

EDIAFC Board Meeting
Friday, June 25, 2004
Evesham, New Jersey

Meeting called to order by President James Seavey at 9:00 A.M..

There was a moment of silence for Fallen Firefighters.

Roll Call:

President	James Seavey, Sr.	Present
1 st Vice President	Bernie Cohan	Present
2 nd Vice President	Michael Chiaramonte	Present
Secretary/Treasurer	William Askenstedt	Present
International Director	William Walton, Jr.	Present
Past President	Wayne Tetteimer	Present
MD Director	Jack Gouty	Present
NJ Director	Ted Lowden	Present
NY Director	Ken Pienkowski	Present
PA Director	Robert Stahl	Absent
DE Director	James Watson	Present

Guests:

Past Presidents: Michael Granados, Ken Anderson

IAFC Officers: Chief William Killen, 2nd Vice President, IAFC

IAFC Staff: None

Committee Chairs: Ken Anderson, C&B, Les Warrick, Memorial Committee

Guests: Rodney Marvel, 2nd VP DSFCA, Kevin Wilson, President DSFCA

Motion was made by Cohan and seconded by Gouty, that the minutes of the February 28, 2004, EDIAFC Board of Directors meeting be approved as distributed. **Passed Unanimously.**

OFFICERS REPORTS

President Seavey

See attached Report. The President said he would report on the Fire GPO under new business and he will also report on VCOS for Chief Steve Miller who cannot attend due to medical problems.

1st Vice President Cohan

See attached Report.

2nd Vice President Chiaramonte

See attached Report. Mike thanked Ted Lowden for picking up the slack on the Conference.

Past President Tettermer

No report

Treasurer Report

See reports distributed at the meeting:

The Treasurer reported that the fiscal year of the Division runs from May 1 through April 30. For the year 2003-04 the Division opened the year with \$64,333.08 in assets. Income for the year totaled \$43,042.63 largely from dues. Expenditures totaled \$42,426.43. For the year the Division had a net income over expenses of \$616.20. The year end balance was \$64,949.28

All income due for the year has been received and all bills have been paid. Taxes for the fiscal year have been prepared and filed by the Treasurer. Details of the report including income and expenditures, budget balances and income and expenditure breakdowns by category are attached for review.

A Motion was made by Cohan and seconded by Pienkowski that, the Treasurer's Report be approved as distributed. **Passed Unanimously.**

Secretary's Report

Membership:

The Secretary highlighted the report and made note that paid membership is down for the second straight year although the early part of 2004 looks very positive. Total dues paying membership in 2003 was 1,968 and overall membership at year end was 2,501. Of the dues paying membership there were 1,625 active members, 298 associate members and 55 departmental members. Paying members generated \$39,383.00 in dues. In the first quarter of 2004 paying memberships are 84 ahead of 2003 in the same quarter. This equates to about 13% ahead of 2003. Detailed reports are attached.

Correspondence:

The following letters were sent:

1. NYSAFC supporting their 100th anniversary with a \$300.00 ad
2. Garry Briese supporting the IAFC block in the NFFF walk with \$1000.00 donation.
3. Montgomery County urging consideration for volunteers in their restructuring.
4. Letter of endorsement to Rick Burch and Julian Taliaferro for IAFC Offices

The following were received:

1. Fire Chief magazine requesting nominations for Fire Chief of the Year.
2. 4 Endorsements of James Watson for Eastern 2nd VP (2 city, 1 county & 1 state)
3. Elections Chair Vaughan stating there were no opposed candidates for EDIAFC offices.
4. Andrew Forrester of Fire GPO inviting EDIAFC to the Seattle GPO Meeting.
5. Mike Merwick of FLSS requesting nominations for the FLSS Board of Directors vacancies.
6. William Askenstedt seeking re-election as Secretary Treasurer
7. Bernie Cohan seeking election as President
8. Michael Chiamonte seeking election as 1st Vice President
9. James Watson seeking election as 2nd Vice President
10. Delaware State Chiefs endorsing Rick Burch for IAFC 2nd VP
11. Delaware State Chiefs endorsing Les Warrick for Delaware Director

Chief Gouty asked if the Check from VFIS for the Valor award was received. The secretary reported that he contacted VFIS and they were sending the check. We since have received \$250.00. The Secretary did not know why the amount was less. **(During the conference the I spoke to Mel Bemis and he said a second \$250.00 was forthcoming.)**

Chief Seavey commented that Rick Burch appreciated our support and what we did for him on our web site. Rick felt New York would put him over the top. Ken Pienkowski commented on a blast email which NY just completed supporting Rick..

Chief Askenstedt confirmed that the Fire Chief of the Year Award nominations had been sent.

Chief Askenstedt inquired if anyone knew what happened to Monica Bocanner who was our FRI contact at IAFCHQ. She apparently is no longer with IAFC and has been replaced by a new girl named Michelle who started two days ago. Bill also noted that the conference coordinator, Crosby Grindle was also leaving IAFC. No one had any answer. Bill stated that the electronic hotel registration had been closed and that there were some problems with the VIP registrations and the number of rooms left.

Chief Walton asked how Bill was finding Spargo in general. Bill responded that Dawn at Spargo was great but she was a one man show and it was difficult in her absence. Bill also advised the Board that anyone not yet registered in a hotel needed to go through him to get

into the Sheraton. There if been no major problems up until now.

Ken Pienkowski asked how we did with our room block. The Secretary did not have the answer because we have not yet received the room report.

Chief Seavey read an email as part of correspondence from Charlie Hungerford's wife Carol apologizing for them not being able to attend due to an injury Charlie sustained to his shoulder.

Chief Seavey stated the Executive Officers had decided to put off the annual audit until FRI or until a date could be found sooner.

Update on FRI New Orleans Events

Hospitality Room will be in the Sheraton Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights. The NJ Career Chiefs are contributing \$500.00 toward the room. VFIS of NJ also added \$500.00

EDIAFC Board meeting is **Thursday afternoon at 2 PM**. Time is tight. Keep comments and reports brief.

Mass is Sunday at 8:00 AM in the Convention Center.

The breakfast is Friday morning at 8 AM in the convention center. Campbell Supply is a partial sponsor.

International Director William Walton

See attached report sent by prior email and update below.

It's been another exciting year for the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC). Some highlights are as follows:

We paid the mortgage off on the headquarters building, saving a substantial amount monthly.

We approved the Officer Development Handbook, giving all Fire Officers the opportunity to follow a step process assisting in career development.

We joined with many other agencies in support of the consensus plan, which would spread the cellular spectrum to stop interference with 800 MHZ public Safety.

We lobbied for the Safer Act, Fire Act Grant, and the extended coverage for the PSOB Plan, all in the best interest of our members.

We met with Secretary Ridge, Department of Homeland Security; Director Paulison, U. S. Fire Administration and Director Mencer, Office of Domestic Preparedness. All three have been supporters of the Fire/Rescue/EMS responders and we look forward to their continued support.

The Leadership Summit continues to gain support from the State Fire Chiefs' Associations. We realized a 100% gain in attendees in 2003.

We, along with the FBI, published a Model Procedure Guideline for responding to suspicious packages.

We lobbied the U. S. Department of Transportation, along with the IAFF to expedite the Research and Development to require excess flow valves to be installed on all new and renewed natural gas lines.

The two-hatter issue has been a hot topic and we have continued to lobby in support of the choice to volunteer. We opened dialog with IAFF President Schaitberger and will continue to pursue all options.

The Strategic Planning session will be held in Denver, CO on October 15 and 16, 2004. This continues to grow each year with more Division Officers and State Chiefs' Associations becoming involved.

Fire Rescue International will be held in New Orleans, LA on the dates of August 13 through 16, 2004.

We will continue to lobby on your behalf and in the best interest of this Nation's Fire Service. If there is anything you wish me to address, please feel free to contact me at waltonjr@comcast.net.

Chief Walton explained that the IAFC was working on an electronic ballot. There was considerable discussion on how this would work and some of the potential concerns. Chief Walton assured the Board that the ballot would not be instituted until secure balloting was certain. He said that there would still be mail balloting for those without email ability and that there would be safe guards to insure members did not vote more than once. The electronic ballot process will require a Bylaw change. The Secretary commented that the Eastern has the smallest percentage of Chiefs with email and that an electronic ballot may hurt the Division.

Chief Seavey questioned the potential of phone balloting as well. Mike Chiamonte stated he would look at that option in his roll on the IAFC Elections Committee. Bill Walton said the IAFC was looking at voting by logging on to the web site. Mike assured that there would be safe guards to prevent people from voting more than once.

Chief Walton also commented that over 4,050 ballots for IAFC 2nd VP had been cast so far in this year's election.

Bill encouraged the Division and the States to participate in the IAFC Strategic Planning Meeting in Denver. He said the IAFC had received a grant which would fund the President of all 50 State Chiefs Associations to attend the conference.

Delaware Director James Watson

See attached report.

Delaware has adopted a new format for their state meetings which includes exhibits. Over 40 vendors attend their last meeting and they had about 350 participants.

Maryland Director - Jack Gouty

See attached report.

Maryland Firemens Association just completed their conference. They had a boot drive for the NFFF which realized between \$4,400 and \$4,500.

Maryland is very discontent with the testimony of IAFC President Ernie Mitchell related to the "Two Hatter" language in the Fire Act.

Maryland is studying the effects of burning transformer oil in burn pits at Fire Academies as it relates to the incidence cancer. There appears to be a correlation between the two. Mike Granados commented that this has been studied before.

New Jersey Director Ted Lowden

See attached report.

Chief Seavey thanked Ted Lowden for the work on the conference.

New York Director Ken Pienkowski

See attached Report

Pennsylvania Director - Robert Stahl

See attached Report - Absent

Past Presidents:

No Reports

Guests:

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Conference Committee - Ted Lowden: Everything is ready and in place. All of the AV issues will be handled by Ted's staff for the speakers. During the 5 State Meeting Ted will cover parking arrangements. Chief Seavey reviewed the plans for the partners program. Chief Seavey thanked Mary Lowden for all of her efforts and Josette Kratz for hers.

Memorial Service Committee - Les Warrick

Everything is ready to go. Les thanked Ken Anderson for helping arrange the Reverend. Bill Askenstedt commented that Rev. Light was ready and excited about doing the service.

Constitution and By-laws - Ken Anderson

See Attached Report.

Ken noted that the IAFC had made some minor grammar changes to the new EDIAFC BY-Laws but it was his opinion that no further action was needed and the changes are approved. The Secretary stated the newly amended By-Laws are available on the web site.

Ken Pienkowski has been added to the IAFC Constitution and By-Laws Committee.

Chief Walton stated that Ken's abilities were held highly by the IAFC as well as the Division.

The meeting was recessed for 15 minutes.

Following the break, Chief Seavey stated that the Resolution that he had requested related to the "Two Hatter issue was no longer required.

Ken Anderson said he had been contacted by VP Cohan regarding drafting of a By-Law related to removal of officers from office. There was lengthy discussion related to the pros and cons of such a resolution. Ken recommended that needs be addressed on a case by case basis and that a By-Law not be drafted. Chief Cohan said he recalled an incident that perhaps warranted recall but there was no established process. The IAFC is developing a By-Law for removal but it is strictly for the committing of a felony. Ted Lowden pointed out that different things are considered felonious in different states and the standard may not be evenly applied. Following many questions and discussions, the Board opted not to have a By-Law drafted.

Ken concluded by announcing that Ted Lowden had been recognized by the Burlington Times

Newspaper for his CFOD recertification. The Board congratulated Ted on his accomplishment.

Chief Seavey told Ken Anderson that he would like him to be fitted for a Division shirt similar to those worn by the Board in appreciation of all his hard work for the Division.

Valor Report - Director Gouty

See Attached Report.

Chief Gouty read the submitted report and runner up plaques were distributed to the appropriate state directors. He noted that Chief Ray Gill from the winners department was involved with the winning rescue attempt but refused to submit his own name. He noted that the award ceremony held at the NYSAFC Conference went very well. Jack thanked Cabin John Park VFD for their help with the runner up certificates.

Chief Gouty announced his retirement as committee chairman at the conclusion of his report.

Chief Seavey commented on the excellent ceremony in New York and thanked Jack for his two years of service as the chair. He recommended Chief Les Warrick of Delaware as the new valor Committee Chairman.

Volunteer Committee - Mark Showmaker

No Report

Chief Seavey noted Mark was absent. He asked Ken Anderson if the Volunteer Committee could be abolished without the passing of a By-Law change. Ken responded that there was nothing in the By-Laws to require same.

President Seavey distributed engraved glass plaques to members of the Board with notes of thanks to each Board member for their help during his term of office.

VCOS - Steve Miller

The VCOS Report was presented by Chief Seavey. Chief Seavey noted that Steve was in the hospital for surgery. He did not have time to prepare a written report.

There was discussion of the VCOS position on the Two Hatter /Fire Act testimony and the VCOS leadership's actions related to the testimony. Chief Seavey stated that Chief Askenstedt, Lowden and Walton had convinced him to change his position on condemning the testimony. Instead, the Board adopted a motion on their conference call requesting an explanation for why the testimony did not support the "Two Hatter" amendment and asking the IAFC to move forward on the issue, particularly to move forward with a meeting offered by the IAFF President to discuss the issue.

Chief Seavey stated that his ire was due to the fact that the IAFC board minutes were contrary to their stated position against discrimination.

Chief Seavey stated that the VCOS Board had met on the issue and voted to direct Larry Curl to support the Two Hatter language in the Fire Act. Subsequent to that, Larry Curl, Fred Windisch, Tim Wall and Bob Bettenhausen, all members of the VCOS Executive Board, met with the IAFC and agreed to elimination of the two hatter language in direct opposition to the VCOS Board's adopted position. Chief Seavey said that this caused many communications upset by the testimony. Seavey responded to the complaints by saying that the Fire Act should not be put in jeopardy because of this political rift. He called for the IAFC and IAFF to meet within 30 days to resolve the matter. Failing

that, the IAFC must push for legislation specifically to resolve this issue.

Chief Seavey reported that Steve Miller was outraged by the action of the VCOS Executive Officers and pushed through a motion on a VCOS conference call which set up a three man VCOS committee to meet with the IAFF. Seavey added that Larry Curl currently is not eligible for re-election because he is no longer a sitting Chief.

Mike Chiaramonte, author of the VCOS By-Laws, stated he did not believe the Executive Committee of VCOS had the right to change the position of the VCOS Board. Despite this, the VCOS Executive Board did so. Chief Askenstedt stated that Fred Windisch confirmed the actions of the Executive Board in an email to him.

Chief Seavey stated he could accept the compromise testimony if the IAFC pushed the issue in other venues.

Ken Pienkowski said it was important for the Eastern Membership to attend the VCOS meeting at FRI and shape their elections and policies. He felt the Eastern could control VCOS if they attended in mass. Ken noted that the problem was affecting New York as well.

Ted Lowden asked where Chief Killen stood and stated that we should put the issue to him directly at our conference. Chief Seavey stated that Chief Killen had supported a volunteer from Bowie, Maryland when he was faced with a trial Board. Chief Lowden said that regardless of Killen's position, we should push him for some action while he was here.

Chief Walton defended Chief Mitchell by stating that Chief Mitchell worked closely with VCOS on the matter. Chief Walton and Chief Askenstedt agreed that the problem was with the VCOS leadership more so than with Chief Mitchell. Both stated they did not believe the Two Hatter language should be tied to the Fire Act because of the potential damage that could be done to the Fire Act. Bill Walton emphasized that there are times when we must partner with the IAFF for everyone's best interest. He commented on the power of the IAFF.

Ted Lowden stated that the Two Hatter language should be inserted in the Safer Act. Chief Walton and Chief Seavey stated that the language was already in that Act. Chief Seavey added that it was important to demonstrate to the five states that we are actively pursuing the issue. Chief Lowden said that aside from the planned letter, the Division should meet one on one with Chief Killen and layout our position.

Chief Walton complimented Chief Seavey on his leadership and his willingness to compromise from his original hard line position. This despite his personal involvement and emotion.

Communications Committee - Mike Granados

Chief Granados provided a brief overview of the Consensus Plan proposed by Nextel and endorsed by the IAFC and EDIAFC. Seavey asked if there was a movement to derail the plan. Mike responded that the major cell phone providers aside from Nextel had provided an alternative plan.

Mike stated he had heard that the FCC was about to endorse the Consensus Plan with some modification. This comes from Commissioner Mike Powell's Office. The modifications essentially were designed to assure that funding was available for fully converting all of the effected emergency service users on the 800 band.

Mike addressed the fact that the FCC was on the verge of “narrow banding” the existing UHF and VHF frequencies. This is scheduled for January 1, 2005. Essentially all new radios will be required to operate within a narrower frequency and the between frequencies would be allocated to new users. This will work when completed, but until all of the existing radios are converted, there will be overlap and interference on both the old and new radios. Mike said this narrow banding is cause for concern. He will keep the Board updated as he receives further information. He believes the low band issue may be even more serious than the 800 band issues.

Mike discussed programs which allow cross communications between UHF and VHF users. Mike stated that some of the existing systems are illegal and that the cross patching used in some Maryland Counties was not a good solution.

Fire GPO - Jim Seavey Chief Seavey discussed the GPO. He distributed packets to the Board which covered the Amerinet/GPO Meeting in Seattle which he attended. The packet included notes from other IAFC Division reps on their impressions of the meeting. Amerinet is currently supporting the GPO with substantial amounts of money. They expect to be in the red for 5 years before they begin to realize profits.

Jim stated the possibilities for the GPO were enormous. He commented on a chair designed for firehouses which is super durable and on the GPO contract. He reported that Cisco foods is also under contract. They supplied all of the food for the California wildfires under the GPO contract. Ken Pienkowski commented that the GPO exhibited in NY. Jim Seavey commented that the GPO acknowledged the assistance of Bill Askenstedt in providing them information for their web site and providing them links to Eastern organizations.

Chief Seavey stated he would provide more detail during the 5 State Meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Board Meeting Expenses for Evesham Conference: The Secretary asked the Board to approve per diem as follows; airfare, air transfers, mileage. normal daily per diem and 3 nights hotel. The Board also approved the same per diem for Ken Anderson for his efforts on the IAFC and EDIAFC C&B Committees. **There was a motion by Watson and second by Gouty to approve the expenses as recommended. Motion was approved unanimously.**

Chief Walton reported that he had contacted IAFCHQ and learned that Monica Bocanner was terminated. He also added that Crosby Grindle will remain on a part time basis until the end of FRI.

NEW BUSINESS

IAFC Foundation: This was deferred for Chief Killen to report later.

Fire Chief of the Year: The Secretary reported that the two nominees from New York had been submitted as the Eastern Nominees.

SPM Meeting in Denver: There was a discussion on who should represent the Eastern at the IAFC SPM in Denver, in October. Chief Seavey gave a brief history of the meeting and the process. It felt that the meaning was important and that it was growing in participation by the states.

Chief Seavey felt that the Board should send more than one representative. He felt the Division

finances were better due to Ted Lowden's work on the conference. He felt three representatives were affordable. Some Board Members may be able to get funded through their departments or other organizations. Bill Walton suggested that there should be consistency and that the board members sent should be those who will be on the Board for a few more years. He repeated his statement that the IAFC was prepared to fund the President's of each state association.

There was a **motion** by Gouty and a second by Watson to send three members of the Board to the meeting. It was clarified that the Division would fund three members aside from any others who may attend through outside funding. Bill Walton will be sent by the IAFC and is not counted among the three. Delaware will send Jim Watson if the IAFC funds their President. The motion was approved unanimously.

Amendments and Resolutions:

There was a **Resolution for Chief Roser** of Delaware proposed by the DSFA. There was a **motion** by Watson and second by Gouty to adopt the resolution. **Motion was approved unanimously.**

The Board addressed approval of the technical changes proposed by the IAFC C&B Committee after review of the adopted Eastern By-Law Changes. Ken Anderson stated the technical changes were minor in nature and required no action by the Board.

Fire GPO Delegate: Chief Seavey reported that the Fire GPO had adopted a Constitution and By-Laws and an Advisory Council on which the Division gets one seat. Chief Seavey offered to fill the position. There was a **motion** by Cohan and a second by Watson to have Chief Seavey be appointed to the GPO Advisory Council as the Eastern Representative. Ken Pienkowski questioned the length of the term. Chief Seavey said that term limits had not yet been established. The Council will meet twice a year, once in Seattle and once at FRI. Chief Seavey explained that travel expenses will be split. Members will manage their own way to FRI and the GPO will fund the travel to Seattle. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Valor Chair: Chief Cohan made a **motion** to appoint Les Warrick as the new Valor Committee Chair. There was a second by Chief Gouty. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Budget: The Secretary Treasurer introduced the proposed budget. He noted that the Volunteer and Conference Funds had been abolished and thus the full amount of dues was reflected in the budget. He said ongoing sponsors coming in will exceed the conference income. It was also felt that the FRI costs would be lower than Dallas because of lower prices and some sponsors. The Treasurer stated that President's expenses would be over budget due to the GPO travel and the extra attendance of two Presidents in Syracuse.

Chief Seavey recommended moving the conference budget from that conference line to other places. The Treasurer argued it was not prudent to do so at this time. The Board opted to adopt the budget as presented with the option given to the Executive Officers to make changes after the conference expenses were final.

Volunteer Committee: Chief Seavey recommended abolishing the Volunteer Committee. There was a **motion** by Cohan and a second by Watson to do so. **The Motion passed unanimously.** It was recommended that the Volunteer Committee had been established by the Membership and therefore the body should vote to approve the dissolution.

Affiliate Membership - Chief Seavey asked where the Division was in the process of developing affiliate memberships in the Division. There were discussions among the Board related to the potential costs and related to what the Division would offer such members. The Secretary reported that the IAFC was looking for \$45 to \$50 for their cut to administer the program. Chief Seavey stated the issue could not be resolved at this time. Mike Chiaramonte stated the Division needed to first decide what would be offered to auxiliary members before deciding to do anything. Members discussed the fact that the Western Division had auxiliary members. The Secretary reminded the Board that they had evolved because the Western Division wrote the Western Fire Code and administered its sale.

2005 Conference - Bernie Cohan reported that he had met with Officers from the NYSAFC in Syracuse and that there had been an offer from New York to host the 2005 conference in Binghamton, NY. Chief Seavey had concerns about the non-central location. Bernie stated he did not want to go to Syracuse in conjunction with the NY Conference. After some discussion the matter was held until the 5 State Meeting conclusion.

At this time the meeting was recessed for lunch. It reconvened at 3PM.

Badges

There was a **motion** by Gouty and a second by Watson to buy badges for the EDIAFC Board. It was discussed that some members had badges and some did not. There were several comments regarding the need for badges. **The motion was defeated.**

The Meeting was adjourned.