

## **Minutes EDIAFC Conference Call Sept. 11, 2005 - 7:00 P.M.**

Present: Walton, Chiaramonte, Askenstedt, Showmaker, Warrick, Watson, Cohan, Lowden

Absent: Gouty, Stahl, Pienkowski,

Minutes: The board received the minutes from the Board Meeting of 08/11/05.

**There was a motion to approve the minutes of the 08/11/05 Board Meeting by Cohan and a second by Watson Motion approved unanimously.**

**Secretary Treasurer Report:** Sent to the Board..

**Motion by Watson, second by Cohan to accept the Treasurer's Report. Approved unanimously.**

**Conference Calls:** Remember the new conference call phone number is: 1-866-809-4014 and the new code is 2730202 , the dates for the EDIAFC conference calls are: Oct. 16, Nov. 13, and Dec. 11. All dates are Sunday nights. Time will remain 7 P.M. the phone number remains 866-809-4014 and the Code remains 2730202.

### **IAFC Report - Bill Walton**

IAFC Board has had daily conference calls. The Executive Board has had multiple calls some days. The Board decided to send member updates and situation reports to the membership. The IAFC started Adopt a Firehouse and firehouse.com is running it. There are 20 IAFC officers deployed in Louisiana. The IAFC has testified on many issues in DC before Congress. The stress was recognition of the fire service as first responders. The IAFC stressed the need to overhaul EMAC

The IAFC and IAFF have a joint command post in Baton Rouge. Rich Carizzo was the first IAFC IC he will be replaced by Bill Killen or Jim Harmes., Staff worked with Motorola on communications.

There has been good feedback on the IAFC web site.

The Board worked on the volunteer deployment to Katrina with VCOS. The IAFF and VCOS have been on IAFC conference calls.

Kelvin Cochran established the first EOC in Baton Rouge. He told Charlie Dickerson from the USFA the EMAC system was totally dysfunctional.

The IAFC has approved unbudgeted funds to support the IAFC Katrina efforts. FEMA funding is off setting some costs. The IAFC staff is accepting contributions of up to \$600,000 to assist local member fire chiefs. The IAFF is giving out checks to their members in the affected area. The NVFC is trying to set up a similar program to affected volunteers but there are difficulties with implementation and qualifying who is eligible.

Mark Light and Ken LaSala established the disaster relief fund. There is about \$50,000.00 in the fund to date. The EMS Section contributed \$10,000 to the fund.

The IAFC is not doing much in Mississippi because the state of Florida has been very active and effective in Mississippi.

IAFC has 23 IAFC members affected, 22 are totally devastated in Alabama. There are 188 effected with 138 totally devastated in Louisiana and 53 affected in Mississippi with 48 totally. Bill also provided similar stats for IAFF members.

Bill reported that he heard the career and volunteer members were working well together in Louisiana. He commented on the "Shirt off your Back Program" as being a worthwhile endeavor. He said the IAFC was doing a good job with their response to Katrina.

Bill Askenstedt asked about the fire fighters reported on CNN that have not been used. Bill blamed the problem on self dispatching. He said there is no further need for firefighters. The Illinois Task Force may have self dispatched.

Some of the recruited firefighters in Atlanta were sent home because they misunderstood their mission and became combative.

Ted Lowden said New Jersey recruited people before the request was official and that the state may be partly to blame for the self dispatching. Bill Walton said that FEMA was actually bidding for special response teams. This may be causing delays. Delaware was also preparing teams in the event they were needed. The Board concluded that there is still a self dispatching

Mike Chiamonte spoke with a group called "Helping Our Own" who wished to contribute equipment. He said it was difficult to coordinate their contributions with the Federal red tape.

A firefighter from the affected area contacted him for two people for assistance. Mike referred them to the IAFF command post in Baton Rouge.

Bill Walton said FEMA will replace equipment that was lost by fire departments, but they do not look at the short range, immediate needs for that equipment. Bill said he had trouble getting equipment donations from Delaware to the affected areas

Mike Chiamonte said there was concern in New York about insuring volunteer firefighters who went to the affected area. He also said there were concerns that volunteers did not always have background checks and there needs to be a system put in place. Les Warrick said he had similar concerns in Delaware. Ted Lowden said we should identify the problems and push for federal legislation to fix the problems. Ted suggested dealing with it at the Leadership Summit and 5 state meeting.

Mike Chiamonte spoke to an insurance agent and he was told legislation was easier than buying insurance.

Mike Chiamonte will start a list of points that were problems with the disaster response and send it to the board to collect additional points to be discussed in Washington in November. Mike also requested the Board to support the Adopt a Firehouse program officially. The secretary said we are already supporting Adopt a Firehouse and have a link to legitimate charities.

Mark light emailed Bill Walton that there is a request for equipment from Mississippi. He will forward it to the Board.

### **Leadership Summit**

All of the Board members are registered. Individuals must make their own hotel reservations. The Board and 5 State Meeting is Sunday.

### **Five State Meeting**

The Board agreed that we will have a 5 state meeting on the Sunday after the Leadership Summit at a nearby DCFD Station. The secretary recommend a start time of 9:00 AM. The Board approved the time of 9:00 AM. Mike Chiamonte said James Lee Witt wishes to attend the meeting and discuss the ICC Code changes. Ted Lowden said the meeting might be totally taken up by the Katrina issues. Mike will ask him to hold his presentation. Bill Walton said Witt is heavily involved in Louisiana and may not be there anyway. The Secretary will make arrangements for lunch.

### **Committee Reports:**

#### **Fire Service Excellence Award**

(History from previous minutes - Mike Chiamonte reported he sent out a proposal for the Board's review. Bill Walton commented on the idea that it should not necessarily be awarded annually and that it does not need to be a fire company or fire service organization. Bill Walton also suggested that the EDIAFC could also nominate candidates. Ken Pienkowski suggested including specific dates for when nominations would be accepted as opposed to using the Valor requirements. Mike Chiamonte agreed with the concept and offered to revise the dates to reflect the fiscal year.

President Chiaramonte discussed budget issues. Les suggested that Del Marva Power may be an additional sponsor to help defer the costs.) **There was a motion by Showmaker and second by Watson to move forward with the award. Approved unanimously.** Les will email Bill Askenstedt information to draft a funding request from Del Marva.

### **2006 EDIAFC Conference**

The Marriot where we usually stay has only 25 rooms available for Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Their price averages \$84.00 per room. The Radisson can give us 40 rooms per night, which is about what we will need on Friday and Saturday. (hopefully more). That is the hotel where we had the cocktail reception in 2004. Their rooms are \$99.00 each. The Board opted to work with the Radisson for the rooms.

### **Old Business**

Mike Chiaramonte said he has been having trouble finding out when committee representatives need to be appointed. Bill Askenstedt said Dan Lane and Bob Stahl were looking into it.

### **New Business**

#### **Endorsement of Candidate for the ICC Board of Directors**

Ronald Piester, RA, Director  
New York State Department of State  
Division of Code Enforcement and Administration  
41 State Street - 11th floor  
Albany, New York 12231

Mike stated that Ron was in the process of becoming a member of the IAFC. The Secretary said NYS AFC his endorsing him. **Motion by Showmaker and second by Walton to endorse Ron Piester for the ICC Board position he is seeking. Approved unanimously.**

### **New Safety Committee**

Dan Gaumont from NY has recommended adding a life safety committee to the EDIAFC. His letter was distributed to the Board previously. Mike Chiaramonte suggested the job description for the committee members would be that they are the liaisons to the states on safety issues. They should work with state safety committees and they should promote safety issues and events. Mike envisions the group to be responsible to us. Mike recommended two other members besides Dan Gaumont be on the committee.

Ted Lowden said there was an entire section dedicated to safety and maybe that was the better place to handle the safety issue. Other Board members echoed his position. The Board opted to leave the issue with the IAFC Section.

### **Raising the EDIAFC gas mileage allocation to the current federal level**

**There was a motion by Lowden and a second by Warrick. To reimburse mileage at the current federal rate in place on the date of the trip. Motion was approved unanimously.**

Mike Chiaramonte said there is a task force deployment bill being created and pushed by Senator Schumer from New York. Mike and Bill Askenstedt orchestrated a conference call between Ken LaSala of IAFC and Tom LaSala from New York. There are differences in the IAFC and New York language desires. New York is complaining that the IAFC is dragging their feet. Ken LaSala sent two requests for language changes to New York for their review. If approved, IAFC will support the bill. Mike will act as liaison between IAFC and NYS AFC.

### **IAFC C&B Committee:**

IAFC President Bill Killen announced his intention to re-appoint Ken Pienkowski as the IAFC C&B Committee Member at Large and to appoint Jon Townley as the new EDIAFC representative. Both were our recommendations. Bill has directed Garry Briese to draft the appointment letters.

**FRI 2006 Conflicts**

Jim Watson said next year, Delaware will have a conflict between their conference and FRI. He said we will need to work on our FRI schedule for the Division because Delaware people will be leaving early.

**Visiting Firefighter**

Ted Lowden has a Polish Firefighter visiting him and observing his department. Ted is trying to get him into Cranston Heights for a tour of duty as well. Poland has similar career/volunteer issues in their country

**Meeting adjourned**