall will be realized due to the conference in Kansas City where exhibit space is less than in other locations. The numbers for pre-registration are up slightly so this may help some.

Two very important decisions were made by the Board. The first is on the CFOD program and the lack of participants. It is recognized that some problems exist with the program and with participants of the committee. For this reason the program will be put on hold for one year during which time the program will be reworked and new marketing designed. A task force will be appointed to rework the program after which a new committee will be appointed and the new program will be introduced. All current members who have received a letter of approval will receive certification at FRI in Kansas City.

The second issue deals with the future of the organization and the impact it can have on the future of the fire service. It is important that we pre-

pare the future leaders and ensure we are preparing those leaders for future leadership in the organization. It is also important, if we are to be the voice of the fire service, that we are representing everyone involved and that involvement be expanded. For these reasons the IAFC Board passed the following motion:

1) The IAFC Board of Directors authorizes the Executive Director to seek out and organize compatible, mission-related groups and organizations as potential affiliates under the umbrella of the IAFC. The recommended plans shall be submitted to the IAFC Board for ratification.

2) Staff is directed to encourage sections and divisions to create an affiliate member category within their existing constitution and bylaws as reviewed and approved by the IAFC Board. Eligibility for affiliate membership is available to individuals not eligible for IAFC regular membership. Affiliate member dues shall be the combination of the section's and/or division's annual dues and a fee established by the IAFC for services provided.

These two actions are an example of the continued effort by the IAFC to provide leadership, expertise, and integrity. It will make our organization more representative of today's emergency services.

I encourage everyone to visit the IAFC Web site and review the achievements of the task force and committees. These individuals involved should be commended for an outstanding job. They have proven to be invaluable and are essential to the success of our organization.

I believe this was one of the most productive meetings I have attended in my four years of service as the Director for Missouri Valley. It has been a pleasure to serve on the Board and to represent the Missouri Valley Division. After making the announcement that the meeting would be my last, as our annual conference was in July, I was presented a plaque by President Buckman in appreciation for my service.

I wish the Division and my successor the best of luck in the future! □

Apparatus Workshop at FRI

The IAFC is offering an Apparatus Workshop at FRI-Kansas City, two days prior to the opening of the Conference. This year's topics include everything from "Advances in Vehicle Electronics" to "The Pentagon-Lessons Learned." For more information on how to register, contact by e-mail: mparker@iafc.org. It's a great opportunity for anyone interested in today's fire apparatus. □

MVAFC Public Education Section

by Chuck Thacker

The MVAFC Public Educator's Third Annual Conference was held in Waterloo, Iowa, on May 1, 2, and 3. I want to thank everyone who helped with the conference. Your time and effort is truly appreciated.

There was an open meeting held to discuss the status of the Public Education Section. Discussion ensued around the section itself, our scope and purpose, and status of the last known officers, increasing membership, and whether or not dues need to be paid to the section. We reviewed the bylaws and decided to contact those officers that were last listed on the roster to determine their interest and involvement in the Public Education Section.

Michelle Brenner from Overland Park, KS, Fire Department is designing a new membership application and a survey that will be sent out to all departments. This survey will provide members, both current and former, the opportunity to provide input regarding

FRI in Kansas City

All IAFC members have received their registration packets for FRI in KC. KC is a great place to hold a Convention and the HEART of AMERICA Fire Chiefs are going all-out to make this the best IAFC conference yet.

The Missouri Valley Chiefs head-quarter's hotel is the Doubletree which is close to the Convention Center and right downtown. There are still rooms available at the Doubletree. FRI runs from August 23-26, 2002. □

what they would like to see delivered by the Public Education Section. Mary Kay Crall from Olathe, KS, Fire Department will be responsible for receiving the membership applications. More information on this subject will be coming soon.

Next year's conference will be held in Topeka, KS, with the Topeka Fire Department and the Kansas State Fire Marshal's Office serving as co-hosts. On November 13, 2002, we will be having a task group meeting to discuss the needs for this conference.

If you have any comments, suggestions, gripes, or want to help as an officer of the Section, I can be reached at 816-316-4962. My e-mail address is cthacker@ci.grandview.mo.us. The mailing address is: Grandview Fire Department, 7005 Highgrove Road, Grandview, MO 64030. □

FRI 2002 IAFC Committee & Section Meetings

Thursday, August 22

- 1:00-4:00 p.m.
Professional Development Committee
- 2:00-4:00 p.m.
Communications Committee
Elections Committee
Hazardous Materials Committee
Cultural Diversity Committee
Health and Safety Committee
Terrorism Committee
- 3:30-5:30 p.m.
Constitution, Bylaws and Resolutions Committee
- 4:30-6:30 p.m.
Apparatus Maintenance Section Meeting

Sunday, August 25

- 10:00 a.m.-12 noon
Volunteer & Combination Officers Section Business Meeting
- 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon
Industrial Fire and Safety Section Meeting
- 1:00-3:00 p.m.
Federal and Military Service Section Meeting
- 3:00-5:00 p.m.
Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Section Meeting
- 3:00-5:00 p.m.
EMS Section Meeting
- 3:00-5:00 p.m.
Volunteer & Combination Officers Section Board Meeting

MVAFC Web Site
www.mvafc.org

Missouri Valley Association of Fire Chiefs

P.O. Box 80003
Lincoln, NE 68501

PRSRT STD.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
LINCOLN, NE
PERMIT NO. 1147

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.

FIRE SERVICE LEADERSHIP PARTNER SEMINAR JUNE 30-JULY 2, 2002

The Fire Service Leadership Partnership Seminar is an initiative that has been developed by the International Association of Fire Fighters and International Association of Fire Chiefs. As we move into the next century, it has become increasingly important to change the way labor and management interact because of the increasing pressure from non-fire service entities. Civic and political leaders demand that the fire service be responsive to public safety needs.

To be effective, fire service leaders must learn to work as partners and not as adversaries.

During the first phase of the seminar, the participants will be exposed to real life issues that can help the fire chief and union president to work together. A teaching team of a fire chief and a union president will deliver the seminar. The seminars will be conducted in two separate two-day sessions spaced approximately six months apart. Registration is limited to the first 25 departments (50 participants) that register. This seminar is designed to assist the fire chief and the local president/steward to work together. Therefore, for a department to participate, the fire chief and the local president/steward must attend both the sessions.

The cost for both the sessions for the Chief of Department and the Local President/Steward is \$400. This includes a reception prior to each seminar, lunches and breaks for each session. Both sessions are scheduled for Monday and Tuesday. Please plan to arrive on Sunday evening. The seminars will be held at the Lodge of the Four Seasons, Lake Ozark, MO. You must make your first session room reservations early. Reservation deadline is May 31, 2002.

Call The Lodge of the Four Seasons at 1.888.265.5500. Rate is \$95 per night plus tax of 9.725%.