

Five State Summit Meeting - Evesham Twp. - February 28, 2004

EDIAFC Board Members

James Seavey	President, EDIAFC	301-252-5315	mdfire0412@aol.com
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William Askenstedt	Sec/Tres. EDIAFC	609-448-3642	ewvfcchief@aol.com
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James Watson	DE Dir. EDIAFC	302-322-0701	kingshimr@aol.com
Jack Gouty	MD Dir. EDIAFC	410-551-5962	firechief291@aol.com
Ted Lowden	NJ Dir. EDIAFC	856-983-2210	tlowden@eveshamfire.org
Ken Pienkowski	NY Dir. EDIAFC	315-468-4421	kenpinky@aol.com
Robert Stahl	PA Dir. EDIAFC	215-357-6880	rgstahl@isrt.com

State Chiefs Associations

Delaware

Kevin Wilson	DE State Chiefs	302-653-4588	wilson653@comcast.net
Les Warrick	DE State Chiefs	302-994-0705	lwwar14@aol.com

Maryland

Roger Steger Sr.	MD State Chiefs	410-213-0780	fchief750@aol.com
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New Jersey

William Dukes	NJ Career Chiefs	856-234-6053	wdukes@mountlaurelfire.org
Lee Butcher	NJ State Chiefs	856-935-4744	mannfire@mindspring.com
Chris Assenheimer	NJ State Chiefs	210-438-3450	chrisha2@comcast.net
C. Kenneth Anderson	NJ State Chiefs/C&B	609-267-8226	kenander@eticomm.net

New York

Tom LaBelle	Exec Dir. NYSAFC	800-676-3473	tlabelle@nysfirechiefs.org
George Maney	NY State Chiefs	607-729-4168	gmanet075@aol.com

Pennsylvania

Eugene Rodgers	Keystone Chiefs	717-399-4373	
Thomas O. Markey	Keystone Chiefs	215-862-2998	tmarkey@eaglefirecompany.org

IAFC

Garry Briese	Exec. Dir. IAFC	703-273-0911	gbriese@iafc.org
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Absent

Mike Chiaramonte	2 nd VP. EDIAFC	516-887-3292	Lynbrookfd@aol.com
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The Summit convened at 0900 on Saturday, February 28, 2004

President James Seavey provided the welcome and opening remarks. He thanked Chief Lowden for hosting the second summit meeting and conducted a roundtable self introduction.

Garry Briese, Executive Director of the IAFC, thanked the group for inviting him to participate in the summit and congratulated the group on the concept of holding joint meeting. He presented a power point presentation to the group on "Who is the Fire Service" This presentation will be provided to all those who attended the summit. Due to time constraints Garry did not discuss PACs as per the agenda but, the Secretary provided a package to each of the attendees on the subject of PACs which had been prepared by the IAFC staff.

Reports of the States

New Jersey

Chief Bill Dukes, NJ Career Chiefs, reported that the Career Chiefs have about 90 members. They have a PAC. They are working on merging their group with the NJ State Chiefs. The Career Chiefs will become similar to the IAFC Metro Section in their roll in the State Chiefs. They are working on a summit of their own. They are trying to bring together 9 active associations from within NJ and 21 county associations to form a joint body. This group would prioritize legislative issues, recommend bills, draft position statements and hopefully be more effective in influencing legislation for the fire service. Chief Dukes also commented on NJ deployment regulations which are designed to manage large responses and avoid some of the uncoordinated responses that occurred at the WTC. He also favors the development of age and fitness guidelines for emergency responders and staffing requirements for apparatus responding to mutual aid calls.

Lee Butcher, NJSFCA, commented on his participation in the NJ Governors Task Force which is trying to determine which legislation is of the most concern to the fire service. He commented on the confusion at the state level as to who spoke for the fire service and what they really wanted.

Ken Anderson, NJSFCA, provided a handout of legislation currently in the forefront in NJ. He commented further on the deployment standard and the fact that the State Chiefs had supplied input. He announced he would be attending a NJ Homeland Security meeting next week. Ken provided an email concerning his remarks after the meeting which is attached below.

1. In relation to Guidelines of HSAS preparedness, the following is available:

The Emergency Preparedness and Response Directorate of the Department of Homeland Security recently announced the release of the *Fire and Emergency Services Preparedness Guide for the Homeland Security Advisory System*. Prepared by the U.S. Fire Administration's (USFA) Emergency Management and Response-Information Sharing and Analysis Center (EMR-ISAC) to promote critical infrastructure protection, the guide provides suggestions for activities that may be appropriate for the five Homeland Security Advisory System (HSAS) Levels. This is found at <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fire-service/cipc/cipc-jobaid.shtm>

2. The Burlington County HSAS Guidelines can be found on the County Chiefs' website, <http://www.bcfirechiefs.org/>. Click on "County Guidelines." In the list of guidelines, click on "Homeland Security Advisory System - Threat Alert Guidelines for the Fire Service."

3. The SOG on minimum deployment that Bill Dukes mentioned is on our County Chiefs' website, but it's in the Members Only section. Please email Ken for a copy.

Maryland

Roger Steger, MFCA, reported that, Maryland has instituted a \$50.00 fee which is attached to all moving violations in the state and is used to fund medivac units, and that Maryland has a retirement program for emergency responders. Maryland is hosting a Chiefs Officers Seminar on March 13 & 14. It is free in MD and \$50.00 for out of state registration. Maryland Chiefs have offered to pay the registration for the President and 1st VP from each of the other states at the summit. Contact Roger for details or see their web site. The Maryland Chiefs have changed their by-laws to increase their meetings from 2 to 4 per year. The Maryland Chiefs work closely with the NFFF to support the Memorial Weekend. They invited other attendees to join them in helping.

Jack Gouty, Maryland Director announced the dates for the Maryland Chiefs and Firemens Association Meetings. These can be found on their web sites. The Convention is June 12 to 18 this year in Ocean City. Jack invited all present to attend. Jack discussed Maryland legislation related to non-emergency vehicles approaching emergency scenes, Opticon restrictions for private purchasing, and exemptions for certain size and weight requirements for fire apparatus. MEMA is developing a statewide resource inventory for Maryland. Maryland has a statewide alert network in place and has a Joint Terrorism Task Force.

Delaware

Kevin Wilson, DSFCA, stated that the Chiefs Assn. was a part of the DVFA which was the parent organization. The Chiefs are the lead association for issues related to operations in the state. Projects include; maintaining an email list, developing an officers guide, and developing a threat level guide for Fire Departments reaction to the various federal threat levels. The Chiefs hold 4 meetings per year and conduct work shops on the off months. The State has developed a Traffic Management Center to handle traffic disruptions caused by emergency operations. Delaware has a Chaplains Association. Legislative issues include; an Opticon bill similar to Maryland, a false alarm bill which uses the fines to fund smoke detector programs, and there is currently an effort to seek funds for EMS staffing. The DVFA has an MOU with the truancy court to use offenders to do community service in the fire stations. Several states provided pro and con input in this issue. Delaware has a training course on WMD coming up and invited EDIAFC members to participate. Contact Kevin for details.

Pennsylvania

Eugene Rodgers, Keystone Chiefs, reported that the Keystone Chiefs are having problems with membership.

Thomas Markey, Keystone Chiefs, stated that he thought the Fire Grant application project required too much paper work and that there should be a response given to those applicants who are rejected. The response should explain the reason for their rejection. He also commented that fire departments did not make sufficient use of their retired chiefs. PA has a 2% interest loan fund in place for fire departments. The Keystone Chiefs meet May 14 & 15. The major legislative impact is the implementation of a statewide building code.

New York

Tom LaBelle, Executive Director, NYSAFC, distributed a hand out on current legislative issues in NY and explained the list is compiled through the joint agreement of 9 associations named on the letterhead. The list represents those issues which all of the agencies endorse and wish to go forward with. Some of the projects that the NYSAFC are involved with are as follows;

- Providing information on what fire codes mean to emergency responders
- Providing information on the problems associated with hurricane resistant windows.
- Providing accreditation for fire chiefs and fire departments as a licensed evaluator.
- Putting all fire related legislation on line for emergency service providers to access.
- Publishing a buyers guide for fire departments
- Working with Fire Prevention on WMD training, providing a 3 hour class at no charge.

NY is also changing their EMS refresher course for EMTs. The Chiefs are offering the course on line for a fee of \$150- \$250 per student depending on how much of the process is done by the student. New York State currently reimburses \$280.00 for recertification.

Tom also asked for input on blue light use in other states. In NY, only volunteer FFs use blue lights but there is a move to change that. In MD, blue is used by Police and VFFs use nothing. In DE, blue lights are for officers and Fire Police only, VFFs use nothing. In PA and NJ all VFFs get blue lights by permit. In NJ, Chief officers use red.

This concluded the round table reports of the states. The synopsis of each state's report provided herein is designed to give a general overview of the topics discussed. For details beyond what is contained herein, contact the particular speaker or organization. A complete list of attendees and their contact info is included herein. Anyone who notes any discrepancies in these minutes is requested to email EWVFCHIEF@AOL.COM with corrections and or additions. Any comments received will be shared with the group.

The second half of the Summit dealt with specific agenda items or topics

EDIAFC Conference & IAFC Conference

Secretary Treasurer Bill Askenstedt, reported that the **EDIAFC conference** will be held on Saturday, June 26th in Evesham Township. It will be a single day event. The conference will have a Memorial Service and Business Session in the morning, followed by lunch and a technical session on "Street Terrorism" by Sgt. Brain Ball of Greece, NY. On Friday, June 25th there will be an Eastern Board Meeting at 9 AM and 5 State Summit meeting at 2PM. Bill reported that all of the details, directions, and hotel info, were on the web site at www.ediafc.org/conference.html This info will be continually updated. The Memorial Service is being coordinated by Les Warrick and the Registration by Jim Watson. Conference brochures and registration forms are available on line.

The IAFC Conference is in New Orleans on August 12-15, 2004. The new format has exhibits on Friday and Saturday, and the banquet on Saturday night. There is no longer a need for a Sunday night stay. The Eastern hotel is the Sheraton and that will be the location of the hospitality room. Details of Eastern events are on the EDIAFC Conference page at www.ediafc.org/conference.html The EDIAFC Breakfast will be on Friday morning at 8:00 AM in the Convention Center. The Room will be announced when determined. Full details of the conference can be found at <http://www.iafc.org/conferences/fri/index.asp> on the new IAFC web site. On line conference and hotel registration is also available here. Members should watch both the Eastern and IAFC web sites for updates on the conferences.

Communications, Web Sites and Email. The thrust of this discussion item was communications. Secretary Askenstedt requested that the Board and State organizations maintain open communications by passing along information to be shared. He asked all present to review the EDIAFC web site and provide new information, updated links, and to notify him of any problems found. He asked the states in particular to review their links page and provide any new links they thought would be helpful. It was also requested that the states update their email lists when ever they changed or new people were added.

Legislative Issues of Common Interest. It was felt that this topic had been well covered within the reports of the states.

Valor Nominations: Committee Chair Jack Gouty reported that NY, MD and DE had submitted nominations and NJ and PA had not. He urged all states to participate. The award will be presented at an event in the winner's home state.

Congressional Fire Service Caucus Events: President Seavey questioned which states were hosting events at the CFSI Dinner and if there was a possible place where the 5 states could do something as a group. DE & MD are having receptions. NJ has one with VFIS although the format is changing. NY has scheduling conflicts with other events and will have a limited presence. PA has nothing scheduled. The consensus was that this not an achievable goal for 2004.

Fire GPO Update: Secretary Askenstedt reported that the GPO was in the process of changing Executive Directors due to the resignation of Alex Bornstein. Because of this, very little new was happening. The goal is to get more East Coast vendors on board once the management issues are resolved. There has been little Eastern purchasing off the contracts to date.

NFFF Presentation: Bill Askenstedt made a presentation of a new graphic which was created as a tribute to 911. The graphic is being sold as part of a fund raising effort to benefit the NFFF. Bill distributed copies of the poster, brochures about the posters and business cards for information regarding the poster. It was requested that he states do whatever they can to promote and advertise the sale of the posters. The posters can also be obtained on consignment to be sold at conferences and events or used as fund raisers for the states. All of the states are asked to do their best to assist in this project. The contact point is Lauren Tiesort at America - One in Spirit at www.oneinspirit.org or 503-228-0800