

FIRE LINK

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From the President

by Buck Hartley

Well, it does not seem possible that we are about to enter a new year; this time last we were all worried about the Y2K bug. Many things have taken place since the last newsletter. The Association continues to monitor 1710 and 1720, the FIRE BILL passed, however, funding seems to be a problem. It's passage is a great step forward.

First Vice President Steve Westermann, attended the ICHIEFS strategic planning session, in Fairfax, Virginia, October 28 and 29, 2000. There were approximately 70 chiefs in attendance, of those, eight were from the Missouri Valley. What a GREAT turnout from the Valley. We are very active on the national front and will continue to be.

Mr. Garry Briese, gave a very informative presentation of the significant accomplishments of the ICHIEFS for 1999-2000. Check out the ICHIEFS accomplishments in this newsletter. The MVAFC would like to take this opportunity to say "thank you" to the ICHIEFS for all the things they do for the fire service.

The MVAFC Executive Board will meet in Kansas City, Missouri, January 19-20, 2001, to update our strategic plan. If you have ideas about improving our Association, please forward them to me or your state vice president.

The MVAFC Executive Board and myself would like to wish everyone "Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year." □



Calendar of Events

**Missouri Valley Association of Fire Chiefs
Board Meeting
January 19-21, 2001
Kansas City, Missouri**

**Iowa Chiefs
Mid-Winter Conference
February 6-8, 2001**

**North Dakota Chiefs
February 21-25, 2001
Bismark, North Dakota**

**Fire Life Safety Conference
April 20-22, 2001
Holiday Inn
Olathe, Kansas**

**Missouri Labor Management Service Part II
April 29-May 1, 2001
Big Cedar Lodge, Missouri**

**Missouri Valley Assn. of Fire Chiefs Annual Conference
Casper, Wyoming
July 11-13, 2001
Board Liaison:
1st VP Steve Westermann
Ph 816-229-2522
Chief of Casper-Mark Young
Ph 307-235-8222**

**International Association of Fire Chiefs - FRI
August 24-27, 2001
New Orleans, Louisiana**



IAFC - IS IT WORTH THE MONEY?

Have you ever wondered if the dues you pay the IAFC is getting you much? Have you ever thought about what the IAFC does with all its money? I have to admit that these thoughts have crossed my mind. In the recent strategic planning meeting held in Fairfax on October 28 and 29, the answer to these questions was clearly given. The participants of that meeting were treated to excellent PowerPoint presentation done by Executive Director Garry Freese listing the 1999-2000 accomplishments of the ICHIEFS which is how the IAFC is referred to now. These activities were numerous. To write an article about them in detail would take many pages. This article will, however, list them and if you are interested in finding out more about any one of these achievements, you can call the ICHIEFS office and they will be happy to give you further information.

For organizational purposes, the accomplishments will be listed under the following categories: legislative, financial, affiliations, education and information, as well as leadership.

Legislative:

- Passage of Firefighter Definition Act – defines EMS as essential definition of firefighter – amends FLSA.
- Passage of legislation mandating DOD study to share radio spectrum with public safety.
- Assisted passage of Federal Firefighter Retirement Act.
- Passage of Fire Bill – authorizes \$400 million for the fire service over two years – currently working on passage of appropriations for this Bill.
- Passage of Wildland Firefighter Pay Equity Act in House and now in the Senate.

Financial:

- Success in HCFA negotiated rule making – \$2.5 billion available from Medicare funds.

- \$200 million more in counter-terrorism for fire and emergency services.
- \$2.9 billion in new wildland fire funds.
- Found financially sound with “Unqualified” Audits since 1985.

Affiliations:

- Reached out to non-fire organizations such as National League of Cities, National Sheriffs’ Association, International Association of Chiefs of Police, ICMA and NACO.
- ICHIEFS President addressed: International Association of Police Chiefs and International Association of Fire Fighters.
- Met with National League of Cities and joined the “Investing in Communities Coalition” initiative.
- Increased contact with state associations.
- Division secretaries meeting scheduled for March 23-25, 2001.
- Improved relationships with the International Association of Fire Fighters.
- Established partnerships with Fire Chief Magazine, Firehouse.com, and the Fire and Emergency Television Network.
- Provide administrative and management services to the Commission of Fire Accreditation International, Chief Officers Designation, Southeastern Association of Fire Chiefs, National Society of Executive Officers and the International Association of Wildland Fire.
- Worked with NIOSH for improvement of LODD and report distribution.
- Working with ISO on grading schedule and data exchange.

Education and Information:

- Organized fifth fire service leadership conference.
- Produced two-in, two-out implementation document.
- Issued “Member Alert” about pending sale of AMR.

- Sponsored more than 50 seminars and conferences.
- Made major innovations in distance learning.
- 2001 FRI in New Orleans with 99 percent of floor space sold.
- Department of Defense conference held in conjunction with FRI
- Sponsored or co-sponsored “Great Leaders” teleconferences, Hazardous Materials Response Team Conference, ARFFWG Conference, “Command School” Conferences, Fire Rescue Med, MFRI National Staff and Command, MFRI National EMS Staff and Command, Virtual Fire Rescue Expo, and Defense Weekly Magazine “WMD” Conference.
- Supports Volunteer Chief Officers Section Leadership and Administration course.
- Assisting with the Volunteer Chief Officers Symposium “Symposium in the Sun,” November, 2001, in Orlando.
- Sponsored or co-sponsored International and Regional Transportation Extrication Games, SAR 2001 & 2001 World Police and Fire Games.
- Partnered with Energizer in the “Change Your Clock – Change Your Batteries” Program.
- Beginning “On Scene” electronic distribution.
- Working in the development of the Candidate Physical Ability Test.
- Involved in FAA Near-Miss Reporting Seminar.
- Making educational materials available – UL Fire Certification Program Video, Propane Emergencies Video and Fire Prevention Literature.

(continued on page 3)



IAFC Update

by Bob Pottberg, International Director

The IAFC Strategic Planning Meeting was held in Fairfax on October 28-29. There were approximately 70 participants with 25 states being represented. There were eight individuals from Missouri Valley representing States or committees. This was a great turnout for a new process. Many issues were covered over the two-day event and if you are interested in the final draft document, let me know. This information is also available on the ICHIEFS web site.

Two issues you might find interesting are the upcoming changes in communications and what the IAFC has accomplished. It was evident that our members want to see more communications. As a result, the IAFC Headquarters will be sending all minutes of meetings to the Division Presidents, Division Secretary's and the President of each State Fire Chiefs organization. This will only be in electronic format and for those without that capability, we will need to make a decision on how we want to continue. This will be an issue to discuss at the January Planning meeting of the MVAFC.

The next On-Scene is **"What has the IAFC done for me?"** During the Strategic Planning meeting, the Executive Director, Garry Briese made a presentation on the "Significant Accomplishments" of the IAFC. This makes it very clear how important the IAFC as an organization is to our pro-

fession. This presentation is available in a PowerPoint presentation at the web site. Please review this presentation and when people ask, "What have you done for me lately?" you will be able to respond. This will also help in recruitment. Let's get more members and get them involved to strengthen our organization.

Our monthly conference call was conducted on Thursday, November 9. The agenda was lengthy and I will summarize the topics of discussion.

- Fire Service Leadership Summit – The summit was again facilitated by Chief Dyer and was very successful. There was 20 different fire service organizations represented and great support for all of the fire initiatives. All in attendance encouraged the continuance of the summit and felt it was very important.

- Executive Committee Meeting – The Executive Committee met on October 30 and there were several items of discussion. Review of the Strategic Planning Session and the most important issues were discussed. These covered items such as communications, budget and the Constitution and Bylaws. Review of the Fire Service Leadership Summit as reported above. A TeamWork Agreement to establish continuity of leadership between elected officers and the association's executive staff has been developed. The continuation in the process on NFPA 1710 and 1720 was discussed. Discussion on the development of a Safety Sector. Division Directors

reports need to address issues and concerns as well as topics of interest. NFPA committee representation and funding as well as priorities were discussed. It was recommended that committee chair appointments be for three-year terms. The 2001 IAFC Conferences & Meeting Schedule was reviewed and who would be attending each event. The FY2000 budget projections were reviewed. 2001 draft budget being developed and will include recommendations from the Strategic Planning Session.

- NFPA 1710 – Chief Brown and Mr. Briese met with Harold Schaitberger on Monday evening to discuss the 1710 process. The IAFF is reviewing our proposal and will let us know if they support our proposal. They will let us know if they have any concerns. They are committed to make this issue as much of a priority for them as possible.

- CBL Report – Action was taken on two issues on both pertaining to the Western Division. The Division can have non-active members hold office within the Division sif the bylaws permit. The second issue was pertaining to retired members maintaining active status and serving on the Board. The issue has been referred for legal opinion.

- Executive Director Report – A new On-Scene item will feature the accomplishments of ICHIEFS by the Executive Director. □

IAFC–Is It Worth the Money? (continued from page 2)

Leadership:

- Working aggressively on Capitol Hill.

- Leaders involved in America Burning, USFA, NIST, Defense Sciences Board, DOD Terrorism Advisory Boards, NDPO (FBI) and The National Wildland Coordinating Group.

- Promoting new values of Integrity, Leadership, and Expertise

- Leaders testified nine times in front of Congress since January 2000.

- Making a conscientious effort to market the organization.

- Held Strategic Planing Meeting in October 2000.

Now that you have gotten to the bottom of this list, it is not hard to realize that it not only takes a great deal of time to accomplish these achievements, it also takes money and lots of it. What do you get for you membership dollars should be obvious now. Is it a great value? I think so!

2003 Annual Conference

Any group or city that would like to host a MVAFC Annual Conference should check the website (www.mvafc.org) for information.

The Heart of America Metro Fire Chiefs in the Kansas City area have submitted a letter of intent to host the 2003 conference.

Missouri Fire Chiefs Host First Fire Service Leadership Partnership Workshop

by Steve Westermann

You may have read about the Fire Service Leadership Partnership in recent issues of *On Scene*. This partnership is a cooperative effort between the International Association of Fire Fighters and the IAFC and was the brainchild of ICHIEFS Executive Director Garry Briese. The workshop's intent is to challenge the status quo of labor management relationships from being adversarial and antagonistic to positive, cooperative and win-win relationships between the fire chief and the union president. It is designed for the chief and local president to begin an open communicative relationship built on trust and cooperation, which, if an organization is to truly excel, is a crucial relationship.

The workshop, hosted by the Missouri Association of Fire Chiefs and co-hosted by Missouri Valley, was the first delivery of the workshop after being reorganized into a field program. While the original workshops were spearheaded by Briese and then General President Al Whitehead of the IAFF, it was decided that in order to get the workshop "out to the masses" more workshop leaders were needed. Six teams of fire chiefs and local presidents went through the class, re-designing the delivery and content. Facilitating the Missouri workshop was President Tom Hanify of the Indianapolis Metropolitan Professional Fire Fighters Union Local 416 and Chief Bill Hewitt of the Saskatoon Saskatchewan Fire Department. Thirteen Missouri departments were represented in the class.

The program's goals are to start productive communications, understand the cooperative process, understand the benefits of a cooperative process, and provide the chief and local president with more "tools" for their cooperative efforts. Specific topics include a discussion of "Do Right" based on the motivational film by Lou Holtz, future challenges of Fire and Emergency Services, a self evaluation of your negotiating style and comparison and

discussion with your local president, understanding the workforce and generational differences, introducing change and readiness for change within your departments.

But at the core of this initiative is something deeper than "simple" labor-management relations. We have all probably noticed and remarked on the "attitude of the new employees" coming into your department. You, as a fire chief, are not going to change that attitude. What we must do is to learn how to mold our organizations to work with that attitude. Molding our organizations so that we may attract the good workers through good internal customer service, identifying the issues and allowing them to think for themselves. These types of changes in the workplace must be predicated on the positive, cooperative communication styles of the chief and the local president.

The workshop is comprised of two, two-day sessions and at the end of the

first session, the local president and the fire chief make a commitment to each other on how they will improve their relationship over the next six months in specific measurable steps. After the six-month period, they will come back to the second half of the workshop to continue building on this cooperative effort.

After being a participant in this exercise, I came away with very positive feelings. I have lived through some rocky situations, as I know many of you have. But in working through this process with my local president, I look forward to the future and the promise that it brings. So no matter how rocky your current relationship is with your local, I sincerely believe that in order to move on and better your organization for the new breed of employee in this millennium, you will have to be committed to building a positive relationship in order to face the challenges. Take a chance, try it. I think you may be surprised. □

**IT'S COMING!
MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

A FIRE & LIFE SAFETY CONFERENCE!

**APRIL 20-22, 2001
HOLIDAY INN-OLATHE
100 W. 151 STREET
OLATHE, KS 66061**

- **First-Come, First-Served — Room for 150 people**
- **Topics for Fire Department, Burn Nurses, EMS Personnel, Injury Prevention Groups, American Red Cross and Health Departments**
- **Great Speakers**
- **Call or email for registration packet**
- **Hotline #913-393-6706 (updated as needed)**
- **E-mail: sfricke@olatheks.org**

News from Iowa

The Iowa Association of Professional Fire Chiefs held their fall conference October 31-November 2, 2000, at the Fire Service Training Bureau in Ames, Iowa.

The executive board members of the IAPFC for 2000-2001 are:

President: Andy Rocca (Iowa City)*

Vice President: Frank Magsamen (Waterloo)*

Director: Mark Regenwether (Clinton)**

Secretary/Treasurer: Tom Strait (Ankeny)**

Past President: Ron Wilson, Retired (Storm Lake)*

*1999-2001 term **2000-2002 term

The conference opened with a welcome to the Iowa fire chiefs by Acting Bureau Chief Sandy Deacon. Several guest speakers were on hand during the conference, including:

- Dennis Jacobs, Executive Director of the Municipal Fire and Police Retirement System of Iowa, who provided the chiefs with an overview of the changes made by the 2000 Legislature to the Chapter 411 retirement system.

- Jerry Johnston, Iowa Emergency Medical Service Association, who provided the chiefs with information regarding the newly restructured Medicare ambulance fee schedule.

- Jim Kenkel, Assistant Iowa State Fire Marshal, who updated the chiefs on vacancies within the State Fire Marshal's office, code enforcement initiatives, and the Governor appointed State Fire Service and Emergency Response Council.

- Chief Frank Magsamen, chairperson of the State Fire Service and Emergency Response Council, updated the chiefs on the activities of the SFSERC including: FY02 budget proposal, bureau chief recruitment, training delivery system, and a minimum training standard for firefighters.

- Ron Wakeham, Fire Chief, City of Des Moines, represented the IAPFC at the IAFC Strategic Planning meeting held in Fairfax, Virginia, October 28-29, 2000. Chief Wakeham provided the chiefs with the draft recommendations

of the Strategic Planning meeting and noted that the IAFC would like continued involvement and participation from the state associations.

Many important issues were discussed during the IAPFC business meeting. Most noteworthy was a discussion of the newly formed Fire Service Training Bureau, a division of the Iowa State Fire Marshal's office. The IAPFC formed a standing committee to assist the SFSERC in determining solutions to priority issues such as regional training delivery and minimum training standards.

The conference closed on November 2 after the multi-topic discussion forum. Items submitted for discussion were: national standardized physical agility program, special operations team funding, physical exams for paid on-call firefighters, 800 MHz radio systems, release of public information, county emergency management interaction w/FD, EMS services, terrorism, station location/consultants, airport FF's, fire investigations, DNR air quality proposal, changes to IAPFC meetings, volunteer FF injuries (severe), county-wide fire service, hazmat fees, turnout gear, volunteer FF recruitment, fire chief vehicles, FC compatibility, and the Fire Act.

The IAPFC's will hold their mid-winter conference at the Fire Service Training Bureau in Ames, Iowa, February 6-8, 2001. □

Rocca to Run for MVAFC 2nd Vice President



Chief Andrew Rocca

Iowa City, IA, Fire Chief Andrew J. Rocca announces his candidacy for second vice president of the Missouri Valley Division of the International Association of Fire Chiefs.

Chief Rocca joined the Iowa City Fire Department in 1978 as an entry-level firefighter and was appointed chief in 1996. He received his BA degree from Western Illinois University and is a graduate of the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program. He is currently the president of the Iowa Association of Professional Fire Chiefs. Chief Rocca is active in state, regional, and national fire service issues.

Chief Rocca has been married to his wife, Terri, for 20 years and they have three children: Nick, Joel, and Ben.

Chief Rocca says, "I look forward to this year's Missouri Valley Association of Fire Chiefs convention in Casper and the opportunity to discuss my candidacy for second vice president, professional qualifications, and the multitude of fire service issues that all executive fire officers deal with on a daily basis. Your support in July 2001 is sincerely appreciated!" □

Casper, Wyoming...

MVAFC's Annual Conference will be held July 11-13, 2001. If you have not received information on Casper and the surrounding area, contact Chief Mark Young at 307-235-8222.

The Conference registration packet will be sent to all members in late January. It will be a great time!

Iowa Fire Service Training Bureau

by Andrew J. Rocca, President, Iowa Association of Professional Fire Chiefs

Effective July 1, 2000, the Fire Service Institute, located on the Iowa State University campus, transferred fire service training responsibilities to the State Fire Marshal as part of the Iowa Department of Public Safety. Governor Vilsack made the transfer possible when he signed the bill in April. Representative Geri Huser (D-IA) of Altoona, Iowa, sponsored the bill. Fire service organizations that participated in the legislative process included: Iowa Firemen's Association, Iowa Association of Professional Fire Chiefs, Iowa Fire Chiefs Association, Iowa Fire Fighters Group, and the Iowa Association of Professional Fire Fighters.

The legislation dissolved the Fire Service Institute. The Fire Service Institute was part of the Iowa State University's Extension to Communities. The Fire Service Institute provided statewide fire service training for more than 75 years.

On July 1, 2000, the Fire Service Training Bureau was established under the State Fire Marshal's Office within the Department of Public Safety. The responsibility for training and budget administration will transfer immediately to the State Fire Marshal's Office. The Fire Service Training Bureau will be located at the current Fire Service Institute building on the ISU campus. As agreed to, the bureau may remain on the campus until July 1, 2003.

Supporters of the legislation believe that transferring the responsibility of statewide fire service training to the State Fire Marshal will give the bureau a higher priority for increased funding that is essential for improved training. Another benefit to establishing the bureau will be the unified voice of the Iowa fire service at the State level on a variety of important issues.

The Fire Service Training Bureau will receive direction from the Fire

Marshal and the State Fire Service and Emergency Response Council. This will be an 11-member Council that is subject to the Code of Iowa requirements of political and gender balance. Council members are to be appointed by Governor Vilsack during the month of June. Members of the Council will represent the following organizations: two members of the Iowa Firemen's Association, two members of the Iowa Association of Professional Fire Chiefs, two members of the Iowa Fire Chiefs Association, one member of the Iowa Fire Fighter's Group, one member

of the Iowa Association of Professional Fire Fighters, one member from the Iowa Emergency Medical Services Association, and two members of the general public.

The newly created Fire Service Training Bureau will certainly give the Iowa fire service an opportunity to improve statewide training delivery. In order for the transition to be successful, Iowa fire service organizations will need to set aside their own agendas and work together on an endeavor that is far too important not to succeed.

Only time will tell if the Iowa fire service is up to the challenge, or not. □

NFPA Fire Inspector I Certification Program

NFPA's Fire Inspector Certification Program promotes professionalism in the fire inspection field through a widely accepted, recognized, and practical program. In addition, it introduces a performance-based certification model that can be used where fire inspector certification programs don't exist or can build on active local and state programs.

Who should obtain fire inspector certification? Individuals with responsibilities related to fire safety, fire protection, and fire prevention.

The Fire Inspector Certification Program consists of three phases: preparation, exam, and practicum. The

applicant prepares for the 100-question exam, which includes 70 open-book questions and 30 closed-book questions. After completing the exam, the applicant conducts seven inspections during the practicum phase. NFPA's Fire Inspector Certification Program is the only one of its kind that addresses the factual and practical components of fire inspection.

For information or applications, contact Martha Curtis, NFPA Fire Inspector Certification Program, One Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02269; phone (617) 984-7497; fax (617) 984-7056; e-mail fire.insp.cert@nfpa.org. □



MVAFC Web Site — www.mvafc.org

Check out the MVAFC web site. There is more information than you care to know.

Richard "Smokey" Dyer to lead KC Department

by Glenn E. Rice and Lynn Horsley, *The Kansas City Star*

City Manager Bob Collins appointed Richard Dyer as Kansas City fire chief.

Dyer served as Lee's Summit fire chief for 13 years until he retired in March. He had been with that department for 22 years, including nine as assistant fire chief. He was also president of the International Association of Fire Chiefs in 1998-99.

Dyer, 52, started his job October 9, 2000. He will be paid \$110,000 annually.

"I'm excited about the challenge, and I'm ready to get back to work," Dyer said Wednesday.

Dyer replaces Rick Brisbin, who retired in late December. Collins said he chose Dyer from five finalists, including two from within the department, which has more than 750 positions, compared with 100 on Lee's Summit's.

"I asked him to apply because of his qualifications," Collins said. "My desire was to have the best fire chief for the city...I know he is seen as one of the best fire chiefs in the country."

Dyer is nationally recognized for his fire investigation capabilities, Collins said, and he has assisted Kansas City with high-profile investigations, including the Hyatt Regency hotel skywalk collapse in 1981.

Dyer is an instructor for the university of Missouri's Fire and Rescue Training Institute. He has also served as an assistant professor of fire science at Central Missouri State University and adjunct instructor for the National Fire Academy at Emmitsburg, Maryland.

Dyer, the son of a volunteer fire chief, began his firefighting career 32 years ago. He earned the nickname "Smokey" when he worked as a fire marshal at the American Legion Boys State program.

This spring Dyer retired from the Lee's Summit department. He said he was emotionally drained by the drowning death of a paramedic, the debilitating stroke of an assistant fire chief and the death of a fire captain in an airplane crash.

But Dyer has had several months to

relax and is ready for a new challenge, Collins said.

"This is an opportunity for him to be chief of a major metropolitan fire department," Collins said. "This is a place for someone to make a name for themselves."

Dyer said he liked retirement but grew restless. He said he planned to move to Kansas City within six months to meet residency requirements.

"The fire service has been my passion and what I have done for nearly all of my life," he said. "Even though

my life was much less complex, more relaxed, and less stressful, that real sense of purpose was missing."

Reaction from City Council members was somewhat muted. Many said they did not know much about Dyer. Council members, however, were relieved that Collins had filled the position after ten months.

Mayor Kay Barnes, who said she had met Dyer earlier at a conference, was pleased with the selection.

"I think it's an exciting choice," Barnes said. □

Regional Reports...

From North Dakota:

Dan Hoiium, North Dakota State fire marshal, has stepped down to take a position with the City of Bismark. Raymond Lambert, chief deputy state fire marshal from Minot, has been named interim fire marshal. □

From Kansas:

The Kansas Chapter of the International Association of Investigators will be sponsor its annual Fire and Arson Training Seminar on February 6, 7 and 8, 2001 in Topeka, Kansas. Should you need a registration form, please contact Kent Boster, Secretary-Treasurer.

The Kansas State Association of Fire Chiefs held a two-day Executive Leadership Seminar, October 7 and 8, 2000, in Topeka. There were over 80 Chief Officers in attendance. The principle speaker was Dave Okerlund, Creative Communications Institute, Clear Lake, Iowa. The KSAFC would like to thank the Missouri Valley Association of Fire Chiefs for the assistance they provided with the educational stipend. This is a great program and more State Associations should utilize it.

The Kansas State Association of Chiefs participated in a training summit October 28, 2000 in Salina, over 100

persons were in attendance and the event was termed "successful" by those in attendance and other monitoring the issue. The purpose of the summit was to find affordable means of obtaining quality for the Kansas fire service. □

From Wyoming:

Chief Jerry L. Busby was selected as the Fire Chief for Fremont County, replacing Larry Lee who passed away this past year. Chief Busby served as Fire Chief in California and most recently as Chief of a department outside of Boise, Idaho. He is a member of the International Association of Fire Chiefs and the National Volunteer Fire Council. Chief Busby is married with two grown children who still reside in California. He looks forward to becoming a member of our division.

The Wyoming Fire Chiefs will be meeting January 5, 2001, at 1:00 p.m. in Riverton, Wyoming. On the agenda will be the legislative bills that chiefs will sponsor or support. It will also be the weekend of the Mid-Winter Fire School in which about 400 firefighters from around the area will attend.

Planning for the 2001 Conference in Casper is well underway; the first mailing of information will be coming to all members sometime after the first of the year. □

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.

Make Plans Now for Fire Rescue International

The International Association of Fire Chiefs has announced that Fire Rescue International 2001 will be held in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 24-27, 2001. For those chiefs who may have a little money left in the year 2000 budgets, there is an opportunity to save over \$100 on the cost of a full registration package for FRI 2001 by using the early bird registration that has been provided by the IAFC to all members. The registration package must be returned by the end of 2000.

The MVAFC has selected the Sheraton Hotel on Canal Street for our headquarters at FRI 2001. The facility has a favorable location in the French Quarter, and is also IAFC headquarters and within a few blocks of most of the major hotels to be used for this conference. The Sheraton is located close to the Canal Street Trolley line that in a few minutes will take you to the Mississippi River and the luxury shops that are located there. This same trolley passes by Harrah's Casino which is

the largest free-standing casino in the U.S.

Bus service to the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center will be provided for all of the hotels of the convention center. As you may know, over 16,000 persons attended FRI in Dallas last year. We look forward to an even greater attendance this year. So, don't be left out, register early to save money and send your hotel registrations in as soon as you receive the information. While

New Orleans has plenty of hotel rooms, those rooms at the major hotels, and especially the Sheraton, will go quickly. It is always possible to cancel a hotel reservation if your plans should change, but it will be difficult to get your first choice of accommodations if you wait very long after the first hotel announcements have been sent out.

When planning your schedule for FRI, please note that the August 24-27 dates are a Friday through Tuesday as they were in Dallas this year. We look forward to seeing you all in New Orleans in '01!! ☐

Way to Go, Nebraska!

On July 5, 2000, Nebraska Governor Mike Johanns signed a proclamation naming Nebraska as an official *Risk Watch* state. The proclamation states, "I (Governor Johanns) will encourage and support the life-saving efforts that Risk Watchers of Nebraska bring to our precious children and their families." Nebraska received a 2000 Champion Management Team award from NFPA earlier this year to begin implementing Risk Watch statewide. ☐