


Attendee Guide

ROBERT'S
RULES
OF ORDER

NEWLY
REVISED

2019 Montana Fire
Trustee Association
Conference

October 4-6, 2019
Fairmont Hot Springs Resort

WELCOME!

Hello and welcome,

This conference brings me to the end of my first year as President of the Montana Fire Trustees Association. Throughout the year we have been made aware of several different issues in fire districts across the state and nation. It never ceases to amaze me that in many cases it takes going through the issue ourselves for us to see what could have been avoidable. Wouldn't it be way easier if we could learn from others, share our victories and failures, and grow together? One of our main goals is to help trustees acquire as much information, education, and support as possible, so they can ultimately avoid problems in the future.

One question I have been asked repeatedly at previous conferences is "Is there a place we can go to find policies already written that we can tailor to our district?" That's part of the vision I had in our discussions of planning this event. "Let's give districts something they can start with". There is a vast difference in districts, but no matter the size, budget, personnel, etc. there are a lot of policies that can be shared amongst each other. If you are willing to share your district's policies, please visit with one of the MFTA board members and we will be happy to pass those along.

We have worked diligently this year to put together a conference that is informative and educational. As always, we hope that you gain something from your weekend with us and are able to take that home and share with your fellow board members. We have much to offer one another. Let's work together to grow our volunteer fire community.

Thank you for attending,

Bonnie Jones, President
Montana Fire Trustees Association

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10 MFTA Board Members



CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

DAY 1 Friday, October 4

Time	Event	Location
11:00-1:00	Registration	Hallway Outside Ponderosa
1:00 - 3:00	Panel Discussion - Strategic Leadership, Policies and Procedures. Central Valley Chief Ron Lindroth, Big Sky Chief Bill Farhat, Hebgen Basin Chief Shane Grube	Ponderosa
3:15 - 4:15	Bryan Tavary, DPHHS and Ruth Bileau, EMT Red Lodge Fire and Rescue - SB38 Community Health Bill	Ponderosa
4:30 - 5:30	Jeff Hindoiem, Legal issues associated with Policies and Procedures.	Ponderosa
5:30 - 7:00	Hospitality Hour - No host Bar with snacks Dinner on your own	Patio - weather permitting



The MFTA specialty license plate is available to everyone. And you can also purchase a sample plate like the one pictured, or with any 6 characters you want for \$20.00.

Mail check, along with the characters to:

MFTA
PO Box 6583
Helena, MT 59604

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

DAY 2 Saturday, October 5

Time	Event	Location
7:00 - 8:00	Registration	Hallway near Patio
8:00 - 10:00	Chris Hindoien - Policies and procedures at the firefighter level.	Ponderosa
10:15 - 12:00	Ned Cooney - Board policies and procedures - Focusing on governance.	Ponderosa
12:00 - 12:45	Lunch - provided	Sapphire
12:45 - 2:15	Bob Drake - Practical Finance - Engine Purchase	Ponderosa
2:15 - 3:15	Ned Cooney - Board policies and procedures - Focusing on governance.	Ponderosa
3:30 - 4:30	Ned Cooney - Final Thoughts.	Ponderosa
4:30 - 5:30	Kate Dinwiddie - Policies and Procedures to keep RFD/ FSA out of court	
6:30 - 8:30	Banquet	Sapphire

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

DAY 3 Sunday, October 6

Time	Event	Location
7:00 - 9:30	Breakfast Buffet and Kate Dinwiddie - Conclusion of legal issues.	Ponderosa
9:00 - 9:30	John Semple - Montana Fire Alliance Lobbyist - Legislative Update	Ponderosa
9:30 - 10:00	Summary and Annual Meeting, Election of Directors	Ponderosa



Thank you for attending the 2019 MFTA Conference. We hope you found the sessions interesting and informative. If you would like more information on a topic or would like to suggest a topic for our next conference, please contact us at:

Office@montanafiretrustees.org

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

Ned Cooney is a former member and Board Chair of the Board of Directors of the Montana Nonprofit Association and has served as a member of MNA's Nonprofit Public Policy Council since its start in 2006.



He serves as adjunct faculty at Flathead Valley Community College in nonprofit topics, and formerly taught in the Nonprofit Management Certificate program at University of California, Riverside.

Ned was raised in Southern California and holds a Masters Degree in Social Work from California State University. Before falling in love with the Flathead and moving with his wife Cathy to Bigfork in 2004, he ran two nonprofits, the Volunteer Center of Riverside County operating a variety of volunteer and social service programs, and the Resource Center for Nonprofit Management, specializing in training and consulting with nonprofit organizations. Ned was a board member for the Riverside Community Health Foundation, a hospital/health care conversion where he served as chair of the Trust Uses Committee. In that role, Ned led a grant making process focused on improving health outcomes and access.

In his leisure time, Ned enjoys playing guitar, hiking, bicycling, boating, card and trivia games, and spending time with wife Cathy, friends and family.

Bryan Tavary is a Montana native and graduate of Helena High School and the University of Montana. He spent a decade working EMS in Las Vegas and New Orleans, while also serving as a firefighter for the city of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Bryan currently serves as the Community Integrated Health-



Community Paramedicine Education Specialist in EMS & Trauma Systems within Montana Department of Public Health and Humans Services (DPHHS). Before joining EMS & Trauma Systems, Bryan was the Healthcare Preparedness Program Coordinator developing healthcare coalitions around our great state.

Bob Drake graduated with a BS in Accounting from Montana State University in Bozeman in 1984. After graduation, he went to work for KPMG Peat Marwick as a CPA in Midland, Texas. He spent ten years with KPMG in their headquarters and their Midland, TX and Columbus, OH offices. Bob moved back to Helena in 1995 and became the CFO for Bison Engineering, Inc. where he helped manage the 30 person firm for the next 10 years. Bob started as a firefighter with Lakeside Volunteer Fire Department in 1995 and then became a Trustee in 1996. He served as a Trustee on the Board of Lakeside Fires Service Area until he was appointed Fire Chief of Lakeside in 2001. In 2005, Bob became the Fire Chief of Tri-Lakes Fire Service Area when it was formed by combining Lakeside Fire Service Area with Canyon Ferry Fire Service Area. In 2006, Tri-Lakes hired Bob as its fulltime Administrator where he currently serves. Bob's private business and public service experiences provide him with a valuable perspective on how to help Montana Fire Districts and Fire Service Areas function effectively



CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

Bill Farhat has been Fire Chief of the Big Sky Fire Department since 2011 and has been a member of both the fire and emergency medical services for 30 years, serving as a volunteer or career employee in both rural and urban environments. Chief Farhat holds numerous fire service certifications and designations and has been a paramedic for 27 years. In addition, he was also a career law enforcement officer where his duties included fire/arson investigations, being a hazardous materials technician and being a member of a regional weapons of mass destruction response team. Chief Farhat and he holds a Master of Science in Threat and Response Management from the University of Chicago and a Bachelor of Applied Science in Public Safety from Siena Heights University.



Ron Lindroth moved to Montana in 1012 with his family from Colorado. He serves as the Fire Chief of Central Valley Fire District in Gallatin County, Montana. Chief Lindroth's fire service career started as a wildland firefighter with the U.S. Forest Service in 1976. In 1980, he became a structure firefighter and has advanced through the fire service ranks in Breckenridge, Ft. Collins, and Steamboat Springs, Colorado and Belgrade, Montana. He holds an Associate's degree in Fire Science, a Bachelor's degree in Biology, a Master's degree in Fire Service Leadership, a U.S. Fire Administration designation of Executive Fire Officer, and the Center for Public Excellence's Chief Fire Officer Accreditation. Ron is married to his wife Racquel of fifteen years, and has two daughters. They are active members in the Springhill Presbyterian Church and Manhattan Christian School. His personal interests include camping, hunting, fishing, and raising Golden Retrievers.



Shane Grube was born and raised in West Yellowstone, MT. His first experience with structural firefighting was using large rotary snow blowers and loaders to put snow on structure fires in an attempt to suppress the fire. This has been the norm in West Yellowstone during times when fire trucks were frozen up or not available. Chief Grube started in the fire service as volunteer in 1997 with the creation of the North Side Rural Fire District. In 2000 he was made Assistant Chief a position he held until 2005 when he was made Chief of the Department. In 2007 after 2 structure fires on the same day in the rural unprotected area west of West Yellowstone and south of Hebgen Lake. A campaign kicked off to bring the south side of Hebgen Lake into the Fire District. Once that was completed the North Side Fire District changed its name to Hebgen Basin Fire District. Now all private land within the Hebgen Basin was under the protection of the Hebgen Basin Fire District the exception of the Town of West Yellowstone. In early 2008 the Town of West Yellowstone and the Hebgen Basin Fire District entered into negotiations for the District to Annex the Town of West Yellowstone into the Fire District, which went into effect March 2009 at which point Chief Grube stepped down as Chief into an Assistant Chief position and went out and hired the Districts first fulltime paid Chief. The person who stepped into the role was Chief Scott Waldron. In 2011 the District elected to hire its first fulltime paid Assistant Chief which Chief Grube was hired for. He worked in that position until Chief Waldron's retirement in the spring of 2015 at which time Chief Grube took over the Department again.



CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

Catherine "Kate" Dinwiddie, one of the original partners of Brown & Dinwiddie, PLLC, has been practicing law for over 16 years. Her legal career has included



working for Montana Legal Services in the domestic violence unit practicing family law and 6 years at the Gallatin County Attorney's Office as a civil deputy county attorney. At the County Attorney's office, Kate represented the State in child abuse and neglect actions and was responsible for providing legal advice representation to the County Commission, Board of Health, fire districts/service areas and other various county departments. Her practice now encompasses various areas of law with an emphasis on fire department and political subdivision representation. Kate also handles projects related to contracts, non-profit entities, and homeowners' associations. Kate's workshop and teaching experience includes presentations for the MSU Fire Services Training School, the Montana State Fire Chiefs' Assoc., the Montana Fire Alliance, and Fire Councils. She is admitted to practice in Montana and the U.S. District Court, District of Montana. She was raised in the central California farming community of Porterville and after graduating high school she spent a year studying in Tenerife, Spain as a Rotary foreign exchange student. Kate graduated from Occidental College, Los Angeles, earning a degree in English and Comparative Literary Studies with a minor in Physical Anthropology. She moved to Missoula to attend U of M School of Law where she earned her J.D. Kate lives with her daughter in Bozeman.

Jeff Hindoien is an insurance agent with Rocky Mountain Insurance Services of Choteau, Montana. Although he is new to the insurance world, Jeff has extensive



experience as an attorney providing legal services to government officials here in Montana. His experience in both the public sector and private practice has involved all aspects of governmental operations, including labor and employment matters, open meetings and public records, contracting and procurement, election, finance and budget matters. He formerly served as the City Attorney for the City of Helena and the City of Deer Lodge and has extensive private practice experience serving as legal counsel for Montana school districts. In addition to his municipal and school district experience, Jeff also served as Chief Legal Counsel to Montana Governor Judy Martz and as a Commissioner in the chambers of Judge Charles E. "Chip" Erdmann of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces in Washington, D.C. Jeff is an honors graduate of both MSU-Bozeman and the University of Wyoming College of Law

2019 MFTA Board Members

Bonnie Jones, President - Term Expires 2021
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(406) 431-6853

Bill Wegner, Vice President - Term Expires 2021
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wwegner@mt.net
(406) 431-2451

Bruce Suenram, Sec./Treasurer - Term Expires 2019
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Jim Dusenberry, - Term Expires 2020
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Ted Liss, Trustee - Term Expires 2019
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