

Minutes
81st Annual Conference
EDIAFC - May 2 & 3, 2008
York Pennsylvania

The Conference was opened at Heritage Hills Golf Resort and Conference Center in York, Pennsylvania on Friday, May 2, 2008 at 1:00 P.M. by EDIAFC President Robert Stahl.

Colors were presented by the York City FD Color Guard.

The President led the Body in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The President called on Asst. Chief Brian K. Lee, Deputy Chief of Staff of the Washington DC Fire Department who presented the Division with a flag of the District of Columbia.

Welcome was given by President Stahl

Welcome was given by Commissioner Ed Mann of Pennsylvania

President Stahl 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)

President Stahl Introduced the IAFC Officers and staff in attendance including 1st Vice President Grorud, 2nd and Executive Director Mark Light. Each were permitted time to give welcoming remarks

The president announced that there were several Constitution and By-Law Amendments which would be introduced for adoption at the closing business session of the conference on Saturday afternoon at 3:00 P.M. He stated copies of the proposal were available in the front of the room for those who wished to review them.

The President stated that the present Constitution and By-Laws stated that amendments could be adopted at the conference if notice was given 24 hours in advance and printed copies were made available. By virtue of his announcement and the availability of printed copies, the amendment proposals would be eligible for adoption at the closing session.

The President also announced that there would be a vote on setting the dues for affiliate members, assuming that the amendment to create that category was approved by the membership.

At 1:30 the President instructed the body on the details of the afternoon technical sessions and announced where each would take place. The sessions were as follows;

Technical Session Group #1 - 1:45 to 3:00

“Vehicle Roll Over Safety”, presented by Dr. William Jenaway, CFO, CFPA, Exec. VP, VFIS

“NFFF Programs; Taking Care of Our Own, LAST & PSOB” presented by Chief Ron Kanterman, NFFF

Technical Session Group #2 - 3:15 - 4:30

“Initial Size Up for Company Officers”, presented by Captain Lenny Carmichael, Trenton Fire Department

“The Future of the Fire Service, a City Manager’s Perspective” , presented by Tom Conway, Abington Township Manager

At 4:30, the conference was adjourned for the day.

The conference was reconvened on Saturday, May 3, 2008 at 8:00 A.M.

Memorial Service

The Memorial Service was led by the Delaware Director and Memorial Committee Chairman Les Warrick. Rev. Scott A. Sager, from Penn Township Fire, Rescue and EMS and Hanover Fire Department Chaplain guided the readings and prayers. International Director Bill Walton called the roll of those departed.

Following the Memorial Service, The President called Judith Russell to the podium to accept a plaque in recognition of Father John Steger, former Division Chaplain for many years. Judith was Father John's long time companion and assistant and had attended many EDIAFC and IAFC conferences in the past.

Keynote Address: President Stahl introduced Greg Cade, Assistant administrator of the United States Fire Administration who gave the keynote address. Mr. Cade spoke on the work of the USFA and their efforts on the Fire Act, and Safer Act and he stressed the need for continued efforts in the area of safety.

Following the presentation, President Stahl presented Mr. Cade with a resolution of appreciation from the Eastern Division.

BUSINESS SESSION

The President welcomed everyone back to the conference and had the Secretary call the roll

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

IAFC Officers:

IAFC 1st Vice President Larry Grorud, was introduced and addressed the conference. The President thanked the Division for their support and reported on several initiatives of the IAFC.

1st Vice President Grorud stated that early returns look good for FRI, but there are concerns about the economy. He expects a good show. This will be year two the company officers pre-conference program There will be a less structured partner program. There will still be a luncheon for partners.

He stated the IAFC was close to announcing a deal for either Washington or Chicago for 2010. Chicago has the lead. They are working on agreements related to union costs. Vendors are attracted to Chicago. This could be the last year for Denver and Dallas looks like it may be dropped after 2015 as they have taken some incentives off the table

PSOB is an issue IAFC is working on. About 2/3 of the claims have been processed. About 80 were rejected, but many are on appeal. He feels there is significant progress.

The IAFC is supporting the USFA which has been re-authorized at 70 million

The IAFC is supporting the Fire Act and Safer. The president zero funded Safer, but Congress is likely to fund it.

Larry stated that we are up to 44 FF fatalities for the year which puts us on pace to reach 140. The IAFC is supporting the seat belt pledge. 25% of FF fatalities relate to vehicles.

IAFC Candidates:

Chief Jack Parow from Chelmsford, Massachusetts and candidate for IAFC 2nd VP in 2008 was introduced and allowed to address the conference. Chief Parow had previously been endorsed by the EDIAFC Board of Directors.

Chief Parow, 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 left brochures for the review of those in attendance.

Chief Carl Smith of Thunderbolt, Georgia and President of the SEDIAFC was introduced and Carl presented his candidacy, background and platform to the membership. He is a candidate for IAFC 2nd VP in 2009

Chief Al Gillepsie of North Las Vegas, Nevada was introduced and presented his candidacy, background and platform to the membership. He is a candidate for IAFC 2nd VP in 2009

Introduction of Guests and Past Presidents

Past Presidents:

Bill Walton, Bernie Cohan, Jim Seavey, Charlie Hungerford, Larry Vaughan, Jim Watson, Greg Turrell, Larry Wood

Guests:

DE 1st VP Jim Fox and 2nd VP Mike Rains from DFCA

MD Roger Steger, Past President, MSFCA

NJ Chris Assenheimer, President NJSFCA,

NY The president noted that NYSAFC 2nd VP, Norm Knapp and Executive Director Tom Labelle had been at the Board Meeting but had to leave before the conference.

PA Tom Savage, Executive Director of PFESI, Commissioner James Roth from York County and Commissioner Ed Mann

Sponsors:

The President Introduced the sponsors in attendance including Anthony Campisi, President, Joe Georgi, Bill Jenaway, Dave Wyrarus, Troy Markel, Jerry Poland, Bret Bernosky, **VFIS**, Jason Mattia Anthony Elantrio and Sue Elantrio, **ACS** Ron Lynn, Ron Piester and Bruce Johnson, **ICC** Earl Robinson, District Manger, **Campbell Supply**

ICC representatives made a presentation to the EDIAFC. The EDIAFC is now a chapter of the ICC and the presentation was in congratulations of that fact. ICC Secretary Ron Lynn presented EDIAFC President Stahl with a plaque recognizing the Division as a Chapter, a banner with the Chapter name and an ICC pin.

Mr. Lynn reinforced the need for the fire service to be involved in the code process and also to support initiatives for residential sprinklers.

Committee Chairs: Les Warrick - Memorial Committee, Ken Anderson, C&B Committee, Larry Vaughan, Election Committee, Dan Lane, Fire Service Excellence Committee, Mark Showmaker, Codes Committee and Conference Committee, Jim Seavey, Fire Rescue GPO Liaison

Officers Reports

The President announced that all of the officer reports were given at the Board Meeting on Thursday and they will become part of the minutes of the conference. He stated that the reports would be available on the web site.

President's Report - President Robert Stahl

All officers reports were made at the Board Meeting on Thursday and become part of the minutes of the conference.

2nd Vice President's Report - 2nd Vice President Ted Lowden

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 Jack Gouty

For 1st Vice President from Ted Lowden

For 2nd Vice President from Robert Holley

Resignation from Robert Holley

MFCA endorsing Pete Mellits for MD Director

All letters for the offices of President and Vice President 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;

Immediate Past President Watson's Report:

See attached report:

Reports of the State Directors were contained in the minutes of the Board Meeting and are available on line once they are approved by the Board and are part of the minutes.

Delaware Director Warrick's Report:

See attached report.

Maryland Director Mellit's Report:

See attached report.

New Jersey Director Cohan's Report:

See attached report.

New York DirectorHolley's Report:

No Report

Pennsylvania Director Showmaker's Report:

See attached report.

Elections Committee - Larry Vaughan

The President stated that because of the need for information within the report which would effect the needs of the state caucus, the Election Committee was asked to present their report out of the normal order of business.

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 Jack Gouty, MD - Jack Passed away prior to the conference
1st Vice President, Chief Thaddeus Lowden, NJ
2nd Vice President, Chief Robert Holley, NY - Bob Holley withdrew his letter of nomination
International Director, Chief William Walton, DE

Larry Vaughan, Election Chairman declared that all of the offices were unopposed and therefore all candidates were elected. To their respective offices

There was a **motion** by Steger and a second by Mullholland to accept the report of the election committee. **The Motion passed unanimously.**

President Stahl explained that since Chief Jack Gouty had passed away after the deadline for candidates to declare for office, there was no provision for a new election and therefore a vacancy would occur in the position of President at the end of his (President Stahl's) term. Based on the Constitution and By-Laws of the Division and in concurrence of the Elections Committee and the Constitution and By-Laws Committees, the position of Presidency would fall to 1st Vice Lowden who will become president Saturday Night during the installation banquet.

President Stahl went on to say that because Chief Bob Holley from NY had resigned after being the sole candidate for 2nd Vice President, that the EDIAFC Board had decided to replace Chief Holley with Chief Charles Hungerford of New York. Under the Constitution and By-Laws, the next President would have to come from New York and Chief Hungerford was one of several eligible candidates.

The Board took into consideration the desires of the NYSAFC in the selection, while maintaining the rules set forth by the Constitution and By-Laws for eligibility. Chief Hungerford previously served the Division as New York State Director, 2nd VP, 1st VP and President and also as the Secretary Treasurer.

President Stahl announced that the Board had also decided to appoint Delaware Director Les Warrick to become 2nd Vice President of the Division, as Delaware is the next state in the normal rotation and Les is the senior state director. President Stahl asked that Delaware be elect a new Director for the State to take Les' place, based on the imminent appointment of Les as 2nd VP That appointment will be also made on Saturday during the installation
It was pointed out that Delaware did not need to re-elect Les, since he would remain Delaware Director until appointed 2nd Vice President and therefore Delaware could elect a new Director. If Delaware elected a new Director he term would be for two years. If Delaware chose to re-elect Les Warrick and he was then appointed 2nd VP, the EDIAFC Board would then fill the vacancy, but for only one year until the next conference.

State Caucus

At 10:05 the President directed the states to meet in their respective caucuses. Delaware, New Jersey and New York had elections for State Directors. Maryland and Pennsylvania had no elections.

At 10:20, the states were asked to give their reports.

DE - Les Warrick reported that the state had not selected a new director and would advise the EDIAFC Board at a later date, who the State recommended be appointed. Delaware also endorsed Jack Parow for IAFC 2nd VP in 2008 and Carl Smith for IAFC 2nd VP in 2009.

MD - Pete Mellits reported that Maryland had no elections. They endorsed Steve Miller for the VCOS Board and Jack Parow and Carl Smith.

NJ - Bernie Cohan report that New Jersey elected Jon Holcombe from Hamilton Township, NJ as their new director and that NJ also endorsed Jack Parow.

NY - Charles Hungerford reported that New York elected Daniel Lane as their new Director and that they also endorsed Jack Parow

PA - Mark Showmaker reported that Pennsylvania had no state elections, but did endorse both Jack Parow and Carl Smith.

The conference adjourned for Break at 10:30

Technical Session Group #3 - 10:45 - 12:00

“Mobile Data Terminals”, presented by Chief Michael Touchstone and Captain Richard Bossert, Philadelphia Fire Department

The conference adjourned for a BBQ luncheon, sponsored by ACS

Technical Session Group #4 - 1:30- 2:45

“NIMS- Emergency Planning and Review for Cities, Townships and Municipalities”, Presented by Commissioner Lloyd Ayers, Philadelphia Fire Department

“Consolidations and Mergers”, presented by Chief Andrew Weaver, SAVES

Break

The business session resumed at 3:00 P.M.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

C&B Committee:

Ken Anderson presented the following report of the Committee

To the 81 st Annual Conference
Eastern Division, International Association of Fire Chiefs
York, PA

Subject: Report of Constitution, By-laws and Resolutions Committee

Dear Members:

Last year was the first time the provisions for a mail ballot had to be used in this Division. The by-law covering the mail ballot assigns much of the work to the Secretary/Treasurer. The office for which there were two candidates was Secretary/Treasurer with the incumbent being one of the candidates. Bill Askenstedt sensed an ethical conflict if not an actual conflict and removed himself from the process. Larry Vaughan, Chair of the Elections Committee, took on the responsibilities and discovered other practical problems with the process contained in the Constitution and By-laws.

The officers accepted Larry’s comments and suggestions and referred them to the Constitution, By-laws and Resolutions (CBR) Committee. The Board of Directors (BOD) also reviewed the Constitution and By-laws (C&B) and suggested a number of other things for the Committee to review.

When CBR Chair Jon Townley’s health was less than perfect but there was a need to proceed with the work of the Committee, President Stahl asked if I would assist. I agreed and

ultimately was appointed Vice Chair. Bob Edwards and Barry Dampier were added to the Committee.

We members felt that e-mail sharing of ideas and even a conference call would not be as effective as a face-to-face meeting. Particularly considering the time constraints of making recommendations, having them reviewed and approved by the BOD, submitting them to the IAFC CBR for review, obtaining IAFC BOD concurrence, and submitting a mail ballot to the EDIAFC members 90 days before the 2008 Conference.

A meeting was held November 5, 2007 at Aetna Hose, Hook and Ladder Company, Newark, Delaware. Members present: Jon Townley, Bob Edwards, and Ken Anderson. Barry Dampier was unable to attend due to distance, but participated by reviewing the record of the meeting and adding comments. Chairman Townley also invited Ken McMahon, a long time member of the Eastern and Chair of the Delaware Fire Commission, to participate.

The results of our recommendations were contained in a marked-up copy of the Constitution and By-laws and a report on why we were making the several recommendations.

The Board of Directors reviewed the recommendations. A few revisions were made. The CBR Committee was directed to prepare the proposal in the form of four resolutions for submission to the members. Also, by that time, it was too late to get approval from the IAFC CBR Committee and be able to submit the amendments within the time limits specified for a mail ballot.

The urgency to get the amendments in place dictated that the provision of the Constitution be used that allows amendments to be presented at the Conference and obtain approval if an 80% favorable vote is cast.

Chairman Townley, who is the Eastern Division representative on the IAFC CBR Committee, was unable to attend that Committee meeting. He felt it was important that the Eastern be represented at that meeting because of our pending Constitution and By-law amendments. The IAFC agreed to allow someone from the Division to attend at the expense of the IAFC and that person could participate in the discussions but without vote. C. Kenneth Anderson attended.

Our proposals were found to be consistent with the IAFC documents. The IAFC Board of Directors also approved. Therefore, copies of the four resolutions have been provided to the members in attendance at this Conference. The vote will take place.

At the IAFC CBR Committee meeting:

- Many Divisions and Sections are making changes for the "Affiliate Member."
- There are two technical changes to the IAFC By-laws. Technical changes do not require a vote of the membership.

- First, in Section III, Subsection 1 to make the length of the campaign profile 300 words (not 500) to be consistent with the Election policy.
- Second, in Section I, Subsection 4 to add "Affiliate" to the list of types of membership.
- There are questions about the By-laws Section I, Subsection 3.
 - Affiliate membership is open to persons interested in the affairs of the IAFC who are not eligible for regular membership. Regular Members can continue as Regular Members after retirement if they pay the dues. Since this is a membership available to them, does this provision prevent them from becoming Affiliate members?
 - In addition, the differences between "Associate" and "Affiliate" are still blurred.
 - The IAFC CBR Committee decided to recommend to the IAFC BOD that these questions be referred to the Membership Task Force.
- A resolution held over from last year about Junior Firefighters was again reviewed. It provides that the IAFC membership is directing a Section (VCOS, in this case) to do something; develop a best practices document. It's not clear that this is an appropriate action. Further, VCOS might be doing something on its own. This resolution was held for further discussion at the committee meeting in Denver
- Resolution 2008-1 would have the IAFC support legislation and penalties prohibiting the sale of novelty lighters. It is being recommended for adoption at FRI with some changes.
- Resolution 2008-2 would have the IAFC support legislation and penalties for imported goods that do not meet safety standards equivalent to USA standards. It too is being recommended for adoption at FRI with some changes.
- IAFC Resolutions now have a three year sunset provision. The objectives of four resolutions adopted in 2005 have not been fully met and the CBR Committee feels the needs still exist, so the resolutions should be re-adopted; some with changes. They include (briefly), CPAT Evaluation, Residential Sprinklers, Consumer Fireworks, and Retrofitting Sprinklers.
- The "Division Constitution and By-laws Guidelines" were on the agenda. No action was taken. Committee members were asked to submit any other recommendations. The Committee doesn't want to create something that will prevent Divisions from having flexibility to try things. The Draft document acknowledges that it is an *example* not a *model*. Some IAFC CBR members had a feeling that the Division Task Force might ask all Divisions to reformat their documents to this example.

The President reminded the Board that they needed to appoint a new Committee Chairman and a new Chairman for the Eastern Committee. He stated that he had discussed this with incoming President Lowden. Ken Anderson made it very clear he was not willing to accept either position.

Memorial Committee:

Les Warrick reported the Memorial Service Program has been completed.

Codes Committee:

Mark Showmaker presented the following report.

Since the last report to the Board of Directors of EDIAFC I have had the pleasure of representing the Eastern Division of the International Association of Fire Chiefs as the Chairman of the Codes Committee. It has been a great honor and experience to work with my fellow committee members. I report the Following activities for Fall 2007-2008.

The Eastern Division has officially been granted status as a Chapter of the International Code Council

Participated in all EDIAFC teleconferences and meetings.

Committee members continue to serve on the International Code Council, Code Action Committee as one of the EDIAFC representatives. Attended the 2007 Code Action Committee of the International Fire Code, Code Action Committee in Free Port Maine July 23-25 2007.

Committee members continue to serve on numerous International Code Council Committees as Fire service representatives.

Committee members serving on National Fire Protection Association Committees.

The committee has reviewed and requested the Eastern Divisions endorsement of the CBNACG act of 2007 by supporting bills S 2458 and HR 4461.

The committee is continuously monitoring the progress of code adoption regarding Residential Sprinklers. We will promote participation in attending code hearings in Minneapolis in September to support code changes

We are in the preliminary stages of putting together a one day training seminar for Fire and Code officials utilizing the ICC Staff and programs. We would be attempting to get more Fire Marshals involved with the EDIAFC and increase membership. We would also be bringing on new members that would be eligible to assist on committees that we support.

At the conclusion of the report, the Secretary stated that the Board had met with the representatives of ICC and that they were in the process of putting together a pamphlet about how the code process works. When that is done, the Secretary will put it on the web site and send out an announcement in the Daily Dispatch. Members will then be able to download the information and read it at their leisure.

President Stahl stated that as an ICC Chapter, the Division was entitled to a free training day and that the Board was in the process of setting that up. He said that the class would probably be in Evesham and that ICC was working on providing CEU credits for the training.

President Stahl reminded members about the up coming code hearings in Minneapolis and the importance of the vote on residential sprinklers. He stated that the EDIAFC Board had voted to join the sprinkler coalition. He also stated that the coalition web site had information about applying for financial assistance to attend the hearings. You must be an official Government Member of the ICC to attend and vote.

Communications Committee:

There was no report presented, however the Secretary stated he had just received an email from the Chairman of the Committee, Chief John Devlin. The Secretary stated that he would include the report in the minutes that will be posted on the web site.

Conference Committee:

Mark Showmaker reported that all was prepared for the conference and that the Board was considering holding the conference in York for two more years. He requested members to provide their feedback through their state directors. Mark also thanked all of the conference sponsors for their support.

Valor Committee:

The Secretary read the report submitted by the Valor Committee Chairman Steve Reid.

Steve Reid reported that nominations for the 2008 Valor Award were received and that the committee had reviewed the applications. A recipient had been selected and the name and department will be announced once the recipient and his chief have received the written letters of notification to be sent out immediately following the conference.

The actual report that was read was as follows;

A number of items have kept the Valor Award Committee busy during the past year and I would like to thank all of the Committee Members for their diligence and support. With out them, the committee could not have been as successful as it has been.

In June of 2007, I traveled to New York State Association of Fire Chiefs Conference in Lake George, NY to make the presentation to 1st Assistant Chief Richard Gimbl of the Holbrook, NY Fire Department. There was a huge turnout for the occasion and much attention was given by the media which raised awareness of not only the Valor Award program, but more so for the Eastern Division as a whole.

At the request of the Board of Directors, a fund-raising effort was launched to support the activities of the Valor Award Program. In December 2007, more than 1000 requests were sent out and we received \$1600 in donations from the following:

Command School, Mr. Brian Long, \$100.00

Maryland Fire Chiefs Association, Chief Robert Small, \$500.00
Motorola, Mr. Tom Staley, \$1000.00

Many thanks for these groups stepping forward to assist us in our efforts to recognize those firefighters who are so worthy.

On January 3, 2008, letters were sent to Committee members requesting Valor Award nominations from their respective states with a deadline for submission of March 15, 2008.

The 2008 Valor Award program brought forth 11 nominations as follows:

Delaware:	2	District of Columbia:	2
Maryland:	4	New Jersey:	0
New York:	3	Pennsylvania:	0

A package of nominations was then assembled and mailed to committee members on March 21, 2008, with their votes due on April 11, 2008. Ballots were received from all committee members with the following results:

Magnolia VFD, Magnolia, DE:	76	(9)
Minquas VFC, Newport, DE:	75	(8)
District of Columbia Fire/EMS Department, Washington, DC:	53	(4)
District of Columbia Fire/EMS Department, Washington, DC:	57	(5)
Morningside VFD, Morningside, MD:	70	(7)
Morningside VFD, Morningside, MD:	103	(10)
Morningside VFD, Morningside, MD:	75	(8)
Watertown FD, Watertown, NY:	37	(3)
Watertown FD, Watertown, NY:	61	(6)
West Islip FD, West Islip, NY:	20	(1)
Montgomery County Fire & Rescue, Rockville, MD:	33	(2)

Arrangements will be made with the FASNY and the West Islip Fire Department to set up a date and time to present this year's Valor Award. (See attached letter announcing this year's recipient)

As always, it is my pleasure to serve as the Valor Award Committee Chairperson and work to represent America's finest to insure that they receive proper recognition for their valiant efforts.

The Secretary reported that two of the sponsor checks had been received and that the \$1,000.00 from Motorola was being worked on. They have a long lead time on cutting checks. The Secretary informed the Board that recipient of the award was not being notified until next week and he asked the Board not to disclose the winner until the letters are given to the winner and his chief.

The Secretary stated that Chairman Reid was not attending the conference but lauded him for the great job that the committee had done in getting nominations and sponsors.

Fire Service Excellence Award Committee:

No Report

VCOS:

The Secretary read the following report from Steve Miller, the VCOS Vice chairman. He explained that Steve and David See, the other Eastern representative on the VCOS Board, were not at the conference because they were representing the Division at the VCOS Board of Directors Meeting in Ohio. Which conflicts in schedule with the conference.

Congratulations to the Eastern Division on your 81st annual conference. I only wish that I could be with you in York, Pa... Unfortunately the conference conflicts with the VCOS quarterly board meeting. Working with the VCOS has been truly rewarding and I would like to thank the Eastern for their strong support in the past and to let you good folks know that I am up for reelection this year and would appreciate any and all support the division cares to offer. With that being said I will provide a brief review of some of your sections recent activities.

We are in the final stages of releasing the Orange Ribbon Report. This report, written in conjunction with the EMS Section addresses fire based ems service in the volunteer and combination fire service.

We are starting a new report, the Green Ribbon Report, partnering with the HSS section. This report will address health and safety in the volunteer and combination fire service.

The VCOS partnered with ISO to host a symposium titled The ISO and You. This symposium was a tremendous success. So successful in fact, that it will be held again in various parts of the country. Check your VCOS website for upcoming information.

Together with Target Safety we are announcing another round of distance learning grants for the fire service. It will be announced at FRI and will be increased to two million dollars worth of service! It will also most likely be offered to our brothers and sisters in Canada. Again, check for future updates on the website.

We will be assisting the ISFSI in an upcoming seminar on distance learning for the fire service.

As usual we have been working Capitol Hill on behalf of the fire service. Lobbying on your behalf to improve the fire service and protect not only ourselves but the citizens we serve.

As you can see we have been quite busy on your behalf. So enjoy the conference, learn and have some fun.

The Secretary reminded the body at the conclusion of the report, that Steve Miller was up for reelection to the VCOS Board this year and requested a motion from the floor under new business, to endorse and support Steve in the election

Fire Rescue GPO:

Chairman James Seavey presented the following report.

Greetings Eastern Division Board and General Members, it is an honor to have the opportunity to provide you with a short review of the activities of the Fire Rescue GPO during the past year since our last Conference in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware.

I was humbled to have been reappointed as the Representative of the Fire Rescue GPO Council by President Stahl and wish to thank him for his confidence in allowing me to serve once again. No sooner had I been reappointed than I was quite busy working with Mr. Forrester with several representatives in Atlanta, Georgia at the Fire Rescue International, several of whom some of you met at our Hospitality Room there.

I believe a couple of the departments immediately set up contracts with AirGas Products for use of their medical gas product line and accessories at the guaranteed lowest rates available. Mr. Jerry Anderskow, National Sales Manager of AirGas was extremely helpful with assisting departments in getting their accounts set up for this service. AirGas is available in virtually all of the Division and the savings have proved to be amazing. Of course, it also provides a return to the Division as well as the State Associations on each purchase.

Speaking of the returns, I believe you will hear at the Conference from Secretary/Treasurer Askenstedt that we are finally seeing the financial return numbers that should indicate success and a willingness to not only continue to participate in the Fire Rescue GPO, but more so we now need to truly market the program to our members through whatever medium possible. Our returns this year have been more than respectable and show that what was said at the program's infancy was, in fact, true. We were told that it would take three to four years to realize the potential of the benefits and it has taken just that!

The Fire Rescue GPO has just recently added two new contracts which show tremendous potential. First and foremost, MMS, who is a supplier of Emergency Medical Supplies. As a Fire Rescue GPO Member, you can review the contract by visiting the website at www.firerescue-gpo.com and see what is available! MMS is developing their own more user-friendly online ordering website, where preferred Fire Rescue GPO pricing will be listed. There are also a staff of 40 salespersons dedicated to making this new Fire Rescue GPO venture a success for MMS and the Fire Rescue Service.

The other new vendor is Grainger! This is a tremendous contract and is nationwide as well. Grainger, with their new Fire Rescue GPO alliance has expanded their fire rescue offerings to include the fire, rescue and homeland security specialties. With specific Fire Rescue GPO pricing, they are building Type I and II HazMat and Swiftwater Rescue Trailers and kits. There will be an entire catalog mailed out to every fire rescue department in the U.S. with great offers for GPO members. We are very excited about this and it is so new that we were even discussing the best way to handle the discounts at the Grainger outlets for our members, in the event that the Store Managers are not familiar with the Fire Rescue GPO Program. *But, Grainger has already scrubbed the Fire Rescue GPO Subscriber List. So, if you are a Fire Rescue GPO Member, you*

are already in Grainger's database and can get the GPO pricing right now! We decided with the Grainger folks that a plastic member card, similar to the one that was issued for Sherwin-Williams would be best. This will also be applicable for personnel purchases, if you are a member of the department that holds a Fire Rescue GPO membership! Now, that is a benefit most every firefighter will enjoy!

The Turnout Gear RFP is completed and is being released to the Turnout Gear Manufacturers for opportunity to bid and then a contract for that ensemble will be awarded.

There are initial talks with a manufacturer of firefighting boots and station wear shoes and boots for a vendor contract. This is in its infancy, but could prove to be a benefit in short order.

As far as the Council is concerned, members are still quite engaged. All of the Divisions are represented with some having much better attendance on the Conference Calls than others. The strongest Divisions appear to be Great Lakes, Western and Eastern at this point. On that note, I would like to congratulate the Western's representative John Klum on his recent promotion to Fire Chief of the Portland, Oregon Fire Department. He plans to remain on the GPO Council.

The Executive Director of the Fire Rescue GPO, along with the Council have reviewed previous decisions, as it relates to the interaction at the Division level and based upon that review have amended the communications plan. The Fire rescue GPO will actively seek out and cooperatively market at each Division Conference, rolling out new vendor contracts with vendors present, when possible and with members of the GPO staff available to report and also answer questions from Division Members.

Also available at the Division Conferences will be Educational Classes provided free of charge on topics relating to use of the Fire rescue GPO or topics that involve issues surrounding purchasing within the fire service. For example, one educational program currently available is instructed by the Corporate Counsel of the Fire rescue GPO, Bruce Busch. He offers a several hour class on "Piggybacking on Contracts". Now, that is something that many administrators in volunteer fire departments would probably jump at the opportunity to attend.

This past year, the decision was made, due to the lack of dynamic change on a monthly basis to move our Conference Calls to a quarterly schedule. In between these quarterly calls, GPO Project Manager, Crosby Grindle will be contacting and interacting periodically with each of the Council Members from all Divisions.

Generally there was agreement to this arrangement, however, there has been a call by several of the GPO Council Members, myself included, to also go back to having at least one physical work session per year, where the members of the GPO Council are at a meeting location and can work through the issues face to face. We will be trying to find a smidgen of time at the FRI in Denver to have a frank discussion about the future possibility of these types of meetings, as FRI will not be the place to do same!

Finally, I have but one request. I would respectfully request that the Board Members and if present, State Officers go back to your local organizations and get as many as possible to put the

Fire Rescue GPO logo up as a link on the Home Page of your website in your State and even ask your member companies to do so as well. We need to enhance our Division Level Communications Plan to increase marketing this worthwhile program. What helps the program, helps us and helps you!

Bill Askenstedt reported that the GPO revenue continues to grow. This year income was \$5,636.97. James Seavey is now the liaison to the GPO.

FRI :

The Eastern Division hotels for 2008 in Denver will be the Denver Marriot City Center. It is walking distance to the convention Center and the Division has 300 rooms blocked at the hotel. The hospitality room will be in the hotel and the Division Lunch will be at the Convention Center. The luncheon will be on Thursday, August 14th at 11:30.

There will be a hospitality room at the Marriot Downtown, which is the Division hotel for this year.

Jim Mullholland and Kevin Brink addressed questions to IAFC 1st VP Larry Grorud about the partners program. Larry explained the membership surveys indicated that the spouses preferred a scaled back, less structured program and the IAFC was attempting to provide that.

Kevin complained that he could not register himself and his wife together in one package. Larry explained that it was designed like that by intent, because many jurisdictions did not allow Chiefs and partners to register together and they needed to have it separate. Kevin stated that it was better to package the registration so that the entire thing could be paid for by the fire district, which could not be done if it were separated. Larry stated that the overwhelming majority of people wanted it separate.

That was controversy as to whether the partners registration was actually available on the web site. Larry stated he thought it was, but if not, it would be very soon.

Foundation Collection

A collection was made for the IAFC Foundation by Red Flegal. Chief Askenstedt report that \$244.00 had been collected for the IAFC Foundation. The funds were given to Gioia Albi to take to the main office for deposit with the Foundation.

NEW BUSINESS

Constitution and By-Laws

The Committee Chairman Ken Anderson presented four proposed changes to the Constitution and By-Laws of the Division. Each of the changes had been proposed by the committee, reviewed by the Board with some changes, and then re-written by the committee. Following that process, the amendments were all reviewed by the IAFC Constitution and By-Laws Committee and the IAFC Board of Directors. Upon their review and approval by both groups, the proposals were printed and distributed to the members attending the annual conference on May 2.

The proposals were properly prepared and distributed to permit motions to adopt them during the afternoon session of May 3rd. The EDIAFC Board has recommended that all of the proposals be adopted by the membership.

The proposals were as follows;

Resolution 2008-1 - Corrects Numerous Language errors and refines other verbage.

Resolution 2008-2 - Establishes Affiliate Membership within the Division

Resolution 2008-3 - Establishes Residency Requirements for Officers and Board Members

Resolution 2008-4 - Makes the Elections Chair in charge of all Elections instead of the Secretary Treasurer and reduces the time for sending and receiving mail ballots.

The full proposals with their respective preambles are attached to the minutes.

The Secretary reported that numerous resolutions had also been prepared by the committee to thank the sponsors of the conference.

The Secretary thanked the C&B Committee for an excellent job and all of their hard work. He stated that the Chairman Jon Townley was unable to attend the IAFC C&B Committee Meeting and that Ken Anderson, the long time chair prior to Jon had attended in Jon's place and that Ken had also written the final draft of the amendments presented at the conference. He thanked Ken for an outstanding job on behalf of the Division.

The Secretary stated the Division is seeking a replacement for Jon Townley as the EDIAFC representative to the IAFC Constitution and By-Laws Committee and also a chairman for the EDIAFC Constitution and By-Laws Committee.

The president stated that The Constitution and By-laws of the Division can be amended at the conference if the amendments are distributed 24 hours prior to the vote and if an 80% majority of voting members present voted in the affirmative for the proposed change. He stated that four proposed changes were printed and distributed Friday morning and therefore they met the 24 hour condition of notification. He stated that 80% of the voters would be required on all votes concerning proposed changes to the By-Laws.

There was a **motion** by Cohan and a second by Dampier to approve resolution 2008-1, amending the Constitution and By-Laws of the Division to correct certain language and grammar. **The motion passed unanimously.**

There was a **motion** by Showmaker and a second Flegal by to approve resolution 2008-2, amending the Constitution and By-Laws of the Division to add Affiliate Membership. **The motion passed unanimously.**

There was a **motion** by Cohan and a second by Warrick to approve resolution 2008-3, amending the Constitution and By-Laws of the Division to add residency requirements for Board Members. **The motion passed unanimously.**

There was a **motion** by Turrell and a second by Holcombe to approve resolution 2008-4, amending the Constitution and By-Laws of the Division to make the Elections Chairman in charge of elections rather than the Secretary to avoid conflicts of interest, because the office of Secretary is an elected position. **The motion passed unanimously.**

There was a **motion** by Showmaker and a second by Turrell to establish the dues for affiliate members at \$10.00. It was noted that this was not a change to the By-Laws and only a simple majority was required for approval. **The Motion was approved.**

There was a **motion** by Seavey and a second by Mellits to endorse the candidacy of Chief Jack Parow for the position of IAFC 2nd Vice President in 2008. **The motion passed unanimously.**

There was a **motion** by Seavey and a second by Flegal to endorse the candidacy of Chief Carl Smith of Thunderbolt, Georgia for the office of 2nd Vice President of the IAFC in 2009. President Stahl informed the body that the Board had met briefly during the break and they had decided to recommend endorsing Chief Carl Smith as well. **The motion passed unanimously.**

There was a motion by Seavey and a second by Mulholland to endorse Steve Miller for re-election to the VCOS Board. Chief Seavey and Chief Mellits both noted that there was another candidate from Maryland that had nominated himself to run for the same Board position that Steve Miller was seeking to be re-elected to. **The motion passed unanimously.**

GOOD OF THE ORDER

The president announced there was still some remaining beverages in the hospitality room and that the room would be open for a hour between the end of the meeting and the start of the banquet program.

The conference was adjourned at 5:00 P.M.