

EDIAFC Board Meeting
Thursday, August 12, 2004
New Orleans, Louisiana

Meeting called to order by President Bernie Cohan at 2:00 P.M..

Rick Burch: Rick was recognized to address the Division Board. Rick expressed his thanks to the Division for their support in his campaign for Second Vice President and he thanked the NYSAFC for their support and hospitality when he attended their conference. He may consider another run in 2006.

Roll Call:

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

Guests:

Past Presidents: Michael Granados, Jon Townley

IAFC Officers: Chief Ernie Mitchell, President, IAFC, Chief Bill Killen, IAFC 2nd VP

IAFC Staff: Garry Briese, Executive Director

Committee Chairs: Les Warrick, Memorial Committee

Guests: Linda Berner, Griffin-Tabor (Daily Dispatch), Tom LaBelle, Executive Director, NYSAFC, George Maney, President, NYSAFC, Dan Gaumont, 2nd VP, NYSAFC, Chief William Jenaway, King of Prussia, PA, Chris Assenheimer, 2nd VP NJSFCA

Linda Berner, Griffin-Tabor/Daily Dispatch: Linda reported that she had met with the Secretary and Josette during lunch and began working on strategies for the Daily Dispatch. She announced that the NY Dispatch had been successfully launched today with other states to follow. She queried if everyone was receiving the Oregon Dispatch. She stated that they were very interested in customizing the dispatch to the eastern states. She would like to get as much feedback as possible. The intent is to help market the Fire GPO and help build membership.

Jim Seavey asked when Maryland would be on. Bill Askenstedt said all of the states would be on soon and at the pace of one state every week.

Linda said that west coast editions were getting very strong responses to job postings.

Bill Askenstedt stated that each of the states needed to be getting email lists together for him and that each state needed to provide a point of contact where state news could be sent to him. The states can opt to coordinate thru Bill or directly with the Dispatch. He explained that articles and news had to be brief, two or three sentence highlights, with web addresses to link back to the state web sites for the full details and information. Bill stated that he had already supplied all of the Division email addresses but that the states needed to get them in for each state.

Linda added that they were very accommodating to email input from all sources. Bernie Cohan stated he though it was a win win situation for the Division.

Chief William Jenaway, King of Prussia, PA: Chief Jenaway reported that King of Prussia was willing to host the 78th Conference of the EDIAFC in King of Prussia. He commented on the various accommodations and amenities that the city had to offer. King of Prussia is well located 7 miles north of Philadelphia. It is near rail and highway transportation centers and 30 minutes from the airport. They offer a significant venue of entertainment. The Ladies Auxiliary has offered to sponsor a ladies program for the partners. King of Prussia has hosted several large conference including the PA firemens' conference with 25,000 attendees.

King of Prussia can hold the meeting in their headquarters which seats about 150 in theater seating. There are also several breakout rooms for smaller meetings. They also have a social club which seats 250 and has two bars. These could be used for meal functions. Chief Cohan said he seemed King of Prussia had everything that was needed, He said that he felt the conference would be good in King of Prussia.

Bob Stahl discussed possible dates for the conference. He said June 4th was the likely date. There was discussion of possible conflicting events. Bernie said June 4th was fine. Chief Jenaway said June was better than May. Chief Seavey stated that June 4th in King of Prussia would be motioned by him at the appropriate time under new business.

Motion was made by Ken Pienkowski and seconded by Jim Watson, that the minutes of the June 13, 2004, EDIAFC Board of Directors Conference Call be approved as distributed. **Passed Unanimously.**

OFFICERS REPORTS

President Cohan - The President's written report follows

As your President, I continue to act as liaison of the EDIAFC at the following organization meetings: Bayshore Active Fire Chiefs, New Jersey State Fire Chiefs, New Jersey Career Fire Chiefs, New Jersey Volunteer Fire Chiefs, New Jersey Association of Fire Districts and many others.

This September I hope to be installed as the President of the New Jersey State Fire Chiefs Association for a two-year term. During my term I will attempt to unite the many New Jersey Chiefs Associations into one unified voice.

On October 9th. I will have the honor of presenting our 2004 runner up Valor Award to F/F Michael Pastor of the Wallington, NJ Fire Dept.

Also in October I will attend the Wildland Fire Best Practices meeting as well as the IAFC Strategic Planning and Leadership Forum to be held in Denver Colorado.

I continue to address the "Two Hatter", "Consensus Plan", Funding for the National Fire Academy, and many other national issues that affect the Fire Service.

I would ask the BOD to consider having another 5 states meeting sometime in November.

1st Vice President Chiaramonte

No report. Mike stated he attended services for Steve Pisciotta on behalf of the EDIAFC.

2nd Vice President Watson

No report. Jim attended several meetings promoting the EDIAFC and sent out letters to all of the DE departments encouraging membership. He was not aware of the results thus far. He has had a computer virus which has slowed his email responses. Jim also suffered serious damage to his house while he was away on vacation, caused by a broken water pipe. Damage is estimated at over \$40,000.00.

Past President Seavey

No report. Chief Seavey will report on the GPO under committee reports. Maryland Fire Chiefs are well represented at FRI due to the EDIAFC initiative of the 5 State Summit Meetings

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 2004-05 the Division opened the year with \$64,948.88 in assets. Income for the year to date is \$33,511.70 largely from dues and the conference. Expenditures totaled \$20,862.59. For the year thus far, the Division had a net income over expenses of \$12,676.49. The current balance as of August 1, 2004 was \$77,625.37. This is a large improvement over last year.

Details of the report including income and expenditures, budget balances and income and expenditure breakdowns by category are attached for review.

Conference Report:

The final numbers for the conference are \$15,04.28 expended and \$21,966.70 in income for a net inflow of \$6,952.42. This does not include funds due from the Maryland State Chiefs who sponsored the technical sessions and the lunch but have not yet paid. In addition, we budgeted \$5,000.00 as an expense to the Division which we did not use. In effect we are nearly \$12,000.00 above budget without Maryland. Bill thanked Ted for his efforts on the conference. Chief Cohan echoed Bill's thanks. Maryland owes about \$1,200.00.

Chief Seavey said the MD check had been written.

Chief Cohan introduced Chris Assenheimer, NJSFCA 2nd VP.

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

Chief Seavey Questioned the status of the annual audit. Chief Cohan said he had spoke to Past President Townley and he had agreed to do the audit.

Secretary's Report

Membership:

See attached report.

The Secretary highlighted the report and made note that paid membership is up slightly from the same period last year and for the first time in three years. 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 half of 2004, paying memberships are at 1,284. Of those 1,018 are active, 231 are associate and 35 are departments. At the same time last year we were at 1,203 paid, 969 active, 204 associate and 30 departments so we are running ahead in all categories. We are almost 75 ahead of 2003 overall on paid memberships. Detailed reports are attached.

Correspondence:

The following letters were sent:

1. Numerous letters of thanks to conference sponsors.
2. Numerous letter of thanks to conference support groups.
3. Correspondence in support of the Consensus Plan
4. Letter of endorsement to Steve Westerman for IAFC 2nd VP

The following were received:

1. Several letters from the Western Fire Chiefs regarding the daily Dispatch.

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 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. Room locations are 388, 389 & 390 of the center

President Cohan encouraged members to attend Sunday morning events.

International Director William Walton

Bill thanked President Cohan for attending the IAFC BOD Meeting during the past two days. He commented on the amount of material covered. President Cohan agreed.

Bill Attended the Woman Chiefs Officers Meeting

Bill commented on the 2004 election. He said he congratulated Jim Harmes and pledged our support to Jim despite our endorsement support of Rick Burch. Chief Cohan had also sent him a letter.

Bill provided a CD with a list of IAFC accomplishments to the Secretary to distribute to the Board. (The CD is in Power Point 2000 and was emailed to the BOD and 5 States. It is a large file and requires Office 2000 to open)

Bill commented on the advent of email and its importance. He said the Eastern needed to get emails submitted. He said the IAFC had sent over 200 news alerts alone last year. He said Bill Askenstedt forwards the alerts to the states.

The consensus plan was adopted. Nextel has not officially reported that they will accept the terms of the FCC financial arrangement yet. They must first get stockholder approval. IAFC Government Relations staffer Alan Caldwell feels certain they will accept the agreement. There is still a potential problem with Verizon who is opposed to the Plan and is a major competitor of Nextel. There may be a suit which will slow the entire process. EDIAFC endorsed the Consensus Plan. Bill reported that he was disappointed that Delaware had opposed the Plan. Delaware is the largest user of 800 MHz. He stated Delaware was a fence rider on the issue. Overall things are moving in the right Direction in his opinion.

David McDanials and Bill Goldfeder made a great presentation to the IAFC BOD on Health and Safety Committee. This committee has worked hard without a great deal of direction in the past. They are now seeking support to become a Section. They are separate from the FLSS Section. Bill said the presentation to the IAFC BOD was well received and that the IAFC BOD voted unanimously to support the committee. They are circulating a petition to become a section. Bill left a copy of the petition for signatures. Bill said they would attend the Eastern Breakfast tomorrow. There has been no discussion of dues rates yet. Bill explained the IAFC funds committees but sections fund themselves.

The Apparatus Maintenance Section also made a presentation to the IAFC BOD. They have some issues to resolve. Bill reported he expected the section would become the biggest source of auxiliary members in the IAFC.

Bill reported to the IAFC BOD about our 5 state summit meetings. There is a great deal of interest from the other divisions in what we are doing with the summits. The Division image has become much more positive with the IAFC. Bill said the one failure of the Division was the failure of our members to vote.

The IAFC will run a membership campaign featuring a raffle of a Fire Department Edition, Harley Davidson Motorcycle. Everyone who brings in a new member will get an entry in the raffle. It is an exciting opportunity to increase membership.

One of the most important IAFC Alerts was the analysis of the 911 Commission Report. Bill said the report and the analysis is important reading for everyone. (Links are on the EDIAFC Web Site to both documents).

The IAFC Treasurer's report shows that the IAFC's income has gone from 78% dues to 55%. This is largely due to grant income which is now a significant revenue source. The IAFC has a full time staff member devoted to grants. Grants require significant tracking. IAFC net assets are now 6.6 million. The Association is in better shape than ever before. In 1984, the Association was close to bankrupt. The building mortgage is paid off. Bill credited Julian Taliaferro with an outstanding performance as Treasurer. The IAFC has also improved on their investments.

The new Director at Large for the IAFC is Roger Bradley from New England. Chief Cohan asked what happened to Larry Goroud. Bill answered that Bob DiPoli had requested Roger who is from his Division. Roger asked Larry and Larry agreed including nominating Roger for the position.

The IAFC BOD discourages Sections from soliciting Corporate Sponsors because they compete with the parent body. The IAFC BOD told the Apparatus Section not to solicit general sponsors. They did however authorize the section to solicit specific conference sponsors and also offered to sponsor several seminars for the section in the coming year to help them get started.

The IAFC overall membership is slightly down at about 12,000 members. Membership tends to go up and down.

Bill reported to the IAFC that we would send three members to the SPM in Denver because we saw the importance. He also told the IAFC that the Eastern Strategic Plan supported the goals of the IAFC. Bill believes the adoption of the new logo was a strong show of unity with the IAFC.

Bill announced that Mike Worthington was retiring from Motorola. He stated Mike always did an excellent job with the Ben Franklin Awards every year and this year was a great presentation. Mike will be very hard to replace. Mike told the IAFC BOD that the relationship between Motorola and the IAFC will continue as it is. Bill said Motorola was the biggest supporter of the IAFC by far, and had done many good things for the Association. The IAFC BOD discussed a presentation for Mike but backed off so as to avoid showing favoritism for a single vendor.

Firemens Fund made a presentation to the IAFC BOD. They are providing \$75,000.00 to fund the "Near Miss" program at IAFC. This is a takeoff from the airlines which require reporting of near miss incidents. The program will provide statistics to help the IAFC target problem areas for firefighter deaths and injuries. Bill stressed the importance of this program and the pursuit of firefighter safety. He said we must stop firefighter losses in abandoned buildings.

The next IAFC BOD meeting will be held in February in conjunction with the Wildland Conference in Albuquerque, NM.

Mike Chiamonte asked about the IAFC BOD Resolution adopted in regard to the Two Hatter Issue. Bill explained that the resolution was presented by the SE Division and passed unanimously. He defended the IAFC decision to separate the issue from the Fire Act and stressed the importance of avoiding jeopardizing the Fire Act. Mike asked if this meant the IAFC was finally stepping up to the plate. Bill said that it did..

Mike asked if there was a chance that the Resolution could fail because of poor attendance on Sunday. Bill Walton said there was concern there would not be a quorum for the meeting and that there had been a decision to recess rather than adjourn on Saturday. This will allow the meeting to continue based on the Saturday attendance. Ken Pienkowski thought the resolution would pass based on the unanimous support at the C&B Meeting. Bill also commented on the support resolutions for the NIMS system and the Eden System. The only resolution the IAFC BOD opposed was for the creation of a National Spokesperson. Bill thought the position would be a celebrity promoter of the Fire Service. He thought the concept had merit but it was held for further review.

Bill has been appointed as the IAFC liaison to Anheiser Busch. He met with their corporate marketing people to solicit their sponsorship for the IAFC. Bill said they donate thousands of dollars to the community annually. They are anxious to partner with the Fire Service. Bernie Cohan agreed. Busch will partner with the IAFC on a drinking and driving campaign to encourage responsible drinking. Bernie Cohan joined Bill in his discussions with Busch. They provided Busch reps with an insight into the fire service and the politically correct terminology in the fire service.

Bill Askenstedt commented on the importance of email addresses in echoing Bill Walton's report. He said that the Secretaries had discussed this issue and they will be changing the member renewal forms to include email addresses.

Bill Askenstedt stated the Health and Safety Committee had contacted him about being on the agenda for the Division Breakfast and they had been invited. They will have their petitions at the Breakfast for section formation.

Fire GPO Report - Jim Seavey: Jim reported that things were moving faster than expected. Previously there had been no activity in the Eastern Division. Now there is significant activity occurring. The Daily Dispatch will also help greatly to encourage GPO purchasing. Jim stated that the pace of growth had caused the GPO Advisory to opt to meet three times per year, rather than twice as originally planned. He also stated he expected all of the Divisions would be on board soon. The SE Division is voting on Saturday. NE has problems with vendors but will still likely join.

Jim introduced Andrew Forrester, Executive Director of the Fire Rescue GPO. Andrew reminded everyone that their number one goal was to increase Division membership. He complimented the Eastern on their conference in Evesham and the excellent speakers. He said the response of the Eastern Division to the GPO was outstanding. He said the Eastern has the fastest email turn around of all off the Divisions and that was the reason the Daily Dispatch started there so early.

Andrew announced that the Air Liquide contract was now national and that would result in immediate revenue from the sales to NY City and savings to everyone in the Division. He stated his goals thus far were to develop the infrastructure for the GPO. Now the goals would begin to focus on new contracts.

Andrew introduced Chris Verholtz from the Henry Schein Company in New York. Henry Schein is a Fortune 500 company supplying EMS products. They will be introducing a catalog of products available now. 5,000 catalogs are available.

Andrew introduced Joe Beaugraf with Ferno Corp. Ferno is another major equipment supplier now under contract with the GPO.

Chris Verholtz thanked the BOD for inviting him. He said that Henry Schein has been in business for 70 years. They offer to bring savings through their purchasing power. They support the Fire GPO. They are national and have 5 distribution centers. They are UPS' 11th largest customer. They have a new catalog for the fire service. They are working with manufacturers to increase savings for the fire service. He commented on the new relationship with Ferno. The new catalog launches tomorrow at the GPO booth. Henry Schein will assign marketing people directly to the fire service.

Joe Beaugraf commented that Ferno was an international company dealing with oxygen products, rescue equipment, large incident equipment and numerous other products. They are dedicating 22 sales persons to the fire business and the GPO.

Chief Seavey emphasized that the new name was Fire-Rescue GPO to be inclusive of rescue squads. He added that we needed to preach the GPO at all levels, especially the local level.

Andrew Forrester said he found the Fisher Safety Supply Company to be extremely uncooperative and unfriendly to the fire service. He suggested looking at Ferno Corporation as a viable alternative for their product line.

Andrew introduced Ken Freeman, the President from the Amerinet Corporation, the parent organization for the GPO. Amerinet is a hospital GPO and has completely funded the Fire Rescue GPO. They have made a huge investment in the Fire Rescue GPO so far and they are very excited about it.

Ken thanked the Board for inviting them. He said the GPO would bring great value to the fire service. He said the building of the GPO was not easy and would take time but that the end result would be a major benefit for the fire service. Amerinet has made a major investment and will continue to support the GPO.

Chief Seavey stated Amerinet is a non-profit and has no interest in making money off the fire service. They have invested a great deal of money in the GPO and are committed to its success, Jim stated that the vendors are afraid of the GPO, as is Garry Briese. Vendors are afraid that vendors not in the GPO will be left out and that the GPO will drive prices down. He said Garry was afraid that the GPO would anger vendors and they would leave FRI. Jim said Garry was incorrect and that new vendors would come. He said there were 30 Amerinet vendors who wanted to come to FRI but were turned away because there was no space. He mentioned Sysco who exhibited at Amerinet and wanted to join the GPO. They supplied the food needs for the California Wildfires. Jim thanked all of the guests for coming.

IAFC Officers and Executive Director: President Cohan introduced Garry Briese, IAFC Executive Director, Ernie Mitchell, President of the IAFC and William Killen, 2nd Vice President of the IAFC.

President Cohan interrupted the meeting to announce that he had received word from the Secretary that NJ Governor McGreevey had resigned as Governor. Various conjecture was offered as to why.

Chief Cohan stated that many of the questions the Eastern Board had for Ernie and Garry had been answered by the IAFC and Bill Walton. He explained that the Board understood where the IAFC stood on the separation of the Fire Act and the Two Hatter issue. Jim Seavey pointed out that many members were upset by the separation at first, but upon hearing the IAFC explanation, were satisfied. The concern now is "what are you going to do now?" Jim applauded the SE

Division resolution adoption by the IAFC BOD. Jim thanked Garry for his job of explaining the IAFC position.

Ernie Mitchell stated he was very concerned with the Fire Act continuing. He wanted to avoid any riders that may hurt the funding of the act. He said the IAFC supports the right to volunteer and opposes discrimination against those who volunteer. He said it was difficult to decide the best method to resolve the Two Hatter issue. He stressed that we need to keep open dialogue with the IAFF because we have more in common than in opposition.

Mike Chiaramonte thanked Ernie and the IAFC for supporting the SE Division's resolution related to the issue. He said many people were waiting to see the IAFC step up and take a position. He asked how this could now be kicked up a notch.

Garry Briese said there were three things being done. First, they would try to arrange a meeting between the IAFC and VCOS. This would be a low key meeting to see if there is trust and room for dialogue. Garry said the issue comes up every time he meets with the IAFF. He stressed that it is critical to keep an open dialogue

Chief Seavey said that the IAFF Executive Board has 6 resolutions pending for their next convention which will strengthen their attack on volunteers. Garry was not aware the resolutions came from the IAFF Executive Board. Garry stated the IAFF had internal dilemmas with the Two Hatter issue and did not know how to deal with their own issues. He said they have been side stepping the trial boards. He predicted all 6 resolutions would pass and we would have to see what happens next. Garry has the staff working on a possible joint statement with the IAFF on volunteers as a possible solution. This will be difficult but he will keep trying.

Garry Briese stated there was an option to try to push some form of bill through Congress. He believed this could be pushed through in the present Congress. It would have to be carefully worded for Congress. Garry said the goal was to get some form of statement from the IAFF that recognized the roll of the Volunteer.

Bill Walton said he addressed the issue with Harold Schaitberger at the last IAFC BOD meeting. The conversation was open and low key.

There was consensus around the room that a Kerry victory could change the entire picture and the IAFF will have significantly more influence. Garry Briese supposed that there may be regulatory attacks on volunteers through DOL and OSHA. He said we would still have to fight but we would need to be more careful in how we proceeded. He mentioned the recent support of people like Steny Hoyer from MD on the volunteer side despite is very pro labor views. Garry stated that we needed to decide exactly what we wanted as a result for the Two Hatter issue. Do we want a legislative solution which would mean a full out battle with the IAFF?

Garry said he felt the solution might come from a lawsuit over hostile work environment brought by a volunteer against the IAFF, Fire Department and City. We would need someone to come forth willing to do that and we would have to provide resources to the person. We would need a case that we were certain could win. It is important to kill the king and not wound him. This could provide the ultimate solution to the entire issue. The right case must be selected and you must be sure that it will end with the predicted and desired result.

Garry cited a case in California where the union attacked a fire chief. The IAFC joined the case on the side of the fire chief and the chief won a \$500,000.00 settlement. This changed the IAFF's desire to promote votes of "No Confidence" against fire chiefs. There may be a parallel for the Two Hatter situation. He concluded his presentation by saying we need to determine exactly what we want in terms of outcome, to say the issue is resolved.

Chief Cohan stated he was pleased that there would be a line item in the budget for the Fire Act. Garry Briese said that was not correct and that the Fire Act would be a fight every year. He said The President has proposed \$500 million every year. The Congress has provided 900 million last year and 750 million this year.

Garry said the NFA needed to learn the system too. Each year there is a fight to justify the NFA. He noted the NFA had no courses related to terrorism & WMD. That is a problem. Bob Stahl suggested that the reason for that was that the NFA was directed away from the subjects. Garry disagreed. He said even the ICS classes have not been modified for the new threats. Bob said that all terrorism training was being directed through DHS to the states. Mike Chiaramonte said that funding cuts had eliminated money for new course development.

Mike Chiaramonte thanked the IAFC BOD for their efforts on the Two Hatter issue and offered the help of the Division if it is needed. Garry said he believed we would prevail and added that the IAFC was having internal problems with the issue.

Garry Briese complimented the Eastern on the progress of their 5 state summit meetings. Bernie mentioned that Garry had offered to host a 5 state meeting and Eastern BOD meeting at IAFCHQ in Fairfax.

Garry asked if the Board knew that Chief Mitchell had prepared his two hatter testimony with VCOS and that many edits had been made with VCOS input. Chief Seavey said the problem with the testimony was that he was blind sided by the testimony and not prepared to defend it when it happened. Chief Gouty stated that Maryland members threatened to resign from the IAFC over the testimony. Both Gary and Jim agreed that the IAFC explanation helped explain the situation and calm the matter.

Chief Mitchell said he was taken by surprise by the Eastern's initial reaction. He believed that he had done the correct thing by working with VCOS and that the volunteers were being represented. Chief Askenstedt asked if Chief Mitchell knew that the Executive Officers of VCOS had created a huge internal rift at VCOS by taking the position that they had. He asked if Chief Mitchell was aware that, prior to his meeting with the VCOS Officers, the VCOS Board had taken a position by resolution which was contrary to what the VCOS Officers agreed with. Chief Mitchell said he was unaware of that fact.

Chief Askenstedt said he spoke to VCOS Board Members who were shocked as well. He said that while he was in agreement with Chief Mitchell's testimony, it had caused splits in Eastern as well. Chief Mitchell said he tried to do the right thing by consulting with VCOS. Chief Seavey said that Chief Mitchell's testimony seemed to be in conflict with the IAFC Board vote supporting non-discrimination against volunteers. Chief Mitchell answered the two were not in conflict.

Garry Briese promised to include Chief Walton and VCOS on future discussions of the Two Hatter issue to keep Eastern in the loop.

Chief Askenstedt said that while Eastern had come around to support the testimony in the respect of separating the Fire Act, the Eastern was still very concerned over the Two Hatter issue. While the Eastern agrees with what transpired, they now want to know what the IAFC is going to do now. He said that often Boards make decisions opposed to issues but the positions are not always actively pursued. He said that he had not seen active pursuit of the issue by the IAFC. Bill noted that immediately after the furor over the testimony, there was an IAFC Executive Board Conference Call and the issue was never even discussed. He did not feel that showed active involvement. There is a perception that the IAFC really isn't working hard on the issue.

Bill stated that as late as yesterday, an IAFC Board member questioned the IAFC C&B Chairman as to whether the IAFC Board was actually bound by resolutions voted by the body. Garry asked what the response was. Bill said that the Chairman said the Board was committed to support the Resolution. He also said that there was no real definition of how hard the Board needed to work to support the Resolution. Garry said past practice had been that the Board had to recognize the Resolution but was not bound to actively pursue the resolution.

Garry Briese discussed a meeting with Maryland, Virginia and DC related to the flow of information related from Homeland Security. He said that the fire service did not get timely notice of the last terror alert level change. As a result of the meetings with DHS, urban cities around DC will be represented on DHS conference calls related to security. This is the first time this has happened.

Garry reported that there is a system coming on line called HSIN which is the Homeland Security Information Network. The Fire Service will be part of that. It is important that the states know who their HS Directors are. Information will go from DHS to the states to the services. It is not likely to go directly from DHS.

Garry said each state should have a full time staff person to move their issues forward.

Chief Askenstedt questioned the turnover in staff at IAFCHQ. He said this came up at the Division Secretaries' Meeting. Bill asked if there was anything being done to improve the situation. Garry Briese responded that the IAFC turnover rate is within the area standard for turnover. He said the problem is looked at constantly. The IAFC has a competitive pay and benefits package comparable to the area. Garry said the IAFC offers excellent benefits.

Bill Walton announced that the IAFC BOD had renewed Garry Briese's contract. The BOD does a serious evaluation of the Executive Director.

Ernie Mitchell said he also believed the turnover at IAFCHQ was within the norm for the area. He added that many people who come to IAFC are headed for higher places. That the IAFC is often only a step in their plans and that they do not always come there for a career as happens in the fire service. He said the IAFC has improved economic benefits to make positions more attractive. Ernie said that turnover is not a problem for the Board as long as Garry is getting the job done. If the job does not get done, then it would be a problem. Ernie added that the stress and travel and hours also deter some people.

Ernie commented on the high level of work required for the conference. He said many employees simply do not like to work on that level. Tom LaBelle commented on his sympathy for Garry and on the difficulty of getting good association staff people and keeping them. Garry said he did not want to minimize the problem but there is very strong competition in the DC area from the trade associations which pay nearly twice what professional associations pay.

Ernie Mitchell and Garry Briese left the meeting

Delaware Director Les Warrick

No report.

Maryland Director - Jack Gouty

No report.

New Jersey Director Ted Lowden

No report.

New York Director Ken Pienkowski

No report.

Pennsylvania Director - Robert Stahl

No report.

Past Presidents:

No Reports

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Conference Committee - TBA:

No report - Discussed previously in the meeting.

Memorial Service Committee - Les Warrick

No report. Les said he would continue to do the Memorial Service

Constitution and By-laws - Ken Anderson

No report. Ken Anderson asked to be excused from the meeting because he had nothing of urgency. Ken Pienkowski noted that Ken Anderson had forwarded a report which had been distributed previously by email. The report had to do with the removal of officers from office. He felt there was nothing to act on at this time.

Elections - Larry Vaughan:

No report. Bernie commented that the Division only had a 37% voter participation in the last election which was terrible. Mike Chiaramonte said that the election for IAFC 2nd VP was decided by about 200 votes. Our poor turnout cost our candidate the election. He said we must concentrate on improving our voter turnout. Mike also spoke about the new electronic balloting which would be in place next year. He said the basis was on accurate email addresses.

Bill Killen reported that at the VCOS meeting, they reported that there is about a 40% email failure rate because members do not update their email addresses. Mike Chiaramonte said that people with no email or bad email would get paper ballots. Mike's concern is that we have a powerful potential which we are not exercising. Mike said the Board must come up with a strategy to improve our voter participation. Ken Pienkowski said he wrote a letter in the NYSAFC magazine encouraging people to vote. Bill Askenstedt said he thought the Daily Dispatch would help greatly. Tom LaBelle said you must make sure people are registered properly and make sure that they vote.

Mike Chiaramonte was elected chairman of the IAFC Election Committee again for next year.

Valor Report - Les Warrick

No report. The secretary reported that VFIS has renewed its annual commitment of \$500.00. Les is working on a second sponsor. Bernie Cohan reported he will be making the runner up presentation from last year in NJ. This will be done in Wallington, NJ in October. Ted Lowden explained that the runner up did not wish to have the presentation at the State Chiefs Meeting because of a conflict with another event.

Codes Committee - Bob Stahl

See attached report. Dan Lane is unable to attend but provided his report to Bob Stahl which was distributed by email. Bob commented on the great support from ICC.

VCOS - Steve Miller

Steve Miller said the Two Hatter issue is getting bigger. He said the Southeast came out big on the issue and he wished VCOS had done as well. He said the VCOS input to Ernie Mitchell's testimony did not come from the VCOS Board. It came from the Executive Committee. The Board had actually taken a position to include the Two Hatter language in the Fire Act legislation. There is a heavy rift in the VCOS Board. The VCOS Board has voted to go forward with the meeting with the IAFF, offered by Harold Schaitberger. Only one member voted against the idea. Steve said that it may be meaningless if Kerry wins the election because Harold will be gone. Jim Seavey mentioned in earlier discussion, that nothing would get accomplished until after the November elections. Steve agreed but wants VCOS to go on record as pushing for the meeting.

Steve reported that there are several proposals on the agenda for the IAFF conference in Boston which are designed to patch up all the loop holes in their by-laws as they relate to the Two Hatter issue. This will allow them to continue their attack on volunteers. Chief Seavey stated the IAFF proposals were known as they Miller resolutions. Steve said the resolutions were in part, a response to inconsistencies he pointed out. Steve noted that the resolutions came from the IAFF Executive Board, not the locals.

Ken Pienkowski said NYS AFC discussed the inconsistencies between the VCOS Board position and the position taken by the VCOS Executive Board. He asked what would happen at the VCOS meeting. There was a discussion as to whether Larry Curl could be chairman of VCOS, based on their by-laws since he was not a sitting chief. It was announced that Fred Windisch was re-elected as the VCOS Director on the IAFC BOD.

Mike Chiaramonte asked what was the status of Larry Curl as an active chief. There were numerous conjectures. Mike felt he was not eligible to be chair of VCOS. Steve Miller was asked if he was interested in running for chairman. He respectfully declined. Jim Seavey was asked to bring up the issue of Larry's eligibility at the VCOS meeting.

Communications Committee - Mike Granados

No report. Mike urged continued support of the consensus process.

OLD BUSINESS

Board Meeting Expenses for FRI, New Orleans: The Secretary asked the Board to approve per diem as follows; airfare or mileage equal to normal airfare, air transfers, normal daily per diem up to 4 days and 3 nights hotel. **There was a motion by Seavey and second by Stahl to approve the expenses as recommended.**

There was discussion of paying for an extra night for committee members who come in early for meetings. Several board members were involved. Ken Pienkowski asked for extending the per diem for one extra day and one extra night hotel. **Seavey amended his motion to cover 5 days and 4 nights. Stahl amended his second.** The Treasurer was asked if the budget could handle the extra expense. The response was yes. **Seavey asked to call the question. The motioned passed with one no vote.** Chief Gouty stated he voted no because he could not stay the extra day.

Chief Killen Retirement:

Chief Killen thanked the Division for their hospitality in Evesham. He announced that he will be retiring from the Navy immediately after being installed as First Vice President of the IAFC. He is doing so because he believes the Navy is moving in a direction that is detrimental to naval fire protection. It took him 5 months to make his decision. He could not be part of the Navy's new direction in good conscience. As a result he may not be eligible to be elected IAFC President next year. He promised to continue to search for a position with another department that will maintain his eligibility to become President. The Board thanked him for his candor. Chief Killen departed.

Banner and Logo:

Chief Kevin Wilson is having the logo made as a donation to the Division. He is also having the banner made and it will be sponsored by Conectiv. Both will be done shortly. Chief Watson said the logo was almost done. Chief Askenstedt said the banner was being modified but would be done soon.

NEW BUSINESS

IAFC Foundation:

No report.

SPM Meeting in Denver:

President Cohan has designated Mike Chiaramonte, Bill Askenstedt and himself to be the three representatives to be sent by the Eastern Division. Bill Walton will be funded by the IAFC. Ted Lowden is being funded by his Fire Department. Chris Assenheimer will represent NJ at their expense since Bernie is going from the Division. We are waiting to hear from other states. Jim Watson believes he will be funded by Delaware Chiefs along with the Delaware President. Delaware may also help Les Warrick with airfare. Maryland will be sending Steve Miller since they had no officers available to attend. Bob Stahl is seeking support from the Keystone Chiefs.

Daily Dispatch Status:

Bill Askenstedt reported that the NY edition is out and NJ is in the works. He will be meeting with Delaware at the invitation of Kevin Wilson. Maryland and Pennsylvania will be next. It will take a lot of time and effort to get started but the rewards will be great. For the time being, any information going to the Dispatch will go through Bill Askenstedt. In the future it is planned that general info, Division info and IAFC info will channel through Bill. Each state will select their representative to handle state info. The state reps will channel info going in their edition direct to Griffin-Tabor. They will channel info they wish to share with other states to Bill. It is the goal to have all states on line before year end and to reach 10,000 subscribers daily.

Breakfast Agenda Review:

President Cohan said red jackets were required. The agenda was distributed by email.

Division Officers Meeting at FRI:

President Cohan announced that Bob DiPoli is holding a meeting at the convention center tomorrow. The invitation was extended to the entire board to attend as well as to the officers of the state associations. Bernie urged all to attend.

National Hazmat Team: Bill Walton said Dave Goebel from Philadelphia FD has been pushing for an endorsement from the Eastern Division. Bill thinks it is worth considering. Bill suggested that Ted Lowden meet with Dave to get more info. Bob Stahl said he could do that. Bob was given the task.

Chief Seavey made a **motion the 5 states associations get a copy of the "IAFC Cccomplishments" power point CD to be sent by the Secretary.** Chief Gouty seconded the motion. The Secretary asked who could receive it in PA. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Chief Seavey made a **motion to hold the EDIAFC conference in King of Prussia, PA and to appoint Bill Jenaway as conference chairman and to have the remainder of the conference committee appointed in consultation with Bill.** Chief Stahl made a **point of order that the Chairman is a Presidential appointment.** Chief Pienkowski asked that the date be omitted from the resolution in case there were issues that arose with the date. Chief Cohan stated that Bill Jenaway had stated the date was okay. **The motion was clarified to be, To hold the conference in King of Prussia on June 4th. The motion passed unanimously.**

The Meeting was adjourned.