

Minutes EDIAFC Conference Call Jan. 22, 2006 - 7:00 P.M.

Present: Askenstedt, Walton, Watson, Lowden, Pienkowski, Chiaramonte, Gouty, Showmaker, Warrick, Stahl

Absent: Cohan,

Minutes: The board received the minutes from the conference calls of 10/16/05 & 11/13/05 and the Board Meeting of 11/05/05.

There was a **motion** by Pienkowski and a second by Gouty, to approve the minutes of the 10/16/05 conference call. **Motion passed.**

There was a **motion** by Pienkowski, and a second by Gouty, to approve the minutes of the 11/05/05 Board Meeting in Washington, DC. Motion passed.

There was a motion by Pienkowski, and a second by Gouty, to approve the minutes of the 11/13/05 conference call. **Motion passed.**

Secretary Treasurer Report: No Report.

Conference Calls: Remember the new conference call phone number is: **1-866-809-4014** and the code is **2730202**. The proposed schedule for 2006 Conference calls is as follows:

Feb 12, Mar 12, Apr 23, May 21, Jun 11, Jul 16, Aug 13, Oct 15, Nov 12, Dec 17

September is omitted because we are at FRI. Otherwise, all of the calls are Sunday at 7:00 PM. They are scheduled for the Sunday following the IAFC BOD conference calls except for April and May where they fall on Easter and Mother's Day. In those months, I pushed them back a week to avoid the holiday. This does not mean we need to have a call every month. We can decide that as we go. I suggest that we say that there will be a call on each of the dates unless cancelled. That will avoid any confusion.

IAFC Report

Bill Walton had no report.

Committee Reports:

No reports.

Old Business

Fire Service Excellence Award

Les Warrick obtained the \$1,000.00 sponsorship from Del Marva and forwarded the check to the Secretary along with a very nice letter.

A date and means for rolling the award out needs to be determined. The Board decided to have the committee work on this. Mike Chiaramonte said he would like to have a conference call with the Committee. The Board also agreed to start the award in June 2007. Bill Walton asked if the \$1,000 sponsorship was an annual sponsorship. Les thought Del Marva would be an annual sponsor. Les will send Bill the Del Marva logo for publicity purposes.

Les Warrick discussed the fact the First Bankers has dropped their support for the Valor Award. Bill Askenstedt confirmed that VFIS was still on board.

2006 EDIAFC Conference

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. I have signed the contracts and returned them. The Radisson has confirmed our rooms. We will get two comp nights for speakers and the use of the hospitality suite at no charge as before.

Ted Lowden reported there was not much new at this point. Jim Watson said his Fire Department will be a sponsor for \$500.

New Business

National Mutual Aid System

Ted Lowden reported that he had sent out a written report. He added that he strongly promoted the issue of using volunteers and that the system would fail if they did not include volunteers. Ted said there was much discussion about workers comp and insurance issues. Ted said he was surprised that the USFA already seems to have their plans in place as a done deal. Ted thought the plan as developed was not going to succeed. He commented on the lack of plans among the states for out of state mutual aid.

Ted said there were states without statewide certification programs and the USFA seemed surprised to learn these things. Use of the Forestry Service was considered by the task force, but there needs to be a broadening of their abilities in moving apparatus and some other areas. The Task Force also looked at a way to permanently fund the EMAC System.

Mike Chiaramonte asked Ted what he saw as the potential for success of the MASTF. Ted explained a little bit of how EMAC worked. Ted said EMAC was courting the fire service as an ally. He said the advantage of partnering with EMAC was that they already have 49 states in written mutual aid agreements. Any new system would need to redo those agreements.

Ted said that there have been some consensus agreements already in place for credentialing. Bill Walton said there was already a committee formed for credentialing in the wake of 911. That committee has already developed some criteria. Ted said the MASTF committee was leaning toward performance based credentials. Ted also explained that the credentialing discussion was about qualifications and not about security issues.

Jim Watson said Delaware may be a test area for the Mutual Aid System and the state of Delaware was going to fund credentials for all Delaware firefighters. Mike Chiaramonte thanked Ted for his efforts and said he was encouraged by some progress. Ted concluded by saying that ID cards were something the committee was in favor of. The cards to include drivers license, qualifications and ATM abilities as Delaware was proposing.

Bill Walton explained the operation of EMAC and said that it operated differently than normal fire service mutual aid. EMAC employed a bidding system and did not always move the closest people to the incident. Ted said in initial stages, EMAC would operate on emergency response mode and would reserve their bid response for long term deployments once the initial emergency needs are met. Bob Stahl thought that Charlie Dickerson from USFA was speaking the DHS party line and not necessarily his view.

EDIAFC Board Meeting Date Selection

Possible dates are February 11 or March 11, 18 or 25. The Board opted not to schedule a meeting and keep March 18th open for a possible extra conference call.

5 State Meetings

Discussion of involving Firemen's Associations and dates for a future meeting. Tabled.

Correspondence

We received a very nice letter from Ron Piester who we endorsed for an ICC Board Seat. He was elected to a one year term and expressed his thanks. Ron said he was honored to represent us and will work tirelessly on our behalf.

We also received a thank you card from Les and Sandy for our donation to the Ronald McDonald house.

James Watson submitted a letter declaring himself a candidate for President of the EDIAFC in 2006.

FRI Schedule

The Board reviewed the schedule for FRI. The consensus was to have a lunch on Thursday and to cut the number down from previous years. Jim Watson will let the Board know if he wants to schedule a Board meeting in Dallas. It appears that Board attendance at FRI will be very limited.

FRI Booth

The Secretary reported that he had received correspondence from IAFC informing the Division that booth space was allocated for all Divisions at FRI. The Board discussed operating a booth. The Secretary suggested we decline the booth. The Board agreed.

Good of the Order

The Secretary reported that the Walker Fire department was having a reception to honor Charles Hungerford, Past President and Past Secretary Treasurer of the EDIAFC. The event is on Saturday, February 25th in Hilton, NY.

There was a **motion** by Warrick and a second by Watson to send a plaque. **Motion passed unanimously.** Mike will have the plaque made and Ken will attend to present it.

NY Line of Duty Death Meeting

Mike Chiamonte stated New York State is having a meeting on line of duty deaths. Ken will attend representing the EDIAFC. Mike would like to have Division and the other states get involved.

Valor Committee

Les needs any names and address changes for each state for Valor Award letters, if they have changed.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15