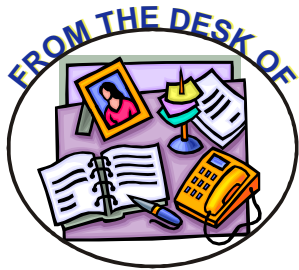


FIREFAX

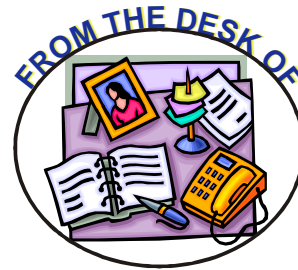
VOLUME 23

January 2010

ISSUE 1



Becky Nelson
SECRETARY/TREASURER
FIREFAX EDITOR



Chris Van Vleet
PRESIDENT



As Firefox Editor I first and foremost want to wish everyone a Happy New Year. I hope the holidays were kind to everyone. Each quarter while trying to compile Firefox, I find myself struggling to find something of interest for the membership. I have never claimed to be a publicist; however I am enjoying the challenge of compiling this ensuring the membership is kept up to date on the Chapters "going on". With that, I still believe Firefox needs to be about more than a simple greeting from your Officers and Board Members; it needs to be a source of information. I challenge each of you to assist me in providing this information. If you have an article of interest that would benefit the membership, please forward it to me so we can share it. I know each of you in your prospective position have training that is required of you to keep up your certifications. If your training is open to outside entities, please let me know so the information can be put out to the membership. I look forward to working for the Chapter in 2010 and hope to see each of you at the fall seminar.

Mark Your Calendar

September 21-24, 2010
**28th Annual Fire Investigation Seminar
and Annual Meeting**

Hopefully this finds everyone well and warm. As I write this we are in the middle of a significant cold spell! I also hope everyone had an enjoyable Holiday season and hopefully it will be a good year for all of us!

I would like to thank everyone again for their support at the recent seminar and the vote of confidence in electing me as your president. It is an honor and a privilege to serve you.

The board is well on the way with the 2010 Seminar plans and I think you will be pleased. As you know we signed a contract with the West Des Moines Marriot to return in 2010 and the board recently reviewed proposals and signed with the West Des Moines Marriot for 2011 as well. The West Des Moines Marriott has/is being extremely competitive. The feedback the board received at this year's seminar was very positive and our attendance was up from the previous year. So we decided to stay in the Des Moines area for at least the next two years. We will address 2012 at the 2010 seminar, so if you have any suggestions please let one of your officers know.

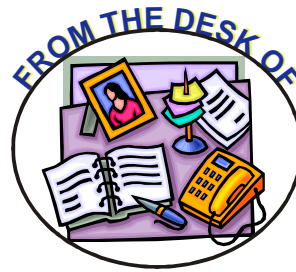
The board has several initiatives for the year and we are always looking for help and suggestions. We would like to see more of the "Lunch & Learn" programs delivered around the state. These are a good way to get

together regionally with your counterparts and have an educational lunch. It doesn't cost the host anything to put one on as the Chapter provides the Educational portion and sends out the invitations. All the host has to do is give us a list of invitees, and secure a place to have lunch. The attendees have to buy their own lunch but that is it. A great opportunity to get together and learn a little, eat a little and net work. Please let us know if you are interested in hosting a "Lunch & Learn".

The board is also looking at revising the current Chapter By-Laws. We have had a couple issues recently where the by-laws were not as clear as we needed so Past President Jeff Hutcheson has volunteered to head up a revision committee. He has already begun the work and has had some great input from the membership. If you have any suggestions, please pass them on to Jeff or any one of your officers. The amended version of the by-laws will be presented to the membership at the 2010 Seminar for consideration, discussion and vote.

The board is also trying to find a way to promote our Chapter's Scholarship Program. We would like to see more competition. The applications have fallen off and we don't know why. In this economic climate we would think that more students would want scholarship money, but we haven't seen that. Director John Grier is heading up the committee to examine this issue. Please let him or one of your board members know if you have any ideas on how we can promote or scholarship program.

I am looking forward to 2010 and all the possibilities it has in store for us. Thanks for your time and support.



Dennis Chapman
1ST VICE PRESIDENT



Hi everyone. Hope 2009 was good to you and your families. It just seems that the older I get, the faster the years fly by.

The Iowa Chapter's 27th Annual Fire Investigation Seminar and Annual Meeting was a great success. There were a lot of good comments about all the topics and the speakers. The membership has to remember that your ideas and suggestions really help the officers and board to put together the best possible seminar. I want to thank the membership for the honor of electing me to the office of 1st Vice President. I will work hard with our new President, officers and board to help our Chapter to continue to grow and be an outstanding organization of great people.

We (Jess and I) have been noticing more and more improper packaging for fire debris samples submitted to the crime lab.

With all the classes we have taught on fire evidence collection and preservation, it is just amazing when it happens again and again. When the evidence is collected properly and packaged properly, the laboratory can do so much more. Also, please don't forget about submitting control samples as well. These are the substrate samples (flooring, carpet & pad, etc.) that are the same materials as your questioned burn samples and you think don't have an ignitable liquid on them.

If you ever have questions about any evidence, please call the laboratory [515-725-1500] and ask.

I would personally like to thank Jeff Hutcheson our President for the past three years for all the work he did. His leadership was very good and it definitely showed with our annual seminars, board meetings, etc.

Thank you all for your work to help fight the crime of arson.

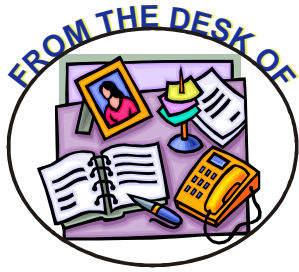
Take care and always be safe.

IOWA CHAPTER'S CLOTHING LINE
REDUCED 15%



The Chapter has reduced the price of our clothing line. We have selected a collection of clothing item for you to wear and proudly show off our logo. Each item is embroidered with the logo, t-shirts are screen printed. Please take some time to browse all the categories to see the items offered. This site has a secure check-out process which uses Pay-Pal. Profits from the sale of these items go back to us to support our events and scholarship foundation, so please show your support!

<http://www.companycasuals.com/IAAI/start.jsp>



Jess Dunn
2ND VICE PRESIDENT



nominal. I'm also excited to let you know that Special Agent Ron Tunkel of the ATF who was our Friday morning speaker on profiling has agreed to come back next year and present even more information! Most everyone knows we will be returning to West Des Moines for our 2010 AGM and conference. We have also decided that the 2011 AGM and conference will be in West Des Moines. The prices the hotel was quoting us for almost two years out were fantastic.

The 2010 State Fire Marshal's Office two week Fire Investigation course will be March 1st through March 12th. If you have anyone that you would like to get into the class, get their name to the Fire Service Training Bureau as soon as possible. The class always fills up fast!

Also, a reminder that the new Forensic Evidence Collection course will be at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, MD. I had the honor of teaching the first "Go-live" class for this in November. It is a great class and I highly encourage you to apply for any of the classes under the arson program out there.

Winter season is in full swing and I'd like to remind you to stay safe out there. Think about the hazards you could possibly encounter before you start your investigation. Take the correct precautions and don't hurry.

I'd like to thank the membership of the Iowa Chapter for supporting me and electing me to the position of 2nd Vice President. The past three years serving as the Director of Detection has flown by. It is my promise to you, the membership, that I will work very close with President Van Vleet, the officers, and Board of Directors to continue to make us the best Chapter of the IAAI. I'd also like to thank Past-President Jeff Hutchison for his service to the Chapter. Jeff was elected President at the same time as I was elected to the Board. Jeff's guidance has been very valuable, and I learned a lot from him. John Grier has taken over my old position of Director of Detection. Welcome John and also Tony Collins to our board.

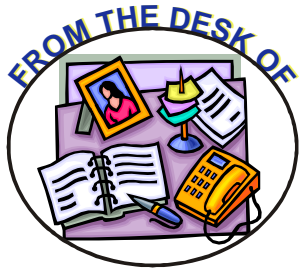
Our 2009 AGM and Training Seminar was a huge success. The quality of speakers this year was phe-

IOWA CHAPTER'S PRESIDENTIAL AWARD OF APPRECIATION

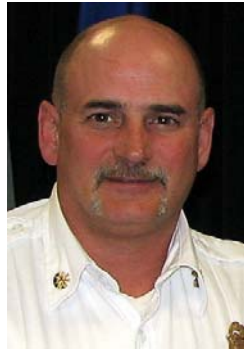


Past President/Life Member Bob Burns presents Bill Buxton, President, Pyr-Tech Incorporated, Collinsville, Illinois with the Iowa Chapter Presidential Award of Appreciation. Buxton, an Iowa Chapter Member and Past President/Life Member of the International was to receive the award at the 2009 Iowa Chapter AGM but do to other commitments was unable to attend. Burns presented the award to Buxton at Pyr-Tech's annual holiday celebration in Collinsville, Illinois. Mr. Buxton and Pyr-Tech Incorporated have been long time supporters of the Chapter, having had many employees serve in various positions on the Board, as well as sponsoring coffee breaks and providing lanyards for the

past several seminars. The Chapter appreciates all of its sponsors and hopes to continue its close relation with Pyr-Tech Incorporated in the years to come. Congratulations on a well deserved recognition Mr. Buxton/Pyr-Tech Incorporated.



Tony Collins
DIRECTOR AT LARGE/WEST
tcollins@cityofclive.com



As most who know me would probably agree, I'm usually not at a loss for finding words in most situations, but when asked to write my first issue article for FireFax as a board member, I suddenly found myself at a loss. I know! I couldn't believe it either!! What could I convey to the entire organization, much less the western side of the state, and pertain to our task at hand? And after running on a platform of hope and change, I'm now recovering from the holidays and paying Knutzen's mortgage for the past 3 months! Who knew someone would take me up on a phony campaign promise? But...here we are in 2010 already. Remember Y2K? Wasn't that just a few years ago??

But first I would like to extend an open thank you to Past President Jeff Hutcheson for all his hard work and dedication. I'm sure he's enjoying the "break". A lot of work goes into planning a 3+ day conference. There's more to it than one might think. And as we plan for the 2010 annual educational seminar, I think back to 2009, as well as previous years in a different perspective than before. Coming up with ideas for a topic isn't always as easy in this particular field, but we have a determined group of folks to draw from in that category, and we are working on that now and have some pretty good leads. And if you have an idea on a topic you would like to see presented or discussed, please do not hesitate to contact any board member. You should all have our numbers already programmed in your phones.

We have discussed "Lunch-n-Learns" in the recent past, and we are working on how to best accomplish that. For the West, I plan on making some contacts in a geographically sensible area where we could possibly kick this idea off. And like anything, we learn more the more we do something. And as I brainstorm on how to work toward this idea, I need help to promote it in our area. With the "MAFIT" (Metro Area Fire Investigators Task Force) group we utilize in the Des Moines Area, one of the biggest benefits we have is information sharing as far as lessons learned from incidents/investigations. Sometimes it is as

simple as being able to tie other fires together simply because something caught our ear at a meeting. And another huge benefit I have found is that just getting to know each other makes working together a lot easier when it comes to information sharing as well as building a resource "tool box". These are just some of the benefits we enjoy in the DSM metro area. Why not spread it out a bit? If a jurisdiction has a significant or unique investigation that is at a stage or phase where it can be shared, and learned from, why not get together and go over it together? There is no downside to it. Plus, we gotta eat anyway, right? So why not make the most of it and make our statewide network stronger, valuable, and effective? I will begin my efforts on this now that the holidays are past us and we work toward the 2010 annual seminar. And I would like to wish the entire organization a safe and prosperous New Year!

DIRECTOR AT LARGE/WEST COLLINS

Selected as a SAFER Grant Reviewer



"The following information on the SAFER Grant is provided by FEMA"

The SAFER (Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response) Grant was created to provide funding directly to fire departments and volunteer firefighter interest organizations in order to help them increase the number of trained, "front-line" firefighters available in their communities.

The goal of SAFER is to enhance the local fire departments' abilities to comply with staffing, response and operational standards established by NFPA and OSHA (NFPA 1710 and/or NFPA 1720 and OSHA 1910.134 – see www.nfpa.org/SAFERActGrant for more details). Specifically, SAFER funds should assist local fire departments to increase their staffing and deployment capabilities in order to respond to emergencies whenever they may occur. As a result of the enhanced staffing, response times should be sufficiently reduced with an appropriate number of personnel assembled at the incident scene. Also, the enhanced staffing should provide that all front-line/first-due apparatus of SAFER grantees have a minimum of four trained personnel to meet the OSHA standards referenced above. Ultimately, a faster, safer and more efficient incident scene will be established and communities will have more adequate protection from fire and fire-related hazards.

**INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ARSON INVESTIGATORS
IOWA CHAPTER**

MINUTES

December 4, 2009

I. Call to Order:

A regular meeting of the Officers and Directors of the Iowa Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators was called to order at the Iowa DPS Lab, Ankeny, Iowa, pursuant to the notice given to all officers and directors in accordance with the bylaws.

II. Roll Call

Roll call of officers and directors
 Chris Van Vleet – President
 Denis Chapman – 1st Vice President
 Jess Dunn – 2nd Vice President -Excused
 Becky Nelson – Secretary/Treasurer
 John Kraemer – Director of Investigation - Excused
 Tony Collins – Director at Large, West
 Zack Spykerman – Director of Insurance
 Mark Crooks – Director at Large, East -Excused
 John Grier – Director of Detection
 Sean O'Brien – Director of Prosecution

Chris Van Vleet, President presided and Becky Nelson, Secretary/Treasurer, recorded the proceedings of the meeting.

III. Secretary/Treasurer's Report

1. Motion by Director Grier, 2nd by Director Spykerman for minutes from November 6, 2009 meeting and the treasurer's report to be accepted. Motion unanimous.
2. Closing books for 2009 seminar.

Coffee Break	4x\$350	\$1,400.00	Analytical, Grinnell Mutual, Paul Davis, Brown Engineering On-Site Engineering
	1X\$250	\$250.00	
Banquet Tickets	1X\$35	\$35.00	
BBQ Tickets	1X\$35	\$35.00	
Registrations	107X\$230	\$24,610.00	
Registrations not paid	12X230	(\$2,760.00)	
Complimentary Registrations	2X230	(\$460.00)	
Refund Registration	1X\$230	(\$230.00)	
Registered not paid/No show	1X\$230	(\$230.00)	
1 Day Registration (Tuesday)	1X\$25	\$25.00	
1 Day Registration (Wednesday)	6X\$100	\$600.00	
1 Day Registration Wed/Not Paid	3X\$100	(\$300.00)	
1 Day Registration (Thursday)	13X\$100	\$1,300.00	
1 Day Registration Thurs/Not Paid	4X\$100	(\$400.00)	
Plaques		(\$325.92)	
Mailing		(\$396.00)	
Speaker	Pope	(\$1,670.90)	
Speaker Gift Cards		(\$165.00)	
Name Tags O & B		(\$40.48)	
President's Suite Refreshments		(\$147.29)	
Marriott		(\$13,068.48)	
Registrant Give-Away Knife	PAW Marketing	(\$1,714.46)	
Candy Store	PAW Marketing	(\$3,692.54)	
Candy Store	Sold	\$653.00	
Candy Store	Rebate from PAW	\$1,099.25	
TOTAL INCOME		\$4,406.18	
Total Income		\$4,406.18	
Incoming Registrations		\$3,460	
TOTAL 2009 SEMINAR		\$7,866.18	

Minutes (Continued)

3. Financial report for Chapter ending 11-30-09.

12/2/09

Page 1

Account Transactions
Community FCU Checking

10/31/09 Through 12/4/09

Num	Date	Payee	Category	Amount	Running Balance
					Opening Balance as of 10/31/09
					28,636.41
Month Ending 10/31/09					
	10/31/09	Community FCU	Investment Income : Interest	13.20	28,649.61
			Total Month Ending 10/31/09	13.20	
Month Ending 11/30/09					
	11/6/09	Deposit	Split/Multiple Categories	4,147.25	32,796.86
	11/6/09	Wig & Pen	Food : Dining Out	(100.00)	32,696.86
1069	11/16/09	marriott	Seminar Expense	(13,068.48)	19,628.38
			Total Month Ending 11/30/09	(9,021.23)	
<hr/> Grand Total				(9,008.03)	19,628.38

4. Motion by Director Spykerman for Secretary/Treasurer Nelson to invest up to \$9,000 in CD's for up to one year. 2nd by Director O'Brien. Motion unanimous.
5. Motion by Director Spykerman for Secretary/Treasurer Nelson to purchase new financial software for the Chapter that will be compatible with banking. This motion also asks that the Secretary/Treasurer have the authority to update the software annually as needed. 2nd by Vice President Chapman. Motion unanimous.

IV. Officers and Board of Director's Reports

1. President Van Vleet
 - a. Working on standing committees for the 2009-2010 year.
 - b. Would like there to be something added to Fairfax for members to contact your Director at Large should they need any assistance.
2. 1st Vice President Chapman
 - a. Came up with some suggestions on updating Bylaws. Would like something added to upcoming Fairfax regarding Bylaws.
 - b. Signed the amended 2010 contract with the Marriott West Des Moines.
3. Secretary/Treasurer Nelson
 - a. Will get the committee assignments published on the website as soon as it is established.
 - b. Will work with Director Spykerman on clothing store issues to get information out to membership to order before Christmas. Prices reduced 15%.
4. Director at Large, West Collins
 - a. Working on first article for Fairfax. Would like to focus on Lunch & Learns.
 - b. Was selected as a SAFER Grant Peer Reviewer.
5. Director of Detection Grier
 - a. Director Grier has some proposed Bylaw changes. Will send them to committee chair.
 - b. Working on updating scholarship. Will present to committee at a later date.
 - c. Will host a Lunch and Learn in Iowa City.
6. Director of Prosecution O'Brien
 - a. Will do final review of any proposed Bylaw changes prior to them being sent to the membership.
7. Director of Insurance Spykerman
 - a. Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company had staff meeting and training in LaPlata, Missouri, November 11, 12th & 13th. Iowa Chapter Co-Sponsored the training and provided certificates for training hours. GMRC's Special Investigations has a staff of 19, which sat through three days of training to include Lightning Strike Investigation by Iowa Chapter's Larry Wyatt and Chemistry of Fire & Fire Dynamics, Building Construction & Compartment Fire Growth and Spread, Fire Pattern Development & Analysis, Heat and Flame Vector Analysis and Fire Pattern Persistence by Ron Hopkins, CFEI, CFPS.
 - b. Candy store has reduced all merchandise prices by 15%. Director Spykerman is to send e-mail to membership.
 - c. Would like to put together a courtroom testimony class.

Minutes (Continued)

V. Committees

1. Auditing
 - a. 1st Vice President Chapman and Director O'Brien will audit the books after upcoming meeting.
2. Scholarship
 - a. Director Grier working on updating the scholarship application. Would like to have the form available to be filled out on line.
 - b. Wanted clarification on recipients. Recipient has to live and attend school in Iowa.

VI. 2010 Seminar

1. Have confirmed Ron Tunkel for full day.
2. Discussion on interaction between police department and fire department.
3. Discussion on dealing with media during a fire investigation.
4. Discussion on environmental law for fire investigation.
5. Director Spykerman will check with Ron Hopkins as a potential speaker.
6. Director Spykerman will send e-mail to membership asking what classes they would like.

VII. Good of the Chapter

1. Director Spykerman and President VanVleet are working on 2080 CD from NE/IA Dual State Conference with the live burns.
2. There is a fundraising website that Director Spykerman will look into for the Chapter.
3. Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company is donating a newer used laptop for the Chapter. Secretary/Treasurer Nelson will send a letter of request to the appropriate personnel at GMRC requesting the donation.
4. Tabled until next meeting – officers and board would like to look into what it would cost Chapter to purchase a small amount of life insurance for each member.

VIII. Adjournment

1. Next board meeting January 8, 2010 at DCI at 10:00 AM.
2. Motion by Director Collins to adjourn at 12:48 PM, 2nd by Director O'Brien. Motion unanimous.

Becky Nelson
Secretary/Treasurer

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

The Constitution and Bylaws for the Iowa Chapter are being clarified. If you have any suggestions on changes please send to:

Constitution/Bylaw Committee Chair Jeff Hutcheson at jhutcheson@councilbluffs-ia.gov.

To read the current Bylaws, please go to the Chapter's website <http://www.iowaiaaichapter.org> go to Membership Information and Bylaws .07 document.



Upcoming Training

Kansas Chapter
February 2-4, 2010
<http://www.ksiaai.org>

RECALLS

Acer Recalls Notebook Computers Due to Burn Hazard

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in cooperation with the firm named below, today announced a voluntary recall of the following products. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed.

Name of Product: Certain Acer Aspire-series Notebook Computers

Units: About 22,000

Manufacturer: Acer America Corporation, of San Jose, Calif.

Hazard: An internal microphone wire under the palm rest can short circuit and overheat. This poses a potential burn hazard to consumers.

Incidents/Injuries: Acer has received three reports of computers short circuiting, resulting in slight melting of the external casing. No incidents occurred in the United States. No injuries have been reported.

RECALLS (Continued)

Description: The recalled notebook computer models are the Acer AS3410, AS3410T, AS3810T, AS3810TG, AS3810TZ and AS3810TZG. The computer's screen size is about 13.3 inches measured diagonally. Not all units are affected. Consumers should contact Acer to determine if their unit is included in the recall.

Sold at: ABS Computer Technologies, D&H Distributing, Fry's Electronics, Ingram Micro, Radio Shack, SED/American Express, Synnex Corporation, SYX Distribution, Tech Data Corporation and other retailers nationwide and Amazon.com from June 2009 through October 2009 for between \$650 and \$1,150.

Manufactured in: China

Remedy: Consumers should stop using the recalled notebook computers immediately and contact Acer to determine if their notebook is affected and to receive a free repair.

Consumer Contact: For additional information, contact Acer toll-free at (866) 695-2237 anytime, or visit the firm's Web site at www.acer.com

Gas Cans Recalled by No-Spill; Containers Can Leak and Create Fire Hazard

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in cooperation with the firm named below, today announced a voluntary recall of the following products. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed.

Name of Product: No-Spill 5-gallon Gasoline Cans

Units: About 7,500

Manufacturer: No-Spill LLC, of Lenexa, Kan.

Hazard: The gas containers can leak fuel at the black plastic collar where the spout connects to the can, posing fire and burn hazards to consumers.

Incidents/Injuries: None reported.

Description: The 5-gallon gas cans are made from heavy-duty red plastic and carry date codes AIP09202 through AIP09222. The date code is located on the bottom of the can. Not all cans in this date range are affected.

Sold at: Lawn & garden stores nationwide, hardware retailers and online from August 2009 through November 2009 for about \$30.

Manufactured in: United States

Remedy: Consumers should test their gas cans to determine whether they leak and immediately stop using the leaky cans. Consumers should contact No-Spill to receive a free replacement.

Consumer Contact: For additional information, contact No-Spill toll-free at (877) 928-0049 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. CT Monday through Friday or visit the firm's Web site at www.nospill.com/recall

Verandah Patio Fireplaces Recalled by W.S. Badcock Corp. Due to Fire Hazard

The following product safety recall was voluntarily conducted by the firm in cooperation with the CPSC. Consumers should stop using the product immediately unless otherwise instructed.

Name of Product: Vintage Verandah Patio Fireplace

Units: About 1,250

Distributor: W.S. Badcock Corp., of Mulberry, Fla

Manufacturer: Fujian Minhou Minxing Weaving Co. Ltd, of China

Hazard: A paint used to finish the exterior shell may catch fire, posing a fire hazard to consumers.

Incidents/Injuries: W.S. Badcock Corporation has received one report of the exterior shell catching fire. No injuries were reported.

Description: The recalled fireplace is made of black metal with wire mesh sides, a black metal cap and chimney, and a metal grate with two (2) accessory tools.

Sold at: Badcock Home Furniture & more and Badcock Home Furnishings Center stores from September 2008 to November 2009 for about \$300.

Manufactured in: China

Remedy: Consumers should stop using the fireplaces immediately and return them to their local Badcock store or place of purchase.

Consumer Contact: For more information, contact your local Badcock store or W.S. Badcock Corporation's Corporate call center at 1-800-223-2625 from 8:00 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9:00 am. To 6:00 p.m. on Saturday (EST) or visit the firm's Web site at www.badcock.com

The opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the IAAI or the Iowa Chapter IAAI.

Please, if you have any suggestions for improvements or changes to the newsletter send me an e-mail at: bnelson@gmrc.com.

Printed by Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company