

Minutes EDIAFC Conference Call March 11, 2007 - 7:00 P.M.

Present: Askenstedt, Walton, Lowden, Chiamonte, Showmaker, Gouty, Mellits, Warrick, Watson, Stahl

Absent: Pienkowski

Minutes: The board received the minutes from the February 11, 2007 Board of Directors meeting

There was a **motion** by Showmaker and a second by Gouty to approve the minutes of the 10/15/06 Conference Call. **Motion passed.**

Secretary Treasurer Report:

Treasurer's Report - The budget for the year is on track for both income and expenses. Membership income is slightly down, but GPO and interest income is doing better than expected to offset that. Overall, expenses will be under budget with the exception of the election costs which were not budgeted.

The two major issues in the budget are the election, which was not budgeted and the Delaware Conference, which I have no idea on how it will impact us financially. This is not a shot at the people from Delaware who are running the conference, who usually do a great job. The simple facts are that we have grown on conference income and we have none this year. We also have no idea of how the conference committee is fairing financially and if the Division will be asked to assist in supporting the conference.

It must be remembered that in previous history, a conference that had zero net dollar affect on our budget was a great thing. Now, it is a very bad thing from a finance stand point, since the conference has become our second larger money maker next to dues.

Currently, we have a \$40,000.00 CD coming due March 16th. If the Board wishes, I can renew it, since we do not have a cash flow issue and we are getting decent interest. I can also hold the CD until after the conference when the election is resolved

The Board recommended reinvesting the money.

Membership Report - As stated, membership is running slightly behind, but not seriously behind. It has been flat for a long time. IAFC reports of growth are somewhat tainted because they keep members on the rolls for 15 months, even if they don't renew. That taints our Division's numbers the worst, because we have large turnover in the volunteer sector.

For example, if a volunteer chief goes out of office December 31st and a new Chief joins the same day. January, February and March membership numbers reflect both chiefs as active members. The reasoning is that they give a grace period for the member to renew, which is not a

bad thing. Most however, don't renew and thus the numbers are skewed. That also is not a bad thing, as long as the people reading them understand that and don't believe their own propaganda.

You might be tempted to say that most chiefs serve January to December and therefore, after, March the numbers should come back to reality. Unfortunately that is not the case. Even though chiefs serve normal years, they paid their dues at all different times for a myriad of reasons and the numbers always stay out of wack all year.

One of the reasons the EDIAFC always had budget problems was the fact that the Board used the IAFC numbers to assess their income anticipation for the coming year. That led to several thousand dollars a year in income shortfalls.

Correspondence:

The following letters were received from candidates for EDIAFC Offices

For 2nd Vice President Ted Lowden

Letters of endorsement for Jack Gouty from MFCA and Anne Arundel County VFA

Robert Stahl is unopposed for President

Jack Gouty is unopposed for 1st President

Ted Lowden is unopposed for 2nd Vice President

Bill Askenstedt and Jon Townley are candidates for Secretary Treasurer

The following correspondence was sent;

A letter was sent to PFD explaining the response received from Motorola over the radio repair issue and asking if there was any thing else they would like to have us do. An email was returned which included their concerns, but there was no request for further assistance. There had been no further communications from PFD since. The Board was copied on an email from Mike Chiamonte which detailed Motorola's efforts in the matter.

Conference Calls: Remember the conference call phone number is: **1-866-809-4014** and the code is **2730202**. All of the calls are Sunday at 7:00 PM. The 2007 schedule is as follows;

Month	IAFC Call	EDIAFC Call
April	12	15
May	10	No call due to Board meeting
June	14	17
July	12	15
August	09	12
September	13	16
October	11	14
November	08	11
December	13	16

IAFC Report:

Bill Walton reported nothing new other than the IAFC minutes that have been sent out. The IAFC has been looking at the issues of the PSBT and job security for volunteers. IAFC has backed off the 30 mhz demand for the PSBT and stepped back to simply say “spectrum, rather than a specific quantity. It is fairly quiet at this time.

Mike Chiamonte reported that confirmation hearings for Greg Cade are coming up on Thursday for the USA Administrator position. Jim Watson reported that Dennis Rubin was now Chief of DC.

Committee Reports

Memorial Committee: Les Warrick reported the Memorial Service Program is in progress and will be ready for the conference.

C&B Committee: Ken Pienkowski was not on the call.

Fire Service Excellence Award

Jim, Les and Bill Walton are supposed to be working on obtaining the actual award. All else is done. Les reported that he is going to a vendor to look for an award. He will have 3 to 4 suggestions, which he will email to the Board for their comments and input. Cost looks to be less than expected.

Old Business

2007 EDIAFC Conference:

President Watson reported the DE conference is ready. There are only 26 registrations thus far, with 43 for the banquet. Jim will fax the agenda to the Board. Friday is the opening ceremony. Garry will do the keynote followed by the memorial service, business and technical sessions. There will be a beach party in the evening. Saturday there will be technical sessions. In the evening will be the banquet.

Friday the ladies will go shopping, lunch and a winery. Saturday they will go to the outlets.

Pete confirmed that the Board Meeting will start at 9:00 AM Thursday and probably run until 4:00, There will be a hospitality room open Thursday evening.

2008 EDIAFC Conference:

The Secretary presented the Board with options for professionally done brochures, to be done by IAFC Staff. Essentially the costs run about \$2,000.00 and \$1,000 for IAFC staff design.

We have received a \$3,000 sponsorship from ACS software for the conference.

FRI Atlanta

Nothing more to report until April

NY Line of Duty Death Meeting:

Ken Pienkowski was not on the call. Mike reported that the program is on hold for personnel

Fire GPO:

The conference call was never held in February. Fastenol has left the GPO for unknown reasons. Mike Chiaramonte has volunteered to be the new GPO Liaison. The Board reviewed Mike's appointment and there was a Motion by Lowden and a second by Mellits to appoint Mike as the new liaison to the GPO.

We received our 4th quarter check from the GPO of \$1,260.44. Approximately 75% goes to the Division and 25% to the state associations. The revenue is down considerably from the third quarter, but since we are still doing nothing for it, every dollar helps.

The secretary reported that believe the GPO is struggling because Crosby Grindle is running it and he is not doing a good job. Last month the conference call was canceled because Crosby forgot to start it. He is involved in several jobs and the GPO is not his priority. In truth however, no one is really pushing the GPO and it is floundering. Without an organized effort, it will flop. The Division should consider the GPO a gift at this point, any time we get revenue, but we

should not count on it a future revenue source. If that is what we want, then every director needs to be going out and learning the GPO and pushing it, something we previously decided not to do.

The year end revenue from the GPO was \$5,636.97. Distribution to the state associations is as follows;

DE \$25.14 MD \$357.76 NJ \$407.93 NY \$542.31 PA \$689.87 Total \$2,022.01

The net for the EDIAFC is \$3,614.96.

The state checks are cut and can be sent out now or presented at the conference in Delaware. The Secretary recommended disbursement at the conference to help promote the GPO.

Fire Corps Mike spoke to Larry Curl and expressed the feelings of the Division. Mike told Larry that we would not be appointing delegates from our states.

New Business

IAFC Leadership Orientation & CFSI

The IAFC Leadership Orientation will be held on March 26 & 27 at the Hilton Garden Inn which is located across the highway from the IAFC Office in Fairfax. The meetings will start on Monday, March 26 at 8:00 A.M. This was formerly known as the Division Secretary's Meeting Bill Askenstedt will represent the Division. Bob Stahl and Jack Gouty will not be attending the Leadership Orientation. Ted Lowden may attend in their place.

President Watson and several Officers will be attending the retirement party for Garry Brieze and presenting the \$500.00 gift card to Garry. The President requested that Eastern Members wear their red jackets if they are attending. CFSI is the following night.

Elections

All of the nominations letters were sent to Larry Vaughan. Larry as not returned any emails thus far. Several attempts have been made. As was stated on the last conference call, the By-laws require the Secretary to design and mail the ballots. In this case however, the Secretary is a candidate and cannot perform that duty. Therefore, that duty falls to the elections committee.

The Secretary previously recommended that the President appoint additional people to the committee to assist with the election. Mike Chiaramonte volunteered to assist. As of this time, there has been no progress report. There has also been no request to the Treasurer for funds to print and mail ballots.

There was a **motion** by Warrick and a second by Showmaker to follow the IAFC election guidelines for allowing candidates to place platforms on the Division website. The mail ballot would refer members to that site. **Motion was approved.**

Windisch Amendment

This is on the agenda as a reminder that this and the VCOS dues increase authorization will both be on the VCOS mail ballot. Mike explained that the amendment changes the elections of Executive officers from a general membership election to an election by the Board itself from the sitting elected members.

ICC Codes Action Committee Appointments

The four current committee members are Robert Stahl, Mark Showmaker, Grover Ingle and George Maney. The Secretary sent an email to the Board on February 16, 2007 recommending reappointment of Bob and Mark and finding replacements for George and Grover. George is no longer an IAFC member since he retired and is no longer eligible, Grover has not attended any meetings in two years.

Bob Stahl said the next meeting conflicts with Firehouse Expo and that will make it difficult to find people to sit on the Board. Bob will try to see if the meeting can be rescheduled.

The decision to appoint four members was tabled until the next meeting.

The application for the EDIAFC to become an ICC Chapter was finally received from ICC. It was completed by the Secretary and sent to President Watson and Vice President Stahl several weeks ago. When it is returned to the Secretary, it will be submitted to ICC.

Mike Chiaramonte announced that he will resign as the election chair at FRI and the Division needs to find a replacement for him.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 P.M.