

Minutes
78th Annual Conference
EDIAFC - May 18 & 19, 2007
Rehoboth Beach, Delaware

The Conference was opened at Fire Station #1 in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware on Friday, May 18, 2007 at 8:00 A.M. by Warren Jones, Conference Chairman

Colors were presented By Sussex County Paramedic Color Guard.

The President led the Body in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Invocation was given by Charles Arnold, a Sussex County Fire Captain

Welcome was given by Mayor Sam Cooper of Rehoboth Beach

Welcome was given by Danny Mitchell, Secretary of the Rehoboth Beach VFD

Welcome was given by David Mitchell, Secretary of Homeland Security for the state of Delaware. Mr. Mitchell spoke of the need for the International Association of Police Chiefs & IAFC to work together. He announced that the city of Wilmington was awarded a 2.2 million dollar grant for a fire boat. Homeland Security is working on 100% coverage for 800mhz throughout the state. They are also getting a med evac helicopter for the state. It will be used for medical transport and the delivery of firefighters in high rise areas. It will be able to transport 11 patients and can land on land or water.

Welcome was given by Dale Dukes, President of Sussex County Council. He stated that their 5 member council includes 2 fire chiefs.

Welcome was given by Carol Eberhardt from the Rehoboth-Dewey Beach Chamber of Commerce.

Warren Jones introduced the officers of the IAFC and EDIAFC. The EDIAFC past presidents were asked to rise. (Larry Vaughan, Jon Townley, Charles Hungerford, Bernie Cohan, Ted Doyle, Barry Dampier, James Seavey & Bill Walton) Warren introduced members of the Delaware Fire Service in attendance. He thanked the Rehoboth Beach VFD for hosting the conference and gave a brief overview of the Rehoboth Department.

Keynote Address: Warren Jones introduced Garry Briese, retired Executive Director of the IAFC. Garry is a recipient of the Jim O. Page Award and the Mason Langford Award. Garry spoke on the concept of Courageous Leadership. His presentation points included residential sprinkler code amendments, state associations needing full time lobbying staffs, and modifying EMS and Fire Training to a zero based level

Following the presentation, the First Annual EDIAFC Fire Service Excellence Award was presented to Garry by Les Warrick on behalf of the Division. The award was sponsored by

Margaret Gouty and will be an annual presentation in the future.

Garry was also given a resolution of appreciation from the Division for his Keynote Address.

Memorial Service

The Memorial Service was led by the Delaware Director and Memorial Committee Chairman Les Warrick. Chaplain Charles Arnold guided the readings and prayers. Jon Townley called the roll of those departed.

Welcome - President James Watson

President Watson welcomed those in attendance.

BUSINESS SESSION

President James Watson	Present
1 st Vice President Robert Stahl	Present
2 nd Vice President Jack Gouty	Present
Secretary/Treasurer William Askenstedt	Present
International Director William Walton, Jr.	Present
Past President Michael Chiaramonte	Absent
MD Director Peter Mellits	Present
NJ Director Ted Lowden	Present
NY Director Ken Pienkowski	Absent
PA Director Mark Showmaker	Present
DE Director Les Warrick	Present

IAFC Officers: President James Harmes, 2nd VP Kelvin Cochran, Treasurer, Julian Talioferro were introduced and addressed the conference.

President Harmes spoke about IAFC issues including; burglar alarms that emit smoke, his 10,000 steps initiative, which will this year be a 5k run in Atlanta with proceeds going to the NFFF, FRI Atlanta, which is coming along very well, reenacting of the Fire Act Grants and Safer Grants, the PSOB program, which needs our support, because benefits are not being paid to many firefighters, the search for a new Executive Director, which hopefully will be decided by June 1st, the NFFF 16 steps initiative, which the IAFC will support with the firefighter & EMS stand down/stand ready program, a sleep deprivation study, which will be related to how it effects the fire service, the relationship of smoke detectors to fire deaths, which was supported by the national news media, and the IAFC initiative to partner with public and private sector partners. Partnerships include Anheiser Busch. Chief Harmes thanked the Division for their support.

Chief Cochran said he will be presenting a power point program about the IAFC Membership Campaign. He said the IAFC influence is increasing and he was proud to be serving the Division and that he appreciated the Division's support.

Chief Talioferro thanked the past Eastern Directors that he worked with. He stated the IAFC is doing well financially and he continues to hope for a more diversified revenue stream. He thanked the Division for their support during his terms of office and for the plaque the Division presented him when he retired as Fire Chief. He closed by telling the attendees to get involved in politics and support the fire service. The Chief said his wife was from Lewes, DE

IAFC Candidates: Chief Jack Parrow and Chief Larry Grorud, candidates for IAFC 2nd VP in 2007 were introduced and allowed to address the conference.

Chief Parrow presented his background. He said he would like to see Divisions have a bigger voice in the IAFC. His priorities are firefighter health and safety, annual physicals for all firefighters, cancer reviews, fitness and nutrition. Jack said the IAFC needs to take a stronger position on the two latter issue. Jack will retire from his department during his term as President of the IAFC, if he is elected, so that he can serve as a full time IAFC President. Jack left brochures for the review of those in attendance.

Chief Grorud thanked the Division for their endorsement, which was given last year and asked members to be sure to vote. Larry also asked the members to support Jeff Johnson for 2nd VP of the IAFC in 2008. Larry complimented Jack Parrow on his candidacy. Larry said the two differences between Jack and him are his greater experience and the commitment to resign his position as Chief. Larry said the Association should be led by an active chief and he will remain chief of his department during his time as President and he has the full support of his local government. Larry also distributed campaign materials to those who were present.

Introduction of Guests and Past Presidents

Guests: David See Salisbury Md., Steve Miller, Cabin John Park, Md., VCOS, President Tucker Dempsey, DSFCA, President Robert Holley and Past President, George Maney, NYSAFC Chief Chris Assenheimer, NJSFCA, Garry Briese, Former Executive Director, Director Newman of the Delaware State Fire School.

IAFC Staff: Gioia Albi, Director of Member Services

Committee Chairs: Les Warrick - Memorial Committee, Stephen Reid, Valor Committee, Jon Townley, C&B Committee, Larry Vaughan, Election Committee

President's Report - President James Watson

See attached report.

1st Vice President's Report —1st Vice President Robert Stahl

See attached report.

2nd Vice President's Report - 2nd Vice President Jack Gouty

See attached report.

International Director William Walton

See attached report.

Treasurer's Report William Askenstedt: See attached report:

Secretary Report William Askenstedt: See attached report:

Membership: See attached report:

Correspondence:

The following letters were received from candidates for EDIAFC Offices

For President from Robert Stahl

For 1st Vice President from Jack Gouty

For 2nd Vice President from Ted Lowden

For Secretary Treasurer from Bill Askenstedt

For Secretary Treasurer from Jon Townley

All letters were received prior to the deadline for eligibility and all were forwarded to the Elections Chair Larry Vaughan as required by the Constitution and By-Laws.

The following correspondence was sent;

To IAFC and VCOS expressing concerns that federal funded credentialing programs were being piloted with the exclusion of volunteers and supporting VCOS to be the lead agency to research and develop a position on the issue.

To Kent County, supporting the construction of radio towers to enhance emergency services communications.

Immediate Past President Chiaramonte's Report:

See attached report:

Delaware Director Warrick's Report:

See attached report.

Maryland Director Mellit's Report:

See attached report.

New Jersey Director Lowden's Report:

See attached report.

New York Director Pienkowski's Report:

See attached report.

Pennsylvania Director Showmaker's Report:

See attached report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Memorial Committee:

Les Warrick reported the Memorial Service Program has been completed.

C&B Committee:

Jon Townley reported his report was in the conference book

Codes Committee:

No report.

Communications Committee:

Deputy Commissioner John Devlin of Philadelphia was appointed in May to replace Mike Granados who moved to California. John was not present. Commissioner Ayres from Philadelphia presented a report to the Board on Thursday on behalf of Chief Devlin. See attached report.

Conference Committee:

The committee reported that the beach party will be moved to the firehouse due to weather.

Valor Committee:

Steve Reid reported that 5 nominations for the 2007 Valor Award were received and that the committee had reviewed the applications. This year's award will be presented to Asst. Chief Richard Gimbl of the Holbrook FD, Holbrook, NY. The presentation will be made at a future date.

VCOS:

Steve Miller reported he presented his report to the Board. He encouraged members to attend the Symposium in Florida. The section has been active legislatively and now has 2600 members.

Fire Service Excellence Award:

Dan Lane was unable to attend due to the ICC code meetings in Rochester. He was at the Board Meeting and reported that the Board had approved his proposal for the award criteria at their January Board Meeting. He also reported that one nomination was made for the first

presentation of the award, which will occur at the conference. An appropriate award had been selected for the recipient and the award is being sponsored by Margaret Gouty

The first recipient will receive the award along in conjunction with the official launching of the award program. The winner will not be announced until the presentation.

OLD BUSINESS

Fire Rescue GPO:

Bill Askenstedt reported that the GPO revenue continues to grow. This year income was \$5,636.97 of which \$2,353.52 was disbursed to the state associations. Mike Chiaramonte replaced Bill Askenstedt as the interim liaison to the GPO. Mike was unable to attend the conference due to a funeral. Bill Askenstedt stated that Mike had contacted him by phone and asked that members try to purchase from the GPO. Mike is also requesting that anyone who knows of vendors who would like to participate in the GPO, please contact him.

FRI :

The Eastern Division hotels for 2007 in Atlanta will be the Embassy Suites and the Sheraton. There are not enough rooms for the entire Division at the Embassy, so we will also be using the Sheraton as well. The Embassy was sold out in April. The hospitality room will be at the Embassy and the Division Lunch will be at the Convention Center.

Gioia Albi presented a power point program on FRI Atlanta and encouraged people to attend. She asked members to consider sending people to the new programs at FRI, which are the Company Officer Symposium and the Fire Commissioner Program. Gioia also has free expo passes available if anyone wants them.

EDIAFC Conference 2008:

The Secretary reported that the 2008 EDIAFC Conference will be held at the Heritage Hills Golf Resort and Conference Center (Brochures were provided). The dates are Thursday, May 1, 2008 through Sunday, May 4, 2008. Hotel offers a lot of advantages. The hotel is located in a nice area of York, PA about a mile or two from VFIS Headquarters. Rooms will be \$129.00 per night, single or double.

Registration will be \$100.00 per person, \$40.00 per person for the banquet and \$25.00 per person for the Partners Program.

The Board Meeting will be held on Thursday morning from 9:00 to noon and the 5 state meeting will be in the afternoon from 1:00 to 4:00 P.M. For those who wish to come in Thursday that are not attending the board meeting, golf will be available at the special rate of \$55.00 per person including cart. That rate will be available throughout the conference.

On Friday there will be a special tour of the York Harley Davison Plant. Buses will transport

attendees on a staggered schedule throughout the morning, starting at 8:00 AM.. 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 the Memorial Service will be in the morning followed by the business session and technical sessions after lunch. We will provide continental breakfast and a barbeque lunch. After the memorial service, the ladies would leave for their program. In the evening, we will have the banquet at the hotel in a outdoor, glass enclosed pavilion presently under construction.

The ladies program will be a bus trip to Moon Dancer Vineyards. 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.

Thursday we would provide lunch for those attending the Board Meeting in the atrium of the restaurant. Golfers would be on their own for lunch. Dinner would be on your own and there is both fine dining and tavern dining available

Friday breakfast would be on your own. Buses would go to Harley and return during the morning Lunch would be on your own with the spouses and guests. Break would be provided all afternoon.

Saturday we will provide continental breakfast and morning and afternoon breaks with a Barbeque lunch would be provided outside. Saturday's Banquet would be a cash bar.

There will be special golf and spa packages available to attendees and guests at discounted rates.

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 Secretary Treasurer .

Only one nomination was received for each of the offices. Nominations were;

President, Chief Robert Stahl, PA

1st Vice President, Chief Jack Gouty, MD

2nd Vice President, Chief Thaddeus Lowden, NJ

Two nominations were received for he office of Secretary Treasurer. They were William Askenstedt and Jon Townley

There was a **motion** by Vaughan and a second by Hungerford to have the Election Chair cast one vote for Chief Thaddeus Lowden for 2nd Vice President. **The Motion passed unanimously.**

There was a **motion** by Vaughan and a second by Cohan to have the Election Chair cast one vote for Chief Jack Gouty for 1st Vice President. **The Motion passed unanimously.**

There was a **motion** by Vaughan and a second by Mullholland to have the Election Chair cast one vote for Chief Robert Stahl for President. **The Motion passed unanimously.**

The chairman announced the results of the first mail ballot for the office of Secretary Treasurer. There were two candidates, William Askenstedt and Jon Townley. The results were **311 for Askenstedt and 116 for Townley.**

VCOS Elections & Ballot:

Steve Miller reported that there were two key issues on the VCOS ballot. The first is the Windisch Amendment, which would allow the VCOS Board to elect their officers rather than have them elected by the section membership. The second issue is an amendment that would allow the VCOS Board to increase the section dues if and when needed.

President Watson reported that the EDIAFC Board went on record opposing the VCOS amendment to change the VCOS election process. The Board took no position on the dues increase or other amendments, which are essentially language changes that have no operational effect..

Ask Them:

Chief Kelvin Cochran, IAFC 2nd VP gave a power point presentation on the “Ask Them” program. The program is designed to increase membership in the association by members asking non-members to become members. The presentation will be available on the Division web site.

IAFC & IAFC Foundation Reports

Bill Askenstedt reported that the merger with the IAFC and the IAFCF has been doing well. The IAFCF has added IAFC Past Presidents John Buckman and Randy Brugman to the Board along with Dennis Smith and the newest Board member, Garry Briese. He encouraged people to donate to the Foundation and to submit scholarship applications.

A collection was made for the IAFC Foundation

State Caucus

President Watson directed the States to hold their Caucuses before breaking for lunch. Following the caucus meetings, the conference adjourned for lunch.

The conference adjourned for lunch.

Technical Sessions

The conference reconvened at 1300 hours with the start of the technical sessions.

The Rise of Cancer in the Fire Service - Presented by 1st Vice President Jack Gouty in place of Cindy Ell, Retired Firefighter Paramedic and President of the National Firefighter Cancer Foundation.

The Business Session resumed at 1400 hours

State Caucus Results

New Jersey elected Bernie Cohan as their Director to fill the one year remaining in the term of Ted Lowden who was elected as 2nd VP.

Pennsylvania re-elected Mark Showmaker as their State Director.

New York requested that their report be tabled until the following day.

Delaware Had no positions to fill

Maryland re-elected Pete Mellits as their Director and added Assistant Chief David Cropper from Ocean City to the Valor Committee.

NEW BUSINESS

Foundation Collection

Chief Askenstedt report that \$275.00 had been collected for the IAFC Foundation.

VCOS:

Steve Miller reported that he had CDs available with the VCOS Red, White and Blue Ribbon Reports on it. The CD also has segments of the VCOS Leadership Seminars. Anyone interested in the CD should see him.

IAFC Elections

There was a **motion** by Ted Doyle, and second Ted Lowden to endorse Chief Jeff Johnson for 2nd VP of the IAFC in 2008. There was no further discussion. **The motion was approved unanimously.**

Web Site

There was a **motion** by Seavey and second by Cohan to put a web page on the EDIAFC web site for the Fire Fighter Cancer Foundation and to provide a link to the Foundations web site. President Stahl asked the Secretary if that would be possible. The secretary responded that the FFCF would need to provide the material for the page. **The motion was approved**

unanimously. Jack Gouty volunteered to get the content for the web page from the Cancer Foundation.

Presidents Comments

Bob Stahl encouraged members to attend the EDIAFC Conference in York in 2008 and he asked the members to help work on increasing membership. He reported that the Eastern is no longer the largest IAFC Division. The Southeastern is now the biggest division.

Valor Presentation

Steve Reid announced that the Valor Award will be presented at the NYSAFC Conference in Lake George in July.

Explorer Programs

Wilmington FD is sending young kids to National Explorer Conference as part of a mentoring program run by their fire department. He encouraged fire departments to undertake similar efforts.

Maryland

The Maryland Firemen's Association Conference will be June 17-22 in Ocean City.

Dues Discussion

Chris Assneheimer asked if there has been any further discussion on a sliding scale for dues. Larry Grorud said that there is a membership task force working on membership classifications, which may include a layered dues structure. Bob Stahl stated that there is also a look at company officer level dues structuring.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Room 254 will be a hospitality room for the conference.

New Castle County is funding a shave your head for cancer run.

There was a **motion** by Seavey and second by Assenheimer to dispose of the election ballots.
Motion was approved unanimously

Frank Liezier

Chief Seavey reported on the death and funeral of Past President Leizier. The funeral was done in Daytona Beach. Jim Seavey will provide a copy of the eulogy to the Secretary in the event anyone would like a copy.

The business session was recessed for the day.

Technical Session

Storm Tracking - Presented by Joseph Miketta, National Weather Service.

The Friday session was adjourned.

Saturday, May 19th

Technical Sessions

Robotics in the Haz Mat Arena - Presented by Jamie Bethard, Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Controls. The presentation included power point and video presentations about the possible uses of robots and a live demonstration of two robots.

The Business Session was reopened for additional business.

Report of the New York Caucus

Chief Hungerford reported on the New Caucus. New York elected Chief George Maney, Past President of NYS AFC as the New York Director.

Candidates for 2007 IAFC 2nd Vice President

Chief Jeff Johnson - Candidate for IAFC 2nd Vice President in 2008

Chief Johnson discussed his background and experience in the fire service. He thanked the Division for their support and endorsement and explained his platform. Chief Johnson said his department has 430 career members and about 100 volunteers. They cover 9 municipalities in three counties.

Jeff's goals include providing value to the members of the IAFC in return for their dues. He is focused on vertical integration. Vertical Integration means concentrating on doing what we need

Fire and Life Safety Section

Bob Stahl said that Chief Jackie Gibbs is stepping down as the International Director of the Fire and Life Safety Section. He requested that the members consider endorsing Chief Wayne Senter to replace Chief Gibbs as the International Director to the FLSS. President Stahl announced that the Division Board had endorsed Chief Senter on Thursday.

There was a **motion** by Flegal and a second by Lenhardt to endorse Chief Wayne Senter for the position of International Director of the Fire and Life Safety Section of the IAFC. **The motion was approved unanimously.**

Outside Display:

Technical Teams from the state of Delaware provided demonstration for the conference. Teams included Collapse Rescue, Decontamination, Dive Teams, Hazardous Materials Units and Bomb Squads.

Delaware Special Operations - Lt. Col. Ruth Irwin, Delaware Civil Support Team

Lt. Col. Irwin explained that operation of National Guard Civil Support Teams. Their roll is to support local jurisdictions in WMD incidents and severe local crisis incidents. There is a team in every state and they are all identical. They provide technical expertise and resources to assist the incident manager.

Firefighter Near Miss 1st Annual Report - Battalion Chief Jeff Tippett, Montgomery County, MD and Member of the IAFC Staff

Chief Tippett explained the Near Miss Program and shared the first annual report results. John encouraged all departments to submit Near Miss Reports to the program. The reports help generate a data base for how firefighters are or could be injured or killed and therefore helps provide the data to realize the hazards and address prevention and mitigation.

The conference was adjourned for lunch and the business and technical portion was closed.