

# FIRE LINK

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## From the President

by Steve Westermann

It is with great sadness that I write this issue for *Fire Link*. Don Manno (who passed away) was not only a great fire service teacher and training officer, he was simply, a good friend to have and a friend to all. He had a great fire service mind and contributed a great deal to the Missouri Valley Division. He will be missed by all who knew him. Our deepest sympathy goes to Eileen.

The Missouri Valley is off and running strong in the new year. Your Board of Directors met on the weekend of February 8-10 for the winter board meeting and strategic planning session. Kansas and Iowa each had additional representatives from their state organizations present. A new list of position statements was adopted and has been placed on the web site and is being distributed to the other division presidents and the IAFC leadership. We also spent time revising the strategic plan. In review, we were able to accomplish about 90 percent of last year's plan and the remaining 10 percent was carried over to this year. One

of the new initiatives sets up the goals to better define the role of the MV Division in the IAFC framework. Are we merely "a conduit of information" between the IAFC and the state organizations, or is there some other functions that we can provide. As we move into a higher level of communication between the state organizations and the IAFC, I foresee the MV becoming more of a facilitator in developing input and feedback from the state organization on the larger issues that are common to us all. Once the state input is gathered to formulate the Division stance, discussions with other Divisions will take place to formulate a common, national vision. There is a lot of work to make this happen. Missouri Valley is in the minority of divisions that even have a strategic plan. How many state organizations have a strategic plan or adopt position statements? The strategic plan can also be found on the web site.

I would also like to take a few lines to publicly thank Chief Robert Pottberg for his time, talent, and commitment to excellence that he gave the Missouri Valley Division. He has been an excellent ambassador and has represented our membership well at the International level. Chief Pottberg

retired in January of this year to work in the private sector. He will continue to be our International Director until the July conference where we will have an election to fill the unexpired term. Please tell him "thanks" the next time you see him or jot him a note. ☐



### Calendar of Events

**April 5 - Riverton  
Wyoming Fire Chiefs**

**April 5-6  
MVAFC EMS Conference  
Denver, CO  
Contact Rick Beaty  
970.244.1415**

**May 6-8 - Fire-Rescue Med 2002  
Las Vegas, NV**

**May 18 - Kingdom City, MO  
Missouri Firefighters Memorial  
Dedication**

**May 30 - Dickinson  
North Dakota Fire Chiefs**

**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](http://www.ci.castlerock.co.us/fire)**

**Fire-Rescue International 2002  
August 23-26  
Kansas City, MO**

## New Fire Chief for Aurora

Fire Chief Casey Jones of Salem, Oregon, will become the next fire chief for Aurora, Colorado, effective January 2002. Jones will command a staff of 300 uniformed firefighters and paramedics and 42 civilian staff providing service to more than 280,000 residents in Aurora. Chief Jones replaces Ray Barnes, who is retiring after 30 years of service.

# Missouri Valley Association of Fire Chief's New Position Statements Adopted by the Board of Directors 2/10/02

The Position Statements of the MVAFC adopted in July of 2001 were reviewed by the Board and the following new positions were adopted by the Board and will be discussed at our Annual Conference. All new and current position statements can be found on our web site.

## Women Chief Fire Officers

The MVAFC supports the efforts of the WCFO. By resolution at the 2001 Annual Conference, the MVAFC supports the mission, vision, and value statements of the WCFO and that this organization will help set the standard for the diversity issues facing all of our members in the coming years.

## Organizational Communications

The MVAFC strongly supports the IAFC efforts to increase communications between the International, Division, and State organizations. The Board is committed to assisting the IAFC in any way possible to ensure our members get accurate and timely information. The Board would also encourage each Division and Section to initiate a strategic planning process as well as position statements involving their state organizations in that process, and sharing such information throughout the IAFC. This is another key in "narrowing the gap" between the IAFC, Divisions, and State organizations. The Board also supports the efforts of the IAFC through Division teleconferences and urges the continuation of that communication tool.

## CMA Negotiated Rule Making

The MVAFC Board recognizes the difficult task faced by the HCFA Task Force in coming to consensus on a new Medicare reimbursement schedule. If the schedule is instituted, many of our members will be faced with a significant financial loss. The MV Division encourages the IAFC and the EMS Section to initiate measures at the Federal level to assist in recovering

those lost revenues that in many cases affect service at the local level.

## IAFC Board of Directors' Seats

The MVAFC Board feels that it is incumbent on the IAFC to maintain an elected executive Board of Directors comprised of chiefs who are currently serving as "Chief of Department." Members representing Divisions and Sections should be left to the discretion of the Division and Section based on their constitution and bylaws as approved by the IAFC. Regardless of the rank of the representative chosen by Divisions or Sections, it is the Division's and Section's responsibility to ensure the person will be an active participant in the duties and responsibilities assigned. It is our responsibility as a professional organization to project a professional image and vision in order to exemplify our ideas of leadership, expertise, and integrity.

## Homeland Security Responses

The Board of the MVAFC feels that the IAFC should be the lead agency in the timely distribution of any information dealing with the threat of, or information dealing with response to terrorist actions, particularly in the area of recommended policy and procedures. This type of action can best be explained by the example of the anthrax teleconference hosted by the IAFC, which was timely and informative. While the MVAFC agrees that a single federal agency is best to focus the federal actions, the IAFC is perhaps better capable of distributing the planning and preparation information with recommended policies and procedures.

## National Response System

The MVAFC supports the concept of a national system of response to large and catastrophic incidents in order to coordinate the best use of resources while ensuring proper safety and accountability standards. Such system

could use some of the concepts from the National Wildland Mobilization Plan but must have the basic components of following a chain of command and should include a national carding or identification system and a process by which transfer orders are drawn and delivered when certain skill types or certification skills are required at the incident site. It is also the opinion of the Board of the MVAFC that such a response structure should be built upon a host of regional response systems throughout the country. This would ensure that no part of this country is left unprotected and unprepared.

## Children's Sleepwear

The MVAFC is supportive of HR 528/730 that has been introduced in the 107th Congress and seeks to reinstate the 1972 flame-resistant standard for children's sleepwear. The MVAFC opposes the decision of the Consumers Product Safety Commission that eliminated this vital safety measure for children. The MVAFC joins the southeastern Association of Fire Chiefs in requesting the IAFC and other fire service organizations to join in opposing the CPSC's actions regarding sleepwear for children and support the passage of HR 528/730.

## Drug-Free Work Place

The MVAFC strongly supports the concept of a drug-free work place to ensure the safety of our firefighters and those we protect. Further, it supports all drug testing procedures and policies currently in place, and random drug testing for members of the fire service.

## IAFC Legislative Action

The MVAFC supports the IAFC in the creation of a legislative group through the use of division, section, and state association representative to meet on a regular basis to discuss the challenges and legislative needs on a state and federal level. This group not only can meet to share ideas and challenges, but could also be significant through the use of a grassroots e-mail tree for networking and contacting elected officials to express the fire service's stance on issues.

*(continued on page 3)*

## Board of Directors' Meeting Highlights February 8-10, 2002

- Castle Rock Conference update was given by Rob Brown who said everything is ready for the conference. A mailing to all members on the conference will go out in early March.
- Pottberg retires but will serve as International Director until July when an election will be held for a one-year term for this position.
- New web site design should be completed by mid-March and should be more user friendly. Division Newsletter is on-line for web site users.
- FRI at Kansas City – Division Hotel is Doubletree
- Division has a sponsor for the luncheon at FRI
- Position Statements were all reviewed. Some positions deleted and new positions added. Check web site in mid-March for update.
- IAFC is in the process of forming a new Fire Prevention/Code Committee.
- Board is evaluating advertising in the Newsletter and seeking corporate sponsors for the Division.
- MVAFC Constitution & Bylaws approved by the IAFC Board of Directors.
- Elections of MVAFC officers will be held in Castle Rock. Deadline to submit letter of intent to run for either Office is 120 days prior to July 11, 2002. Letter to be sent to Division Secretary.
- IAFC Presidential teleconferences are working well for all Divisions in communicating with the IAFC and President Buckman on current issues with Division President's and Secretaries every six weeks.

### FRI Rooms in Kansas City

The IAFC flyer for registration at Kansas City in late August is out and you should have a copy. The Doubletree Hotel is the headquarters hotel for our Division. Register now to ensure your room at the Doubletree. As June approaches, the hotel fills up and you may not get into the Doubletree. If you have problems, contact the Division Secretary. □

### Castle Rock, CO Conference

Registration information can be found in this *Fire Link* and each member will receive the Official Registration information from Castle Rock by mid-March. Chief Brown urges everyone to register early. The programs look great and Colorado in July will be fun. If you have questions, contact Castle Rock on their web site at [www.ci.castlerock.co.us/fire](http://www.ci.castlerock.co.us/fire). □

### Position Statements...

(continued from page 2)

#### Directed Votes by IAFC Representatives

In order to promote unified front and single voice from our membership, the MVAFC Board agrees that any representative appointed by the IAFC to any standards development committee must be willing to vote on that committee or work group in the direction given to them by the IAFC. This must be understood by any appointee prior to beginning to work on such committee or work group. □

## New Single Nationwide Phone Number for Poison Control

The American Association of Poison Control Centers (AAPCC) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), have established a single number for people to use to reach their local poison control center. The new number is **1.800.222.1222**.

When people call 1.800.222.1222 from anywhere in the U.S., Puerto Rico, or the U.S. Virgin Islands, they are automatically connected to the nearest poison control center. For more information, visit APCC's Web site at [www.aapcc.org](http://www.aapcc.org). □

## IAFC Leadership Summit

The IAFC Leadership Summit held by the IAFC in late January had great attendance by President Steve Westermann and other fire service leaders with a wealth of topics and knowledge discussed.

The IAFC has a web site that has all the presentations from the Leadership Summit: [www.iafc.org/downloads/index.html](http://www.iafc.org/downloads/index.html). □

# Candidates Running For Office in Castle Rock, CO

**PRESIDENT**

**Chief Rob Brown**  
**Castle Rock, Colorado**

Chief Rob Brown has served as Chief of Department of the Castle Rock Fire and Rescue Department for over five years. In addition, Chief Brown has served as President of the Colorado State Fire Chiefs' Association for four years and serves on the Executive Board of the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), Missouri Valley Division as 1st Vice President. In addition to these appointments, Chief Brown serves on the Governor of Colorado's Bio-Terrorism Committee, serves as Adjunct Faculty at the National Fire Academy and on the Policy Review Task Force for the IAFC.

Chief Brown has 22 years of experience in the fire service and has previously served as Chief of Department of the Anderson Township (Cincinnati, OH) Fire Department, Chief of Department/District Manager of the South Metro (Kansas City, MO) Fire District and as Assistant Chief, Division Chief, PIO, Lieutenant and Firefighter/Paramedic with the third largest department in the State of Missouri, the Boone County (Columbia, MO) Fire District.

Chief Brown holds a BS in Public Administration from the University of Missouri and is a graduate of the National Fire Academy's Executive fire officer (EFO) Program. Brown has been a licensed Paramedic since 1981 and holds Colorado's highest certification as a fire officer - Fire Officer III.

**Platform**

To continue the success of the Division through implementation of the Strategic Plan of the Division, increase membership through increased communications with the state associations and to maintain the MV Division's respect as a leading division within the IAFC.

**1ST VICE PRESIDENT**

**Chief Andrew J. Rocca**  
**Iowa City, Iowa**

Chief Rocca joined the Iowa City Fire Department in 1978 as an entry-level firefighter and was appointed chief in 1996. He received a BS degree from Western Illinois University, is a graduate of the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program, and completed the Iowa City, Iowa Chamber of Commerce Community Leadership program. He has been a member of the International Association of Fire Chiefs Missouri Valley Division, since June 1991. He is the immediate past president of the Iowa Association of professional Fire Chiefs and a past president of the Hawkeye State Fire Safety Association. Chief Rocca is active in state, regional, and national fire service issues.

**Platform**

1) Planning in cooperation with the Heart of America Metro Fire Chief's Council for the Missouri Valley Division Conference in Kansas City for July 2003.

2) Supporting, implementing, and continuing work on provisions of the Missouri Valley Division strategic plan.

3) Improving communications between the International Fire Chiefs Association, Missouri Valley Division, state fire chief organizations, and local chief officers.

4) Recruiting new members for the International Association of Fire Chiefs - Missouri Valley Division.

Chief Rocca has been married to his wife, Terri, for 21 years and they have three sons: Nick, 17; Joel, 15, and Ben, 13.

Chief Rocca says, "I look forward to this year's Missouri Valley Association of Fire Chiefs' convention in Castle Rock, Colorado, and the opportunity to discuss my candidacy for 1st Vice President, professional qualifications,

and the multitude of fire service issues that all chief fire officers deal with on a routine basis. The legacy created by our Missouri Valley Division predecessors will provide us with an excellent foundation to improve and develop fire protection services in the 21st Century. Your support in July 2002 is sincerely appreciated!"

**2ND VICE PRESIDENT**

**Chief Gary Curmode**  
**Sedgwick County, Kansas**

Chief Gary Curmode has been with the Sedgwick County Fire District #1, Kansas department for 7-1/2 years as chief. Prior to that he served with the Wichita, Kansas Fire Department for 23 years. He has been a member of the IAFC and the Missouri Valley Chapter since 1993. In the State of Kansas, he is a member of the Kansas State Chapter of Fire Chiefs and also the Kansas State Chapter of Professional Chiefs. He is also a member of the National Society of Executive Fire Officers.

Over the past 30-1/2 years in the fire service, he has been active on several committees:

- Firefighter-Safety Study Act Committee, 1990, by the USFA (I was on this committee from 1990 to 1999. We now have a book published and a CD-ROM version to assist first responders in the U.S. on haz-mat alarms. You may recall the tragedy in Kansas City, Missouri, of six firefighter deaths in 1989).

- Web-based Hazmat Operations for the Internet. USFA (2000-present)

- IMS Committee (Integrated Management System) on EOC Interface/Area Command/Unified Command, spearheaded by retired Chief/Supt. of the NFA, Bill Nevills (2001-present)

Chief Curmode's training and edu-

*(continued on page 5)*

**Candidate Bios...continued**

cation background including rising through the ranks of firefighter, engineer, lieutenant, captain, battalion chief, division chief, and fire chief. He has maintained his State of Kansas EMT certification since 1974. In Kansas he received Pro Board Certifications as a Firefighter I/II/III, Fire Officer I, and Instruction I and II. He completed the Executive Fire Officer Program at the National Fire Academy in 1991. In August, 2001, the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (IAFC) notified him that he successfully completed their requirements of Chief Fire Officer designation. He is also certified as a peer reviewer for fire department certification.

His professional education includes an AA in Fire Science, BA in Secondary Education, and a double Masters in Administration of Justice and Public Administration. He credits where he is today because of the fire chiefs before him that were role models and the teamwork, partnerships, and network developed through many years of service.

"If elected this year to the position of 2nd Vice President, I pledge my efforts and dedication in support of our Position Statements (February 10, 2002). I believe strongly in working together for the betterment of the Fire Service."

Chief Curmode's current department covers approximately 640 square miles, has eight paid stations, 136 firefighters, and a budget of approximately \$10 million. They are the county surrounding Wichita, Kansas. They have automatic aid with the Wichita Fire Department and ten small departments across county lines and mutual aid with ten other departments. McConnell Air Force Base, and Boeing Fire Department. For five years, he has been a Battalion Chief Training Officer for the Butler County Fire District #1 Volunteer Department. He feels it is important to stay involved with the professional volunteer fire departments. He is also a member of the Sedgwick County Fire Chiefs Association.

He is married to Patti and has three

children: Rory, 17 years; Mogie and Kasy, 10-year-old twins.

**2ND VICE PRESIDENT**

**Chief James Keating  
St. Marys Fire Department**

**P**rofile of qualifications: • Strong educational background in public administration and business management

- 32 years Fire Service experience, 19 years as Chief

- Served four years as Vice President and four years as president of the Kansas State Fire Chiefs' Association

- Serving as the Fire Service representative to the State Board of EMS since 1995

- Worked as an Interim Division Administrator for the State Fire Marshal's Office, and during this term worked to create the framework and legislation for the Statewide Regional Haz-Mat training and Response program.

- Serving as the chairperson of the Kansas Fire Service Training Committee since 1994.

- Served as a member and chairperson of the State Emergency Response Commission and directly assisted with the reorganization of the commission that works in pre-planning, response and mediation of all major incidents.

- Serving as the administrator of the Kansas Fire Service Alliance since its creation, a cooperative legislative effort between fire service organizations. The Alliance with the cooperation of many other associations, agencies and Kansas Fire Service members have seen numerous successful legislative endeavors.

- Serving as an executive board member and current chairperson of the Kansas Safe Kids Coalition, an organization who actively works in the prevention of un-intentional injuries to children.

- Serving as President of the Kansas State Firefighters Association

- Actively serving on local, state and national committees reviewing building and fire codes adoption.

**Platform**

"If elected as 2nd Vice President I

would place much emphasis on the implementation and continued enhancement of the Association's Strategic Plan. The success of a plan is based upon its educating those involved. I would work to obtain more state level involvement through the respective state fire chief organizations.

"I look at the Missouri Valley Fire Chiefs Association as the vital connecting link between the IAFC and the individual IAFC member. We must provide an opportunity to, and encourage debate on, fire service issues at the state level. That message then communicated through the state vice presidents to the Missouri Valley Fire Chiefs' Board. That information link then continues on to the IAFC. Participation will grow when those involved feel that they actually had an opportunity to provide input into decisions or positions taken. As an officer of the Association, it would also be my responsibility to help assure our membership fully understood the endeavors and positions taken by the IAFC.

"The Missouri Valley Association of Fire Chiefs has much to offer and has a respected strong history of accomplishments. I believe with my experience in government, leadership abilities, belief of working as a team, and desire to give a full commitment, I can, with the support of the Association membership, help this Association be the very best possible. I have given a total commitment of myself to the Kansas Fire Service and I certainly offer that same commitment to this position."

**INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR**

**Chief Larry Donner  
Boulder, Colorado**

**Platform**

"If elected International Director of the Missouri Valley Association of Fire Chiefs, I will listen to your concerns, keep you informed, and work to position the IAFC as the fire service organization that our nation's leaders come for advice and direction on issues involving fire and rescue services."

*(continued on page 6)*

## Candidate Bios...continued

### Partnerships

Contrary to myth, the fire service has changed and continues to change at a rapid rate. We continue to reinvent ourselves to better serve our communities. The events of September 11, 2001, have accelerated the winds of change. As we continue to meet new challenges, we emerge stronger and better prepared to do our jobs. The need to forge strong partnerships is greater than ever. If we choose to compete head-to-head for the resources available from the federal government, we will lose. We must work to create an integrated approach with neighboring fire departments, emergency preparedness directors, public utilities, and law enforcement agencies to serve the public. The best way to get our fair share is through cooperation – not competition. We have the opportunity to avoid the creation of overlapping bureaucracies that have come to dominate the federal government. We can build local systems that work if we are willing to work as a team.

### Planning

The IAFC has made great strides through the use of strategic planning. Every two years, the organization creates a new strategic plan. I agree with this approach. It allows our leaders to focus on specific issues, to measure successes and concentrate on finding solutions to problems. I support the current IAFC strategic plan and the planning process. I would like to help build the IAFC 2002 Strategic Plan as your Director.

### Communications

To remain effective the IAFC must continue to be a member-driven organization. Active leadership requires the free flow of information. It is the Director's job to seek input from the membership and to reflect the will of the membership in planning efforts and board decisions. Because fire departments differ in makeup, resources, and ability, the Director has a difficult job, but I will do my best to stay connected with the membership. Accurate and timely information is critical to our success. In today's world,

information is power.

### Unity

Committing to partnerships, planning, and communications as listed above, gives the IAFC a chance to remain united despite our differences. One of the Missouri Valley's strengths is the open and honest debate around issues. These debates give us all a better understanding of the issues and help create better solutions to our problems. We all know that different opinions can splinter the IAFC and diminish our effectiveness but we must maintain a system that accommodates legitimate disagreement. If we try to force agreement, we risk creating deep, long-lasting internal rifts between individuals, states, and other divisions that will do lasting harm.

If elected, I pledge to maintain an atmosphere of openness and respect that will allow us to work together even when we occasionally disagree on issues.

### INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR Chief Steve Westermann Central Jackson Fire, MO

Chief Steven Westermann of the Central Jackson County Fire Protection District, has filed his letter of intent to run for the unexpired term of Robert Pottberg. Chief Westermann stated that his goal is two-fold. "First, I want to continue the image and model we have set as being progressive as a Division while staying within the framework of the IAFC. We are viewed as being progressive and we have the respect of IAFC members and divisions. We try new things and we are not afraid to push the parameters on issues we believe in. It is extremely important though that we stay within the framework of the parent organization, the IAFC. It is important because of the second goal. I would like to work toward making the IAFC *the* single voice when it comes to fire service management issues, and that starts with the Missouri Valley Division. Westermann goes on to explain that this is a lofty goal and cannot be achieved overnight, but it is particular-

ly important when it comes to national issues and legislative issues. "It will require better communication between each state chiefs organization and their division. It will require each state chief's organization and each Division to develop a strategic plan and position statement that, after discussion, support each other. Right now, the Missouri Valley Division is way ahead of a lot of other Divisions in those communication paths.

"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. 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 that goal of a 'single voice' in the fire service."

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 a Masters in Public Administration from the 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. He has been endorsed by the MFC 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 and IAFF Local 3133. □

## EPA Offers Two Free NFPA Reports Safety Guides

The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) NRT-1: *Hazardous Materials Planning Guide*, the 2001 update of the 1987 NRT-1: *Hazardous Materials Emergency Planning Guide* ("Orange Book"), contains new information on developing state and local emergency response plans. Brief references to recent legislation have been incorporated to encourage plan integration and coordination. The *Chemical Safety Guide for State and Local Officials* is also available from the EPA and shows how local emergency officials can use information in the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act and the Risk Management Program (required by the Clean Air Act). For information on these guides, visit [www.epa.gov/ceppo](http://www.epa.gov/ceppo). □

## Free NFPA Reports

NFPA members can download the following FREE statistical reports (in PDF) from NFPA's web site, [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org):

### **A Study of Human Behavior During the World Trade Center Evacuation**

NFPA and the National Research Council of Canada conducted a human behavior study on the World Trade Center bombing that occurred on February 26, 1993. The results were published in the March/April 1995 issue of NFPA Journal®. Members can download the article from NFPA's One-Stop Data Shop at [www.nfpa.org/research](http://www.nfpa.org/research). (9 pages)

### **NFPA's Fire Investigation Report, 1993 World Trade Center Explosion and Fire**

On Friday, February 26, 1993, a violent explosion ripped through a park-

ing garage in the sub-basement levels of New York's World Trade Center complex, killing six people. The explosion caused extensive damage in several basement levels and resulted in an intense fire that distributed thick, black smoke to the upper levels of many of the complex's seven buildings. Members can download the report from NFPA's Fire Investigations page at [www.nfpa.org/research](http://www.nfpa.org/research). (72 pages)

### **High-Rise Building Fires**

This report provides an overall statistical perspective on the fire experience in high-rise buildings, including analysis and discussion of risk in high-rise vs. other properties. Included is a listing of fatal high-rise fires known to NFPA since 1911. Members can download the report from NFPA's One-Stop Data Shop at [www.nfpa.org/research](http://www.nfpa.org/research). (76 pages)

## LESSONS FROM THE GEESE

The lessons to be learned from the geese are certainly applicable to our efforts to improve our job and make our communities a better place to live and work. The lesson also points out our responsibilities to the community and to each other.

•As each goose flaps its wings, it creates an "uplift" for the bird following. By flying in a "v" formation, the whole flock adds 71 percent more flying range than if each bird was flying alone.

LESSON: People who share a common direction and sense of community can get where they are going quicker and easier because they are traveling on the thrust of one another.

• Whenever a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to fly alone and quickly gets back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the birds immediately in front.

LESSON: If we have as much sense as a goose, we will join formation with those who are headed where we want to go.

• When the head goose gets tired, it rotates back into the formation and another goose flies at the point position.

LESSON: It pays to take turns doing tasks and sharing leadership...with people as with geese...interdependent with one another.

•The geese in formation honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed.

LESSON: We need to make sure our honking from behind is encouraging, not something less helpful.

• When a goose gets sick, wounded or shot down...two geese drop out of formation and follow their fellow member down to help and provide protection. They stay with the member of the flock until he or she is able to fly again or dies. They then launch out on their own, with another formation, to catch up with their own flock.

LESSON: If we have as much sense as the geese, we'll stand by one another like they do.

# International Director's Report...Bob Pottberg

The Board meeting was preceded by the Leadership Summit on January 25 and 26. The purpose of the summit was to brief the leaders of the fire service on current issues that face today's fire service.

The significant accomplishments of the IAFC will be on the IAFC web site.

Chief Julian Taliafero, our Treasurer, gave a positive report on IAFC financial status.

The National Fire Information Council gave an update on the 5.0 reporting system. It has been made more user friendly and clear for ease on completion.

Chief Ernie Mitchel, 2nd Vice President, discussed the future challenges facing the fire service and Chief Smokey Dyer facilitated a feedback session which was used to encourage those present to provide additional information on what we might expect in the future. Details of the feedback will be made available.

The second day started off with the Senior Director of the Response and Recovery Office of Homeland Security, Michael Byrne. The additional \$3.5 billion to increase homeland security should have an impact on all response agencies. We must continue to promote our position that the fire service is the first line of response and we must make every effort to ensure we receive funding to assist us in increasing our effectiveness.

Our own Alan Caldwell, Director of Government Relations, reported the new money will go through the states and then to the local agencies. We have all dealt with this before and know the problems associated with the process. We must keep the pressure on our legislators to ensure the states move this money.

Brian Cowan, Director of USAF Grants Program Office, discussed the upcoming grant cycle. The grants will open March 1 and close April 1. It will be by electronic filing; however, they will accept written submittals from those who cannot file electronically.

This year only one grant may be submitted by a department. Although the areas have been reduced to four, many items are included in each area and could be tied to one grant. For more information, please visit the USAF web site.

USAF Administrator, David Paulison, discussed the USAF and FEMA and the course that it is being set for improvement. We are quite fortunate to have a fire service representative in this office and it will bode well for the fire service. He also related the position of FEMA, the USAF and the office of Homeland Security and how working together will improve our ability to cope with and prepare for new acts of terrorism. It appears there is a genuine concern in making all the emergency service parts work together to ensure an increased level of preparedness.

Our Executive Director, Gary Briese, discussed what the future might hold for the IAFC. The importance of all organizations working together and what positive results could occur were expressed.

The Summit was wrapped up by Chief Smokey Dyer in a Town Hall-style meeting giving everyone an opportunity for input on how the IAFC can improve and what the perception of the future of emergency service is. Again, details of that discussion will be made available.

## Board of Directors' Meeting

The Board meeting started with a report from Chief Smokey Dyer, chairman of the Constitution and Bylaws Task Force. It is apparent this task force worked hard to come up with a consensus recommendation that could be put forth at our annual conference. I feel they were successful in clearing up some problem areas and then the constitution and bylaws will be much clearer and leave less room for interpretation. The changes will be on the web site soon, so please review them for action at the annual FRI conference in Kansas City.

Two new standards in development

by the NFPA relating to ICS and the 1001 Professional Qualifications Standard were discussed and the Board opposed both.

A presentation was given by the Coalition Against Bigger Trucks and the Board took a "no-position" position on this issue.

The new Policy Review Process was reviewed and approved with some minor changes. This process outlines how positions may be submitted to the IAFC from the individual through state and local organizations.

Policy Statements were reviewed and how they fit the new program. Most were approved and two were tabled.

Work continues on the Nextel 800 MHz interference. The ensuing problems are much broader than just this interference. We must continue to work on securing additional frequencies for emergency traffic and at the same time try to get solutions for the interference problems. This is going to take some time but should have a positive result.

For those interested in implementing the new NFPA 1710 standard, the IAFC will develop an implementation guide to assist in this endeavor.

Chief Gary Scott gave an update on progress with FLSA and volunteers. Although progress is slow, he believes it will result in a positive outcome and assist many volunteer organizations in the future.

Two areas that we all need to watch are the project tracking report and the Committees and Sections Update. By reviewing these you will see just how much your organization is accomplishing. This is with a lot of work by many members of the organization and they should be commended for their efforts. Please review these and be aware of what is going on!

Membership is the highest it has ever been! We are above 12,500 members and continue our efforts to increase.

The Board approved additional funding for a feasibility study in relation to an EMS Billing Program.

*(continued on page 9)*

## EMS Section

With the events of September 11, 2001, and subsequent events around the world, the EMS Section extends our continued thoughts, prayers, and best wishes to those directly impacted by this event. The initial impact and aftermath of these events have affected all of us in countless ways. Section members provided everything from direct involvement in response to the events of 9/11 as well as the local demands and impacts felt by all. Awareness, planning, training, and changes to policy will continue to be issues felt in the public safety arena for the foreseeable future.

The EMS Section's membership stands at eight paid members. There are approximately 30 additional persons within the Missouri Valley Division that have expressed interest in joining the Section. A flyer is being drafted to explain membership requirements for our organization. The flyer will be distributed to official section members for review in February. Once comments are obtained and the related changes made, the flyer will be sent out upon request and/or made available on the EMS Section's page on the Missouri Valley Association of Fire Chiefs Internet site at [www.mvafc.org](http://www.mvafc.org).

The EMS Section will hold a mini-conference in April, 2002. The proposed dates are April 5-6, 2002, in Denver, Colorado. The location, yet to be finalized, will be near Denver International Airport to facilitate accessibility. The mini-conference will include speakers on EMS management/trends and one clinical topic on cutting edge issues. In addition, a business meeting and planning session will be conducted to help develop structure and assist with continued implementation of the Division's EMS Section. A conference brochure will be distributed in late February on and also made available on the EMS Section's home page.

If you have any questions or want to be included on the Section's e-mail list, please contact Chief Rick Beaty at 920.244.1415.

E-mail [rckb@ci.grandjct.co.us](mailto:rckb@ci.grandjct.co.us). □

## International Director's Report...Bob Pottberg

(continued from page 8)

The Leadership/Partnership program continues to be a great success. More departments are becoming involved and seeing the positive results.

The Strategic Plan continues to be a valuable tool for the IAFC. It is continually reviewed and updated as to what the status is in each area. The new constitution and bylaws will make this a mandatory operation resulting in the continued success of our organization.

As you can see, it was a busy four days! As many of you have already heard, I retired on January 18 and will continue to serve until the annual conference. It has been a pleasure to serve as your International Director and I thank each and every one of you for your support during my tenure. The Missouri Valley Division is something I am very proud of and I wish the Division the best of luck in the future. □

### Looking for a Challenge?

If you want to get involved in the MVAFC, two offices are open and looking for candidates. The International Director's job will be filled for a one-year term. This elected position is the Division's seat on the IAFC Board of Director's and requires attendance at several IAFC meetings each year and attendance at several MVAFC meetings each year. The position of 2nd Vice President will be filled for a one-year term with the incumbent expected to move to the office of 1st Vice President the next year and President of the MVAFC the third year. Duties of these positions can be found in the Division's Constitution & Bylaws on the web site.

If you wish to run for either position, you must file with the Secretary of the Division 120 days prior to July 11, 2002. □

### Strategic Plan - MVAFC

The Board of Directors reviewed the current Strategic Plan and what has been accomplished this past year. Recruitment and retention were again key issues in updating the plan for next year. More involvement by State VPs in welcoming new members and getting them involved in MVAFC is crucial in retention. Interaction with State Chief's Associations by State VPs is important in establishing working relationships on matters of mutual interest for the Fire Service.

Identifying the accomplishments of the MVAFC and using them to recruit new members and retain existing members is a key goal.

Continued use of the Stipend by States and our two Sections should enhance the knowledge of Chief Officers and bring together State Chiefs' association and the MVAFC.

Improving our Annual Conferences by the BOD working with the host city to develop programs and speakers. Seeking new financial resources through newsletter advertising or finding corporate sponsors will help to strengthen our association.

The updated Strategic Plan will be posted on the web site by March 15. □

**MVAFC Web Site**  
**[www.mvafc.org](http://www.mvafc.org)**

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.

## **Bob Pottberg Retires**

International Director Bob Pottberg has retired from Osage Fire and has taken a job in private industry. Bob will serve as International Director until the July Conference.

Bob has been a great International Director and a great asset of the MVAFC. Bob's progressive leadership as a member of the MVAFC Board of Directors has helped make our Division strong and financially sound. The information Bob has shared with members has kept all of us informed and involved with the IAFC.

Bob has been more than just an elected officer of the MVAFC, he has been a true friend to all and totally dedicated to our Division.

Bob's leadership will be missed but, more importantly, Bob, our friend, will be missed. Good luck to a great human being and a super friend. □

## **Want to host a MVAFC Conference?**

**Cities usually work with their Chamber of Commerce to host an Annual Conference. The next open year to host a conference is July 2004. If your department and city is interested, go to the web site and look at the RFP to get the requirements for hosting a conference.**

## **Don Manno**

On February 16, 2002, Don Manno, a great fire service leader and teacher and our friend, passed away at a Baltimore hospital. Don had undergone intestinal surgery and, while recovering, contracted an infection that caused complications. He went into cardiac arrest, was revived, but then passed away.

The fire service and humanity have lost a great, loving, caring individual. For all who met Don, we will always remember his spirit, positive attitude and willingness to help others. Don was at his best in front of a class sharing his enthusiasm and knowledge with his students. You knew he cared about each of us whom he taught. Don will be missed by all.

Our sympathy and hearts go out to his family. □