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KANSAS STATE FIREFIGHTERS' ASSOCIATION INC.

121st ANNUAL CONFERENCE

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS HELD

APRIL 23, 24 & 25, 2009

HIGHLAND HOTEL & CONVENTION CENTER

3017 WEST 10th

GREAT BEND, KANSAS

1 APRIL 23, 2009

2 LUKE McCORMICK: Good morning.

3 AUDIENCE: Good morning.

4 LUKE McCORMICK: I'm Luke McCormick.

5 I'm this year's conference chair with the Great
6 Bend Fire Department, and on behalf of the City of
7 Great Bend and the Great Bend Fire Department, I'd
8 like to welcome you to the 121st Annual State
9 Firefighters' Conference. I hope everyone that
10 participated in the golf tournament yesterday had
11 a great time. We had great weather for it. It
12 was a really nice day for it and all of those that
13 took part in the hospitality room that Salina and
14 the Great Bend Fire Department hosted, I hope you
15 guys enjoyed yourself.

16 At this time we're going to introduce the
17 Honor Guard for the Great Bend Fire Department and
18 present the colors.

19 (Honor Guard introduced and Pledge
20 of Allegiance recited by all.)

21 LUKE McCORMICK: I'd like to
22 introduce Associate Pastor Chuck Smith with the
23 Foundry Methodist Church to provide this morning's
24 invocation.

25 PASTOR SMITH: Thank you, Luke.

1 Would you please join with me in prayer?

2 (Prayer recited.)

3 LUKE McCORMICK: Any of the guys
4 standing in the back that need a seat, there's
5 several seats up here in the front. You can go
6 ahead and find one if you need to.

7 At this time I'd like to introduce our
8 City Administrator for the City of Great Bend,
9 Howard Partington.

10 HOWARD PARTINGTON: Good morning, and
11 welcome to Great Bend. On behalf of Mayor Mike
12 Allison and the entire Great Bend City Council, I
13 formally want to welcome you at the start of your
14 conference to Great Bend.

15 I think one of the things that I'm most
16 proud of -- I've been in Great Bend for 27
17 years -- is the people in our community that make
18 up the various departments within our city. I
19 think one shining example is the committee that
20 put this conference together with Luke's
21 leadership and the other people on the committee
22 and our entire department, and while there may be
23 those of you in the room that disagree with my
24 next statement, I feel it's a very important
25 statement. I think we have the best fire

1 department in the State of Kansas and I really
2 think it's a great fire and EMS group that we have
3 and I'm very, very proud of them, but I know some
4 of you may disagree with that, but I certainly
5 feel that way.

6 In Great Bend we've been trying to do
7 some things over the last few years to make it a
8 community that people want to come home to. We
9 have concentrated on youth and you may see some of
10 the things that our youth have done in our
11 community. Our youth designed -- if you go up on
12 281 Highway, which we call Main Street, just
13 before you get to 24th Street and you'll see a
14 railroad train there, but you'll also see in that
15 area a water park and that water park was designed
16 by the young people in our community. We went to
17 them and asked them what they would like. We were
18 going to build a lazy river and other things that
19 other communities have. They said we want an
20 interactive water park. We have that because the
21 7th and 8th graders said they wanted that. We
22 have a State Park because our kids said this is
23 what we want.

24 The first new building that this
25 community had built in over 30 years, besides

1 maybe a maintenance shed or something, was the new
2 Fire Station No. 2, and when Mayor Allison,
3 represented here today, took over, he said we need
4 to do some things. We need a fire station. Well,
5 we built a new fire station out on the west
6 outskirts of our community and if you haven't had
7 a chance to visit that -- this is one of the
8 things we said, this needs to be the first
9 building we build in our community in many years.

10 One of the things the firefighters and
11 EMTs are doing now is they're designing some
12 training props so they can have some training
13 equipment. If you have good ideas I think they'd
14 take those. We try to have our own people do a
15 lot of things and that's one of the things I'm
16 proud of. I think on the spouse's program we
17 have, sometime we're going to go to the new Raptor
18 Center. We just opened a new Raptor Center just
19 recently last week actually. So if you have a
20 chance to get up to that during the day and see
21 that maybe during one of the breaks to walk
22 through our zoo and our aquarium and kind of see
23 what we have.

24 Also the grand opening tomorrow of the
25 visitors center, the Kansas Wetlands Education

1 Center at Cheyenne Bottoms. If you came in on 156
2 Highway you saw it about 10 miles northeast of
3 town and that has its grand opening tomorrow and
4 that will be kind of a gateway for one of our
5 natural resources which is birding and I didn't
6 know too much about birds, still really don't, but
7 on the other hand it's something many, many people
8 come. So there's a lot of people in town this
9 weekend that are birders. You may run into one of
10 them. They'll take you out to Cheyenne Bottoms
11 and show you around.

12 So on behalf of the City of Great Bend
13 and all of our employers, the mayor and the City
14 Council, I welcome you.

15 (Applause.)

16 LUKE McCORMICK: Thanks, Howard. At
17 this time I'll introduce the Fire Chief of Great
18 Bend, Mike Napolitano.

19 MIKE NAPOLITANO: Good morning. It's
20 great to see this many people here in Great Bend
21 and I understand the golf tournament was good
22 yesterday, the weather was great and I think the
23 whole conference is going to be that way.

24 It's definitely an honor for me to be
25 able to address this group and welcome you to

1 Great Bend. As chief I've had the great privilege
2 of working with some outstanding firefighters in
3 our department and the dedication that they put
4 into every day at the job is also extended to the
5 putting on this conference and preparing for it
6 and I really think it's going to be a great
7 conference.

8 We gather here this week dedicated to
9 improving ourselves, our departments and creating
10 a safer community that we serve. As I was
11 preparing this welcome for all of you, I was
12 reminded that the last time I spoke to this event
13 we lived in a much different America. The last
14 time I stood here was in April of 2001, before the
15 911 attacks that so impacted our profession in
16 America. As I was looking back at the events, at
17 the terrorist attacks on America, I considered
18 some of the realities that have been familiar with
19 and they include the 343 firefighters and
20 paramedics that lost their lives, nearly over 300
21 civilians who died in the attacks -- or over
22 3,000. Equally as important in my eyes are the
23 over 1,300 orphans created by the 911 attacks. We
24 so often forget. We never know when the next
25 event will be or what it will require of us and,

1 sadly, in the time since we last met here there
2 have been a number of Kansas firefighters who have
3 given their lives in the line of duty, with the
4 most recent being Dennis Simmons from Stafford
5 County, who died Tuesday night while fighting a
6 wild land fire.

7 The years since we last met have also
8 brought many positive changes in the way that we
9 do our everyday tasks. We are now focusing on
10 firefighter safety with different programs such as
11 the Firefighters Close Call, Everyone Goes Home
12 and the training of rapid intervention teams.

13 Grant money has been made available to us
14 to provide equipment to do our jobs more
15 efficiently and more safely. Even the largest of
16 our departments have found that they cannot cover
17 every need.

18 Local and regional response teams have
19 been formed such as Merge and Force to assist
20 departments in the time of disaster. The State
21 has also coordinated regional structural collapse
22 teams. No community is an island just as no
23 department is an island. We all depend upon each
24 other, whether we're on the New York Fire
25 Department reeling in from the 911 attack or a

1 rural Kansas department reacting to a tornado
2 disaster. None of us can go it alone, it has to
3 be a team effort. It is the working together, not
4 only on the local level, but a regional and a
5 state level, that will ensure that we all go home.

6 I appreciate the opportunity to visit
7 with you this morning and share a few of my
8 thoughts with you. I think and I believe you're
9 going to have a great conference and, again, I
10 welcome you to Great Bend and if you need
11 anything, Luke can get it for you.

12 Thank you.

13 LUKE McCORMICK: Thanks, Chief.

14 Okay. At this time we're going to
15 introduce the Kansas State Firefighters' Auxiliary
16 President, Katrina Moffitt.

17 KATRINA MOFFITT: Thank you. Good
18 morning. Glad to see everyone is wide awake this
19 morning after an evening of hospitality.

20 We just want to say thank you to the
21 members of the Great Bend Fire Department for all
22 of their work that they put into this conference.
23 I know that we see several chairs that are empty
24 this year and I know that that's a sign of the
25 economy. It's not because Great Bend didn't do

1 anything and everything that they could to make
2 this conference one of the best ones and we
3 appreciate all that you have done for the
4 auxiliary and we also appreciate the women of the
5 Great Bend Fire Department who have not really had
6 a formalized auxiliary and, in fact, they really
7 didn't know that there was a Kansas State
8 Firefighters' Association and when the guys came
9 home and said, hey, we're going to host a
10 conference they said, wow, that would be great,
11 but you'd never know. All of these ladies have
12 pulled together and we have wonderful activities
13 planned.

14 So if you are here as a spouse, we will
15 be meeting across the hall after the memorial
16 service and we encourage everyone to join us.
17 We're going to have a great time.

18 One of the missions of the firefighters'
19 auxiliary is scholarships and I'm happy to
20 announce that this year we will be giving away 13
21 scholarships at our banquet on Friday night.
22 Included in one of those is one in memory of Chris
23 Brown. He was killed in a tragic car accident.
24 His wife, Tamara, decided that she wanted to give
25 back in memory of Chris, and she made a special

1 one-time \$1,000.00 donation, so our top winner
2 this year will be receiving that scholarship.

3 I also want to encourage everyone to tell
4 their spouses about the auxiliary. We need more
5 members to come and join with us. If they're not
6 here with you today, we have formalized a website
7 and that is the ksffauxiliary.webs.com. You can
8 check out any of the ladies in the pink shirt and
9 they'll be happy to give you the address. That's
10 going to be a contact point for us for formation
11 guidelines, constitution and bylaws, donation to
12 the scholarship fund and also if you have any
13 deaths that you would like us to put in the
14 memorial service, we would like to have all those
15 come in through the years so we're well prepared
16 when we come to conference.

17 At this time I'd like to introduce our
18 executive board who has worked very hard for us
19 this year. They are Connie Estep, DeAnn Konkkel,
20 Donna Pittaway, Pam Brown, Tracy Ditter, Sherie
21 Baldwin, all of them have worked very hard. Our
22 secretary, Mary Eagle, is not with us today.

23 I would also like to extend a thank you
24 to the executive board of the Kansas State
25 Firefighters' Association. They have been so

1 supportive of us this year and have helped us in
2 so many different ways and they've actually come
3 up with a common sense approach to helping build
4 the scholarship fund and this year alone they have
5 donated over \$200.00 of their own personal money
6 and I want to say thank you and welcome to Great
7 Bend.

8 Thanks.

9 (Applause.)

10 LUKE McCORMICK: Thank you, Katrina.
11 At this time we're going to introduce the Kansas
12 State Firefighters' Association President, Jim
13 Lubbers.

14 JIM LUBBERS: Again, good morning,
15 and welcome to the 121st Annual Kansas State
16 Firefighters' Association Conference. We
17 encourage all members and guests to attend and
18 participate in the activities offered in order to
19 get the full benefit of your attendance.

20 As members of the emergency response
21 group, we all know that in order to best preserve
22 those that we have entrusted to serve we must be
23 able to promptly react to any situation at a
24 moment's notice. This reaction and response comes
25 through training, practice, experience and common

1 sense.

2 Unlike the past, the public today is
3 better informed through the media -- and I added
4 in cell phones -- regarding local and national
5 incidents. There is an expectation of what the
6 response should be from emergency response
7 personnel. That level of response is expected by
8 the public, no matter where we may live, from the
9 largest city to the smallest community. In order
10 to provide this level of service we, as
11 firefighters and emergency medical personnel, must
12 stay informed, continue to seek education and
13 actively participate in the fire service
14 organizations and associations. Your attendance
15 and participation here for the next couple of days
16 provides you with one of the opportunities to
17 update and seek new knowledge. This conference is
18 your opportunity to learn, to discuss and give the
19 association your vital input and direction on the
20 issues of emergency service that are most
21 important to you and your department.

22 Attend, participate and enjoy the
23 conference. Take time to relax, drink a glass of
24 ice tea or whatever with your fellow firefighters
25 across the state.

1 At this time I would like to introduce
2 our executive board: First Vice President, J.L.
3 Ellis from Colby; Second Vice President, Shane
4 Pearson from Longford; our Treasurer, Dan Romine
5 from Osage City; our Secretary/Chair, Steve Hirsch
6 from Oberlin; Northeast Trustee is Kevin Flory
7 from Topeka; Southeast Trustee is Andy Moffitt
8 from Chanute; Northwest Trustee is Doug Janssen
9 from Russell; and, as you know, Adam Frederking
10 took a job in Arkansas, so he was the Southwest
11 Trustee, so according to the bylaws we put on the
12 website and took applications and we appointed to
13 fill out that term, Troy Wolf from Johnson City,
14 and also we have an appointed historian, Sonny
15 Ruff from Logan.

16 Again, I want to thank you for coming and
17 enjoy the conference.

18 (Applause.)

19 LUKE McCORMICK: We'll be taking a
20 short break here till the memorial service starts
21 around 10:15.

22 I do have a couple of announcements I
23 want to make. For the banquet tickets, if you
24 guys need to purchase any extras, we need to have
25 those in by noon today so we can give the kitchen

1 staff the final count for tomorrow night's
2 banquet.

3 We've got one more thing we need to do.

4 JIM LUBBERS: Is Pete Chronister in
5 here? Would you do the rules and order for us,
6 please?

7 PETE CHRONISTER: Rule No. 15:

8 Because of the number of new members attending
9 each year, these rules will be read at the opening
10 of each day's session during the conference.

11 Rule No. 1: The conference shall be
12 called to follow the agenda as printed on the
13 conference program as closely as possible. Any
14 changes shall be brought to the attention of the
15 delegates as soon as possible.

16 Rule No. 2: During all sessions of the
17 conference, a delegate, alternate or guest, when
18 seeking the recognition of the presiding officer
19 or a committee chair, shall raise their hand.
20 Upon being recognized, the person shall stand,
21 state their name, the department they are from, or
22 were from if retired, and state their business.

23 Rule No. 3: Any delegate, alternate or
24 guest called on a point of order shall, at the
25 request of the presiding officer or committee

1 chair, take their seat and remain silent until the
2 question of order is decided. Then, they shall
3 again be recognized by the chair, unless a
4 resolution of the question in order dictates
5 otherwise.

6 Rule No. 4: Should two or more persons
7 seek to speak at the same time, the presiding
8 officer or committee chair shall decide who is
9 entitled to speak first.

10 Rule No. 5: No delegate, alternate or
11 guest may speak more than twice on one subject
12 without permission from the conference.

13 Rule No. 6: No delegate, alternate or
14 guest may speak for more than five minutes on any
15 single occasion during the general session of the
16 conference.

17 Rule No. 7: No motion before the
18 conference or before a committee shall be open for
19 discussion until it has been seconded or so stated
20 by the presiding officer or committee chair.

21 Rule No. 8: All delegates, alternates
22 and guests shall be treated with courtesy, and no
23 delegate, alternate or guest should interrupt
24 another in their remarks, except to call for a
25 point of order or a point of information, where,

1 when they are recognized, shall briefly state
2 their points.

3 Rule No. 9: The proceedings of the
4 conference and committee shall be governed by the
5 Robert's Rules of Order, Revised. Any questions
6 regarding procedures shall be resolved by one or
7 more of the parliamentarians appointed by the
8 presiding officer. The rulings of
9 parliamentarians so appointed shall be final.

10 Rule No. 10: No delegate, alternate or
11 guest shall seek to embarrass, harass, insult or
12 interrupt speakers invited to appear before the
13 conference. Provided the speaker stands for
14 questions and time permits, any question posed to
15 the speaker shall be of general interest to the
16 membership of the entire association. The
17 presiding officer may limit the number of
18 questions for the speaker.

19 Rule No. 11: No time and place or
20 election material of any nature shall be allowed
21 on the floor of the conference at the time of the
22 election.

23 Rule No. 12: Any resolutions shall be in
24 the hands of the secretary at the time of the
25 committee's report on Friday. All resolutions

1 shall be read to the delegates at the conference
2 at that time. No resolutions shall be entertained
3 after this date without the consent of two-thirds
4 of the delegates of the conference.

5 Rule No. 13: Any department wanting to
6 bid for a conference shall present some form of
7 letter of intent to the Time and Place Committee.
8 The Time and Place Committee shall review the
9 letters of intent and present to the conference a
10 list of the departments desiring to host the
11 conference.

12 Rule No. 14: All cell phones, pagers or
13 other communication devices shall be turned off or
14 put in silent mode during the conference.
15 Firefighters on duty are exempt from this rule.

16 Again, Rule No. 14, I'll stand here and
17 have time for everyone to put their phones on
18 silent. Thank you.

19 (Applause.)

20 LUKE McCORMICK: Okay. At this time
21 we'll go ahead and take our break. We'll meet
22 back in here at 10:15.

23 (A break was taken.)

24 LUKE McCORMICK: Okay. We're going
25 to get started here again. Donna Pittaway with

1 the Kansas State Firefighters' Association
2 Auxiliary, she's the chaplain, is going to start
3 the memorial service.

4 DONNA PITTAWAY: Good morning and
5 welcome to the 2009 State Firefighters'
6 Association Memorial Service.

7 We gather at this time to honor those who
8 have served in fire departments across the state
9 and completed their tasks on this earth going on
10 before us. Please stand for a moment of silence
11 and prayer.

12 (Moment of silence and prayer.)

13 DONNA PITTAWAY: Please be seated.
14 The members of the auxiliary are wearing pink
15 today as a symbol honoring those who fight cancer.
16 Symbols and images are used to depict
17 firefighting; the axe, ladder, Maltese cross and
18 playing of Amazing Grace on the bagpipes are all
19 symbols. Another symbol is a patron saint of
20 firefighters, Saint Florian. Florian was born in
21 Austria in the fourth century and, as a youth,
22 joined the Roman Army. He worked hard and, with
23 determination, advanced through the ranks till he
24 occupied a high administrative post. The Emperor
25 and his assistant liked Florian because of his

1 abilities to solve problems and work with people.
2 He was seen as a man capable of handling heavy
3 responsibilities, traits not uncommon in
4 firefighters today; ability to solve problems,
5 work with people, hard workers, determination and
6 capability of handling heavy responsibilities,
7 trusted by the community for saving their property
8 and their very lives. Florian was trusted also
9 because he spoke the truth, he confessed
10 Christianity in anti-Christian times and was
11 sentenced to death by fire by the Emperor.

12 Legend states that standing on the
13 funeral pyre, Florian challenged the Roman
14 soldiers to light the fire, saying, "If you do,
15 I'll climb to Heaven on the flames." Apprehensive
16 to his words, instead of burning him after his
17 confession, they flogged him, set him on fire
18 alive and finally threw him into the river with a
19 stone around his neck to die.

20 Because of his stand and resistance to
21 death by fire, Saint Florian became the protector
22 of firefighters all over the world. About 600
23 years later a monastery was erected near his tomb
24 and soon after a person was saved from fire by
25 just invoking his name.

1 Please remain seated as officers of the
2 auxiliary read the names of those to be honored
3 today.

4 With the calling of the names, we will be
5 placing roses in the vases and ringing the bell.

6 We had two on duty deaths this year,
7 really one that is just being recognized that
8 didn't happen this year, but was found in the
9 records and not recorded: Dennis Simmons,
10 Stafford County Fire Department; Silas Brown,
11 Topeka Fire Department found in the records on
12 duty death, 1926; James Anderson, Kansas City;
13 Dorothy Andrade, Chautauqua County Rural; Keith
14 Austin, Bucklin Fire Department; Robert Baker,
15 Ashland Fire Department; Dennis J. Bane, Mission
16 Township; James Toby Barnett, Jefferson County
17 Fire Department No. 11; Clifford Baslee, Kansas
18 City Fire Department; John Benjamin, Welda Fire
19 Department.

20 DEANN KONKEL: Ronald Blair, Oswego;
21 Darryl Boles, Topeka; McKinley R. "Mac" Boone, St.
22 Paul; Ed Boulanger, Eureka; Roy Edward Bowers,
23 Eskridge; Vernon L. Burklund, Olsburg; Bobby Dean
24 Crosson, Pottawatomie County; John R. Courtney,
25 Junior, Paola; Dale Eugene Dickson, Miller; Ed

1 Donald, Junior, Kansas City.

2 CONNIE ESTEP: Frank Doue, Arma City
3 and Crawford County; Norbert "Norb" Dreiling,
4 Russell, Grant Township; Daniel B. "Izzy"
5 Eisenbarth, Seneca; Lawrence Allen Erbe, Blue
6 Township; Truman Lee Evans, McConnell Air Force
7 Base; Jim Farthing, Shawnee; Dwight Forte, Kansas
8 City; Frank Fitzgerald, Wichita County; Dan D.
9 Gehring, Buhler; Joe Geist, Hays.

10 KATRINA MOFFITT: Bryan Gravatt,
11 Solomon; Max Anthony Gustin, Kansas City; Jerald
12 LaVerne Haggard, Grant County Volunteer; John
13 Hahn, Winfield; William "Bill" Harper, III,
14 Overland Park Fire and State Fire Marshal's
15 Office; Willard J. Herrman, Liberal; Morris
16 Hillman, Burr Oak; Donald William Hixon, Wichita;
17 Charles Holeman, Dodge City; Oscar Eugene Hudson,
18 Pittsburg; Herb Huser, Wilson County; H. Terry
19 Hutchings, Kansas City.

20 DONNA PITTAWAY: Thomas Wayne James,
21 Miltonvale Rural; Dewey James Jessepe, Kickapoo
22 Tribe; Marvin D. "Ole" Johnson, Sedgwick County;
23 Walter "Walt" Johnson, Edwards; Paul Jones,
24 Ramona; John C. Kasberger, Lawrence-Douglas; Dale
25 Kemp, Eskridge.

1 DEANN KONKEL: Thomas D. Keltch,
2 Kansas State Fire Marshal's Office; Richard
3 Kneisel, Hiawatha; James Kendall Knowlton, St.
4 John; Rick Kobe, Shawnee; John Lange, Russell
5 County District No. 5; Frank Leet, Junior, Kansas
6 City; Paul Edward Livingston, Hutchinson; Nadine
7 Logsdon, Jefferson County Fire District No. 11 and
8 Valley Falls; Forrest L. "Bud" Loyd; Stanton
9 County.

10 CONNIE ESTEP: William "Bill" Ludwig,
11 Toronto; Albert B. McKee, Seneca; J.J. McLoughlin,
12 Ford County; James McSwain, Lawrence-Douglas
13 County Fire and Medical; Crystal A. Mallicoat,
14 Johnson County; Maurice Edgar "Mo" Merritt,
15 Burlington; Daniel Morrow, Lawrence-Douglas County
16 Fire Medical; Elwood Lee "Sunny" Neely, Wichita;
17 Robert J. "Bob" Oyler, Topeka; Terry Paxson,
18 Graham County.

19 KATRINA MOFFITT: George J. Perry,
20 St. Mary's; Randy Peterson, Miller; Glen A. Post,
21 Lane; Jay Pratt, El Dorado; Roy Prestwood, Riley
22 County; Gary L. Priddy, Fairmont Township; Calvin
23 A. "Cal" Mauzey, Topeka; Phillip Reed, Englewood;
24 Dennis Rhodes, Argonia; Larry L. Rice, Soldier.

25 DEANN KONKEL: Kenneth Royce,

1 Hitchcock Burlington Fire; Thomas L. Sauer,
2 Ellsworth Fire; Matthew S. Schlegel, Manhattan;
3 Donald Schmidt, White City Fire; Michael Wayne
4 Schrader, Greensburg; Dennis Shorter, Lucas;
5 Joshua W. Skibbe, Sumner County Fire District No.
6 10; Morris E. "Joe" Stukey, Great Bend; Robert J.
7 "Bob" Sutton, Wichita; Rod Sutton, Greensburg;
8 Marvin Arthur Sumner, Lancaster; Rick Tholen,
9 Grinnell.

10 DONNA PITTAWAY: Eddie Trimmell,
11 Wilson County; Evelyn Faye Wamser, Salina; Warren
12 L. Weber, Herington; Ralph Wetzell, Bern; Mark
13 Edward Wiggins, Devon; Dale Wiltfong, Wakaruse;
14 Craig Martin Yeager, Lawrence-Douglas; Jerry
15 Young, Ashland; Otto Walters, Ford County; Dorothy
16 Faulker, Ford County; Cleon Blackburn, Parsons;
17 Loren "Grandpa" Johnson, Sedgwick; John Hybsha,
18 Newton; James Zerloin, Wichita; Ralph Burns, Hays;
19 Bill Dichant, Hays.

20 When I am called to duty, God, wherever
21 flames may rage, give me the strength to save some
22 life whatever be its age, help me embrace a little
23 child before it is too late or save an older
24 person from the horror of that fate. Enable me to
25 be alert and hear the weakest shout, and quickly

1 and efficiently to put the fire out. I want to
2 fill my calling and to give the best in me, to
3 guard my every neighbor and protect his property.
4 And if, according to my fate, I am to lose my
5 life. Please bless with your protecting hand my
6 children and my wife.

7 (The bagpipes are playing.)

8 DONNA PITTAWAY: Thank you.

9 JIM LUBBERS: Thank you, ladies. You
10 can now be dismissed. As all of the ladies are
11 leaving, we will officially open the 121st Annual
12 Conference and would Mr. Roy Reed please come
13 forward?

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1 Good morning. As many of you know,
2 Roy has been around for a long time, been
3 associated with several departments, and he was
4 complaining last night that beings he'd been
5 retired he didn't have no name badge, and so I
6 took the honor of getting him a name tag so
7 everybody would know who he is and a packet from
8 the conference. There you go, sir.

9 ROY REED: Thank you. Well, Jim's
10 right, my name is Roy Reed and I have been around
11 a while, not a long time, but a while. Some of
12 you know me and some of you don't, but I'd like to
13 get acquainted with all of you. This is a great
14 organization, it's a proud organization, it's an
15 organization that I have proudly served and thank
16 you very much for this. Now you know who I am.
17 Come up and speak to me. Thank you.

18 JIM LUBBERS: Sometime years back
19 there was three people appointed as lifetime
20 members of this association and Roy is the only
21 one that's left.

22 Today we welcome the Attorney General of
23 the State of Kansas, Steve Six. The Attorney
24 General is the chief law enforcement officer for
25 the State. His office has a number of divisions

1 that focus on things such as criminal prosecution,
2 Medicare fraud, enforcement, consumer protection,
3 crime victim services and civil litigation.

4 Attorney General Six is a lifetime Kansan. Him
5 and his wife, Betsy, have four children and live
6 in Lawrence. After graduating from the University
7 of Kansas Law School, Steve was in private
8 practice for 10 years. Then he served as District
9 Judge in Douglas County before becoming the 44th
10 attorney general for the State of Kansas. We
11 welcome him.

12 ATTORNEY GENERAL STEVE SIX: Thank
13 you. Well, thank you. It is good to be with you
14 this morning and I think that memorial service
15 certainly is a reminder of the dangers that you
16 all know better than anyone.

17 Coming down here, of course, I looked
18 into it a little bit, spoke to some folks and
19 learned of the most recent firefighter, Dennis
20 Simmons, who was referenced, of course, in the
21 memorial, lost his life fighting a brush fire.
22 The job is never done until the fire is out and I
23 think he worked an exhausting schedule, as I've
24 learned, and then unfortunately after that back in
25 his truck he moved on, so I think the memorial

1 service certainly was moving to me to see the
2 number of firefighters and the way, of course, you
3 cover the state. I can tell you, on behalf of all
4 Kansans, we truly are grateful for the service you
5 are all providing.

6 I was driving down here this morning and
7 it's a beautiful day. You probably don't know
8 that sitting in this room, but the sun was shining
9 and I can tell you I was in El Dorado first week
10 of April. I was out turkey hunting and basically
11 spent about 10 hours a day two days looking for
12 turkeys and we didn't get any close enough to take
13 a shot and I'm driving down here today and just
14 about every field with a hedge row next to a green
15 field had a couple dozen turkeys with a Tom moving
16 around, so I think they were like taunting me on
17 the way down here, but I didn't bring the gun with
18 me, so, there again, they're going to live for
19 another day.

20 The attorney general's office is, I
21 think, an office that hopefully can be a great
22 service to many Kansans all across the state. I'd
23 like to tell you a little bit about some of the
24 work that we've done over the past year, but also
25 tell you a little bit about some of my background

1 in coming to that job. I took over about a year
2 ago after there was a little turmoil in the office
3 and the focus for me has been to try to get back
4 to really the fundamentals of the office. Coach
5 Fogg Allen, who was a legendary basketball coach
6 at K.U. had a saying: "Techniques change, but
7 fundamentals don't." I'm sure that's -- it's
8 certainly true in the law and I think it's
9 probably true in fire fighting. You've got new
10 techniques and I can see some of you guys here
11 aren't new guys. There are some new guys and I'm
12 sure those techniques haven't changed over the
13 years, but the fundamentals of what you're trying
14 to do have remained and the training fundamentals
15 remain -- the principles remain the same.

16 The effort I brought to the office when I
17 began in 2008 was to try to make it more
18 accountable to Kansans all across the state. We
19 did that a couple of ways and I'll tell you about
20 some of those projects. The area of consumer
21 protection, as our economy is getting into really
22 challenging times, has been a renewed struggle for
23 our office and I think we've made a lot of great
24 progress. Kansans are being taken advantage of
25 and there are people out there that are, either

1 through the Internet, through the mail, through
2 the phone, you know, different door-to-door
3 salespeople are preying on many Kansans and we've
4 seen an uptake in the type of scams and frauds
5 that are going on. We've focused very hard on
6 trying to work with some of the most vulnerable
7 groups in the State. Our young people who are, of
8 course -- checking the average age of the group
9 here -- you're probably like me, staying up with
10 some of the new technology and how your kids and
11 grandkids are getting on the Internet and doing
12 stuff and using social networking sites and
13 contacting people and staying in touch with folks
14 that way. It's a great technology, it's a great
15 service, it's a great way for them to communicate,
16 but it brings some challenges and those challenges
17 are you never know who's on the other side of that
18 Internet site, the other side of that e-mail. It
19 may be another 15-year-old who's communicating
20 with you, but it may be, as we've found through
21 some of our law enforcement efforts, you know, a
22 fifty-year-old guy in his basement somewhere
23 that's trying to do something. You know, that's a
24 much scarier thing to think about.

25 We've gone out and we've done training

1 programs in the schools. We've got a Net Smarts
2 Training Program that we take across the state.
3 It teaches middle school kids about how to be safe
4 online. We also took some great steps in working
5 with other states' attorney generals. We went to
6 the social networking sites. These are your
7 Facebook, My Space, places where people set up
8 profiles and I'm probably telling some of you
9 stuff you already know and some of you maybe not,
10 but you communicate this way.

11 Well, we found out that there were
12 registered sex offenders who are registering,
13 getting on these sites and using them to
14 communicate. Pretty basic thing you think to step
15 forward, tell the companies they have to change
16 their practices and not let these folks on, so we
17 provided the groups that do the social networking
18 the list, the background, the people that are
19 registered sex offenders, got them to sweep them
20 off of those sites and that's an ongoing project
21 to try to stay out in front of that, but it's a
22 way that we work to try to make the minors in our
23 state safer.

24 We're also working on consumer protection
25 with the Kansas seniors. We've got everything

1 from big projects to small projects. You know,
2 one of the small projects, but more project, I can
3 tell you there was a woman here in central Kansas
4 that contacted the office. She was in her
5 nineties and had worked hard, you know, had a
6 pretty blue collar middle class job, never made a
7 ton of money in her life but saved it and she got
8 to be up in her nineties and she had a pretty
9 sizeable amount of money. She got called by this
10 out of state firm that was selling an investment
11 opportunity in Kansas, rare coins, this kind of
12 thing, got her on the phone, kept calling her,
13 using some high-pressure sales tactics, eventually
14 started calling her multiple times in the same day
15 because she was suffering from some dementia and
16 she couldn't always remember that she'd talked to
17 them earlier. Eventually they got her to buy
18 about \$90,000.00 in this rare coin opportunity and
19 I can tell you if you're in your nineties you
20 don't need a rare coin opportunity to be your
21 investment. You need it in a safe, stable place.

22 Well, her family contacted us, we got
23 that company's attention, got them to stop doing
24 those processes in Kansas and got her \$90,000.00
25 back which I think is an example of one of the

1 direct ways we deal with consumers to try to make
2 people safe.

3 So if any of you have problems with
4 companies, situations where there's a scam, I
5 really encourage you to contact the attorney
6 general's office. We're on the website, we're in
7 the phone book. You can get ahold of us in a lot
8 of ways.

9 On a bigger scale in the consumer
10 protection division we ramped up in 2008. We
11 handled more complaints than have been handled
12 before and we brought back to the state 4.1
13 million dollars in restitution to consumers that
14 had been taken advantage of and fees and penalties
15 against companies that have been doing scams and
16 frauds, and it's a record amount and I think
17 recognizes a lot of hard work over the last year
18 and we're still trying to do better for 2009.

19 Another area that's been really
20 concerning to me and we've tried to make a
21 difference in is the cost of health care. It's
22 just been rising and rising and many small
23 businesses across the state are really struggling.
24 When I was in a law firm we struggled every year
25 to choose a health plan that would meet our

1 employees' needs and be something we could afford.
2 We looked at what the attorney general's office
3 could do and we focused on the state Medicaid
4 program, which is a huge program that provides a
5 real needed service to folks that are struggling
6 and need an opportunity to get health care. We
7 looked to that program and focused our efforts on
8 the fraud and ways in that area and we brought
9 back, in 2008, just over 18 million dollars in
10 money back -- taxpayer's money back to the state
11 that can be used in this program.

12 Just to give you some idea of what that
13 effort I think represents, it's 20 times more than
14 was recovered in the Medicaid fraud area just two
15 years ago. So I think through focusing on
16 important projects like consumer protection for
17 individual people and holding big programs
18 accountable we can work to make your state
19 government operate and be more efficient.

20 We've also done a lot of work with drug
21 operations. I mean, many Kansans have a lot of
22 drugs and medications they need. We've got a case
23 going right now against about 30 of the major drug
24 manufacturers, again, for the price they charge
25 Medicaid for the drugs they provided to the State.

1 Our case, which is in court right now, is showing
2 that I think they charge too high a price and were
3 taking advantage of the state and we're using this
4 effort to try to bring that money back to Kansas
5 because, as you know, there's incredible budget
6 problems at the state level and I'm sure you've
7 seen in your individual cities and counties as
8 well.

9 We work directly with the fire marshal's
10 office on an exciting effort this past legislative
11 session that I think I'm quite proud of the joint
12 effort that came together and that was the Fire
13 Safe Cigarette Statute we got passed and through a
14 lot of cooperative efforts we brought that and,
15 you know, basically the idea of a cigarette left
16 somewhere -- and you guys know this better than
17 me -- can smolder on a couch, can keep burning for
18 a long time and eventually result in a home fire.
19 The Fire Safe Cigarette Statute is going to
20 require the cigarette manufacturers to use this
21 self extinguishing technology so if a cigarette is
22 left somewhere it will more quickly burn out if
23 you're not, you know, puffing on it, and I think
24 that's going to be a great advantage for public
25 safety across the state.

1 We've worked also to really rededicate
2 the office to working with Kansans. We've got a
3 new Constituent Services Division which is
4 reaching out so if there are people that need help
5 in navigating a consumer problem, for instance,
6 identity theft. We've got a new program we're
7 working on right now and we passed this year in
8 the legislature an improvement to the Credit Flee
9 Statute. Identity theft, you know, the situation
10 where somebody gets your credit card information,
11 takes out credit cards in your name, those kind of
12 things has been the fastest growing crime
13 according to the Federal Trade Commission each of
14 the last seven years across the country. We've
15 been trying to get out in front of this by working
16 on some project like our identity theft repair kit
17 item. It's a package we send out to Kansans that
18 has information about what do you do if you've
19 been the victim of identity theft. Just takes you
20 down step by step: How do you contact the credit
21 bureaus; how do you contact the banks; what are
22 the different things you need to do; and it's been
23 a tool that I think has been very useful.

24 We also passed a new Credit Freeze
25 Statute this year that the governor has just

1 signed and what that does is allow Kansans, if you
2 suspect you've been the victim of identity theft
3 to access the credit agencies to make sure they'll
4 put a freeze on your credit accounts so these type
5 of cards won't be taken out in your name.

6 We also, in the attorney general's
7 office, among the other things we do and among the
8 highest priorities is try to make Kansans safer.
9 We prosecute the serious criminal offenses in many
10 of the counties across the state. Usually the
11 bigger counties, your top 10 or so counties, have
12 a staff of prosecutors that can work on that, but
13 we work with the county attorneys in many of the
14 other cases when there's a serious case like a
15 murder or a capital case and work to prosecute
16 those.

17 For instance, next month here, starting
18 May 11th, I'm prosecuting a murder up in Osborne,
19 Kansas. This was a farmer who, you know, got up
20 early, went out to do his farm work, came home at
21 noon, was subdued by a guy that was in the house,
22 hog tied with his computer cord and shot in the
23 head execution style, we allege, and we'll be up
24 in Osborne County for about two weeks in May
25 trying that case and putting on evidence to

1 convict that individual. An effort we use to
2 really try and help the county like Osborne
3 County, which has about 4,500 people, it's got a
4 great county attorney, but a big case like that,
5 you can bring our resources and the K.B.I. and
6 other folks together to work on it.

7 So I'm pleased to get an invitation to
8 come down and talk to you. We did work on things
9 like the Fire Safe Cigarette. I'm always pleased
10 if any of you have any ideas from your departments
11 or other suggestions about ways we can improve and
12 work on things that would help you in your jobs.
13 If you can bring them to our office, we can work
14 together to improve and take those ideas forward.
15 I'm also hopeful that you'll go out as you go back
16 to your communities and certainly spread the word
17 that the attorney general's office is looking to
18 help consumers all across the state and would hope
19 you contact our office if any of your friends or
20 family get in a situation where we could be of
21 help.

22 So thank you very much for being here and
23 allowing me to talk to you for this organization
24 and your great service to the State of Kansas. I
25 can tell you I appreciate it and God bless you.

1 (Applause.)

2 JIM LUBBERS: We're going to deviate
3 from the agenda just a slight bit. Now we'll have
4 Mr. Pribbenow from Kansas Fire and Rescue. He has
5 another commitment so he needs to move on, so
6 Glenn.

7 GLENN PRIBBENOW: Thank you, Jim.
8 Well, I appreciate the opportunity to come and
9 speak in front of you today. I was counting on my
10 hands and toes -- I had to take my shoes off to
11 count -- I think this is the 11th time I've been
12 able to come talk to you and give you the report
13 about the Fire and Rescue Training Institute.
14 That report has changed over the years and we're
15 pleased. At least we believe that those reports
16 have improved every year because of the services
17 that we've been able to provide for you.

18 We have expanded. I want to take just a
19 few minutes and kind of throw some numbers at you
20 like I do every year, but also I want to highlight
21 a couple of major things that we're doing. One of
22 them is a change, one of them is a new thing.
23 Just because rather than to stand here and give
24 you the standard one, two, three report, I wanted
25 to take a little bit of time to kind of give you a

1 heads up on where we're going. Last year was a
2 very successful year as the last six have been.
3 That milestone will be when we start receiving
4 funding to help underwrite our programs and we're
5 able to start delivering services at little or no
6 cost to you.

7 Last year we did 612 training and
8 certification events throughout Kansas. We served
9 8,400 firefighters, 557 Kansas organizations, in
10 over one hundred counties. Within that we
11 delivered over 10,500 hours of training and we
12 traveled over 150,000 miles within the borders of
13 Kansas delivering those.

14 As I mentioned, we're in our 7th year of
15 receiving that new funding and kind of living that
16 reinvigorated life as a training organization, and
17 since that time we've been able to deliver, as I
18 say, well over 90 percent of what we do is at no
19 cost to the fire department or the firefighters.
20 In that first six years we delivered what really
21 is kind of a phenomenal amount of training. Not
22 too long ago we were asked to go testify before
23 the legislature and talk about our program, what
24 we've done, what we're doing, and I went back to
25 2003, which is the first year we received the new

1 funding, and just assembled a cumulative total of
2 what we've been able to do with those funds. We
3 have delivered, since the inception of the new
4 funding in 2003, over 52,900 hours of training,
5 we've conducted over 3,480 training events,
6 training and certification, we've served 51,300
7 student firefighters, and the cumulative total of
8 the manhours of training we've delivered is over
9 660,000 hours. Those are pretty phenomenal
10 numbers when you look at the size of Kansas, the
11 number of fire departments, the amount of funding
12 we have, the amount of staff we have and how we do
13 training and what that really boils down to,
14 sometimes those numbers really start fogging the
15 memory and it sounds so unrealistic, but at the
16 same time they're very real and if you break it
17 down into a by the week kind of a total, in any
18 given week in Kansas we have 11 classes going on
19 somewhere. That includes 52 weeks out of the
20 year, so if you took out the Christmas weeks and
21 Thanksgiving weeks where training typically falls
22 off, that per week total would go up
23 significantly. We train on average 165
24 firefighters a week in those courses, deliver 169
25 hours of training a week. We serve -- on average

1 in that period of time we've served 497
2 communities in Kansas every year with our services
3 and on average we serve 97 counties.

4 There are two messages here. First
5 message is one that I'd like you to agree with and
6 that's we've done a pretty good job with the money
7 that's been given us, but the more important
8 message is you've done a good job. Why have you
9 done a good job? Because I think it's a safe
10 assumption to say that firefighters in Kansas are
11 better trained, better equipped and better
12 prepared for the challenges that you face than at
13 any point in history. That's not to take anything
14 away from anything anybody's done, it's just that
15 you now have more training resources available and
16 you're taking advantage of them. To that end
17 we're working on some new projects. Some will be
18 coming online fairly quickly, others will take us
19 a little more time to get in place.

20 First thing coming online is within the
21 next two to three months, maybe sooner, we'll be
22 accepting delivery of our new propane training
23 unit. This will be a state of the art unit that
24 we will obviously tow around the state, bring it
25 to you to deliver handling propane emergencies

1 kind of training. We took a great deal of time in
2 laying out and designing and specifying this
3 unique prop and believe that it will provide
4 excellent training for you, regardless of the size
5 of your fire department, the size of your
6 community. It will be very flexible. It will
7 include nine different props that will simulate
8 both propane as well as other life fire scenarios
9 that are required in Firefighter 1 and 2, but that
10 we can't currently deliver very well. Those props
11 will be a residential propane tank prop, of
12 course; we'll have a 20-pound propane cylinder;
13 rural propane power grill simulator; we'll have a
14 100-pound propane simulator; 100-pound propane
15 cylinder; we'll have what we call a piped field,
16 which will be just a piped field of various valves
17 and connections that will have designed leaks in
18 them so that you'll be able to go up under fog
19 protection, of course, and control the fire by
20 shutting off the valves; we'll have a natural gas
21 meter simulator; a dumpster fire; a flammable
22 liquids simulator, which will be about 105 square
23 feet to cover the Firefighter 1 and 2 standards
24 and a vehicle fire prop. All of the valves where
25 in the past training that you may have attended

1 were LP and some of the props, not all, but some
2 of them have dummy valves that you turn off that
3 you just spin a wheel. We insisted in all of the
4 props where you are turning the valve to cut off
5 fuel is the firefighter will actually be turning
6 off the fuel to that prop. All of the valves that
7 we provide will be life valves controlling the
8 flow of fuel. We will have -- we've designed in a
9 couple of elements of all of the props that will
10 give us almost an infinite variety of fire. All
11 of the props have a valve on it that we can
12 control. The instructor won't control it. There
13 will be a manually set valve that we can really
14 crimp that prop way down so if we wanted to use it
15 for extinguishers we could use it for a smaller
16 fire or for really raw recruits, we can keep the
17 fire small and build skills and we can also crank
18 that all the way to the open position. Every
19 prop, with one exception, will have the ability to
20 fuel the prop with either vapor or liquid. Those
21 of you that dealt with that know if you get the
22 liquid you get a heck of a lot bigger fire. So
23 with the combination of those three controls,
24 having the manual control, the vapor and the
25 liquid, then we'll be able to build a fire

1 anywhere from that big to this big and really
2 challenge those more experienced firefighters that
3 come to us, of course, that we lower the flame on
4 them they're going to go well, yeah, so what. Now
5 we'll be able to crank it up a little bit higher.

6 All of the props will have electronic
7 controls to them that the instructor will be
8 holding in their hand and they will be the old
9 deadman switch in that it will take a conscious
10 act of pulling the trigger to light the prop and
11 if anything goes wrong, all they have to do is
12 release it and the fire goes out. All of the
13 valves for the props will be at the prop rather
14 than back at the source, so that if the valve is
15 released and you want to kill the fire, within a
16 matter of a couple of seconds the fire goes out
17 rather than 30 or 40 or 45 seconds. We insist on
18 that for the safety element. We'll have a master
19 controller that one guy will have and we'll also
20 have a couple of switches located on the trailer
21 itself so if anyone sees anything going wrong, hit
22 the switch, kills the whole system.

23 We had the attitude kind of like the Rios
24 about the fire, no problem, cut it off, we'll
25 build another one. We can make more. And so

1 we've encouraged that. As you may know, we
2 designed that feature into our interior fire
3 fighting trailer that anybody sees anything going
4 wrong, kill the whole system. If it's a mistake,
5 we'll say, "Oh, gee whiz, people make mistakes."
6 We'll have the ability to, we think, provide state
7 of the art training for you. We will have a few
8 requirements that we'll put on the host fire
9 department. I don't have a fleet of fire trucks.
10 I seem to have this growing fleet of semis, but I
11 don't have a fire truck, and so we'll have to rely
12 on the local fire department or fire departments
13 to provide two pumpers and the ability to feed the
14 system. We're in the process of buying our own
15 hose and all that so that hopefully, at the most,
16 what we'll need from you is two pumpers and 200
17 feet of three-inch hose. Beyond that, we'll have
18 everything else we need for the training evolution
19 so we're not stripping your fire department of
20 pumpers or the equipment you need if you have to
21 break loose and make a response. I really don't
22 want to have to try and load a thousand feet of
23 hose on a truck in 30 seconds. I don't think we
24 can get to that point.

25 Due to the anticipated expense of this

1 unit and providing that training, we will also be
2 very insistent that you give us the right number
3 of students. In the past we've had a number of
4 the class, its live fire training trailer being
5 one of them where over a time the number of
6 students per class has dropped, in some cases down
7 to as few as 10 and per firefighter cost gets
8 really expensive and with this one it will even be
9 greater because, folks, we'll be carrying \$500.00
10 of LP on board and in one of these training
11 sessions could very easily burn all \$500.00.
12 That's just in fuel. Now, go down to your local
13 supplier and ask how much propane is these days
14 and then we have the cost of towing the trailer
15 and paying the instructors and what we'll ask is
16 give us 25 students or more. We'll be able to
17 handle 50 students with as many props as we'll
18 have going at a time and we'll really need you to
19 reach out and invite all of those surrounding
20 departments to try and get enough people there to
21 where, number one, we can train as many people at
22 a time as possible and, number two, keep the
23 overall cost down.

24 Beyond that, we will, as we always do,
25 work with fire departments in trying to

1 accommodate your local needs and we don't have
2 this lock step process for everything because we
3 know your needs aren't the same as the neighboring
4 department, but we will ask for a little
5 cooperation. It'll probably be somewhere between
6 eight to 24 -- and don't quote those numbers,
7 folks, we're not there yet -- somewhere between
8 eight and 24 hours of training, and we'll
9 typically come in to do the training, do the
10 classroom portion first. The trailer won't be
11 there until the last day of class where we'll have
12 the four- to five- to six-hour hands-on mode.
13 We'll try and schedule those hands-on modes for
14 the evening time just for the safety or benefit we
15 get. It's a lot easier to see the fire at night.
16 No, you don't have to fight all of them at night,
17 you have to fight some of them during the daytime,
18 but that's one compromise we'll ask you to make is
19 let's do it in the evening when it's a little
20 darker, the fire is a little easier to see,
21 keeping in mind that this is a training mode.

22 Watch your e-mail. The manufacturer was
23 telling us -- we just did the on-site inspection
24 on that a couple weeks ago -- and they're telling
25 us they'll be ready by late May, early June for

1 the delivery of this unit, but by the time we get
2 it and get all of the stuff loaded and configured,
3 it'll be a little bit longer than that, but if
4 you're really interested in this, give us a call.
5 Dave Wickershime is your best contact and we'll
6 start looking at the calendar to start planning
7 these training sessions. If you don't want to
8 preschedule, then just keep an eye on your e-mail
9 because when we get that ready to go we'll
10 certainly be sending out the announcements saying
11 we're ready.

12 Among the other courses that we have
13 scheduled and are working on, Rural Water Supplies
14 previously known as Tanker Subtle Operations,
15 Instructor II, Swift Water or Switch/Surface Water
16 Rescue and revisions to Fire Office 1 and 2 as
17 well as Inspector 1 and 2. There's more, but I
18 didn't include them in this list.

19 Finally and briefly, it's probably
20 appropriate for me to at least discuss and explain
21 Firefighter 1 testing changes that we announced
22 just a few weeks back. As anticipated, there is
23 some concern and unrest about that and it's a much
24 too complex issue for me to stand up here and go
25 on forever and ever about, which I could; trust

1 me, I won't. I guess to start this and to end it,
2 I'll say if you have concerns or questions, please
3 don't listen to the rumor mill, pick the phone up
4 and call us or send us an e-mail, tell us where we
5 can call you and we'll be more than happy to give
6 you information straight from the horse's mouth or
7 if you think from the other end of the anatomy, I
8 guess that's up to you. Fact, yes, Firefighter 1
9 testing has been expanding. It has been expanded
10 in that the time required to do the written exam
11 has been expanded by one hour. The time required
12 to do the skills exam has been expanded by
13 approximately four hours. In previous times and
14 now we could do an exam in one weeknight if we had
15 to or one Saturday, boom, have it knocked out and
16 done. That will no longer be within the realm of
17 possibility. The reason, over time the
18 Firefighter 1 standard has grown exponentially.
19 When I first came into the fire service training
20 business some years ago, we could do Firefighter 1
21 testing in about three hours. We could teach the
22 whole course in about 30 to 40 hours. Now it
23 takes over a hundred hours probably to get a
24 Firefighter 1 course taught, plus all of the
25 skills practice time that you need. Within the

1 standard right now there are 25 what they call
2 JPRs. If you want to look at it in another way,
3 28 skill sets, like advancing a hose, setting a
4 ladder and climbing it. There are over 119
5 individual skills required in Firefighter 1. We
6 are currently testing four to six JPRs, four to
7 six out of 25, four to six skill sets out of 28,
8 and we're testing 20 to 30, all depending on
9 configuration, individual skills out of 119.
10 That's less than 25 percent of the requirements of
11 the standard that aren't being tested in any given
12 site.

13 As we look at our accreditation criteria,
14 that accreditation gives us the ability and the
15 authority to issue that national certification,
16 that professional credential for you. We have to
17 adhere to that criteria and that criteria really
18 does not say you must test a certain percentage,
19 but it describes the system that has to be used
20 and certainly implies that if you use random
21 testing, which is what we do, that's the only way
22 to keep from having to test every skill and if you
23 use random testing, you must -- it must include a
24 standardly significant sample size, the technical
25 way of saying it, which is you've got to test

1 enough of it to where you can, with some authority
2 and assurance, say yes, that person met the
3 standard and has met the requirements and deserves
4 a national certification. Testing 25 percent of
5 that standard simply doesn't do that and over the
6 years the standard has grown. The last two
7 changes to the standard we have considered this
8 change, looked at it and said no, we can squeak by
9 a little longer because we understand the impact
10 on the firefighters when we increase the
11 requirements, if you will. But at the same time
12 we have to balance that against can we maintain
13 accreditation and our ability to issue that
14 certification. At this change of the standard we
15 hit that critical mass where we didn't feel we
16 could withstand a site visit, which we do every
17 five years by the accrediting body and justify
18 testing the amount that we tested, and that's why
19 we changed. That's kind of the bottom line of it
20 is we now believe with what we've set out and
21 we'll be changing to, we can withstand that
22 scrutiny from outsiders looking at our program and
23 saying yes, you deserve to continue in the
24 national certification business. The national
25 certification program is the only program that we

1 operate that has a set of rules imposed on us from
2 an external source. The rest of it is a Kansas
3 program that we do what we want and what we need.
4 With national certification, those accrediting
5 bodies set the rules and we adhere to them and in
6 turn we get to issue that professional credential,
7 that certification to the people that go through
8 the process successfully. We will continue to
9 make every effort to make the system as
10 transparent as possible and as I often say, there
11 are only two things that we won't tell you about
12 this system. The first thing is I will not -- we
13 will not share the test questions with you, sorry.
14 The test bank remains secret, but we will give you
15 the pages out of the textbook that the questions
16 are taken from. In fact, if you look at the study
17 guide, it has a whole section of written question
18 study guide. Those page listings are exactly
19 where those test questions come from. Read that,
20 you're there. The other thing we won't tell you
21 is exactly what's going to be on the skills exam,
22 what we'll be testing, although in that same study
23 guide we'll give you a copy of the skill
24 evaluation sheets for every skill that's subject
25 to be on the exam. Those skill sheets are the

1 same ones that the evaluators use to test with.
2 That's our effort to make the system as
3 transparent as possible and, in fact, that's one
4 of the criteria that we have to demonstrate in the
5 accreditation process that we do have that
6 transparency. There's much more I could tell you
7 about, but I won't.

8 What I will end with is to thank you
9 again for the opportunity to come and speak with
10 you today and I hope that if you do have questions
11 regarding any of our programs that you'll please
12 pick the phone up, give us a call, we'll pay for
13 the call. Call us on the toll free line and we'll
14 do our best to get it clarified for you and help
15 you meet your training goals. That's what we're
16 there about and that's what everything we do is
17 targeted for. I apologize for one last thing and
18 at the same time I want to thank Jim and the
19 association for bumping me up in the schedule a
20 little bit. I've done the terrible thing of
21 double booking myself and I have to leave here
22 very quickly and head back to Kansas City airport
23 to catch a 6 o'clock flight, so if you look for me
24 and I'm not here, that's why. Otherwise, I'd
25 remain here long enough, but at the same time if

1 you do have questions, please don't hesitate to
2 give me a call, give anybody on our staff a call
3 and we wish you the best of luck for a successful
4 conference and an enjoyable year in the future.
5 Thank you very much.

6 (Applause)

7 JIM LUBBERS: At this time it would
8 be my pleasure to introduce the Assistant
9 Commissioner of Insurance, Mr. Bob Thomason.

10 BOB THOMASON: Thank you, Mr.
11 Lubbers. I think we're going to have -- I'm going
12 to show you a little bit, so follow along with my
13 presentation because, for good or for ill, I
14 actually have something to say. My students, when
15 I was a school teacher, never believed that and
16 you may not like what I have to say, but I hope
17 you will at least listen.

18 I want you to know that for our part, the
19 Commissioner of Insurance Office is always pleased
20 to be with you because we distribute to you now
21 over nine million dollars in relief association
22 funds and we will continue to do our part to try
23 to distribute those most equitably as the law will
24 allow us to do.

25 For my own personal part, last night I

1 was distributing funds to a few firefighters. I
2 got involved in a poker game. I thought I was
3 pretty good. I was first guy out. I had an ace
4 tres suited and couldn't draw a picture, but I saw
5 somebody go all in on a pair of deuces and draw a
6 third deuce. It just was wrong, but, believe me,
7 not equitable at all. But that particular moment
8 in my life is not finished, I assure you. I
9 consider myself to be tolerantly decent at that
10 game of poker and we're going to have to have
11 another match at some point in time.

12 But distributing for the Firefighter
13 Relief Association is critical to us. Anybody who
14 has ever seen the memorial program that we saw,
15 putting flowers in a vase for firefighters that
16 have fallen, realizes the importance of the
17 Firefighters Relief Act. That's what we're here
18 for and so forgive me when I take a pure credit
19 point of view, but the reality is there is nothing
20 within what I'm going to say -- you got me wired
21 up? Okay.

22 Just like when I was playing poker, just
23 put your chips in, it'll be all right. We'll let
24 you know when you win, if you do. Now, show us
25 your cards. I want you to understand that we have

1 only one goal and it's a compound goal; A, to
2 reserve these funds for you and; B, to equitably
3 distribute them according to the law as best we
4 can and we have ramped up our services. The idea
5 being that the more rapidly we get you the money,
6 the more efficiently we get you the money, the
7 better it's going to be for you and for us. As a
8 result, there are things that we can announce,
9 that we can deal with, that are highly appropriate
10 and clearly everybody agrees are progressive. For
11 instance, we are making the applications for those
12 funds, the re-determination processes, the
13 certification processes, we're putting those
14 online and as of next January 1 it'll be idiot
15 proof. We can't foul it up, neither can my
16 friends that are teaching me to play poker. You
17 put it in, you put the data in, it'll do the math
18 for you. We encourage you to embrace this idea.

19 Later on in this assembly you will be
20 voting on best practices. The best practices are
21 a continuation of those things that we have
22 determined, with your assistance, that it should
23 be doing in working with the funds that you have
24 and in accounting for your practices and your
25 distributions. We hope that you'll agree with us

1 that it is a good guideline and that you adopt the
2 best practices manual that we have worked with you
3 to put forth.

4 But beyond that, we believe that within
5 this calendar year we will be giving you
6 guidelines, a new handbook that will embrace the
7 law as it is written and embrace the best
8 practices that exist so that everybody will have
9 an answer to every question and if not, you'll
10 have a source and a place to go. Still, though,
11 we have concerns about the Firefighter Relief Act
12 distributions and that's what I wish to cover
13 today.

14 I want to talk about where the Act is and
15 how it got to be here. Some questions that have
16 been raised, the proposal that we actually have
17 before you, and then I want to show you examples
18 based on last year's distribution to see why it is
19 that we bring these issues forth. But I want to
20 tell you before I begin that nothing that I say to
21 you is something that I really want to discuss,
22 because the reality is I did not get up one
23 morning and say, "Gosh, I wish I could get myself
24 on the top concern list of every firefighter in
25 the state. I wish I could do something to totally

1 disrupt an equitable and reasonable program. I
2 wish I could endanger the FRA distributions for
3 everybody in the state." I did not approach any
4 of that with that idea. Merely, we are
5 investigating what exists currently, so in order
6 to do that, let me tell you how we got to this
7 point.

8 In 1984 the law was changed to exclude
9 insurance companies from bringing forth the
10 evaluations as to how the distribution was set
11 forth and, rather, it was charged to the county
12 clerks to do so. Currently, your county clerks
13 will provide us with information when you
14 re-determine. That gives your valuations,
15 property valuations and populations for the
16 purpose of redistributing. However, during the
17 1984 legislative session, it was determined that
18 if we did it solely on population and valuation
19 there would be some firefighter organizations that
20 would lose monies that they already had committed,
21 and so it was determined that we would run those
22 through the 1983 issues to get the level of
23 proportional representation that the firefighter
24 relief associations had at the time, and that
25 decision is what is coming to us and that decision

1 is what is inequitable because whatever the
2 insurance companies had given you in 1983, that is
3 the level proportionately at which you remain, and
4 when we feed those statistics in, when you
5 re-determine, it's a crap shoot. It's such a crap
6 shoot that it is non-linear. What am I talking
7 about when I talk about non-linear? A linear
8 progress is one, two, three, four, five, six. The
9 linear progression is where the distance between
10 two and three is equal to the distance between
11 five and six. Knowing these things, I should have
12 done much better at poker, but in this particular
13 situation there is no linear progression. You
14 could advance 10 percent in your valuation and
15 population and not advance 10 percent or even
16 remotely close to it when you're re-determined.
17 You can advance two percent. You could advance
18 300 percent. It depends on the proportion that
19 you had in '83 and if you weren't a part of
20 participating FRAs in '83, then you are fed in at
21 a level that reached the nearest FRA at that time.
22 So you go back to '83 and see where you might have
23 been. That is also a crap shoot. The problem is
24 that I cannot fix it by rule and reg, because
25 going back to the '83 levels is in the statute and

1 I am charged to obey the statute. I would love to
2 be able to fix it. I would love to be able to
3 just repeal out the '83 levels, but I've got to go
4 back to them. The rest of the calculation, based
5 upon population and upon the property valuation
6 that you are protecting, actually works. If we
7 could not go back to the normaling year of '83,
8 the system would work equitably, at least as far
9 as population and evaluation would take us. There
10 may be other issues involved there, but they are
11 not issues within the current law and may not and
12 should not be issues within the discussion. It is
13 going back to the original '84 data that creates
14 the flaw. The data increases every time the flaws
15 and the skew increase. Every time that we
16 reevaluate, because we're taking people that are
17 active in the formula and bringing them back to
18 '83 and moving them forward every time, and the
19 equities within the situation become further and
20 further skewed as we go along. We now estimate
21 that we have firefighter relief associations
22 within this state that are over 600 percent out of
23 balance, some to the positive, some to the
24 negative, and yet we are attempting to comply with
25 the law. We also realize that some of the work

1 that we have done in the past has put exempt
2 properties into the valuation that should not be
3 there, and so one of the things that we have done
4 in order to get a true picture of where we are is
5 we have asked every county clerk, all 105 of them
6 in the State of Kansas, to submit information as
7 if all of you are re-determining at one time and
8 also supply us with the figures for exempt
9 property within your counties. Those two
10 combinations will tell us exactly where we should
11 be, where we could be, and we can compare and come
12 up with the winners and losers accordingly. We
13 will also be able to determine whether you have
14 within your organization, within your FRA, exempt
15 property that's currently being decided and we
16 will contact you individually if we find that to
17 be so. I don't know yet what we're going to be
18 doing about it, but I know that that is something
19 that we can do without a change in the law, and so
20 we'll be proceeding forward. I'm not going to
21 hurt anybody if we can avoid it. If there is
22 something inappropriate there, we'll discuss what
23 we can do together, but the reality is what
24 happens to one firefighter organization affects
25 everybody else because we distribute the entirety

1 of what is given to us each year and so if you add
2 to one you are necessarily subtracting from the
3 other. The solution is in the legislature, but
4 the question that has been asked most often is if
5 we go into the Act at all, will they take what we
6 have now? Maybe an equitable situation is better
7 than no situation at all. Kansas historically
8 right now has a budget deficit that we have never
9 seen the likes of before and may never see again.
10 Is this a prudent time? The answer is two-fold.
11 One, do not underestimate your legislators and I
12 often -- having been one, I often tell you that
13 working with emotionally disturbed adolescents as
14 a teacher, which I did, and serving in the
15 legislature is the same thing. I still believe
16 that to be true. I also know that there are
17 examples and all of you can quote me examples of
18 legislators that are not listening to you and some
19 of them, quite frankly, are dumb as rocks, but for
20 the most part they are intelligent people and they
21 are all leaders within their community. If we
22 believe that the reason that we have not had the
23 formula attacked now and the monies grabbed for us
24 up to this point is because they are unaware that
25 we are distributing nine million dollars, you're

1 living in a fantasy world. They know about it.
2 I've already been called to one subcommittee this
3 year and asked about it and I've had contacts
4 within the last week from two different members,
5 one of the House Appropriations Committee and one
6 in the Senate Appropriations Committee in regards
7 to it and consistently and persistently we say
8 this is the right thing to do, leave it alone and
9 they have, and I believe they will continue to do
10 so, and there are two factors that weigh most
11 importantly into that. Number one, this is not a
12 tax, it is a distribution of a tax on lightning
13 and property insurance and if we remove the money
14 it would not necessarily go to the state general
15 fund, the tax itself would disappear so,
16 therefore, it is unlikely that they're going to
17 try to sweep it or move it at any point in time.
18 It would do them no good.

19 The second thing you have to realize is
20 that the Department of Insurance in and of itself
21 in the collections that we make in other areas is
22 the third largest contributor to the state general
23 fund. We also are running in our own budget a
24 surplus due to the licensing procedure that we
25 have and we have already, during this cycle, been

1 swept of over ten million dollars, and we will
2 continue to allow them to sweep us. It is
3 unlikely that the legislature would dip into the
4 money that goes to you, but more to the point, if
5 we go to the budget of 2010 and we try to correct
6 the act there and we make it equitable and attempt
7 to offer it, we are doing so to a point and
8 decidedly so in an election year for the House of
9 Representatives. It is unlikely that any
10 representative would vote to remove your funds
11 knowing that he would face you in November.

12 How bad is the present skew? It's so bad
13 I can't bring the slide up. I told you it's close
14 to 600 percent in some areas, but I'm going to
15 show you how it actually works out. What are we
16 actually proposing? What are we asking you to do
17 here? We think we need to open the Act, but I
18 cannot and will not in good conscience ask you to
19 vote at this meeting in April to do so. It's
20 foolhardy. I don't have the data, for one thing,
21 to know how bad it is. I can't tell you who the
22 winners and losers are and I will not and can not
23 ask you to risk changing the Act if you don't know
24 how it's going to change and affect your family
25 and the firefighters that you serve. That's

1 silly. We would like to hold harmless all FRAs
2 and we believe that we are able to do so because
3 we see a rise -- last year in Kansas was a record
4 for property casualty losses due to weather and we
5 are seeing a rise of double digits in the amount
6 of property insurance and lightning insurance by
7 our lightning insurance and so we believe that the
8 raise in the future FRA distributions could be as
9 much as 10 percent or nearing a million extra
10 dollars into the pool, and that could go a long
11 way towards holding everybody harmless if we
12 brought a more equitable system.

13 What we're asking you to do at this
14 meeting is to do one of two things, either empower
15 your board to make the choice in November and
16 December. If we go into the Act, if we find that
17 that is the right solution or agree yourselves to
18 meet in November and December. I must have said
19 something wrong because now I won't be able to
20 show you. Those are the two things that we are
21 asking you to do. If we don't -- did I turn it
22 off up here? When I was teaching school this was
23 called recess.

24 I'm going to continue on. What are the
25 possible impacts if we don't go into the formula?

1 Inequities in distribution will ultimately and are
2 currently pitting firefighter against firefighter.
3 We know and we are aware that some people are
4 getting more and some people are getting less than
5 was anticipated under the formula.

6 One of the arguments that we have heard
7 against opening it up is ultimately there'll be
8 arguments about what is fair and that would pit
9 firefighter against firefighter. In my mind that
10 kind of open discussion is better than the
11 firefighter versus firefighter we have today, when
12 a hearing officer decides what is fair and where a
13 standardly skewed formula is pitting those who
14 would act upon it against those who are not acting
15 upon it.

16 The second thing that could happen is the
17 disproportionate distribution could be used as
18 evidence in the re-determination process. I am
19 the hearing officer, I have to admit that kind of
20 evidence. Whether or not that affects future
21 re-determination, I cannot say, I won't say,
22 because I haven't heard all of the evidence, but
23 the evidence is certainly admissible and, finally,
24 an individual or an FRA could challenge in court
25 the distribution that we have. I am of the

1 belief, particularly with some of the
2 inappropriate numbers that we have within the
3 formula, that such a challenge could invalidate
4 the act and would put us back in the legislature
5 anyway and under the most unfavorable
6 circumstances for protecting the money.

7 Now, what I really wanted to do at this
8 point and cannot do is I wanted to show you how a
9 re-determination affects us based on this formula,
10 so I'm going to read off the slides and I have
11 them if you want to look at them.

12 What we did is we took the real
13 evaluations last year, the 84 re-determinations,
14 and we, rather than use the actual
15 re-determination numbers, we added 10 percent to
16 the population and 10 percent to the evaluation,
17 so that everybody that re-determined last year
18 would be re-determining at the exact same level
19 and one would hope if you had an equitable
20 distribution that what you would be re-determining
21 would be somewhere around 10 percent increase in
22 the funds you receive. So we then took these
23 increases, re-determined them, took them through
24 the '83 goals and this is what we came up with:
25 Hackberry, 455, would have increased not 10

1 percent, but 63 percent; Butler County 546,
2 increase of not 10 percent, but 60 percent; Eudora
3 Township 670, an increase of not 10 percent, but
4 30 percent; Herington, 238, an increase of not 10
5 percent, but 50 percent; Lucas, 782, an increase
6 of not 10 percent, but of 33 percent; Kickapoo,
7 579, an increase of not 10 percent, but 538
8 percent; McPherson County, 680, an increase of not
9 10 percent, but of 41 percent; Mitchell County 3,
10 723, an increase of not 10 percent, but 43
11 percent; Olathe, 357, an increase of 23 percent;
12 Towanda, 424, a 205 percent increase; McPherson
13 County 5, 72 percent; Ottawa 4, 786, 120 percent;
14 Marshall County 7, 681, not 10 percent, seven
15 percent.

16 That's if everybody in the last
17 percentage was normal and that's what going to the
18 same 10 percent figures and what going back to the
19 '83 evaluations does. It is impossible for me to
20 look at a situation like that and realize that
21 every firefighter is being treated fairly.
22 They're not and to each one of those that got that
23 significant increase because of where they were on
24 the '83 chart, the money was being directly taken
25 out of the revenues that would be received by

1 associations that have not been re-determined.

2 What I want to do now is tell you -- feed
3 in the actual re-distribution figures that took
4 place last year, realizing that the increases
5 weren't 10 percent and the population increases
6 weren't necessarily 10 percent: Bartlett
7 Hackberry, 121 percent increase; Butler County,
8 119 percent; Eudora, 218 percent; Herington, 34
9 percent; Lucas, 60 percent; Kickapoo, 383 percent;
10 McPherson County 9, 260 percent; McPherson 8, 29
11 percent; Mitchell County 3, 36 percent; Olathe, 29
12 percent; Towanda, 88 percent; McPherson 5, 37
13 percent; Ottawa, 33; and Marshall, 195 percent.

14 I would give anything not to be here
15 today, but I pledge to you the following: I
16 pledge to you from myself and from my boss, Sandy
17 Praeger, an elected commissioner, we will
18 continue, irrespectful of your decision, to
19 attempt to streamline the distribution of these
20 funds to you as equitably as the law allows. We
21 will continue to keep you informed through your
22 executive committee with every piece of
23 information that we possess as we get it. We hope
24 that you decide to walk with us and take a serious
25 look and enable us to look at solving these

1 problems, but even if you don't, we will still be
2 with you.

3 I pledge to you one other thing. I truly
4 believe that if we walk into the legislature with
5 a plan and you are united, that we can get
6 legislation through the legislature and resolve
7 these issues at least for a generation and you
8 will have every bit of my expertise in attempting
9 to do so and I promise you I'm a whole lot better
10 at getting legislation through the legislature
11 than I am at playing you in poker.

12 Thank you, Mr. Lubbers.

13 (Applause.)

14 JIM LUBBERS: Thank you, Mr.
15 Thomason.

16 Dan, are you ready?

17 At this time we'll have the State Fire
18 Marshal, Dan McLaughlin.

19 DAN McLAUGHLIN: Good afternoon. I
20 don't know if Jim realizes what he did when he
21 gave Roy Reed a name badge, but he really
22 empowered him because the first thing he did was
23 come up to me and point to the name badge and ask
24 me if I had seen it and then he told me use the
25 KISS system in your speech, and he said if you

1 don't know what that means, keep it short, stupid.

2 So, Roy, I'm going to try to cut this
3 short because of getting close to lunch for
4 everybody. I'll try to skim through and give you
5 an update on the office and keep it as short as I
6 can.

7 This past year has been a really busy one
8 for us. We've added, as Attorney General Steve
9 Six mentioned, the Safe Cigarette Program and we
10 worked, you know, coordinating with them and the
11 Department of Revenue, Joan Wagon. They supplied
12 a lot of help and helped us get the legislation
13 through, especially the attorney general's office,
14 and we appreciate that.

15 Also, our new fireworks regulations are
16 in place and with the recent history of disasters,
17 KDEM, the Kansas Department of Emergency
18 Management, has asked our office to coordinate the
19 emergency support function No. 9, the urban search
20 and rescue, and Karl McNorton from our office has
21 put in a tremendous amount of time trying to get
22 that all put together and working on it. So it's
23 an honor, but it's also a task, a big task that
24 we've taken on.

25 We continue to investigate fires and

1 explosions as requested, so don't hesitate to give
2 us a call if you want our help.

3 The Fire Prevention Division has been
4 struggling with the economic environment that
5 we're in currently. If you haven't been to our
6 office lately, we just renegotiated a lease with
7 the management company and in that we negotiated
8 to get the offices remodeled and updated and more
9 offices built, so if you're ever up that way,
10 we're proud that we're starting to make it look a
11 little better. Please stop in and take a look and
12 see us.

13 As we're all aware, the state economy has
14 left our agency with a lot of shortfalls. Ours
15 began about four or five years ago when the
16 legislature split the insurance premiums three
17 ways into three different agencies, Kansas
18 Emergency Medical Services, K.U. Fire Service
19 Training, Glenn Pribbenow who was just here, and
20 our office, and so that's kind of when it started
21 and at that time we pointed out that it was going
22 to be an issue and then, subsequently, within a
23 year, the legislative post audit did an audit of
24 our agency, a complete audit, and in their audit
25 they noted that it was going to be an issue and

1 then the last two budget sessions we've had we've
2 brought it up and pointed out that it's an issue.
3 Our agency today is in the process of borrowing
4 \$250,000 from the Division of Budget just to get
5 us through to the end of June. We actually need
6 \$350,000, we believe, but they offered to loan us
7 \$250,000 and we have to pay that back within the
8 same year, and so our agency, you know,
9 financially is struggling just to make our pay
10 status. And if it gets low enough we will have to
11 borrow money out of our Hazardous Response Fund
12 money. We've requested some changes. We've
13 requested that the fee that they take out of --
14 the fee fund money for the state general fund to,
15 you know, take care of the capital and different
16 areas, that they split that evenly. Up to this
17 point they've taken it all out of our money after
18 the split was made, so we're asking them to take
19 that money off the top before they make the split,
20 which would give us a little bit of extra money.
21 We talked about the fire safe cigarettes. That
22 goes into effect July 1st of this year and we're
23 already receiving applications and certifications.
24 We're working closely with the attorney general.
25 The cigarette distributors have a year from this

1 July to get rid of all their old stock and get the
2 fire safe cigarettes up on the shelf. If they
3 haven't used them up by that time, they are to
4 remove them from the retail shelves and the
5 Department of Revenue, as I mentioned, is also
6 working with us. They're going to do some of the
7 inspections because they're there anyway and if
8 they find any violations there are significant
9 fines attached to them in this legislation.

10 To date the HAZMAT division, regional
11 response team have responded to 117 incidents.
12 This is an average of at least one per month with
13 an average of about \$3,000 per run. The past year
14 we've acquired a new vehicle to tow the big large
15 training trailer that we have and also from the
16 EPA they gave us a trailer that contained
17 container booms and components and 95 gallons of a
18 Triple F foam. We've revised the HAZMAT tech
19 course to meet the NFPA 472 standard and plan for
20 one full tech course in 2010 as well as several
21 refresher classes.

22 Over to the Prevention Division, they are
23 currently winding down on the school inspections
24 and they've been shorthanded as well because of
25 the budget. We've been not filling four to six

1 positions for over about a year and-a-half or so,
2 so they're doing a great job and we'd ask that any
3 Class 1 and 2 cities that have not sent in your
4 school inspections, please do so and, also along
5 that line, the day care and fire safety
6 inspections because they use those for licensure,
7 KDHE.

8 After June 1 the Prevention Division will
9 be offering an inspection class for the minimum
10 standards of the State. It's a great class. It's
11 over our handbook. If you have our handbook
12 you'll know what we're talking about there. It's
13 free and Amanda Yorkey will be heading that up.
14 She's out right now on leave and will be back
15 after June 1st or you can contact Brenda McNorton,
16 the Chief of Prevention, but it's a great class
17 and I highly recommend it.

18 On the investigation division, they've
19 had an 18 percent increase over last year's stats
20 at this time and we kind of expected that with the
21 economy down, there's more arson incidents and so
22 we've had contact with the National Fire Marshal's
23 Association. The first of January they called me
24 and were concerned -- they were kind of seeing the
25 trend of more fires and they asked us to send our

1 stats and there has been an increase.

2 We'll be conducting an explosives
3 training program in western Kansas again this
4 summer. This is an explosives and IED awareness
5 program with a live demonstration. One location
6 is set for Colby. Then another one possibly in
7 Kearney County. We'll be looking for a third
8 site, somewhere in between those two. This class
9 is free for all fire, EMS and law enforcement
10 personnel, so, here again, here's another -- with
11 your budgets tight, here's two classes that are
12 free and we recommend that you come.

13 I'm trying to skip through this, so
14 you'll have to bear with me. I'm trying to speed
15 it up, Roy.

16 Currently western Kansas is without an
17 investigator due to the state budget cuts. If you
18 need an investigator, we'll get one to you, but it
19 might be a little bit slower than normal, but
20 we'll definitely get to you and don't hesitate to
21 ask.

22 The new fireworks licensing regulations
23 are in place and the explosive investigators are
24 currently conducting storage inspections for the
25 1.3 gram bunkers and also conducting firework

1 operator licenses.

2 A committee has been formed to review the
3 certified fire investigative program and we've
4 included members from fire service, law
5 enforcement. I just want to make that the best
6 program we can. We've started it a couple times,
7 but we're moving forward with it and any input
8 that you have, you can sure contact Rosemary or
9 anyone in the office.

10 Another committee that was just recently
11 formed is an explosives regulation one where we've
12 asked the explosives industry to come meet with us
13 and tighten up so we can make good rules and
14 regulations and cut out all of the loopholes that
15 might be in there now.

16 Recently we've had a significant upgrade
17 to our computer system, information system. As
18 some of you probably know, our system was crashing
19 and we lost some of the reports that you sent in
20 to us on papers and we remitted them. There's
21 probably still a few that we have not recovered.
22 Along with this, we've brought in an instructor
23 from the fire academy to help us update and learn
24 more about what can be done with the statistics
25 and the data and John Patchen will be going around

1 and hopefully getting out and around and giving
2 you some training and also showing you the new
3 tools that we've got that will help you. This
4 data, though, I would like to say, is really -- I
5 know we hound you for it, but it actually is for
6 you in the long run. This helps you get your
7 grants. Some of the federal grants are now tied
8 to that. You know, they check with us to make
9 sure you're submitting the data before they'll
10 consider you eligible for the grants, so even in
11 your own hometown, what it does more than anything
12 is solidifies -- it tracks how much, not the
13 losses. I know you report the losses, but
14 actually it proves, you know, what a great job
15 you're doing by all of the fires that haven't
16 taken place, so those statistics are important and
17 I think they're important to us, but I think in
18 the long run they are most important to you. So
19 we've got new systems up and they're going to be
20 online and so we're going to have John come around
21 and show you the new tools that we just found out
22 about through the fire administration, and with
23 that I will stop for lunch.

24 I appreciate being here. Our office is
25 here to help you and for you. We need to hear if

1 we're not doing things right. I want to
2 congratulate my employees. I think they do a
3 tremendous job. You know, like I say, we're under
4 a lot of the same stresses you are. We're
5 shorthanded and on a short budget, but I think
6 they're putting out a great effort and give us a
7 call and we'd be glad to help you.

8 Thank you.

9 (Applause.)

10 JIM LUBBERS: We're going to take
11 from the agenda. I will do my State of
12 Association speech tomorrow instead of today and
13 at this time Luke has some announcements before we
14 get into the credentials.

15 LUKE McCORMICK: If anybody has their
16 blue agenda, we'll put it out. I want to go over
17 this afternoon's classes, where you can find them
18 and we had a couple changes in that as well. The
19 Farm Equipment Familiarization will be out in the
20 parking lot. I'm sure you guys all seen the farm
21 equipment sitting out there. The Introduction to
22 RIT, due to an illness, Brian Spini, from
23 Consolidated Fire District No. 2 is ill and is in
24 the hospital today and won't be joining us, so
25 we're scratching that class. The Care for the

1 Burn Patient will be over -- if you look, there's
2 a map in the back. It's in the Heritage Room.
3 There's two Heritage Rooms over there. The Burn
4 Patient is in one of them and then the Self
5 Defense Class will be in the other one. The
6 Sprinkler Operations, out in the front parking
7 lot. American Sprinkler has a trailer set up
8 there by the sign. You guys can -- you'll find
9 that pretty easy and then the farm -- the Fire
10 Pump Maintenance and Repair, that class has been
11 scratched.

12 The hotel asked me to let you all know
13 that the buffet will be served today over there by
14 the swimming pool. I think they have barbecue is
15 on the agenda today. I think it's seven or eight
16 dollars, don't quote me on the price for the
17 buffet line. If you guys want to eat over
18 there -- it's not provided with your association
19 dues, but if you guys want to eat, you're welcome
20 to eat over there.

21 If you've got any questions or concerns
22 about the hotel, you can contact myself or Jim
23 Schmeidler. He's been running around here this
24 morning as well. Thank you.

25 JIM LUBBERS: Now we'll have the

1 report of the Credentials Committee.

2 STEVE HIRSCH: Mr. President,
3 Credentials Committee met and there were 158
4 delegates and 18 alternates registered for
5 conference.

6 We'd ask for a motion to approve the
7 Credentials Committee report.

8 (Motion made.)

9 JIM LUBBERS: Hearing the motion, is
10 there a second?

11 RICK WHITESIDE: Rick Whiteside, El
12 Dorado Fire, I'll second the motion.

13 JIM LUBBERS: All those in favor, say
14 aye. All opposed. Motion carried.

15 Temporary committee assignments:
16 Training Committee, Andy Moffitt, Chanute Fire
17 Department, if you'll come up and get your folder;
18 Constitution By-Laws, Sonny Ruff, Logan Fire
19 Department; and, by the way, I appreciate people
20 volunteering to do this. Some didn't even realize
21 you'd volunteered to do it. Nominations
22 Committee, Terry Scott, Manhattan Fire Department;
23 Time and Place, Donnie Bean, Burrton Consolidated
24 Fire District; EMS, Shane Pearson, Clay Center
25 Fire Department; Relief Act, J.L. Ellis, Colby

1 Fire Department; Rules and Order, Peter
2 Chronister, Leawood Fire Department; Suggestions,
3 Sam Schmidt, Russell Fire Department; Resolutions,
4 Greg Creten, Kansas City, Kansas Fire Department;
5 Officer Reports, Bill Umberger, Stanton County
6 Fire Department; and Legislative Committee, Kevin
7 Flory, Soldier Township Fire Department.

8 Okay. We will not physically meet as a
9 group until 8:30 tomorrow morning. If your
10 committee desires to meet this afternoon, the
11 committee chair needs to set a time and place for
12 your committee meetings to be held in a few
13 minutes and reminder to attend the mini workshops
14 this afternoon and stop by and visit the vendors
15 and the hospitality part.

16 Reminder: All items requiring
17 legislation must be taken to the Legislative
18 Committee and those interested in hosting the
19 conference in 2011, see the Time and Place, and
20 candidates interested in executive board positions
21 for reelection, see the Nominations Committee and
22 at this time the president's position is open;
23 second vice-president position is open; northwest
24 trustee position is open; the treasurer's position
25 is open; southwest trustee position is open; and

1 the southeast position will be open as soon as we
2 receive the resignation from Andy.

3 So you're dismissed till 8:30 tomorrow
4 morning. Oh, committee chairs, do you want to
5 make announcements?

6 ROSS: The By-Laws will meet right
7 here.

8 KEVIN FLORY: Legislative Committee
9 in the corner underneath the exit sign.

10 DONNIE BEAN: Time and Place right
11 here.

12 SAM SCHMIDT: Suggestions Committee
13 right here in the corner.

14 GREG CRETEN: Resolutions Committee
15 up here.

16 DALE ELLIS: Dale Ellis, Relief Act,
17 it's going to be over in the pool area right
18 outside of Room 104.

19 ANDY MOFFITT: Andy Moffitt, Chanutte
20 Fire, Training in that corner in the back.

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Stanton
22 County, Officer Reports right in the center.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Nominations
24 right here.

25 JIM LUBBERS: Nominations will be in

1 the back.

2 PETER CHRONISTER: Peter Chronister,
3 Leawood Fire Department, Rules and Orders right
4 here.

5 SHANE PEARSON: Shane Pearson, Clay
6 Center Fire Department, EMS Committee right up
7 here.

8 JIM LUBBERS: EMS will be up in the
9 corner.

10 Anybody else?

11 See you tomorrow morning.

12 (Adjourned until 8:30 a.m.)

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1 APRIL 24, 2009

2 LUKE McCORMICK: Good morning. I
3 hope everybody had a good time last night.

4 I have a couple announcements before we
5 get started here this morning. The Highland has
6 their buffet set up again today if you want lunch
7 over there today. They're having pork chops,
8 fried chicken, catfish and other things on their
9 buffet, so if you guys want to participate in the
10 buffet again today, they're appreciative of the
11 turnout yesterday.

12 Also, tonight at the banquet you cannot
13 bring in open containers. There will be a cash
14 bar available, but you cannot bring in open
15 containers.

16 With that, we'll get started.

17 Would everybody rise for the Pledge of
18 Allegiance?

19 (Pledge of Allegiance recited.)

20 JIM LUBBERS: Good morning. I need
21 the Sergeant of Arms, so Pat Collins, would you
22 volunteer and who else wants to volunteer? Thank
23 you. For the conference dedication, we basically
24 had two requests and so we'll dedicate this
25 conference to Chief McSwain that passed on this

1 past year, and the other one will be Bill Doan.

2 Is Bill Doan in here?

3 STEVE HIRSCH: He's going to want to
4 make a speech.

5 JIM LUBBERS: Bill retired here
6 recently from the El Dorado Fire Department and
7 has been and still is continuing to be an
8 instructor for K.U. and I don't know how many
9 years you've been coming to the conference, Bill,
10 but probably about as long as I have, and so we
11 want to dedicate it to you and good luck in your
12 retirement and don't be a stranger.

13 BILL DOAN: Thank you, sir.

14 (Applause.)

15 JIM LUBBERS: Mr. Chronister?

16 PETER CHRONISTER: Yes.

17 JIM LUBBERS: Your duty is calling.

18 PETER CHRONISTER: I love friends.

19 Rule No. 15, everyone aware of that one? Good.

20 Rule number 15: Because of the number of
21 new members attending each year, these rules will
22 be read at the opening of each day's session
23 during the conference.

24 Rule No. 1: The conference shall be
25 called to follow the agenda as printed on the

1 conference program as closely as possible. Any
2 changes shall be brought to the attention of the
3 delegates as soon as possible.

4 Rule No. 2: During all sessions of the
5 conference, a delegate, alternate or guest, when
6 seeking the recognition of the presiding officer
7 or a committee chair, shall raise their hand.
8 Upon being recognized, the person shall stand,
9 state their name, the department they are from, or
10 were from if retired, and state their business.

11 Rule No. 3: Any delegate, alternate or
12 guest called on a point of order shall, at the
13 request of the presiding officer or committee
14 chair, take their seat and remain silent until the
15 question of order is decided. Then, they shall
16 again be recognized by the chair, unless a
17 resolution of the question in order dictates
18 otherwise.

19 Rule No. 4: Should two or more persons
20 seek to speak at the same time, the presiding
21 officer or committee chair shall decide who is
22 entitled to speak first.

23 Rule No. 5: No delegate, alternate or
24 guest may speak more than twice on one subject
25 without permission from the conference.

1 Rule No. 6: No delegate, alternate or
2 guest may speak for more than five minutes on any
3 single occasion during the general session of the
4 conference.

5 Rule No. 7: No motion before the
6 conference or before a committee shall be open for
7 discussion until it has been seconded or so stated
8 by the presiding officer or committee chair.

9 Rule No. 8: All delegates, alternates
10 and guests shall be treated with courtesy, and no
11 delegate, alternate or guest shall interrupt
12 another in their remarks, except to call for a
13 point of order or a point of information, where,
14 when they are recognized, shall briefly state
15 their points.

16 Rule No. 9: The proceedings of the
17 conference and committee shall be governed by the
18 Robert's Rules of Order, Revised. Any questions
19 regarding procedures shall be resolved by one or
20 more of the parliamentarians appointed by the
21 presiding officer. The rulings of
22 parliamentarians so appointed shall be final.

23 Rule No. 10: No delegate, alternate or
24 guest shall seek to embarrass, harass insult or
25 interrupt speakers invited to appear before the

1 conference. Provided the speaker stands for
2 questions and time permits, any question posed to
3 the speaker shall be of general interest to the
4 membership of the entire association. The
5 presiding officer may limit the number of
6 questions for the speaker.

7 Rule No. 11: No time and place or
8 election material of any nature shall be allowed
9 on the floor of the conference at the time of the
10 election.

11 Rule No. 12: Any resolution shall be in
12 the hands of the secretary at the time of the
13 committee's report on Friday. All resolutions
14 shall be read to the delegates at the conference
15 at this time. No resolutions shall be entertained
16 after this date without the consent of two-thirds
17 of the delegates of the conference.

18 Rule No. 13: Any department wanting to
19 bid for a conference shall present some form of
20 letter of intent to the Time and Place Committee.
21 The Time and Place Committee shall review the
22 letters of intent and present to the conference a
23 list of the departments desiring to host the
24 conference.

25 And, finally, all cell phones, pagers and

1 other communication devices shall be turned off or
2 put in silent mode during the conference.
3 Firefighters that are on duty are exempt.

4 Thank you.

5 JIM LUBBERS: Thank you, Pete. And,
6 Pete, I have one more favor to ask of you.

7 PETER CHRONISTER: I'm not doing it
8 again.

9 JIM LUBBERS: Parliamentarian, do you
10 want to be the parliamentarian?

11 PETER CHRONISTER: Sure.

12 JIM LUBBERS: They said you knew the
13 rules so you'd be a good man for it.

14 And now we'll have the reading of the
15 minutes from last year's conference, our Secretary
16 Steve Hirsch.

17 STEVE HIRSCH: Kansas State
18 Firefighters' Association 120th Annual Conference,
19 April 23 through 28, 2008 hosted by Pottawatomie
20 Tribal Fire Department.

21 Mr. (Inaudible), good morning everybody.
22 We wanted to go ahead and get started. We've had
23 a couple small glitches this morning, but seem to
24 be smoothing these out very well. I hope you all
25 had a great day yesterday when you were golfing,

1 shooting or driving. We didn't plan it out --

2 SONNY RUFF: Sonny Ruff, Logan Fire
3 Department; I'd like to make a motion that we
4 accept the minutes as read or as printed at this
5 time.

6 PAT COLLINS: Pat Collins, Riley
7 County, second.

8 JIM LUBBERS: You heard the motion to
9 accept the minutes as printed. All in favor; all
10 opposed. I think maybe the ayes have it.

11 Has anybody seen Mr. Abbit? Thank you,
12 Steve. While we're waiting on Mr. Abbit from the
13 pension system, beings we were rushed for time
14 yesterday I did not give the State of the Union
15 speech, so I'll do that now.

16 I want to thank you for coming. I am
17 pleased to provide an overview of the state
18 association this morning. Once again, your
19 association has grown to an all-time high in
20 membership and financial strength. The membership
21 is 436, which is a high percentage of the 500
22 departments in the state. This large number of
23 members is only possible through the continued
24 hard work of many and the support of our members.

25 Education is what and why the association

1 was formed. The association conducts 12 fire
2 schools a year, two being four-day schools, those
3 being the Stafford and Labette County schools. We
4 also do some one-day schools upon request. The
5 attendance at these schools has increased
6 significantly this past year and Steve said that
7 we, according to his records, 1,028 students from
8 the schools, 200 in special schools which
9 calculates out to a little over 15 percent
10 increase.

11 Maybe those numbers don't sound as great
12 as K.U., but we count heads, we don't count people
13 attending classes. The association, in April,
14 implemented new classes which continues to utilize
15 technology and benefit the attendees. We are
16 committed to educate the Kansas firefighters and
17 to help serve all our members by working and
18 cooperating with other entities. We do not want
19 to replicate other training, but to work
20 cooperatively to provide training that is actually
21 needed.

22 For the past year the leadership has
23 worked diligently to make sure the firefighters
24 has a voice and is represented at state and
25 national agencies. We have an active membership

1 in the Kansas Fire Service Council, Kansas Fire
2 Training Commission, State Fire Marshal's Office,
3 HAZMAT Committee, served the Homeland Security
4 Groups, Hutchinson Community College, Kansas Fire
5 Memorial, Kansas Fire Service Alliance, Labette
6 County Community College Fire Training, National
7 Volunteer Association and the National Fallen
8 Firefighters Last Call.

9 We now have four trustees and several
10 others trained in case we have a firefighter death
11 to assist the firefighters and help them with all
12 of the paperwork. Andy has been the driving force
13 behind this. And as I read through this list, it
14 should be an example of the officers and
15 leadership of the association to serve you. We
16 should thank the departments for allowing us the
17 time to do this. Association has a full-time
18 representative with the legislature or lobbyist.
19 This is accomplished by being a partner with
20 Alliance, which includes the Kansas Fire Chiefs
21 and Association of Professional Fire Chiefs. Our
22 efforts continue daily to facilitate the Fireman's
23 Relief Act. Challenges continue to occur
24 regarding the Act. The biggest challenge is that
25 many local associations are still not using their

1 funds to the fulfillment of their benefits. There
2 is going to be a continued threat to what we have
3 because of the amount of money in the fund. Along
4 those lines, please spend the funds for what the
5 law or Act is intended. Make sure your agent has
6 a letter from the insurance commissioner's office
7 that the product has been approved to be sold to
8 your FRA. John Boyd has been appointed by the
9 insurance commissioner to be in charge of the
10 Relief Act and, as you know, there are several
11 paper changes and stuff coming regarding the
12 filing of your report. The association is an
13 official source of training material. We sell
14 other training material plus several other
15 distributors that deal with specialized items.
16 The association provides \$35,000 worth of life
17 insurance if killed in the line of duty and when
18 we took bids in October, we did get to hold the
19 \$35,000 and like in the past several years, we
20 actually only had one provider that was under a
21 hundred thousand. We hope that was a good record
22 and in the future we can bring back to where it
23 was two years ago.

24 The association also publishes the Fire
25 Wire which brings us up to date about what is

1 happening around the state in fire service every
2 two months. The association also provides a
3 website for your up-to-date fire service
4 information. The fire service is a family.
5 Families are a team and teams can overcome any
6 obstacles. Let us work together to continue to
7 serve and protect our communities. Do not forget
8 our mission to protect and serve.

9 As many of you heard, I will not be
10 running for the president's office this year. I
11 have served 23 years on the executive board and 40
12 years in the -- sorry -- with 33 years as a paid
13 firefighter and seven as a volunteer. I have
14 decided it's time to step aside and let someone
15 with newer and fresher ideas take over.

16 When I became president I had many goals
17 and some of these goals were accomplished, but
18 others were not. I feel that the finances are
19 better and we have more outside training, but my
20 goal to have an office where all business would be
21 conducted never materialized.

22 Over many years in the fire service, I
23 had great fortune to work with many tremendous
24 people across the state and have earned many
25 thanks. I have lived and breathed the fire

1 service and have dedicated most of my life to our
2 motto, "Dedicated to the Safety and Education of
3 Firefighters." To do this you must put the good
4 of the organization first and not yourself, so
5 when you make the decision on the elections of
6 officers, make sure they are truly committed to
7 the fire service and the education of firefighters
8 across Kansas. Our association is currently at a
9 critical time in its existence. At the end of the
10 conference you, the members, will be making a lot
11 of decisions relating to the board. I encourage
12 you not to think about who you vote for, but also
13 how you can become better involved and serve the
14 fire service. This room has many firefighters in
15 it that have dedicated themselves to the fire
16 service. Many have given a better part of their
17 lives to this cause. We just need to do the same.
18 There's a lot of tradition in the fire service and
19 we must learn that tradition. I know I have. I
20 want to thank the executive board, the department
21 agencies, my family and you, the association
22 membership, for all of the support during my last
23 four years as president. I found the position to
24 be challenging and stressful, but also a rewarding
25 endeavor. I encourage you to support the needs of

1 the association and as a leader in the Kansas Fire
2 Service, the association needs its members,
3 support and the association needs your support.
4 Everyone needs to work together to ensure success.
5 Thank you very much for your attention this
6 morning. It has been an amazing 23 years serving
7 you on the executive board. I will miss it
8 greatly, however, I'll still be around so don't
9 hesitate to call me. Thank you.

10 (Standing ovation and applause.)

11 JIM LUBBERS: I thank you all. You
12 are all my brothers. Mr. Abbit with the KPERS and
13 KP&F Retirement System.

14 MEL ABBIT: Good morning. Kansas
15 Public Employees Retirement System, of course, is
16 a state agency. It actually administers three
17 different retirement programs, kind of serves as
18 an umbrella organization, administering the
19 regular KPERS program as well as the Kansas Police
20 and Fire System, KP&F and the judge's system.
21 It's overseen by Board of Directors of nine of
22 them, four of which are appointed by the governor,
23 one by the president of the Senate and one by the
24 Speaker of the House, two are elected by the
25 membership.

1 You wonder why I'm going over all them
2 details. Well, this happens to be the year that
3 members elect two of these board members. One is
4 elected by the school system, school districts,
5 current members and retired members, and the other
6 one is by non-school type employers, again,
7 current members and retired members. That
8 election is this year, they have it every four
9 years. It's during the month of April. Guess
10 what, April is about over, so the deadline for
11 voting on a candidate is April the 30th at
12 midnight. You can do that over the telephone and
13 there should be information online or you should
14 have already received information on it. The
15 school candidates were only one, so that wasn't
16 too hard of an election there. Non-school is a
17 different story. There's 15 candidates there, so
18 if you care to, why, the deadline for voting is
19 April the 30th. If you've been doing your
20 counting, that only comes up with eight, the last
21 one is the state treasurer making up the ninth
22 member of the nine-member board. All three
23 programs are operated under what's called a
24 defined benefit plan, the regular KPERS program,
25 WP&F and the judge's system. That's completely

1 different than defined contribution plans. My job
2 with KPERS, I'm a field rep, so I go all over the
3 state talking to groups of members like yourselves
4 about the retirement program in all three systems
5 and when I do so I really give an example of a
6 defined contribution plan before explaining the
7 program that KPERS, KP&F has under a defined
8 benefit plan because it's really important for
9 members to understand exactly how that works.
10 Helps them a lot in their retirement planning. I
11 find in talking to members all across the state
12 KPERS, KP&F both, most of us are a lot more
13 familiar with the concepts of a defined
14 contribution plan than we are defined benefit plan
15 like you have under the KPERS and KP&F program.
16 So when I'm talking to a group of members I
17 usually break it down into three areas. I'm
18 certainly not going to give you the details of
19 that because I usually take about an hour to do
20 that. I don't have that kind of time, but the
21 first area in the program, because some of you are
22 covered under KPERS and some of you are covered
23 under KP&F, and I'm sure there's a few not covered
24 under either, but the ones that are, the basic
25 structure of the programs are the same. The first

1 area I talk to members about is your money and
2 what happens to your money. That's definitely
3 important to new people being hired in positions
4 and the employer starts taking a part of your
5 money out for the retirement program. That four
6 percent or seven percent for KP&F is deducted from
7 the gross pay and it goes into the retirement
8 system along with an employer percentage rate.
9 They get that money to Topeka, they throw it in
10 reserves and invest it, however, they keep a
11 separate accounting of your money and it goes in
12 to what I refer to as your account. You also get
13 interest added to that account balance every year.
14 Now, I might mention all three programs are all
15 covered in state law, so it's a guaranteed
16 benefit. The whole program, including this
17 interest rate, is covered in state law. It's a
18 state law to pay you that interest on that account
19 balance of yours. It's not based on whether the
20 retirement system makes money or loses money in
21 the investment of the reserves. That's probably
22 important this last six, seven, eight months here.
23 You flat get interest added to your account
24 balance. That's important. And it's a pretty
25 decent interest rate considering it's that type of

1 a guaranteed account. But possibly the second
2 thing is the most important and this is a no
3 brainer. Regardless what happens, every penny of
4 your money plus a hundred percent of the interest
5 is going to be paid out by the retirement system
6 either to you or on your behalf, regardless of
7 what happens. The member doesn't stick around to
8 retire, they quit, move out of state, private
9 sector, whatever, they can withdraw from the
10 retirement system. What they're withdrawing is
11 every penny they've put in, no fees, commissions
12 or anything else taken out of it, plus a hundred
13 percent of that interest on it regardless how long
14 they've been employed. There's no minimum time
15 requirement. You get it all if you quit and
16 withdraw. Member dies, it's all payable in death
17 benefits. Member does stick around and retire
18 under the KPERS or KP&F retirement program, either
19 one, in almost every case is going to get way more
20 in retirement benefits than what's in that
21 account. Currently the average person retiring
22 under either KPERS or KP&F will have all of their
23 money and the interest on that money drawn out in
24 maybe three or four years, but it's going to pay
25 that member under a defined benefit plan month

1 after month, year after year, as long as the
2 member lives. Doesn't matter how long the member
3 lives, that member is going to continue getting a
4 retirement monthly income to live on during your
5 retirement, not based on an account balance.
6 That's really important for members to really
7 understand that concept as you're doing your
8 retirement planning. Secondary, the overall
9 retirement program, series of death and disability
10 benefits covering you right now while you're still
11 active employed and building up that third area
12 which is the retirement benefit itself. As I
13 mentioned, retirement program is all handled as a
14 defined benefit plan, so there's a definition on
15 how your retirement benefit is going to be
16 calculated and the type of calculation is the same
17 for KPERS or KP&F. There's just some difference
18 in the benefit level that's going to be paid. So
19 it's based on two factors, years of credited
20 service and the second factor, final average
21 salary. That's it. Those two factors are going
22 to determine what you're going to get in the
23 monthly retirement income the rest of your
24 lifetime when you retire and one of those factors
25 isn't how much money you paid in to the retirement

1 system. Well, that's important. That's why I
2 cover that clear off to the side; it's going to be
3 paid out. It's not one of the factors, though,
4 that's going to determine what you're going to get
5 from the retirement benefit. It's years of
6 credited service and final average salary. So if
7 a member wanted to increase what he or she was
8 going to receive in a retirement benefit on down
9 the road, what would you do? You'd re-factor,
10 number 1, work another year because that would be
11 another certain percent, depending which system
12 you're in of final average salary or work another
13 year after that or include factor number 2, pay
14 raise, promotions, whatever that affect final
15 average salary that all of the years are based on,
16 or do both. So that is how the retirement benefit
17 is calculated and that is very important. As I
18 mentioned, that first area, your account balance,
19 that is important, particularly to new members to
20 see where their money is, it goes in that account,
21 no brainer, it's going to be paid out. A lot of
22 times new people hired, they're not necessarily
23 thinking on down the road to retirement time.
24 It's still their money, plus they get interest on
25 it. When I'm talking to a group called

1 pre-retirement meetings that we handle, excuse me,
2 I don't stress a lot of importance on that
3 account. Now, it is important, but not when
4 you're thinking of retirement because I don't want
5 a member thinking about the retirement benefit
6 going to pay them the rest of their lifetime and
7 they're still going to have that account balance.
8 They're not. It's going to be used up quick, but
9 they're going to continue getting the retirement
10 income the rest of their lifetime. Even if a
11 member retired and died in a few months, the
12 balance of that account balance is still paid to
13 the member's beneficiary. So, like I say, that
14 first area, that's a no brainer. It'll be paid
15 out one way or the other. KP&F, Kansas Police and
16 Fire System, actually started in 1965.
17 Legislature passed a whole new program for KP&F
18 effective July 1 of '89 and so anybody hired July
19 1 of '89 automatically is now referred to as the
20 Tier 2 member of the KP&F. Those that were hired
21 prior to that were under the original set of
22 benefit guidelines starting back in 1965. They
23 had an election to make, either to stay under the
24 current ones or go under the new plan. Some did,
25 some didn't. The ones that did stay under the

1 original plan now are referred to as Tier 1
2 members and the reason I'm bringing that up
3 because KPERS has now done a similar thing. KPERS
4 actually was the original plan starting in 1962
5 and the legislature passed a new program for the
6 KPERS program starting July 1 of this year, 2009,
7 so under the KPERS program they're going to have a
8 similar thing. July 1 of '09 new people are going
9 to be now Tier 2 KPERS members and those hired
10 prior to that will be Tier 1 KPERS members. Now,
11 the reason I am bringing that up too is because
12 you're all here, you're employed today and some of
13 you are not in KPERS. The main thing I want to
14 make clear to you is the fact that you're here
15 now. You're not hired on July 1 of '09 and after,
16 so you don't need to be concerned about the new
17 program. You will remain Tier 1 KPERS, if that's
18 what you are and that's important because there's
19 some substantial differences in the new program.
20 Only two things will change. Under KPERS a new
21 employee hired anywhere in the KPERS program for a
22 non-school agency, which you all are, they have to
23 wait a year before becoming a member. For current
24 people, you don't have to wait the year. So if
25 somebody was just hired in January, they don't

1 have to wait till next January, they're
2 automatically going to become a member July 1, but
3 they'll be under the first Tier 1 membership, so
4 that's why I say you don't need to be concerned
5 about what you hear about the new program. You
6 will remain under Tier 1. The only other thing
7 changing for current KPERS members is the change
8 in the investing requirement drops from 10 years
9 to only five years, so you do have that, those two
10 changes, but that's all, nothing else. You don't
11 have to start paying in six percent. You still
12 continue to pay only four percent. That's very
13 important. In fact, along that line I wouldn't be
14 surprised if I maybe in the next year or two or
15 three start to see more employers consider coming
16 under the KP&F program because hiring new people
17 under KPERS, those new employees, police and fire,
18 that kind of thing are going to have to start
19 paying in six percent of their wages to KPERS
20 program where had the employer been under KP&F
21 they would have paid seven, so I wouldn't be
22 surprised if there's going to be some more
23 interest in looking into that in the future years
24 here. Legislatives, if you have representatives
25 telling you about all of the legislation here,

1 there's not a lot to tell you there. There was an
2 insurance moratorium that really doesn't affect
3 any of you folks here. It has to do with the
4 funding of the program where the death and
5 disability under the KPERS program is funded
6 through a self employment -- self funding type of
7 fund and they've got a moratorium for about a
8 six-month period that employers won't pay into
9 that at all.

10 Let's see, another deal was -- well, one
11 that actually passed the Senate, but it's pending
12 in the House is doing away for Tier 2 members
13 eliminating the working income limitation on
14 disabled people under Tier 2. It started in 1989.
15 Somebody that come under disability, had a \$10,000
16 per year earnings limitation and that has never
17 been changed and there is a possibility that might
18 be eliminated altogether so there wouldn't be an
19 earning limitation for Tier 2 members. Other than
20 that, there's probably not a whole lot else to
21 tell you about.

22 There was another bill, as far as under
23 KP&F and the judge's system. It didn't get a
24 hearing, but it's not dead either, so it could
25 be considered next year probably, new people

1 hired -- which still wouldn't have affected you
2 folks -- would be paying in two percent more in
3 both KP&F and judge's system and would have a cost
4 of living adjustment when they retire. That's not
5 likely to go in this year, but not completely dead
6 either.

7 Other than that, I think I've probably
8 used up my time here. I would hope if anybody has
9 any particular questions, anything I can answer.
10 Questions.

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: My question is
12 I guess is just out of curiosity, and you may or
13 may not want to answer this, but you have the
14 option of retire, you've taken out 10 percent out
15 of your fund or 50 percent or what that
16 contribution what you've paid in now and getting a
17 reduced amount.

18 MEL ABBIT: It's called a partial
19 lump sum option.

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Is that a good
21 deal or not?

22 MEL ABBIT: If everybody could hear
23 that, it has to do with KPERS program or KP&F, at
24 retirement time. There are several options. The
25 new one is called a partial lump sum option and

1 has to do with where a member now retiring can, if
2 they want, to kind of get a lump sum payment when
3 they retirement. It's called a partial lump sum
4 option because what that member can get is up to
5 50 percent in 10 percent increments, 10, 20, 30,
6 40 or the max of 50 percent of the computed
7 present actuarial value of what this lifetime
8 retirement is going to be. It's a computed figure
9 that the member can get up to half of in a lump
10 sum payment by permanently reducing by the same
11 percent up to 50 percent of what their lifetime
12 retirement is going to be.

13 Now, the question was do I have a
14 recommendation on that? No, I don't, and the
15 reason is and I recognize a number of you, some of
16 you have actually been in some of my
17 presentations, particularly pre-retirement ones,
18 and it may sound like I'm trying to talk you out
19 of it and I want to clarify that, I certainly am
20 not. I don't know what is right for you. Now, as
21 I mentioned at the very start, KPERS is a state
22 agency, I'm a state employee, I work for KPERS.
23 Are there field reps, anybody working in Topeka,
24 they're state employees. Well, you're city
25 employees, county employees, fire district

1 employees, whatever that is. I'm a state employee
2 and what I'm leading up to, nobody gets any kind
3 of fees, commissions or anything else and do you
4 want to know what else? We could care less what
5 decisions you make in your retirement. How do you
6 like that one? But I tell you what we care about
7 is you understand how it works and you can make
8 the best decision for you.

9 So that's where and some of you maybe
10 heard me, in complaining how that partial lump sum
11 works, it sounds like I'm trying to talk you out
12 of it, but I'm not. What I'm trying to get you to
13 do closer to retirement time if you're possibly
14 thinking of taking some of the partial lump sum
15 because this is what does concern me somewhat
16 members not understanding it. You find out
17 everything you can and understand exactly what it
18 is and what it isn't and put a pencil to it.
19 There's a real good example in our pre-retirement
20 books. No, I don't have a recommendation. I
21 don't dare, okay?

22 ROY REED: Roy Reed, Kansas City; I
23 have a recommendation. There was 38 school
24 teachers I think that took this partial buyout, 37
25 of them wanted to give it back. They found out

1 that the partial sum that they received did not
2 even pay their hospitalization. Some of them went
3 out and bought a hundred thousand dollar motor
4 home and in six months they were tired of it,
5 wanted to give it back, get back in the pension
6 and get their full benefit, so that's the
7 recommendation that you ought to be giving. It
8 doesn't work.

9 MEL ABBIT: I agree with you, but I
10 can't say that. That's why my presentation sounds
11 like I am, but I -- it doesn't matter to the
12 retirement system so that ought to be a clue for
13 you to really put a pencil to it. They pay out
14 this big chunk of lump sum money, it wipes out up
15 to five percent of the amount of that retirement.
16 No, they don't care, but we do care that you
17 understand it and some of those things that you
18 mentioned have happened. We've heard some reports
19 of that, but it's not our decision. We explain it
20 to members. That's your decision and particularly
21 like in schools, teachers typically will retire
22 July 1st. It's because of their contracts and
23 this kind of thing. If you take those that
24 retired last July and took all that money and
25 rolled it over into a tax sheltered account in

1 stock funds and this kind of thing, guess what
2 that's like today, about like mine, not too good,
3 but that's something I can't do. I can't predict
4 the weather, let alone what the stock market is
5 going to do. Other questions? I better get out
6 of here.

7 JIM LUBBERS: Thank you. Andy, are
8 you doing the LAST?

9 ANDY MOFFITT: Yes.

10 JIM LUBBERS: We'll have Andy who
11 went for the last time.

12 ANDY MOFFITT: Good morning. Andy
13 Moffitt here, currently your Southeast Trustee and
14 I serve as the statewide coordinator for what we
15 call The LAST Time, the line of duty death
16 response team.

17 On Tuesday I wrote this really, really
18 neat speech with five paragraphs and about how
19 excited I was that the State of Kansas went
20 eighteen months without a line of duty death and
21 how great it is to know that the stuff that
22 everyone does in this program is putting out that
23 we're listening and we're trying to do a better
24 job and what happens, before I get into my report,
25 visitation is today down the street here, you will

1 go all the way down to the stop sign, past the
2 stoplight, go to the stop sign, turn right and
3 it's right next to the Methodist church. I can't
4 tell you the funeral home name.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Bryant Funeral
6 Home.

7 ANDY MOFFITT: Broadway and Patton is
8 where it's at. The firefighter is lying in state
9 there from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. if you want to
10 go sign the guest book. I think it would probably
11 be a great idea since we're here at conference.
12 His funeral is tomorrow morning at 10:30. They're
13 doing something in the chapel, no service, no
14 graveside. The family's going to have the body
15 cremated and from there the team will step in and
16 help out with the family with the PSOB paperwork.
17 Great Bend Fire has been gracious enough to step
18 up, the Wichita Fire Department is going to help
19 out with honor guard for honor guard for the
20 service tomorrow.

21 Now I'll get into my report. The LODD
22 team has been growing and currently we have 40
23 members across the state. We're still a little
24 weak in southwest. We have Troy and we have Shawn
25 Millington in Turon, but between those two, we

1 have nothing. We're working on it and I think
2 we'll get there, no problem.

3 Our goal is to have someone there to
4 assist you, if you have an LODD in your
5 department, within four to six hours at your
6 doorstep. Currently the team is diligently
7 working on three open PSOB cases and hopes to have
8 them completed in the next 12 months. We'd like
9 to see a day where there's no open PSOB cases in
10 Kansas.

11 For non line of duty death assistance we
12 have many members from the team that are willing
13 to assist fire departments in logistics planning
14 and operations of a funeral for a fallen brother
15 or sister. This team has been involved in many
16 non line of duty death funerals to date and stands
17 ready to assist any department that needs this
18 help. If your department needs this type of
19 assistance, call your trustee or me and we'll get
20 the ball rolling for you.

21 The team holds two meetings a year. We
22 just had one last Saturday, the 18th of April, in
23 Salina. Our next meeting will be the 29th at
24 Salina Fire Station No. 3. Centrally located,
25 Salina Fire Department has been very nice to allow

1 us to use their training room at Station 3 which
2 is a very nice facility and that will be a team
3 training and it'll take all day to complete.

4 Our normal meetings last about four
5 hours. On April 26th, Sunday after conference is
6 over, myself, team member Shawn Millington from
7 Turon, Kansas, and team member Kerry Linder, the
8 fire chief of Marquette, Kansas, will be traveling
9 to San Francisco for a line of duty death survivor
10 summit.

11 In closing I want to advise everybody
12 that this program is funded by the Department of
13 Justice and the Fallen Firefighters' Foundation
14 help out with the KFSAA being our sponsor our
15 travel and per diem during the line of duty death
16 is covered by the Department of Justice. The
17 KSFAA has helped us and I appreciate the
18 executives board help with this and the body's
19 help with this. They helped us purchase some
20 bunting. We're not done yet, but that's what we
21 started with. All of the time that's given by the
22 members of the team is volunteered. I take my own
23 personal time on my days off or I have to trade a
24 day or I have to take a day off without pay to go
25 and assist a department. I actually feel it's

1 something we, as an association, need to be doing
2 to make sure that our families and our brothers
3 and sisters out there know we care and we take
4 care of them.

5 If you have any questions about the team
6 or wish to join the team, I have some brochures
7 with me. I don't have them up here, but I have a
8 stack of them. I'd be more than happy to pass
9 them out to everybody. I'll make sure they're out
10 there at our booth during the break and stuff.

11 Thank you.

12 (Applause.)

13 JIM LUBBERS: Thank you, Andy. Is
14 Eric here? Eric Ward from the Kansas Forestry
15 Department.

16 ERIC WARD: It looks like you're
17 doing well on time this morning. I'm going to try
18 not to spoil that for you. Slightly ahead of
19 schedule so you can't beat that. That's unusual
20 in any kind of meeting where you give people a
21 microphone. I'm going to try to give you some
22 quick updates on what's going on at Kansas Forest
23 Service of interest to the fire service in Kansas.

24 As many of you are aware, our primary
25 clientele in the fire side of our program are

1 communities under 10,000 which basically means
2 that all but about 30 fire departments in the
3 state are within our statutory target audience.
4 That's designated by statute and by the programs
5 that we work under.

6 It's been a busy year for us this year
7 between budget issues, which I'm sure you've heard
8 about from other people already and you're all
9 dealing with yours and a really busy wild fire
10 season in Kansas so far which, again, most of you
11 have probably been dealing with and probably
12 during the time you've been sitting here some of
13 the departments back home have been busting their
14 tails on some already.

15 So I want to touch on a couple of things
16 related to both of those. The budget situation is
17 something we've been monitoring really closely. A
18 lot of you may be aware, we're a state agency.
19 We're housed within Kansas State University and
20 yet, we essentially get no state funding other
21 than a little bit that trickles down through the
22 university system. So our funding almost entirely
23 comes from the federal government through the U.S.
24 Forest Service and grants through them, so all of
25 our fire program is funded basically by the U.S.

1 Forest Service and so anything that changes in
2 their budget changes our budget which directly
3 changes what we can do for you all, so we're
4 really trying to stay on top of that, but we feel
5 very strongly that we need to provide the services
6 that we're providing.

7 Some of your departments probably don't
8 have a need for the kind of services we provide;
9 some of them do, and in all honesty there's some
10 departments out there that simply wouldn't exist
11 if it wasn't for the equipment and so forth that
12 they get through our programs. We applied for and
13 did not receive several different projects through
14 the stimulus funds. Forest Service had a bunch of
15 money available through this whole stimulus
16 program that was supposed to go to states and some
17 of the fire program and some of the forestry
18 programs we applied for, all of the state
19 designated money went to the federal research
20 labs. Not quite sure how that works, but anyway,
21 we didn't get in on any of that in order to be
22 able to directly pass on to benefit.

23 Something that does directly impact a lot
24 of you, the volunteer fire assistance grants, VFA
25 grants that we administer every spring. Ross is

1 actually out of town. He handles those and told
2 me to let everybody know that because at least at
3 the time of that funding I'm not sure where it
4 stands as of today, but at the time of the funding
5 was designated. Feds were still plating under a
6 continuing legislation for last year should
7 basically meaning whatever funding we got last
8 year we get this year. That's a good thing, so
9 there is \$280,000.00 that will be distributed to
10 fire departments probably within about the next
11 month. He expects to have award letters out by
12 the end of May. So any of you that have an
13 application in for a BFA grant this year should be
14 hearing something within the next four to five
15 weeks, good, bad or otherwise and typically most
16 of those are good. We're always able to fund a
17 majority of the applications that come in. If you
18 applied for something within the program
19 guidelines there's a high probability that you'll
20 get a yes, you're being funded or at least a
21 mostly funded type of letter and you should see
22 those in the pretty near future. In terms of
23 trucks, the surplus military equipment that we
24 distribute which constitutes a lot of fire trucks
25 out in small communities in Kansas, we do have a

1 few of the two and-a-half ton diesels available
2 being fixed up and distributed out as they get
3 fixed up and available. They're working on
4 getting some more of the five tons. They're kind
5 of limited right now. We phased the Jeeps pretty
6 much out of existence due to age and several other
7 related issues. We get a fair number of requests
8 for pickups and these are simply hard to get
9 through military sources because basically the
10 military doesn't use pickups anymore. Tim got a
11 few in here recently. I believe they're all
12 already earmarked that go to departments that have
13 really ancient pickups that need to be not on the
14 road anymore. Other than that, if you have a need
15 for vehicles, be sure you get a request in because
16 there is a waiting list and so if you're looking
17 for a particular kind of vehicle, get your request
18 in in writing so they can put you on the waiting
19 list and when we get to you on the list you'll at
20 least have a shot at getting it. We have because
21 of budget issues, a lot of you probably got a
22 letter a few months ago that we are having to
23 implement some modest cost sharing on some of the
24 parts and stuff that we provide.

25 In recent years we've been basically, if

1 somebody gets a truck to us, we've been fixing it
2 up for free and we can't continue to do that
3 because of budget issues so the parts and so
4 forth, if we don't have used stuff laying around
5 to provide and have to ask you to order parts for
6 a vehicle we are going to have to pass along our
7 cost to the departments. It's probably still
8 cheaper than if you went to the local parts store
9 and bought it, but we simply don't have the means
10 to continue to provide that stuff free and just a
11 reminder, if you do have a truck that came through
12 one of our programs you are responsible for
13 maintaining it and I'm probably speaking to the
14 wrong group here to point that out, but you'd be
15 surprised some of the stuff that comes in for
16 repair that obviously has had no maintenance
17 whatsoever. They can't figure out why it doesn't
18 run and it's something to do with the fact that
19 there's no oil in the crank case. Some of the
20 lack of maintenance is surprising. Most of the
21 departments do a great job, some don't. Just
22 remember, you have to lubricate, oil and fuel your
23 trucks, basic stuff like that.

24 In terms of the spring fire activity, I
25 had to actually rewrite my notes here yesterday

1 and this morning, but on the large fires that
2 we've had reported to us which is a voluntary
3 reporting that we ask for on any fire larger than
4 a hundred acres in timber or 300 in grass, so it's
5 not always terribly scientific because we don't
6 have any way to know how many departments are
7 truly reporting to us, but we have had 31 large
8 fires reported to us this spring, which is the
9 most we've seen year to date since we've been
10 tracking this about the last five years. We're
11 still behind in acres from 2006, but the number of
12 fires is up and I think that's consistent with
13 what we've been hearing around the state. Most of
14 these have run up and down the Flint Hills from
15 about Manhattan to the Oklahoma line. We've had a
16 half a dozen that basically fall out of that line,
17 as far west as Leavenworth County and as farther
18 west as Lakin County. But most of them are
19 running through the Flint Hills or adjacent areas.
20 We've had reported to us as of this morning just
21 over 34,000 acres, 18 structures damaged or
22 destroyed this year in Kansas.

23 Unfortunately, as you're all aware, just
24 a couple days ago we had a firefighter fatality
25 returning from a wild fire and that's a very

1 unfortunate turn of events. Frankly, I couldn't
2 care less if a million acres or two million acres
3 of grass burns, that's fine, but when we start
4 losing human life and homes, that's a lot more
5 tragic.

6 One of the things we've noticed this
7 year -- oh, and the estimated cost of suppression
8 this year has been about \$387,000 just on the
9 large fires that have been reported to us based on
10 the number of apparatus hours that were committed
11 to putting these things out. Only about 10
12 percent of the large fires that we've had reported
13 to us have occurred on severe weather days. Last
14 year, which was the only other year that we've
15 tracked since we've had red flag warnings and fire
16 weather forecasting -- just started about a year
17 and-a-half ago or so -- last year about half of
18 our large fires occurred on red flag warning days.
19 This year it's only been about 10 percent and the
20 reports we've been getting from all over the state
21 and we've been directly observing is has been that
22 fire behavior has been very unusual in terms of
23 we've been on fire with eight-foot flame lengths
24 and according to the law of physics, grass
25 shouldn't burn. There's no wind, no humidity.

1 We've had other days where it was near red flag
2 conditions and it's just creeping along nice as
3 can be doing exactly what it's supposed to so all
4 of the stuff we know about fire behavior isn't
5 working this year which is really aggravating when
6 you kind of think you know about something and it
7 doesn't follow the rule. The thing is it's
8 burning on days it hasn't been an issue. Several
9 of the fires I've gone to this spring you pull up
10 and say this is no big deal, fire is three times
11 the size of this room. We'll have it out in
12 nothing flat and 20 minutes later you're calling
13 for help because it keeps getting bigger and
14 bigger and bigger and it's not going out like it's
15 supposed to. One thing that we've gotten really
16 involved in, not myself especially, but Jason
17 Hartman, our fire prevention specialist, has been
18 very actively involved in the Kansas Prescribed
19 Fire Council. I believe they have a display set
20 up over here, at least did the couple of previous
21 days. That's a group of fire personnel, federal
22 and state agencies, groups like NRCS and Farm
23 Bureau and the Grazing Lands Coalition, Public and
24 Private Fire Service and different people together
25 to promote the safe and appropriate use of

1 prescribed fire in Kansas. One of the issues that
2 they're working very closely on and at this point
3 there is no resolution whatsoever to it, but it's
4 something everybody needs to be aware of is smoke
5 management issues in Kansas not being pushed by
6 anybody within the state. In fact, everybody at
7 every level in the state wants to stay as hands
8 off as possible. EPA is saying State of Kansas,
9 you're going to get a handle on this or we're
10 going to write the rules for you and if the EPA
11 writes the rules it's going to be bad for fire
12 safety and bad for land management. They will
13 make those rules so difficult that it will be
14 impossible to burn anything other than the very
15 really large ag producers who can bring the people
16 in to do the burns, what we'll see in 15 years
17 there will be no prairie, we'll have a cedar
18 forest from Nebraska and Oklahoma, and the way we
19 fight wild fires will be totally different. We're
20 monitoring that closely and there's a lot of
21 effort being made to try to come up with something
22 to make the EPA satisfied without making the
23 burning impossible. That's kind of a catch-22
24 where the two don't work together. It's being
25 worked on, it's being monitored closely. There is

1 nothing further to report on that right now.

2 There's nothing happening in terms of
3 regulations, but it could if we don't manage to
4 get some of that burning spread out outside the
5 first two weeks of April every year and we keep
6 smoking out neighboring states for two weeks in
7 early April, something is going to get shoved down
8 our throats, whether we like it or not, and it's
9 not going to be beneficial to anybody.

10 Couple last comments here on April work.
11 I mentioned the two '09 reports we did on the
12 large fires and the timely and accurate completion
13 of fire reports submitted to the fire marshal's
14 office have continued to be important for our
15 budget. They're changing the way they fund state
16 forest commissions. In the past they'd basically
17 give each state their share. Each state was
18 entitled to a portion of the money and we each got
19 it just automatically. Now what they're starting
20 to do is it's becoming more and more competitive
21 and some of the factors that they grade us on are
22 factors that are totally irrelevant in the State
23 of Kansas. Like, for example, how many
24 communities have the feds land management agencies
25 and the state land management agencies and the

1 local communities concentrating to do timber
2 thinning projects on adjacent forest land. I
3 don't know about you all, but I can't find a lot
4 of communities that have adjacent federal forest
5 land. It's irrelevant in Kansas and yet that's
6 what they base our funding on is how much of that
7 have we done. It becomes more important here as
8 opposed to other states that can show them
9 something else that says there really is wild fire
10 in Kansas and we reran the stats this year and we
11 really do have some of the most acres burned as
12 any state in the midwest. We do have the most
13 fire departments of any western state in the U.S.
14 We have a fire issue, but the only way we can show
15 that is by reports that create statistics
16 basically and then we can turn it in and say,
17 yeah, the Kansas fire departments foot this many
18 wild fires for this many acres for this many
19 hundreds of thousands of dollars last year. With
20 that we can say no, we haven't done a lot of fire
21 community protection plans, but we've got a lot of
22 fire in Kansas and we need to protect these folks.
23 That translates to funding for us and funding for
24 you, like the VFA grants. We do also bring in
25 some funding through the fire program directly

1 when we send our personnel and our engine out in
2 the summertime to fight western wild fires. That
3 actually results in us getting off the state
4 payroll for a period of time. The last several
5 years we've basically eliminated half a full-time
6 position or off of our payroll for a year by
7 several of us being gone sometime each year. The
8 feds actually rent our trucks for a hundred and
9 some bucks an hour while we're out there, so we
10 brought in tens of thousands of dollars the last
11 several years to come back into the program.

12 So that's one of the other ways we're
13 trying to supplement that in order to do what we
14 keep doing for you all. Cooperative fire
15 department results, the little document that you
16 have to fill out every few years to basically be
17 one of our cooperative partners to stay eligible
18 for our various programs; Ross said to let you
19 know a new version of that will be coming out this
20 summer. When you see that, please read it very
21 carefully. There will be new information included
22 and stuff. Please read it carefully and make sure
23 it gets signed by the appropriate person, the
24 chief, the chair of the board or whoever, and have
25 it returned to us in a timely manner.

1 Note along that, and this relates to the
2 grants also and it's primarily with the smallest
3 departments we see this, but please make sure we
4 have a good address for your department. Every
5 year we get people that call up and say we haven't
6 gotten a grant application for two or three years
7 and they say we mailed it out to that address and
8 they say that was our former chief and he died two
9 years ago, or he retired and moved to Arizona. We
10 highly recommend it be the city clerk or the fire
11 station address or something like that that
12 doesn't change. If it does happen to be the
13 chief's house or something like that that you use
14 for your mailing address, please make sure that
15 when that changes you notify us in writing so we
16 can update stuff and you do keep getting the
17 materials we need to send you.

18 So we expect that the next couple of
19 years probably budget wise it's going to be tough
20 for us. We've already been told this year to
21 expect 10 percent less revenue on the stateside of
22 things which, again, that's a small part of what
23 we get, but a 10 percent cut in that this year and
24 again next year; in other words, another 10
25 percent cut next year, we really don't know what's

1 going to happen on the fed side of the budget in
2 the next six months or so, so we're going to keep
3 monitoring that closely. We know it's going to be
4 tough, but we do stay committed absolutely to
5 fulfilling the mission of the fire management
6 program which is to empower Kansas fire
7 departments to provide better service to Kansans
8 through leadership, service and education. And
9 we're going to do whatever we have to do, even if
10 we have to do it with less. We'll do everything
11 we can possibly do to continue to provide the
12 service and the funding, the equipment and the
13 training and so forth that we do.

14 In the interest of time, I'm not going to
15 specifically open it up for questions right now,
16 but I will be around this morning, so if you have
17 questions, look me up. I'll be more than happy to
18 try to answer them. If I can't come up with an
19 answer that sounds intelligent, I'll take your
20 number and try to get back to you later with one
21 that does.

22 Thank you for your time and enjoy the
23 rest of your updates here.

24 (Applause.)

25 JIM LUBBERS: Thank you, Eric.

1 Now we'll have Pat Lehman, lobbyist for
2 the alliance, with his report.

3 PAT LEHMAN: Good morning. Good to
4 be here.

5 The legislature began this year on
6 January 12th and had its first adjournment or the
7 adjournment of the regular session April 3rd.

8 Now, the legislature will reconvene again
9 April 29th for the wrapup or the veto session and
10 is expected to last several days and probably will
11 be quite contentious because they just announced
12 for the 2010 budget year the legislature will need
13 to make up about three hundred million dollars
14 because of the shortfall.

15 I'm going to give you the quick rundown
16 of the bills that are of interest to the fire
17 service from the 2009 legislative session.

18 We have House Bill -- actually substitute
19 for House Bill 2072. This is less reduction in
20 disability benefits based on income for certain
21 numbers of Kansas police and fire retirement
22 system. Under the current law a \$10,000 is in
23 place for Tier 2 KP&F disabled members. When
24 employed their disability benefits would be
25 reduced one dollar for every two dollars of earned

1 income over the statutory limit.

2 House Bill 2072, as introduced, would
3 have raised the cap to \$20,000 as recommended by
4 the Joint Committee on Pensions following the 2008
5 summer interim study. The House Select Committee
6 on KPERS amended the bill this year during the
7 session to eliminate the \$20,000 cap on earnings.
8 The revised fiscal note for removing the cap
9 entirely would be approximately \$300,000 annually.

10 The Conference Committee met several
11 times between the House and the Senate and they
12 accepted the House position of the no salary cap
13 to replace the \$10,000 limit.

14 Now, on April 3rd the Senate adopted the
15 Conference Committee report 37 to 1. The House
16 has not acted on the Conference Committee report,
17 but we fully expect that they will do it during
18 the wrap up. I know there's been some confusion
19 on that. This happened on Friday, the 3rd of
20 April, and I think it was just a matter of running
21 out of time for the House to take action on this
22 Conference Committee report. The House fully
23 supports removing the cap, so there won't be any
24 problem with getting that approved during the wrap
25 up.

1 The other bill that we have this year was
2 Senate Bill 115, and this is to allow fire
3 departments to temporarily close highways. This
4 says that any member, actual member of an
5 organized fire department, whether regular or
6 volunteer, or of any municipality, shall be vested
7 with police powers to form fire lines to protect
8 persons from interfering with firefighters in the
9 discharge of their duties and shall have the power
10 to blockade any public highway temporarily while
11 fighting the fire in the discharge of their
12 official duties.

13 Now, this bill was introduced two years
14 ago and it came out as House Bill 2486, and maybe
15 you remember this. This issue was one that the
16 alliance could not agree on and so it was because
17 the alliance -- the makeup of the alliance, if we
18 can't agree on the introduction of a bill or
19 supporting a bill, we don't do it. But in this
20 case the Firefighters' Association introduced the
21 bill in House Appropriations and this was during
22 the 2007 session. The bill, it had a hearing in a
23 subcommittee of House Appropriations, which is
24 before seven members of the committee. It didn't
25 go anywhere. It sat there. It sat there through

1 the rest of 2007, it sat there through 2008, and
2 then at the end of the 2008 session last year it
3 was dead. So the alliance this year did support
4 the introduction of this bill, so I introduced the
5 bill in the Senate and they assigned it to the
6 Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee. A
7 hearing was held in the committee in February and
8 Andy Moffitt and Kevin Flory testified for the
9 bill. Well, it passed the Senate Committee and
10 was sent to the full Senate. It passed the full
11 Senate 40 to zero, and the bill then was sent to
12 the House and was assigned to the House
13 Transportation Committee. Now, a hearing was held
14 for it in March and the same conferees testified,
15 Andy and Kevin. The bill passed the committee the
16 same day, and this rarely happens. When they have
17 the hearing for the bill, does the committee
18 actually take it up to work the bill that same
19 day? Well, they worked it and then when they
20 worked it part of the motion was to put the bill
21 on the consent calendar of the House, which means
22 that it sets on there for three days and if nobody
23 protests it, no House member protests it, then it
24 comes off of there after three days and it's voted
25 on by the full committee without debate, and this

1 did. It was on there for three days. It came off
2 and the House passed it 122 to zero. It was sent
3 to the governor and the governor signed the bill
4 on March 27th, so beginning the first of July that
5 law will be effective.

6 Senate Bill 187, the State Fire Marshal
7 Commission Inspector Act for State Educational
8 Institutions, and the bill would allow the state
9 fire marshal to employ the employee of a state
10 educational institution to inspect buildings in
11 conjunction with the state fire marshal's office.
12 This bill had hearings in both the House and the
13 Senate and it passed the House 118 to 3 and it
14 passed the Senate 39 to zero and it was approved
15 by the governor on March 27th.

16 Senate Bill 219, a moratorium on death
17 and benefits under KPERS. The bill would
18 implement a nine-month -- and maybe Mel mentioned
19 this, I didn't hear him -- on the KPERS death and
20 disability plan and so that passed. They wanted
21 to have it be in effect by March 1st. It passed
22 the Senate 39 to zero February 18th and it passed
23 the House 122 to zero on March 4th and was signed
24 by the governor March 13th.

25 I'm going to be going through the Board

1 of EMS legislation that they've had this year.
2 Robert asked me if I would cover that for him. He
3 is going to be presenting in a little while, but
4 he's going to talk about scope of practices, so
5 I'm going to run through the bills that were
6 introduced pertaining to the Board of EMS and give
7 you their standing and where they are at this
8 time.

9 Senate Bill 102, an act concerning
10 emergency medical services relating to the use of
11 automated external defibrillators, it was amended
12 and would delete the definition and requirement
13 that only a qualified person may use an automatic
14 external defibrillator. The bill was introduced
15 at the request of the Kansas Department of Health
16 and Environment. It went through -- the bill went
17 through the House 122 to zero and the Senate 38 to
18 zero, and was approved by the governor April 17th.

19 Substitute for Senate Bill 220, emergency
20 medical services authority of the Board of
21 Emergency Medical Services, this passed the Senate
22 40 to zero and is now in the House Public Safety
23 Budget Committee and has not had any further
24 action.

25 Senate Bill 221 would authorize the Board

1 of Emergency Medical Services to develop,
2 implement, coordinate and oversee a statewide
3 system of emergency medical services disaster
4 responses that may incorporate nationally
5 recognized medical service standards. This had a
6 hearing in the Senate Ways and Means Committee on
7 February 2nd, but no action was taken by the
8 committee, so it's still setting in that
9 committee.

10 Senate Bill 222 would allow the Board of
11 Emergency Medical Services to require applicants
12 seeking licensure to submit to a state and
13 national criminal history record check. This bill
14 was adopted into, amended into Senate Bill 33 and
15 that is currently in a conference committee and
16 has not been acted on but is expected to be during
17 the wrap up.

18 Senate Bill 223, emergency medical
19 services board authority to issue subpoenas; the
20 bill would authorize the investigative committee
21 of the board, during an investigation, to issue
22 subpoenas. Current law does not allow the board
23 subpoena power. This was passed by the Senate 33
24 to 7 on March 11th and sent to the House and was
25 assigned to the House Judiciary Committee and

1 there's been no further action on the bill. It's
2 sitting in the House Judiciary Committee.

3 Senate Bill 224, emergency medical
4 services board authorized to assess civil fines
5 would authorize the Board of EMS to assess, in
6 lieu of other penalties, a civil fine of up to
7 \$1,000 if a person violates a law or rule or
8 regulation authorized by the Board. The Senate
9 amended the bill to allow the board to assess the
10 \$1,000 in lieu of other penalties. Senate Bill
11 224 passed the Senate 39 to 1 on March 12th and
12 was sent to the House and referred to the House
13 Judiciary and, again, no further action on that
14 bill. It's still sitting in that committee.

15 As a reminder, the legislature is on a
16 two-year cycle. This year was the first year for
17 the cycle. Any bills that are introduced this
18 year and like these that have passed one house or
19 one body and in another one, they will be
20 available for next year to be worked and then at
21 the end of next year, all bills that aren't worked
22 or dealt with, they go away, so it is a two-year
23 cycle and we're only at the end of the first year
24 this year.

25 Another bill is Senate Bill 262 and it's

1 emergency medical attendants processes and titles
2 and Robert stated that Senate Bill 262 was not
3 scheduled for a conference committee due to the
4 Chairman of the House Health and Human Services
5 and the Board of Nursing having concerns that the
6 board was moving the scope of practice from
7 statute to rules and regulations. The board
8 determined -- the Board of EMS determined to hold
9 the current language within 2009 -- within Senate
10 Bill 262 until the initiation of the veto sessions
11 and requests that Dr. Allen, Chairman of the Board
12 of EMS meet with the Chairman of the Health and
13 Human Services Committee to address the concerns
14 of 262.

15 That pretty well covers the legislation
16 that we dealt with this year. We did introduce a
17 couple other bills for the firefighters'
18 association, but they didn't move anywhere. They
19 didn't go anywhere, but, again, they will be
20 available for next year, so I think we had a
21 fairly successful year. At least we got Senate
22 Bill 115, which we did it right this year and got
23 it listed in the committees and they addressed it
24 and we got it out of there, and then the other
25 issue that was very big for us and I've worked

1 very hard on for the last couple of years, because
2 we have a gentleman, retired firefighter who is
3 here today that this affects greatly and then we
4 have another one that is about to retire that
5 because of disability that this will have a great
6 effect on and I've worked with both of them, I've
7 kept them both very well informed on what's been
8 going on with this thing, but this 2072, the
9 disability bill, is huge for them and so we're
10 pleased that we've gotten it that far and worked
11 very extensively with Chairman Schwartz, Sharon
12 Schwartz, house member, on that bill and it's been
13 very much a concern for her to get this bill out.

14 If you have any other questions later on,
15 I'll be glad to -- I'll be around here. I'm going
16 to go to the committee meeting today after the
17 break and so I'll be available. If you have any
18 questions, just look me up and I'll be glad to
19 talk to you about it.

20 Thank you very much.

21 JIM LUBBERS: Thank you. Now we have
22 Dennis Thrower representing the Pro Chiefs and
23 Chiefs' Association.

24 DENNIS THROWER: Good morning.

25 I've been asked to address you today.

1 Chief Jeff Hudson -- somebody, Jeff Hudson called
2 me yesterday and advised me that he would be
3 unable to attend today, asked me to express his
4 apologies to you. He recognizes the value of this
5 organization and the value of this conference, but
6 unfortunately he was not able to attend.

7 Also Chief Curmode called me up and
8 advised me that he was called to a budget hearing
9 at his fire department that was a command
10 performance today, so he could not attend and
11 likewise asked me to relay his regrets for not
12 being here today.

13 Chief Curmode did ask me to pass a few
14 items along to you. He wanted me to let you know
15 that the Kansas Professional Fire Chiefs work hand
16 in hand with all of the other state organizations.
17 We also are all members of the Kansas State Fire
18 Chiefs' Association. In our work we work with the
19 state chiefs, the firefighters' association and
20 with the different lobbying organizations that we
21 have. The association tries to work in tandem
22 with all of the associations to maintain unity and
23 consistency in the fire service in the State of
24 Kansas.

25 We provide additional emphasis with a

1 professional fire chiefs' association for
2 communities with full-time fire departments to
3 address issues that face uniquely those
4 communities. For the past three years somebody
5 from the Professional Fire Chiefs' Association has
6 attended the annual congressional symposium and
7 seminars in Washington, D.C. to hear about issues
8 that are facing the fire service and talk to our
9 senators and house representatives face to face in
10 letting them know how this impacts the Kansas fire
11 services.

12 Issues that were given to our Congress
13 reps were maintaining the funding for the National
14 Fire Academy and U.S. Fire Administration,
15 maintaining fire grant program, continue to work
16 the wild land legislation for the national support
17 and hopefully improve the stimulus package for the
18 fire service. Congressional representatives said
19 keep your letters coming, they do make a
20 difference.

21 Departments that are interested in any of
22 our activities, please feel free to contact any
23 member of the Kansas Professional Fire Chiefs'
24 Association and we'd be glad to share any
25 information with you.

1 That's all I have for you this morning.
2 If you have any questions, I'll be around for a
3 little while after your break.

4 (Applause.)

5 JIM LUBBERS: I'm going to deviate a
6 little bit from the schedule. I think we'll take
7 a 10-minute break now and come back at about 10
8 o'clock.

9 (A break was taken.)

10 JIM LUBBERS: One announcement: As
11 soon as Mr. Waller is done with his presentation,
12 the board -- I mean, the EMS Committee would like
13 to be released to meet with him because he is on a
14 schedule, so they will meet at poolside as soon as
15 he is finished with his.

16 At this time I'll introduce Mr. Robert
17 Waller, Director of the Board of EMS.

18 ROBERT WALLER: Good morning. First
19 of all, introductions. My name is Robert. Only
20 my dad gets the privilege of being called Mr.
21 Waller, so if you see me at any point in time
22 after this, it's Robert.

23 What I'd like to do today is I'm going to
24 skip through a lot of the slides because I want to
25 get to the crux of the Scope of Practice, how we

1 came about, how the document came about and where
2 we'll be going.

3 The Scope of Practice in a nutshell came
4 out of six to seven different national documents,
5 agenda for the future, education agenda for the
6 future, rural agenda for the future, and IOM
7 report and other national document that
8 collectively the federal government financed to
9 effectively address how EMS was going to develop,
10 change, educationally, Scope of Practice wise.
11 What we ended up doing is basically taking a lot
12 of those national documents with a collection of
13 35 people -- Shane. Shane is not in the audience.

14 SHANE PEARSON: Yes.

15 ROBERT WALLER: Shane was on the
16 committee along with the regional representations,
17 association, regional council, board member, board
18 staff, educational institutions to come together
19 and look at the Scope of Practice. Those are the
20 documents that effectively we utilized as the
21 baseline for changing how EMS was going to
22 function in the State of Kansas. If you like a
23 copy of this, I could send this to you by mail.
24 If you have any problems sleeping at night, this
25 is a great read. It's a couple of hundred pages.

1 If you have insomnia, the Scope of Practice model
2 is a fabulous read.

3 Effectively what ends up happening is
4 your first responders, your MRs, your EMTIs, your
5 MICTs are now called paramedics. Effectively what
6 we're doing is a baseline that every state will
7 adhere to.

8 Now, I understand that Kansas, we have
9 always had, whether you're going to call them
10 enrichments or the enhancements above this
11 baseline, but what we're trying to achieve in
12 every state, and every state in the union is going
13 through this process, is trying to establish a
14 baseline, not only for reciprocity issues but
15 disaster management. When FEMA shows up, they
16 want to know that an EMT in Kansas is the same as
17 the EMT in Texas. Understand that we have a
18 paramedic in Kansas. There's actually two
19 different paramedics in Texas. Which one balances
20 out or is equal to the same one in Kansas? So
21 what we're trying to achieve really with the Scope
22 of Practice is a baseline that cuts across state
23 boundaries, both from an everyday standpoint and a
24 disaster standpoint.

25 Phase 1, we've put together that

1 document. I'm not sure how many of you have been
2 on the website to download that document. It's
3 about 60 pages and basically what it does is it
4 outlines every aspect of the Scope of Practice for
5 each attendant. It has the different boxes and I
6 could spend an hour and-a-half just discussing
7 that document. I didn't put that document here.
8 Please go to the website. If you go through our
9 resources link you can pull it off the board
10 website. The goal was to identify those specific
11 needs and to set a minimum and a maximum, and
12 we'll kind of get to that medical direction,
13 medical protocol piece as we go through the
14 presentation.

15 Effectively, what would end up happening
16 here is Senate Bill 2662. It does four different
17 things. It changes the name from first responder,
18 EMT, mandates that we all must practice under
19 medical protocols, sets a scope ceiling for the
20 EMR, EMT and a EMTI. You've heard me say before
21 that a doctor could effectively write a scope of
22 practice that allows them to do brain surgery in
23 the field. We had an attorney general's opinion
24 from Attorney General Stephan that said docs could
25 write a scope of practice greater than your scope.

1 We had Attorney General Stovall that said you
2 couldn't. We had Attorney General Morrison that
3 said you could and we had Attorney General Six
4 that said I'm wiping all three of these away and
5 I'm allowing the legislature to decide.

6 We effectively say in 262 and also House
7 Bill 2010 there is now a set ceiling, so a doctor
8 can't simply write a protocol that allows an EMT
9 to intubate just because the doc signs that
10 protocol and effectively wants to authorize that
11 particular attendant to perform that task. The
12 last part of the scope of practice will be moved
13 to statute and regulation. Basically what that
14 means is you have statute as law; you have
15 regulations another part of the law. Instead of
16 the scope of practice being listed out in the
17 statute, it's listed out in rules and regs.

18 Effectively, what will happen in the
19 Scope of Practice is basically this: If you
20 have -- what you now have is first responders,
21 EMTs, EMTIs. We know that they will change names.
22 What effectively will happen, what we're doing
23 right now is we are putting together a
24 transitional course. That transition course
25 basically says -- and I'm going to get here -- let

1 me be specific with the first responders. You
2 have 16 hours in that two-year period to get your
3 continuing education, correct, first responders in
4 the room. What we're going to end up doing with
5 that transition course is at some point in the
6 past EMS had specific categories that you have to
7 achieve. What's going to happen, the transition
8 course is within those 16 hours. We're going to
9 cut out some of those hours. I don't know how
10 many of those hours, because we're in the process
11 of developing that transition course. Let's get
12 broad and general numbers. We're going to say
13 six. Six of your 16 hours, for example, will be
14 this transition course. What we're going to end
15 up doing over the next year and-a-half is train
16 trainers, your TO-2s and your TO-1s, to take this
17 transition course in your regular CEU hours, bring
18 it to your service, to your station. You get this
19 CEU course, these number of hours, this mandatory
20 hours within your 16, you complete that transition
21 course, you get the rest of your 10 hours in
22 whatever continuing education that you want and
23 you're done. That's it. It is as simple as that.

24 An EMT, it takes me 28 hours over a
25 two-year period to maintain my certification.

1 Within that 28 hours there will be a transition
2 course number of hours that will basically cut
3 themselves out of that 28. Round numbers, we're
4 going to say 10. Ten hours of my 28 within that
5 two-year period will be a mandated box of
6 information called the transition period. Call
7 them the transition course, call them the mandate.
8 Anyone here nationally registered? If you're
9 nationally registered, you have a set amount of
10 hours in particular categories. Call the
11 transition course a mandated category that you'll
12 have to get. Out of those 28, let's just say so,
13 the other 18, I can get them in whatever I want,
14 but that 10 I must have in the transition course.

15 For those folks -- let me get down to
16 here. 262 will go into effect in 2011. If your
17 expiration date is December 31st, 2011, you
18 actually have three years to get this, all the way
19 out to 2013. If yours expires in '12, you have an
20 entire two years and understand, the way we're
21 doing this is it's a transition course that we're
22 training so we're going to put it in the hands --
23 how many TO-2s and ICs do we have in the room? Be
24 proud, you're an educator. My wife's an educator.
25 She would raise her hand.

1 We will put this in the hands of your
2 educators so that they can utilize this transition
3 course in your station to move you through the
4 transitional period, so what you're all
5 grandfathering, we'll be rolling everyone over in
6 the three-year period. Once it's done, it's done.
7 January, 2004 team, sometime the national register
8 will flip their switch from the old baseline to
9 the new curriculum. By that time, everyone will
10 have transitioned. All of those folks that are
11 already so will have transitioned over. 2014
12 we're done, you go back to your regular amount of
13 CEU hours. You will never have to take this
14 transition course again. Everyone that follows
15 us, and here is the part of this that we still
16 need to figure out, is with the new curriculum,
17 the DOT curriculum goes away. If you're an
18 educator, you know it goes away. You're setting
19 out guidelines. Right now a lot of them the
20 national educators are actually trying to develop
21 books to take the guidelines and put them together
22 in an educational offering. That's the part of
23 this that we are still figuring out after 2014,
24 but we are starting now to that transition. So
25 for everyone here that is a technician, it is as

1 simple as that. You have your set number of
2 hours. There will be a set number of hours that
3 will be cut out of that that will be mandatory.
4 That will be the transition course. Once you take
5 that from your TO-2 or your IC, you're done.
6 You're transitioned over. You don't have anything
7 else to worry about.

8 Questions? We try to make this as simple
9 and as inexpensive and as accessible as possible.
10 Actually that last little chart here that you see
11 here, me and my four-year-old daughter, we were up
12 watching Cody and the Destroyer. She loves Cody
13 and the Destroyer. She loves Predator too. I am
14 a bad parent. She likes them both. The Predator
15 thing, this was the part where he threw the
16 spinning thing and he cut Busse in half and she
17 said, "Daddy, what happened?" and I said, "Gary
18 Busse just got cut in half." My wife came
19 downstairs -- it is as simple as that and this is
20 where I wanted you to come down here. You must
21 choose -- if you choose not to do the transition
22 course, and that is your choice, when your
23 certification expires on that December 31st at
24 11:59, congratulations, on January 1st, you have
25 to choose. If you're an I, you can choose a

1 transition course for AA&I, you can choose a
2 transition course for IETMs, EMR, but you have to
3 choose. You're talking about one thing that
4 you're going to have to do. You're going to have
5 to choose. Write that word down somewhere,
6 "choose". You must make a choice, an adult
7 decision. You're going to have to make a choice
8 of what you're going to do. If you decide I don't
9 care what Robert said on April 24th at 1020 hours
10 in Great Bend and our) certification expires,
11 let's say January 13th or December 13th, 2004, on
12 January 1 does, 2014, your chief is going to come
13 to you and your service director is going to come
14 to you and he's going to ask, "Well, where's your
15 card?" You're not going to have one. Simple.
16 Choose. Choose what you're going to be, what you
17 want, which one of these transition courses that
18 you want. If you want to maintain your I, choose
19 the transition course for the I. If you're not,
20 if you don't and you don't want to go through that
21 process of learning something because the I says
22 specifically the EMR and the EMT reasonably stay
23 pretty close to what we're doing right now.
24 There's not really a big pop. For the I's, you
25 20.

1 Will be caught pushing cardiac
2 medication. You will be pushing drugs, so the
3 I's, there will be a significant jump in your
4 scope of practice to address rules, some of the
5 medical direction stuff that docs want some of the
6 EMTs to actually commit to. The I, this would be
7 a significant jump from what you're doing now, but
8 the word is what? Choose. You need to write it
9 down. Write it down because I know good and well
10 someone is going to show up on January 1st and
11 say, "Robert, I didn't know, I didn't choose," and
12 what I'm going to say is congratulations, you need
13 to take a new class. You're an I, you need to get
14 into an EMTI class. There will be no regain,
15 there will be no renewal, there will be no double
16 the hours. You will lose your certification and
17 the only way you can get it back is jump into
18 class, the entire class.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Besides
20 sending this out to each person, are you going to
21 send it out to each chief?

22 ROBERT WALLER: Yes, what we're doing
23 now, to develop this transition course, we did not
24 have the expertise to do it in house. We're
25 actually just looking at an R&P not two days ago.

1 What we effectively have is -- let me go back to
2 my time line here is right now -- right now this
3 is where we are in the transition course. We are
4 basically taking a year and-a-half to develop the
5 transition course and we'll get that transition
6 course put in the hands of the educators so that
7 they can move the CEUs forward so you've got a
8 year and-a-half to put this together. Once we put
9 that together, all of this information we send
10 out, list search, mail-ins, directly to services,
11 fire houses across this great nation to make sure
12 that everyone understands what's coming and how to
13 get. If from my standpoing, we need to make
14 absolutely sure that we make it available, that we
15 make it cheap and that we make it easy. If you
16 get CEUs right now, that's all you have to do,
17 CEUs. This is a CEU program. What do you have
18 to do?

19 THE AUDIENCE: Choose.

20 ROBERT WALLER: In the end, I don't
21 want to be flippant when I say that and you'll
22 hear me say that I'm an operator. That's the way
23 I was born and raised. Every day of my life --
24 every day of my life that's the way I was raised,
25 so you need to choose. You need to make an adult

1 decision and if you choose not to make that adult
2 decision and not get it, okay. On January 1st
3 when yours expires, I have to make an adult
4 decision to you and my adult decision will be I
5 will not be sending you back. Other questions?

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I've heard
7 that through -- after this transition is complete
8 there may be periodic testing to keep your
9 certification. Is that true?

10 ROBERT WALLER: We haven't discussed
11 that. No. Nothing changes from what we're doing
12 right now. I know that National Registries is
13 talking about it. I know National Registry is
14 also talking about the only way for you to keep
15 your CAD is to affiliate yourself with a service,
16 so for those that are keeping a card but not
17 actually utilizing it or not affiliated with
18 service, from what I understand they're going to
19 mandate that if you're not affiliated and hooked
20 up to a service they're going to pull your
21 national register card. That has nothing to do
22 with the Kansas certification, but that is
23 strictly the National Register and their decision,
24 which doesn't effect Kansas one bit. They are
25 their own company. Questions?

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Could you
2 address the situation that causes the Board of EMS
3 to need subpoena powers and the ability to find as
4 that Senate Bill 223? Is there something going
5 out in the state?

6 ROBERT WALLER: Right now the board
7 does not have subpoena power to access some
8 information. The subpoena power they're asking
9 for is the same subpoena power the Board of
10 Nursing and Board of Healing Arts has. The
11 subpoena power is effectively limited as far as an
12 investigation, so if I am investigating you and I
13 am trying to get all of the information to prove
14 you're innocent, if I can't access all of your
15 information, all of my information is all against
16 you, then providing that information to the board
17 is limited and it's all negative. That's all we
18 see. With the subpoena power that every other
19 regulatory agency has, and ours is rather limited,
20 what that does is allow us to access everything so
21 the board has a complete view of the disciplinary
22 action as opposed to a small segment that may
23 prove good for you, may prove bad for you. For
24 the fines, what the board is looking at and out of
25 the 24 regulatory agencies out there I think 15 or

1 16 of them have fining capability. This was not
2 done in -- say I'm going to take away your
3 certification and I'm going to fine you. What it
4 was was adding to that so the board has the
5 ability to deny, limit or suspend, and modify of
6 the paperwork fine on this. But as far as fining
7 capability, pharmacies, nursing, Board of Healing
8 Arts, technical professions, KDHE, KDOT,
9 cosmetology, bar and a host of others, regulatory
10 agencies, all have a fine capability. This is not
11 something that is new to the State of Kansas.
12 It's pretty much most of the regulatory agencies
13 that have asked for it have been awarded that
14 capability. The board, in putting that together,
15 wanted to limit that to a thousand dollars unlike
16 Board of Nursing. There's actual warnings up from
17 a thousand to three thousand. Optometry, their
18 fine is ten grand. So in this instance, the board
19 really looked at -- and I don't want to get
20 specific. We had a paramedic who on his Facebook
21 page listed out everything on a call; name, date,
22 time, what happened, who was on scene. Oh, yeah,
23 the only thing that he didn't put on there was his
24 social security number and her date of birth. The
25 Board stripped him of his certification for a

1 two-month period. In that two-month period he
2 almost had to file bankruptcy. He lost somewhere
3 between five, \$7,500 in that two-month period of
4 time. With the fining capability, the board could
5 have fined him \$500.00, slapped him on the wrist,
6 sent him on his way. The fining capability -- and
7 thank you for asking this question -- no state
8 agency that fines keeps the money. All of the
9 money goes to the state general fund. It doesn't
10 go to finance your own agency. The legislature
11 put that in there so that agencies wouldn't fine
12 just to finance their own operation. So the
13 money, regardless of the fine, regardless of how
14 often the board would use it, would all go to the
15 state general fund and wouldn't go to the agency,
16 so there would be no direct benefit for the board
17 to basically say we're going to get rid of all of
18 the rest of their disciplinary actions. It just
19 goes to fines. Question.

20 ERIC SCRUGGS: Eric Scruggs, Kansas
21 City; if we could step back on the certification
22 dates. My card expires the end of this year.

23 ROBERT WALLER: Okay.

24 ERIC SCRUGGS: What does that mean to
25 me?

1 ROBERT WALLER: Nothing.

2 ERIC SCRUGGS: I don't have to have
3 this course?

4 ROBERT WALLER: Again, let me go
5 back.

6 Remember when I said -- and look at your
7 dates here. The transition course is still being
8 developed from 2009 through 2011. 262, which Pat
9 talked about, doesn't go into effect until 2011,
10 so in 2011, December 31st, 2013 we'll be doing
11 this transition period, so if you expire this year
12 you'll expire in 2011 so actually you'll have
13 December 31st, 2013 to get in transition course.

14 Questions? Yes, sir. Going once, going
15 twice. Shane announced the EMT Committee will
16 meet poolside. There will not be any drinks with
17 umbrellas, no beer.

18 I appreciate your time. Thank you.

19 (Applause.)

20 JIM LUBBERS: Thank you, Robert. At
21 this time we'll have the IAFF State Council
22 President, Mr. Bob Wing.

23 BOB WING: Thank you, Jim. It's good
24 to see all of you hear bright eyed this morning.
25 Jim, I do have one complaint. I understand I may

1 be the second one that has this problem. I didn't
2 get my badge. Who's in charge of badges? Who's
3 got my badge?

4 JIM LUBBERS: I saw it laying out
5 there.

6 BOB WING: Is there a guy that likes
7 badges in this crowd, got like a fettish for
8 badges?

9 ROY REED: If you take a 10-minute
10 break, I'll bring it up to you. I almost put it
11 on but somebody knows who I am.

12 BOB WING: Thank you. That's my
13 assistant, Roy Reed, and he had my badge. He's
14 got a whole boxful of this crap.

15 Jim, I'd like to thank you and the
16 membership for inviting me and the members of the
17 state council down to your conference and I'd like
18 to thank you for your years of service both as a
19 board member and the president. I think you have
20 done a tremendous job in leading this organization
21 and progressing to the point where it is today,
22 and whoever your successor is I look forward to
23 working with them and your newly-elected board,
24 whoever they may be.

25 I want to clear a couple things up and

1 the state council is going to have a board meeting
2 here this afternoon. I know how rumblings go and
3 how discussions and bullshit goes in the fire
4 stations. I just want to clear a couple things
5 up. The state council is willing to meet and work
6 with the elected board and the elected officials
7 of this organization. I think we always have.
8 That doesn't mean we're going to agree on every
9 issue that comes up, but in my tenure, I go back
10 through President Thibideaux who I thought did a
11 tremendous job leading this organization. I had a
12 very good working relationship with Joe and then
13 going on beyond that. I got the privilege of
14 watching probably -- and I've said this before and
15 I'll say it again -- probably the two best
16 lobbyists the fire service has ever seen in this
17 state, that being Jim Todd, the late Jim Todd and
18 Jerry Marlatt, and I see Jerry, my good friend,
19 sitting there. I'll tell you what and I was told
20 this by the governor of this state. She's told me
21 several things over the years, but she told me
22 this when she was still a representative in the
23 House, that the reason those two fellows were very
24 effective is because they were one of us. They
25 were one of ours and I'm not beating on Pat Lehman

1 or anybody else who or anyone else who lobbies for
2 any other organization in the fire service, but it
3 makes a hell of a difference when I have lobbying
4 issues for the fire service or whatever
5 organization you happen to be representing and
6 trying to make your point and get it across when
7 you give the live testimony or you are lobbying in
8 the halls of the state capital and it actually
9 comes out of the mouth of someone who it actually
10 affects personally and there were no -- there was
11 no better duo that I know of in my time than that
12 of Gary Marlatt and Jim Todd. They did a
13 tremendous job and I think Jerry being here, he
14 deserves a round of applause for the work he's
15 done.

16 (Applause.)

17 Just note that some bad things never do
18 go away. I see the former state fire marshal Ed
19 Redmond who, for whatever reason, remains a good
20 friend of mine and I don't know why in the hell he
21 does and why I do either, but also a guy who, you
22 know, has a fire service that could be 80 some
23 years of age and still walking the halls of the
24 state capital doing the work for us firefighters
25 and understanding the issues and being one of the

1 most respected, not only former fire marshals, but
2 retired firefighters in the State of Kansas and I
3 truly mean that. I have had legislators tell me
4 that we should never get rid of that guy. For
5 what reason they say that, I don't know what he's
6 paying them, but it's tremendous because I've been
7 trying to get rid of him for years and he keeps
8 cropping back up, but also it's always good to see
9 the former state fire marshal, Ted Redmond.

10 Just a couple notes from the IAFF. Some
11 of you already know this, who we have membership
12 with and who don't have collective bargaining
13 agreements in your locales that's going to change
14 and I tell that to the membership, those of who we
15 represent, and I tell that to the administrators
16 and the fire chiefs that it's nothing you have to
17 be afraid of, but by God, it's time that that
18 changes and it's going to. The people who
19 represent who don't have collective bargaining
20 agreements in this state deserve those and they're
21 going to get them and that comes out of the mouth
22 of the vice-president of the United States. I
23 bring that message to all of those who didn't see
24 that message in D.C. when Matt Jackson and Tom
25 Kanotzer (sp) and Ken Tetrick and the others from

1 the IAff were in D.C. about six weeks ago, so it's
2 not going to be a -- it's not a magic wand
3 situation. Going into that arena does not make
4 everything perfect. I've told some individuals
5 who have, for years, paid dues, the IAFF and quite
6 frankly it could get worse before it gets better,
7 but at least we're there and that has been a fight
8 that we in this organization have been paying for
9 and striving for and working for for a long period
10 of years and we're finally going to get there.

11 Now, having said that and noting that I
12 said in some cases it may get worse, I know one
13 thing that we have in my local union in Kansas
14 City, there's a community outside of Kansas City,
15 Edwardsville, Kansas. They have a collective
16 bargaining agreement. Quite frankly, they have a
17 pretty damn good collective bargaining agreement
18 and in that collective bargaining agreement
19 there's one provision that I thought that I would
20 never have to rely upon to go up before an elected
21 body and most probably to the taxpayers of that
22 city to protect one individual's job at this point
23 and maybe more and that is the very real thought
24 of a layoff of firefighters in the State of
25 Kansas. That's the first I've heard of it. It is

1 very real. It is made public. I'm here to tell
2 you, and I know several individuals out of that
3 local or out of my local from that community are
4 sitting in this audience. They will lay that
5 firefighter off over my dying ass, over my dying
6 ass. Every penny will be spent that we have to
7 find the money to save that young man's job and
8 every ounce of ability that we have in my local
9 union to make sure that not only James Befort
10 keeps his job, but everyone who is threatened with
11 their jobs in the economy that we have today is
12 going to get every ounce of effort that we can to
13 make sure that we keep those people working, both
14 for their own to take care of their families and
15 just as important that they stay on the job to
16 take care of their communities. It makes no sense
17 to me still that fire chiefs and city
18 administrators and elected officials can honestly
19 say in open court that they can run a fire
20 apparatus with as few as three people on it. That
21 is asinine and I want that on the record and I
22 want that to be noted that we need more
23 firefighters. We don't need to be laying
24 firefighters off, so I may be calling on some of
25 you who are in our organization and maybe some of

1 you who aren't to at least lay that banner down in
2 Edwardsville, Kansas, and any other city,
3 community in this fire board, in this state, who
4 threatens our people with layoff when they haven't
5 exhausted every other means and ability to make
6 sure that the firefighters and the people of that
7 community are protected. And I invite you to join
8 me in that effort.

9 So on that, it's not a very good way to
10 end a talk, but it's very real. What's going on
11 today in the world is realistic. We can't get
12 around it. We have to deal with it and it's our
13 job, at least in our organization, to make sure
14 that every avenue is looked at to make sure our
15 communities are protected and our firefighters are
16 protected and we go to all extremes to make sure
17 that gets accomplished.

18 So having said that, Jim, once again, I
19 congratulate you on your tenure. Hope you have a
20 good conference. Good to see you all and we're
21 going to have a board meeting I think over the
22 lunch period.

23 Are there any questions of me? That's
24 good to see you all having a good conference.
25 Thank you.

1 (Applause.)

2 JIM LUBBERS: I guess we're ready now
3 for committee work and announcements from the
4 floor for committee meetings.

5 (Committee chairpersons
6 announced locations of
7 committee meeting.)

8 ROY REED: Mr. President, I request
9 five minutes of time to address the conference.

10 JIM LUBBERS: Is there anymore
11 committee meetings or announcement for committee
12 meetings?

13 ROY REED: When will these presidents
14 learn to pick on the old fart when they know he's
15 coming up to talk after them?

16 Bob, I want to -- it's hard to follow
17 your words of wisdom, but I'm going to try.

18 How many of you here have a license plate
19 that says "Firefighter" on it? Raise your hand.
20 Thank you. How many of you applied for the
21 firefighter recertification of that license plate
22 and has had trouble doing that? Okay. Let me
23 read you a memo from the Kansas Department of
24 Revenue and this memo comes or goes out to all
25 county treasurers and staff from Peggy Stalcath

1 (sp), assistant manager, May the 10th, 2008:
2 "Personal tag certification renewals. It has come
3 to our attention that several of the
4 certifications that are required of a special
5 plate before they can renew or make application
6 for delivery and not be completely properly filled
7 out. The certification must be complete in its
8 entirety that has an original signature of the
9 authorizing agent before acceptance in the county
10 treasurer's office."

11 That means when you get the chief's
12 signature that you have to fill out the thing, not
13 just the chief's name on it. You have to fill out
14 the certification. Some of the problems that are
15 currently being experienced are listed below. The
16 the registration year is missing or incomplete,
17 the original signature is missing, the
18 firefighters -- listen to this -- the firefighters
19 seem to be the biggest abusers of this
20 requirement.

21 To reiterate, the local fire chief's
22 authorizing signature must be the original. They
23 anticipate that if the statute is not immediately
24 attention required of the firefighters it will be
25 appropriate to attach to the owner delivery plate

1 and repeated offense would be grounds for
2 recalling the personal plate.

3 So what I think -- I'm going to give this
4 to Steve, the secretary, and let him handle it. A
5 lot of you probably don't know about this memo,
6 but we've had a lot of problems and they want to
7 say that the firefighters are a bunch of cry
8 babies. To me that plate is a badge of honor to
9 put on your car and drive down the highway and I
10 hope we can get it straightened out.

11 Thank you.

12 (Applause.)

13 JIM LUBBERS: Anymore committee
14 assignments? If not, we're dismissed till 1
15 o'clock.

16 (Lunch break taken.)

17 JIM LUBBERS: At this time we'll get
18 started the afternoon session our keynote speaker
19 and it's George E. Lucia, Senior. He's the fire
20 chief of Palomar Mountain Fire Department. He's
21 served seven years for the City of Visca Fire
22 Department in Visca, California; senior
23 investigator in the fire marshal's office, retired
24 fire chief in Hillsdale, New Jersey; and at this
25 time we'll welcome George Lucia, Senior.

1 GEORGE LUCIA: Thank you.

2 Good afternoon and thank you for coming.

3 Thanks for coming and thanks for the invitation on
4 behalf of my wife, Teresa, myself. We're very
5 pleased and proud to be here in Kansas. I got to
6 tell you, this is our first time. I have waved to
7 you many a time, but never knew what it was like
8 down here and thanks to Andy and the board, I got
9 an invite to come and speak and we are just
10 enjoying our time here. It's wonderful country.
11 I know we're going to come back. The hospitality
12 has been wonderful.

13 I'm going to apologize up front to you.
14 I'm from the east coast. I did 30 years in New
15 Jersey, a stone's throw from Manhattan, and I
16 decided I needed some new culture and went to San
17 Diego, so my accent a little bit mixed up.
18 Sometimes I'm talking and if you don't get it,
19 I'll back up for you. Even dispatch says you
20 better say that again.

21 Am I going to be in one of your books?
22 All right. This guy is 50 plus years, I'm aiming
23 for your job. Thank you.

24 Hey, I brought a power point and it's a
25 story. I'm here to share with you today, not to

1 teach you. I have enjoyed a lot of wonderful
2 experiences in my career, my short career of 40
3 years, and I think a lot of it you can relate to.
4 I'm not the big city guy, although I work with
5 them all the time. My roots come from a small
6 volunteer fire department back east. Reminds me
7 very, very much of some of the areas I passed here
8 and it is very, very much like where I landed on
9 top of Palomar Mountain.

10 Just quick background: East coast, real
11 busy place, started out as a junior firefighter at
12 16 and always wanted to be a firefighter and I
13 think a lot of us can share that. Went through
14 the rank, worked as a chief, worked as a
15 coordinator, worked with the paid department as a
16 building inspector, got to do a lot of everything
17 back east. My hallmark is fire prevention as a
18 fire inspector investigator, marshal, started a
19 juvenile program that went national, one of the
20 standards that come out of the fire academy. In
21 fact, that's where I met Andy at the fire academy
22 and so big time into fire prevention and fire
23 administration, but very successful with grass
24 roots and small organizations.

25 Had a rude awakening when I went to the

1 west coast and I share this with you. On the east
2 coast everybody is friendly and everybody knows
3 their neighbors and we all work together and my
4 county was 71 municipalities, five career, the
5 rest volunteer; you didn't know the difference.
6 When the engine pulled up it was a firefighter and
7 they knew what to do and didn't matter whether we
8 were paying them or not, same effort, same
9 conviction, everything. Went to California and I
10 found out they put out they're almost all career.
11 They don't talk much nor are they very friendly.
12 Very different crew. I went to work for them.
13 Went to work for the big giant out there and at
14 Visca for a while, which was four station,
15 100,000, 40 square miles. It was a big operation
16 and it was a lot of fun.

17 But I think my biggest reward and the
18 story I'm going to tell you today is a little town
19 in the Palomar community. It's near San Diego.
20 There's 200 year round residents. They figured
21 out Pluto wasn't a planet. They're the bad guys.
22 But small forest town with a lot of history and a
23 lot of excitement recently.

24 It was the anchor point of one of the
25 major fire storms in 2007, and we're going to show

1 you a little bit about that. My intent today is
2 to tell you that I think you're doing a great job.
3 My intent today is to tell you that I think we're
4 on the right track and that you are in the top
5 ranking and don't be intimidated by some of the
6 things that are going on around the nation.

7 One thing I was talking with a couple of
8 the chiefs and I said, you know, I dread when the
9 mail comes and I get Fire Engineering or Fire
10 House. Don't get me wrong. I'm for technology,
11 I'm no safety, I'm no cutting edge, but I open
12 that magazine up and I'm scared to death that I
13 can't meet my budget because of new required
14 equipment, that I'm going to be sued because of
15 legislation or I'm going to be put out of business
16 and when I read that magazine, I just can't quite
17 understand what stand I'm supposed to take, but at
18 the end of the day, you will see this that I boil
19 it down to a couple simple things. It's about us,
20 neighbors helping neighbors, and about being a
21 community and fire stations are the anchor of
22 every community and it's about coming home safe
23 and it's as simple as when your neighbor calls and
24 says she's got fire how quick can we get there and
25 put water on it. When your neighbor calls and

1 says they've cut their finger, how quick can we
2 got there to put a Band-Aid on. If you make it
3 harder than that, it's going to become real, real
4 complicated and I don't think we need to do that.

5 So welcome Palomar Mountain San Diego
6 County. Beautiful place. If you've ever visited
7 Camp Pendleton Military Base, right next to the
8 Mexico border, as beautiful a place as it is in
9 Kansas, but if you want to see mountains and
10 highland, this is where it's at.

11 We experienced the 2007 fire. If you
12 followed a little bit of the news predominantly
13 California and the west coast is known for their
14 wild fires. I have to admit that I'm an east
15 coaster, so when I first went out there it was
16 kind of like me walking and looking at the tall
17 buildings in awe. I had no idea what it was or
18 what to do, but I was quickly thrown under the bus
19 and learned a lot about wild fires. They pass by
20 a ball field in about three seconds. They go tree
21 to tree and you best just get out of the way. You
22 can't stop them. We're going to see some
23 interesting photos. It is the story of a
24 community preparation for a wild fire that was
25 overdue. We'll learn about the event, the

1 community preparation, the lessons learned from
2 this fire event. I'm not going to say that
3 there's going to be a wild fire here in Kansas.
4 I'm sure you have your good share of prairie
5 fires, but I will tell you any event, whether it
6 be hazardous, tornado, it's about your community
7 and it's about surviving and it's about coming
8 home alive. And some of the things we learned
9 about community I hope that you're already doing.
10 Might be a reminder or might be a good idea.

11 Again, just to give you some idea, I
12 spent 30 years in Bergen County in one of those
13 little towns where you do anything. If they find
14 out you can be fire chief, you can be in charge of
15 the planning commission. They'll give you all of
16 the jobs that you'll take. Again, my west coast,
17 culture change, but did a stint as fire marshal,
18 Conley Fire Chief and fire marshal in a couple of
19 small towns. I was there. I want you to know
20 that I did start at the bottom and that's an
21 original Scott 1. Anybody -- how about you with
22 50 years? Do you remember that air pack, canvas
23 coat? And I was ready to go. I was ready to
24 fight fire and so that's 40 years ago, so I --
25 I'll fill in the blanks, but I want you to know I

1 started where you all started and I want you to
2 trust me.

3 I'm from New Jersey. Does that mean
4 anything? Forty years in the business and I
5 believe that we can all make a difference. My
6 administrative wasn't about my chief car covered
7 with fire retardant. We're going to tell this
8 story and show about community cooperation.
9 Everybody has a mission and I think ours probably
10 runs pretty parallel to yours. We dedicate
11 ourselves to providing a professional service that
12 protects life and property and preserves the
13 Palomar Mountain quality of life. We all say it
14 in a different way, we all mean the same thing.
15 We like our neighbors, we like our home and we
16 want it to be here forever, for our kids and
17 future generations and that's what it's all about.

18 So we got a tin house and we got pictures
19 of old equipment. Look at my new friend here.
20 This is how we stand. Interesting enough, in the
21 midst of career departments and big cities, one of
22 the few remaining volunteer fire departments in
23 California, the land, the station, the equipment
24 all owned by the fire board, by the fire
25 department. No connection with the county or the

1 state or -- it's ours. We sold a lot of barbecue
2 and baked a lot of apple pies to buy that
3 equipment, and so there it is. We certainly apply
4 for grants and they're out there and we have quite
5 a few new pieces of equipment that reflect the
6 grants, but at the end of the day it's those
7 people who threw money in our blanket and donate
8 in the jug and buy a pie and come to our annual
9 barbecue that are putting the fuel in our rigs and
10 paying for fire insurance. When I went to Palomar
11 we had -- a little bit about it; it's 300
12 residential rooftops, about 55 percent of the
13 people live there full time, 45 percent part time.
14 There's no septic, no water, no sewer. It's a
15 large tourist population, state park, Palomar
16 Observatory. If anybody's into motor sports or
17 motorcycles, if you go to Palomar Mountain you'd
18 find the international tracks to race your motor
19 bike; few lanes, few guardrails and certainly is
20 job security for us. We take two, three, four
21 serious accidents on every weekend day scraping
22 them up. And it's rural. What's our community
23 made of? This may kind of remind you of your
24 little town. We are the volunteer fire
25 department. People look to us as the anchor in

1 our community and that can be different as we get
2 bigger, as people become cities, but most of
3 America are still rural, most of America are small
4 communities and most of us want to stay this way,
5 so they look at the volunteer fire department as
6 the core group, as the anchor that's never going
7 to change, that's always going to be there. Where
8 else can you get 20 people, equipment,
9 coordination in seconds? No other organization
10 can do that, not even a paid police department and
11 we are it. So we have the fire department, we
12 have a local search team, we have the fire staff
13 council that seeks grants and goes after fire
14 safety projects, my Board of Directors who
15 supports me is elected officials of the town and
16 they control the purse string. I have the land
17 association, property owner's association, which
18 is like a local group, worries about their values
19 and quality of life. We work with the national
20 forest because the majority of our property up
21 there is all forest. We work with Cal Fire, which
22 was CDF back in the day and that's the California
23 Fire Department. We work closely with them. We
24 work with the counties and the state parks. The
25 observatory which is part of Cal Tech, it's a

1 school. We work with Bureau of Indian Affairs and
2 Bureau of Land Management. We have local schools.
3 We only have a one-room school house, K through 8.
4 We have a Christian conference center. It's a
5 Bible retreat that brings 500 people up every
6 weekend. None of them are used to be being 6,000
7 feet up. Most of them I think come in closer to
8 Heaven for a reason, based on our EMS calls there.
9 We have a little general store, a restaurant
10 that's vegetarian, that's all you can get up there
11 and we have the amateur radio club. That is the
12 layout of the people who are involved in our
13 little community, nothing more, nothing less.

14 So when will the fire strike? We're
15 looking at Tijuana and Mexico down into the
16 valley, and when I first got there I kind of
17 inherited the problem of I was very happy to be
18 back with the volunteer fire department. I didn't
19 think there were any on the west coast and I was
20 very happy to be a chief again and be a part of
21 operations. I had 11 citizens who were in the
22 fire department. Of them about five were EMTs.
23 You need to know that we are the only service at
24 the top of the mountain. There are no career, no
25 other fire stations; it's just the volunteers.

1 Our closest help is one hour a way at the bottom
2 of the mountain. Our closest trauma center is an
3 hour and-a-half away by road so each of our
4 traumas or EMT calls that merit it are air flights
5 and we truly, truly do depend on the volunteers
6 for everything. I have a kid -- I'm Andy Griffith
7 of Palomar. My wife will attest that. The door
8 bell rings, it means somebody's having a baby, the
9 dog is lost, somebody's beating somebody up and
10 there's a problem that we need to take care of and
11 so we do it. We do it. It's our community. I
12 inherited no recorded fire at the top of the
13 mountain ever, no forest health programs, no fuel
14 reduction programs, increasing standing dead
15 timber due to drought and bark beetle infestation.
16 This is a forest that's overgrown. The terrain
17 and topography is a 6,000-foot climb. There's two
18 ways up, two ways down on the grade; both of them
19 covered with forest land and nobody has taken a
20 step to prevent a fire or get ready for it. In
21 2003 history shows we had the cedar fire and the
22 paradise fire, both fires at the bottom of the
23 mountain and destroyed houses and thousands of
24 acres, thousands and thousands of homes, killed
25 many people in California, came to the base of the

1 mountain and started up. I'd love to tell you we
2 put the fire out. It rained. That's the only
3 thing that stopped the fire, the weather turned on
4 us in our favor, but it made us realize. It was a
5 wake-up call. I was inheriting the rain. I
6 looked around at what I could do. The fire safe
7 council was born. These were people, these were
8 citizens who were interested, who had some
9 talents, which whether it was computer skills or
10 administrative skills, started writing grants to
11 do some safety work on the mountain under the
12 direction of the local fire department. Some of
13 the things they did, they did homeowner education
14 and awareness. They did planning with the
15 community and the county. They did pre-attack
16 planning. We were finally taking a good look at
17 what could happen, not about HAZMAT calls or
18 terrorists, but real life, what was going to
19 happen in our community, what could we actually
20 expect and the wild land danger came up as number
21 one. With all of the things we had to worry
22 about, the truth of the matter was the two was the
23 wild land danger, the one that was going to tap us
24 on the mountain, the one that we needed to be most
25 concerned about. This is most of the shots we

1 took during the 2007 fire. You can see a few of
2 them. I can just tell you that wild fire, what
3 they show on television is no match for being
4 there. Daytime turns night, we're dealing with
5 70-mile an hour winds. I know you know what that
6 is, but each of them taking ember and fire moving
7 it two miles ahead of you and you can't catch it,
8 you can't stop it. You best be ready for it and
9 get out of the way.

10 Interesting enough, in 2007, about two
11 weeks prior to the fire, or maybe three weeks
12 prior to the fire, I held a chief's conference and
13 I brought in all my state and county coordinators,
14 all my school officials, police and sheriff, sat
15 down and gave them my operating plan that I had
16 written, structural protection, communication,
17 survival. We laid it all out. We had done a fast
18 track three-month survey. I was able to
19 distribute to each of them a booklet, location,
20 addresses, water supplies, topography, danger
21 zones. I don't know why we did it, but three
22 weeks later the fire occurred. This is the sign
23 from the fire station the day before the fire.
24 Signs were in, humidity was down to two percent,
25 winds were kicking up and it was hot. Moisture

1 content was zero. It was dry. We made
2 recommendation, access evacuation shelters in
3 place, public education, local preparedness, our
4 capabilities, what could homeowners do,
5 modification projects and water supply. It's all
6 about exposure. If you've got big open field and
7 there's nothing to connect that, super. If you
8 don't, if you've got housing or exposures or
9 things that start a fire, then you have to look at
10 some of these things. It's about a plan, it's
11 about a customized plan for your own home. We
12 selected the area and ID'd the players. We picked
13 the worst spots, we analyzed key components, fire
14 behavior. We compile components, the community
15 protection plan, pre- attack plan. We looked
16 ahead for future needs. All of these things were
17 benefits in how we survived. Our topography is
18 brush, mountain scrub, tall trees and gulleys.
19 There's nothing level there and everything has its
20 own weather and wind and during a fire it seems to
21 take its own course of action.

22 Just a little history on defensible
23 space. History has shown us that if we can clear
24 a hundred foot around a structure and make that
25 structure non-combustible, a roof and

1 non-combustible siding, the house will be saved.
2 If we can do those things -- and we're talking
3 about existing homes because we've got legislation
4 to make all new homes fire right into defensible
5 space, but, you know, it's us who bought the
6 house. Do we want to cut the trees around the
7 house, do we want to put at that time wood shakes
8 off and put composite or laid on? Do we want to
9 clean up all of the spots that could cause a fire
10 to start? This is kind of an aerial shot of the
11 mountain. Again, to describe it, you know, there
12 are no street numbers. It's whose house, what
13 easement do they live down. Every one of our
14 pieces of equipment are 4-wheel drive and when the
15 snow comes -- yes, snow in San Diego -- those
16 4-wheel drive chains front and back to get out
17 there and this is what we inherited. There's a
18 lot of dead standing, a lot of remote areas. So
19 defensible space is a big deal. The fire safe
20 council did a super job. We were the top getter
21 in grants for five years after 2003, millions and
22 millions of dollars, contractors coming in and
23 doing logging, clearing and it made a difference.
24 We picked fire stops, we picked evacuation areas,
25 but we continued to be listed as the highest and

1 most dangerous fire hazard in California. We were
2 actually running amuck and they were trying to put
3 us in a national rating, pretty much putting fear
4 and terror in everybody's eyes. But we worked
5 together and we used anybody we could. It wasn't
6 just the firefighters and volunteers, but it was
7 the auxiliary, the cadets, the boy scouts, the
8 neighbors, anybody who wanted it to come out, the
9 search team, and we would constantly trim and
10 clear and rip, which on Sundays went to a barbecue
11 afterward just to try to keep the areas clean. It
12 became a community project and everybody believed
13 it. Some of the kids were helping us out. Most
14 of these people have grown a few years and are now
15 on the department as full-fledged volunteers.
16 Typical roadways we deal with were two-way
17 traffic. That's the kind of place that you go up
18 and the fire jumps across, you can't back out, but
19 we're making great progress. We're starting to
20 chip and cut and use some special machines to get
21 in these areas and slow the fires down. This is
22 an interesting photo because this is where I live.
23 It's called east grade and it's one of the major
24 troughs that the fire came up. This story that
25 you're going to see how this fire actually stopped

1 dead at the street. A lot of it -- there's a lot
2 of reasons. I love to say it was because they had
3 a great fire chief. I can't say that. I'd love
4 to say it was one particular thing, but it was a
5 whole lot of preparation, a whole of lot of luck
6 and a whole lot of somebody looking down on us,
7 but I want to tell you this fire stopped and these
8 fuel breaks made a big difference after we
9 identified the potential that we had. Took a lot
10 of timber out, truckload after truckload, thinning
11 the forest. I learned the lesson. I'm a New
12 Jersey boy and I don't know what a forest is.
13 Certainly, these trees are right next to each
14 other, we didn't have a healthy forest. We
15 started cutting and moving it out. The community
16 became interested and this is a part that's
17 important. People wanted to help. My
18 predecessor -- and he's still around and I say
19 nothing bad about him -- was military fire
20 department on Pendleton, very black and white,
21 these are the rules, we follow them. I come from
22 the east coast, a little more laid back, a lot of
23 bathroom cigar smoking, scotch drinking decisions
24 were made, but there was a difference between the
25 two of us. He had his eight volunteers that had

1 to follow the rules and if you didn't follow the
2 rules you were out. I had a community base of 200
3 who I needed every one of them and I knew every
4 one of them had something to give and so by
5 reorganizing the fire department and saying what's
6 your talent, come see me, adding firefighter
7 level, medical level, auxiliary level and
8 different support levels I was able to put each of
9 these groups on compensation insurance, give them
10 a level of training and open the doors of my fire
11 station to everybody. Everybody who came down and
12 made me an offer had manage to do. Suddenly I had
13 the computer expert, the biologist, the engineer
14 and scientist that worked at the Palomar
15 Observatory. I had the store clerk. Not
16 everybody was a firefighter. Not everybody wanted
17 to put that gear on and crawl under that structure
18 fire we have once every three years, but they all
19 wanted to offer something and I realized also I
20 could not afford not to take their offer. So we
21 trained them. We made different levels of
22 positions and you could come in and be a class 1
23 firefighter, get your firefighter 1, train you on
24 instrumental fire fighting, get your EMTB, now
25 we're going up to AI and I where we can give drugs

1 and IV medicine. My rank swelled from 8 to thirty
2 and I now had a healthy fire department. All of
3 those people are good EMTs now so we can give good
4 care. For the people who weren't ready to do that
5 then there was a certification program where they
6 could learn basic survival in case of an
7 earthquake or fire. These people were great at
8 communication, great logistics, great at closing
9 roads. Then there's the fire core, the fire safe
10 council. There was just so many avenues that
11 these volunteers could do and the difference was
12 my doors were open. I followed my firefighters.
13 This is no longer the good ol' boys club; this is
14 going to be the neighborhood sanctuary where
15 people can come and we will be friendly because
16 those are the people we serve and when people
17 learn that they could give anything, historians,
18 photography, public relations, PIO, preparing food
19 for us, you know, rehabilitation, research, grant
20 writers, people who are in business on their
21 regular workweek that are offering their skills
22 for us and I'm like, we'll take it, sold, you're
23 hired. And so we took them and so our rank grew
24 and this is all before the fire. We kept
25 graduating class after class of people that were

1 involved, understood the system, knew their place,
2 wouldn't put themselves in danger but certainly
3 supported those 30 trained firefighters so we
4 could do more with what we had and we drilled. We
5 drilled with them often. We would have a Monday
6 night training, a weekend training and we would
7 make it family style. It wasn't come down and I
8 didn't hear from the wives or husbands or the
9 kids; I don't get to see my father or my mother.
10 Bring everybody down. There's a place for you. I
11 can figure out what to do. You can be a victim,
12 you can hide, you can help me with the radio. We
13 encourage family participation and you'd be
14 surprised how morale and spirits came up, how many
15 wives didn't shudder when it was drill night and
16 or the pager went off. We came back from the fire
17 and they were there. They had the cold iced tea
18 made or the hot coffee in the winter and it became
19 a real family thing. Training was good. There
20 were grants out there. The federal government and
21 the county. We went to training. I would get
22 slide shows. I would get equipment. It was all
23 free to us. We didn't have the money and we would
24 train everybody on the basics. We tried to keep
25 it down to the basics. If there's a fire, if

1 there's an emergency, how can you stabilize it for
2 me until we get there, till we bring the big
3 attacks, the trucks and we would install smoke
4 alarms, exit plans, communications. The search
5 crew learned the basic first aid so they could
6 triage during a major disaster. One of the things
7 that was really important about the fire of 2003
8 and 2007, that was a regional event. It wasn't an
9 isolated event. An isolated event, earthquake
10 that's along the fault line, I will get so much
11 resource. I'll have everybody join the fire
12 department there in an hour. They've gone flying
13 in, but the fire in 2007 was the sixth fire of
14 six, it was four days into the incident. There
15 was no aircraft flying. Everybody else was
16 committed somewhere else, my closest aid was from
17 northern California and the State of Washington so
18 I had to sit 72 hours with just my volunteers,
19 nobody else. We had not thought that would ever
20 happen to us, but we had planned for the worst.
21 Plots of practice. We looked into the
22 alternatives. Sometimes unorthodox, sometimes
23 proven. How can we slow a fire down? How could
24 we do something on our own? Fire gels were one of
25 the things coming out. A lot of companies offered

1 to give us samples and try it. We tried the best
2 that were environmentally safe save because we're
3 in a national forest. They were made to a green
4 method. They were easy to apply. They were
5 effective, we found, for more than seven days. My
6 best explanation of the foam was that it's like
7 putting shaving cream on and it just grows and it
8 insulates the fire and you can go back and
9 rehydrate it two or three days later in the
10 humidity and it continues to protect that
11 structure or that circumference from fire. We had
12 fire come through and skip right over things that
13 should have burned down because of the gel. The
14 search people learned rescue methods, how to treat
15 and begin triage. Very important, so we only sent
16 the services to where we really needed it. We
17 continued to graduate these people and give them
18 refreshing courses. The firefighters, they were
19 challenged. I mean, we all have our challenges,
20 but I had never seen a progressive lay a mountain
21 before and certainly, you know, I was used to five
22 flights of stairs at a high-rise, but this was a
23 whole lot different. So now we're learning how to
24 put a mile of hose out with a single feed and loop
25 around the fire and try to cut it off and then put

1 it out. So a lot of training involved, certain
2 hazardous, but we got pretty good at it. Kind of
3 get an idea. This was an actual spot fire that we
4 got one day. Aerial view of the fire in the
5 mountain, again, topography tough, a lot of rock,
6 lot of steep grade, lot of fuel and the wind just
7 takes it right up and over and it's just a sheet
8 of fire trying to pass you by. The map kind of
9 shows. You see the squiggle in the red and that's
10 the motorcycle heaven. Those are the switchbacks
11 that go from zero to 6,000 feet and the boys and
12 girls just love it and so from Saturday morning
13 till Sunday night they will race up that hill or
14 off the hill or into each other and try to make it
15 to the top but that climb, that change in
16 topography from ground level to 6,000 feet is
17 where we get hooked. That fire started at the
18 bottom and came to the top, the top road, east
19 grade, and then State Park Road. You can see that
20 it never jumped or we kept it from jumping into
21 the residential area. That was that 72 hours with
22 no help, no aircraft, no nothing, 30 volunteers,
23 my search crew, my anybody who could help me went
24 to work and it worked. It really did work.
25 Here's a visual of it. You can see that same line

1 of demarkation of where the fire stopped and the
2 green on in the residential section where it came
3 up to the top. It took about three hours to get
4 from the bottom to the top at full tilt, 70 miles
5 an hour. Our only water supply was a water tanker
6 3,400 gallons, and we got that from a grant. As
7 soon as the fire started, the power was out, no
8 water pumps, no wells. You see our little fire
9 station in the hook in the road there? At the
10 height of the fire we were in the station standing
11 by watching what was going on, the fire crested
12 the top at this point it jumped across this one
13 road and went this one way and that's where my
14 house is and another 150 houses close to each
15 other and at that point each of my volunteers
16 looked at each other and said there goes our
17 houses, all of our effort is not going to work
18 here and we were able to regroup, calm down,
19 string a line of hose up and stop the fire that
20 was within a hundred foot of everybody's house,
21 that's a hundred foot -- I mean, that was a mile
22 of inch hose put in by hand all the way up.
23 Again, just us calling for help, sorry, John Wayne
24 time, not coming, 72 hours away. Another shot of
25 it, how close it came. And, again, you've seen

1 the pictures. It's tremendous. It just passes
2 you by. It's a mile ahead of you. Imagine
3 fireworks raining down on you and every place it
4 drops a new fire starts and if your backyard has
5 plastic play toys, a pile of wood, an RV vehicle
6 and it's not treated that ember will start that on
7 fire and it will transmit to your house so we had
8 a hundreds of pot fires moving on the mountain.
9 Shot of the big dome at the observatory and it's
10 coming up the back, the mushroom cloud. We were
11 in the sixth fire, we had no resources for 72
12 hours, we did great. The fire continued into the
13 back country where it was steered around the
14 residential area, got into the back in the state
15 park and continued. The weather calmed down a
16 little bit, aircraft went up, a lot of C-130's, a
17 lot of major helicopters. They brought that DV-4
18 in. Looks like it's standing still and drops
19 water. We had more resources 72 hours later than
20 you could have ever wished for. I had the entire
21 L.A. County Fire Department on top of the
22 mountain, type 1 engines. We had an engine in
23 front of everybody's house 72 hours later. They
24 came. They came, but it took time for them to get
25 there. This is a shot of where the fire first

1 crested and this happens to be a typical house
2 right at the top and so we made a projection that
3 based on the fire speed this was going to be the
4 first house that was going to be involved. You
5 know, being the old guy that I am, I'm like well,
6 this has to be simple. The fire is coming up a
7 hill that's really steep and it's going to crest
8 at the top. If any kind of luck comes by, the
9 heat's going to go straight up, we should be able
10 to stop it right there so we completely foamed
11 this house. We put gel on it and a foam. We set
12 up our structural protection so that we could
13 protect it from fire. We had an hour left before
14 the fire was going to make the crest, so we went
15 back to the fire station, grabbed all our
16 five-gallon jugs of Class A foam, dumped it in the
17 water pumper and applied it up and down those
18 streets. We walked the water pumper, refilled it
19 so we had a hundred feet either side pre-applied
20 of Class A foam an hour before the fire came.
21 Just at the fire came, we lit a back fire. Little
22 sketchy thing to be lighting a fire during a fire,
23 but we lit a fire. The fire burned down to where
24 the fire came up and went out. It went out. It
25 was the most amazing sight we've ever seen. It

1 burnt for another five days, but we did not lose a
2 single home on the top of this mountain. At the
3 very peak of the mountain, not a single house or
4 structure was lost. This is a shot of when the
5 fire first came in. I was on the No. 5 fire,
6 assigned to No. 5. It started on an Indian
7 reservation in a house. Best guess it was a 3:00
8 a.m. barbecue and 70 mile an hour winds that got
9 away. No matter what the reason, it started.
10 That's what it looked like. It was a fire storm
11 that was just moving miles in minutes and you were
12 trying to project which way it was going to go,
13 uphill and westward. All of our resources were
14 coming from the westward side. They had to come
15 through the fire. Electric lines went down. It
16 just became a major logistical mess. That's the
17 house that we saved. That's a shot of the house
18 when we first came up. I had never experienced
19 daylight going to night and maybe the weather
20 conditions here that will do that to you also, but
21 when I tell you that driving my car I was looking
22 out the window looking for the white line trying
23 to stay on the road in the middle of the smoke and
24 fire. The aircraft finally came and I'm telling
25 you, thank goodness. What a difference they made.

1 Christian conference center, housed up to 500
2 people during the fire, L.A. County engines now
3 protecting it. Fire burned right around it.
4 Didn't lose a single chapel, bungalow, nothing.
5 Lucky. There is nothing like aircraft. I used to
6 call them tankers. I found out -- I was educated
7 now that things with rubber wheels on the ground
8 are tenders and things that fly are tenders.
9 There's nothing like one of them coming over the
10 top of you and you can just about touch its wheel
11 as it starts to drop. One of the most exciting
12 things in the world.

13 You saw the shot of my car covered with
14 red and there's a little story about that. Don't
15 fool with the guys above you. We're calling them
16 and I say I want to put a line of retardant in
17 this area and I made the mistake of being a little
18 arrogant and have a little bit of tone and said,
19 "Do you think you can hit that spot for me?" and
20 he said, "What spot?" and I said, "You know where
21 my car is parked, I need you to hit that." He put
22 it on my car. Since that day he looks at the
23 number on my car, can be anybody else's fire,
24 fire's a mile away, he dumps it on my car. He
25 still has not gotten over that.

1 Heavy equipment, one of the biggest
2 things we can get. Sounds funny in a wild land
3 fire, first response additional alarm. We'll get
4 engines and trucks, we'll get dozer on low boys
5 and we'll get a fleet of aircraft if the weather
6 is right. So our theory now is to throw
7 everything we have at it to keep the fire small.

8 Again, tremendous, tremendous fire,
9 something that we've never experienced. We look
10 on this every day. Most of us commute to work
11 right down this hill every day and so to see this
12 thing coming at us is just amazing. A lot of
13 urgency, a lot of we've got to do something now.
14 Shot out of the back of the 130. This is one of
15 the areas that were high priority to protect.
16 We're given assignments to protect these
17 priorities along with our own homes. This is
18 looking out of the back of a C-130 as he's going
19 to make a few dumps. This is not the time he was
20 going to put it on my car because I wouldn't let
21 him. He yanks that lever and they drop that
22 retardant down. They head back for a reload. The
23 college and the observatory complex, again in the
24 very top of the mountain in the very back of the
25 mountain, a very rural area so another place,

1 again, not high residential, but high historic
2 value and one of the areas we need to protect.

3 Situations that you don't always think
4 of. You know, if we had to totally evacuate Great
5 Bend or I had to totally evacuate Palomar
6 Mountain, have I thought of everything that needs
7 to be done in advance? I'm not a horse handler,
8 I'm not a large animal. I'm a large animal lover,
9 but I don't have a horse, but every one of these
10 animals had to be evacuated. Not everybody had a
11 trailer, not everybody had a plan and when they
12 dumped them off for somewhere, they didn't have
13 feed for them, they didn't have water for them.
14 They were running loose unidentified, so we
15 learned a lesson. We were kind of prepared for it
16 and we did okay. We learned a lesson that it's a
17 whole lot about the individuals and their pets and
18 what they have with them, what's dear to them.
19 You know, to me it might be my antiques and to you
20 it might be your archives and to somebody else it
21 might be something else, but whatever they're
22 going to try to take with them, you need to make
23 some kind of provision that we can handle that for
24 them.

25 This is daylight. Pretty much how we

1 worked, we keep filling our engines going around
2 and we keep hitting spot fires. We'd have to keep
3 going back. One of the things we learned is that
4 the fire front can pass through and there can be
5 embers everywhere and you won't see them and if
6 you don't patrol, that ember could have gotten in
7 an attic, in a gutter or under a deck and fires
8 will start and we would have fires popping up an
9 hour later, five hours later or six hours later,
10 so you never, never could let your guard down.

11 It was very pleasant to attend the
12 logistics meetings in the morning. This started
13 out as a local fire. Because there were six it
14 became an inter agency fire. It became a combined
15 command fire. I have had the bad experience in
16 the past of turf wars; not recently, but go back a
17 few years. I'm the chief, this is mine, you're
18 the chief, it's mine. We would fight more than we
19 would do good. I am so pleased to say that in
20 these couple of fires the command was uniformed.
21 There was no issues with who was in charge.
22 Everybody was in charge. Everybody had a piece of
23 the pie. What can I do to help you today? What
24 does your neighborhood need today and they were
25 great about it. We got generators to the

1 mountain, we got outhouses, we got refreshments,
2 we got dumpsters to clean up the spoiled food and
3 all of the damage. It was about helping each
4 other, no one person grandstanding. I can't
5 emphasize how important that is. I really think
6 those days were gone, but I still have them back
7 in my memory.

8 This was our little administration house
9 next to the fire station. It wasn't burnt. It
10 wasn't immune to damage. Again, looking down in
11 the valleys.

12 I got in a great conversation today about
13 grants and funding. Things are tough. Things are
14 tough all over and it's bleak about where the
15 money is going to come from, but there are grants
16 out there and you need to be creative on how you
17 can get them and get somebody who's been
18 successful to help you with them. They don't
19 always have to be the million dollar grants or the
20 \$50,000 grants. It could be a single item that
21 makes a difference in your life. With the state
22 parks and the narrow easement, this Polaris
23 six-wheel has made a difference for the hiker or
24 the person who's just snowed in or patrolling for
25 fire. Probably one of the best, most useful tools

1 we received. Another shot of the gel and how it's
2 applied. The type of exposures that we dealt
3 with, houses in the middle of a grade like that,
4 mid slope grade and trying to keep the fire to go
5 around it and not through it. Application of the
6 retardant prior to the fire coming in. Another
7 good job for the search and auxiliary members.
8 We're getting ready for the big fight, they're out
9 there in areas prior to the fire prepping them.

10 Cleveland Fires has their own fire
11 fighting capabilities, but they are a forest
12 management group. Fire is not their priority.
13 They would rather let the fires burn because it's
14 healthy. We have a unit that helps us during the
15 fire season, but they're gone the rest of the
16 time. We work very closely with them. Very
17 talented. We put on a barbecue, bring everybody
18 down, teach them about smoke detectors and fire
19 gel, get grants to give it out free to anybody who
20 wanted it, showing how to use it.

21 Here's a shot of one of our unlucky
22 motorcyclists and our unlucky driver. Typical
23 roadway. This is the main thoroughfare, hooks
24 back and forth all the way uphill. Truthfully,
25 medical calls are our busiest thing, although we

1 do get the occasional car or structure. And
2 again, we rely solely on the water tenders for
3 water. It's our only source. Working very hard
4 to bring our ISO rating down from a 9 to about an
5 8.5 so we can enjoy better insurance, but there
6 are some things that are beyond our control. The
7 story prior to the ATV grant was call in the
8 middle of the winter, woman expecting twins with a
9 high-risk pregnancy needed to go to the hospital,
10 was going into labor. Even our four-wheel drives
11 and the chain couldn't make it the three
12 and-a-half miles back to the house, so it was a
13 hike by the boys to bring her out. She is the
14 happy mother of twins today, healthy twins.

15 This is the antique that I will save. I
16 was telling you about my antiques. It's a 1929
17 Diamante, fully restored in my garage. It's the
18 first thing to save if the mountain goes. And our
19 station and our barbecue. We have that once a
20 year fund raiser to bring everyone together, give
21 a safety message. Let's do a great job, everybody
22 pitches in. Looks pretty familiar, doesn't it,
23 how we raise our money? Captive audience, safety
24 demonstrations.

25 We talked a little bit about some people

1 today. They call it an air quick unit. We kind
2 of saw it at a couple of the conventions. You
3 don't need a pump. It's silent, more effective.
4 We did more hit and run spot fires with these
5 because they were on the pickup trucks than we can
6 get the type 1s and type 2s into. Very impressive
7 and we got it on a grant.

8 And Santa did get snowed on. Poor ladder
9 truck was cold that afternoon. We do our boot
10 drive too. You know, we try to shake down the
11 motorcycles and the tourists. But at the end of
12 the day we're just a community, a community that
13 survived a fire and is in the process of
14 rebuilding itself. Green is coming back. The
15 trees are coming back. We still have some of the
16 scars. Another good view of that line of
17 demarkation, amazing, just amazing.

18 I look at it today and I still shake my
19 head, no rhyme or reason to how or why that
20 happened, but like to think we did a lot of good
21 things, lot of pre-planning and again, someone
22 smiling down on us. Some of the lower areas
23 weren't as lucky in the throat of the fire, base
24 of the mountain, but our people appreciated us. I
25 got to tell you that at the end of the day they

1 knew we had prepared, they knew the threat was
2 there. They felt like they were rewarded for
3 their good efforts and life goes on. They're as
4 excited and motivated about safety and working
5 with us today as ever before.

6 We had put out a call for help. I was
7 trying to reach beyond my borders because I had
8 nobody. I reached back east to some friends of
9 mine at FDNY and they sent their American Red
10 Cross team who go out to disasters. These guys
11 flew into San Diego, grabbed their supplies and
12 were in our town before mutual aid got there. I
13 don't know how they got there. They made such a
14 difference in our life by feeding us, by bringing
15 us changes of underwear and socks and hot food and
16 just a chapel and a first aid station and not only
17 for the firefighters, but for the residents. They
18 came back, welcomed each one of them back and gave
19 them a kit to get back in their house and what to
20 do. I'm just -- the volunteers and the
21 associations that can come out to help you if you
22 reach out for them are just amazing. The little
23 store still stands, our only commercial building.
24 And so we made them honorary chiefs because we
25 knew that's what they wanted to be.

1 What's changed? First of all, I can't
2 tell you how proud I am of the Cinderella story
3 because it could have turned worse. I work in
4 Valley Center in my career job and people died
5 trying to escape the fire, people who were trapped
6 in their own homes, people who tried to drive in
7 the smoke and fire and ran off the road and once
8 they crashed their car they couldn't get out. It
9 was tragedy after tragedy of livestock and lost
10 homes, tens of thousands of homes, and they're in
11 a little community of volunteer firefighters and
12 we don't lose a single home. We have a success
13 story to talk about and go back to where we had
14 the potential to be the worst area.

15 Something to be said about looking a
16 little bit ahead, looking toward your community
17 and open your doors to the people who have the
18 ability to help you. We cashed in on our success.
19 We looked at the bad, we looked at the good and we
20 continued with it.

21 Recently, this fall, the Lance Armstrong
22 thing came through very suddenly. I'm not a
23 sports enthusiast. We were the last leg of the
24 tour. The people, some of the people they said
25 that the Palomar climb was harder than the Tour De

1 France. That must mean something to somebody.
2 They said it was very challenging and they're
3 going to come back.

4 You can see we had snow on the ground
5 when this went on. Our little community of 200
6 swelled to 100,000 that weekend; campers on the
7 side of the road, people everywhere, first aid
8 calls and we're a mountain town. We got a lot of
9 snakes, we got coyotes, we got foxes. These
10 people come up in sandals and Bermuda shorts, but
11 we handled it and we handled it the same way,
12 search time, ham radio operators, patrol auxiliary
13 and because the tour was going through the entire
14 region we were on our own and we were very lucky.
15 We had no incidents. The tour and everything
16 worked well.

17 I want to give you a message and, again,
18 I'm here to share. Be safe out there. You need
19 to be safe and effective. You do not need to be
20 the busiest or the best. You need to treat
21 everyone like family, you need to use every
22 resource available and you need to welcome
23 everyone into your fire station. I can't say more
24 than that.

25 Can we bring the lights up for a second?

1 Who's sleeping? My word of encouragement to you
2 is that you're doing a great job, that you're
3 doing the right thing, that this conference and
4 your interaction between people and you learn what
5 other people do and your education and your
6 resource, you're out there, you're top notch.
7 You're not in the middle of Kansas. Nobody's not
8 forgetting about you. I can tell you through my
9 experience that I've worked on the east coast,
10 next to FDNY and I work on the west coast next to
11 L.A. and San Diego and I would rather be here with
12 you than with them. I'm not saying that to dig
13 them. It's because you people care. It's a real
14 part of your life. You really know who your
15 neighbors are and you know what this job is all
16 about and whether you're in it a year and you're
17 going to turn 20 or you got your 58, that's when
18 you bring a lot of experience to the table. Yes,
19 there's some cities out there and I don't knock
20 the cities. I'm a union guy too. I've got a job
21 to do, but there's something about that 80
22 percent, something about you people in the grass
23 roots, the people that will make America go on.
24 We were built on this foundation and need to
25 continue with it. There's no doubt in my mind

1 that I watched 911 with this belief with all of
2 you. I watched Katrina go through Louisiana with
3 this belief and the fact that people could still
4 be standing on their roofs three weeks later
5 waiting to be rescued. Where was the government
6 that promised to help us? They weren't there.
7 There was a flaw in the system. I look back at my
8 grandparents and I say, boy, they could put up
9 preserves in a Mason jar and stock wood in the
10 winter and survive forever when the power went out
11 forever and my daughter -- don't tell her this --
12 she can text going 80 miles an hour but she can't
13 change a flat tire. Where did I go wrong? We
14 need to get back to basics. We need to pull these
15 people in and use our resources. My hats off to
16 you people. I'm so proud to be here today. This
17 is a group that I can connect with. You remind me
18 so much of my little Jersey volunteer fire
19 department. You remind me very, very much of my
20 Palomar Mountain crew helping each other and
21 endeavoring to do the best with what you have.
22 I'm encouraging you not to get caught up in what's
23 going on in the big cities. Don't get caught up
24 with we have to change it, we have to change it.
25 Yes, if it's a safety factor and we can do better,

1 let's do it. The truth of the matter is if you
2 can put the right stuff on, get that water
3 delivered, bring your boys home. If you can give
4 the best first aid to your people in the
5 neighborhood that's what it's all about. Your
6 community is going to support them. Reach out for
7 them. Find ways to support them. Invite them
8 into your fire station, find insurance through the
9 federal government insurance program and all those
10 different things that are out there. They'll
11 insure them, they'll train them. The more they
12 know about you, the more they're going to support
13 you, they're going to understand you.

14 So I encourage you to do this. I can
15 take some questions. I'm sure there's none. I
16 didn't come to teach you, I came to share a
17 wonderful experience that I had and to encourage
18 you to continue on with what you're doing. There
19 are some great grants out there right now and
20 people are being told that they're complicated and
21 you may not get them. I had discussion with some
22 people today about the Presidential Reinforcement
23 Program and the enhancement program and the
24 stimulus that's going on for fire stations and
25 they keep using the word shovel ready. Anybody

1 hear that out there? There's big money coming for
2 everybody who needs it and what you need to do is
3 register for it now through your OES or emergency
4 management. Get ahold of your people. It's out
5 there. The deadline for the applications will be
6 coming, but if you need a fire station, you need
7 an addition, you need a generator power supply,
8 they're looking for projects and are ready to go
9 and don't let that scare you. We kind of cut the
10 red tape in San Diego by outbidding some cookie
11 cutter fire stations, two bay, four bay, bunks.
12 We pick the one we wanted, we have our project
13 ready to go, we took it to our local authority; if
14 you have a planning group, a zoning board,
15 whatever controls it, we got a waiver from them
16 that this is a necessary community project and
17 waive the red tape. You do those two things,
18 you'll go to the top of the list for a fire
19 station. So don't close your eyes about those
20 grants. They are out there and anybody that wants
21 to call, I'll send you our plan so you can build
22 yourself a station too.

23 Again, thank you for your hospitality.
24 It was a wonderful trip. I think you've hooked
25 me. Where we going next year, Salina, somebody

1 tell me that? I think I'm coming for fun. This
2 is a great place. I'm no longer going to wave as
3 I fly over. I'm stopping.

4 So thank you everybody. Be safe. Any
5 questions? Thank you.

6 LUKE McCORMICK: Okay, at this time
7 we'll go ahead and take a break. I think the
8 agenda says we'll do nominations at 3:15. We'll
9 be back in here at 3:15.

10 (A break was taken.)

11 JIM LUBBERS: At this time we'll call
12 the chairperson for the Time and Place Committee
13 which will be Mr. Jennings.

14 RICHARD JANNE: Richard Janne,
15 Sedgwick County. I was told by several people
16 they didn't have enough time for me to talk, so I
17 said I will just read a written statement, okay?

18 Time and Place Committee gathered shortly
19 after the committee assignments were assigned by
20 the one and only Steve Hirsch, Kansas State
21 Firefighters' Association Secretary.

22 Roll call was taken and those in
23 attendance agreed that Donnie Bean, Burrton
24 Consolidated Fire District, would be the Committee
25 Chairperson. He then instructed his committee and

1 reminded all of the duties and responsibilities of
2 the Time and Place Committee.

3 At this time the Time and Place Committee
4 was approached by a member of the Manhattan Fire
5 Department, Chris Vandorn, with the intent on
6 placing their name and their department as a host
7 for the conference in 2011.

8 The committee then explained some of the
9 basic requirements that were needed for the Time
10 and Place Committee and we got this deer in the
11 headlight look and he smiled and said he'd get
12 back with us.

13 At that time the Time and Place Committee
14 recessed and sent its members out to look for any
15 other departments that would be interested in
16 hosting the conference in 2011.

17 On Friday, April 24th, the Time and Place
18 Committee Chairman Donnie Bean had a family
19 emergency and was called home. He requested that
20 Richard Jennings, somewhat new, step in as the new
21 Chairman of the Time and Place Committee and he
22 wanted to know if Brenda McNorton could be his
23 personal secretary. We all agreed.

24 The 121st Time and Place Committee again
25 met to discuss findings and it was reported that

1 no other department showed any interest in hosting
2 the conference in 2011. At this time our brave
3 Manhattan firefighter and spokesperson stepped
4 forward and assured the committee he was not drunk
5 the day before and his intentions were honest and
6 he presented the committee with a letter -- where
7 is he at -- that his intentions were sincere and
8 he presented the committee a letter of intent from
9 his fire department stating that he had the
10 backing of his chief, the department, the City of
11 Manhattan and the Chamber of Commerce and two
12 other hotels that were standing behind him on this
13 adventure.

14 The Time and Place Committee reviewed the
15 letters and we're satisfied and with no other
16 group wanting to place their name in the running
17 the Time and Place Committee accepted the bid and
18 would recommend that the good members of the
19 Kansas State Firefighters' Association accept
20 Manhattan as the host for the 2011 with them not
21 being placed on the ballot since they're the only
22 ones.

23 JIM LUBBERS: You have heard the Time
24 and Place Committee report. All in favor of
25 accepting.

1 (Group responded aye.)

2 JIM LUBBERS: All opposed; motion
3 carried.

4 RICHARD JENNINGS: At this time the
5 Time and Place Committee was approached by a
6 member of the Suggestions Committee and they were
7 wanting to have us -- they had a suggestion that
8 on the web page a list of the items that were
9 needed for them to bid on a conference intent, you
10 know, and stuff like this be put on there so they
11 could come better prepared.

12 We let them know that there is a list out
13 there. We could not find it in our packet so we
14 told them that we would get that list to our web
15 mistress, Gwen Romine, so she could get it on
16 there so other departments in the future could be
17 prepared.

18 At this time then I'd like to bring up
19 the Manhattan Fire Department and let them give
20 their little presentation. Hey, he might have a
21 new place to go, guys. You never know.

22 CHRIS VANDORN: I'm Chris Vandorn
23 from the Manhattan Fire Department. I'm up here
24 because somehow paper beats rock. I don't
25 understand the logic in that, but we do appreciate

1 your consideration and support for us hosting the
2 conference, 123rd Conference, in 2011. Hope you
3 guys had the opportunity to stop by and enjoy
4 yourselves at the hospitality room yesterday.

5 One of the places we're look at is the
6 Clarion Hotel. They have 196 rooms there and over
7 12,000 square feet of conference center area that
8 we can use or would be available to us. There's a
9 lot of opportunities and things you can take
10 advantage of as a family as far as the area of
11 Manhattan. One of them would be the Colbert Hills
12 Golf Course which is ranked in the top 50 as the
13 toughest courses in America, so if you want to go
14 out there and challenge yourself with that or be
15 challenged. Another thing would be Kansas State
16 University also offers another attraction for you
17 guys. Something we hope to do if it works out, we
18 also have quite the facility as far as for
19 training. We have a five-story training tower and
20 also a newly constructed burn building that we
21 have that's about six months old, so hopefully
22 we'd be able to provide some hands-on opportunity
23 for training there as well.

24 So, again, we appreciate your support and
25 consideration for us for the 123rd Conference and

1 we look forward to seeing you there.

2 (Applause.)

3 JIM LUBBERS: At this time the Time
4 and Place Committee will be dismissed and I thank
5 you.

6 Report of Nominations Committee.

7 TERRY SCOTT: Terry Scott, Manhattan
8 Fire. We've met and received some nominations.
9 Steve Hirsch and Shaun McClain from Topeka and I
10 have met.

11 JIM LUBBERS: First position open
12 would be for the president. Do you have a
13 nomination?

14 TERRY SCOTT: We have nomination of
15 Andy Moffitt, Chanute, for president.

16 JIM LUBBERS: Any more nominations
17 from the floor for president? Second call for
18 nominations for president. Nominations are
19 closed, and Andy Moffitt's name will be placed on
20 the ballot.

21 Second vice-president.

22 TERRY SCOTT: We have nomination of
23 Shane Pearson from Clay Center.

24 JIM LUBBERS: Any nominations from
25 the floor? Second call. Any more nominations

1 from the floor? Nominations are closed. Shane
2 Pearson's name will be put on the ballot for the
3 Second Vice-President.

4 Treasurer's position.

5 TERRY SCOTT: Have Dan Romine, Osage
6 County Fire Department No. 2.

7 JIM LUBBERS: Any nominations from
8 the floor? Second call. Final call for
9 nominations from the floor. Nominations are
10 closed. Dan Romine's name will be placed on the
11 ballot for treasurer.

12 Northwest Trustee.

13 TERRY SCOTT: Northwest Trustee is
14 Doug Janssen from Russell City.

15 JIM LUBBERS: Any nominations from
16 the floor for Northwest Trustee? Second call.
17 Final call. Nominations are closed.

18 Southwest Trustee.

19 TERRY SCOTT: Southwest Trustee is
20 Troy Wolf from Stanton County Fire and Rescue.

21 JIM LUBBERS: Any nominations from
22 the floor? Second call. Final call for
23 nominations from the floor. Nominations are
24 closed. Troy Wolf's name will be placed on the
25 ballot.

1 And we have the resignation of Andy
2 Moffitt from the Southeast Trustee, so nominations
3 for Southeast Trustee.

4 TERRY SCOTT: Southeast Trustee Ron
5 Ewing, from Emporia and Mark Misek from Wichita.

6 JIM LUBBERS: Any more nominations
7 from the floor for Southeast Trustee? Second
8 call. Final call for Southeast Trustee. The
9 names of Ron Ewing and Mark Misek will be placed
10 on the ballot for Southeast Trustee.

11 TERRY SCOTT: I'd like to move that
12 we accept the uncontested by a vote of
13 affirmation.

14 JIM LUBBERS: Do I hear a second?

15 PAT COLLINS: Pat Collins, Riley
16 County, second.

17 JIM LUBBERS: Motion has been made
18 and seconded that the uncontested will be done by
19 affirmation. All in favor.

20 (All responded aye.)

21 JIM LUBBERS: All opposed. Motion
22 carried.

23 What we'll need to do because there's no
24 ballots is to determine who the chairperson is.
25 We will flip a coin, I guess, between the two west

1 positions, Northwest and Southwest, so do you want
2 to do that now or later? See, we won't know who's
3 the most vote to the flip for the chairperson two
4 years down the road.

5 (Flip of the coin.)

6 JIM LUBBERS: Normally when we do the
7 ballots, the person with the most votes would be
8 Chairman of the Trustees not next year -- yeah,
9 next year, and they would be Chairman of the
10 Trustees and with the audit and stuff like that,
11 so beings they are not voting we've flipped a coin
12 to see which one is going to be the chairperson.
13 It's just a formality deal, really don't mean
14 nothing.

15 Okay. I need two volunteers to be on the
16 Nominations Committee so we can count ballots
17 tomorrow beings we don't have enough on the
18 Nominations Committee.

19 BILL DOAN: Bill Doan, El Dorado.

20 JIM PITTAWAY: Jim Pittaway from
21 Kansas City.

22 JIM LUBBERS: Jim and Bill Doan, you
23 two. At this time will the two candidates come
24 forward for their five-minute speech? Gentlemen,
25 it does say 10 minutes.

1 RON EWING: Good afternoon. My name
2 is Ron Ewing. I represent the Emporia Association
3 of Firefighters. I'm up here today to inform you
4 that I am interested in running for the current
5 position of Southeast Trustee. I do have the
6 support and approval from the Emporia Fire Chief
7 Taylor and the members of the department.

8 There are many reasons I'd be honored to
9 serve as a trustee. I believe that Kansas State
10 Firefighters' Association is a great association,
11 that not only benefits firefighters, but the
12 families as well. This association strives every
13 day to excel in firefighter safety, training and
14 benefits. I would like to do my part. Like I
15 stated, I am currently employed by the Emporia
16 Fire Department on the job. I serve as
17 firefighter and EMTI. I have been employed for
18 about five years full time and served as a
19 volunteer for two years. I am also a HAZMAT
20 technician, WMD technician, swift water tech,
21 first class rescue and a driver/operator. I'm
22 also currently working on my Fire Instructor 1 and
23 Fire Officer 1 through K.U. I currently assist in
24 teaching Fire 1 and 2 classes with our department
25 training officer. My field of specialty is

1 hazardous materials. I take the initiative to do
2 shift or station training with my current shift
3 continuously. I believe that training is the key
4 for firefighters' safety and overall performance.
5 I can bring many ideas to the association, but I
6 do believe there are many other great ideas
7 brought to the organization. Trust me, I will
8 listen and address your concerns and ideas and
9 present them to the executive board to find a
10 conclusion. I would be honored to serve as
11 Southeast Trustee for the Kansas State
12 Firefighters' Association.

13 Thank you.

14 (Applause.)

15 JIM LUBBERS: Okay. We'll
16 temporarily release you till after the election
17 tomorrow. Call for Resolutions Committee.

18 GREG CRETEN: Greg Creten from Kansas
19 City. No resolutions. Nothing brought to the
20 table.

21 JIM LUBBERS: The Resolution
22 Committee reports no resolutions so do I hear a
23 motion to, I guess, accept their report?

24 ERIC SCRUGGS: Eric Scruggs, Kansas
25 City, I'll move to accept that.

1 ANDY MOFFITT: Andy Moffitt, Chanute,
2 second.

3 JIM LUBBERS: The resolution, all in
4 favor of the motion accepting the no report for
5 resolutions say aye.

6 (Some responded aye.)

7 JIM LUBBERS: All opposed.

8 (Some responded aye.)

9 MR. LUBBERS: Mr. Secretary, do we
10 need a roll call vote?

11 STEVE HIRSCH: It's pretty close.

12 JIM LUBBERS: Is there any
13 announcements from the floor?

14 PATRICK DUNN: Pat Dunn, Kansas City.
15 The Kansas City Delegation would like to invite
16 the nominees and the executive board members to
17 come to Room 138 to meet with us 15 minutes after
18 the end of this meeting for an hour.

19 SAM SCHMIDT: Suggestions Committee
20 meet at the north end of the pool.

21 JIM LUBBERS: Suggestions Committee
22 will meet at the north end of the pool.

23 JIM VIELHAUER: Jim Vielhauer,
24 Shawnee County delegates would like to meet the
25 new candidates by the pool about 4:30.

1 JIM LUBBERS: Any more announcements
2 from the floor?

3 RICK STANDARD: Rick Standard, Seward
4 County Fire, western Kansas delegates could meet
5 near the area of Room 110 and we'd like to have
6 any candidates for president to come by.

7 JIM LUBBERS: Southwest Delegation
8 here in Room 110. Any more announcements?

9 The Kansas Fireworks Association will
10 have a hospitality over there by the pool till
11 almost the banquet.

12 Any other committee meetings? Remember,
13 the banquet starts at 6:30. The banquet will be
14 in the room adjacent over here where the vendors
15 were.

16 A reminder that Saturday morning the
17 business session begins at 8:30. Be there before
18 the doors are sealed and we'll see you tomorrow
19 morning. Is the other candidate present?

20 We'll see you tomorrow morning at 8:30.

21 The reason the other candidate isn't here
22 is possibility or rumor is that their vehicle
23 broke down on the return to the convention center.

24

25

1 APRIL 25, 2009

2 JIM LUBBERS: We're going to get
3 started here this morning. Like to welcome
4 everybody back. Hope you had a good time last
5 night with the hypnotist. He put on a pretty good
6 show. For those of you that missed it, it was a
7 pretty good time. I'd like to take a second and
8 thank all of the members from the Great Bend Fire
9 Department that helped put this on. It was a lot
10 of work, but it's been a good time. At this time
11 we'll go ahead and start the Pledge of Allegiance.

12 (Pledge of Allegiance recited.)

13 JIM LUBBERS: At this time Andy
14 Moffitt has a presentation he'd like to make.

15 ANDY MOFFITT: Good morning,
16 everybody. How is everybody this morning? Good,
17 good, good. Yeah. Did you guys that were
18 hypnotized sleep good? I know my wife said she
19 slept great.

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: She said she
21 didn't even remember what went on.

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I didn't
23 remember what went on.

24 STEVE HIRSCH: Which is what she's
25 waiting to report on.

1 ANDY MOFFITT: I just want to take a
2 few seconds this morning and ask our president to
3 stand up here.

4 The Executive Board decided to give Jim
5 this beautiful nozzle with your years as president
6 on it.

7 JIM LUBBERS: Thank you.

8 ANDY MOFFITT: Thanks to you, sir.

9 JIM LUBBERS: Thank you.

10 ANDY MOFFITT: We appreciate
11 everything you've done for the executive board,
12 everything you've done for the state association
13 and as I stand here I make a motion to the
14 conference floor. My motion is Jim Lubbers be a
15 lifetime honorary member.

16 BILL DOAN: Bill Doan, El Dorado, I
17 second that motion.

18 ANDY MOFFITT: Thank you. That's for
19 you, sir.

20 JIM LUBBERS: All in favor of the
21 motion say aye.

22 (All responded aye.)

23 JIM LUBBERS: All opposed. Hearing
24 none, thank you very much. It's an honor.

25 (Standing ovation and applause.)

1 LUKE McCORMICK: With that, we'll
2 turn the floor over to Jim for the business
3 meeting.

4 JIM LUBBERS: Thank you, Luke.
5 Before we get started I think the ladies auxiliary
6 wants to have a few minutes.

7 TRACY DITTER: Good morning. I am
8 happy to report that last night in the auction we
9 made \$10,305.00, so we'd like to thank all of you
10 for that. And we elected officers yesterday and
11 they're pretty much the same. I'm the new
12 president. My name is Tracy Ditter if you don't
13 know that. First Vice-President is Connie Estep;
14 Second Vice-President is Terri Troth; Secretary is
15 Katrina Moffitt; Treasurer, DeAnn Konkeli;
16 Scholarship Trustee, Pam Brown; our chaplain is
17 Donna Pittaway; and Sales Trustee is Sherie
18 Baldwin.

19 One thing I would like to ask of you
20 guys, on the names for the memorial service, if
21 you guys could try getting those in throughout the
22 year or even a week before conference, you can
23 e-mail any of us. We're all on the website. Call
24 us. Give them to Steve. We can get ahold of
25 Steve. He'll take anything. He gets the job

1 done. She's going to kill you when I tell her you
2 did that.

3 STEVE HIRSCH: I know it.

4 TRACY DITTER: If you could just get
5 them in. I think she got 60 names on Wednesday
6 night, so it makes it kind of hard to get
7 everything organized and stuff, so just try it.
8 Just give it a try. That's all we ask.

9 We have a new website, the auxiliary, and
10 what's the address?

11 KATRINA MOFFITT: It is
12 www.KSFFAauxiliary.web.com, and we will get ahold
13 of Gwen with the KSFAA site and we will get a link
14 on there to our website. We just didn't think it
15 was fair that she had to try and keep up with
16 everything, so we're going to try and link that to
17 the website. But if you have any questions and/or
18 want that because you didn't write it down, then
19 get ahold of one of us.

20 TRACY DITTER: All right. Anyway,
21 thanks again for all your support and we'll see
22 you all next year.

23 (Applause.)

24 JIM LUBBERS: The ladies said that at
25 break time will be the last time you can purchase

1 t-shirts out there because they want to take it
2 down.

3 Just to give you a little history on the
4 scholarship fund, when it started. I think we
5 looked it up and it was about 18 years ago and how
6 it started was at an executive board meeting and
7 we were discussing about maybe doing something
8 about a scholarship. Jim Todd was our treasurer
9 at that time and he pulled out a hundred dollar
10 bill, threw it on the table and said, "It's going
11 to be the trustees scholarship. I want all four
12 trustees to put down a hundred dollars." Well, at
13 that time I didn't have a hundred dollars in my
14 billfold, but Todd took care of it and deducted it
15 out of our check and so we had \$500.00 in that
16 scholarship fund and the first year Jim Todd said
17 we needed some seed for it to grow so we gave a
18 scholarship that year for \$400.00. Then the next
19 conference Thibedeaux had some kind of deal at a
20 fish and game deal or Quails Unlimited or
21 something and he really didn't care for it so he
22 decided to auction it off and put the money in the
23 scholarship fund and that's kind of how the
24 scholarship fund started like 18 years ago. Did
25 you know that, Sonny?

1 SONNY RUPP: Yes, you're right. My
2 check was short too.

3 JIM LUBBERS: Yeah, Sonny was a
4 member then. We did the resolutions yesterday so
5 Chairman of the Suggestions Committee.

6 SAM SCHMIDT: Those that don't know
7 me, my name is Sam Schmidt, City of Russell.

8 Our Suggestions Committee has met four
9 times. First of all, I'd like to thank Steve
10 Hirsch for volunteering me for chairmanship.

11 STEVE HIRSCH: You're quite welcome.

12 SAM SCHMIDT: I'd like to read off
13 the names of the persons on the committee: Jeff
14 Scott, Darin Myers, Mike Pender, Larry Marcel,
15 Brian Turpen, Eric Dossett, Derek Wagner, Donna
16 Fay Major, myself, Jerry Popejoy and Colby
17 Robertson.

18 Like I said, the committee met four
19 times. I thought this was going to be a committee
20 that probably didn't do much like we've done in
21 the past years, but we were quite busy. The first
22 suggestion is that -- was proposed to us was we
23 would like to propose the conference date move
24 away from the grass season and the FDIC date.

25 After reviewing that, basically it died

1 in the committee.

2 The second suggestion was due to budget
3 cuts, cut down travel, combine the FRA information
4 meeting that is held in January and the conference
5 in the month of February.

6 This also died in committee.

7 Our next suggestion was we needed a
8 checklist for the website to see what it actually
9 takes to host a conference. There is some set
10 guidelines, but seems like everybody thought it
11 was in the by-laws, but it is not and so the
12 recommendation from this committee was that it
13 goes to the Time and Place Committee and that they
14 actually have it posted on the website.

15 The next one was the one that probably
16 had probably the most discussion and we actually
17 decided to bring it to the governing body here
18 today and let the governing body decide on what is
19 to be done with this suggestion and I'll read it
20 to you. You'll have to bear with me on it because
21 it's handwritten.

22 Over multiple days of discussion over the
23 last few years we have continually discussed the
24 effectiveness or ability for the current lobbyist
25 to present the opinion of the membership. In any

1 organization I believe it is prudent to review the
2 contracts that have been in effect for multiple
3 years to ensure that the services contracted are
4 being delivered in the most effective means
5 available. With this in mind, I move that we, as
6 an association, direct our executive board to open
7 the current position of lobbyist by not renewing
8 the contract with Pat Lehman Communications and
9 actively pursue requests for proposal through
10 trade journals, periodicals and other means of
11 communication.

12 I guess I turn that over to the chairman.

13 JIM LUBBERS: Is that in the form of
14 a motion?

15 SAM SCHMIDT: Yes, it was in the form
16 of a motion.

17 JIM LUBBERS: On this motion, do I
18 hear a second?

19 LISA PRICE: Lisa Price, Kansas City,
20 I second that motion.

21 JIM LUBBERS: Motion has been made
22 and seconded. You heard it. All in favor, say
23 aye.

24 DOUG SCHMITT: Doug Schmitt,
25 Jefferson County, point of order. Can we have a

1 discussion on this?

2 I've got a concern with this. We've been
3 fighting an issue all year long about the tax
4 issue for the smaller departments, county
5 districts. We're right in the middle of a
6 situation. Pat's working on a deal right now.
7 I'm afraid if we go and try to do something right
8 now, it's going to hurt the progress that we made
9 on this tax lead. I think timing is just bad
10 right now is what I think about this.

11 JIM LUBBERS: Go ahead.

12 BOB PAPE: Bob Pape, Merriam Fire, my
13 concern and the way I understood that motion to
14 actually be read was that we were effectively
15 eliminating any possibility of rehiring or
16 recontracting with Pat. I don't think that's
17 right if we don't find anybody else that would be
18 any better and, you know, not done a good or bad
19 job, but the way that thing's written we may want
20 him back. If we were going out and looking that
21 would be one thing.

22 PATRICK DUNN: Patrick Dunn, Kansas
23 City. It is my motion. I'm the one that
24 presented this. There was no meaning in that that
25 Pat Lehman could not be rehired. I believe we've

1 had Pat Lehman for 14 years. I do not believe
2 that contract has been open. I think it's
3 basically been renewed. Have we ever submitted
4 out for bid? All I'm requesting in this motion is
5 that we not automatically renew the contract, we
6 open a request for proposals by the executive
7 board drawing up a list of goals and a job
8 description of what that individual is doing,
9 request bids and have them select from those bids.
10 I'm not -- we aren't excluding. There's no
11 thought of that. I simply want it open so that if
12 somebody better is, that board could decide, but
13 for the other fact it is not a good business
14 practice to simply continue a contract year after
15 year after year without opening that up for the
16 process.

17 JIM LUBBERS: Any more discussion?

18 KEITH MEADOR: Keith Meador, McLouth
19 City Fire; when does Pat's contract end?

20 JIM LUBBERS: I think July, July 1.
21 Yeah. Runs through the end of June. His contract
22 comes up July 1.

23 BILL DOAN: Bill Doan, El Dorado
24 Fire; Jim, now, he represents not only this
25 organization but the chief's association, right,

1 and the fire council?

2 JIM LUBBERS: No, Pro Chiefs.

3 BILL DOAN: Pro Chiefs?

4 JIM LUBBERS: Yeah.

5 BILL DOAN: So are there three
6 organizations that he represents?

7 JIM LUBBERS: Right.

8 BILL DOAN: So are we going to have
9 to go back and contact them and tell them what we
10 want to do and get their okay on this?

11 JIM LUBBERS: Pat Lehman actually
12 lobbies for the alliance which is the pro chiefs,
13 the chiefs and the firefighters association. He's
14 done that for eight years. We pay -- the
15 association pays 50 percent of his lobbying fees.
16 The pro chiefs and the chiefs split the other 50
17 percent of the lobbying fees. You're probably
18 right, they would either have to agree to the new
19 lobbyist or hire their own or something, you know.
20 Personally I don't think there would be a problem
21 because the chiefs and the pro chiefs meet with us
22 for the session after the session. They basically
23 come to the table and basically agree what we
24 want.

25 I'll give you an example. Last year we

1 discussed what we wanted in legislative changes.
2 I went to the chiefs conference, presented it with
3 them, told them to give me their ideas or what
4 they wanted on legislation. They came back and
5 said they accepted what we wanted. They didn't
6 add nothing to it or do anything, so... Any more
7 discussion? Greg.

8 GREG STANDARD: Greg Standard, Seward
9 County. It strikes me that the legislative
10 process is it may take several years to get any of
11 the bills passed that we've worked on over the
12 years. You know, it's unusual that we bring a
13 bill in one year and it's done. Setting up the
14 process where you open up for bids every year and
15 in that climate seems like it would be kind of
16 ineffective. In addition, if the board, and I
17 know that the board does renew its contracts, I
18 believe annually, and so the board must already be
19 looking at the work that they're getting done,
20 assessing the amount that they're paying for that
21 and would the board not be coming to conference
22 suggesting that change if they felt it were
23 necessary or programs wouldn't have already
24 renewed the contract so it seems sort of like I'm
25 not sure where we're at.

1 JIM LUBBERS: Pat.

2 PATRICK DUNN: Patrick Dunn, Kansas
3 City. This motion is not to open up the contract,
4 the bid process on a yearly basis. This is for a
5 one-time deal. It is irresponsible to continue
6 contract after contract without opening it up to
7 the competitive bid process. This is what the
8 motion is.

9 PAUL WILLY: Two things -- Paul
10 Willy, Olathe -- is it actually a bid or is there
11 a set fee that those guys charge?

12 JIM LUBBERS: When his contract comes
13 up he submits what he will do it for for that
14 year.

15 PAUL WILLY: Okay.

16 JIM LUBBERS: And he's paid -- he
17 wants paid -- he's paid monthly. We write him a
18 check and I don't know who writes the other half,
19 the chiefs or the pro chiefs or whatever.

20 PAUL WILLY: Just as curiosity, you
21 said that we pay 50 percent of that and the pro
22 chiefs, they split that 25 percent, the other two
23 organizations. Do we have controlling interest?

24 JIM LUBBERS: We have one-third vote
25 when it comes to the alliance.

1 PAT COLLINS: Pat Collins, Riley
2 County; you say that he presents something to you
3 every year so you already do a review whether or
4 not you're going to keep him for the next year.

5 JIM LUBBERS: Right. I will tell
6 you, and it's no secret, me and Pat have not got
7 along from day one. That's why the communication
8 of the association to Pat is not through me. His
9 contract is very lucrative as far as what he's
10 required to do. Three years ago I refused to sign
11 the contract along with permission from the chiefs
12 and the pro chiefs. We re-wrote his contract to
13 put some stipulations in how he reports and what
14 he does. He didn't like it, so I was overruled
15 and those stipulations was taken out of his
16 contract. That's all I got to say.

17 Any more discussion? All in favor of the
18 suggestion say eye.

19 (Some responded aye.)

20 JIM LUBBERS: All opposed.

21 (Some responded aye.)

22 JIM LUBBERS: Why don't we do a quick
23 stand-up roll call vote. All in favor, just
24 delegates and alternates that are replacing
25 delegates can stand up. All those in favor of the

1 suggestion, please stand up.

2 Would one of the officers help count?

3 Okay. All those opposed, please stand.

4 The nays have it according to the count
5 of 64 to 44.

6 PATRICK DUNN: Patrick Dunn, Kansas
7 City. I contest the vote.

8 PETER CHRONISTER: Peter Chronister,
9 Leawood Fire Department. I suggest a roll call
10 vote.

11 JIM LUBBERS: Was that in the form of
12 a motion?

13 PATRICK DUNN: Yes.

14 JIM LUBBERS: And second?

15 PETER CHRONISTER: Second.

16 JIM LUBBERS: Motion has been made we
17 do a roll call vote. All in favor, aye; all
18 opposed, eye.

19 We're going to do a roll call vote. We
20 have to do a roll call vote very shortly anyhow
21 for the election, so we'll do a roll call vote
22 now.

23 Sergeant at Arms, would you please take
24 the doors?

25 Larry Marcel, are you here? Do you want

1 to help watch the doors?

2 STEVE HIRSCH: Okay, the question
3 comes on the motion and this will be the roll call
4 of delegates. Either vote yes or no as I call
5 your name: Ashland Fire Department, Dave Redger.

6 DAVE REDGER: No.

7 STEVE HIRSCH: Burrton Consolidated
8 Fire District, Donnie Bean, absent.

9 Chanute Fire Department, Andy Moffitt.

10 ANDY MOFFITT: Nay.

11 STEVE HIRSCH: Clay Center Fire
12 Department, Dallas Cunningham.

13 DALLAS CUNNINGHAM: No.

14 STEVE HIRSCH: Rodney Althizer.

15 RODNEY ALTHIZER: No.

16 STEVE HIRSCH: Jon Siemers.

17 JON SIEMERS: No.

18 STEVE HIRSCH: Shane Pearson.

19 SHANE PEARSON: Abstain.

20 STEVE HIRSCH: Colby Fire Department,
21 Scott Hilbrink.

22 SCOTT HILBRINK: No.

23 STEVE HIRSCH: J.L. Ellis.

24 J.L. ELLIS: No.

25 STEVE HIRSCH: Thomas Benson.

1 THOMAS BENSON: No.
2 STEVE HIRSCH: Lance Bolyard.
3 LANCE BOLYARD: No.
4 STEVE HIRSCH: Consolidated Fire
5 District No. 2, Johnson County, Gary Lamons.
6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Absent.
7 STEVE HIRSCH: Bill Buser?
8 BILL BUSER: Yes.
9 STEVE HIRSCH: Jeff Scott?
10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Absent.
11 STEVE HIRSCH: Jeff Boddy?
12 JEFF BODDY: Yes.
13 STEVE HIRSCH: Conway Springs Fire
14 Department, Darrin Green.
15 DARRIN GREEN: No.
16 STEVE HIRSCH: Don Thompson.
17 DON THOMPSON: No.
18 STEVE HIRSCH: Mike Erker.
19 MIKE ERKER: No.
20 STEVE HIRSCH: Jeff Erker.
21 JEFF ERKER: No.
22 STEVE HIRSCH: Edwardsville Fire
23 Department, Dan Johnson.
24 DANIEL JOHNSON: Yes.
25 STEVE HIRSCH: El Dorado Fire

1 Department, Bill Doan.

2 BILL DOAN: No.

3 STEVE HIRSCH: Max Brown.

4 MAX BROWN: No.

5 STEVE HIRSCH: Ricke Whiteside.

6 RICKE WHITESIDE: No.

7 STEVE HIRSCH: Ellinwood Fire

8 Department, Spencer Proffitt.

9 SPENCER PROFFITT: No.

10 STEVE HIRSCH: Wade Doonan.

11 WADE DOONAN: No.

12 STEVE HIRSCH: Chris Komarek.

13 CHRIS KOMAREK: No.

14 STEVE HIRSCH: Emporia Fire

15 Department, Ron Ewing.

16 RON EWING: No.

17 STEVE HIRSCH: Harlan Smith.

18 HARLAN SMITH: No.

19 STEVE HIRSCH: Bill West.

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Not here.

21 STEVE HIRSCH: Bill Lienemann.

22 BILL LIENEMANN: No.

23 STEVE HIRSCH: Fairmont Township Fire

24 Department, George Racki.

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Absent.

1 STEVE HIRSCH: Chris Angermuller.
2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Absent.
3 STEVE HIRSCH: Jim Dickey.
4 JIM DICKEY: No.
5 STEVE HIRSCH: Fairview Township Fire
6 District No. 6, Dale Arfmann.
7 DALE ARFMANN: No.
8 STEVE HIRSCH: Florence Fire
9 Department, Phil Baldwin?
10 PHIL BALDWIN: No.
11 STEVE HIRSCH: Michael Warner.
12 MICHAEL WARNER: Yes.
13 STEVE HIRSCH: Great Bend Fire
14 Department, Travis Parmley.
15 TRAVIS PARMLEY: Yes.
16 STEVE HIRSCH: Eric Yoder.
17 ERIC YODER: Yes.
18 STEVE HIRSCH: Luke McCormick.
19 LUKE McCORMICK: No.
20 STEVE HIRSCH: Mark Pohlman.
21 MARK POHLMAN: Yes.
22 STEVE HIRSCH: Halstead Fire
23 Department, James Grow?
24 JAMES GROW: No.
25 STEVE HIRSCH: Hays Fire Department,

1 Andrew Simon.

2 ANDREW SIMON: Yes.

3 STEVE HIRSCH: Myron Dreiling.

4 MYRON DREILING: Yes.

5 STEVE HIRSCH: Justin Choitz.

6 JUSTIN CHOITZ: Yes.

7 STEVE HIRSCH: Darin Myers.

8 DARIN MYERS: Yes.

9 STEVE HIRSCH: Hutchinson Fire

10 Department, Johnny Likes.

11 JOHNNY LIKES: Yes.

12 STEVE HIRSCH: Aaron Walton.

13 AARON WALTON: Yes.

14 STEVE HIRSCH: Bob Robinson.

15 BOB ROBINSON: Yes.

16 STEVE HIRSCH: Mike Cain.

17 MIKE CAIN: Yes.

18 STEVE HIRSCH: Iola Fire Department,

19 Gary Kimball.

20 GARY KIMBALL: Yes.

21 STEVE HIRSCH: Ron Jenkins.

22 RON JENKINS: Yes.

23 STEVE HIRSCH: Jefferson County Fire

24 Department, Fire District No. 9, Jim Snyder.

25 JAMES SNYDER: Yes.

1 STEVE HIRSCH: Doug Schmitt.
2 DOUG SCHMITT: No.
3 STEVE HIRSCH: Sheila Snyder.
4 SHEILA SNYDER: No.
5 STEVE HIRSCH: Johnson County Fire
6 District No. 2 Rural, Rodney Kurtz.
7 RODNEY KURTZ: Yes.
8 STEVE HIRSCH: Dave Wolf.
9 DAVID WOLF: Yes.
10 STEVE HIRSCH: Jerome Mitzner.
11 JEROME MITZNER: Yes.
12 STEVE HIRSCH: Matt Dunham.
13 MATT DUNHAM: Yes.
14 STEVE HIRSCH: Junction City Fire
15 Department, Chris Schroeder.
16 CHRIS SCHROEDER: Yes.
17 STEVE HIRSCH: Dave Nelson.
18 DAVE NELSON: Yes.
19 STEVE HIRSCH: Mike Pender.
20 MIKE PENDER: Yes.
21 STEVE HIRSCH: Brad White.
22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Absent.
23 STEVE HIRSCH: Is Dennis Wetklow
24 present?
25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No.

1 STEVE HIRSCH: Kansas City, Kansas
2 Fire Department, Dave Pittaway.

3 DAVID PITTAWAY: Yes.

4 STEVE HIRSCH: Patrick Dunn.

5 PATRICK DUNN: Yes.

6 STEVE HIRSCH: Larry Marcel.

7 LARRY MARCEL: Yes.

8 STEVE HIRSCH: Greg Creten.

9 GREG CRETEN: Yes.

10 STEVE HIRSCH: LaCygne Fire
11 Department, Dan Nasalroad.

12 DAN NASALROAD: Yes.

13 STEVE HIRSCH: Jeff Day.

14 JEFF DAY: Yes.

15 STEVE HIRSCH: Dan Curtis.

16 DAN CURTIS: Yes.

17 STEVE HIRSCH: Brian Turpen.

18 BRIAN TURPEN: Yes.

19 STEVE HIRSCH: Lawrence-Douglas
20 County Fire and Medical, Ben Dennis.

21 BEN DENNIS: No.

22 STEVE HIRSCH: Kathy Elkins.

23 KATHY ELKINS: No.

24 STEVE HIRSCH: Jim Sloan.

25 JIM SLOAN: No.

1 STEVE HIRSCH: Brian Patterson.
2 BRIAN PATTERSON: No.
3 STEVE HIRSCH: Leavenworth Fire
4 Department, Jim Magee.
5 JIM MAGEE: No.
6 STEVE HIRSCH: Bruce Larison.
7 BRUCE LARISON: No.
8 STEVE HIRSCH: Leawood Fire
9 Department, Pete Chronister.
10 PETER CHRONISTER: Abstain.
11 STEVE HIRSCH: Wayne Harder.
12 WAYNE HARDER: Yes.
13 STEVE HIRSCH: Lenexa Fire
14 Department, Stan Myrtle.
15 STAN MYRTLE: No.
16 STEVE HIRSCH: Lindsborg Fire
17 Department, Matt Clark.
18 MATT CLARK: No.
19 STEVE HIRSCH: Logan Fire Department,
20 Sonny Ruff.
21 SONNY RUFF: No.
22 STEVE HIRSCH: Manhattan Fire
23 Department, Chris Vandorn.
24 CHRIS VANDORN: Yes.
25 STEVE HIRSCH: Terry Scott.

1 TERRY SCOTT: Yes.
2 STEVE HIRSCH: Heath Major.
3 HEATH MAJOR: Yes.
4 STEVE HIRSCH: Scott French.
5 SCOTT FRENCH: Yes.
6 STEVE HIRSCH: McLouth City Fire
7 Department, Marie Meador.
8 MARIE MEADOR: No.
9 STEVE HIRSCH: Lisa Schmitt.
10 LISA SCHMITT: No.
11 STEVE HIRSCH: Keith Meador.
12 KEITH MEADOR: No.
13 STEVE HIRSCH: McPherson Fire
14 Department, Jeff Wendt.
15 JEFF WENDT: No.
16 STEVE HIRSCH: Wade Hall?
17 WADE HALL: No.
18 STEVE HIRSCH: Merriam Fire
19 Department, Shane Schnoebeien.
20 SHANE SCHNOEBEIEN: No.
21 STEVE HIRSCH: Paul Askren.
22 PAUL ASKREN: No.
23 STEVE HIRSCH: George Mallory.
24 GEORGE MALLORY: No.
25 STEVE HIRSCH: Bob Pape.

1 BOB PAPE: No.
2 STEVE HIRSCH: Neosho Township Fire
3 Department, Jim Lubbers.
4 JIM LUBBERS: Abstain.
5 STEVE HIRSCH: Newton Fire
6 Department, Mike Estep.
7 MIKE ESTEP: No.
8 STEVE HIRSCH: Rob Hiebert.
9 ROB HIEBERT: No.
10 STEVE HIRSCH: Gary Crittenden.
11 GARY CRITTENDEN: No.
12 STEVE HIRSCH: Brett Butler.
13 BRETT BUTLER: No.
14 STEVE HIRSCH: Olathe Fire
15 Department, Paul Willy.
16 PAUL WILLY: No.
17 STEVE HIRSCH: Ken Wilson.
18 KEN WILSON: Nay.
19 STEVE HIRSCH: Ed Reschke.
20 ED RESCHKE: No.
21 STEVE HIRSCH: Eric Dossett.
22 ERIC DOSSETT: Nay.
23 STEVE HIRSCH: Osage County Fire
24 Department No. 2, Dan Romine?
25 DAN ROMINE: No.

1 STEVE HIRSCH: Derek Wagner.

2 (No audible response.)

3 STEVE HIRSCH: Overland Park, Paul
4 Drinkard.

5 PAUL DRINKARD: No.

6 STEVE HIRSCH: Tim Byrnes.

7 TIM BYRNES: No.

8 STEVE HIRSCH: Andrew Grove.

9 ANDREW GROVE: No.

10 STEVE HIRSCH: Alan Mechtley.

11 ALAN MECHTLEY: No.

12 STEVE HIRSCH: Ozawkie City Township
13 Fire Department No. 7, Daniel Rosencutter.

14 DANIEL ROSENCUTTER: No.

15 STEVE HIRSCH: Parsons Fire
16 Department, Darren Lubbers?

17 DARREN LUBBERS: Yes.

18 STEVE HIRSCH: Pittsburg Fire
19 Department, Richard Wood?

20 RICHARD WOOD: No.

21 STEVE HIRSCH: Dennis Rhuems?

22 DENNIS RHUEMS: No.

23 STEVE HIRSCH: Riley County Fire
24 District No. 1, Pat Collins?

25 PAT COLLINS: No.

1 STEVE HIRSCH: Russell County Fire
2 District No. 5, Steve Opdycke?
3 STEVE OPDYCKE: Nay.
4 STEVE HIRSCH: Alan Kuntzsch.
5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Absent.
6 STEVE HIRSCH: Carol Steinle.
7 CAROL STEINLE: No.
8 STEVE HIRSCH: Justine Opdy.
9 JUSTINE OPDY: No.
10 STEVE HIRSCH: Russell County Fire
11 District No. 4, Dorrance, Ron Major.
12 RON MAJOR: No.
13 STEVE HIRSCH: Donna Fay Major.
14 DONNA FAY MAJOR: No.
15 STEVE HIRSCH: Keith Haberer.
16 KEITH HABERER: No.
17 STEVE HIRSCH: Russell Fire
18 Department, Keegan Dick.
19 KEEGAN DICK: No.
20 STEVE HIRSCH: Amber Dick.
21 AMBER DICK: No.
22 STEVE HIRSCH: Mike Schneider.
23 MIKE SCHNEIDER: No.
24 STEVE HIRSCH: Sam Schmidt.
25 SAM SCHMIDT: No.

1 STEVE HIRSCH: Russell-Grant Township
2 Fire Department, Gary Blundon.

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Absent.

4 STEVE HIRSCH: Brandon Dinkel.

5 BRANDON DINKEL: No.

6 STEVE HIRSCH: Don Boxberger.

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Absent.

8 STEVE HIRSCH: Salina Fire
9 Department, Kendall Johnson.

10 KENDALL JOHNSON: No.

11 STEVE HIRSCH: Lee Soldan.

12 LEE SOLDAN: No.

13 STEVE HIRSCH: Mark Grosland.

14 MARK GROSLAND: No.

15 STEVE HIRSCH: Tait Walker.

16 TAIT WALKER: No.

17 STEVE HIRSCH: Sedgwick County Fire
18 Department, Richard Janne.

19 RICHARD JANNE: No.

20 STEVE HIRSCH: Brad Burdick.

21 BRAD BURDICK: No.

22 STEVE HIRSCH: Brad Broyles, absent;
23 Greg Leu.

24 GREG LEU: No.

25 STEVE HIRSCH: Seward County Rural

1 Fire District, Greg Standard.

2 GREG STANDARD: No.

3 STEVE HIRSCH: Shawnee Fire

4 Department, Mike Hartman.

5 MIKE HARTMAN: No.

6 STEVE HIRSCH: Brian Stanley.

7 BRIAN STANLEY: No.

8 STEVE HIRSCH: Jim Vielhauer.

9 JIM VIELHAUER: No.

10 STEVE HIRSCH: Al Hoelting.

11 AL HOELTING: No.

12 STEVE HIRSCH: Shawnee Heights Fire

13 District, Ken Scott.

14 KEN SCOTT: No.

15 STEVE HIRSCH: Sheridan County Fire

16 Department, Steve Hirsch votes no.

17 Soldier Township Fire Department, Brenda

18 McNorton.

19 BRENDA McNORTON: No.

20 STEVE HIRSCH: Ron Brandt.

21 RON BRANDT: No.

22 STEVE HIRSCH: Kevin Flory.

23 KEVIN FLORY: No.

24 STEVE HIRSCH: Karl McNorton.

25 KARL McNORTON: No.

1 STEVE HIRSCH: Stanton County Fire
2 and Rescue, Troy Wolf.

3 TROY WOLF: No.

4 STEVE HIRSCH: Jerry Popejoy.

5 JERRY POPEJOY: No.

6 STEVE HIRSCH: Bill Umberger.

7 BILL UMBERGER: No.

8 STEVE HIRSCH: Topeka Fire
9 Department, Shaun McClain.

10 SHAUN McCLAIN: Yes.

11 STEVE HIRSCH: Eric Bauer.

12 ERIC BAUER: Yes.

13 STEVE HIRSCH: Richard Moran.

14 RICHARD MORAN: Yes.

15 STEVE HIRSCH: Chad Baldwin.

16 CHAD BALDWIN: Yes.

17 STEVE HIRSCH: Wichita Fire
18 Department, Charles Peaster.

19 CHARLES PEASTER: Yes.

20 STEVE HIRSCH: Jason Jones.

21 JASON JONES: Yes.

22 STEVE HIRSCH: Roger Ward.

23 ROGER WARD: Yes.

24 STEVE HIRSCH: Colby Roberson.

25 COLBY ROBERSON: Yes.

1 STEVE HIRSCH: Mr. President, the
2 roll call delegates concurred on the motion 47
3 having voted in favor; 89 opposed, the motion
4 failed.

5 SAM SCHMIDT: Okay. The last item I
6 have is from the Suggestions Committee. It is the
7 recommendation that everyone that submits a
8 suggestion that it should be signed by the
9 individual who submits it so that further
10 information may be gleaned from that individual.
11 It was forwarded to the Rules and Order Committee
12 for further action. I'd like to thank everybody
13 that served on that committee and that should
14 conclude our report.

15 JIM LUBBERS: The Sergeant of Arms
16 can open the doors.

17 Sam, I want to thank you and your
18 committee. It's released.

19 Relief Act Committee.

20 MAX BROWN: Max Brown, El Dorado Fire
21 Department, Relief Act Committee Chair.

22 I'd like to start off with thanking the
23 Relief Act Committee for all their work. We had
24 some great discussion and a lot of time spent, a
25 lot of good ideas brought up, discussed. I also

1 like to thank J.L. Ellis and the committee for the
2 work in the last year. We worked on a best
3 practices handbook for all of the relief
4 associations across the state to follow to help
5 kind of guide the new treasurer, new secretaries
6 and such. That book was put together. We'd like
7 to make a motion that the KSFAA executive board
8 endorse the best practices handbook and urge its
9 adoption by the insurance department and local
10 firefighter relief associations.

11 JIM LUBBERS: Do I hear a second to
12 his motion?

13 J.L. ELLIS: J.L. Ellis, Colby,
14 second.

15 JIM LUBBERS: Any discussion?

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Repeat the
17 motion, please.

18 MAX BROWN: We move that KSFAA
19 executive board endorse the best practices
20 handbook and urge its adoption by the insurance
21 department and by local firefighter relief
22 associations.

23 JIM LUBBERS: Any more discussion?
24 All in favor say aye.

25 (Some responded aye.)

1 JIM LUBBERS: All opposed.

2 (No response.)

3 JIM LUBBERS: Motion carried.

4 MAX BROWN: The Relief Act Committee
5 worked throughout the year on several occasions to
6 come up with that.

7 Next, I'd like to thank Paul Askren from
8 the Merriam Fire Department for taking notes for
9 me this year.

10 We did have another motion. We move and
11 encourage the board to support, defend and pursue
12 the enhancement of the Fire Relief Act by
13 determining the issues and potential solutions to
14 the problems identified without opening the Act.

15 JIM LUBBERS: Do I hear a second to
16 the motion?

17 PAUL ASKREN: Paul Askren, Merriam.

18 JIM LUBBERS: Any discussion? All in
19 favor of the motion say aye.

20 (Some responded aye.)

21 JIM LUBBERS: All opposed.

22 (No oral response.)

23 JIM LUBBERS: Motion carried.

24 MAX BROWN: The Relief Act Committee
25 would like to remain a standing committee, working

1 committee throughout next year. That's the end of
2 our report.

3 JIM LUBBERS: Thank you, Max, and you
4 will remain a standing committee.

5 Pension Committee.

6 ED RESCHKE: Ed Reschke, Olathe Fire
7 Department. I'd like to thank all of the members
8 of the committee. We spent a few times meeting
9 and discussing some pension related items. The
10 following was passed onto the Legislative
11 Committee for their consideration.

12 Number 1, the Kansas State Firefighters'
13 Association support any legislation that would
14 enhance the pensions for the fire fighters in the
15 State of Kansas.

16 Number 2, the Kansas State Firefighters'
17 Association support legislation that would support
18 a COLA for both KPERS and KPF members.

19 Number 3, the Kansas State Firefighters'
20 Association would support any legislation that
21 would allow our KPF members to continue to
22 increase their maximum retirement benefit to 100
23 percent, similar to House Bill 2151 that was
24 earlier tried and we would also like to remain a
25 standing committee.

1 That's what we passed on to the
2 Legislative Committee.

3 JIM LUBBERS: Okay. Thank you and
4 you'll remain as standing committee.

5 JIM LUBBERS: Legislative Committee.

6 RICKE WHITESIDE: Ricke Whiteside El
7 Dorado, Kansas. I got a report for the
8 Legislative Committee. I want to thank you
9 everybody, first of all, that was on the committee
10 and all of the input that came in.

11 We have a number of things to be brought
12 up on the floor. First, the executive board shall
13 pursue legislation to remove the cap from KPERS
14 disability so it would mirror the KPF disability
15 based on the final passage of HB 2072.

16 Next, the executive board shall pursue
17 legislation that would make heart, lung and cancer
18 and other pertinent ailments job presumptive for
19 the purposes of workman's comp benefits for all
20 firefighters in the State of Kansas.

21 Next, the executive board shall pursue
22 actions up to and including legislation that shall
23 address the issue of a five mill levy cap, K.S.A.
24 19-3610, being enforced on certain fire districts
25 in the state and pursue removing that cap.

1 Next, the executive board shall support
2 any legislation that will support collective
3 bargaining in Kansas.

4 Next, the executive board shall support
5 any legislation that would support a COLA for KP&F
6 or KPERS members.

7 The executive board shall pursue changes
8 to KP&F retirement system that would increase the
9 maximum retirement benefit to 100 percent, similar
10 to the House Bill 2151.

11 The executive board shall support Senate
12 Bill 258 to increase the work comp amounts paid
13 out to affected workers.

14 Next, the executive board shall support
15 any legislation that supports the Kansas State
16 Fire Marshal's Office Department -- I knew what it
17 was -- I just had to think about it. Long night.

18 The executive board shall support Senate
19 Bill 322 to assist the Kansas State Fire Marshal's
20 Office in retaining funds from the fee fund.

21 The executive board shall assist and
22 support the Kansas State Fire Marshall's Office in
23 pursuit of legislation that will establish a
24 permanent separate fee fund for the Kansas Board
25 of EMS and restore the current fee fund monies to

1 the Kansas State Fire Marshall's Office.

2 Do I have any questions on any of these?
3 We'd also request the Legislative Committee to be
4 a standing committee.

5 JIM LUBBERS: The motion as he
6 presented, is there any second.

7 AL HOELTING: Al Hoelting, Shawnee,
8 second.

9 JIM LUBBERS: Is there any
10 discussion? Hearing none, all in favor.

11 (Some responded aye.)

12 JIM LUBBERS: All opposed.

13 (No oral response.)

14 JIM LUBBERS: Motion carried. You're
15 released and you'll be a standing committee.

16 RICKE WHITESIDE: Thank you very
17 much.

18 JIM LUBBERS: Firemanship Training.

19 ANDY MOFFITT: Once again, good
20 morning. Andy Moffitt, Chanute Fire Department.

21 Training Committee met twice during this
22 conference. Many great ideas from the members of
23 the training committee came up for both our
24 schools and maybe even during our annual
25 conference, stuff the executive board will

1 discuss, chew the fat with and let's see if we can
2 make some changes.

3 Another great and very long discussion we
4 had was about an hour long in reference to
5 credentialing and qualifications for both fire
6 departments and firefighters. With this in mind,
7 we have two motions for the conference floor.

8 Motion number 1, the Training Committee
9 moves for the executive board to develop a mandate
10 by the next KSFAA conference to institute a
11 state-recognized minimum qualification for Kansas
12 Firefighters.

13 Number 2, to be a standing committee.

14 JIM LUBBERS: You heard the motion.
15 Do I hear a second?

16 PAT COLLINS: Pat Collins, Riley
17 County, second.

18 JIM LUBBERS: Any discussion on the
19 motion? Hearing none, all in favor.

20 (Some responded aye.)

21 JIM LUBBERS: All opposed.

22 (No oral response.)

23 JIM LUBBERS: Motion carried. And
24 you will be released and be a standing committee.

25 ANDY MOFFITT: Thank you.

1 PAT COLLINS: Point of order. On the
2 end it says firemanship training. I believe that
3 was changed last year.

4 ANDY MOFFITT: Firefighter Training.

5 JIM LUBBERS: Thank you, Pat. I was
6 kind of reading off the paper.

7 ANDY MOFFITT: Real quick, in
8 closing, I think 26 members of the committee, very
9 good discussion this year. I'd like that. Makes
10 the committee time go faster and also makes it a
11 lot easier to understand everybody's thinking and
12 I'd also like to send a special thank you to Mark
13 Misek who was so kind to be our secretary and he
14 took better notes than I ever did when I was a
15 secretary. So, thank you.

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Point of
17 order. You said you had two motions and we only
18 voted once.

19 JIM LUBBERS: Okay. I was thinking
20 that it was one. The other one was to be a
21 standing committee. Do I hear a second on being
22 the standing committee?

23 SCOTT HILBRINK: Scott Hilbrink,
24 Colby Fire Department, I'll second that.

25 JIM LUBBERS: All in favor.

1 (Some responded aye.)

2 JIM LUBBERS: All opposed.

3 (No oral response.)

4 JIM LUBBERS: I took it as one motion
5 together.

6 Also, before we move on and are waiting
7 for new ballots to be or roll call stuff to be
8 printed up, I had made a commitment to -- or
9 whatever -- to the two people running for
10 Southeast Trustee. Mark Misek could not make his
11 presentation last night because of conflicts. I
12 meant to give both Mark and Ron the opportunity to
13 do that this morning at the beginning and
14 apologize. So if they were to come forward, they
15 could do that now.

16 MARK MISEK: Good morning. My name
17 is Mark Misek, firefighter, Wichita Fire
18 Department. I want to start off first off by
19 apologizing about yesterday. Some of the brothers
20 tried to take care of me and get the word out that
21 perhaps I may have had some car trouble.
22 Unfortunately, that was not the case. I just
23 dropped the ball. I didn't realize I needed to be
24 here to make a speech, so ultimately it was my
25 responsibility and I'm sorry for that and I thank

1 you guys for giving me the time to talk today.

2 A little bit about myself: I've been on
3 the Wichita Fire Department about four years, a
4 member of our HAZMAT technician team. Before that
5 I worked about six and-a-half years as a volunteer
6 reserve in Wichita and Sedgwick County. I'm an
7 adjunct instructor for Butler County College,
8 active member of my Local I23F135 and also a
9 trustee in the instructor for the Wichita Metro.

10 So what's kind of motivated me to run for
11 this boils down to training. The first training
12 classes I ever took were KSFAA classes and I'm a
13 big believer in giving back to this fire service.
14 I think it's a duty of every single one of us to
15 pass on what we've learned and I thought, you
16 know, I've been in this game now for a little over
17 10 years. I've taken from the State, I've given
18 absolutely nothing back. All of the conferences
19 I've gone to, things like that, I've never pursued
20 the opportunity to pass that along to my brothers
21 and sisters throughout the state. So that's why
22 I'm here. I'm here to try to hopefully share some
23 information, perhaps refine, revise, improve some
24 of our training, try to help coordinate our
25 training across the state just to get the

1 information out there, make us all better at what
2 we do.

3 As far as a representative, just after
4 talking to some people, concerns about my
5 involvement or experience in the association and
6 I'm not going to kid you. I'm very limited in
7 this. Before I became a career firefighter I
8 really thought KFSAA was there going around and
9 hosting a fire school. It wasn't until I became a
10 career firefighter with Wichita Fire Department
11 that I understood the amount of support that KFSAA
12 provides to the firefighter. I'm a big believer
13 in, as a representative, doing the right thing and
14 representing the people that you are supposed to.
15 You are the voice for those that do not have one.

16 One of the questions or concerns that was
17 raised to me throughout these last couple days was
18 what happens when Wichita Fire Relief Association
19 thinks one way and everybody else in the southeast
20 side of the state thinks something else. Right or
21 wrong, popularity isn't a big thing for me, okay?
22 I believe in representing the southeast corner of
23 the state, so if there's ever any concern about
24 that, you know, I think my guys know me well
25 enough to know I'm outspoken, I'm going to do what

1 I think is right and if it goes against what they
2 believe, I'll try to explain it to them, but
3 that's it. I understand the responsibility of it
4 and it is not necessarily just to the Wichita
5 guys. Really that's about all I have.

6 Can I open up for questions?

7 JIM LUBBERS: I guess, yeah.

8 MARK MISEK: Is there any questions
9 anybody has for me? Okay. I appreciate the
10 opportunity. Thank you.

11 JIM LUBBERS: Thank you, Mark. John.
12 No, you need to do it over because there could be
13 people that are here today that weren't here
14 yesterday.

15 RON EWING: Like most of you know, my
16 name is Ron Ewing. I work at the Emporia Fire
17 Department; been there for about seven years now,
18 five full time, two volunteer. I do have support
19 and approval from the Emporia Fire Chief and the
20 members of the department to be running for this
21 position.

22 I believe that the Kansas State
23 Firefighters' Association is a great association
24 that not only benefits the firefighters but their
25 families as well. This association strives every

1 day to excel in firefighter safety, training and
2 benefits and I would like to do my part.

3 Like I stated, currently employed for
4 Emporia on the job to serve as firefighter, EMTI,
5 I'm a HAZMAT technician, many other HAZMAT
6 certifications, swift water tech, first class
7 rescue and driver/operator for my department. I
8 also am currently working on getting my Fire
9 Instructor 1 right now and then Fire Officer 1
10 through K.U. and currently assist in teaching
11 Firefighter 1 and 2 classes with our department
12 training officer. Like I said, my field of
13 specialty is hazardous materials and I'd like to
14 bring that to some of the classes, the regional
15 classes. I believe the training is the key to the
16 firefighter safety and overall performance. I can
17 bring any ideas to the association, but I do
18 believe there are many other great ideas brought
19 to this organization. Trust me, I'll listen and
20 address your concerns and ideas and present them
21 to the executive board to find a conclusion. I'd
22 be honored to serve as Southeast Trustee for the
23 Kansas State Firefighters' Association.

24 Thank you.

25 (Applause.)

1 JIM LUBBERS: Thank you, gentlemen.
2 Now, we will call for the Chairperson of the
3 Nominations Committee.

4 While they're coming forward, we will do
5 the roll call passing out the ballots. The reason
6 we moved them up is for while they're counting we
7 can get out of here faster. Don't pass out your
8 ballots till the roll call. When your name is
9 called, hold up your hand so they can see where
10 you're at to give you a ballot.

11 Would the Sergeant of Arms please close
12 the doors? Make your last call for entry.

13 Rick, you got them all gathered in?

14 STEVE HIRSCH: Couple of housekeeping
15 items, please stop by the Great Bend Auxiliary
16 booth because they've got some t-shirts and some
17 blankets there that really they've worked hard on,
18 so please do support them and the guys from
19 Salina, if you'd meet with me when we get done
20 just briefly so we can talk about next year.

21 All right, this begins the roll call of
22 delegates for the election to office.

23 Ashland Fire Department, Dave Redger; if
24 you'll state present or if you're not here, say
25 absent.

1 Burrton Consolidated Fire District,
2 Donnie Bean, absent.

3 Chanute Fire Department, Andy Moffitt.

4 ANDY MOFFITT: Present.

5 STEVE HIRSCH: Clay Center Fire
6 Department, Dallas Cunningham.

7 DALLAS CUNNINGHAM: Here.

8 STEVE HIRSCH: Rodney Althizer.

9 RODNEY ALTHIZER: Here.

10 STEVE HIRSCH: Jon Siemers.

11 JON SIEMERS: Here.

12 STEVE HIRSCH: Shane Pearson.

13 SHANE PEARSON: Present.

14 STEVE HIRSCH: Did I tell you to buy
15 shirts from the auxiliary?

16 Colby Fire Department, Scott Hilbrink.

17 SCOTT HILBRINK: Present.

18 STEVE HIRSCH: J.L. Ellis.

19 J.L. ELLIS: Thankfully, present.

20 STEVE HIRSCH: And vertical. Tom

21 Benson.

22 THOMAS BENSON: Present.

23 STEVE HIRSCH: Lance Bolyard?

24 LANCE BOLYARD: Present.

25 STEVE HIRSCH: Consolidated Fire

1 District No. 2, Johnson County, Gary Lamons.
2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Absent.
3 STEVE HIRSCH: Bill Buser.
4 BILL BUSER: Here.
5 STEVE HIRSCH: Jeff Scott.
6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Absent.
7 STEVE HIRSCH: Jeff Boddy.
8 JEFF BODDY: Present.
9 STEVE HIRSCH: Conway Springs Fire
10 Department, Darrin Green.
11 DARRIN GREEN: Present.
12 STEVE HIRSCH: Don Thompson.
13 DON THOMPSON: Present.
14 STEVE HIRSCH: Mike Erker.
15 MIKE ERKER: Present.
16 STEVE HIRSCH: And Jeff Erker?
17 JEFF ERKER: Present.
18 STEVE HIRSCH: Edwardsville Fire
19 Department, Dan Johnson.
20 DANIEL JOHNSON: Present.
21 STEVE HIRSCH: El Dorado Fire
22 Department, Bill Doan.
23 BILL DOAN: Present.
24 STEVE HIRSCH: Max Brown.
25 MAX BROWN: Present.

1 STEVE HIRSCH: Ricke Whiteside.
2 RICKE WHITESIDE: Present.
3 STEVE HIRSCH: Ellinwood Fire
4 Department, Spencer Proffitt?
5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Absent.
6 STEVE HIRSCH: Wade Doonan.
7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Absent.
8 STEVE HIRSCH: Chris Komarek.
9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Absent.
10 STEVE HIRSCH: Emporia Fire
11 Department, Ron Ewing.
12 RON EWING: Here.
13 STEVE HIRSCH: Harlan Smith.
14 HARLAN SMITH: Present.
15 STEVE HIRSCH: Bill West.
16 BILL WEST: Absent.
17 STEVE HIRSCH: Ben Lienemann.
18 BEN LIENEMANN: Present.
19 STEVE KUHLMANN: Is Steve Kuhlmann
20 here to vote?
21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Absent.
22 STEVE HIRSCH: Fairmont Township Fire
23 Department, George Racki.
24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Absent.
25 STEVE HIRSCH: Chris Angermuller.

1 CHRIS ANGERMULLER: Absent.
2 STEVE HIRSCH: Jim Dickey.
3 JIM DICKEY: Here.
4 STEVE HIRSCH: Fairview Township Fire
5 District No. 6, Dale Arfmann.
6 DALE ARFMANN: Here.
7 STEVE HIRSCH: Florence Fire
8 Department, Phil Baldwin.
9 PHIL BALDWIN: Here.
10 STEVE HIRSCH: Michael Warner.
11 MICHAEL WARNER: Here.
12 STEVE HIRSCH: Great Bend Fire
13 Department, Travis Parmley.
14 TRAVIS PARMLEY: Here.
15 STEVE HIRSCH: Eric Yoder.
16 ERIC YODER: Here.
17 STEVE HIRSCH: Luke McCormick.
18 LUKE McCORMICK: Here.
19 STEVE HIRSCH: Mark Pohlman.
20 MARK POHLMAN: Here.
21 STEVE HIRSCH: Halstead Fire
22 Department, James Grow.
23 JAMES GROW: Here.
24 STEVE HIRSCH: Hays Fire Department,
25 Andrew Simon.

1 ANDREW SIMON: Here.
2 STEVE HIRSCH: Myron Dreiling.
3 MYRON DREILING: Present.
4 STEVE HIRSCH: Justin Choitz.
5 JUSTIN CHOITZ: Here.
6 STEVE HIRSCH: Darin Myers.
7 DARIN MYERS: Here.
8 STEVE HIRSCH: Hutchinson Fire
9 Department, Johnny Likes.
10 JOHNNY LIKES: Here.
11 STEVE HIRSCH: Aaron Walton.
12 AARON WALTON: Here.
13 STEVE HIRSCH: Bob Robinson.
14 BOB ROBINSON: Here.
15 STEVE HIRSCH: Mike Cain.
16 MIKE CAIN: Here.
17 STEVE HIRSCH: Iola Fire Department,
18 Gary Kimball.
19 GARY KIMBALL: Here.
20 STEVE HIRSCH: Ron Jenkins.
21 RON JENKINS: Present.
22 STEVE HIRSCH: Jefferson County Fire
23 District No. 9, Union Township; James Snyder.
24 JAMES SNYDER: Present.
25 STEVE HIRSCH: Doug Schmitt.

1 DOUG SCHMITT: Here.

2 STEVE HIRSCH: Sheila Schmitt.

3 SHEILA SNYDER: Excuse me, that's
4 Snyder.

5 STEVE HIRSCH: Well, I got you
6 married now. Sheila Snyder.

7 DOUG SCHMITT: I don't need two
8 wives, Steve.

9 STEVE HIRSCH: Thanks. Right, you
10 can only have one wife.

11 Johnson County Fire District No. 2,
12 Rural, Rodney Kurtz.

13 RODNEY KURTZ: Here.

14 STEVE HIRSCH: Dave Wolf.

15 DAVID WOLF: Here.

16 STEVE HIRSCH: Jeremy Mitzner.

17 JEREMY MITZNER: Here.

18 STEVE HIRSCH: Matt Dunham.

19 MATT DUNHAM: Here.

20 STEVE HIRSCH: Rodney was absent,
21 right?

22 RODNEY KURTZ: No, I'm here.

23 STEVE HIRSCH: I'm sorry. I didn't
24 hear you. Can't read or hear.

25 Junction City Fire Department, Chris

1 Schroeder.

2 CHRIS SCHROEDER: Here.

3 STEVE HIRSCH: Dave Nelson.

4 DAVE NELSON: Here.

5 STEVE HIRSCH: Mike Pender.

6 MIKE PENDER: Here.

7 STEVE HIRSCH: Brad White.

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Absent.

9 STEVE HIRSCH: Dennis Wetklow is not
10 present either; is that correct?

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes, absent.

12 STEVE HIRSCH: Kansas City Fire
13 Department, David Pittaway.

14 DAVID PITTAWAY: Here.

15 STEVE HIRSCH: Patrick Dunn.

16 PATRICK DUNN: Here.

17 STEVE HIRSCH: Larry Marcel.

18 LARRY MARCEL: Here.

19 STEVE HIRSCH: Greg Creten.

20 GREG CRETEN: Here.

21 STEVE HIRSCH: LaCygne Fire
22 Department, Dan Nasalroad.

23 DAN NASALROAD: Here.

24 STEVE HIRSCH: Jeff Day.

25 JEFF DAY: Here.

1 STEVE HIRSCH: Dan Curtis.

2 DAN CURTIS: Here.

3 STEVE HIRSCH: Brian Turpen.

4 BRIAN TURPEN: Here.

5 STEVE HIRSCH: Lawrence-Douglas

6 County Fire and Medical, Ben Dennis, absent; Kathy

7 Elkins, absent; Jim Sloan, absent; Brian

8 Patterson, absent.

9 Leavenworth Fire Department, Jim Magee.

10 JIM MAGEE: Here.

11 STEVE HIRSCH: Bruce Larison.

12 BRUCE LARISON: Here.

13 STEVE HIRSCH: Leawood Fire

14 Department, Peter Chronister.

15 PETER CHRONISTER: Here.

16 STEVE HIRSCH: Wayne Harder.

17 WAYNE HARDER: Here.

18 STEVE HIRSCH: Lenexa Fire

19 Department, Stan Myrtle.

20 STAN MYRTLE: Here.

21 STEVE HIRSCH: Lindsborg Fire

22 Department, Matt Clark.

23 MATT CLARK: Here.

24 STEVE HIRSCH: Logan Fire Department,

25 Sonny Ruff.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Absent.
2 STEVE HIRSCH: Manhattan Fire
3 Department, Chris Vandorn.
4 CHRIS VANDORN: Present.
5 STEVE HIRSCH: Terry Scott.
6 TERRY SCOTT: Here.
7 STEVE HIRSCH: Heath Major.
8 HEATH MAJOR: Here.
9 STEVE HIRSCH: Did I hear a yes?
10 HEATH MAJOR: Yes.
11 STEVE HIRSCH: Scott French.
12 SCOTT FRENCH: Yes.
13 STEVE HIRSCH: McLouth City Fire
14 Department, Marie Meador.
15 MARIE MEADOR: Here.
16 STEVE HIRSCH: Keith Meador.
17 KEITH MEADOR: Yes.
18 STEVE HIRSCH: And I suppose it would
19 be Lisa Snyder.
20 LISA SCHMITT: Present.
21 STEVE HIRSCH: Sorry, Lisa Schmitt.
22 McPherson Fire Department, Jeff Wendt.
23 JEFF WENDT: Present.
24 STEVE HIRSCH: Wade Hall.
25 WADE HALL: Present.

1 STEVE HIRSCH: Merriam Fire
2 Department, Shane Schnoebelen.

3 SHANE SCHNOEBELEN: Here.

4 STEVE HIRSCH: Paul Askren.

5 PAUL ASKREN: Here.

6 STEVE HIRSCH: George Mallory.

7 GEORGE MALLORY: Present.

8 STEVE HIRSCH: Bob Pape.

9 BOB PAPE: Here.

10 STEVE HIRSCH: Neosha Township Fire
11 Department, Jim Lubbers.

12 JIM LUBBERS: Present.

13 STEVE HIRSCH: Newton Fire
14 Department, Mike Estep.

15 MIKE ESTEP: Here.

16 STEVE HIRSCH: Rob Hiebert.

17 ROB HIEBERT: Here.

18 STEVE HIRSCH: Gary Crittenden.

19 GARY CRITTENDEN: Here.

20 STEVE HIRSCH: And Brett Butler.

21 BRETT BUTLER: Here.

22 STEVE HIRSCH: Olathe Fire
23 Department, Paul Willy.

24 PAUL WILLY: Here.

25 STEVE HIRSCH: Ken Wilson.

1 KEN WILSON: Here.

2 STEVE HIRSCH: Ed Reschke.

3 ED RESCHKE: Here.

4 STEVE HIRSCH: Eric Dossett.

5 ERIC DOSSETT: Here.

6 STEVE HIRSCH: Osage County Fire
7 District No. 2, Dan Romine.

8 DAN ROMINE: Here.

9 STEVE HIRSCH: Derek Wagner, absent.
10 Oskaloosa Fire District No. 8, Darrell
11 Chess, absent.

12 Overland Park Fire Department, Paul
13 Drinkard.

14 PAUL DRINKARD: Here.

15 STEVE HIRSCH: Tim Byrnes?

16 TIM BYRNES: Here.

17 STEVE HIRSCH: Michael Lander.

18 MICHAEL LANDER: Here.

19 STEVE HIRSCH: Excuse me, you're an
20 alternate.

21 MICHAEL LANDER: Thank you.

22 STEVE HIRSCH: There's too many on
23 one line. Andrew Grove.

24 ANDREW GROVE: Here.

25 STEVE HIRSCH: And Alan Mechtley.

1 ALAN MECHTLEY: Here.

2 STEVE HIRSCH: And I assume you did
3 not hand Mr. Lander a ballot.

4 Ozawkie City and Township Fire District
5 No. 7, Daniel Rosencutter.

6 DANIEL ROSENCUTTER: Present.

7 STEVE HIRSCH: Parsons Fire
8 Department, Darren Lubbers.

9 DARREN LUBBERS: Present.

10 STEVE HIRSCH: Pittsburg Fire
11 Department, Richard Wood.

12 RICHARD WOOD: Here.

13 STEVE HIRSCH: Dennis Rhuems.

14 DENNIS RHUEMS: Here.

15 STEVE HIRSCH: Riley County Fire
16 District No. 1, Pat Collins.

17 PAT COLLINS: Here.

18 STEVE HIRSCH: Russell County Fire
19 District No. 5, Steve Opdycke.

20 STEVE OPDYCKE: Here.

21 STEVE HIRSCH: Alan Kuntzsch.

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Absent.

23 STEVE HIRSCH: Carol Steinle.

24 CAROL STEINLE: Here.

25 STEVE HIRSCH: Justine Opdy.

1 JUSTINE OPDY: Here.

2 STEVE HIRSCH: Russell County Fire
3 District No. 4, Dorrance, Ron Major.

4 RON MAJOR: Here.

5 STEVE HIRSCH: Donna Fay Major.

6 DONNA FAY MAJOR: Here.

7 STEVE HIRSCH: Keith Haberer.

8 KEITH HABERER: Present.

9 STEVE HIRSCH: Russell City Fire
10 Department, Keegan Dick.

11 KEEGAN DICK: Here.

12 STEVE HIRSCH: Amber Dick.

13 AMBER DICK: Here.

14 STEVE HIRSCH: Mike Schneider.

15 MIKE SCHNEIDER: Present.

16 STEVE HIRSCH: Sam Schmidt.

17 SAM SCHMIDT: Here.

18 STEVE HIRSCH: Russell Grant Township
19 Fire Department, Gary Blundon.

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Absent.

21 STEVE HIRSCH: Brandon Dinkel.

22 BRANDON DINKEL: Here.

23 STEVE HIRSCH: Don Boxberger.

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Absent.

25 STEVE HIRSCH: Salina Fire

1 Department, Kendall Johnson.

2 KENDALL JOHNSON: Here.

3 STEVE HIRSCH: Lee Soldan.

4 LEE SOLDAN: Here.

5 STEVE HIRSCH: Mark Grosland.

6 MARK GROSLAND: Here.

7 STEVE HIRSCH: Tait Walker.

8 TAIT WALKER: Here.

9 STEVE HIRSCH: Sedgwick County Fire
10 District No. 1, Richard Janne.

11 RICHARD JANNE: Present.

12 STEVE HIRSCH: Brad Burdick.

13 BRAD BURDICK: Here.

14 STEVE HIRSCH: Brad Broyles.

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Absent.

16 STEVE HIRSCH: Craig Leu.

17 CRAIG LEU: Present.

18 STEVE HIRSCH: Seward County Rural
19 Fire Department, Greg Standard.

20 GREG STANDARD: Present.

21 STEVE HIRSCH: Shawnee Fire

22 Department, Mike Hartman.

23 MIKE HARTMAN: Present.

24 STEVE HIRSCH: Brian Stanley.

25 BRIAN STANLEY: Present.

1 STEVE HIRSCH: Jim Vielhauer.

2 JIM VIELHAUER: Present.

3 STEVE HIRSCH: Al Hoelting.

4 AL HOELTING: Here.

5 STEVE HIRSCH: Shawnee Heights Fire
6 District, Ken Scott.

7 KEN SCOTT: Present.

8 STEVE HIRSCH: Sheridan County Fire
9 District No. 1, Steve Hirsch, present.

10 Soldier Township Fire Department, Brenda
11 McNorton.

12 BRENDA McNORTON: Present.

13 STEVE HIRSCH: Ron Brandt.

14 RON BRANDT: Here.

15 STEVE HIRSCH: Kevin Flory.

16 KEVIN FLORY: Present.

17 STEVE HIRSCH: Karl McNorton.

18 KARL McNORTON: Here.

19 STEVE HIRSCH: Stanton County Fire
20 and Rescue, Troy Wolf.

21 TROY WOLF: Present.

22 STEVE HIRSCH: Jerry Popejoy.

23 JERRY POPEJOY: Here.

24 STEVE HIRSCH: Bill Umberger.

25 BILL UMBERGER: Here.

1 STEVE HIRSCH: Topeka Fire Accident,
2 Shaun McClain.

3 SHAUN McCLAIN: Present.

4 STEVE HIRSCH: Eric Bauer.

5 ERIC BAUER: Present.

6 STEVE HIRSCH: Richard Moran.

7 RICHARD MORAN: Present.

8 STEVE HIRSCH: Chad Baldwin.

9 CHAD BALDWIN: Present.

10 STEVE HIRSCH: Wichita Fire
11 Department, Charles Peaster.

12 CHARLES PEASTER: Present.

13 STEVE HIRSCH: Jason Jones.

14 JASON JONES: Present.

15 STEVE HIRSCH: Roger Ward.

16 ROGER WARD: Present.

17 STEVE HIRSCH: Colby Roberson.

18 COLBY ROBERSON: Present.

19 STEVE HIRSCH: That concludes the
20 reading of the roll. Are there any delegates that
21 I have not called? Any of the ballots that you've
22 not handed out I need back. And the Nomination
23 Committee can go ahead and collect ballots as they
24 are available. When they've collected them the
25 Sergeant of Arms can release the doors and I'll

1 release the Nomination Committee to count the
2 ballots.

3 JIM LUBBERS: Officer's report.

4 BILL UMBERGER: Bill Umberger,
5 Stanton County Fire Rescue. The officers report,
6 myself and Jeff, committee members, we met twice.
7 We read and reviewed the reports as submitted by
8 the officers. We'd ask that these reports be
9 accepted as presented.

10 JIM LUBBERS: Hearing the motion, do
11 I hear a second?

12 MAX BROWN: Max Brown, El Dorado,
13 second.

14 JIM LUBBERS: Motion has been made
15 and seconded we accept the report. Any
16 discussion? All in favor say aye.

17 (Some responded aye.)

18 JIM LUBBERS: All opposed.

19 (No oral response.)

20 JIM LUBBERS: Motion carried. Thank
21 you and you'll be released.

22 Trustees report.

23 DOUG JANSSEN: Doug Janssen, Russell
24 City Fire Department, Northwest Trustee. Trustees
25 met quite a bit during the year. We checked stuff

1 pretty close every month and we sat down with Dan
2 the other day, went through the audit, found the
3 books to be in good order. We'd like to take time
4 to thank Dan for all his efforts in putting up
5 with us because we're a bunch of hard-headed guys
6 and we ask a lot of questions and that's part of
7 what we do. I want at this point to submit that
8 our report is acceptable and we'd like to be
9 released.

10 JIM LUBBERS: Hearing a motion, is
11 there a second?

12 RICHARD JANNE: Richard Janne,
13 Sedgwick County, second.

14 JIM LUBBERS: Any discussion? All in
15 favor say aye.

16 (Some responded aye.)

17 JIM LUBBERS: All opposed.

18 (No oral response.)

19 JIM LUBBERS: Motion carried. And
20 you're released.

21 EMS committee.

22 SHANE PEARSON: Shane Pearson, Clay
23 Center Fire Department, EMS Committee Chairman.

24 We met twice during the conference.
25 Robert Waller was able to meet with us yesterday

1 for approximately 30, 45 minutes to discuss a few
2 issues that have been present since our last
3 conference last year. Two points that were
4 brought up, the biggest being those that were here
5 last year and are hearing rumor mill of the board
6 of EMTs wants to go regulate license, et cetera,
7 non-transporting first responder agency vehicles.
8 The fire service as a whole met several times last
9 year to discuss that with the Board of EMS. That
10 is Robert assured us that the Board of EMS will
11 take no action on anything in regards to
12 licensing, regulation, inspection of anything of
13 that nature on a non-transporting vehicle without
14 first coming together with the fire service as a
15 whole, meaning us, the state council, everybody
16 else that would have any involvement in that and
17 we'll all go sit at the same table to discuss that
18 issue before that ever presents itself again in
19 the form of a bill or any kind of legislation.

20 The other thing, there were some
21 questions on continuing education and the board
22 over the last couple of years has taken a little
23 bit different stance on hour for hour continuing
24 education, meaning more for rescue type classes
25 such as vehicle extrication, rope rescues, that

1 sort of thing that we award hours for. They're
2 wanting the DOT curriculum to be followed more
3 closely to have those hour per hour type of
4 continuing education hours. What the committee
5 has asked is for this association, executive
6 board, to draft a letter asking that at the yearly
7 educational workshops that are conducted across
8 the state for training officers and instructor
9 coordinators for the board of EMT to have, I don't
10 know, probably Carmen Allen address the educators
11 to make that -- to have a little bit more
12 clarification on what is required to give an award
13 hour for hour of continuing education.

14 So we will get that taken care of and
15 have that discussion with Carmen and the board
16 members at the Board of EMS to see if we can get
17 some better clarification for some of the
18 instructor coordinators and the training officers.
19 We may have a little bit of miscommunication on
20 what they need to be doing.

21 I'd like to thank the committee members
22 for attending the meetings, Sarah Voelker from
23 Salina Fire Department for being the secretary and
24 that concludes my report. And apparently,
25 contrary to what everyone has been told that Elvis

1 was dead, it's my -- I've been informed that he
2 has just changed into somebody else's body, so...

3 (Applause.)

4 JIM LUBBERS: Thank you, Shane. The
5 committee will be released and be made a standing
6 committee.

7 Constitution and By-Laws.

8 DAN ROMINE: Dan Romine, Osage City,
9 Constitution and By-Laws Committee. I'd like to
10 thank all of the members of the Constitution and
11 By-Laws Committee that participated, especially
12 Ben Dennis for volunteering to be our secretary.
13 The committee met several times during the
14 conference and at this time we have no changes to
15 bring before the conference.

16 JIM LUBBERS: Do I hear a second on
17 the report?

18 LANCE BOLYARD: Lance Bolyard, Colby
19 Fire Department, second.

20 JIM LUBBERS: Any discussion? All in
21 favor say aye.

22 (Some responded aye.)

23 JIM LUBBERS: All opposed.

24 (No oral response.)

25 JIM LUBBERS: You're released. Do

1 you wish to remain a standing committee?

2 LANCE BOLYARD: No.

3 JIM LUBBERS: You want to be a
4 standing committee?

5 LANCE BOLYARD: No.

6 JIM LUBBERS: Totally released then.

7 Beings we're waiting on the Nominations
8 Committee to get back, is there any -- I'm trying
9 to jump down. Any good and welfare for the
10 association, any announcements or anything of that
11 nature.

12 PATRICK DUNN: Patrick Dunn, Kansas
13 City, just for discussion, can we talk about how
14 much the lobbyist is paid? I thought that it was
15 kind of general knowledge, but it's come to my
16 attention that not everybody knows the whole
17 process on the lobbyist.

18 JIM LUBBERS: Correct me, Dan, if I'm
19 wrong, he gets paid \$24,000 a year. We pay
20 \$12,000 of it, chiefs and pro chiefs split the
21 other \$12,000.

22 PATRICK DUNN: Am I correct that he
23 has been our lobbyist for 14 years?

24 JIM LUBBERS: I don't think so.

25 PATRICK DUNN: How many, just so we

1 all know?

2 JIM LUBBERS: I know he was a
3 lobbyist when Keating was in and Keating was for
4 four years and I've been for four years. Prior to
5 that under Sturbins, he might have been a year or
6 two under Sturbins. I'm not totally sure because
7 we had Ed Redmond one year under Sturbins, I know.

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Do we happen
9 to know what that initial contract salary was?

10 JIM LUBBERS: Mr. Treasurer, do you
11 have any idea? I was thinking it was initially
12 around \$18,000, wasn't it? Somewhere around
13 \$18,000, I think.

14 PATRICK DUNN: Thank you.

15 JIM LUBBERS: Any more questions? I
16 see our Nominations Committee is back.

17 TERRY SCOTT: According to the vote
18 totals that we had, we had 138 ballots out; Ron
19 Ewing, 79; Mark Misek, 59. Congratulations, Ron.
20 I would like to make a motion that we destroy the
21 ballots.

22 PAT COLLINS: Pat Collins, second.

23 JIM LUBBERS: Motion's been made with
24 138; 79 and 59, and the ballots be destroyed. Any
25 more discussion? All in favor.

1 (Some responded aye.)

2 JIM LUBBERS: All opposed.

3 (No oral response.)

4 JIM LUBBERS: Motion carried. You'll
5 be released. Ron Ewing, would you come forward
6 and the other officers for the installation of
7 officers for the next year?

8 (Installation of officers was held.)

9 JIM LUBBERS: Anything from the good
10 and order from the floor?

11 PETER CHRONISTER: Pete Chronister,
12 Leawood Fire Department. As many of you may have
13 heard, I'll be retiring June 1st from the City of
14 Leawood.

15 (Applause.)

16 PETER CHRONISTER: Anyway, May 22nd
17 at Leawood City Hall between 3:00 and 5:00 is the
18 little shindig that the City is providing for me.
19 You all are welcome. Thank you.

20 JIM LUBBERS: Thank you, Pete, and I
21 want to say congratulations. You've been at the
22 conference many a times and have been a valuable
23 asset.

24 PETER CHRONISTER: Thank you. And I
25 can be a pain.

1 STEVE HIRSCH: Second that.

2 JIM LUBBERS: Any more? Richard
3 Janne.

4 RICHARD JANNE: I am retiring at the
5 end of this year also.

6 (Applause.)

7 JIM LUBBERS: Congratulations,
8 Richard, and also your face has been familiar for
9 a long time.

10 Anything else from the floor?

11 JEFF BODDY: Jeff Boddy, Consolidated
12 Fire District No. 2, make a motion to adjourn.

13 PETER CHRONISTER: Pete Chronister,
14 Leawood Fire Department, I second that.

15 JIM LUBBERS: We're not done yet.

16 PETER CHRONISTER: Yeah, we are.

17 JIM LUBBERS: Motion's been made and
18 been seconded. Any discussion? In the discussion
19 part I want to thank and I think we need to give a
20 round of applause to the Great Bend Fire
21 Department and the committee and Luke McCormick
22 for the good job that they did by putting on this
23 conference.

24 (Standing ovation and applause.)

25 JIM LUBBERS: And also under that,

1 encourage standing committees to interact during
2 the year before the next annual conference. You
3 may assist in notification to your committee
4 members and remember to visit the website which is
5 www.KSFAA.com and also read your Fire Wire and if
6 you wish to exhibit something to the Fire Wire,
7 I'm sure that Steve would be glad to take your
8 articles and if you're setting around and not
9 having anything to do and bored, just write up an
10 article and submit it to Steve. He's always
11 looking for something to put in there.

12 RICHARD JANNE: Does Salina Fire have
13 any information on next year's conference?

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: The conference
15 will be held the same weekend. It's at the
16 Holidome there on Crawford Street. We'll be
17 getting some information to the website to get
18 out. There will be golf, shooting, motorcycle
19 rally. Bring all your money, bring it to town.

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: At this point
21 they have essentially in the hotel a block of
22 rooms. Room rate is \$79.00 and I believe they
23 told me -- they told us before they came out
24 they've got at this point 167 rooms available in
25 the hotel. If for some reason that becomes

1 unavailable, there are several hotels right next
2 door that would be easy walking distance of the
3 Holidome and will be available. We can book it
4 all. All ours. You can register today, if you
5 want.

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Do you have
7 anything else going on in Salina?

8 JIM LUBBERS: Any more discussion?
9 All in favor of the adjournment say eye.

10 (Some responded aye.)

11 JIM LUBBERS: Ail opposed.

12 (No oral response.)

13 JIM LUBBERS: Again, have a safe trip
14 back home.

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