

# MICROFILM DIVIDER

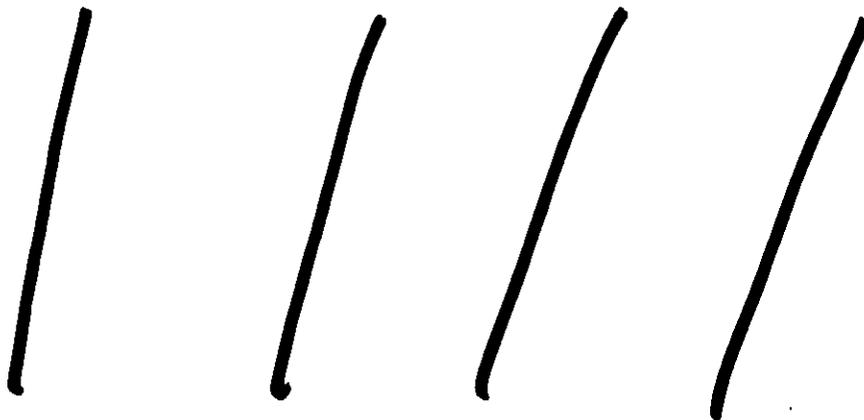
OMB/RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION

SFN 2053 (2/85) 5M



ROLL NUMBER

DESCRIPTION



2007 HOUSE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

HB 1111

## 2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. HB 1111

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: January 11, 2007

Recorder Job Number: 974

Committee Clerk Signature

*Morgan Runkel*

Minutes:

**Rep. Haas:** At this time we will open hearing on HB 1111.

**Rep. Brandenburg:** *I represent a district that has a number of volunteer fire fighters. This bill will allow for a structure of a volunteer firefighter commission. That way they can take care of their own things. There are people in these rural departments that don't have coverage when it comes to insurance. In my own area there was a volunteer fighter that ended up in a fire and died. It was ruled that it was a heart attack and non-related. His family got no benefits. We are trying to figure out how we could work something out for the people who are injured or that die. Looking at this bill with the fire commission this may be one of the answers. I really think there is a way to take care of this. If we have two different animals – full time fire fighters, and the volunteer fire fighters. The volunteer fire fighters are people who work for nothing. A lot of them start at 50, 60, and even 70 years old. There aren't many people who can do this job. We have high school kids that are part of the volunteer fire department. They go out on the run and help. They just can't drag these heavy hoses around. There are a number of people that are going to speak for this bill.*

**Rep. Boehning:** How many people are going to be on the board and who are they going to be?

**Rep. Brandenburg:** I think you better have the people here speak for that, I'm not real sure.

**Rep. Weiler:** My question is do they have a makeup for this commission?

**Rep. Brandenburg:** These questions can be answered by the people that are here.

**Rep. Weiler:** It's still not in the bill for what the makeup's supposed to be.

**Rep. Brandenburg:** These bills are rough right now. We are putting the bills together and making changes.

**Rep. Froseth:** It seems to me that two sessions ago the IBL committee allowed volunteer fire departments to include those personal in their city coverage

**Rep. Brandenburg:** I think that there are some things that some cities have dealing with arranging that. I think there is a problem that needs to be taken care of. Making this committee would deal with that. I think the people that are here to testify can give better answers that I can.

**Rep. Kasper:** Is this bill replacing something that is currently there? Is this going to be a new commission? Is this going to give the volunteer fire fighters to join this new commission instead of an old one? What actually are we not happy with and why are we doing this?

**Rep. Brandenburg:** There is some unhappiness out there between the full time people and the volunteers. People here can explain their side of the story and give reasons as to why they want this bill to pass.

**Rep. Amerman:** We tried hard last session to provide insurance to the volunteer fire fighters. Like you, that is all I have in my district. What I would like to know about is the budget. Are you saying that the DOT would come to the state and get the budget, and go through the same process?

**Rep. Brandenburg:** Actually this morning I was at a committee requesting appropriations of certain amounts. There are things in the making.

**Daryl Graff:** Testimony Attached (2)

**Rep. Dahl:** Certainly this was a very sad incident that happened to the Raber family. Do you feel that your interests are so different that you can't work out any sort of agreement with any of the other organizations? Your differences are so irreconcilable that you have to form a different committee?

**Daryl Graff:** I think it is quite clear when something as dramatic as a line of duty death occurs in the fire service and these people are more concerned about their own agenda rather than that poor family sitting there along, trying to fight for benefits. That paints a pretty clear picture to me.

**Rep. Meier:** How much funding are you looking for?

**Daryl Graff:** I think if there was \$10,000 a year program, it would allow for the distribution of the volunteer voice newspaper that talks about tactics, techniques, and legislative activity. I'm thinking about \$10,000 would be beneficial. I've been working so close with the Raber family with this. I fixed my whole heart into their despair. No family should have to suffer alone. I place my whole heart into this. I've got \$6,000 of my own money on postage. If there was some type of state help to keep in touch with the volunteer fire fighters, and in all fairness and honesty, I think this newspaper could show the minutes of board meetings with other organizations. I would just love to work with the other organizations. Past history has showed it is not very likely at this point.

**Rep. Kasper:** I don't disagree that the volunteers need to be taken care of better than what they are. When you showed your map, you had volunteer firefighters all over the state of ND, which are serving local counties, local cities, and so on. The members of those associations

are from those local communities. Have you tried to go to your local city or county to ask them to fund your organization?

**Daryl Graff:** We do have a constitute of bi-laws drawn out. It does provide for a \$50 a year annual membership dues, which will assist to some degree in the operation of the Fire Commission. It's going to be about \$4,000 to bring back the equipment from the east coast for free distribution to these departments. We haven't approached them yet. We want to see what we can do here.

**Rep. Kasper:** \$50 almost seems to be a ridiculous amount to be asking for. Your volunteers are helping to save the lives and the property of those people in your local area. For you to only ask for a \$50 support? I think you should be looking at \$500 or \$1000 or more from those local cities.

**Daryl Graff:** If you saw the budgets of these little communities out there, you should know the answer. An example is the town of Lehr, ND has an operating budget of about \$3,200. That pays for insurance, lights, and fuel for the trucks. Then they have to have a fund raiser to make sure they have enough to make it until next year. That's why it's \$50. In addition to that the ND firefighters association has a \$25 for their membership.

**Rep. Wolf:** In your resume you state you were a CEO, what were you the CEO of?

**Daryl Graff:** I was CEO of Papsid and Associates in Fargo, ND until 2001.

**Rep. Wolf:** Are you using a business postal meter, or a personal one?

**Daryl Graff:** I am using a personal postage meter. I started buying a lot of stamps so I just went and got a meter instead.

**Rep. Wolf:** What are you the chairman of?

**Daryl Graff:** The Resolve Marine group out of Fort Lauderdale, FL as their fire chief. I have a bunch of ND people that serve. We go to ship fires world wide. The ND work ethic far

outweighs the people they can employ on the coast. We have a group of people put together that respond to fires worldwide.

**Rep. Wolf:** Are you the chairman of this commission?

**Daryl Graff:** No I am not, I am the founder.

**Rep. Amerman:** The first two sections of the bill show some of the makeup of the fire commission. Is there a reason that you put everything under these two sections with your bi-laws and bills?

**Daryl Graff:** We did not put that in there. The whole packet went to the legislative council and they wrote that quite different from what we had intended. It was intended to ask for state support and recognition for this organization, primarily to assist the volunteer fire fighters.

**Rep. Schneider:** Is there another purpose for this organization other than the 10,000?

**Daryl Graff:** Yes, when it comes to various aspects of the operation of the commission, if we were a state agency we can obtain surplus equipment. We would have access to other stuff if we were an agency. It would give us the edge to get in there and make some good things happen.

**Rep. Froseth:** Are you presently registered as a registered commission with the secretary of state?

**Daryl Graff:** Yes we are.

**Rep. Froseth:** So you are organized. You have your officers listed with the state?

**Rodney Aman:** *I am the chief of Richardton, rural fire district. I am here today to tell you some stuff when you talk about running out of money before. Last month we cashed an emergency CD. Last year we used our money up for fire fighting. This morning we were at a meeting and came down and lobbied. This is the first time that there has been open hearings for firemen to get money for insurance and money for mutual aid. The first guy that came to oppose it was*

*the fire association. Why? We're on the same team. That is why we started the commission up. We need something that volunteers can voice. I've been a volunteer for 25 years. I have never gone to court where we've never had backup. When George Rabor died we were by ourselves. Me and my guys were out there that day. It was a bad fire, it was hot. We didn't know he died until the night we got in when a nurse stopped by and said who perished today? We later found out. I have to go testify in court and fight for benefits. Who's going to fight for me if I have a heart attack tomorrow. Are you guys there for me? You all wear dressed up suits with name tags on that say Fire Association. That day at court you never showed up. All of the mutual aid department were in court testifying for them girls. Now again, we have fire calls where it's a bad fire and the landlord sues. We get calls from lawyers who want us to come in. Where is the fire association? They never help us out. It's always there for fire schools in the spring. It's the chief's association who looks at you like we are the small town guys. I'm here to represent the small town fire department. Our town is 700 people. We just built a brand new ethanol plant. That's a headache. All the training we have to go through now and all the hazardous material and stuff is enough to keep our commission going. I'm disgusted with the Fire association. They are not helping us out. I have nothing against paid professionals. We had 4,000 acres of burnt prairie last year. It's tough. I'm just here top say we need this commission. You have to have a voice from a smaller community. When my guys find out that there is no benefits they don't want to go. They can't afford to get hurt. Who is going to do it? We need some help.*

**Rep. Haas:** Are there questions?

**Rep, Kasper:** This is the second or third time I've heard you say we need benefits. Let's say you had the \$10,000. Where is the rest of your money going to come from because that is not enough to have benefits.

**Rodney Aman:** We started different HB. They are trying two different things. One is a bill for mutual aid. The second one is when we came in and tried getting help.

**Rep. Brandenburg:** \$10,000 won't be enough to run this commission. It is a higher appropriation to deal with insurance and all that.

**Rep. Kasper:** These volunteer fire fighters are local to the counties and cities and townships. That is where they are fighting and doing their work. Doesn't it make sense for the funding request start at that level?

**Rep. Brandenburg:** The bills that are for firefighting, all those bills are used to buy equipment. Trucks, fuel, etc. In the town of Edgeley, we put a pole in the center of Main Street where we keep track of our money. We just don't have enough money to go around. Firefighter and the ambulance work together. We know that if you rolled your car you would want a good ambulance service to be there.

**Bruce Schreiner:** Testimony Attached (2).

**Rep. Grande:** Is every fire district in the state a member?

**Bruce Schreiner:** Yes. Every fire protection in the state. It goes to the training programs and library. Whatever our office has is available.

**Rep. Grande:** Are there any special benefits you receive from being a member?

**Bruce Schreiner:** No.

**Rep. Grande:** What seems to be the major issue with Mr. Rabor?

**Bruce Schreiner:** I'm not sure what happened with Work Force Safety with that one. We were not invited to testify on behalf of anybody. I can say that WFS had a limited coverage for those type of events. We pay for a volunteer fire fighter, less than \$3 a year, which includes part of tax. We pay about \$1,400 a year for our staff. In addition to that they need annual physicals which add \$900. Because of that it is almost impossible for them to be covered.

**Rep. Grande:** On the discussion of the needs of equipment and the costs of trying to get equipment into the rural area, is it hard?

**Bruce Schreiner:** No, our main goal is to provide adequate training in the state of ND.

**Rep. Haas:** Would it be possible for your organization to assume a greater role and take a more active part in trying to find in finding equipment.

**Bruce Schreiner:** I would guess that would be a possibility.

**Rep. Amerman:** There is no state funding that goes to your organization?

**Bruce Schreiner:** We do not receive any funding from state or federal programs. I should back up and say as far as benefits from being a Fire Association member. I do get benefits for our involvement with the national organization. It does give us access to national things.

**Rep. Amerman:** You are at a budget that you turn into the office. The commission would be a new budget? Say you could get together what would you think about sharing of the two budgets?

**Bruce Schreiner:** We provide the training and those things. On the insurance side of it, we do not have any of that in our budget. It should probably be done through some other legislative issue. Our dollars are strictly used for running our office and training.

**Rep. Wolf:** Do you represent all fire fighters?

**Bruce Schreiner:** yes we represent all of them in state of ND.

**Rep. Wolf:** What this looks like to me is just disgruntled members trying to form their own? Your training is cheap.

**Bruce Schreiner:** I'm not exactly sure what it is about. From reading the bill it just seems that is what is being done.

**Rep. Dahl:** Because there are different types of fire fighters, at some point interests must diverge. Do you have ways to handle these conflicts.

**Bruce Schreiner:** I'm guessing there has to be, but how do you handle any other conflict.

**Rep. Froseth:** The fire insurance reserve fund is a portion of everyone's fire insurance policy. Does that just go into a fund for each individual fire department.

**Bruce Schreiner:** I do not believe so.

**Rep. Froseth:** How is that money distributed to the different fire departments across the state?

**Bruce Schreiner:** There is a formula set up by the state that is based on both population and property values. There is certain lines of insurance passed for premium. It is based on that formula. Depending on your property values for your district, that determines what you get.

**Rep. Kasper:** How many fire departments in ND are full time paid departments?

**Bruce Schreiner:** as far as I know there are four. Fargo, Grand forks, Minot, and Bismarck.

**Rep. Kasper:** All those volunteers including yourself have no benefits under workers comp?

**Bruce Schreiner:** We do have coverage under workers comp. Where the problem comes in is if you actually die because of a heart attack or stroke. In order to have coverage they have to deem the incident was twice your Norman stress level.

**Rep. Kasper:** So let's make this clear. Every volunteer firefighter in ND is covered by workers compensation right now. The question is, is if it's a health related death like a heart attack, because it was or was not a result of fighting a fire.

**Bruce Schreiner:** Yes

**Rep Grande:** If a full time firefighter has a stroke are they covered?

**Captain Rick Reeb:** I was one of the initial authors of the legislation that pertains to full time paid fire fighters. When we were hired we were given a very comprehensive medical physical. Because we were deemed healthy, after that time was presumed to have been caused in the line of duty. What it did was it switched the burden of proof from us to work force safety.

Volunteer fighter's burden of proof lies with them to prove that the heart attack was caused by the job.

**Rep. Haas:** So if the volunteer fighters had a stroke or heart attack, if they can prove to work force safety that is was caused by fighting a fire.

**Rick Reeb:** if they can prove without a reasonable doubt, they are eligible for that money. You still have the coverage but the burden of proof shifts.

**Rep. Amerman:** You stated the career fire fighters because of the physical things they can show, a heart attack to them is presumed caused by the job. If the volunteer has a heart attack and die, he has to prove that it was caused by the job.

**Jim Moe:** Testimony Attached ( Magazine ).

**Rick Graba:** Testimony Attached

**Rep. Karls:** So the professional fire fighters do have their own organization.

**Rick Graba:** We are represented under the IFM local and we have our own state organizations. We have approximately over 250 members.

**Rep. Haas:** Your members are all members of the ND fire fighters association right?

**Rick Graba:** Yes we are. According to state law all fire fighters are under that.

**Raymond Lambert:** Testimony Attached.

**Rep. Haas:** Is there any other testimony in opposition to HB 1111.

**Daryl Graff:** Testimony Attached

**Rep. Haas:** We are going to close hearing on HB 1111.

# 2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. HB 1111

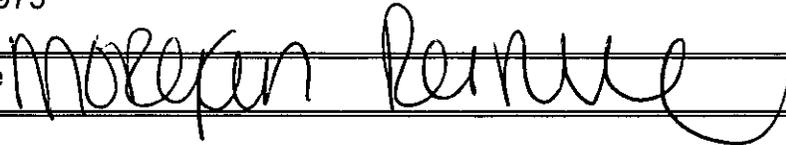
House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: January 12, 2007

Recorder Job Number: 975

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes:

**Rep. Haas:** As long as we just finished HB 1111 I would like to ask you if any of you feel that you need any more information prior to us acting on this bill.

**Rep. Kasper:** I make a motion for a do not pass.

**Rep. Dahl:** I second that

**Rep. Haas:** Is there any discussion?

**Rep. Amerman:** I would like to talk to Rep. Brandenburg before we act. I would feel more comfortable on doing this before we act.

**Rep. Haas:** Will Rep. Kasper and Rep. Dahl withdraw their motions?

**Rep. Kasper:** I withdraw my motion

**Rep. Dahl:** I withdraw mine also.

**Rep. Haas:** It is going to be my intent tomorrow to act on this bill. So think about that if there is any additional things you want before that. Let me know.

## 2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. HB 1111

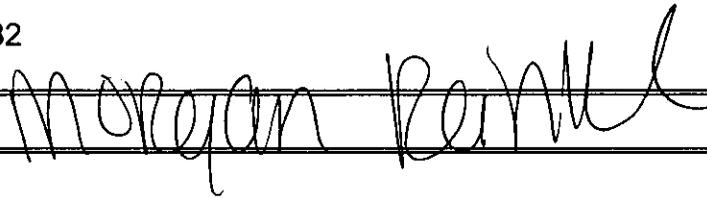
House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: January 12, 2007

Recorder Job Number: 982

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes:

**Rep. Haas:** Let's also look at HB 1111, on the North Dakota Fire Commission. Rep. Amerman, were you able to get an answer on your question.

**Rep. Amerman:** Yes

**Rep. Weiler:** If it's ok I would like to know what Rep. Amerman's discussion was about.

**Rep. Froseth:** Rep. Brandenburg said they are working with a bill in the senate to try to get some sort of a resolve as far as life insurance and health benefits.

**Rep. Haas:** Is there any more comments or discussions before we take action on this bill? If not, the chair will entertain a motion.

**Rep. Kasper:** I recommend a do not pass.

**Rep. Boehning:** Second

**Rep. Haas:** Is there any additional discussion on HB 1111, for a do not pass motion?

Committee Clerk takes roll.

**Rep. Haas:** The motion passes 13-0-0.

**Rep. Boehning:** I would like to carry this bill.

Date: 1-12-07  
Roll Call Vote #:

2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES  
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. "Click here to type Bill/Resolution No."

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number \_\_\_\_\_

Action Taken DO NOT PASS

Motion Made By KASPER Seconded By Dahl

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Rep. C.B Haas Chairman			Rep. Bill Amerman		
Rep. Bette Grande V.P			Rep. Louise Potter		
Rep. Randy Boehning			Rep. Jasper Schneider		
Rep. Stacey Dahl			Rep. Lisa Wolf		
Rep. Glen Froseth					
Rep. Karen Karls					
Rep. Jim Kasper					
Rep. Lisa Meier					
Rep. Dave Weiler					

Total (Yes) \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Absent \_\_\_\_\_

Floor Assignment \_\_\_\_\_

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

Date: 1/12/07  
Roll Call Vote #: |

2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES  
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. "Click here to type Bill/Resolution No."

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number HB 1111

Action Taken DO NOT PASS

Motion Made By Rep. Kasper Seconded By Rep. Boehning

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Rep. C.B Haas Chairman	X		Rep. Bill Amerman	X	
Rep. Bette Grande V.P	X		Rep. Louise Potter	X	
Rep. Randy Boehning	X		Rep. Jasper Schneider	X	
Rep. Stacey Dahl	X		Rep. Lisa Wolf	X	
Rep. Glen Froseth	X				
Rep. Karen Karls	X				
Rep. Jim Kasper	X				
Rep. Lisa Meier	X				
Rep. Dave Weiler	X				

Total (Yes) 13 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Rep. Boehning

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)**  
January 12, 2007 11:09 a.m.

**Module No: HR-08-0503**  
**Carrier: Boehning**  
**Insert LC: . Title: .**

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**HB 1111: Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Rep. Haas, Chairman)**  
recommends **DO NOT PASS** (13 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING).  
HB 1111 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

2007 TESTIMONY

HB 1111

On July 31, 2004, long time Hebron Firefighter George Raber died in the line of duty while fighting a fire near Hebron. Much to the surprise of the Family and the Fire Departments throughout North Dakota, the Rabers had no Workers Comp benefits to cover any costs including ambulance, doctor or emergency room care or funeral expenses.

With over two years of work on this issue, and the need for a legislative voice for the Volunteer Fire Service of North Dakota, The North Dakota Fire Commission was organized.

This new organization already has over 55 Volunteer Fire Departments represented throughout North Dakota and has proposed three House Bills and is a firm supporter of another Fire related bill.

For years the fire service relied upon the North Dakota Firefighters Association for their legislative voice. The NFDA was the flagship, but they silently, without notification of the members, decided to turn legislative activities over to the North Dakota Fire Chiefs Association all fire departments are members of NDFA, but ND Fire Chiefs is optional, with separate membership dues, and they not all North Dakota Fire Chiefs are members.

The Fire Chiefs Association has some volunteer fire department members as officers, but is actually controlled by the Chiefs of the four major Fire Departments in North Dakota. Although they are represented today by their President, Chief Moe, who is an excellent Spokesman and Fire Chief, the overall agenda is not always in line with the needs of the little departments doing their best in rural North Dakota. An example, is when some Chiefs association directors were approached regarding workers comp benefits for the Raber family, the reply was we don't want to rock the boat and lose what we already have. This tells you who they are looking out for. The metropolitan Chiefs agenda is different than the little towns in North Dakota

The North Dakota Firefighters Association was no help to the Rabers either. A line of duty death commands the respect that a fallen soldier commands, as they both died for their country. Not only did the Firefighters Association not even send a card or flowers, they failed to back the family while the family battled with workers comp for burial benefits. Perhaps the reason there was not support from them to the family, is workers comp funded some training programs through the Firefighters Association.

**These intolerable actions or lack thereof by the alleged legislative voices for the fire departments clearly show there are little departments that need a voice that will bring some justice to them for their unselfish acts every day in North Dakota.**

**The Fire Commission, in addition to serving as a Voice for member Volunteer Emergency Responders, has recently obtained a large quantity of used fire equipment, including fire trucks, that will be distributed to some of North Dakotas financially strapped volunteer Fire Departments that could otherwise not afford decent, updated equipment. The Fire Service at the East Coast is heavily funded, and items some Fire Departments consider old, is like "gold" to the poorer Fire Departments of North Dakota. The Fire Commission is a non-profit North Dakota Corporation and is asking the State assist in the operation of this Volunteer organization. House Bill 1111 provides for the duties of the Fire Commission and provides some funding for the Fire Commission.**

**You will likely receive all kinds of negative responses to this bill, but the question they all need to answer is:**

**"WHERE WERE YOU WHEN A BROTHER FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS FAMLY WAS STRUGGELING FOR BENEFITS"**

**DARRELL G. GRAF**

2754 Mercury Lane

Bismarck, ND 58503

701-222-1411

**SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS:**

Over 35 years professional skills in the fire – rescue industry  
Certified Fire Fighting Instructor  
Inventor / Patent Holder of various fire fighting products  
Developed marketing plans for fire training and products  
Experienced public speaker / superior communication skills  
Designer of fire apparatus and appliances

**FIREFIGHTING/RESCUE INSTRUCTOR EXPERIENCE:**

North Dakota Career & Tech. Education 2004 -Present  
Minnesota Certification Level IV (highest), 1990 – Present  
North Dakota Firefighters Association, 1989 - Present  
North Dakota State Rescue Instructor, 1980 – 2001  
North Dakota Vocational Technology System, 1990

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:**

North Dakota Fire Commission Founder / Member	2005 - Present
Resolve Fire & Hazard, Inc. – Resolve Marine Group Fire Response Director (Fire Chief)	2004 – Present
Fire Service Academy of ND Founder, Chief	2004 – Present
Lehr Volunteer Fire Department Training Officer	2003 – Present
Grafire / Darrell Graf Fire Service Consultant, Bismarck, ND Consultant services	2003 – Present
F.I.N.D., Inc. Medina, ND Fire Chief, founder Fire Service Academy of ND Title & address change of PEMNA FIRE STRIKE FORCE INC. Same duties as listed.	2003 - Present
B G Fire, Inc., Elgin, ND Product Development, Testing, Engineer	2003 – 2005

GRAFIRE, LTD., Fargo, ND 2002 – 2003  
Product Development  
CEO/President

PEMNA FIRE STRIKE FORCE, INC., Fargo, ND  
501-C3 non profit fire educational organization  
Fire Chief 1988- 2003  
Volunteer Team for major fires/water movement  
Live Burn Training

PEMNA, Fargo, ND 1981 –2001  
Founder  
Create and manage organizations budget  
Perform extensive training at various fire schools  
Created and developed new and innovative fire appliances  
Generate advertising and promotional events  
Design and manufacture fire trucks for national distribution  
Create and publish Fire Pump Training Video class

FARGO LAW FIRMS, Fargo, ND 1984-1987  
Conduct accident reconstruction for personal injury cases  
Interview witnesses in civil and criminal cases

MEDINA AMBULANCE SERVICE, Medina, ND 1973-1986  
Chief of Service (paid) 1985 - 1986

MEDINA FIRE & RESCUE DEPARTMENT Medina, ND  
Chief Engineer (volunteer) 1985 – 1987  
Chief of Dept. (volunteer) 1984  
Training Officer (volunteer) 1977 – 1983  
Firefighter (volunteer) 1969 – 1977

CONTINENTAL CONT. CORP. Medina, ND 1980 - 1984  
President, CEO – Federal Law Enforcement Contract

MEDINA POLICE DEPARTMENT, Medina, ND 1982 -1983  
Chief of Police

TAPPEN POLICE DEPARTMENT, Tappen, ND 1980 - 1983  
Chief of Police

GACKLE POLICE DEPARTMENT, Gackle, ND 1980 – 1982  
Chief of Police

GRAF OIL CO, INC. Medina, ND 1977 – 1983  
Vice President - Manager/Driver/Salesman

ASHLEY POLICE DEPARTMENT, Ashley, ND 1976 – 1977  
Chief of Police

WEST COAST FIRE SERVICES, Nekoma, ND 1974 – 1976  
Firefighter for the Army Nuclear Missile Facility  
IAFF member – Local I-18 elected Union Steward  
Top Secret Clearance U.S. Dept of Defense

#### EDUCATION

FIRE PROTECTION COURSE – BISMARCK STATE  
COLLEGE - 2003 (4.0)

FIRE/RESCUE CLASSES IN:  
ND, SD, OH, KS, TN. PA. WI, TX, MN, 1969 - Present

FIRE PUMP MECHANICS TRAINING 1989 – 1992

ND STATE RESCUE TRAINER CLASS 1980

US DEPT OF JUSTICE, DRUG ENFORCEMENT 1977

N D LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY 1976

EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN 1973

GRADE / HIGH SCHOOL – Medina, ND 1961 – 1973

#### HONORS / ACHIEVMENTS

National Registry - Who's Who (CEO) 2002  
Author, "Problems, Solutions and Food for Thought for the  
Fire Service" 1999  
Co-Author of book "It's All About POWER!" 1999  
Best of Show, ND Inventors Congress, 1987  
Outstanding Service Award, Medina Fire Department 1982  
Firefighter of the Year, Medina Fire Department 1979  
Outstanding Young Law Officer, Ashley, ND 1977

REFERENCES:

Brain Nelson, Attorney  
111 S. 9<sup>th</sup> St.  
Fargo, ND 58103  
701-237-4433

Chief Sandy Werth  
Lehr Fire Department  
Lehr, ND 58460  
701-378-2388

Chief Tim Serr  
Eureka Fire Department  
Eureka, SD 57437  
605-284-3534

Bruce Johnson, Attorney  
107 Roberts St.  
Fargo, ND 58102  
701-235-6411

Joe Zenner  
14441 Quentin Ave. So.  
Savage, MN 55378  
651-450-5287



Wayne Stenehjem  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA  
OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL

STATE CAPITOL  
600 E BOULEVARD AVE DEPT 125  
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0040  
(701) 328-2210 FAX (701) 328-2226

February 28, 2006

Mr. Darrell Graf  
Fire Service Consultant  
2754 Mercury Ln  
Bismarck, ND 58503-0474

Dear Mr. Graf:

Enclosed is the Attorney General's opinion issued as a result of your request for an opinion on an alleged violation of the open meetings laws by the North Dakota Firefighter's Association.

The North Dakota Firefighter's Association has seven days to take any remedial actions identified in the opinion. If the North Dakota Firefighter's Association does not comply with the opinion within that time, you can bring a lawsuit against the North Dakota Firefighter's Association to force it to take those remedial actions. The lawsuit must be brought within 60 days of the date you knew or reasonably should have known of the violation or within 30 days of the date of the opinion, whichever is later. If you are going to seek attorney's fees or damages in the lawsuit, you must first give the North Dakota Firefighter's Association three days' notice of your intent to bring that lawsuit.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Wayne Stenehjem  
Attorney General

vkk  
Enclosure

**OPEN RECORDS AND MEETINGS OPINION  
2006-O-05**

DATE ISSUED: February 28, 2006

ISSUED TO: North Dakota Firefighter's Association

**CITIZEN'S REQUEST FOR OPINION**

This office received a request for an opinion under N.D.C.C. § 44-04-21.1 from Darrell Graf asking whether the North Dakota Firefighter's Association ("Association") violated N.D.C.C. § 44-04-20 by failing to give proper notice of the Association's executive board meetings.

**FACTS PRESENTED**

The Association is a non-profit corporation. Its members consist of the various organized fire departments and fire protection districts within this state. One of the Association's chief activities is conducting annual fire schools.

The Association is governed by an executive board (Board) consisting of eight members.<sup>1</sup> The Board generally conducts two meetings each year in conjunction with its fire training schools and annual convention and other meetings on an as needed basis.

The Association held a telephone conference call meeting on November 2, 2005, and conducted another meeting on January 14, 2006, at the Radisson Hotel in Bismarck.<sup>2</sup> The Association gives notice of its meetings to its Board members but does not give public notice of its meetings in the manner specified in the open meetings laws.

**ISSUE**

Whether the Association violated N.D.C.C. § 44-04-20 by failing to give proper notice of its Board meetings.

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<sup>1</sup> Constitution and Bylaws of the North Dakota Firefighter's Association (2000).

<sup>2</sup> The request for an opinion regarding a meeting notice violation must be made within 90 days of the meeting for which an opinion is requested. The Board held several other meetings, but because those meetings occurred more than 90 days before Mr. Graf's request, our office cannot address them. See N.D.C.C. § 44-04-21.1(1).

ANALYSIS

The state's open meetings laws apply to "public entities."<sup>3</sup> The definition of "public entity" in N.D.C.C. § 44-04-17.1 is not limited to entities traditionally viewed as "governmental." A nonprofit entity like the Association can be a public entity if it is supported by public funds, is expending public funds,<sup>4</sup> or is recognized by state law to exercise public authority or to perform a governmental function.<sup>5</sup> "Public funds" means "cash and other assets with more than minimal value received from the state or any political subdivision of the state."<sup>6</sup>

The Association receives appropriations from the Legislative Assembly to carry out its duties.<sup>7</sup> For example, in 2005 the Legislature appropriated \$120,000 for the Association. This appropriation represents a substantial portion of the Association's \$175,000 annual budget. In addition, the Association is recognized in state law to perform a governmental function.<sup>8</sup> There is an entire chapter in the Century Code devoted to the Association. The Association is required by statute to conduct annual fire schools to train firefighters.<sup>9</sup> It is also required to file annual reports with the Office of Management and Budget listing all the fire schools held in the state.<sup>10</sup> There are several sections of the Century Code dealing with legislative appropriations to the Association.<sup>11</sup> It is my opinion that the Association is a public entity subject to the open meetings law because it is supported by public funds and because it is recognized by state law to perform a governmental function.

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<sup>3</sup> N.D.C.C. § 44-04-18.

<sup>4</sup> N.D.C.C. § 44-04-17.1(9), (12)(c); N.D.A.G. 2006-O-02; N.D.A.G. 2001-O-11 and N.D.A.G. 2001-O-10.

<sup>5</sup> N.D.C.C. § 44-04-17.1(12)(a); see also N.D.A.G. 2006-O-02 (Red River Valley Fair Association, which manages the Red River Valley Fair, is a public entity under N.D.C.C. § 44-04-17.1(12)(b) because it is recognized by state law to exercise public authority or perform a governmental function); N.D.A.G. 2003-O-08 (Dakota Center for Independent Living is recognized to perform a governmental function set out in N.D.C.C. ch. 50-06.5); N.D.A.G. 98-O-21 (North Dakota Soil Conservation District is recognized by state law to perform the governmental managing of public lands for purposes set out in N.D.C.C. § 4-22-51).

<sup>6</sup> N.D.C.C. § 44-04-17.1(13); N.D.A.G. 2006-O-04.

<sup>7</sup> See e.g. 2005 N.D. Sess. Laws. ch. 10, § 4 (appropriating \$120,000 in two equal payments to the North Dakota Firefighter's Association).

<sup>8</sup> N.D.C.C. ch. 18-03.

<sup>9</sup> N.D.C.C. § 18-03-02.

<sup>10</sup> N.D.C.C. § 18-03-03.

<sup>11</sup> See N.D.C.C. §§ 18-03-04 through 18-03-08.

When a state-level governing body holds regularly scheduled meetings, the schedule for these meetings must be filed with the Secretary of State.<sup>12</sup> In this case, the Board does not hold regularly scheduled meetings. When a board does not hold regularly scheduled meetings, the board must treat its meetings as emergency or special meetings and provide notice accordingly.<sup>13</sup>

Unless otherwise provided by law, written public notice must be given in advance of all meetings of a public entity.<sup>14</sup> The notice for a regular, special, or emergency meeting must include the date, time, and location of the meeting, and all topics the governing body expects to consider. This list of topics is also referred to as the agenda.<sup>15</sup> "Topics that may be considered at an emergency or special meeting are limited to those included in the notice."<sup>16</sup> The notice must be posted at the public entity's main office, if any; filed, in the case of a state public entity, with the Secretary of State; and given to anyone requesting this information.<sup>17</sup> On the day of the meeting, the notice must be posted at the location of the meeting.<sup>18</sup> For emergency or special meetings, the Board must notify the official newspaper of the county in which the entity's principal office or mailing address is located, as well as any representatives of the news media who have requested notice.<sup>19</sup>

In this case, the Association was not aware that it was a public entity subject to the open records and open meetings law. As a result, the Association failed to provide public notice of its meetings in accordance with the open meeting notice requirements. Accordingly, it is my opinion that the Association violated N.D.C.C. § 44-04-20 by failing to give proper notice of its November 2, 2005, and January 14, 2006, meetings.

#### CONCLUSION

The Association violated N.D.C.C. § 44-04-20 by failing to give proper notice of its November 2, 2005, and January 14, 2006, meetings.

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<sup>12</sup> N.D.C.C. § 44-04-20(3).

<sup>13</sup> N.D.A.G. 2005-O-17; N.D.A.G. 2005-O-10 (monthly meeting of ambulance board treated as a special meeting because board does not file an annual schedule of regular meetings with the county auditor.); N.D.A.G. 2005-O-07 (special meeting of a committee that did not hold regularly scheduled meetings, but met on an as needed basis); N.D.A.G. Letter to Haner (Nov. 1, 1999) ( an emergency or special meeting is one that is held on a day different from the regular meeting day).

<sup>14</sup> N.D.C.C. § 44-04-20(1); N.D.A.G. 2004-O-20.

<sup>15</sup> See N.D.C.C. § 44-04-20(2).

<sup>16</sup> N.D.C.C. § 44-04-20(6).

<sup>17</sup> N.D.C.C. § 44-04-20(4), (5); N.D.A.G. 2005-O-14; N.D.A.G. 2004-O-09.

<sup>18</sup> N.D.C.C. § 44-04-20(4).

<sup>19</sup> N.D.C.C. § 44-04-20(6).

OPEN RECORDS AND MEETINGS OPINION 2006-O-05

February 28, 2006

Page 4

STEPS NEEDED TO REMEDY VIOLATION

The Association must in the future give notice of its Board meetings as required by N.D.C.C. § 44-04-20. In addition, the Association must provide copies of the minutes of its November 2, 2005, and January 14, 2006, minutes to Mr. Graf free of charge.

Failure to take the corrective measures described in this opinion within seven days of the date this opinion is issued will result in mandatory costs, disbursements, and reasonable attorney fees if the person requesting the opinion prevails in a civil action under N.D.C.C. § 44-04-21.2.<sup>20</sup> It may also result in personal liability for the person or persons responsible for the noncompliance.<sup>21</sup>

Wayne Stenehjem  
Attorney General

Assisted by: Michael J. Mullen  
Assistant Attorney General

vkk

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<sup>20</sup> N.D.C.C. §44-04-21.1(2).

<sup>21</sup> Id.

## It is time for a Legislative study on the NDFA

It is mind boggling to see that the North Dakota Fire Fighters Association no longer has time to lobby for issues that affect the North Dakota Fire Service, yet they find time to show up to testify against volunteer fire service progress.

The leadership of the North Dakota Firefighters Association (NDFA) is inept. The tactics and actions of the executive board of this group have caused great concern and alarm throughout the volunteer fire service.

Bullying tactics and character assassinations are rampant against anyone who makes a suggestion or dares to ask questions NDFA does not wish to answer.

The obsolete constitution and by-laws prevents the departments that disparately need to be heard and represented, from being heard or represented at all.

NDFA actions regarding Civil Rights violations parts 241 and 242 of the US Code have been recently reported to the United States Department of Justice and the FBI.

The secret meetings they have had for years, had to be addressed and admonished by the North Dakota Attorney General last year, only to have them repeat the offenses.

Their method of operation rivals a dictatorship.

Although the NDFA is the lead "State agency" for firefighter training, they stopped live fire training due to a lack of trained fire instructors. This training vacuum jeopardizes the safety of the firefighters. Without a place to experience live, hot, real-life fire suppression training, how can North Dakota volunteer firefighters obtain the training they need - not only to save their community, but how to save their own lives? The proper way would have been to GET INSTRUCTORS TRAINED and continue the live fire drills, rather than hoarding the money the State of North Dakota provides them.

So now lets examine the financial condition of the Association. They admittedly allowed some previous board members to "double dip" and otherwise pad expenses. Some appropriations which NDFA receives from the taxpayers of North Dakota are placed into Certificates of Deposit rather than be used to train the volunteer firefighters. We're not talking a few thousand dollars for unexpected emergencies, we are talking tens of thousands of dollars. I have attached an annual report and on it you will find an accurate accounting of the funds, but like buying a Thanksgiving turkey, there are "parts missing".

For instance, the new Firefighter I and Firefighter II programs have been in use several years now. The report shows North Dakota has 549 Certified Firefighter I

and 265 Firefighter II. This is a disaster, especially when you consider the PAID fire departments make up about 35% of this combined number of trained Firefighters I and II. More big numbers- 1206 firefighters registered for the State Fire School. About 20% registrants failed to show up. This means that 1044 firefighters of approximately 8,000 in North Dakota participated. Just 216 of about 388 fire departments in the state were represented. This leaves a great deal to be desired. So the answer you will hear is "we have regional schools for those that cannot come to State School. Now take a look at these numbers. Inept is an understatement.

If the organization would spend more time on their core activities rather than focusing on character assassinations and threatening behavior and have a little entrepreneurship and change their course to meet today's needs, North Dakota firefighters and citizens would benefit tremendously. If NDFA spends the money in CD's as it was originally intended, things would dramatically change.

So with this evidence of Federal and State law violations, a Legislative Study is long overdue and for the sake of the citizens of the State of North Dakota, a Legislative Study is hereby requested.

# ND FIRE COMMISSION

Lisa Raber  
Executive Director  
Eglin, ND 58533  
l\_raber@yahoo.com  
701-584-2822

"BECAUSE WE CARE"

Darrell Graf  
2754 Mercury Lane  
Bismarck, ND 58503  
grafire@bis.midco.net  
701-222-1411

## Brothers and Sisters in Fire and other Emergency Services

**WHY**...do the citizens of North Dakota take for granted the unique, unselfish service they have been receiving from people like you for years and years?

**WHY**...can a Brother Firefighter die in the line of duty and his family find out there is no workers comp. coverage even to cover his burial, let alone medical, ambulance and living expenses?

**WHY**...do we spend time from our families, jobs and hobbies, spending not only our time but also our money for mileage, meals and other costs to serve as an emergency volunteer worker in North Dakota?

**WHY**...do farmers, ranchers and other self-employed volunteers receive workers comp. benefits of only 50% when a brother or sister emergency worker faces a tragedy (line of duty disabling injury or death) rather than wage earners disability benefits of 66%?

### What can we do?

**Change** can come from a grass roots level, and this is a good start. The ND Fire Commission and the Volunteer Voice newspaper are two changes that have taken place since the death of Brother Firefighter George Raber (Bron, FD). Education and Awareness are two key ingredients to justice for volunteer emergency workers and their families.

We need your help and membership! (No dues, open internet meetings to save expenses). Please join and ask your local Legislators and candidates to join and support this worthy cause.

Other organizations have had years and years to make conditions just and favorable for the volunteers, but they have not made it happen. Petty politics, emphasis on the needs of the larger communities and lack of leadership have allowed the injustice to prevail.

### NOW IS YOUR CHANCE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The small, rural departments across this state are in dire need and your membership and input will make a difference. *The crisis is here, and the time to act is NOW!!!*

### It's all about "R"s

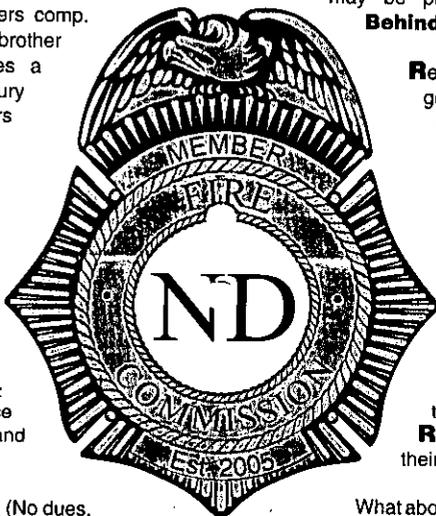
**Retention**...Retaining the volunteers you have, keeping them interested, their families protected and their volunteerism appreciated.

**Recruitment**...Recruiting new members to the organization to replace those that have retired, moved, become disabled, or cannot continue their volunteer service.

The smaller the community, the worse the recruitment problem becomes, and the thinner the hard working volunteers of that community get spread. When recruiting, we must be able to show some type of benefits, such as how their family will be covered in the event of a tragedy involving the volunteer.

**Recognition**...Volunteering in the emergency services field is much more than responding to emergencies. It involves countless hours donated for training, meetings and special events. In most cases, the volunteer is happy and satisfied to assist for no pay, but on the other hand, they **NEED** to be recognized for their unselfish acts in conditions that can turn deadly or disabling at any time. We may be proposing the "**No Family Left Behind**" act.

**Rewards**...Although the volunteer emergency worker is doing his deeds out of the goodness of his heart and with no expectation or remuneration, it **SHOULDN'T COST** him to be an emergency services volunteer. Think of the mileage to and from meetings, training, emergencies and special related events. The citizens of North Dakota are getting (and have for years and years) a lot for a little. Wouldn't a great reward be to have a state income tax break as an incentive to **R**ecruit, **R**etain, **R**ecognize and **R**eward these hometown heroes for their efforts?



What about the NDFA? They have had over 100 years to implement solutions to these matters before they became a crisis. They are now "out of politics" and concentrate their efforts on training. Speaking of rewards, it costs the volunteer to have a NDFA firefighters license plate????? How did this ever happen?

What about the ND Fire Chiefs Association? A recent survey shows there is a lack of confidence in that organization going to bat for the small, rural organizations in our state. Their actions speak for themselves and it is quite clear their efforts will likely and largely affect the large fire departments in North Dakota.

So, now it is up to us, you and I and the rest of the Fire Commission. With a legislative session approaching us, **NOW** is the time to make a difference. **NO** dues, **NO** expenses for meetings, **NO** time away from home or office. This is the clear cut way to collectively make a positive change for the survival of rural North Dakota. **Won't you please help?**

Respectfully,

  
Darrell Graf

**NORTH DAKOTA FIREFIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION  
BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA  
HB 1111**

Chairman Haas, Members of the House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee,  
My name is Bruce Schreiner. I am the President of the North Dakota Firefighter's  
Association and a Past President of the North Dakota Fire Chief's Association. I am also  
the Chief of the Garrison Fire Department.

I appear before you today to oppose HB 1111. I have attached a copy of Chapter 18-03  
of the North Dakota Century Code for your reference. Enacting 18-03-1-01 will create a  
duplication of services that has been in place since before statehood.

The North Dakota Firefighter's Association was organized in 1884 for the purpose of  
training firefighters. The Association has been coordinating fire service training since  
that time. I have attached a chart showing the number of firefighters and departments  
trained at regional and the state fire school over the past seven years. I also passed out  
the 2007 State Fire School book to show you the classes that will be offered and the  
scope of training available on a state level. There are 386 fire departments and fire  
protection districts in North Dakota. Some of the fire protection districts are a governing  
body only and not a responding entity. I do not know how many of the 386 departments  
are governing bodies only and rely on a city fire department to provide coverage to the  
rural area. But for the past two years, more than half the total number of fire departments

and districts have participated in fire schools sponsored by the North Dakota Firefighter's Association. I requested the Executive Director to research the records to see how far back in history the NDFA has been state funded for the purpose of fire service training. She could find records back to 1933 when the State Fire School Appropriation was \$1,000 annually. So the state has been supportive of the North Dakota Firefighter's Association in its efforts to provide training for a very long time. That support is greatly appreciated by the North Dakota Firefighter's Association and the member fire departments.

The State Fire School continues to grow because we have the ability to bring instructors of national and international recognition. This allows the North Dakota Firefighter's Association to bring new techniques and technologies to the North Dakota departments. The firefighters attending the fire school are asked to fill out a survey form. Those comments have been very positive and have affirmed the classes and subject matter year after year. When a request comes for a specific subject matter, we make every effort to provide that training.

The North Dakota Firefighter's Association works with the Dickinson, Devils Lake and Fargo Fire Departments to utilize their fixed training facilities for regional fire schools and with Fargo and Grand Forks Fire Departments to use their mobile training props for firefighter training at the regional and state fire schools. This saves the need to request funds for the construction and maintenance of a fixed state facility.

This legislation drives a wedge between the career and combination departments and the volunteer departments. Over the past ten years, the North Dakota Firefighter's Association has worked hard to improve the relationship and cooperation between ALL North Dakota Fire Departments. Of the 80 instructors expected at the 2007 state fire school, at least 33 will come from career and combination departments in North Dakota. The State and Federal Land Management Agencies will be providing about 15 instructors for the wildland classes. There will be 16 national instructors and one Canadian Instructor and 15 instructors from volunteer fire departments. As you can see, the North Dakota State Fire School provides a large cross section of instructors and experience.

The North Dakota Firefighter's Association is a member of a regional training organization called TRADE, which stands for Training Resources And Data Exchange. This organization is sponsored by the US Fire Administration. This membership give the North Dakota Firefighter's Association access to training programs that have been developed by other states and the Metro departments in the United States. The North Dakota Firefighter's Association is also a member of the North American Fire Training Directors which consists of the State Training Directors from the fifty states and the Canadian Provinces. This membership provides a network of state training directors that share information and programs. This is a vital resource to the operations of the North Dakota Firefighter's Association. The North Dakota Firefighter's Association is also a member of the National Volunteer Fire Council which represents the volunteer fire service on a national level. They are working on a number of legislative initiatives to

provide benefits to the volunteer fire service nation wide as a retention and recruitment tool. They also provide training programs that we have offered at the state fire school.

Mr. Chairman, The North Dakota Firefighter's Association requests a Do Not Pass on HB 1111. Thank You for the opportunity to offer testimony today. I will be happy to answer questions you or the committee may have.

## CHAPTER 18-03 FIREFIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION

**18-03-01. North Dakota firefighter's association - How constituted.** The North Dakota firefighter's association consists of the various organized fire departments and fire protection districts within this state, and each fire department, fire protection district, and firefighter within the state is entitled to membership in the association upon compliance with the constitution and bylaws of the association.

**18-03-02. Fire schools.** Fire schools must be held annually under the direction of the North Dakota firefighter's association. The schools must be held at such times and in such places in North Dakota as may be designated by the North Dakota firefighter's association executive board. Fire schools may be held by teleconference, video, or other alternative media.

**18-03-03. Association to report to office of management and budget time and place of school and name of treasurer.** The North Dakota firefighter's association shall submit to the office of management and budget an annual report of all fire schools held in the state. The association also shall furnish to the office of management and budget the name and address of the treasurer of the association.

**18-03-04. Association to furnish bond.** The North Dakota firefighter's association shall file with the director of the office of management and budget a bond in the penal sum of two thousand dollars conditioned for the faithful disposition of the funds appropriated by the legislative assembly for the use of the association in conducting fire schools.

**18-03-05. Statement of desired appropriation submitted to office of the budget.** Not later than July first of each year next preceding a regular session of the legislative assembly, the director of the budget shall send to the North Dakota firefighter's association a suitable blank form to be filled out with an itemized statement of the amount of money necessary to promote the efficiency and growth of the different fire departments and fire protection districts of the association and to conduct the fire schools to be held during the succeeding biennium under the direction of the association. The association shall return the blanks properly filled out as provided in section 54-44.1-04.

**18-03-06. Director of the budget to prepare estimate for firefighter's association.** The director of the budget shall include, with its estimates, an estimate of the amounts necessary to be appropriated to promote the efficiency and growth of the different fire departments and fire protection districts of the association and to conduct fire schools.

**18-03-07. Office of management and budget to pay sum appropriated to association treasurer.** Not later than the first day of August of each year, the office of management and budget, by warrants prepared and issued by the office and signed by the state auditor, shall pay to the treasurer of the North Dakota firefighter's association the sum appropriated by the legislative assembly for that year. The sum, however, may not be paid until the treasurer of the association has filed the bond required in section 18-03-04.

**18-03-08. Report of use of money.** On or before the first day of July of each year, the president, secretary, and treasurer of the North Dakota firefighter's association shall make to the office of management and budget a full and complete report, duly verified by the secretary, of the disposition of all moneys received; the association shall provide for an audit annually by a certified public accountant or licensed public accountant who shall submit the audit report to the state auditor's office. When the report is in the form and style prescribed by the state auditor, the state auditor may not conduct an audit of the records of the association.

**18-03-09. Volunteer firemen exempt from poll tax - Duty of secretary of department.** Repealed by S.L. 1969, ch. 528, § 24.

HB 1111							
<b>NORTH DAKOTA FIREFIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION</b>							
<b>FIRE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE SUMMARY</b>							
<b>FIREFIGHTERS PARTICIPATING IN STATE FIRE SCHOOL:</b>				<b>(Held in February each year)</b>			
	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>
	848	933	1053	1016	1043	1076	1079
<b>FIRE DEPARTMENTSPARTICIPATING AT STATE FIRE SCHOOL</b>							
	158	188	202	184	190	199	216
<b>NUMBER OF REGIONAL FIRE SCHOOLS:</b>							
	7	7	6	9	7	7	8
<b>FIREFIGHTERS PARTICIPATING IN REGIONAL FIRE SCHOOLS:</b>							
			339	297	231	214	165
<b>FIRE DEPARTMENTS PARTICIPATING AT REGIONAL FIRE SCHOOLS:</b>							
			64	78	42	56	39



# DEPARTMENT OF CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Wayne Kutzer  
STATE DIRECTOR &  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

State Capitol 15th Floor  
600 E Blvd. Ave Dept 270  
Bismarck ND 58505-0610  
701-328-3180  
701-328-1255 (Fax)

1-10-2007

E-mail:  
cte@nd.gov

Websites:  
www.nd.gov/cte  
www.nd.gov

To Whom It May Concern:

**STATE BOARD FOR  
CAREER AND TECHNICAL  
EDUCATION**

The Department for Career and Technical Education has approved adult programming for the North Dakota Fire Academy. The initial approval was in 2004 with the introduction of Fire Fighter I and Fire Fighter II. These courses meet National Fire Protection Association criteria. Trainees successfully completing the courses will be recognized by the National Fire Protection Association with the Fire Fighter 1001 and the Fire Fighter 1002 certification.

Darrel Remington  
Chairperson  
701-824-2736

Jeffery Lind  
Vice Chair  
701-776-5201

Maren Daley  
Member  
701-328-2838

The North Dakota Fire Academy meets the Department for Career and Technical Education criteria for adult education and is meeting renewal requirements when requested.

Brian Duchscherer  
Member  
701-328-2960

Robert Geske  
Member  
701-437-3437  
701-799-6082

The North Dakota Fire Academy is also discussing the possibility with the Department for Career and Technical Education of introducing the Fire Fighter I into rural high schools. The Fire Fighter I would be a one credit course much like the Emergency Medical Service program currently offered in rural high schools. This course offering would provide awareness to students regarding careers and skills in fire fighting. It is also the intent to have a means to prepare rural residents for service in rural volunteer fire organizations.

Dr. Wayne Sanstead  
Member  
701-328-4572

Susan Shbbe  
Member  
701-874-2164

Rita Wilhelm  
Member  
701-628-2211

Sincerely,

Don Roloff, Supervisor  
Trade Industry Technical and Health Careers Education

## STATE TRAINING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The state training library has 807 videos and four sets of the Essentials 4<sup>th</sup> Edition Curriculum Instructor packages for the firefighter certification program. There are 67 training CD Rom programs and 82 NFA Courses in the library. There is a listing of all the materials on the Association web site at [www.ndfa.net](http://www.ndfa.net). These materials are available to member departments on a loan basis.

### **Firefighter Certification Statistics:**

	<b>Association Membership</b>
18 Certification Testers	99 City Fire Departments
549 Certified Firefighter I	37 Rural Fire Departments
265 Certified Firefighter II	242 Rural Fire Protection Districts
25 Certified Fire Service Instructor I	10 Associate Members
15 Certified Fire Service Instructor II	8 Corporate Members
28 Test Sites May 1, 2005 - April 30, 2006	396 Total Membership

The following Fire Schools were held May 1, 2005 thru April 30, 2006:

**State Fire School:** Bismarck February 23-26, 2006  
4 National Fire Academy Classes

6 NWCG Wildland Classes

33 NDFA Sponsored Classes

A total of 43 classes attended by 1,044 firefighters representing 216 fire departments and 13 Associate and Corporate members.

### **Northeast Region Fire Schools:** Dave Johnson, Trustee

New Rockford	October 1, 2005	14 firefighters	3 Departments
Park River	April 29-30, 2006	37 firefighters	9 Departments

### **Southeast Region Fire Schools**

Litchville	August 27, 2005		
Oakes	February 4, 2006	31 firefighters	9 Departments

### **Northwest Region Fire Schools:** Bob Wetzler, Trustee

Watford City	October 22, 2005	13 firefighters	2 Departments
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### **Southwest Region Fire Schools:** Bob Sivak, Trustee

Beulah	April 16, 2005	17 firefighters	3 Departments
Dickinson	December 3, 2005	40 firefighters	11 Departments
Mandan Wildland	December 2, 3 & 4, 2005	13 firefighters	2 Departments

All of the above is respectfully submitted to the North Dakota Firefighter's Association by:

/s/ Allan Klein

Secretary/Treasurer  
NDFA

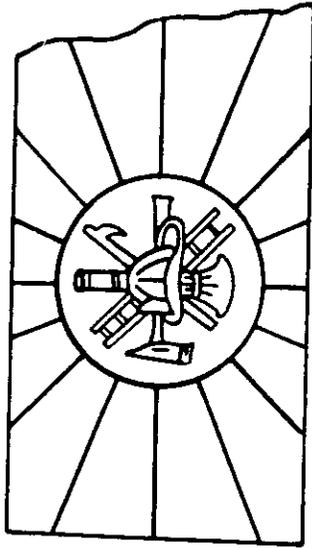
/s/ Lois Hartman

Executive Director  
NDFA

# NORTH DAKOTA

# FIREFIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION

2005-2006



## Annual Reports

OF THE SECRETARY / TREASURER,  
AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As submitted at the 122<sup>nd</sup> Annual Convention  
at Wahpeton, North Dakota

Members of the North Dakota Firefighter's Association:

Enclosed herewith you will find the 2005-2006 Annual Reports of the N.D.F.A.  
Secretary/Treasurer and Executive Director.

At the convention in Williston in 1958, you voted to have a copy of these reports printed and mailed to each department in the Association each year, also in 1967 a resolution to have a copy available for convention delegates on the convention floor.

If there is anything you do not understand or have any questions on, do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely yours,

Allan Klein  
Secretary/Treasurer

Lois Hartman  
Executive Director

## 2006 Executive Director's Annual Report

This has been a very busy and productive year for the Association. The 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual State Fire School set a new record for pre-registration with 1,206 people registered. When all the rosters were reconciled, 1046 people representing 216 fire departments and 13 Associate members organizations actually completed class work in 44 different classes. The class comment cards indicated that the vast majority of you were pleased with the class selection and instructors. The Trustees continue to offer regional fire schools which offer excellent one-on-one training for the regional fire departments.

There were 28 firefighter certification test sites this past year. The interest in the Essentials of Firefighting Certification program continues to grow. All the firefighters and officers through the rank of Captain of the Bismarck Fire & Inspections Departments are certified to the Firefighter II level. There are two test sites in June, so more opportunities for certification are being offered. If you have questions, please contact the NDFA Office or one of the Trustees.

The Association continues its membership in the National Volunteer Fire Council. This organization is promoting the membership in the National Volunteer Fire Council on their web page at [www.nvfc.org](http://www.nvfc.org). This program is an effort to assist firefighters to lose weight and to become physically fit in an effort to reduce the number of heart attacks and strokes in the fire service. The NVFC works with other national fire organizations to promote fire service legislative issues. One of their top priorities is to change the IRS tax laws to allow volunteer fire departments to offer length of service award programs (retirement) and have the programs be qualified for tax advantages.

As the State Training Agency, the North Dakota Firefighter's Association is a member of the North American Fire Training Directors (NAFTD) organization. This organization serves as a conduit to get training information to the state agencies and to assist the National Fire Academy in developing new courses and programs. Through the efforts of this organization, over 150 state developed courses are available for credit through the National Fire Academy. For the states who give college credit for fire service training, this has been a big asset to their training programs. NAFTD continues to work with the DHS on a national credentialing system. This will be a voluntary system that will give firefighters the opportunity to deploy and assist in the event of a national disaster.

The Association hosted the spring meeting of Region VIII TRADE (Training Resources and Data Exchange) in Bismarck. NIMS and the ICS classes were discussed and the Train-the-Trainer programs that are to be offered in each state. There are a number of fire service people in North Dakota who will be qualified to teach the ICS classes. If you have questions, please contact the NDFA office. Wyoming shared their new accredited certification program, a Fire Department Training Officer Manual and their new manual on Line of Duty Deaths. Copies of these programs will be added to the Training Library.

The Association continues to be an active member of the North Dakota Fire Council. This group meets twice each year to discuss the wildland fire issues facing the state and federal agencies. The Association represents the rural fire departments, requesting training and equipment be made available to the departments. This year, there were six wildland classes provided at the State Fire School by the Fire Council. Additional wildland training is available to the fire departments by contacting the NDFA office.

The State Training Library continues to send VHS tapes out each month to fire departments requesting them for monthly training. The North Dakota Fire Prevention Association purchased a number of programs on fire safety and prevention. All of the National Fire Academy 2-day direct delivery classes are now available through the library. The Association has a grant to assist the departments in printing the student manuals. These classes are available to any department wishing to use them. The library also has the student materials for a number of the NFA classes that have been offered at the State Fire School. Fire Departments are encouraged to use these training materials.

I had the opportunity to attend FDIC in Indianapolis, Indiana and attend 6 classes presented by national leaders in the fire service. Several of them will be good additions to our state fire school. I also had the opportunity to visit with people who will be guest speakers at future conventions. FDIC is an excellent opportunity to learn from the best of the best instructors and meet and network with fire service personnel from around the nation.

The Association continues to be a distributor for IFSTA and Delmar Learning. It is the policy of the Executive Board to pass the distributor's discount on to the fire departments placing orders through the NDFA office.

The Executive Board has appointed Brooks Martin of Bismarck to serve as the State Advocate for the "Everyone Goes Home, Life Safety Initiatives" campaign. We are working with the National Fallen Firefighter's Foundation and other fire service organizations to promote firefighter safety and the 16 initiatives for safety. The purpose of the campaign is to reduce the number of line of duty deaths and injuries. June 21<sup>st</sup> has been set aside as the Stand Down for Safety day. Departments are urged to use their June training day to review safety policies and procedures. Each fire department in the nation will be receiving information concerning the initiative. Additional information will be available at the NDFA office as it becomes available.

We are planning to offer a Fire Service Instructor course this fall in Bismarck. This class will be a 16 hour class for department training officers who are interested in additional training to help them do their job better. The class will be posted on the web site as soon as the dates are set.

The NDFA web site continues to serve as a source of information for up coming training opportunities and test sites. The State Fire School registration information has been posted offering firefighters the opportunity to register for classes on-line. The comments have indicated that it has been helpful to the departments.

As the Executive Director of the North Dakota Firefighter's Association, I am committed to assist the Executive Board in providing excellent training opportunities for the fire service in North Dakota and to represent this Association in a professional manner at state, regional and national events. I count it a privilege to be a part of the fire service and work with such great people.

## Secretary-Treasurer's Report

Herewith is the One Hundred and Twenty-Second Annual Report of the Secretary/Treasurer of the North Dakota Firefighter's Association at the Annual Convention held in Wahpeton, North Dakota on June 1-3, 2006.

### Checking Account

#### OPENING BALANCE (May 1, 2006)

\$22,620.19

#### COLLECTIONS

Dues \$11,125.00  
 Grants - DES \$6,602.73  
 Attorney General's Office \$11,189.00

#### Interest

Checking \$19.76  
 Library Fines \$650.00  
 Library Usage Fee \$1,375.00  
 Donations Film Library - Stanley FD \$100.00

#### ND Appropriations

Training \$63,000.00  
 Administration \$60,000.00  
 NDRIF \$424.00  
 Reimbursed Expenses \$4,612.93  
 Sales \$20,470.43  
 State Fire School Registration \$19,284.00  
 Regional Fire School Registration \$1,785.00  
 Testing Fees \$6,579.99

#### Other Income

RISK WATCH \$5,000.00  
 Transfer from Savings \$45,000.00

#### TOTAL COLLECTIONS

\$257,217.84

#### DISBURSEMENTS

Annual Convention \$8,207.14  
 Bank Charges \$266.47  
 Conferences \$14,881.88  
 Executive Board Expenses \$9,147.87  
 FF Certification \$9,006.37  
 Insurance \$2,602.22  
 Membership/Dues/Subscription \$575.00  
 Miscellaneous/Software \$500.00  
 N.D.F.A. Office \$15,436.25  
 Payroll & Taxes \$62,860.56  
 Professional Fees \$3,974.00  
 Regional Fire Schools \$17,486.41  
 State Fire School \$92,650.53  
 Training Library \$3,613.78  
 IFSTA Materials for Resale \$13,101.87  
 Interest \$306.88  
 Repairs \$1,204.11  
 Other Items for Resale \$5,107.15

#### RISK WATCH

\$5,000.00

#### TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS

\$265,928.49

Decrease in Year Payroll Liabilities \$82.44

#### ENDING BALANCE

\$13,827.10

Expenditures were paid by checks drawn by the Secretary/Treasurer on the US Bank, Bismarck, ND, countersigned by the President or First Vice President: properly vouched and approved by the Executive Board. The fidelity bond in the amount of \$50,000 is executed by the North Dakota State Bonding Fund and is on file at the State Insurance Commissioners Office and the NDFA Office. This bond covers each of the Executive Board members, the Executive Director and Office Assistant of the North Dakota Firefighter's Association.

The funds of the Association, which are deposited in the US Bank, Bismarck, North Dakota are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation in the amount of \$100,000. The funds in excess of \$100,000 that are deposited in the US Bank have bank collateral pledged to cover them, in compliance with standard audit requirements.

A Certificate of Deposit is in the name of the North Dakota Firefighter's Association. It is located in the vault of the US Bank, Bismarck, North Dakota.

A complete audit of the books of the Association of the Secretary/Treasurer at the close of business on April 30, 2006, will be made by Jason J. Schuh, a Certified Public Accountant at Bismarck, North Dakota.

Copies of the audit will be distributed with the State Auditor, State Legislative Council and elsewhere as required by North Dakota State Statutes. A copy of the audit will be filed at the NDFA Office in Bismarck, North Dakota.

### MONIES PAID TO OFFICERS - FISCAL YEAR 2005-2006

Past President Glen Lueck, Lidgerwood, ND	Salary	\$500.00
	Mileage	\$272.00
	Per Diem	\$90.00
		\$862.00
President John Swedlund, Velva, ND	Mileage	\$667.60
	Per Diem	\$840.00
		\$1,507.60
1st Vice President, Bruce Schreiner, Garrison, ND	Mileage	\$302.93
	Per Diem	\$270.00
		\$572.93
2nd Vice President, Allan Berge, Casselton, ND	Mileage	\$730.38
	Per Diem	\$240.00
		\$970.38
Secretary, Allan Klein, Bismarck, ND	Salary	\$7,200.00
	Mileage	\$148.43
	Per Diem	\$180.00
	Tester Fee	\$200.00
		\$7,728.43

Trustee, Robert Sivak, Dickinson, ND  
 Mileage \$659.00  
 Per Diem \$390.00  
 Supervisor Fee \$100.00  
 \$1,149.00

Trustee, Bob Wetzler, Minot, ND  
 Mileage \$604.59  
 Per Diem \$300.00  
 Supervisor Fee \$200.00  
 Tester Fee \$100.00  
 \$1,204.59

Trustee, Jerry Rekow, Ellendale, ND  
 Mileage \$561.75  
 Per Diem \$150.00  
 \$711.75

Trustee, Dave Johnson, Larimore, ND  
 Mileage \$2,265.04  
 Per Diem \$390.00  
 Supervisors Fee \$300.00  
 Tester Fees \$500.00  
 \$3,455.04

Executive Director, Lois Hartman, Bismarck, ND  
 Salary \$35,757.11  
 Benefits \$2,117.97  
 Mileage \$123.87  
 Per Diem \$480.00  
 \$38,478.95

Office Assistant, Julie Geltel, Mandan, ND  
 Salar \$12,471.07  
 Benefits \$374.14  
 Mileage \$93.34  
 Per Diem \$60.00  
 \$12,998.55

## THE FINANCIAL ASSETS OF THE NORTH DAKOTA FIREFIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION

### CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT

C/D #363011345693 - US Bank, Bismarck, ND \$54,000.00  
 17 month @ 3.20% - Matures 8/4/06  
**C/D ACCOUNT TOTAL \$54,000.00**

### BNC MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT

BNC Bank, Bismarck, ND  
 Money Market Balance as of 5/1/05 \$40,907.30  
 Interest earned as of 4/30/06 \$793.15  
**MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT TOTAL \$41,700.45**

### FINANCIAL ASSETS

Savings Account - US Bank, Bismarck, ND  
 Savings Account Balance as of 5/1/05 \$56,030.47  
 Transfers to General Fund \$45,000.00  
 Interest earned as of 4/30/06 \$279.58  
**SAVINGS ACCOUNT TOTAL \$11,310.05**

Checking Account - US Bank, Bismarck, ND  
 General Fund Balance as of 4/30/2006 \$13,827.10  
**CHECKING ACCOUNT TOTAL \$13,827.10**

**TOTAL FINANCIAL ASSETS 4/30/06 \$120,837.60**

### EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS

June 1, 2005 (annual convention)  
 July 23, 2005 (regular meeting)  
 August 16, 2005 (conference call)  
 September 23, 2005 (special meeting)  
 September 24, 2005 (regular meeting)  
 November 2, 2005 (conference call)  
 January 14, 2006 (regular meeting)  
 February 22, 2006 (regular meeting)

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NDFC has anything to do with this answer?



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1. Are you aware there is NO coverage for Heart Attacks or Strokes? Yes 73% No 27%

2. Are you in favor of ENHANCED workers comp coverage? Yes 92% No 8%

3. Have you considered private insurance? Yes 26% No 74%

4. Is anyone on your Dept. a member of the Fire Chiefs Association? Yes 72% No 28%

5. Are you in favor of the Chiefs Association being your lobbyist? Yes 28% No 72%

6. If Chief's Association lobbies, small Departments will not have voice? Yes 84% No 16%

7. Relates to names of interested NDFC members  
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

8. Has anyone for your Department attended the State Fire School? Yes 65% No 35%

9. Would you find "outreach" training programs helpful? Yes 88% No 12%

10. Do you find Volunteer voice informative? Yes 91% No 9%

11. Do you wish to keep getting the Volunteer Voice? Yes 87% No 13%

Testimony on House Bill 1111  
House Committee on Government and Veteran Affairs  
January 11, 2007  
Raymond Lambert, North Dakota State Fire Marshal

Good afternoon Chairman Haas and members of the committee. My name is Raymond Lambert; I am the State Fire Marshal. I'm here to testify in opposition of House Bill 1111, which, if enacted, would create and recognize an agency called the North Dakota Fire Commission.

The North Dakota Fire Commission would consist of elected members of volunteer fire fighters within the state. The duties of the North Dakota Fire Commission would be to promote fire fighting technology and tactics through a state fire academy for training volunteer fire fighting members. House Bill 1111 further states that the commission may obtain fire fighting equipment and distribute this equipment to fire departments that are members. It's asking for appropriations in an unspecified or undetermined amount to fund the commission as well as a state fire academy, which would be controlled by the North Dakota Fire Commission.

At this time, and for many years in the past, North Dakota Century Code Chapter 18-03-01 has recognized the North Dakota Firefighter's Association. As constituted, the North Dakota Firefighter's Association consists of a duly elected board with all fire departments entitled to membership. The North Dakota Firefighter's Association is mandated to provide fire school training to all fire department members.

The North Dakota Firefighter's Association is recognized as having the state training director for fire service. This organization also has membership in a nationwide fire training association. Through this contact, the North Dakota Firefighter's Association has brought to the State of North Dakota many training opportunities to train firefighters on modern and unique technology, which I feel would otherwise not be available to the smaller community fire departments. House Bill 1111, if passed, would unnecessarily duplicate an existing agency that is providing training to the fire departments in North Dakota.

House Bill 1111 does contain some duties for the North Dakota Fire Commission that are different from the North Dakota Firefighter's Association. One of these is that the North Dakota Fire Commission would train volunteer firefighters only, and it appears only volunteer firefighters may be members of the fire commission.

A duty of the Fire Commission would be to promote and update firefighting technology throughout the state by attending a fire academy. I see this as a duplication of services that are already being provided by the North Dakota Firefighter's Association.

House Bill 1111, if passed, would create an agency that would be in direct competition with an already existing organization. I see this competition as very negative to the betterment of the North Dakota fire service. If House Bill 1111 is passed, two agencies will be vying for membership from the fire services in North

Dakota, and in some cases, creating an atmosphere where many fire departments throughout the state would have to choose which organization to join. I also see the North Dakota Fire Commission providing training only to the volunteer firefighters and departments, which would eliminate the larger community fire departments in the state, including the fully paid fire departments and possibly the combination departments that have some paid and some volunteer members.

I believe competition to be a good thing. Competitors usually bring to the table new and more modern technology and strive to attain a level of excellence to provide the best services to their target audiences. In this case, with House Bill 1111, I see the creation of a North Dakota Fire Commission that will be in direct competition with the North Dakota Firefighter's Association to provide services such as training and firefighter certification to all North Dakota fire departments and firefighters. This will further stretch limited resources when divided between two competing organizations.

I see no good in enacting legislation that would create or recognize a second commission for what appears to be the sole purpose of providing services to the North Dakota fire service that has been, and continues to be, provided by the North Dakota Firefighter's Association.

To date, I have seen nothing that would indicate to me the North Dakota Fire Commission has shown any ability to provide the services as outlined in House Bill

1111. Therefore, I respectfully request that a "Do Not Pass" recommendation be placed on House Bill 1111.

Respectfully submitted by Raymond Lambert, North Dakota State Fire Marshal. I would be glad to entertain any questions you may have at this time.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Rick Graba from Bismarck. I am here today representing the Professional Fire Fighters of North Dakota and our opposition to HB 1111. We oppose this bill because;

We elect our legislators to make informed decisions as well as be legally and fiscally responsible, spending our tax dollars wisely. The ND Century Code recognizes NDFA as the state fire service training organization. To recognize and fund two separate fire service training organizations, in North Dakota, would be a duplication of services. We believe it would be poor business and fiscally irresponsible. So, today, it is really about what fire service training organization you want to recognize and fund.

In HB 1111, full-time firefighters are excluded and the language addresses training for only volunteer firefighters. Language in the current version of the ND Century Code recognizes the training needs for all firefighters. Members of the Professional Fire Fighters of North Dakota proudly serve and train along side of all North Dakota's brother and sister firefighters. Some of our membership also train and serve as responders on volunteer departments. The departments we serve on also have mutual aid agreements with combination and volunteer departments. Training together plays a crucial role in our response and we believe, passing this bill would create inconsistent training also unwanted tension and animosity.

It is our opinion and many others that NDFA is fulfilling its responsibilities as specified in the century code. Is any member of this committee or this legislature

aware of a huge outcry coming from any cities, fire departments or firefighters, indicating that the NDFA has not been doing its job? We certainly do not think so.

Even though it is not mentioned in HB 1111 it was brought to our attention, that it was also the intent of this bill to recognize and fund the ND Fire Commission as the political lobbying group for the volunteer firefighters of North Dakota. If it is the wishes of majority of North Dakota's volunteer firefighters to have the ND Fire Commission speak as their collective political voice, it is their choice. We would not oppose that decision. But, we do not believe that there are provisions, anywhere, in the ND Century Code that provide for the funding of special interest lobbyist or lobbying groups. This would just be plain poor business and unethical.

Based on its proactive approach to firefighter certification and firefighter training, which is supported by growing attendance and positive evaluations from both regional and state fire schools, NDFA is the logical choice to remain the only state recognized training organization for all of North Dakota's firefighters.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee; The Professional Fire Fighters of North Dakota oppose HB 1111 and ask that you recommend a Do Not Pass concerning this bill. I will try and answer any questions you may have. Thank you for listening and for what you do!

Available from the Commission

# VOLUNTEER VOICE



Winter 2006 - 2007 ■ Volume 1 ■ Issue Number 3

## Free firefighting equipments available to financially strapped departments

In your envelope with this issue of the Volunteer Voice, you will find a form to apply for FREE firefighting equipment. This equipment was donated by our brothers and sisters of the Fire Service in areas of the United States where budgets are not as restricted as they are in some of

our local agencies. We already have or are in the process of retrieving loads of hose (we are expecting a donation of 3,000 feet of 1.5" to add to what we have already acquired) nozzles, air packs, bottles, cascade system, engines (Mack Pumper and a

Ford/Pirsch pumper), turnout coats, pants, backboards, ambulance stretcher, communication equipment and more. The Fire Commission is non-funded, so the only thing we ask is a donation to assist in the shipping of this equipment. Please fill out the enclosed form, fax it to the number

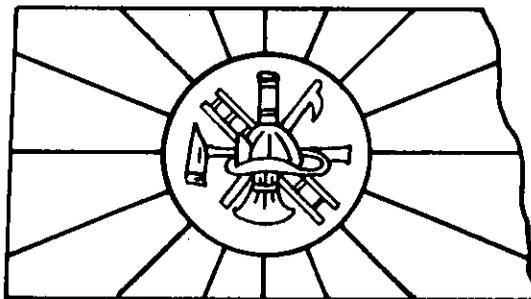
shown on the form or mail to Fire Commission, 2754 Mercury Lane, Bismarck, ND 58503. A committee within the Fire Commission will review the requests and notify you of the equipment you are eligible for. Please get your application in as soon as possible!

### Richardton woman honored



Pastor is

Contact Fire Marshal's Office



# **STATE FIRE SCHOOL**

**February 22-25, 2007**

**Bismarck Civic Center, Radisson Hotel  
and  
Ramkota Inn  
Bismarck, North Dakota**

July • 2006  
13, No. 2

# NORTH DAKOTA FIRE CHIEF

SPONSORED BY THE NORTH DAKOTA FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

For copy contact Fire Chiefs Assoc.

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