

116th Oklahoma State Firefighters Convention 2010



Six (6) delegates from the IAFF Local 2067 attended the 116th State Oklahoma Firefighters Convention held in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Pictured from left to right; Butch Crawford, Dana Cramer, Bobby Anderson, Nick Terhune, and Jason Smith. Not pictured Grant Deason.

Convention Highlights and lowlights

- Executive Director Chris Bain placed on paid administrative leave (Read Appendix A)
- Appearances by Senator Kenneth Corn and Lt. Governor Jari Askins
- Pete Stavros visit (Read Appendix B)

116th Oklahoma State Firefighters Convention

The Oklahoma State Firefighters Association held its 116th convention June 2-5, 2010 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The Conference's theme was, "Oklahoma Fire Band of Brothers." OSFA President Les Foughty (Oklahoma City), the executive board, the OSFA staff and the Oklahoma City Fire Department joined forces to host this five day event.

IAFF Local 2067 delegates included: Grant Deason, Dana Cramer, Butch Crawford, Bobby Anderson, Jason Smith, and Nick Terhune.

Wednesday, June 2, 2010

Convention festivities kicked-off with several activities lasting throughout the day and night. Those activities included: a fishing tournament, held at Lake Eufaula Cove, a golf tournament (Lincoln Golf Course), sporting clays (Silverleaf Gun Club), a bar crawl, and hospitality activities hosted by the Oklahoma City Fire Department. Several IAFF 2067 members participated in the golf tournament. The team of **Jason Bradford, Cody Goodnight, Justin Burrigh, and Nick Musgrove finished 7th shooting an 11 under par. Steve Duren, Brent Porter, Jack Ingram, and Greg Blackburn participated as a team. Grant Deason** teamed up with members from the Oklahoma Fire Chiefs Board. **Dana Cramer** also participated. **Bob Bledsoe**, Dale Hockett, and former NFD members **Wayne Steely** and **Larry Weaver** were also a team.

Thursday, June 3, 2010

- Current OSFA President Les Foughty (Oklahoma City) called the first session to order.
- The Oklahoma City Honor Guard presented the colors and Foughty led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Ted Wilson (OKC) led the invocation.
- Chief Keith Bryant (OKC) delivered the Fraternal Welcome.
- Gary Marrs, Oklahoma City Councilman and former OKC Fire Chief, presented the city welcome.
- A memorial service honored the memory of Oklahoma's fallen firefighters. Families of deceased firefighters and convention participants paid respect with silence as 3rd Vice President Gerald Garrett (Tulsa) and 2nd Vice-President David Thompson (Slaughterville) read the names aloud. First Vice-President, Bert Norton (Midwest City) struck the bell after each name.

- The Norman Fire Department suffered the loss of two (2) former members in the past twelve months. Those deceased are:
 1. George Standifer (Retired in 1987).
 2. Marty Thompkins (Retired 2008).

- Oklahoma suffered three *In the Line of Duty Deaths (LODD)* during 2009-2010.
Those lost were: Bill R. Defoor (Idabel) Morris Bryant (Ryan) and Paul E. Dill (Tulsa).

- OSFA President Les Foughty (OKC) recognized special guests including those who serve on OSFA boards.

- **There were two (2) IAFF Local 2067 members that served on OSFA Committees during the 2009-2010 year:**
 - **Grant Deason- Legislative Committee**
 - **Dana Cramer- Pension Board Member, Legislative Committee, Memorial Committee, Credentials Committee, Museum Board, OSFA Ambassador**

- **The number of IAFF members serving on OSFA committees was cut by fifty (50%) in the year 2009-2010. Norman is the third largest department in Oklahoma and trails just Oklahoma City and Tulsa for number of delegate votes in the OSFA. However, the OSFA Executive Board deemed just one (1) Norman member as worthy of serving on the committees (Editor's note: Grant Deason serves as the appointee to the Legislative Committee by the Oklahoma Fire Chiefs Association leaving just one (1) Norman member on a committee).**

- The appointment of Convention Committees ended the first session. **Nick Terhune received an appointment to serve on the Credentials Committee.**

- Upon session adjournment, participants enjoyed a Poker Run and a picnic at Sportsman Lake sponsored by the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA).

- Thursday's activities reached a crescendo with music and dancing played by OSFA members.

Friday, June 4, 2010

- OSFA President Les Foughty (OKC) called the meeting to order.
- Troy Wright (OKC) delivered the invocation.

Oklahoma Senator Kenneth Corn

Current Oklahoma Senator and candidate for Oklahoma Lieutenant Governor Kenneth Corn addressed the convention crowd. Senator Corn grabbed the audiences' attention by stating "the thoughts and concerns of the people of Oklahoma are no longer being considered" when referring to the current Oklahoma Government. Corn believes the real issues are creating wealth, higher education for all children, and infrastructure.

Oklahoma Attorney General Drew Edmondson

Current Oklahoma Attorney general and Democratic Governor hopeful Drew Edmondson also addressed the crowd. Edmondson wants to designate September 11th as a day to recognize and pay tribute to fire and police.

Muscular Dystrophy Association

Andrea Pope (MDA) reported that the Fill the Boot campaign for 2009 collectively raised \$1,051,613. Oklahoma Firefighters surpassed the \$1,000,000 for the first time in 2008. **The Norman Fire Department raised \$14,350 in 2009.**

Four (4) year-old Brie Johnson, MDA's 2010 Goodwill Ambassador, presented her testimony of how MDA and the firefighter's efforts has touched her life. Brie is stricken with Spinal Atrophy (SMA) Type Two; a genetic disease in which loss of nerve cells in the spinal cord called motor neurons affects the part of the nervous system that controls voluntary muscle movement. The disease is caused by a deficiency of a motor neuron protein called SMN, for survival of motor neurons, resulting from a faulty gene on chromosome 5. Symptoms include weakness, most severe in muscles closest to the center of the body, such as those of the shoulders, hips, thighs and upper back. Respiratory muscles can also be involved. Spinal curvature often develops.

- Reports presented to the delegation included: State Fire Marshal, Oklahoma Fire Chiefs Association, Oklahoma Retired Firefighters Association, Professional Fire Fighters of Oklahoma Fire Service Training, Museum Report, Firefighters Clown Society and the presentation of the Pete and Lela Stavros Scholarship.

David Bain Award

An emotional Mike “Rookie” Billingsley (Nichols Hills) gratefully accepted the David Bain Award. The award recognizes individuals who have provided service both to their community and the Oklahoma State Firefighters Association and who has attributes that coincided with involvement in youth programs through church, school or community, who provides a role model for leaders and has proven to be a person of courage and impeccable character. Bain, a former OSFA President (1995) and Fire Chief (Midwest City), was instrumental in starting the leg work on the current Fallen Firefighter’s Memorial. Bain died of cancer. **The first ever David Bain award winner was IAFF Local 2067 member Dana Cramer in 2005.**

Firefighters Pension System

Oklahoma Firefighters and Pension System Executive Director Bob Jones stated that the Plan B return was at 18% at the end of April. However, the insurance premium tax fell from 62% to 54%. Access the full report at www.okfirepen.state.ok.us.

Legislative Report

OSFA lobbyist Phil Ostrander said that 1/3 of every dollar generated by the premium tax goes to firefighters. Ostrander also warned of upcoming legislative battles and stressed that Tea Party movements were not in the best interest of the fire service. . “Tough times are ahead,” said Ostrander. “We should elect our friends and move forward with one mindset.”

Oklahoma Fallen and Living Firefighters Memorial

Oklahoma’s Fallen and Living Firefighters Memorial will be paid in full in 2014. There is approximately \$199,000 left of what was once a loan valued at over \$1,000,000. The main revenue source for the memorial is the Oklahoma firefighter car tags. Get yours today!

Oklahoma Retired Firefighter’s Association (ORFA)

ORFA president Mike Bower reported that the association boasts 4,200 members. Bower stressed the goal of ORFA is “to be givers.” August 10, 2010 is the Retiree Golf Tournament. Bower is a former OSFA President (1989) and the former fire chief of Midwest City.

Professional Fire Fighter's Organization

President Rick Beams said the PFFO strives to obtain better wages and working conditions. The PFFO added two new department members and that services offered by the PFFO continue to improve.

Fire Service Training

Oklahoma State University Fire Service Training Director Ralph Brown retired last March. Bob Allen stressed the positive impact of the FST "fire schools" across Oklahoma. Six (6) fire schools located in different regions of Oklahoma offered a multitude of fire service training classes in a one weekend setting. Because of the fire school, FST was able to reach more students in more Oklahoma cities than ever before. Allen reports that FST conducted 2,686 training events in 2009 and issued 24,947 certificates. Sixty (60%) percent of this training was offered at no cost, said Allen.

Council on Firefighter Training (COFT)

Access current activities at www.COFT-Oklahoma.org.

Safer Grant

The OSFA SAFER grant seeks to recruit from the public to augment the efforts of fire departments statewide.

A training stipend is available to active, volunteer firefighters who submit an application to participate. There is a stipend for food, lodging and fuel depending upon the event or activity.

A Firefighter Wellness initiative is also funded by this grant whereby the Fire Chief may apply to be reimbursed the costs associated with an entry-level physical for volunteer firefighters.

OSFA Grant Coordinator James Edwards indicated that monies for the Safer Grant will expire in November.

Museum Report

Mike "Rookie" Billingsley explained that so far in 2010 the fire museum has seen revenue of \$24,153. This mark already tops the total for 2009. Additionally, Billingsley also explained the museum customers may order merchandise from the Museum online including IFSTA (Red Books) Books. If ordered through the Museum, IFSTA sends a portion of the profits back to OSFA. Doing so, does

NOT increase the price of merchandise and the order arrives at the buyer's door step in just 2-3 days. Red Book sales has generated \$3,428 in 2010.

Firefighters Clown Society

Mike Billingsley explained the purpose of the clown society. Billingsley also discussed the availability of an apartment paid for by the OSFA that is used for burn victims.

Banquet

- Friday evening finished with a business casual dinner, an auction, and entertainment.
- Fire helmets painted by **IAFF Local 2067 member Ronny Davenport were the featured item for auction.** One helmet brought \$425. The other helmet purchased by OSFA President Les Foughty sold at \$750. This marks the fourth (4) consecutive year that a helmet created by Davenport has earned top dollar among auction items.
- Current Oklahoma Lt. Governor and Democratic Governor hopeful, Jari Askins was the keynote speaker.

Saturday, June 05, 2010

- Les Foughty (OKC) called the meeting to order.
- Ted Wilson (OKC) delivered the invocation.
- Bert Norton (MWC) invited firefighters to the 117th convention (2011) to be held in Midwest City.
- David Thompson (Slaughterville) invited firefighters to attend the 118th Convention to be held (2012) in Norman.
- This session, reserved for legislation discussion, featured the presentation of numerous voting resolutions plus the election of the 3rd Vice President.
- See Appendix C for results of the resolutions.
- Two candidates sought election to the executive board; Casey Morrison, (Claremore) and Mike Fitzgerald (Edmond). Morrison won the election to become the OSFA's 3rd Vice-President.
- The day concluded with the installation of new officers.

The new OSFA Executive Board is as follows:

President – Bert Norton, Midwest City

1st Vice President – David Thompson, Slaughterville

2nd Vice President – Gerald Garrett, Tulsa

3rd Vice President- Casey Morrison, Claremore

Past President – Les Foughty, Oklahoma City

The new ORFA Executive Board is as follows:

President – Randy Rose, Oklahoma City

1st Vice President – Paul Gallahar, Tulsa

2nd Vice President – Bob Allen, Enid

3rd Vice President- Jackie Carner, Broken Arrow

Past President – Mike Bower, Midwest City

APPENDIX A

**Executive Director Chris Bain
Placed on Paid Administrative
Leave**

Thursday, June 3, 2010

Near the end of the business session on Thursday, June 3, 2010, OSFA President Les Foughty used the podium to address the entire convention crowd. Foughty explained that there were some “differences” in “direction” between the executive board and Executive Director Chris Bain. In addition, an audit revealed alleged questionable use of funds by Bain. Because of these findings, Foughty said that Bain was placed on paid administrative leave in June (Editor’s note: Foughty said June but most think that was a mistake. April 27, 2010 is believed to be the official date Bain was placed on leave). A visibly bothered Bain was in attendance. Foughty stressed this was “not the time for questions.” Foughty also said, “Chris, I didn’t even think to ask you, would you like to say something?” An unprepared Bain declined saying that he would talk in a “caucus.”

Friday, June 4, 2010

Frontier Country, a newly formed organization made up of departments from multiple directions, met. The congregation listened to remarks made by 3rd Vice President Candidates Mike Fitzgerald (Edmond) and Casey Morrison (Claremore). Then Chris Bain spoke regarding being placed on administrative leave. Bain explained three (3) questionable expenditures. The first expenditure was in the amount of approximately \$4,000 for a lawn mower. The mower is used to cut grass at the OSFA offices. The second was a stipend of \$18,000 given to OSFA lobbyist Phil Ostrander for two (2) years of work. Finally, the third expenditure were stipends given to OSFA employees (amount unknown). When asked if the expenditures were budgeted, Bain replied “yes.” When asked if he could redo the scenario would he do it differently, Bain replied “yes.” It also appears that these expenditures are a “past practice.”

An Executive Board meeting held at the close of each annual Convention was to decide the fate of Chris Bain. Results are unavailable at press time.

Appendix B
Pete Stavros Appearance

Appearance

Convention attendees were delightfully treated to an appearance by Pete Stavros. Stavros entered the auditorium on a wheeled bed accompanied by friends and medical personnel. A visibly excited Stavros addressed the crowd with fact, history, and a couple of jokes which drew laughter. The Oklahoma Retired Firefighters Association (ORFA), the OSFA Executive Board, Karen McCaslin, OSFA worker, and friends were responsible for making Stavros' appearance possible.

Pete Stavros History

Stavros retired from the Oklahoma City Fire Department (1984) in order to take a position as the Legislative Director for OSFA. His starting salary was \$20,000. Stavros along with longtime friend Jim Minx, travelled throughout Oklahoma attempting to gain support for various Oklahoma Firefighter legislative issues. Two important issues involved the re-implementation of the pension and Plan B. According to Minx, in 1980, the Oklahoma Firefighters Pension System was gutted. Stavros worked tirelessly to successfully get the system re-implemented. Additionally, it was Stavros' ingenuity that convinced lawmakers to create Plan B. Today's pension system as Oklahoma Firefighters know it, is largely due to Stavros' efforts. Stavros' philosophy is "Make it better than you find it," was Stavros' philosophy Minx said.

Illness

Stavros suffers from neuropathy, a term for damage to nerves of the peripheral nervous system,^[1] which may be caused either by diseases of the nerve or from the side-effects of systemic illness. Symptoms depend on the type of nerves affected (motor, sensory, or autonomic) and where the nerves are located in the body. One or more types of nerves may be affected. Common symptoms associated with damage to the motor nerve are muscle weakness, cramps, and spasms. Loss of balance and coordination may also occur. Damage to the sensory nerve can produce tingling, numbness, and pain.

Pete Stavros Scholarship

In honor of Pete Stavros and his contributions to OSFA, the Pete and Lela Scholarship was established. This scholarship was a brainstorm of Stavros' originating during long drives across Oklahoma. Scholarship fundraisers held during the convention netted approximately \$12,000. A child or relative of a member of the Oklahoma State Firefighters Association is eligible to apply. Trent Mitchell, son of IAFF member Dennis Mitchell received the scholarship in 2008.

Appendix C

Resolutions

OSFA By-Laws Resolution 10-1

Whereas the Constitution and By-Laws are an integral and important part of every organization; and,

Whereas the Oklahoma State Firefighters Association is no exception to the rules; and,

Whereas the Oklahoma State Firefighters Association and its Executive Board attempt diligently to be fair and impartial in every situation; and,

Whereas it is the desire of the Oklahoma State Firefighters Association to make every member as fully informed as possible; and,

Whereas it is the intent of this Association to allow every member their right to fullest participation in the process of this association; and,

Whereas it is very difficult to definitively determine in very tight, close votes which position can be declared the winning vote; and,

Whereas it is the desire and intent of the Executive Board and President to maintain harmony within the organization and to proceed with the absolute will of the majority; and,

Whereas in an effort to quell uncertainty and ensure that all parties involved can be informed as to the outcome of every election and issue;

Therefore Be It Resolved by the delegates at the 116th Annual Convention in Oklahoma City to amend "Article 3, Section 1" of the By-Laws of this Association as follows:

ARTICLE 3 - AMENDMENTS

Section 1. The By-Laws may be amended at any time by a majority vote of the delegates present and voting in convention assembled. Proposed amendments to these By-Laws shall be submitted by an active member over his/her signature to the Executive Board, OSFA Offices, or to the Convention Floor at any time. If the proposed amendment is delivered 60 days prior to the annual convention, the Executive Board shall thereupon cause the Executive Director to transmit a copy of said proposed amendment to each affiliated department of the Association. At the next annual Convention, no matter which defined method is chosen for delivery, said proposed amendment shall be called to vote and if a majority of the delegates present and voting shall vote for the adoption of the amendment, it shall be declared adopted and become a part of these By-Laws. All votes on proposed By-Laws amendments shall be taken by secret ballot.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Steve Lumry, Active Life Member

Tabled for review by Constitution and Bylaw Committee

OSFA By-Laws Resolution 10-2

Whereas the officers of the Oklahoma State Firefighters Association are an integral part of the Organization; and,

Whereas the officers of the Association are charged with conducting the business of the Association between conventions; and,

Whereas the wisdom of our predecessors has established certain traditions for our one hundred and sixteen year old Association; and,

Whereas those traditions have guided us successfully in our first one hundred and sixteen years; and,

Whereas those traditions have never been reduced to written form for inclusion into our By-laws; and,

Whereas the delegates at the one hundred and fifteenth annual convention chose in a close vote to defeat the combination of the various unwritten rules contained in By-Laws Resolution 09-1, thereby removing any doubt that the unwritten rules could not be enforced in this association; and,

Whereas situations have arisen in the past several years that have brought to light the need to reduce those traditions to written form in order to provide guidance for future generations; and,

Whereas those situations have included the passing of First Vice President John F. Futhey, II and the resignation from the Board of Immediate Past President Chris Bain; and,

Whereas the sitting Board at that time made the best decisions possible in light of those situations; and,

Whereas to prevent the forcing of tough decisions under times of extreme emotional duress; and,

Whereas the Immediate Past President's position is to provide history and guidance to the Board and would not prevent the Association from operating for short periods in the interim; and,

Whereas the Immediate Past President's position does provide a vote on the Oklahoma Firefighters Pension and Retirement Board; and,

Whereas by being vacant a short time, the Immediate Past President's position will not greatly affect the balance of the Pension Board since firefighters are guaranteed a minimum of six positions on the Pension Board and generally hold at least eight positions; and,

Whereas there has been months at a time in the past when the Immediate Past President's position was not filled on the Pension Board with no detrimental impact on the represented firefighters; and,

Whereas it is the duty of the OSFA Executive Board to develop and maintain working relationships with the civilians on the Pension Board to ensure a fair and impartial Pension Board that understands firefighter issues to the point that the absence of any Board Member from any meeting of the Pension Board should not create a detrimental environment; and,

Whereas the convention and the membership are the ultimate authority of this Association and in order to provide guidance to the Executive Board;

Therefore Be It Resolved by the delegates at the 116th Annual Convention in Oklahoma City, to amend “Article 4, Section 1” of the By-Laws of this Association as follows:

ARTICLE 4 - VACANCIES

Section 1. In the event a vacancy or vacancies shall occur on the Executive Board during the interim between conventions, the remaining members of the Board may, at their discretion, appoint a person or persons to serve until the next Convention. A vacancy in the immediate Past President’s position shall remain unfilled until the conclusion of the next annual convention at which time the natural progression will cause the former Executive Board President to move into that position.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Steve Lumry, Member in Good Standing, Past President 2005, Active Life Member

Tabled for review by Constitution and Bylaw Committee

OSFA By-Laws Resolution 10-3

Whereas the officers of the Oklahoma State Firefighters Association are an integral part of the Organization; and,

Whereas the officers of the Association are charged with conducting the business of the Association between conventions; and,

Whereas the wisdom of our predecessors has established certain traditions for our one hundred and sixteen year old Association; and,

Whereas those traditions have guided us successfully in our first one hundred and sixteen years; and,

Whereas those traditions have never been reduced to written form for inclusion into our By-Laws; and,

Whereas the delegates at the one hundred and fifteenth annual convention chose in a close vote to defeat the combination of the various unwritten rules contained in By-Laws Resolution 09-1, thereby removing any doubt that the unwritten rules could not be enforced in this association; and,

Whereas situations have arisen in the past several years that have brought to light the need to reduce those traditions to written form in order to provide guidance for future generations; and,

Whereas this association and its Executive Board is and should be made up of active members of the fire service in Oklahoma; and,

Whereas the convention and the membership are the ultimate authority of this Association and in order to provide guidance to the Executive Board;
Therefore Be It Resolved by the delegates at the 116th Annual Convention in Oklahoma City, to create a new “Article 4, Section 2” of the By-Laws of this Association to read as follows:

ARTICLE 4 - VACANCIES

Section 2. In the event a member of the Executive Board leaves the fire service for any reason whatsoever or otherwise vacates a position on the Executive Board, the position shall be declared vacant and such other members as remaining on the Board shall be advanced in position to fill the vacancy. The Executive Board shall have the authority to appoint an interim Third Vice President to serve out the unexpired term of the vacated office as described in Section 1 of this Article.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Steve Lumry, Member in Good Standing, Past President

Tabled for review by Constitution and Bylaw Committee

OSFA By-Laws Resolution 10-4

Whereas the officers of the Oklahoma State Firefighters Association are an integral part of the Organization; and,

Whereas the officers of the Association are charged with conducting the business of the Association between conventions; and,

Whereas the wisdom of our predecessors has established certain traditions for our one hundred and sixteen year old Association; and,

Whereas those traditions have guided us successfully in our first one hundred and sixteen years; and,

Whereas those traditions have never been reduced to written form for inclusion into our By-Laws; and,

Whereas situations have arisen in the past several years that have brought to light the need to reduce those traditions to written form in order to provide guidance for future generations; and,

Whereas those situations have included the passing of First Vice President John F. Futhey, II, the resignation from the Board of Immediate Past President Chris Bain, and Past President Gerald Garrett running unopposed from a major city for a second term; and,

Whereas the sitting Board at those times made the best decisions possible in light of those situations; and,

Whereas to prevent the forcing of tough decisions under times of extreme emotional duress; and,

Whereas nothing in the By-Laws or Constitution of this Association prevents a member from being elected to the Executive Board and then refusing to advance through the chairs; and,

Whereas the convention and the membership are the ultimate authority of this Association and in order to provide guidance to the Executive Board;

Therefore Be It Resolved by the delegates at the 116th Annual Convention in Oklahoma City, to include a “new Section in Article 4” of the By-Laws of this Association known as “Section 3” unless a renumbering must occur to read as follows:

ARTICLE 4 - VACANCIES

Section 3. Under no circumstances shall any officer or former officer of this Association be allowed to serve more than one term consecutively in any of the positions that make up the Executive Board of this Association. All Executive Board officers of this Association shall be required to seek the office of the next higher chair on the Board at each annual convention following their initial election. The Association President shall be required to move into the Immediate Past President’s position in the year following his/her term as President. This section in no way shall be construed to prevent any member of this association from challenging for any office for which they believe they are qualified and can win in an election.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Steve Lumry, Member in good standing, Past President 2005, Active Life Member

Tabled for review by Constitution and Bylaw Committee

OSFA By-Laws Resolution 10-5

Whereas the officers of the Oklahoma State Firefighters Association are an integral part of the Organization; and,

Whereas the officers of the Association are charged with conducting the business of the Association between conventions; and,

Whereas the wisdom of our predecessors has established certain traditions for our one hundred and sixteen year old Association; and,

Whereas those traditions have guided us successfully in our first one hundred and sixteen years; and,

Whereas those traditions have never been reduced to written form for inclusion into our By-Laws; and,

Whereas situations have arisen in the past several years that have brought to light the need to reduce those traditions to written form in order to provide guidance for future generations; and,

Whereas the delegates at the one hundred and fifteenth annual convention chose in a close vote to defeat the combination of the various unwritten rules contained in By-Laws Resolution 09-1, thereby removing any doubt that the unwritten rules could not be enforced in this association; and,

Whereas nothing in the By-Laws or Constitution of this Association prevents two members from the same fire department from serving on the Executive Board at the same time; and,

Whereas the convention and the membership are the ultimate authority of this Association and in order to provide guidance to the Executive Board;

Therefore Be It Resolved by the delegates at the 116th Annual Convention in Oklahoma City, to add a “new section to Article 4”, of the By-Laws of this Association to be known as “Section 4” unless a renumbering is required to read as follows:

ARTICLE 4 - VACANCIES

Section 4. Under no circumstances shall any fire department have more than one representative from that same fire department serve as an officer on the Executive Board of this Association at the same time.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Steve Lumry, Member in Good Standing, Past President 2005

Tabled for review by Constitution and Bylaw Committee

OSFA Legislative Resolution 10-1

Whereas the economy has suffered a great down turn that has had devastating results on the tax base of Oklahoma Cities and Towns; and,

Whereas firefighters have always done more with less whenever times were tough, and city leaders have recognized this fact and ask firefighters to take on more than their share; and,

Whereas cities have stooped to new lows in dealing with budget shortfalls and have threatened to lay off firefighters and from time to time in the past have stooped so low as to lay firefighters off; and,

Whereas if a firefighter is laid off from their department and not rehired within twelve months they must retake and pass the physical performance/agility test established by the State Statutes Title 11 §49-116.A; and,

Whereas if a firefighter is laid off from their department and not rehired within six months they must retake and pass the physical examination established by the State Statutes Title 11 §49-116.B; and,

Whereas this creates a burden for both the firefighter and the department and could drag out a really bad situation by retesting firefighters that have been devastated by bad choices;

Therefore Be It Resolved that the Oklahoma State Firefighters Association does hereby compel the Executive Board to alleviate this burden by seeking legislation in the First Regular Session of the 53rd Legislature and not quit until this burden is alleviated or rescinded by the Members of the Oklahoma State Firefighters; and,

Be It Further Resolved that effective January 1, 2010, a paid firefighter who is terminated due to a reduction in force by a participating municipality shall not be required to take a second agility test at the time he or she is reinstated back to duty by the same participating municipality who instituted the reduction in force; and,

Be It Further Resolved that effective January 1, 2010, a paid firefighter who is terminated due to a reduction in force by a participating municipality and is reinstated by the participating municipality that instituted the reduction in force within twenty-four (24)

months of the effective date of the reduction in force shall not be required to successfully complete a second physical examination.

Respectfully submitted by:

Gerald Garrett

PASS

Motion passed to seek emergency legislation in the 2010-2011 Legislative Session

OSFA Legislative Resolution 10-2

Whereas firefighters die every year in automotive accidents while driving or riding in fire apparatus; and,

Whereas the current law doesn't require firefighters to wear seatbelts when in an emergency vehicle while responding;

Therefore Be It Resolved that the Oklahoma State Firefighters Association does hereby compel the Executive Board to request and support legislation in the First Regular Session of the 53rd Legislature and not quit until this legislation is passed into law that requires firefighters to buckle up at all times while riding on fire apparatus.

Respectfully submitted by:

The 2009-2010 OSFA Legislative Committee

FAIL

OSFA Legislative Resolution 10-3

Whereas the members of the Oklahoma State Firefighters Association convene annually to discuss ways and means of improving the Firefighters Pension system; and,

Whereas the Insurance Premium tax is a large source of revenue for the Firefighters Pension system that is suffering losses of approximately twenty million dollars (\$20 Mil.) annually due to tax credits; and,

Whereas the growth of the unfunded liability should be continually addressed;

Therefore Be It Resolved that the OSFA Legislative Committee study Additional Funding for the Pension System; and,

Be It Further Resolved that upon the completion of the initial study, the OSFA Legislative Committee report back their findings to the 117th annual convention; and,

Be It Further Resolved that the OSFA Executive Director and the Legislative Liaison present this initial study to the legislature for an interim study.

Respectfully submitted by:

The 2009/2010 Legislative Additional Funding for the Pension System Sub-Committee

Kenneth Loveless, Chairman; Bart Hadley Jr., Paul Gallahar, Craig Nuckols, Casey Morrison

PASS with amendment to drop the request for legislature interim study

OSFA Legislative Resolution 10-4

Whereas the members of the Oklahoma State Firefighters Association convene annually to discuss ways and means of improving the Firefighters Pension System; and,

Whereas a volunteer firefighter, who is appointed as a paid firefighter and serves less than ten (10) years, is entitled to receive one-twentieth (1/20th) of a volunteer pension for each full year served as a volunteer firefighter and one-twentieth of one half (1/20th of 1/2) of the average salary received for each full year the firefighter served as a paid firefighter towards at minimum a 20 year pension; and,

Whereas a member of the System changing status from a paid member to a volunteer member is not entitled to combine their paid credited service and subsequent volunteer credited service towards a paid or a volunteer pension;

Therefore Be It Resolved that the following new language for "State Statute 49-108, Subsection C" insert the following:

C. Any paid firefighter who is appointed as a volunteer firefighter after the effective date of this act and serves less than ten (10) years as a paid firefighter, shall be entitled to receive one-twentieth of one-half (1/20 of 1/2) of the average salary received for each full year the firefighter served as a paid firefighter and one twentieth (1/20th) of a volunteer pension for each full year served as a volunteer firefighter to complete at minimum a twenty (20) year pension.

Current Subsections "C and D" should be re-established as Subsections "D and E" as follows;

CD. For the purpose of determining benefits pursuant to this ...

DE. Nothing in this section shall be construed to create any ...

Respectfully submitted by:

The 2009-2010 Paid to Volunteer Subcommittee of the Legislative Committee

Gerald Garrett, Chairman; Perry Brinegar, Brian Foughty, T. Dick Cagle, Kevin Winter,

Brian Parker

(See OSFA Legislative Resolution 09-6)

PASS

OSFA Constitutional Resolution 09-1

Whereas the Oklahoma State Firefighters Association Convention is the most important event of the Association; and,

Whereas the convention is where the delegates of the membership have the most direct impact on this Association; and,

Whereas every OSFA President strives to put forth the best convention they possibly can; and,

Whereas each convention is an extraordinary feat in its own right; and,

Whereas the Oklahoma State Firefighters Association is financially liable for much of the convention meeting space, music, meals and refreshments; and,

Whereas the President and his convention committee are responsible for all other aspects of the convention; and,

Whereas the Executive Director is charged in the Association's Constitution with collecting and receiving all monies due to the Association and receipt therefore, and for disbursing the same to pay for expenses incurred;

Therefore Be It Resolved that "Section 4 of Article 11 - Convention" of the Constitution be amended in the following manner:

ARTICLE 11 – CONVENTION

Section 4. The Executive Board of this Association shall select topics to be discussed at convention and shall assign such topics to competent persons for discussion on the floor of convention. They shall delegate to the Executive Director the ability to negotiate all contracts for food, banquet entertainment, meeting facilities and hotel(s), and the President shall negotiate any or all other expenses incurred in conducting the convention. A registration fee shall be assessed against all delegates and members attending the convention. The amount of the registration shall be determined by the Executive Board.

Respectfully submitted by:

OSFA Executive Board, Ray Hammons, President

Postponed for 364 days

The 2009-2010 OSFA Legislative Committee recommends changing the first section of underlined words to "delegate to the Executive Director and/or President the ability to" and striking the entire third section of underlined words.

Tabled for review by Constitution and Bylaw Committee

OSFA Legislative Resolution 09-1

Whereas the number of volunteer firefighters in the state of Oklahoma is currently limited to 25 for Title 11 Fire Departments; and,

Whereas the current number of 25 volunteers is not sufficient to provide the required fire protection to ensure the safety of the citizens in each community; and,

Whereas the availability of volunteer firefighters is more limited now than ever; and,

Whereas call volumes in fire departments are continually increasing; and,

Whereas communities are continually expecting ever-increasing services be provided by their volunteer firefighters;

Therefore Be It Resolved that the OSFA Legislative Committee study the current methods available and other potential methods to allow Title 11 fire departments to increase their volunteer membership to above 25 members; and,

Be It Further Resolved that the OSFA Legislative Committee report back their findings to the 116th annual convention.

Respectfully submitted by:

Fire Services Committee and The Members Present at the 2009 Volunteer Fire Caucus

The 2009-2010 OSFA Legislative Committee found the following information from a survey conducted by the Oklahoma Firefighters Pension System. The committee recommends further study for another year and also discussion at the 2011 Volunteer Caucus.

Survey of Title 11 Volunteer Only Departments

The following statistics do not reflect volunteer departments with paid members or volunteer departments that are designated Title 19 Fire Protection Districts or Title 19 County Fire Departments. Fire Protection Districts do not fall under the Title 11 statutes and have no limit on the number of members and County Fire Departments are restricted to no more than 25 members per station.

Total Number of Municipalities Surveyed - 371

57 Municipal Fire Departments have 20-25 members (15.4%)

171 Municipal Fire Departments have 14-19 members (46%)

124 Municipal Fire Departments have 8-13 members (33.4%)

19 Municipal Fire Departments have 7 or less members (5.2%)

PASS

OSFA Legislative Resolution 09-2

Whereas the increasing cost of emergency medical training is becoming detrimental to volunteer and combination fire departments and their members; and,

Whereas the hours to obtain and maintain emergency medical training and continuing education requirements are ever increasing; and,

Whereas fire departments are responding, to a greater degree than ever before, on EMS incidents; and,

Whereas emergency medical calls can account for as much as 90% of the emergency calls that fire departments respond to; and,

Whereas the number of ambulance services continue to decrease in rural areas, causing firefighters to remain on scene in an EMS capacity for longer periods than ever awaiting the arrival of a transport unit;

Therefore Be It Resolved that the OSFA Legislative Committee study methods to pay for the cost of emergency medical training for volunteer and combination departments; and,

Be It Further Resolved that the OSFA Legislative Committee review the legislation authorizing the tax credits under COFT and make recommendations on allowing more points for obtaining medical emergency training; and,

Be It Further Resolved that the OSFA Legislative Committee report back their findings to the 116th annual convention.

Respectfully submitted by:

Fire Services Committee and The Members Present at the 2009 Volunteer Fire Caucus

The 2009-2010 OSFA Legislative Committee obtained the following information from COFT who has pursued this matter at the 52nd State Legislature at the Capitol. Not all fire departments need EMS training and the level of training needed varies. The 2009-2010 OSFA Legislative Committee endorses COFT's legislative efforts in this matter.

PASS

OSFA Legislative Resolution 09-3

Whereas tribal fire departments are under a governmental entity that does not reside entirely under the jurisdiction of the State of Oklahoma; and,

Whereas tribal fire departments in many cases interoperate with local municipal, county, and Title 18 fire departments; and,

Whereas tribal fire departments perform the same functions as other fire departments within the State of Oklahoma; and,

Whereas the overwhelming majority of tribal fire departments do not have any type of pension available to them whatsoever;

Therefore Be It Resolved that the OSFA Legislative Committee study methods and manners in which to include tribal fire departments into the Oklahoma Firefighters Pension and Retirement System (the System); and,

Be It Further Resolved that the OSFA Legislative Committee review the potential benefit and cost on an actuarial basis to determine the potential impact that inclusion of tribal fire departments would bring to the System; and,

Be It Further Resolved that the OSFA Legislative Committee report back their findings to the 116th annual convention.

Respectfully submitted by:

Fire Services Committee and The Members Present at the 2009 Volunteer Fire Caucus

The 2009-2010 OSFA Legislative Committee found that there are no provisions for tribal fire departments under the by-laws or statutes and they recommend a Do Not

Pass.

PASS which supported the recommended “Do Not Pass”

OSFA Legislative Resolution 09-5

Whereas the members of the Oklahoma State Firefighters Association convene annually to discuss ways of improving our state laws pertaining to firefighters; and,

Whereas laws can be passed or amended by the Oklahoma State Legislature; and,

Whereas a united membership of the Oklahoma State Firefighters Association can achieve greater goals than individual ones; and,

Whereas Oklahoma State Statutes under Title 11 pertain to Oklahoma Firefighters and Fire Departments; and,

Whereas State Statute §11-22-127 reads: "The municipal governing body by ordinance may designate which appointed officers and employees shall reside within the municipality; but police officers, fire fighters and other municipal employees need not be actual residents of the municipality where they are employed in municipalities of five thousand (5,000) population or more, according to the latest federal census. Laws 1977, c. 256, §22-127, eff. July 1, 1978."; and,

Whereas the brothers and sisters of the Enid Fire Department have a City Charter that requires their firefighters to reside in the county;

Therefore Be It Resolved that the delegates of the 115th Annual Oklahoma State Firefighters Association Convention pursue legislative changes to this statute to read "need not be actual residents of the county that the municipality for which they work is located in nor of the municipality where they are employed".

Respectfully submitted by:

Kevin Winter, OSFA Legislative Committee Member; Chad Mantz, President IAFF Local #3722; Joe Jackson, Jason Currier, Michael Lawver, Michael Anderson, Bryan McAlister, Darryl Wanzer, Alan Crawford, Vincent DeVisser, Curtis Howard, Cory Weber, John M. Sears, Brad Shaw, William Moss, Jonathon Howdeshell, John M. Long, Patrick Parrish, John Buller, Jason Congdon, Andrew Wall, Kevin McCullough, Timothy Dowers, Richard Keller, Jon Kiernan, Shawn Kuehn, Matthew Anderson, and Members of the Professional Fire Fighters of Enid.

Withdrawn via formal letter submitted to the OSFA Executive Board.

OSFA Legislative Resolution 09-6

Whereas the members of the Oklahoma State Firefighters Association convene annually to discuss ways of improving the Firefighters Pension System; and,

Whereas a Volunteer Firefighter, who is appointed as a paid firefighter and serves less than ten (10) [years] is entitled to receive one-twentieth (1/20th) of a volunteer pension for each full year served as a volunteer firefighter and one twentieth of onehalf (1/20th of 1/2) of the average salary received for each full year the firefighter served as a paid firefighter; and,

Whereas a member of the System changing status from paid member to a volunteer member is not entitled to combine the paid credited service and subsequent volunteer credited service towards a paid or a volunteer pension;

Therefore Be It Resolved that the Legislative Committee will study and offer language providing a common method for determining a members pension entitlement that has years of credited service as both a paid and volunteer member and has served less than 10 years credited service as a paid firefighter.

Respectfully submitted by:

The 2008-2009 Legislative Volunteer to Paid Subcommittee, Brian Foughty, Chairman; Greg Harmon, Brian Parker, Kevin Winter, Perry Brinegar, T. Dick Cagle

(See OSFA Legislative Resolution 10-4)