

**Minutes - EDIAFC Board Meeting
May 13, 2005
King of Prussia, PA**

The Meeting was called to order by President Cohan at 9:00 A.M. on Friday, May 13, 2005.

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: Chief Jim Broman, IAFC 2nd VP candidate, Paul Carney, King of Prussia, Don Oliver, IAFC 2nd VP Candidate

Past Presidents: Jon Townley

IAFC Officers: President DiPoli, Treasurer Julian Talioferro

IAFC Staff: Gioia Alba, IAFC Membership Division

Committee Chairs: Les Warrick - Memorial Committee & Valor Award, Ken Anderson, C&B, Larry Vaughan, Elections Committee.

Minutes:

There was a **motion to approve the minutes of the 04/17/05 Conference Call** by Gouty and a second by Watson. **Motion approved unanimously.**

OFFICERS REPORTS

Officers reports for the conference are included in the conference program. The following are additions to those reports.

President Cohan's Report:

1st Vice President Chiaramonte's Report:

Mike thanked the Board for their patience and appreciates the opportunity to be President.

2nd Vice President Watson's Report:

International Director Walton's Report:

Bill Walton report the following;

There were numerous IAFC member alerts this past year.

The Mason Langford award went to Alan Caldwell, The IAFC Government Services staffer.

The ISO says the US is under protected for Fire Services.

John McGrath and Tom Carr received the Harvard Fellowship Awards. Ted Lowden was a finalist.

Security clearances for Fire Chiefs are still lingering.

The 800 MHZ issues are still having controversial issues from Pacs.

Bill Pessimier will speak on interoperability tomorrow.

There are a lot of non OSHA compliant plants in the nation so OSHA and EPA will begin treating violators more seriously. Fire Companies could be affected by these same enforcements.

There have been 51 firefighter fatalities so far this year. That pace would set a record. The IAFC is considering calling a stand down for July. The IAFC is working with other fire groups including the NFFF and NVF and IAFF. The intent is to have every fire department alter their training to reinforce safety issues. Mike Chiaramonte said Fire Chief Magazine is very interested in supporting the initiative. Ted Lowden asked if the high numbers were partly due to the expanded eligibility for benefits under the PSOB regulations. Mike Chiaramonte said the NFFF has been counting the expanded benefit numbers since the year 2000 so the high numbers do represent a rise in fatalities.

IAFC is working on how to develop a political action group. There is info on the IAFC web site. There was a discussion of how fatalities are calculated and what type of deaths should be included.

Immediate Past President Seavey's Report:

Jim thanked Ken Anderson for his work on C&B and stated he had submitted a written report.

Secretary Treasurer Report: The Board received a Treasurer's Report and Membership Report as a handout.

Correspondence:

Letter of thanks were sent to the conference sponsors.

The Secretary stated that a letter had been received from Kelvin Cochran a candidate for IAFC 2nd VP.

Delaware Director Warrick's Report:

No Report.

Maryland Director Gouty's Report:

Attached in the program. Jack announced the dates of the MD meetings. They will be posted on the web site.

New Jersey Director Lowden's Report:

Attached in the program.

New York Director Pienkowski's Report:

Attached in the program. The NYSAFC representatives will not be able to attend due to another commitment.

Pennsylvania Director Stahl's Report:

Attached in the program.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

C&B Committee:

See attached report.

Codes Committee:

No report.

Communications Committee:

No Report.

Conference Committee:

2005 EDIAFC Conference: Following is general information related to the conference;

1. Speakers - Morning speakers will be Congressman Curt Weldon and Bill Pessimier and Bill Purcell speaking on interoperability. The PM speaker will be Dennis Rubin from Virginia speaking on safety
2. Hotels are The Crown Plaza Valley Forge (full service hotel) at \$109 single and \$119/double or the Fairfield Inn at \$99

3. Sponsors: To date VFIS, Nextel have pledged corporate support. NJ State Chiefs, Delaware State Chiefs, Maryland State Chiefs, Keystone Chiefs, New York Chiefs and NJ Career Chiefs have pledged organizational support of \$500.00 each. Morning pride recently sent \$600.00. Motorola sent \$2,500.00 as did Campbell Supply. ICC gave 900.00. \$Conectiv gave \$1,000.00
4. Registration numbers are 85 at this time plus 35 extra banquet tickets.
5. The KOP Ladies Auxiliary is providing the ladies program
6. The conference luncheon will be at a new station with cheese stakes and hoagies
7. The Banquet and President's cocktail party will be held in at the KOP Social Hall.
8. Bob DiPoli, Bill Killen and Julian Talioferro are scheduled to attend.
9. We booked 91 room nights at the hotel.

Bill Jenaway reviewed the agenda and updated the board on the events of the weekend.

Elections Committee: The Secretary reported that nominations for President, 1st VP, 2nd VP and International Director were sent to Elections Chair Larry Vaughan. Larry has received the letters and has forwarded the committee findings. They are as follows in his report.

Memorial Service Committee:

The President and 1st VP will assist with the Memorial Service. Jim Seavey suggested that the First Bankers check be donated to a charity named by the award winners since it cannot go to the DC government.

Valor Committee: The winners were from Washington DC. There were 6 winners. One additional ribbon is needed.

VCOS:

The Board meeting was last week in PA. Steve Miller said he is not happy with the VCOS efforts on the two hatter issue. Ed Mann the PA Fire Commissioner told the VCOS meeting that the two hatter issue was dead. Mike Chiamonte said the IAFC Board seems to think the issue is dead as well. Mike disagrees. The IAFF has offered to meet with the IAFC on the issue. There was considerable discussion on the lack of effort by the IAFC Board on the issue. There was also discussion on improving communications and reinstating the Division Presidents and Secretaries conference calls.

There were numerous comments on the fact that the Two Hatter Issue is still alive throughout the Country. Many Board Members sited instances they were aware of recently. Ted Lowden told the IAFC 2nd VP Candidates present that they should be aware of how important the issue is in the Eastern. Bill Walton clarified that the IAFF had offered to meet with the IAFC and not VCOS regarding the two hatter issue. Bill Walton said the IAFC Board talks about the two hatter issue all of the time. Bill Askenstedt pointed out that the IAFC minutes do not reflect that. He said either the IAFC minutes are wrong or the issue is not being discussed. Bill Askenstedt also said that the Division needs to push the issue because it was not one that Garry Briese was anxious to push. He noted that if it were, it would not be 5 months with nothing done in terms of meeting with the IAFF. Jim Seavey said the IAFC Board is afraid to deal with the issue.

Jim Seavey suggested that we ask Curt Weldon to introduce legislation to resolve the Two Hatter Issue. Mike Chiamonte said he was weighing our efforts to work with the mother organization versus the fact that we are getting nowhere on our issues. Ted Lowden said now was the time to push our issues. He said we should tell Bob DiPoli we are not happy with the IAFC progress. He said the IAFC Board should come out and say bias is wrong.

VCOS elections are coming up and Steve is up for re-election. Jim Seavey asked if Larry Curl was still eligible for elections. There was no definitive answer. Candidates for officers are supposed to be verified for eligibility. It was questioned if this was being.

Mike Chiamonte asked what happened to the Two Hatter Resolution passed at FRI. Ken Pienkowski said it will die in three years if the Board does not act on it. Bill Askenstedt reminded the Board that when the resolution was passed, some IAFC Board members asked the Constitution and By-Laws Committee if the Board could ignore it. He said that seemed to be the IAFC Board's intention.

President Cohan said the two latter issue was only important in the Eastern. Bill Askenstedt and Mike Chiaramonte said other Divisions are interested and it was discussed at the Division Secretaries Meeting.

Mike Chiaramonte said we needed to improve communications with the other divisions. He said his goal was to have a Division Presidents meeting and to continue Division conference calls. He said the Divisions have common interests. Bill Askenstedt said that there were formerly quarterly conference calls with the Division Presidents and Secretaries. They died under Ernie Mitchell. They should be restarted. Ken asked about the IAFC Board's initiative to have Division Officers Orientation. Bill Walton said he was not aware of any progress. Gioia Alba from IAFC staff said the initiative was being started.

Steve Miller said VCOS Elections were coming up. There were discussions related to the qualifications to run for VCOS offices. Steve said there were. It was questioned if the VCOS Board verified candidate's qualifications. It was uncertain if there was a validation. Jim Seavey questioned Larry Curl's eligibility for office if he was not a sitting chief. Ed Mann's qualifications were also questioned because he is a commissioner and not a chief. It was explained that he is also a volunteer chief. Steve Miller said he did not believe there was a valid background check being done.

Mike Chiaramonte explained the VCOS process for validating candidates. He did not think it was being followed faithfully. There was discussion as to how a challenge can be made.

Bill Askenstedt asked Steve to provide information to him on potential contested elections. He said we should take a position on those elections and use our communications networks to support the candidates we want to see elected. Mike said we can influence the mail ballot elections with email. We must also urge our members to attend the VCOS meetings at FRI and vote in those elections as well.

Ken Pienkowski made **motion** to endorse Steve Miller for re-election, Second by Watson. **Motion approved unanimously.**

The Blue Ribbon report was done and submitted to Congress. The Symposium is scheduled for Florida. Both the report and the Symposium information are on the VCOS web site. Ken Pienkowski asked for a discount for IAFC members.

OLD BUSINESS

Presentation of EDIAFC Budget.

The Secretary Treasurer distributed copies of the proposed budget for 2005-06. The budget had been previously reviewed by the Board prior to the meeting. (Copy attached)

Mike Chiaramonte said he and the Treasurer tried to make a realistic budget that reflected our needs. He said it reflected money for conference calls for the Executive Officers. Mike said the budget also reflected funding for officers to attend state functions. Bill Askenstedt cautioned that we are still dues dependent. He also cautioned that we had two successful conferences but we did not yet have a plan for next year and we could incur conference expenses next year. Bill also said that he hope that we could bolster the budget later in the year once we know our conference stats and assuming they are good.

There was a request by Jim Seavey to increase the Secretary's remuneration to \$5,000. There was a second by Ken Pienkowski. The Secretary requested it not be done. The **motion was amended** to have the board solicit an addition \$1,000.00 in sponsorships. **Motion passed 9-2.**

There was a **motion** by Seavey and a second by Watson to adopt the 2005-06 budget as amended. **Motion passed unanimously.**

The President and the Secretary requested that the Board, when they made motions to expend money, identify the budget line where the money was to be taken from. Bob Stahl asked for clarification. The Secretary said the intent was to not spend money without having a source of funding. There is a Misc. category in the budget which has \$200.00 but could possibly be increased if the conference is very successful.

Fire Rescue GPO

Jim Seavey reported on the GPO Meeting in Phoenix. See attached report.

Ferno has offered to do a presentation for the Board at FRI. It was suggested to have it at a Five State Meeting. The Board agreed on doing it at a Five state Meeting.

Mike Chiamonte asked how long we should wait for results. Jim Seavey said it should be reviewed annually. Bill Askenstedt asked for 18months

There was a **motion** by Warrick and a second by Watson to re-appoint Jim Seavey as the GPO representative and to continue supporting the GPO while monitoring the progress of the GPO. The motion was amended by Warrick to make the Secretary Treasurer the alternate to the GPO. **Motion approved unanimously.**

The Meeting was adjourned for lunch

NEW BUSINESS

FRI per diem - There was a motion Gouty and second by Watson that Board approve 4 nights lodging, travel and per diem for FRI in Denver. Ken Pienkowski asked if the motion included Ken Anderson as the C&B representative. The motion was amended to include Ken Anderson. The motion was approved unanimously.

Update on FRI Denver Events; The Secretary reported that arrangements for FRI were finalized at the Secretary's Meeting on March 18th in Fairfax. We have confirmed a lunch instead of a breakfast and it will be on Friday from 11:30 to 1:00 PM. We have also confirmed the Embassy Suites as our Division Hotel. It is sold out completely. Eastern Attendance is very high.

Homeland Security Fire Chief Participation: The Secretary informed the Board of an effort by Diane Pitts to get a fire chief with security clearance assigned to the Homeland Security Operating Center. Her memorandum is attached to the minutes. Jim Seavey urged the Board to support her efforts. The Secretary explained that Ms. Pitts felt the IAFC was not moving fast enough. Bill Walton assured the Board that her initiative was a major IAFC priority. Ms. Pitts' Memorandum is attached.

Peer Grant Reviewer for Safer Act Grants:

The Secretary asked for a nominee for the peer reviewer to review Safer Act Grants. Jack Gouty discussed Fire Act Grants and the need to fill out applications fully and completely. Jack stated that the Fire Act Grant process was almost taken away by DHS. Congressman Cox stopped that in Congress for this year. There is a need to support Congressional action to protect the Fire Act. Jack implored the Board members to support the house bill to protect the status of the current Fire Act.

Valor Award Modification.

The Board reviewed the proposal written by Mike Chiamonte for the new award format. Ken Pienkowski suggested allowing Fire Departments to submit applications in addition to Counties and States. There was discussion of either keeping the Valor Award in addition to an Excellence Award or replacing the Valor Award with an Excellence Award. Mike Chiamonte stated he was opposed to a Valor Award as a mechanism for encouraging unsafe actions. There was lengthy discussion of who should be allowed to nominate. Suggestions including allowing local jurisdictions to nominate and to include nominations from associations other than Chiefs associations.

There was a **motion** by Lowden and a second by Seavey to maintain the Valor Award giving states a 30 day window to submit their applications. **Motion passed 9-2.**

There was a **motion** by Lowden and a second by Watson to move ahead with the Fire Service Excellence Award. **Motioned approved unanimously.**

The Board was requested to get comments to Mike Chiamonte for final revisions.

IAFC 2nd Vice President Candidates for 2006

Chief Kelvin Cochran – The Secretary advised that Chief Cochran could not attend. He read a letter sent by Chief Cochran at his request. The letter is attached.

Chief Jim Broman – Chief Broman addressed the Board. He emphasized his involvement with the IAFC Professional Development Handbook. He chaired the Professional Development Committee for 5 years. Chief Broman said that he believed this was an example of tangibles the IAFC should provide members. He said he believed in the importance of the Divisions. He requested the Divisions support and endorsement. His brochure is attached.

Chief Don Oliver - Don Oliver presented CDs to the board which contained a power point presentation on Fire Inspector Training done with the benefit of a DHS Fire Act Grant. Don's department developed the training program with a Fire Act Grant. They are giving away 2,500 copies nation wide. Don has been on the Board of Visitors of the NFA. Don is running for the second time. He asked for support and endorsement from the Division.

Bill Walton asked the candidates their position on the two hatter issue. Don Oliver said he supported two hatters and that the IAFC needs to take a position supporting the issue. Jim Broman stated that precluding any citizen from volunteering was wrong. The IAFC published a position but does not seem to be pursuing it. Jim said we should take strong stand against discrimination. Harassment is wrong.

Ted Lowden asked how to increase the value of membership to the average member. Don Oliver said we do not communicate what we do to our members. Don said rolling out programs like his Fire Prevention Training Program would encourage members to join. He suggested changing Divisions to Regions. Jim Broman said there were three things the Association needed to provide. One is Representation which the Association does fair on and could improve. Two is Information which Jim said the Association does very well. Three is Deliverables. They are products that the association can put in the Fire Chiefs hands that will help the members do their job better. We should get more involved in the IAFC/IAFF Wellness Program.

IAFC Staff Reports:

IAFC C&B Committee Representative.

Jim Watson nominated Jon Townley to replace Ken Anderson as the Eastern C&B Representative by **Motion**. There was a second by Gouty. **Approved unanimously.**

There was a **motion** by Seavey and a second by Watson to recommend to the IAFC President, that Ken Pienkowski be reappointed as the C&B Member at Large. **Approved unanimously.**

Ken Anderson clarified that the Division recommendation regarding Jon Townley as the Eastern representative was binding on the IAFC President. The at Large position is only a recommendation and it is not binding.

Eastern Conference: The Secretary said that NY had offered to host the 2006 EDIAFC Conference in Binghamton, NY. Since then NY has moved their state conference from Syracuse to Lake George. Tom LaBelle has now offered to host the EDIAFC Conference in conjunction with the NY Conference in Lake George. Tom will need an answer as soon as possible.

Ken Pienkowski spoke with Tom LaBelle about two Eastern concerns. One was revenue loss and the other was location as it relates to travel time for our members.

There was also a concern about the Hudson County Chiefs meeting being in Lake George at the same time. He said that Tom LaBelle planned to have the Eastern housed in Saratoga Springs which is 45 minutes from Lake George.

Ken expressed concern that we could be competing with two many events of NY's and that might hurt attendance at Eastern's meeting. Ted Lowden said he felt we would get eaten up by NY. Bob Stahl said central location was better.

There was a **motion** by Seavey and second by Gouty to hold the conference in Evesham, NJ. **Approved unanimously.**

The date will be determined at a later time after researching possible good dates.

Safer Act Reviewer – The Secretary asked permission to ask Chief Harold Phillips from New York to be our Safer Act Grant Review Nominee. The Board agreed.

IAFC 2nd Vice President Endorsement

Ted Lowden recommended the Division support Jim Broman for IAFC 2nd VP. Jack Gouty and Jim Seavey expressed concern about Jim Broman's position on the two hatter issue being somewhat weak. Mike Chiaramonte encouraged the Board to wait before making an endorsement. Ted Lowden made a **motion** to endorse Jim Broman, Bill Walton seconded the motion. **The motion passed 7-2 with the President and 2nd VP.**

VCOS Elections

Jim Seavey asked that we write a letter to the VCOS Election Committee to verify that the candidates for election are qualified under the By-Laws to hold office. Bill Askenstedt asked Ken Anderson if we could request verification as VCOS members. Ken said that had been done before but it did not mean we would get an accurate answer. There was discussion of various means to verify qualifications. There was no motion.

IAFC Officers and Staff

President DiPoli

Bob DiPoli stated that nothing had happened yet with the two hatter issue. He said it will be a discussion item on the IAFC Board meeting agenda next week. He hopes to go forward with a meeting with the IAFF. Mike Chiaramonte said he did not understand why nothing has been moving on the issue. Bob did not appear to be aware that the issue was very prevalent. Bill Walton said the minutes of IAFC meetings and calls did not reflect the discussions on the two hatter issue which occur.

Mike Chiaramonte asked Bob why the IAFC does not flat out say that discrimination is wrong. Bob could not answer. Ted Lowden said that was not good enough. Bob said that a lot of staff discussion was going on but he did not what progress was being made. Ted said it did not seem that much was being done. Bill Askenstedt said there is never anything in IAFC minutes about the two hatter issue, He said Garry had said we needed to wait for the results of the Presidential elections but they were now over for 5 months and still nothing was happening. Bill also said that if this was a priority it would not sit for 5 months. Bill Askenstedt asked Bob to have the IAFC Board direct Garry Briese to set up the promised meeting with the IAFF. Several Board members stated that the lack of action was hurting membership.

NFA Budget.

Bob DiPoli said he did not know what has occurred since the fire service summit regarding the NFA. Bob Stahl asked if Bob had ever followed up with Wayne Powell as he had promised at our last meeting. Bob said Wayne Powell insists that he gave Garry different information then what Garry presented to the IAFC Board. Bob insisted that there is a big problem. Bob said that Garry did not express the impression that there was a significant problem. Bob said he preferred a legislative approach to the NFA rather than working through DHS.

Mike Chiaramonte also said he spoke with numerous people at the NFA and that all of them expressed concerns about the budget cuts undermining the purpose of the NFA. He said the people he spoke to were worried about the future of the NFA.

Jim Broman asked about budget give backs possibly affecting the NFA. Bob DiPoli said that was definitely an issue. Jim asked for a comparison of dollars spent rather than budgeted. Bob Stahl said money was taken away from many support groups for the NFA. Bob also said security costs were being taken away from the budget. Don Oliver said things need to change at the NFA. He suggested two week courses taught at the NFA could be taught locally reducing the stipend costs paid by the NFA. He said the EFO program is the flagship program. Some courses need to be eliminated or updated.

There was discussion of the need to revise classes. The counter argument was there was no money to do so. Mike

Chiaramonte said the NFA spent far too much to change classes. Mike asked why those courses could not be revised for far less money. Don Oliver said it could be done cheaper.

Mike Chiaramonte said that the Fire Act Grant process was almost taken away by DHS. Congressman Cox stopped that in Congress for this year. There is a need to support Congressional action to protect the Fire Act. Bill Jenaway said the administration will always try to cut the budget. He said no congressmen on Capital Hill will eliminate the Fire Act. Bob DiPoli said the Bush Administration has given us more money than any prior administration.

Jim Seavey asked about the progress of getting Fire Chiefs on the Homeland Security Council. He referred to the initiative of Diane Pitts to get a Fire Chief on the HSOC. Bob said he was going to ask the Secretary to get as many as 4 people on the DHS Council.

Treasurer Julian Talioferro:

Julian reported that we do have money and we are doing well.

Ken Pienkowski asked about comp registrations for Division Officers. Bob DiPoli said the Board had no inclination to do so. Julian said it would be very expensive for the IAFC. Bob DiPoli said the IAFC BOD was not likely to pursue comp registrations and in fact was trying to eliminate many.

New Banner

Jimmy Watson presented the new banner which was paid for by Delmarva Power and made by Rush Uniforms.

Bill Jenaway discussed the fact that the state of Pennsylvania had commissioned a study of fire and EMS services in the state. The Commission had a broad based demographic make up. Bill chaired the Commission. They made 23 recommendations to the PA legislature. Two have passed and 60% of the legislation introduced in the state has been related to the report. All 23 recommendations are in the works. Bill distributed the Commission Report. It is also available on the Eastern web site. A DVD is being planned for statewide distribution on how to implement the commission recommendations. The state tried to look at consolidation at the County level. That attempt failed immediately because Counties have no legal authority in PA.

Bill reviewed the logistics for the conference.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30.