

**Minutes**  
**77<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**  
**EDIAFC - June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2004**  
**Evesham Township, NJ**

The Conference opened at Station 221, Evesham Fire-Rescue, Evesham Township, NJ on Saturday, June 26, 2004 at 8:30 A.M. by President James P. Seavey Sr.

The colors were presented by the Burlington County Professional Firefighters Association, Local 3091.

The President led the Body in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Memorial Service**

The Memorial Service was led by the Reverend Warren Light of Burlington County with assistance from President Seavey, 1st VP Bernie Cohan, Memorial Chairman Les Warrick and IAFC 2<sup>nd</sup> VP William Killen. (See Memorial Program in the Conference Program Book).

**Welcome - President James P. Seavey**

Chief welcomed everyone to the conference and thanked Chief Ted Lowden for doing such a great job preparing for the conference

Chief Seavey said the past year was busy and productive. He noted that a year ago the conference was moved to FRI. Because of the reduced FRI schedule and the desire of several Board Members including Chief Lowden, a decision was made to return the conference to the eastern region. Chief Seavey believes it was the right decision.

Chief Seavey reported The Division has adopted a new logo as part of the IAFC branding process. The decision to change was difficult because of our long decision but in the end, it was the right choice.

He stated that the Eastern has joined the Fire Rescue GPO. The GPO is a group purchasing unit that promises to bring added revenues to the Division. There will be a new GPO web site beginning July 9<sup>th</sup>. You will have access to over 4,000 contracts to purchase from. There will be target buys each week. Six of the seven national IAFC Divisions have joined the GPO. In the coming weeks members will receive information from Henry Schein, a major supplier of EMS supplies under contract with the GPO. He urged members to compare their prices to what you are paying to see the savings they can achieve.

Chief Seavey said the GPO would do Beta tests in Delaware with Office Max discount cards in Delaware.

Chief Seavey said the Division was successful in getting the IAFC to adopt a position opposing discrimination against “two hatters”. The IAFC has a long way to go in promoting the position. He added that the IAFC was forced to testify against the Two Hatter Amendment being attached to the Fire Act. He said this was necessary to have a unified position on the Fire Act. The \$750,000.00 on the line could not be jeopardized. The Two Hatter Issue must be addressed by itself.

Chief Seavey welcomed IAFC 2<sup>nd</sup> VP William Killen to the Conference.

### **Welcome Address -Evesham Township Councilman Salvatore Cardillo**

Councilman Salvatore Cardillo welcomed the attendees to Evesham Township. He read a statement from Mayor Augustus Tamburro expressing regrets for being unable to attend. Mayor Tamburro’s letter welcomed the attendees and expressed his certainty that Chief Lowden would make the conference a productive one. The letter expressed the Mayor’s respect for the Fire Service and expressed wishes for a good conference.

Council Cardillo praised his Fire Department and Chief Lowden.

### **Past Presidents Introduction**

Chief Seavey recognized the Past Presidents in attendance: Wayne Tetteimer, Mike Granados, Larry Wood, Larry Vaughan, Greg Turrell, Ed Lentz, & Bill Walton

### **Welcome - Chief William Killen, IAFC 2<sup>nd</sup> VP**

Chief Killen extended the best wishes of President Mitchell and 1st Vice President DiPoli. He recognized the accomplishments of the Division during the past year and complemented Chief Seavey on his leadership. Chief Killen also recognized Josette Kratz for her support of the Division and for her efforts at the International as well. He thanked the membership for their support of the IAFC and noted Chief Mellits from Bowie was in attendance. He extended best wishes for the conference.

### **Keynote Address**

The Keynote address was given by Dr. James Reese. The program title was “*Success Without Stress in the Fire Service*”. Dr. Reese received a standing ovation for an outstanding program. (The program and Dr. Reese’s bio are outlined in the conference program book).

Break was provided by Evesham Fire Rescue at the conclusion of the Keynote address.

## **BUSINESS SESSION**

At 10:45 the conference reconvened and the Business Session was opened.

The Secretary then introduced the Board and Head Table.

Roll Call:

President	James Seavey, Sr.	MD
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Bernie Cohan	NJ
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Michael Chiaramonte	NY
Secretary/Treasurer	William Askenstedt	NJ
International Director	William Walton, Jr.	DE
Past President	Wayne Tettermer	PA
Maryland Director	Jack Gouty	
New Jersey Director	Ted Lowden	
New York Director	Ken Pienkowski	
Delaware Director	James Watson	
Pennsylvania Director	Robert Stahl	

Chief Seavey introduced Ira Shonefeld from ESP software who helped sponsor the conference and Bill Jenaway and Mel Bemis from VFIS who helped sponsor FRI and the annual Valor Award. He also named the sponsors of the conference.

### **President's Report – President James P. Seavey**

See attached report.

### **1<sup>st</sup> Vice President's Report – 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Bernie Cohan**

See attached report.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President's Report - 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Michael Chiaramonte**

See attached report.

### **International Director William Walton**

See attached report.

**Treasurer's Report:** See attached report:

**Secretary Report:** See attached report:

**Membership:** See attached report:

### **Update on FRI New Orleans Events**

Hospitality Room is at the Sheraton

The EDIAFC Breakfast is on Friday at 8 AM in the Convention Center.

Mass is Sunday at Convention Center at 8 AM

**FRI 2004 Schedule:** The new conference format has the IAFC BOD Mtg. on Tuesday and Wednesday. The opening session and workshops begin on Thursday. Division Breakfasts will be Friday morning followed by exhibits and workshops. Saturday will be for sunrise seminars followed by a full day of unopposed exhibits, no workshops. Saturday night is the Dinner and Sunday morning will be the closing general session. There will be fewer programs and 2 days of exhibits instead of three.

## **IAFC Foundation**

Chief Killen provided a short background on the Foundation. He reported that the IAFC and the IAFC Foundation are working closely together. The Foundation is now being operated from the IAFC HQ in Fairfax. The IAFC provided office space and administrative support to the Foundation. There is a new staff person working for the Foundation in Fairfax. The previous rift between the two organizations has been mended and both are working together as partners. Chief Killen urged attendees to support the IAFCF

## **Chief Stephen Reid made a collection for the Foundation**

## **Steve Westermann - Candidate for IAFC 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President**

Steve announced that he was a candidate. He distributed cards with his background. He stated he had gone through the chairs of his Division and was now the Missouri Valley Director to the IAFC. He believes in providing resources to the members and in the membership completing the Strategic Plan. He said one voice was needed for the entire Fire Service when we go to capital Hill. He said he was available to discuss issues with the members and he desired our support. He stated he was the only announced candidate at this time and was seeking the Division's endorsement.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Valor Committee**

See attached report.

### **Constitution and By-Laws Report**

See attached Report.

The President Seavey read two Resolutions prepared for the Conference.

The first was a **Resolution recognizing Chief Roser of Hockessin Delaware for 31 years of service**. The resolution was moved, seconded, and **passed unanimously**.

The Second was a **Resolution thanking Chief Ted Lowden for his work as the host of the 77<sup>th</sup> annual conference**. The resolution was moved, seconded, and **passed unanimously**.

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Bernie Cohan read a **Resolution recognizing and thanking Chief James P. Seavey Sr. for his service as a member of the EDIAFC Board and as President of the EDIAFC for 2003-2004.** The resolution was moved, seconded, and **passed unanimously.**

### **Elections Committee - Larry Vaughan**

See Distributed Report.

Larry Vaughan declared that the open positions for 2004-05 to be elected by mail ballot were President, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President and Secretary Treasurer

Only one nomination was received for each of the offices. Nominations were;

President, Chief Bernie Cohan, NJ

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Chief Michael Chiaramonte, NY

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Chief James A. Watson, DE

Secretary Treasurer, Chief William Askenstedt, NJ

There was a **motion** and a second to have the Nominations and Elections Chairman cast one vote for Chief William Askenstedt for Secretary Treasurer. **Motion passed unanimously.** The Chair cast one vote.

There was a **motion** and a second to have the Nominations and Elections Chairman cast one vote for Chief James Watson for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. **Motion passed unanimously.** The Chair cast one vote.

There was a **motion** and a second to have the Nominations and Elections Chairman cast one vote for Chief Michael Chiaramonte for 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President. **Motion passed unanimously.** The Chair cast one vote.

There was a **motion** and a second to have the Nominations and Elections Chairman cast one vote for Chief Bernie Cohan for President. **Motion passed unanimously.** The Chair cast one vote.

Chief Seavey provided an opportunity for each of the 5 state associations to make a brief presentation to the conference attendees. The states covered the highlights of their reports given at the 5 state meeting. (Please refer to the minutes of the 5 State Meeting of June 25, 2004)

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Volunteer Committee**

President Seavey stated that he was taking one item of new business before lunch because it was related to the state caucus meetings. He stated that the Board had decided to recommend abolishing the Volunteer Committee at the prior day's Board Meeting. He explained that the decision was based on the fact that the committee had not accomplished anything. Not because of lack of effort but because of lack of a function or objective.

Chief Seavey explained that because the committee had been established by a vote of the members, it needed to be abolished in a similar manner.

There was a **motion** by Chief Kevin Wilson and a second by Chief Mike Granados to abolish the Volunteer Committee.

Chief Jim Mullholland expressed his disappointment and asked why the recommendation was made.

Chief Seavey answered that, this was because the Division could no longer access the NFA, which was the committees premier function historically, and because there was an abundance of training opportunities on the east coast which the committee could no longer compete with and which the committee should not compete with. He stated the committee had no real function any longer

Chief Frank Bocchino asked if the matter could be discussed in the state caucus meetings.

Chief Seavey answered that the body must decide the issue.

There was a vote on the motion. **The motion passed** with Chief Mullholland the lone “no” vote.

The meeting reconvened at 1300 hours.

### **Technical Session**

There was an afternoon educational program conducted by Brian Ball from Greece New York entitled **“Street Level Terrorist Encounters”** sponsored by the MSFCA. (Program details and a speaker bio were provided in the Conference Program).

There was a break following the technical session. The meeting reconvened at 1515.

### **State Caucus Results**

**New Jersey** re-elected Ted Lowden as Director and James Carty and Bryan Ward were re-elected to the Valor Committee.

**Pennsylvania** re-elected Robert Stahl as Director and re-elected Jim Kay and Mark Showmaker to the Valor Committee. Bob Stahl reported that PA was interested in possibly holding the 2005 EDIAFC Conference in King of Prussia but that they would need additional time to confirm the offer. He also reported that PA had a line of duty death to a 15 year old junior which had been rejected for eligibility for the federal LOD death benefits. He asked the IAFC for help in the matter.

**New York** re-elected Greg Turrell to the Valor Committee and added Al Mignone as a new member. Ken Pienkowski expressed wishes for success to the new officers of the Division. Larry Vaughan reported that Charlie Hungerford could not attend due to a recent injury.

George Maney stated that New York would support PA in hosting the 2005 conference and that NY would like to host the 2006 conference in conjunction with the NYS AFC conference in Syracuse.

**Delaware** elected Les Warrick as their Director and elected Kevin Wilson and Grover Ingle to the Valor Committee. Kevin reported that Delaware recommended the Division endorse Steve Westermann for IAFC 2<sup>nd</sup> VP in 2005.

**Maryland** elected Stephen Reid and Pete Mellits to the Valor Committee. Jack Gouty reported that the MSFA and the MSFCA would work hard with the IAFC to resolve the Two Hatter Issues. He reported that Hunter Heltzel was absent due to a medical emergency with his wife and Steve Miller was absent due to surgery. Both Marion and Steve were reported doing well.

### **Two Hatter Issue**

Maryland is taking the lead on this issue. They have asked the state association to leave out going President Terry Thompson as the chairman of the Two Hatter Task Force. The state chiefs have worked very closely with the Firemens Association and the EDIAFC on the issue.

The IAFC plans to hold another Two Hatter Forum but no date has been set at this time. This would be the second forum.

The charges previously leveled against Chief Seavey and Chief Miller have expired. One of the members of Bowie VFC was brought up on charges and the charges were suddenly dropped an hour before the hearing. President Killen had planned to attend the trial board hearing on the firefighters behalf.

The Washington DC local is not supporting the IAFF position on Two Hatters and supporting the right of career firefighters to volunteer.

Chief Seavey stated that the IAFC should represent both career and volunteer chiefs but in this instance, it is a rights issue and the IAFC should support the right of career firefighters to volunteer.

Bernie Cohan promised to continue to fight the issue as President

IAFF President, Harold Shaitberger has promised to meet with VCOS.

### **ICC - Bob Stahl**

Bob reported that Dan Lane, the Eastern rep for ICC was at the meeting on Friday. He has been a big help. The ICC helped to support the EDIAFC Conference and is working well with the Fire Service. Bob is one of the Eastern reps on the ICC. He said he was available to field any questions on either the ICC or NFPA via email.

## **NFFF - Mike Chiaramonte**

Mike provided greetings from Chairman Hal Bruno and Director Ron Siarnicki.

He reported that good progress is being made on renovating the Memorial, expanding the Walk of Honor and that the Foundation is working on providing a visitor center. He said the site would look like a park when completed.

The Foundation is very proud of the number of scholarships given out to the survivors of fallen firefighters. This year well over \$125,000 was distributed. There are some scholarship recipients who have done very well. Some amount is given to everyone who applies.

The weekend will be in October again this year. It will be held in Emmitsburg and there will be a reception in DC. Mike expressed his hopes that many will attend.

Mike said the NFFF is aware of the junior Firefighter line of duty death in Pennsylvania. The Foundation has been discussing the issue and should come to a resolution of their position, one way or the other, very soon. He said the decision would not make everyone happy but that the Board was doing its best to do what is in the best interest of fallen firefighters.

Chief Seavey noted that the IAFC is sponsoring a section of the Walk of Honor and that the EDIAFC was the first Division to purchase a \$1,000.00 brick.

## **Communications Committee - Mike Granados**

Chief Granados provided a brief overview of the Consensus Plan proposed by Nextel and endorsed by the IAFC and EDIAFC. Mike stated that the Consensus Plan was the best solution but 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 felt that there would be good news shortly on the adopting of the Consensus Plan.

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 said that fire departments should covert to the narrow banding by regional planning.

## NEW BUSINESS

Chief Ted Lowden discussed the purpose of the 5 state meetings. He said their purpose was to discuss the problems in the various states and to determine which issues we could work together on. He stated that several issues had been arrived at during the meeting of the previous day.

One issue was the Two Hatter Issue discussed by Chief Seavey. Chief Killen was given our feeling to take back to Fairfax and relay to the IAFC Board.

Another issue was a resolution that we would send a letter to all of our federal legislators and all of our governors in the five states as well as to the IAFC, expressing our positions on several issues.

One position was on the National Fire Academy. We agreed that we do not want to fight each year for funding to keep the Academy open. We want the NFA to be institutionalized and be part of government. We believe the NFA has an important roll as an all hazards training facility. It should not become an office of Homeland Security sub-base.

Another position to be contained in the letter deals with the Office of Homeland Security and the flow of information. Good things are happening in Maryland and Delaware but not in New Jersey. In many cases, law enforcement is getting various alerts, which do not filter down to the local agency.

A third position deals with Office of Homeland Security and the distribution of funding. The group decided to inform our legislators that we are not prepared any better then on 9-11 and that we have not seen funding or equipment at the local level. The hope is to shake up the legislators and prompt them to act. It is also to avoid perpetrating a myth that we are better off now than before.

Ted stated that these positions would be put into the form of a letter and communicated to the legislators and to the President of the United States. He did not suggest that he believed we would be 100% successful but he believed we had to try. By doing so, we could have a clear conscience that we did what we could. He added that this was an important roll for the five states to achieve and that the representatives of the 5 states were avidly in agreement.

Ted stated that the EDIAFC and the states were working hard to support the IAFC and that the EDIAFC was trying to become the flagship Division in the IAFC. He said we must cooperate with the IAFC to support their issues and in return, we should expect the IAFC to listen and give serious consideration to our issues.

Ted asked the attendees to support the resolutions arrived at in the Five State Meeting.

There was a **motion** by Chief Chiaramonte and a second by Chief Watson to adopt a Resolution supporting a letter being drafted and sent as discussed by Chief Lowden and including the positions described by Chief Lowden.

Chief Seavey added that the intent was to have the letter sent by not only the EDIAFC but also by the 5 state associations as a show of strength.

Chief Vaughan recommended that the letters be copied to the other IAFC Divisions.

Chief Bill Killen called the question.

**The motion was approved unanimously.**

Chief Seavey appointed Directors, Lowden, Warrick and Pienkowski to work on the letter with the leaders of the 5 states to get the letter out as soon as possible.

### **Conference**

The President expressed his appreciation of the offers from Pennsylvania, New York and Delaware to hold future EDIAFC Conferences. Chief Seavey said the issue of conference locations for future years would be discussed on monthly EDIAFC conference calls and tabled officially until the New Orleans Board Meeting. He said that would allow sufficient time for the various groups to affirm their proposals.

### **Candidate Endorsement - 2005 IAFC 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Candidate Steve Westermann**

There was a **motion** by Chief Watson and a second by Chief Wilson for the Division to endorse Steve Westermann for IAFC 2<sup>nd</sup> VP in 2005.

Chief Showmaker from PA asked if this might be premature. Chief Seavey responded that this was the last time the Division will meet prior to the 2005 election. This would be the last opportunity for the membership to make the decision.

Chief Showmaker asked about the possibility of a last minute candidate from our Division. Chief Seavey responded that waiting until the last minute was not a very wise decision.

Chief Correria from NJ said candidates for election should have announced by now. If candidates want our support, they should be here.

Chief Stahl pointed out that there was a possibility that a 2004 losing candidate may choose to run again in 2005. Chief Seavey said that this had occurred before and could place us in an awkward position. Unfortunately, this can not be accounted for if the entire body is to make the decision.

Ken Pienkowski requested a 5 minute recess to allow the states to caucus. Chief Seavey inquired of Chief Killen if this was in order. Chief Killen felt it was. A five minute recess was taken to discuss the endorsement of Chief Westermann.

## **Caucus Reports**

Delaware - Yes

Maryland - Yes

New York - Not at this time. It is too soon.

Pennsylvania - Not at this time. It is too soon.

New Jersey - Yes

There was a vote on the motion. 35 voted in favor of endorsement and 17 opposed. Chief Chiaramonte asked that his abstention be noted due to his conflict as the chair of the IAFC election committee. Motion Passed.

George Maney, President of NYSAFC asked for a recount. The vote was then recounted. The **motion passed unanimously** with Chief Chiaramonte again abstaining.

Chief Larry Wood stated that all candidates should announce early and attend the Division Conferences. The endorsement indicates why.

Chief Lowden reminded Chief Westermann that New Jersey is a “Pay to Play” state and that he would remind him of that if he was successfully elected.

## **Division Seal and Banner**

Chief Chiaramonte made a **motion** to purchase a new seal and banner for the Division reflecting the Division’s new logo. Chief Gouty seconded the motion. **The Motion passed unanimously.**

## **Good of the Order**

Chief Larry Vaughan noted that the FCC is cracking down on wide band interference in the UHF/VHF radio spectrum and that hefty fines could result for violations.

Chief Seavey announced that the collection taken up for the IAFC Foundation earlier had netted \$430.00 and a pledge of an additional \$170.00 from Chief Killen for a total of \$600.00.

## **Logo and Banner**

There was a **motion** by Chiaramonte and second by Gouty that the Division purchase a new wood seal with our new logo and replace the old banner with a new banner which reflects the new logo as well. **Motion passed unanimously**. Chief Kevin Wilson offered to follow up since Delaware had recently done theirs and he knew of vendors and possibly a sponsor.

## **Good of the Order**

Chief Vaughan of NY warned that the FCC was cracking down on low band interference and leveling heavy fines for violators.

Chief Seavey asked all members to submit email addresses.

Chief Killen thanked the Division for their hospitality to he and his wife. He also thanked NY for their hospitality in Syracuse. He stated he would look forward to attending future conferences and that he enjoyed the exchanges at the 5 States Meeting.

## **Foundation Collection**

Chief Askenstedt report that \$430.00 had been collected for the IAFC Foundation and that Chief Killen had pledged an additional \$170.00 for a total of \$600.00

## **Adjournment**

There was a **motion** by Gouty and a second by Watson to adjourn. **Motion passed unopposed**.