

Minutes - EDIAFC Board Meeting August 11, 2005 Denver, Colorado

The Meeting was called to order by President Chiaramonte at 1:30 P.M. on Thursday, August 11, 2005.

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

Guests: Dave Paulison, USFA, Ed Mann, PA Fire Commissioner, Walt Schoonmaker, Past President, NYSAFC, Dan Gaumont, NYSAFC, Steve Miller, VCOS, Bob Holley, Pres. NYSAFC, Randy Griffin USFA, Jack Parrow, NEDIAFC and candidate for 2007 2nd VP of IAFC, Steve Reid, DCFD retired, Tom Olshanski, USFA, Earl Doster, Keystone Chiefs

Past Presidents: Jon Townley, James Seavey, Mike Granados, William Walton

IAFC Officers: None

IAFC Staff: Garry Briese, Executive Director, Ken LaSala, Government Relations.

Committee Chairs: **Les Warrick** - Memorial Committee & Valor Award, Ken Anderson, C&B, Mike Granados, Communications Committee

Minutes:

There was a **motion to approve the minutes of the 06/17/05 Conference Call** as amended by Gouty and a second by Watson. **Motion approved unanimously.**

OFFICERS REPORTS

President Chiaramonte's Report:

Mike presented certificates to the Board appreciating their service
Mike presented certificates of appreciation to Les Warrick and Stephen Reid for their work on the Valor Award.
Mike presented a certificate of appreciation to Bill Askenstedt for the email campaign to elect the Eastern candidates Steve Miller and Ed Mann for VCOS.
Report to be presented at the Division Lunch.

1st Vice President Watson's Report:

No Report.

2nd Vice President Stahl's Report:

No Report.

International Director Walton's Report:

Ted Lowden did an excellent job recruiting new members (8)

FRI

Denver has the highest record attendance of any IAFC Conference. Site selection committee is looking at new cities at this time. Vendors are an influence. Bill Askenstedt asked about Philadelphia. Bill Walton explained about the union issues in that city.

Partnerships

Jeep sponsors the Everyday Heroes Program, took a full page ad in USA Today for the stand down Firemen's Fund is supporting Near Miss Program.

Annheiser Bush – Prevent, Don't Provide program to prevent under age drinking.

Energizer Battery – Change Your Clock/Battery Program. Could be effected by change in daylight savings time.

Nextel – Merger should not effect partnership

Stand Down for Fire Safety

Ed Mann supported the program in PA and put on a great program for the stand down

Professional Development Program

Trying to develop a mentor program in conjunction with the Fire Officers Handbook. Mentored candidates would come from CFOD Program.

VCOS Red Ribbon Report

Will be out in September and available on their web site. Bill Walton said report was excellent. Bill gave extensive credit to John Buckman for his part in the report. He urged everyone to read it.

Bill thanked Bob DiPoli for his efforts on Membership and the Stand Down. He said the stand down made a difference.

Immediate Past President Cohan's Report:

No Report.

Secretary Treasurer Report: The Board received a Treasurer's Report and Membership Report prior to the meeting.

Correspondence:

Letter of thanks were sent to the conference sponsors.

Emails were sent to Steve Miller and Ed Mann supporting their VCOS Board candidacies as well as to 700+ members asking their support.

Email was sent to Dan Gaumont supporting his candidacy for the HSS Board.

Delaware Director Warrick's Report:

No Report.

Maryland Director Gouty's Report:

Jack promoted the NFFF black wristband.

New Jersey Director Lowden's Report:

No Report.

New York Director Pienkowski's Report:

No Report.

Pennsylvania Director Showmaker's Report:

Since appointment to the Board of Directors of EDIAFC at the Eastern Division Conference on May 14, 2005 I report the Following activities.

Attended the Eastern Division Conference in King of Prussia Pa. which included the EDIAFC Board meeting on May 13, 2005

Attended Pennsylvania Fire Expo in Harrisburg Pa. May 20, 2005

Attended Numerous meetings of the Bucks County Fire Chiefs Association to promote the EDIAFC

Met with representatives of the Keystone State Fire Chief's promoting involvement with the Five-State Chiefs and EDIAFC

Participated in all EDIAFC teleconferences and meetings since appointment to Board

Continue to serve on the International Code Council Code Action Committee as one of the EDIAFC representatives

Served on the Valor Committee of EDIAFC

Serve as the Chair of the Bucks County Local Emergency Planning Committee

COMMITTEE REPORTS**C&B Committee:**

President Chiaramonte announced that Jon Townley will chair the Eastern C&B Committee. Ken Anderson will remain on the committee.

No report.

Codes Committee:

Bob Stahl needs an endorsement letter for reappointment as the Eastern representative. Mike will provide. (It was later clarified by Dan Lane that the letters are not needed at this time. Dan will let us know).

Communications Committee:

The IAFC Communications Committee is putting a handbook together to deal with the 1.25 kc offsets which will be in effect shortly. The committee hopes to put the handbook on the IAFC web site when it is done.

2006 EDIAFC Conference:

No Report.

Elections Committee:

No Report.

Memorial Service Committee:

Recognized 13 deceased members in King of Prussia. The committee is having trouble getting info. Please help by forwarding info.

Valor Committee:

No Report since DC presentation.

VCOS:

Steve Miller and Ed Mann were elected to the Board. Voter numbers went way up. Steve said VCOS will be looking at the ballot process. He said VCOS will be meeting with the IAFF but did not know when and where the meeting will be or who will attend. Symposium will be in Florida in November. Please vote in the VCOS meeting. Steve was not happy with the credential certification process with VCOS. Ed Mann said the Eastern needed to let him know what he could do to help the Division.

Fire Rescue GPO:

Jim Seavey said the GPO is changing for the better. The Advisory Board will become a Managing Board. Jim asked everyone to visit the booth and see what is new. Jim said the GPO had hired Alan Saulsbury for their staff. Jim expects the GPO to have a fire hose spec ready within three months. The GPO Council has selected Sacha Dick, Rich Carrizo, and Keith Condra to go to Seattle to meet with Amerinet to discuss corrections for some of the GO problems

Klackamus County which formerly administered the GPO has left the GPO. They formerly received one of the five 20% shares of the GPO income. A decision will be made shortly as to how to redistribute their 20% share.

All 7 US Divisions are now partners in the GPO.

OLD 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. **(FYI – Already Done)**

Update on FRI Denver Events: The Secretary reported that arrangements for the FRI luncheon were finalized. We sold almost 500 rooms in the IAFC block in Denver not counting people outside of the IAFC block.

Fire Service Excellence Award Review.

The Board reviewed the proposal written by Mike Chiaramonte for the new award format. The Board was requested to get comments to Mike Chiaramonte for final revisions. The Board concurred with announcing the award at the luncheon on Friday.

IAFC C&B Committee Representative.

At the May Board meeting 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.

Since the May Board meeting, President Elect Killen committed to Mike Chiaramonte that he would appoint both Townley and Pienkowski. He repeated this in Charlotte verbally. We should remind him here in Denver.

ICC Appointments

Bob Stahl was approved by the Board to continue as our ICC representative. Bob was to supply info for his letter and possibly one other to the President so that Mike could write the required recommendations.

Dan Gaumont Endorsement

The Secretary pointed out that we had endorsed Dan Gaumont for a Board seat on the Life Safety Section and therefore we should try to support him. Bill Askenstedt suggested that President Chiamonte encourage people to attend the section meeting which is immediately after our lunch (you must be a member of the section to attend and vote).

Review of the luncheon agenda for Friday.

Mike Chiamonte covered the agenda and asked for quick flow.

NEW BUSINESS

Dave Paulison, USFA

Dave Paulison said that the Fire Act Grant Awards were being held up at this time but should be released in the next two weeks. Over \$200 million are ready to go and will be released shortly. The 2006 Fire Act Grants are still being reviewed in the House and Senate. The two bills are \$50 million apart.

The second stage of the DHS reorganization is under way. Dave and the USFA will move from FEMA into ODP. The Fire grants will therefore now go through the Office of Domestic Preparedness. The Emergency Management Institute (EMI) will remain under FEMA and Dave is now in the process of separating the budget for EMI and NFA. NFA will stay with the USFA under ODP.

New programs will begin to come out of the NFA including Infrastructure Protection, EMS and IT.

The DHS is starting a new human resources system under which employees will be given merit advances rather than the normal seniority advances. Dave hopes this will encourage good people and cause bad ones to leave. This system is a prototype for future government employment.

Dave reported the NFA is doing okay financially. They are planning on changing the two week resident courses to one week on campus and one week off. This will help volunteers with limited time and it will help career departments lower their costs. Students will do work at home and on line for a week prior to attending the NFA course. This will have them better prepared and all working at the same level when they arrive on campus. The NFA will also begin to develop and present terrorism classes.

Ted Lowden inquired about the Safer Act. Dave responded that the peer review process was complete and the technical review was in process. There is \$65 million available.

Bernie asked if there would be an Under Secretary position established in DHS. Dave responded he was not sure but did not think so. While he will not be an Under Secretary, he will still report directly to Secretary Chertoff.

Dave concluded by saying that Justice represents the prevention side of DHS and Fire represents the mitigation and response side. The emphasis in DHS is on prevention. There was discussion of the importance of response as well.

Dave stated he is excited to be working with Chertoff.

IAFC 2nd Vice President Candidates for 2006

There are three candidates for office. The Eastern has endorsed Jim Broman. The Election Committee is developing new rules for candidates. No candidates were present for the meeting.

Jack Parrow, a candidate in 2007 attended the Board meeting and addressed the Board briefly regarding his campaign. His pledge is that he will resign from his full time career position as Fire Chief in 2009 when he reaches the position of IAFC President and that he would devote full time efforts to the IAFC President position.

The Daily Dispatch – Linda Berner

Linda informed the Board that the Dispatch had supported the IAFC Stand Down and the Near Miss Program. They are actively working to promote the Fire Rescue GPO. She announced that the Western Fire Chiefs have recently put their fire service library on line. The library contains hundreds of fire service related documents to assist the Fire Chief. The library includes the Ron Coleman library. Presently they are working with the NFA to put all of the EFO research papers into the library. The Western Library is currently available to any member of the WFCFA but is expected to be released to the entire IAFC membership shortly.

Bill Askenstedt reminded the states to continue to feed information to him for the Dispatch and noted that NY and PA are currently doing a great job of that. Bill told the states to be sure to update their email lists at least quarterly. He explained that the email lists we have developed have been crucial in influencing the recent VCOS mail ballot election.

Gary Briese, IAFC Executive Director

Two Hatter Issue: Garry stated he felt we must continue to work with the IAFF on issues we can work together and we must work around those on which we can not agree. He stated that the solution to the two hatter issue needed to come in the courts. He suggested that there needed to be a good case found to present to the courts for harassment. He recommended putting the issue aside and continuing to work with the IAFF on issues of common agreement.

Garry stated that the GAO is currently reviewing the two hatter harassment issue and several people commented on the fact that they had heard from the GAO regarding the issue.

Bill Askenstedt asked if the IAFC would support a “good” court case. Garry stated he was not sure but said the IAFC had supported a fire chief in a prior battle over a vote of no confidence. The IAFC entered the case and the Fire Chief won.

Garry stated that the IAFC was still involved in the two hatter issue and provided a hand out to the Board on what the IAFC had done so far. (That document will be scanned and distributed with the minutes.) Garry also said that the Fire Chief needed to take a bigger roll in the harassment issue. He said that fire chiefs prohibit many types of harassment but for some reason do not prohibit two hatter harassment. He said the IAFC is preparing training material to help Chiefs deal with this type of harassment.

Homeland Security: The DHS wants to put a fire chief in the Homeland Security Operating Center (HSOC). That person would be in the secret section. The top secret section consists mainly of law enforcement people. The position would be to provide fire service input and would not necessarily channel info out to the fire service. Garry stated the IAFC is pursuing the position and has met with DHS to discuss the issue. Funding for the person and the number of hours and shifts are questions which need to be resolved.

FRI 2006: It was noted that the FRI conference in 2006 conflicts with the DE and NJ State conferences. Garry stated that the FRI dates were locked.

Power Point: It was requested that the IAFC make available the power point presentation on IAFC accomplishments. Garry agreed to do so.

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 during the May Board Meeting. The VCOS Election Committee responded that all of the candidates were qualified.

There were numerous problems with ballots arriving very late this year. The Secretary suggested that we make a motion at the Section Meeting that mandates the use of first class mail for mail election ballots. The Board made no decision.

FDNY/Nassau County Two Hatter Issue

There was discussion of the situation that occurred in NY related to FDNY firefighters who were also volunteers on Long Island. The Board discussed the statements made by the UFA saying that volunteers were not as well trained and lacked the experience of FDNY firefighters.

Garry Briese commented that off duty FDNY members were barred from responding with volunteer companies into the city under the Fair Labor Standards Act and said the Nassau Chiefs should have informed their members of that rule.

It was generally agreed that while the union overreacted, it was clearly a New York issue having to do with putting pressure on Mayor Bloomberg to reopen several fire stations. There was no action determined to be necessary by the Board.

FRI 2006 Speakers

Dan Gaumont stated he was on the planning committee for FRI 2006 and was interested in hearing from anyone who knew of good programs or speakers that would be good for FRI 2006.

Division Booth

It was brought up that the Southeastern Division had a booth at FRI 2005. It was suggested that the Eastern may wish to consider this in the future. No action was taken.

Division Secretary's Meeting

The Secretary reported that the Division had booked over 500 rooms in 17 hotels for the conference. There were 686 exhibitors which was 40 more than last year and they accounted for 20,000 additional square feet of exhibit space.

The IAFC membership is up to 12,700 an all time high.

The Division Secretary's meeting in 2006 will be March 24 & 25 in Fairfax.

For the Dallas conference we will have 200 rooms at the Wyndham Anatole and 100 at the Embassy Suites.

Executive Session

There was an Executive session held to discuss endorsement of VCOS Chair and Vice Chair candidates and to discuss personnel items.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30.