

Minutes
78th Annual Conference
EDIAFC - May 14th, 2005
King of Prussia, PA

The Conference was opened at the King of Prussia Fire Headquarters in King of Prussia, PA, on Saturday, May 14, 2005 at 8:30 A.M. by President Bernie Cohan.

Colors were presented by King of Prussia Volunteer Fire Company

President Cohan led the Body in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Memorial Service

The Memorial Service was led by the Reverend Brian Henderson, Chaplain of the King of Prussia Vol. Fire Co. with assistance from President Cohan, 1st VP Michael Chiaramonte, and Memorial Chairman Les Warrick. (See Memorial Program in the Conference Program Book).

Keynote Address

The Keynote address was given by the Honorable Representative Curt Weldon, 7th Congressional District of Pennsylvania. Rep. Weldon spoke on "Fire Service Politics".

At the conclusion of Rep. Weldon's address he present US flags which had been flown at the Capital to Bernie Cohan for the Eastern Division and Bill Jenaway for King of Prussia Fire Company.

Welcome – Bob Sibly, Vice Chairman of the Board of Supervisors of Upper Merion County
Vice Chairman Sibly welcomed the conference attendees to King of Prussia and offered best wishes for the stay.

Welcome – Retired Asst. Chief Paul Carney of King of Prussia Vol. Fire Co.
Chief Carney, a long time EDIAFC member and former chair of the EDIAFC Vol. Committee gave the welcome for the King of Prussia Vol. Fire Co.

Welcome – EDIAFC President Bernie Cohan

Chief Cohan welcomed everyone to the conference and thanked Chief Bill Jenaway for doing such a great job preparing for the conference. Chief Cohan welcomed IAFC President Bob DiPoli and IAFC Treasurer Julian Talioferro to the Conference.

IAFC – President Robert DiPoli and Treasurer Julian Talioferro

Chief DiPoli and Chief Talioferro greeted the conference. Chief DiPoli related the IAFC efforts on the legislative front. Chief Talioferro told the conference that the IAFC was financially healthy and spoke about the plan to look at new cities for FRI and perhaps eliminate the three city rotation.

IAFC Candidates Jim Broman and Don Oliver

IAFC Candidates Jim Broman and Don Oliver offered their platforms to the Division. Both discussed their anti IAFF position on the Two Hatter Issue. Their campaign material was distributed to the members. (See attached)

Chief Cohan welcomed the members in attendance.

Past Presidents Introduction

Chief Cohan recognized the Past Presidents in attendance: Wayne Tetteimer, Jon Townley, James Seavey, Larry Vaughan and Bill Walton

Sponsor Introductions

Secretary Treasurer Bill Askenstedt thanked all of the conference sponsors (see attached list) and introduced the those in attendance including; Rick Eisenberg from Nextel, Dan Lane from ICC, Mel Bemis, Brett Bernoski and Jim Tierney from VFIS, Kelly Kervin from Motorola, Mary Jane Surboski from Commerce Bank and Bill Adams from Adams Fire Protection Co.

Break

Technical Session – Interoperability – Chief Bill Purcell, Charlottesville, Virginia and Bill Pessimier, International Association of Fire Chiefs (Presentation available on the web Site)

BUSINESS SESSION

At 11:15 the conference reconvened and the Business Session was opened.

The Secretary then introduced the Board and Head Table.

Roll Call:

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

President’s Report - President Bernie Cohan

See Conference Program.

1st Vice President's Report —1st Vice Michael Chiaramonte

See Conference Program. Mike thanked Bernie and the Board for their efforts during the past year. He said the Board was watching the Two Hatter issue and the NFA Budget issues. Mike said the Board was here to work for the members and he encouraged them to participate. Mike added that the EDIAFC has been notorious for poor voter turnout and he urged members to be sure to vote.

2nd Vice President's Report - 2nd Vice President James Watson

See Conference Program.

International Director William Walton

See Conference Program. Bill said he enjoyed representing the Division for three years and he looked forward to the next three. He noted the importance of IAFC Member Alerts and the need for members to provide accurate email addresses.

Bill said he has been amazed at the politics that exist on Capital Hill related to the Fire Service. He said the IAFC provides an excellent document on their website on how to develop a political action plan. (It is available on the Eastern web site as well)

Treasurer's Report: See Conference Program. Bill Askenstedt gave credit for the good budget situation to Ted Lowden and Bill Jenaway for running very successful conferences. He announced that he was pleased that it would continue by virtue of the fact that Chief Lowden and Evesham Fire Rescue had agreed to host the conference in 2006.

Bill Askenstedt said it was horrific at the number of missing emails in the IAFC member database. It is critical to have email and to update it when it changes. He begged the membership to assure their email addresses were up to date.

Secretary Report:

Membership: See Conference Program. Bill stressed the need for membership to grow. It is our main source of income and it is stagnate.

Update on FRI Denver

Hospitality Room is at the Embassy Suites

The EDIAFC Lunch is on Friday at 11:30 AM in the Convention Center.

Mass is Saturday at Convention Center at 4 PM

FRI 2004 Schedule: The new conference format has the IAFC BOD Mtg. on Tuesday and Wednesday. The opening session and workshops begin on Thursday. The Division Lunch will be Friday morning following the General Session and during the exhibits. Exhibits and workshops will continue on Saturday. Mass will be at 4PM and the Presidential Banquet will be at 6 PM. There are no events scheduled for Sunday.

Bill said he believed that after 15 years of the 3 city rotation the IAFC had finally realized it was a mistake as the Eastern had always said. He said the Eastern attendance was way up this year due to the location in Denver. He urged everyone to attend the Division breakfast

Elections Committee - Larry Vaughan

See Distributed Report.

Larry Vaughan declared that the open positions for 2005-06 to be elected by mail ballot were President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President and International Director.

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

President, Chief Michael Chiamonte, NY

1st Vice President, Chief James A. Watson, DE

2nd Vice President, Chief Robert Stahl, PA

International Director, Chief William Walton, DE

There was a **motion** and a second to have the Secretary cast one vote for Chief William Walton for International Director. **Motion passed unanimously.** The Secretary cast one vote.

There was a **motion** and a second to have the Secretary cast one vote for Chief Robert Stahl for 2nd Vice President. **Motion passed unanimously.** The Secretary cast one vote.

There was a **motion** and a second to have the Secretary cast one vote for Chief James Watson for 1st Vice President. **Motion passed unanimously.** The Secretary cast one vote.

There was a **motion** and a second to have the Secretary cast one vote for Chief Michael Chiamonte for President. **Motion passed unanimously.** The Secretary cast one vote.

Valor Committee

President Cohan announced the Board's decision to create a Fire Service Excellence Award in addition to the Valor Award.

Les Warrick, Valor Committee Chairman announced the Valor Award Winners for 2004-05. They are six members of the Washington DC Fire Department. A presentation will be made at a future date in the District. See the Conference Program for details of the award and the full committee report.

Les said that the committee tried to evaluate the nominations with consideration for firefighters acting safely.

State Caucus

President Cohan recessed the conference for the purpose of holding State Caucuses. He directed the states to elect two members for the Valor Committee and two for the Fire Service Excellence Committee. NY, MD and PA were also directed to elect state directors.

Lunch

The meeting reconvened at 1300 hours.

Technical Session

There was an afternoon educational program conducted by Chief Dennis Rubin from Atlanta, Georgia entitled **“Old Problems, New Solutions”** sponsored by the Motorola. (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 elected James Carty and Bryan Ward to the Valor Committee and to the Excellence Award Committee.

Pennsylvania elected Mark Showmaker as Director Pennsylvania re-elected Jim Kay and Mark Showmaker to the Valor Committee and to the Excellence Award Committee

New York re-elected Ken Pienkowski as Director New York also elected Greg Turrell and Al Mignone to the Valor Committee and elected Barry Sens and Paul Whorrall to the Excellence Award Committee. New York thanked Bill Askenstedt for his work as Secretary Treasurer and thanked Les Warrick for his work on the Valor Committee

Delaware elected Kevin Wilson and Grover Ingle to the Valor Committee and elected Jon Townley and Rodney Marvel to the Excellence Award Committee. Thanked officer and congratulated Jon Townley for his appointment to the IAFC Constitution and By-Laws Committee

Maryland re-elected Jack Gouty as Director. Maryland elected Stephen Reid and Pete Mellits to the Valor Committee and elected David See and Mike Granados to the Excellence Award Committee. Maryland thanked the current officers for their work during the past year.

Constitution and By-Laws Report

See attached Report.

The President Cohan read Resolutions prepared for the Conference.

The first was a **Resolution thanking Chief Bill Jenaway for his work as the host of the 78th annual conference.** The resolution was moved and seconded and **passed unanimously.**

The second was a **Resolution thanking King of Prussia Vol. Fire Company for their efforts in hosting of the 78th annual conference.** The resolution was moved and seconded and **passed unanimously.**

1st Vice President Mike Chiamonte read a third **Resolution recognizing and thanking Chief Bernie Cohan for his service as a member of the EDIAFC Board and as President of the EDIAFC for 2004-2005.** The resolution was moved and seconded and **passed unanimously.**

OLD BUSINESSES

None

Chief Stephen Reid made a collection for the Foundation. \$265.00 was collected.

NEW BUSINESS

Larry Vaughan made a **motion** for the Division to thank Ken Anderson for his years of excellent service to the Division. There were numerous seconds. **Motion was approved unanimously.**

There was a **motion** By Jim Seavey and a second by Steve Miller to endorse Don Oliver for IAFC Second VP in 2006.

Chief Lowden said that the Board had interviewed both Jim Broman and Don Oliver and found both to be good candidates. He said the Board has voted to recommend endorsement of Jim Broman,

Chief Seavey said he made the motion because of the IAFF had endorsed John Kerry without asking their membership. He felt he could not have the Board endorse the a candidate without going to the membership. Jim said both candidates Broman and Oliver could be good leaders. Jim said he favored Chief Oliver because he was more passionate over the Two Hatter issue and because he had run before and came back to try again. Jim said he felt Jim Broman had increased his emphasis on the Two Hatter issue only after be guided by members of the Eastern Board. He said prior to that, Chief Broman was talking the party line of no action on the Two Hatter issue.

Chief Seavey said the Division could endorse both candidates. He also said one could be endorsed by the board and the other by the membership.

Jim Watson said that the Board had only voted to approve recommending Broman for endorsement and the intent was to bring the recommendation to the membership for their vote.

Ted Lowden stated that previously in an earlier election, he had supported another candidate but the Board voted for his opponent and he therefore followed the will of the majority. He thought that was the way a team should work. He also said that Jim Broman asked him what he needed to do to be a better candidate. Ted told him to be stronger on the Two Hatter issue. Ted said Chief Broman accepted his position. Ted said he told Don Oliver that he favored Jim Broman because of an overall platform. Chief Lowden said the Eastern had been disappointed by Bob DiPoli's action on the Two Hatter issue.

Bob Stahl said that Don Oliver took the "party line" on the National Fire Academy and that was also an important issue.

Bernie Cohan said he felt Jim Broman was the better candidate.

The motion was defeated overwhelmingly

Mike Chiaramonte said he believed the Boards endorsement of Jim Broman was only a recommendation to the members.

There was a **motion** by Chief Ted Lowden and second by Bill Walton for the Division to endorse Jim Broman for IAFC 2nd VP in 2006. **The motion passed 28-3**

Chief Bill Jenaway urged the membership to review the Pennsylvania Senate Resolution 60. He said it is a trend setting report drafted by a 25 person Commission. Over 176 fire related bills have resulted from the report and more are coming. The report is available on all of the major PA web sites (and EDIAFC)

Chief Seavey asked the date of the "One Eye Golf Tournament". Jon Townley said the tournament benefits the burn foundation and will be held on Friday, July 15th.

There was a **motion** by Seavey and a second by Gouty to have the President send a letter to Wisconsin Senator Jim Sensinbrenner urging him to support Curt Weldon's legislation related to modifying the PSOB death benefit eligibility and for the President to also send a letter to Senator Santorum urging him to support the sprinkler retrofit tax amortization amendments. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Ken Anderson asked if the members should take action related to getting a Fire Chief position on the Department of Homeland Securities Council. Bill Walton said the IAFC was already actively pursuing this.

Bill Jenaway said he had met with Secretary Chertoff of DHS and had been asked if a Fire Chief position was important. Bill said he told Chertoff it was essential. He suggested the Division should go on record supporting a Fire Chief position.

There was a **motion** by Seavey and a second by Gouty to have the President write a letter to the IAFC Board stating our support of the Fire Chief position in DHS. **The motion passed unanimously.**

There was a **motion** by Seavey and a second by Cohan that the President write a letter to Garry Briese asking for a room or hall in IAFCHQ dedicated to the Divisions. The room would be for display of Division accomplishments. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Bill Walton made a **motion** that the President send a letter of congratulations to Alan Caldwell for his winning of the Mason Langford Award at the CFSI Dinner. Bill said Alan had done a great deal for the IAFC including getting the IAFC through the 800 MHZ problems. He said Alan is intelligent and unassuming. **The Motion passed unanimously.**

Foundation Collection

Chief Askenstedt report that \$430.00 had been collected for the IAFC Foundation.

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