

**Minutes - EDIAFC Board Meeting
June 2, 2006
Evesham Township, NJ**

The Meeting was called to order by President Chiaramonte at 9:00 A.M. on Friday, June 1, 2006.

President Michael Chiaramonte	Present
1 st Vice President James Watson	Present
2 nd Vice President Robert Stahl	Absent
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: Roger Steger MFCA, David See Salisbury Md., Steve Miller VCOS, Tucker Dempsey, DSFCA, Dan Lane ICC, Tim Wall VCOS, Jack Ferguson, Tom Rohfling and Pat Hilpi Philadelphia Convention and Visitors Center, Jack Parrow and Larry Grorud, IAFC 2nd VP candidates for 2007.

Past Presidents: Jon Townley

IAFC Officers: President William Killen

IAFC Staff: Joelle Fishkin

Committee Chairs: Les Warrick - Memorial and Valor Committees, Jon Townley, C&B Committee.

Minutes:

There was a **motion to approve the minutes of the 05/21/06 Conference Call** by Walton and a second by Gouty. **Motion approved unanimously.**

OFFICERS REPORTS

President Chiaramonte's Report

The President informed the Board that he would like to have an Executive Session later in the meeting..

1st Vice President Watson's Report:

No Report.

2nd Vice President Stahl's Report:

Absent.

International Director Walton's Report:

Bill Walton reported Dave Paulison was confirmed as FEMA Director. He said the hearing had some rough spots, but the confirmation went quickly. Ken Burris, former IAFC Treasurer spoke to the IAFC Board about Capitol Hill politics and how they work. Ken was also a former FEMA employee. Bill discussed the large amounts of money spent by the IAFF. He said the IAFC is less political. Ken Burris implied that the IAFC needed to get more politically involved.

Ken Pienkowski asked if the IAFC has discussed starting a PAC. Bill felt it was not an immediate consideration for the IAFC. Dan Lane from ICC said that political activity has hurt some organizations in their fund raising efforts. Ted Lowden said that if groups don't get involved they are viewed as having no influence. Ted said part of Fire Chief professional development was learning how to be politically savvy. Several Board members commented on the needs to be active politically.

Bill Walton suggested the Eastern appoint a committee to coordinate political action within the states.

Bill reported the IAFC now has 8.7 million in assets. The IAFC is administering many federal grants amounting to over \$2 million in grants last year. Mike Chiamonte said that the IAFC staff is over worked and asked why the IAFC did not hire more people if the financial status is so good. Mike also said talented people were leaving because of what they get paid. Bill answered that the Board understands that the staff works very hard and said the Board has started an incentive program for staff members. Bill said the IAFC has been a good career stepping stone for employees to attain higher positions.

Bill Walton suggested the Division take a written position to the IAFC Board regarding hiring additional staff.

The IAFC Board adopted a policy of zero tolerance for discrimination. Mike Chiamonte said the policy should include discrimination against volunteers.

Bill Walton reported that the IAFC Board took a position on leaving the GPO. Bill spoke of the letter from Darley suggesting the IAFC leave the GPO. Bill Walton made a motion for the IAFC to leave the GPO and to have the Division's reevaluate their involvement with the GPO. The motion passed. Bill said the IAFC was generating little revenue and few members.

Bill discussed the site selection process and informed the Board that Dallas will remain in the rotation. Atlanta will be the next conference after Dallas. The IAFC asked New Orleans to switch years and New Orleans would not negotiate the dates and so the IAFC opted to buy out and move to Atlanta. Atlanta offered incentives that covered the but out costs for New Orleans. Ted Lowden commented on the amount of support the IAFC sent to New Orleans and thought they should have been more reasonable with the IAFC.

Les Warrick commented that the movement of the dates to September was much more of a problem

than the actual site selection. He felt the Board should be more vocal about the date selection. Ken asked what the next Dallas conference dates would be. Bill said the conference would move back to August. Bill was unsure if the dates for future conferences were all set at this time.

Mike Chiramonte said Garry Briese did not seem concerned about the conflicts created by the dates.

Joselle Fishkin said the IAFC favored the August dates as opposed to September.

Bill Askenstedt introduced guests from the Philadelphia Convention and Visitors Bureau. The PCVB handles all of the conventions that come into the city of Philadelphia. Jack explained that there are many new attractions in the city. There is a new state of the art convention center that opened in 1993. It is being expanded and will have a total of nearly 700,000 square feet of space. There are new hotels.

There is a customer satisfaction agreement between the city and the unions. Philly has hosted the Chiefs of Police and that association has put the city into the 5 city rotation. The city's six unions at the convention center have worked together to try to find ways to deliver needed labor as a single bargaining group. There will be a single labor management body that oversees all of the labor unions in the city.

Booths under 300 square feet will be allowed to set up themselves except that they can not use power equipment or vehicles. Labor will be paid straight time for the first 8 hours regardless of what time the work is done. Standby labor will not be charged unless you use the particular trade. Stewards are working staff, not simply administrators. Personal computers can be brought in without union labor.

Philadelphia has excellent transportation access and a rapidly improving airport. Philly has 7,000 rooms in walking distance of the convention center. There is no need for a lot of buses to move people. The downtown area is a safe area. There are many and varied dining venues and many places to visit as tourist attractions.

Mark Showmaker thanked the visitors.

The IAFC is working on branding everything as IAFC and eliminating all references to "ICHIEFS"

The STM will be in McLean VA. Bill hopes the entire Board will attend.

Bill addressed the "Stand Down" for safety which will be June. He stated that the safety issue had to be addressed from the top down.

Immediate Past President Cohan's Report:

Secretary Treasurer Askenstedt's Report:

Treasurers Report: See attached

Membership Report: See attached.

Correspondence:

The secretary read correspondence as follows;

Letter of intent to run for President of EDIAFC - James Watson

Letter of intent to run for 1st VP of EDIAFC from Robert Stahl

Letter of intent to run for 2nd VP of EDIAFC from Jack Gouty

Letter from Jim Broman thanking the Eastern Division for their endorsement of his candidacy for IAFC 2nd VP in 2006 and asking everyone to be sure to vote.

Letter from NYSAFC endorsing Ken Pienkowski for re-election as the New York State Director. The Secretary clarified that Ken is in the middle of a two year elected term and is not up for re-election this year.

Letters of endorsement for James Watson for President of the EDIAFC for 2006-07 from Wilmington Manor VFD, New Castle County Fire Chiefs Association and Delaware Fire Chiefs Association

Letters of endorsement for Jack Gouty for 2nd VP of the EDIAFC 2006-07 from Jessup Vol. Fire Company, Anne Arundel County Fire Chiefs Association and Maryland State Fire Chiefs Association

Delaware Director Warrick's Report:

See attached.

Maryland Director Gouty's Report:

See attached.

New Jersey Director Lowden's Report:

See attached.

New York Director Pienkowski's Report:

See attached.

Pennsylvania Director Showmaker's Report:

See attached.

COMMITTEE REPORTS**L**

Memorial Committee: Les reported all is in order for the Memorial Service. It was clarified that only member chiefs are recognized.

C&B Committee: Jon Townley reported he and Ken Pienkowski attended the IAFC C&B meeting in Washington. His report is attached to the minutes. There are no Eastern By Laws changes for this conference. There are two IAFC By-laws changes proposed. The IAFC C&B and IAFC Board both support the By-Laws amendments. Those amendments are defined in the attached report.

Mike Chiaramonte said there are a lot of changes coming in the way people will vote electronically. He explained that there will be a test email sent out to verify that members have valid email addresses. Those who do, will get electronic ballots, those who do not will get paper ballots. Life members must

request ballots or they will not get one.

Codes Committee:

Dan Lane from ICC reported that the regional code action committee met in New York and they proposed 14 code changes. Many have made it to the national level. The 2007 code changes meeting will be in Rochester, NY. There will be an effort to get a lot of fire service people to attend and support sprinkler changes. FDNY is now represented on the code committee.

Joelle said there will be a program on residential sprinklers at FRI. It will be a panel discussion style seminar.

Communications Committee: Mike Granados, the chairman has moved to California. There was no report

Conference Committee: The ladies program will leave from the fire station after the conclusion of the Memorial Service. We have new sponsors including Philadelphia and some generated by Mark in PA.

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

Elections Committee: The Secretary reported that nominations for President, 1st VP, and 2nd VP were sent to Elections Chair Larry Vaughan. Larry has received the letters and will forward the committee findings.

Valor Committee: Les Warrick reported the winners were again from Washington DC. The award was for four fighters who rescued on of their own who fell down and elevator shaft . Jim Watson and Les will go to DC to make the presentation. Mike thanks the committee

VCOS: Steve Miller reported that there was an error on the VCOS web site regarding the deadline for nominations for the VCOS Board. The deadline is June 15 and not May 15. Steve will be proposing a By-Law change to move it to 90 days rather than 120 days from the FRI conference.

Tim Wall commented on the activity of the Eastern Members in VCOS committees.

OLD BUSINESS

NY LODD - Ken Pienkowski reported he has been attending the meetings representing the Division and has been forwarding the minutes to the Board through the Secretary. The EDIAFC is recognized as a partner in the program. Ken said about 50% of the NY departments still don't give physicals.

Mike Chiaramonte asked what Ken thought the Eastern Division's involvement might lead. Ken answered that he saw the Eastern getting name recognition. He also saw the Eastern as a program distributor. Ted Lowden said we should stay involved. The Board agreed to continue participation.

Fire Rescue GPO:

Mike Chiaramonte asked Board to make a final decision on what to do with the GPO. The Treasurer informed the board about the revenues received to date. Mark Showmaker made a motion that the Division not renew our contract when it expires in October. There was a second by Bill Walton. Bill Askenstedt explained the new implications of IAFC pulling out. There was discussion that we would be in conflict with the parent board and discussion that there has been little progress on GPO improvements.

The consensus was that the Division would not renew in October. The board would need to act by motion if the contract were to be renewed.

FRI Luncheon

Our Board approved the FRI luncheon for 2006. It will be on Friday and will be a rodeo lunch for 100 people on a first come first serve. There will be a hospitality room in the Anatole Hotel.

NEW BUSINESS

Fire Corps

Tim Wall made a presentation on Fire Corp which is part of Citizen Corp. Fire Corp is the concept of using civilian non-fire people to do non-fire duties. There are 455 registered programs in the US. Tim believes there are many more that are not registered and he encouraged people who have programs to register. The concept is used in both career and volunteer departments. Tim distributed a cd with information on how to get started in the program. He also said there was a web site and speakers were available to come to meetings and discuss the concept.

Tim requested the Eastern Division to embrace the Fire Corp program. He listed numerous things which volunteer Fire Corp people could be used for. The program is also funded through DHS grants.

MASTF: Ted reported that the next meeting will be June 30 and July 1 in Mobile, Alabama. He believes that will be the last meeting. Ted costs were all covered by his fire department. Ted thanked all of the state directors who helped him gather information and worked hard on the project. Ted felt Eastern made a good contribution to the program. Mike Chiaramonte went on record as President, as thanking Ted and the directors who helped him for their hard work and dedication and a job well done.

Fire Service Excellence Award:

Mike Chiaramonte said he now has an accurate contact list for the committee. He suggested that the Board select a Chairman. Dan Lane volunteered to take on the Committee. The Board decided to keep both the Excellence and Valor Committees the same and that going forward, unless a member wanted to leave.

Maryland Chiefs:

Roger Steger reported that MD increased the fines for moving violations in the state. The money is split between the fire department loan fund and medivac helicopter replacement. Chief David See from Salisbury expressed interest in becoming involved in the EDIAFC. Roger

reported no progress on legislation to get Casino money for fire departments. President Chiaramonte invited the leadership of all the state chiefs to attend IAFC Board Meetings.

Jack Gouty suggested that we need to determine why attendance from the states has dropped off. It was consensus that timing of the NY convention and the DE race weekend caused conflicts. Ted Lowden suggested that there needs to be an agenda of substance to attract leadership to attend. He said central location was important and suggested winter months might be a better time. Ted suggested that the meeting should be a forum for how people are accomplishing things in there states.

Ken Pienkowski suggested that the five state meetings should become more of a work shop.

Jack Gouty suggested a program from the NFFF. Ted Lowden suggested staying away from canned programs and keeping more into a workshop type program.

The Board decided to hold the next 5 state meeting on January 20 & 21, 2007. Ted Lowden will see if Evesham is available to host the meeting

Candidates Forum

Chief Larry Grorud from Great Lakes addressed the Board on his candidacy for IAFC 2nd VP in 2007. He is the chief of Janesville, Wisconsin. He is a member of IAFC since 1987. He has chaired the IAFC C&B Committee and is now the Great Lakes Director on the IAFC Board. Larry stated he supports the Eastern's two hatter policy. He encourages his career people to volunteer in their local communities. Larry stated that he felt the IAFC position on two hatters is too weak. Larry requested the Divisions endorsement. Larry said he was campaigning on his record of service with the IAFC.

Mike Chiaramonte questioned Larry Grorud on what his statement about the two hatter issue would. Larry said the IAFC position should be that discrimination against "two hatters" is wrong and the statement should be more forceful. He stated he was not worried about irritating the IAFF.

Ted Lowden asked Larry how his city felt about him taking the position. Larry answered that he his city would provide him as much time as he needed and allow his deputies to run the department in his absence. Larry stated that he felt he needed to remain an active Chief to lead the IAFC.

Chief Jack Parrow from New England was the second candidate to address the Board. Jack the fire chief in Chelsea Mass. He has served as a fire chief in combination and fully career departments. Jack stated he agreed with Larry Grorud on the two hatter issue and felt career firefighters should be allowed to volunteer if they want to. Jack also said the IAFC position was two week.

Jack said he has been on several IAFC committees. He feels that codes are a very import item on his agenda. He supports a strategic plan for the IAFC. He said that more input is needed in the IAFC plan. Jack said communications is very important and believes the IAFC needs to be member drive more than staff or board driven. He believes communications is the key.

Jack said the key to his campaign is that he will retire just prior to assuming the position of President and devote full time to the IAFC as its President. Jack also asked for the Division's endorsement.

Both candidates complimented each other.

Position Statements

The President discussed the list of issues that the Board had discussed which needed to be relayed to the IAFC. The issues include the “Two Hatter” issue, the dates for FRI not being in September, and the addition of staff at IAFC and possibly the increase in salaries to retain staff.

Election Committee Policy Document

Mike Chiaramonte stated that the first draft of the document which the IAFC Election Committee sent out asking Divisions to make policies on how they will handle candidates for office was wrong because it did not clarify that it was not designed to take away Division autonomy. He asked that the Division’s review the recommendations in the document and consider adopting a policy for the Division.

Bill Walton stated that he did not see the need for a policy. He suggested the Division operate as timing and situation dictate.

Ken Pienkowski said candidate speeches deterred people from coming to our FRI lunches or breakfasts.

Mike Chiaramonte stated that he believed only official, filed candidates should be allowed to speak at Division functions.

Ted Lowden said we should be in tune with the what the parent body does.

Bill Askenstedt suggested that the officers should run the Division and that a policy was not needed.

The Board, by consensus agreed not to establish a policy.

VCOS Elections

Delaware Report

Jim Watson said Delaware was having a legislators day at their training center in Dover on Sunday June 25th. He invited the Board to attend if they would like to.

Delaware has implemented a state wide physical fitness program. Jim will share information with anyone who is interested.

Professional Development and Mentoring

Ted Lowden handed out a document from the Professional Development Committee on mentoring. Ted helped develop the document and is using it within his department. The committee will distribute the document when it is approved by the IAFC.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mike Chiaramonte asked the Board how they felt about endorsement of a candidate.

There was a motion by Ken Pienkowski and second by Bill Walton to endorse Larry Grorud. The motion passed unanimously. There was discussion as to how the message was to be conveyed to the members. It was agreed that the chair would announce the Board's vote of endorsement for Larry to the body.

Mike Chiaramonte asked the board if they would support him running for the VCOS Board as a Fire Chief in Long Island while he was living in North Carolina. The consensus was that Mike should not run for the position.

Jack Gouty stated that David See from Salisbury would be interested in running for the VCOS Board seat. Ted Lowden suggested Tucker Dempsey from Delaware. Tucker is not eligible.

The consensus was to support Chief Davis See.

Steve Miller informed the Board that there were four seats and three candidates. No Division may have more than two people. Steve Miller is the only Eastern Member at this time.

The Executive Session was adjourned.

New Business

Jim Watson made a motion that the Board endorse, David See for the VCOS Board. There was a second by Bill Walton. Motion was approved unanimously.

The election will be done by paper ballot just prior to FRI. There will be an election for three (3) year terms and one (1) year term. It is important that all members vote.

Stand Down for Safety

Tim Wall informed the Board that a letter would be coming from the IAFC asking for groups to endorse the Stand Down Day. The letter will have instructions for how to support the Stand Down. It will have templates to assist in writing endorsements.

Tim also asked the Division and the states to support Fire Corps. There is a training program to teach people to do presentations about Fire Corp

IAFC President Killen

Chief Killen reminded the Board that "Job 1" is getting exhibit attendance at FRI in Dallas. Bill said he knew that there were conflicts with DE and NJ. He asked the other states to help make up a potential loss of up to 1,000 members. There will be free admission to the exhibits for any military personnel.

Ken Pienkowski asked how registration was compared to prior years. Bill said that it was too early to tell. Ken pointed out that September also conflicted with school being in session.

Bill Killen explained that Dallas was very popular with the vendors.

President Killen said that "Job 2" was increasing membership. He stated that he is working to retain life members who don't apply for life membership even though they are eligible based on their prior service. He also said that he wanted to involve young, up coming fire officers in the Association.

The IAFC is doing away with the term Past President and is calling all previous Presidents by the term "President", followed by their year of service. They are also involving and utilizing the past Presidents for their experience and knowledge.

Chief Killen said that DHS has said they are ready for the up coming hurricane season. Chief Killen said he does believe that is the case. He pointed out how much the IAFC is doing for the departments affected by Katrina, particularly New Orleans. He said things remain terrible in Louisiana. He asked that departments who had funds available, send supplies rather than money to New Orleans.

Chief Killen complimented the MASTF task force on the job they did. There were 6 recommendations made in the report and the IAFC Board accepted the report and all 6 recommendations.

The IAFC has had a good working relationship with legislators on Capital Hill. Bill said Ken LaSala is doing an excellent job with legislative services.

The IAFC Executive Board is working with the IAFF and the National Sheriffs Association. Bill feels that there will be a future meeting with the IAFC, the sheriffs, and the IACP.

The 2006 Secretaries meeting included an orientation meeting for Division and Section Officers.

The IAFC will hold its first Executive Board Meeting in Canada.

The IAFC will be sending a delegation of Fire Chiefs to Israel to learn about the Israeli methods for dealing with terrorism. The delegation will include Chiefs from 6 selected metro cities and people from the Terrorism and Hazmat Sections. President Killen selected the delegates who will be going. One of the selections was Kelvin Cochran. Chief Killen said Kelvin's selection was not meant to influence the upcoming election.

President Killen said the IAFC has made provisions to give complimentary membership to any military personnel who are called up to active duty if their city did not pay their dues while they were gone.

Ted Lowden said that the IAFC helped push the MASTF report because the IAFC gave the direction and time lines and then got out of the way and let the task force work. Ted also said that the IAFC was doing well by taking care of its members and he cited the IAFC efforts in New Orleans and for the military personnel as examples.

Endorsements

President Chiaramonte explained that the Eastern Board typically endorsed candidates for 2nd VP. There was a **motion by Ken Pienkowski and a second by Jack Gouty that the Board endorse Larry Grorud for 2nd Vice President of the IAFC in 2007.**

Jack Gouty said that on Sunday June 11, in Annapolis, there will be a dedication of the new Maryland Fallen Firefighters Memorial.

Ken Pienkowski thanked Bill Askenstedt for his efforts for as Secretary over the past year and he also said the Board should do something to express its appreciation for Mary Lowden for all of her efforts in helping out with the running of the conference.

Mike Chiaramonte suggested a resolution from the Division thanking her. Bill Walton made a **motion to give a \$200.00 gift certificate to Mary Lowden for her help on the conference.** There was second by Jim Watson. There was an **amendment from Bernie Cohan to also give a gift certificate to Josette Kratz for her help. The motion passed unanimously.**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 P.M.