

## **Minutes EDIAFC Conference Call August 13, 2006 - 7:00 P.M.**

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

Minutes: The board received the minutes from the Conference Call of 07/12/06

There was a **motion** by Gouty and a second by Chiaramonte to approve the minutes of the 07/12/06 Conference Call. **Motion passed.**

**Secretary Treasurer Report:** The Secretary reported he had made a site visit to York County to research the possibility of hosting the 2008 EDIAFC Conference there. During the trip he visited three hotels and various venues for social programs and spouses programs.

The secretary recommended that the Board go forward with researching York. The recommended hotel site for the conference was the Heritage Hills Hotel, which is outside of the city limits in a nice area. The hotel offers its own golf course, a driving range, miniature golf, free wireless internet access throughout, good meeting facilities, excellent rooms, nice lounge and dining areas and full banquet and catering services. There is a day spa for the ladies. It is a top shelf facility managed by a volunteer fire chief who also received a Fire Act Grant and was anxious to assist us.

The second hotel looked at were the Yorktown, an historic hotel in the down town area. It was more expensive and the downtown area appeared very depressed. We also visited several of the advertised downtown attractions and found them all to be disappointing and in neighborhoods that did not appear very good.

The third hotel was the Holiday Inn where we stayed. It was okay, had a pool, wireless throughout, decent rooms for functions and all of the required lounges restaurants and catering needs. It was the second choice and slightly cheaper for rooms, but catering services and function rooms and accessories were much higher. They were also not willing to deal at all on prices.

The Hertitage Hills Hotel offers a lot of advantages. One is the location near VFIS. Two is that they have an luxury suite which holds 50 to sixty people. They would set it up for our board meeting during the day and allow us to run our hospitality room or reception there and bring in our own food and drinks for that room. They would also cater lunch and breaks for the board there. Catering menus and facility proposals are included to the board under separate emails.

The Secretary proposed holding a gold outing on Thursday afternoon to include lunch. The package would go for \$75 to \$100 per player and we would make money on it. In addition, we could solicit whole sponsors or a lunch sponsor to make even more money.

On Friday, We could provide a tour of the Harley Davidson plant starting at 8:00 AM and returning to the hotel at 10:30. At that time the Board Meeting would start. Other attendees would be given the afternoon to register for the conference, have lunch on their own and attend two technical sessions in the afternoon. The ladies would have a choice of numerous factory outlets or visiting the full spa in the hotel. In the evening we would hold the opening reception in the President's suite.

Saturday would have the Memorial Service in the morning followed by the business session and technical sessions after lunch. We would provide continental breakfast and lunch. After the memorial service, the ladies would leave for their program. In the evening, we would have the banquet at the hotel in a outdoor, glass enclosed pavilion presently under construction. We would charge our cost for the meal, and get sponsors for the bar and a DJ.

The ladies program would be a bus trip to Moon Dancer Vineyards. We spoke to the owners and they were happy to work with us. The Vineyard has a beautiful french chateau type building with a stone patio overlooking the Susquehanna River. It is a very pretty place. The ladies would get a tour of the vineyard and an explanation of the wine making process, followed by a wine tasting and a lunch on the patio with wines of their choice. We also looked at a presentation by a culinary arts instructor to be done during lunch. The cost would be about \$30.00 and we would get outside sponsor ship to support the costs.

All of the above is simply a proposed outline and all is subject to change. The key issues are getting sponsor dollars and attendance. It will have a great future value if we can pull off a successful conference in a resort setting and fully catered by the hotel. The number of times we can find an Evesham or King of Prussia that will undertake the work involved in hosting a conference is going to be limited. It is my hope that we can put together a conference that is based around a hotel facility that does everything for us without us having to pay for it and with us still making some money on the side.

I also want to put together enough entertainment that we attract more people. I think central location, Harley, golf, a wine tour, factory outlets and a spa combine to offer something for every taste. Families can also combine for an extra day at Hershey or Gettysburg.

I have gotten promises for support from Ed Mann, PFESI and am working on VFIS, and would also like to get the Keystone Chiefs to partner with us for their meeting. Date wise, the entire month of May is available but we must pick dates and lock in quickly if we wish to go forward. We must also work together to all solicit sponsors and we must get some of our members involved in putting pieces of the conference together. We need several working committees to help make this work.

**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:

**Aug 13, Oct 15, Nov 12, Dec 17**

All of the calls are Sunday at 7:00 PM.

**IAFC Report:** Bill Walton was not on the call.

#### **Committee Reports**

**Valor Committee:** Les Warrick reported Steve Reid was willing to except the chairmanship. President Watson agreed to appoint Steve as Chairman.

#### **Old Business**

**Fire Service Excellence Award:** Conectiv pulled their sponsorship for 2006 and gave their \$1,000.00 to the conference instead. The Secretary asked Les Warrick to help Dan Lane establish the connection with Conectiv to regain their sponsorship. Les is working with Dan. The secretary reported that Dan sent out the draft to the committee and will be asking to hold a conference call of the committee soon. At this time, Dan has not met with the committee.

Jack Gouty reported that he might have a sponsor for the excellence award.

#### **2007 EDIAFC Conference:**

Les Warrick reported that there would be a good report by Dallas but things were moving along positively.

**2008 EDIAFC Conference:** See the Secretary's Report.

**NY Line of Duty Death Meeting:**

Ken Pienkowski was not on the call

**Audit:**

President Watson said he spoke to John Townley and he will do the audit. The secretary reported he had talked

**Fire GPO:**

The GPO minutes were distributed to the Board previously. The highlights were;

The Division revenue would double because the Divisions will now get the IAFC share

The GPO will now be open to all fire departments not just IAFC members

Divisions will get a percentage of all sales from their states regardless of whether the department is a member of the Division

A new and improved web site is in the works.

The Secretary reported he received a check for \$1,284.75 from the GPO on Thursday. The states matching share was \$419.48 and the Division received an Additional \$425.79 which represents money that was formerly paid to the IAFC and now is split between the 7 participating Divisions. The net for the Division was \$845.27 and that represents one quarter of the year. This amount is almost double the last quarter and could represent an income of over \$3,000 per year for the Division and around \$1,700.00 for the states even if sales stay flat. With the GPO now open to all purchasers, the numbers could continue to grow.

Presently all of the Divisions are still on the GPO. If income continues to increase and we still expend little or no time and effort, we may wish to continue with the GPO and take advantage of this alternative income source.

**Strategic Planning Meeting**

The secretary registered everyone for the SPM except Ken who cannot attend. Don't forget to make your room reservations soon. Dress code will be discussed in Dallas.

**Chiaromonte Decision**

The Board previously discussed the appointment of a representative to the IAFC Elections Committee. Mike is currently our representative and also chairs the committee. There were many conversations as to whether Mike was still eligible to be our representative because he no longer lives in the division. The Board asked the Secretary to investigate for them and report back before the conference call so that an informed decision could be made.

As a result of the investigation, conflicting reports came back from IAFC President Killen, Garry Briese and the C&B chair Larry Goroud. The C&B as interpreted by Larry places no criteria on who can be appointed by the Division. It does not specify what member status the person has, does not require the person to be an active chief and does not even say that the person must live in the division.

It is therefore apparent that Bill Killen and Garry Briese are both incorrect in their statements. It was also noted that the source of the questions regarding Mike being eligible was written in the IAFC Executive

Minutes which were subsequently changed after our questions. The original minutes quoted Garry as saying the elections committee raised the issue. The revised minutes changed that.

The Secretary reported that as a result of the research he was requested to do, it seems the board can appoint whomever it sees fit and could appoint Mike if that was the desired course. It also was found that the appointment belongs to the Division and cannot be changed by the IAFC President, The Division recommendation is a binding one. Finally, the board requested how the chair was elected. He is elected annually by the committee. Mike would not retain that position simply by being returned to the committee by us. He would have to run for re-election by his committee, so we could lose the chair, even if Mike is our appointee.

Mike Chiaramonte reported that he changed his address back to New York. Mike said that the electronic ballot did not produce great voter turnout. Normally the turnout is over 40% but this year with the electronic ballot, only 29% voted. Mike said the committee was looking to improve voter turnout. He said there were firewall issues with the electronic ballots Mike will have a presentation on the election for Dallas. He would like to stay on the committee.

The Board opted to re-appoint Mike as the Division representative to the IAFC Constitution and By-Laws. Les Warrick made a **motion** to endorse Mike and Jack Gouty seconded it. **Approval was unanimous.**

Mike reported the Eastern voter turnout was 25.4% which was behind most Divisions. The IAFC By-law changes passed by over a 90% majority.

Jack Gouty asked if technical problems with the electronic ballot hurt voter turnout. Mike said a survey is going out to ask members how they liked the electronic ballot.

Les Warrick asked if Kelvin Cochran won the election and why he read it on Command Post instead of in a member alert. Bill and Mike both affirmed that a member alert went out announcing the unofficial results.

**FRI Business:** Jim Watson asked if the Division wanted to make a presentation to Bill Killen in Dallas. Pete Mellits said the Maryland Chiefs were going to make a presentation. Pete Mellits made a motion to present Chief Killen with a plaque. There was a second by Jack Gouty. The **motion** was approved. Mike Chiaramonte will order the plaque.

## **New Business**

### **Cyrencall Proposal:**

The Board discussed the Cyrencall proposal. The Secretary explained that a request had been relayed from Charles Werner of Charlotte, to Roger Steger of the Maryland Chiefs asking for a letter of support for the Cyrencall proposal. Roger in turn, passed it on to the President of the Eastern for consideration.

The request is simply to have letters sent to the FCC asking them to (the FCC) to open a comment period to allow the emergency services to make comment and to review the proposal. We are not being asked to endorse the proposal at this time, although that could follow depending on what comes out of the comment period and the review by emergency services organizations.

Charles Werner has proven to be one of the most knowledgeable members of the fire service when it comes to communications issues. He had been a leader in the interoperability campaign. Since he is simply asking for help in opening the door to have this proposal considered, I would seem in our best interest to support him. At a later date, we can consider if the proposal as a whole merits our support.

There was a **motion** by Stahl and a second by Chiamonte to send a letter to the FCC asking them to open a comment period on the Cyrenall proposal and to have the Secretary obtain the draft language from Chief Werner. **The motion was approved unanimously.**

President Watson said Rick Burch went him a letter saying he is running for IAFC 2<sup>nd</sup> VP for 2008.

President Watson said he received a letter from Chief Killen thanking the Division and many of the Board members for their help during his term as IAFC President.

President Watson said Curt Weldon was having a difficult time in his re-election bid and Jim said the Eastern has gone on record supporting his re-election and sent a letter of support.

Mark Showmaker asked when the VCOS elections results would be out. Mike Chiamonte said the results are not done yet, because the dead line for ballots was not up. Bob Stahl said he also believed the ballot deadline was not up yet.

Mike Chiamonte said that the NFFF was having a meeting related to more safety initiatives. In California in February in California. The Division may be invited.

Mike also reported that Luther Fincher may be a candidate for USFA Administrator.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:06