

Minutes
79th Annual Conference
EDIAFC - June 3, 2006
Evesham, NJ

The Conference was opened at the Evesham Fire Rescue Headquarters, Marlton, NJ on Saturday, June 3, 2006 at 8:30 A.M. by President Michael Chiamonte.

Colors were presented By Burlington County Professional Firefighters Association Local 3091

The President led the Body in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Memorial Service

The Memorial Service was led by Chaplain Phillip Stowell from Burlington County, New Jersey with assistance from Past President Bernie Cohan, and 1st Vice President James Watson. (See Memorial Program in the Conference Program Book).

Welcome - President Michael Chiamonte

Chief Chiamonte called the conference to order and welcomed everyone to the conference. He thanked Chief Ted Lowden for doing such a great job preparing for the conference.

Chief Chiamonte introduced IAFC President William Killen and Joelle Fishkin, from IAFC staff.

Past Presidents Introduction

Chief Chiamonte introduced the Past Presidents in attendance: Larry Vaughan, Greg Turrell, Jon Townley, Charles Hungerford, Bernie Cohan, Larry Wood & Bill Walton

Keynote Address

The Keynote address was given by Chief Ron Kanterman of the IAFC Industrial Chiefs Section and Hazmat Section. Chief Kanterman spoke on "You Cant' Know Where You Are Going Until You Know Where You Have Been".

Welcome -Chief Thaddeus Lowden - Host Chief - Evesham Fire Rescue

Chief Lowden welcomed the Division to Evesham and recognized the conference sponsors. Ted introduced Mayor Tamburro from Evesham.

Welcome - Honorable Mayor Augustus Tamburro Esq., Evesham Township, NJ.

Mayor Tamburro welcomed the attendees of the 79th conference to Evesham Township and gave his best wishes for a successful conference.

Philadelphia Convention & Visitors Bureau

There was a video and power point presentation by Mr. Tom Rohlfing of the Philadelphia Convention & Visitors Bureau on FRI 2010 which will be held in Philadelphia. PCVB is sponsoring the banquet at this conference.

BUSINESS SESSION

At 10:45 the conference reconvened and the Business Session was opened.

The President introduced the Board and Head Table.

Roll Call:

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

President's Report - President Michael Chiaramonte

See attached report. The President thanked the Board for their efforts during his administration.

1st Vice President's Report —1st Vice James Watson

See attached report.

2nd Vice President's Report - 2nd Vice President Robert Stahl

See attached report.

International Director William Walton

See attached report. Bill Walton spoke about the IAFC involvement with the New Orleans FD. The IAFC has provided staff, funds and supplies to New Orleans and continues to assist them.

Bill reported that Chief David Paulison has been confirmed as the new FEMA Director and Bill asked for support for Dave.

Bill spoke about a bill for firefighter and EMS responder's job protection which would secure the jobs of emergency services people who are deployed by the military.

Treasurer's Report William Askenstedt: See attached report:

Secretary Report William Askenstedt: See attached report:

Membership: See attached report:

Update on FRI Dallas

Hospitality Room is at the Anatole Hotel

The EDIAFC Lunch is on Thursday, September 14 at 11:30 AM in the Convention Center.

Correspondence

The secretary read correspondence as follows;

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.

The Secretary urged members to keep their email addresses current, to read the Daily Dispatch and to visit the Division Web Site. He also asked members to submit material about their states for the web site and the Dispatch.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Valor Committee

See attached report. Les requested that nominations be sent to the Secretary Treasurer for the next year. He noted he was stepping down as the Committee Chair and asked for volunteers to work on the committee. Washington DC firefighters won this year's award. Les and President Watson will make the presentation next week in Washington.

Excellence Committee

President Chiamonte announced the launching of Excellence Award and stated that Dan Lane will be the new Chairman.

Constitution and By-Laws Report

See attached Report.

C&B Committee Chairman Jon Townley read four Resolutions prepared for the Conference.

The First was a Resolution thanking Chief Ted Lowden for his efforts as the host Chief for the conference.

The Second was thanking and Evesham Fire Rescue Department. for hosting the 79th annual conference.

The Third was a Resolution recognizing and thanking Chief Michael Chiaramonte for his service as a member of the EDIAFC Board and as President of the EDIAFC for 2005-2006. The resolution was moved and seconded and passed unanimously.

The Fourth was a resolution recognizing Benjamin Rizzo as a friend and supporter of the Eastern Division.

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 James A. Watson, DE

1st Vice President, Chief Robert Stahl, PA

2nd Vice President, Chief Jack Gouty, MD

There was a **motion** by Bernie Cohan and a second by Roger Steger. to have the Election Chair cast one vote for Chief Jack Gouty for 2nd Vice President. **The Motion passed unanimously.**

There was a **motion** by Mark Showmaker and a second by Greg Turrell to have the Election Chair cast one vote for Chief Robert Stahl for 1st Vice President. **The Motion passed unanimously.**

There was a **motion** by Bill Walton and a second by Les Warrick to have the Election Chair cast one vote for Chief James Watson for President. **The Motion passed unanimously.**

Candidates for 2007 IAFC 2nd Vice President

Jack Parrow - Candidate for IAFC 2nd Vice President in 2007

Jack announced that he was a candidate for IAFC 2nd Vice President in 2007. He distributed cards and explained his background his background. He stated he was seeking the Division's endorsement.

Larry Grorud - Candidate for IAFC 2nd Vice President in 2007

Larry announced his candidacy for IAFC 2nd Vice President in 2007. He distributed cards and explained his background. Larry chaired the IAFC Constitution and By-laws Committee and is currently on the IAFC Board representing the Great Lakes Division. He stated he was seeking the Division's endorsement.

VCOS Elections

Mike Chiaramonte introduced Tim Wall, Chairman of the VCOS Section, Steve Miller a current VCOS Board member from the Eastern Division and the current 1st Vice President of VCOS, and David See, Fire Chief from Salisbury, Maryland who is a candidate for the VCOS Board in 2006. Mike explained the ballot process for VCOS and encouraged all members to vote.

Steve Miller thanked the Division for supporting his election to the VCOS Board.

Steve VCOS has been active on the Hill. The two hatter issue is still a key issue. Steve encouraged people to attend the symposium in Florida and to attend the VCOS Leadership Series of courses.

Mike Chiaramonte thanked Steve for his work during the past year.

Tim Wall stated that the nominations for VCOS Board positions will close June 15th and ballots will come out shortly after that. Mike Chiaramonte stressed the importance of voting and getting others to vote. Mike explained that Divisions are allowed up to two people per division on the VCOS Board. Steve Miller already holds one of the two Eastern seats.

Chief David See thanked the Division for endorsing him as a VCOS Board candidate. David provided an overview of his background and his department in Salisbury. He is the Chief of a combination department and strong supporter of the volunteer fire service.

Chief Tim Wall thanked the Division for their hospitality and for their support for his election to the office of President of VCOS. He asked members to get involved in VCOS and to share information that might help others. Tim thanked Eastern members who have served on VCOS Committees.

IAFC Elections

Mike Chiaramonte said there are a lot of changes coming in the way people will vote in IAFC elections. 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 who wish to vote, must request ballots or they will not get a ballot. Once a life member requests a ballot the first time, he will always get one and will not have to request a ballot again in future years.

Mike stated that it was crucial that Eastern Members vote. The influence of the Division depends on how many people from the Division vote

IAFC & IAFC Foundation Reports

Chief Killen thanked the Eastern for the support they gave him when he ran for 2nd Vice President

President Killen stated that the IAFC is the entire team, not the officers or the staff.

President Killen talked about IAFC efforts in Washington. He noted their work on supporting the Fire Grants, the Safer Act, sprinkler bills and volunteer job protection for military deployments. Bill pointed out that membership numbers directly relate to legislative influence. He also commented that many members of the IAFC do not vote and they need to get involved. Chief Killen urged people to help grow membership.

Chief Killen reported on the IAFC Foundation. The IAFCF is now being operated out of IAFC Headquarters in Fairfax and the IAFC is providing free staff support for the IAFCF. He urged members to support the IAFCF financially and to get the word out about the availability of scholarships for members of the fire and emergency services.

A collection was made for the IAFC Foundation

President Watson directed the States to hold their Caucuses before breaking for lunch. Following the caucus meetings, the conference adjourned for lunch. It was reconvened at 1300 hours by President Watson

State Caucus Results

New Jersey re-elected Ted Lowden as their Director and elected Lee Daniker and Bryan Ward to the Valor Committee.

Pennsylvania elected Jay Kay and Robert Edwards to the Valor Committee. The PA caucus also asked the Division to support them by opposing the Department of Justice appeal in the Chris Kangas LODD decision.

New York re-elected Greg Turrell and Al Mignone to the Valor Committee. New York also endorsed Larry Grorud for IAFC 2ND VP in 2007. New York thanked Mike Chiaramonte for his service as President

Delaware re-elected Les Warrick as Director and re-elected Kevin Wilson and Grover Ingle to the Valor Committee. Delaware endorsed Larry Grorud for IAFC 2ND VP in 2007. Delaware thanked Ted Lowden and Evesham for hosting the conference.

Maryland elected Pete Mellits from Bowie as their new Director and elected Stephen Reid and Pete Mellits to the Valor Committee. Maryland also endorsed David See for the VCOS Board

Technical Sessions

The first educational program was on **“Risk Assessment - Understanding the Chief Officer’s Role”** presented by Deputy Chief William Shouldis of the Philadelphia Fire Department.

The second educational session was on **“Cultural Combat Tactics”** presented by Chief I. David Daniels, MHRM, MIFireE, of the Fulton County, Georgia Fire Department.

OLD BUSINESS

President Watson called for any old business to come before the body. There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

IAFC Staffing

President Watson reported the Eastern Board has discussed IAFC staff and reached a consensus that the IAFC was understaffed and that the staff all worked very hard. The Board questioned whether the IAFC could afford to hire additional staff to ease the work load. The Board also discussed the possibility of higher pay scales at IAFCHQ to help keep good employees in a competitive job market.

There was a motion by Mike Chiaramonte and a second by Roger Steger to request that the IAFC Board review the staffing levels at IAFC. The motion was approved

unanimously.

President Killen asked that the Division communicate specific circumstances to the IAFC Board, where the Division felt the staffing issues were problematic.

FRI Schedule

President Watson explained that the Eastern Board thought it was appropriate to send a letter to the IAFC stating the Division's opposition to having FRI conferences in the month of September and requesting that the IAFC keep FRI in the month of August. The Division will send a letter to the IAFC expressing the opinion of the Division.

Division Endorsements

President Watson informed the members that the Board of Directors had voted to recommend endorsement of Chief Larry Grorud for IAFC 2nd VP in 2007.

There was a motion by Al Mignone and a second by Jon Townley to have the Eastern Division endorse Chief Larry Grorud for IAFC 2nd VP in 2007. The motion was approved unanimously.

Bill Askenstedt asked to amend the motion to include endorsing to endorse Tim Wall and Steve Miller for re-election as President and Vice President of VCOS.

Roger Steger asked to amend the motion further to include an endorsement of David See for the VCOS Board.

The motion was approved unanimously with amendments included.

Chris Kangas Situation

2nd Vice President Robert Stahl reported that the Department of Justice was appealing the recent court decision which qualified Chris Kangas, a Junior Firefighter from Pennsylvania, for line of duty death benefits resulting from his death responding to an alarm on his bicycle. Chris had been denied LODD benefits by the DOJ, but their decision was overturned by the courts. The DOJ appeal is now holding up the LODD benefits again. Chief Stahl cited several incidents where LODD benefits were awarded in similar type incidents

Chief Stahl asked the Division to support LODD benefits for Chris Kangas and oppose the DOJ appeal.

Tim Wall discussed a recent incident in which several junior firefighters were injured in a motor accident in Connecticut.

There was a motion by Stahl and a second by Showmaker to have the EDIAFC go on record as opposing the Department of Justice appeal in the case and to further, ask the IAFC parent body to go on record as being opposed as well. The motion was approved unanimously.

Kurt Weldon Support

There was a motion by Chiaramonte second by Stahl that the Eastern Division go on record as supporting the re-election of Representative Kurt Weldon. The Motion was approved unanimously.

Tim Wall - Fire Corp and Stand Down

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. He also requested that the Division support and participate in the "Stand Down" in June.

IAFC Dues

There was a motion by Ted Lowden and a second by Bernie Cohan that the IAFC look into using technology to achieve costs savings that could ultimately reduce member dues.

Ted Lowden discussed the possibility of using electronic balloting, electronic delivery of "On Scene" and other electronic communications to save the high costs of printing and mailing with the goal being to reduce member dues.

The Motion was approved unanimously.

Larry Grorud thanks for endorsement and hospitality.

Foundation Collection

Chief Askenstedt report that \$318.00 had been collected for the IAFC Foundation.

Joelle Fishken

Chief Askenstedt congratulated Joelle Fishkin from IAFC staff on her recent promotion to Section Manager of the Fire and Life Safety Section and the VCOS.

Legislative Issues

Tony Corria asked what the fire service should be doing to support the Fire Act. President Killen said that the IAFC has solicited Congressman to support restoring the funding to the Fire Act and Safer Act. President Killen told the attendees to communicate to their Congressmen in their home districts. He said members should write to the district offices where they reside. He also suggested using a fax machine as opposed to mail because mail is slowed down by security scanning.

President Watson stated that Steve Austin from Delaware had informed him that there is legislation being planned that would include private ambulance services and hospital based ambulance services into eligibility for the Fire Act Grants and Safer Grants

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Bill Walton announced the fact that President Watson's father Vaughan Watson was a Past President of the EDIAFC and that this was the first time that a father and son have ever been President's of the Division.

80th Annual EDIAFC Conference

May 17, 18 & 19 will be the next conference. It will be a two day conference in Rehoboth Beach, DE. The Board Meeting will be on Thursday the 17th and the conference will be Friday and Saturday the 18th and 19th.

Chief Lowden reviewed the arrangements for the evening and asked the attendees to express their appreciation to the sponsors of the conference. Ted also thanked his officers for helping run the conference.

Adjournment

There was a motion by Chiramonte and a second by Mullholland to adjourn. Motion passed unopposed.