

Minutes EDIAFC Conference Call March 16, 2008 - 7:00 P.M.

Present: Askenstedt, Cohan, Mellits, Stahl, Walton, Warrick, Showmaker, Lowden, Watson

Absent: Holley

Minutes

The board received the minutes from the February, 02, 2008 Board meeting. There was a **motion** by Cohan and a second by Watson to approve the minutes of the February Board meeting. **Motion passed.**

Secretary Treasurer Report: No report. Given at Board Meeting

Conference Calls: Remember the conference call phone number is: **1-888-891-0496** and the code is **2732021**. All of the calls are Sunday at 7:00 PM. The proposed 2008 schedule is as follows;

Month	IAFC Call	EDIAFC Call	
April	10	13	
May	08	18	Mothers Day
June	12	22	Fathers Day
July	10	13	
August	FRI	FRI	
September	11	14	
October	09	12	
November	13	16	
December	11	14	

EDIAFC Constitution and By-Laws: The Secretary transmitted all of the Board action on the Constitution and By-Laws to Jon Townley for the committee to re-work the changes per the Board's direction. Jon was unable to find time to make the changes and requested Ken Anderson take on the job. Ken completed the work on February 15th.

Ken submitted the re-written proposals to the Secretary who forwarded them to Gioia Albi for distribution to the IAFC Board and the IAFC C&B Committee. Upon approval of the IAFC Committee, the amendments can be voted on at the conference. To accomplish this, the amendments must be announced at the opening session and then they can be voted on in the closing business session. A 4/5 majority is needed for passage.

Jon also reported he could not attend the IAFC C&B Committee Meeting and has asked Ken Anderson to go in his place. The IAFC normally funds committee members to attend. The Secretary contacted the IAFC and asked that they fund Ken to attend as an alternate. Ken has offered to attend in Jon's place and present our changes. He would not be allowed to vote.

The Secretary stated he talked to Gioia Albi after the funeral services for Jack and Gioia reported that Ken Anderson attended the IAFC C&B meeting the same day as the services. Gioia stated that Ken did a great job and the IAFC C&B Committee approved all of the proposed EDIAFC amendments. They will now need to all be copied and available for distribution at the conference.

On March 12, Ken Anderson submitted a report on the meeting that raised several issues and made several recommendations. That email was forwarded to the Board for their review.

The Secretary reported that he had addressed the recommendations made by Ken Anderson as follows;

He added the word "private" to article IV Sec. 1 (b) on Page 3 of Resolution 2008-1. This seems perfectly logical and correct.

The secretary reviewed the capitalization for consistency and made several changes. This was done for consistency had no effect on the intention of the changes. The Secretary reported that he found several inconsistencies and all were changed. There may be others, but this is simply house keeping and is not a huge issue either way.

Copies do need to be made and will be prior to the conference.

There was a **motion** by the Secretary and a second by Showmaker to introduce the four Resolutions at the conference as previously recommended by the Committee, amended by the EDIAFC Board, approved by the IAFC C&B Committee and including the recommended changes as detailed in Ken Anderson's report and subsequently included by the Secretary. The motion to include approval of the Board to have the Resolutions copied and distributed at the Conference as required by the existing C&B. **The motion was approved unanimously.**

The Secretary will have the proposals available on the web site.

EDIAFC Conference

We are up to \$22,450 in sponsor pledges with \$4,750 received and the balance is outstanding. Some pledges will be paid directly to offset costs and therefore will not pass through our accounts. We need to continue to get sponsors.

There was a **motion** by Showmaker and a second by several to do away with officers reports in the program book. **The Motion passed unanimously.** The President will do a welcome page and there will be pages for the IAFC President and Mark Light.

Registration is light and we need to raise attendance to keep the conference financially in the black and to maintain our sponsor base. Sponsors will not continue to fund empty seats. The Secretary reminded Board members that they need to register, book their rooms and that reports are no longer required. Only half of the Board is registered as yet.

As a reminder, reports for the Board Meeting and Conference minutes are still required. Since we are not putting reports in the program, reports can be of any length. The date however can now be moved back to April 20, 2008 for sending them. They will then be distributed in advance for the Conference and Board Meeting, with the agendas.

Les is working on the Memorial Service. He will have a Memorial video for Jack Gouty and will contact Larry Vaughan for info on Father Steger. The Secretary will get a list for Les from IAFC on the deceased members.

Pete asked about committee chairs attending the conference and what the Division is doing for those chairs. He suggested that we comp the chairs their registration fees to the conference. Les said the timing of such a suggestion was too close to the conference to institute this change. Pete argued that we needed to provide incentives to keep people involved.

There was a **motion** to move the discussion to the next conference call. It was seconded by Mellits. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Elections

There is no need for a mail ballot, because no positions are contested this year. Jack Gouty was nominated for President, Ted Lowden will be 1st VP, Bob Holley will be 2nd VP and Bill Walton will be International Director. By-Laws will be voted at the conference. Larry Vaughan is doing a full report.

Larry also reminded us that George is on the election committee. Since he is no longer a candidate, he can remain on the election committee from NY

John Townley is doing Resolutions of appreciation for all of the speakers at the conference.

Jack Gouty Update

Jack' services all seemed to go very well and there was a large turn out at all the events, especially at the church on Saturday. The Secretary reported that he and Bernie Cohan had represented the EDIAFC at the church services and reception. Jim Seavey Gave the eulogy. Steve Miller, David See attended from VCOS. Bob DiPoli represented IAFC. Most of the other Board members attended the Friday visitations.

The Secretary also reported that after discussion with the President, it was decided to honor the family's request and make a donation to the Jack Gouty Memorial Fund in lieu of flowers. A card and check for \$250.00 were sent.

The Board discussed what provisions of the Constitution and By-laws prevailed in the situation. There was general consensus that the Constitution and By-Laws did not directly address the present situation.

The Secretary read an email sent by Larry Vaughan, the elections chairman.

It was pointed out that it was very clear how to proceed when an officer dies in office, but not how to proceed when the death occurs before the swearing in.

There was a **motion** by Watson and second by Showmaker to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel issues. **The motion passed unanimously.**

There was a **motion** to return to open business by Walton and second by Showmaker. **The motion passed unanimously.**

There was a **motion** to allow the name of Jack Gouty to go forward at the conference as the sole candidate for President. **The motion passed unanimously with one abstention from the President.**

The Secretary will ask the C&B Committee and Elections Committee to evaluate the intent of the Board and submit written comments ASAP. He will also request they participate in the next conference call.

Leadership Orientation Meeting

This year the annual Leadership Orientation Meeting will be in Fairfax on Monday March 31 and Tuesday, April 1, 2008. CFSI is Wednesday, April 2 and Thursday, April 3, 2008. This meeting is generally attended by Division and Section Presidents and Secretaries, and the IAFC Board. The IAFC Pays for the Secretaries to attend and their Board Members. Division Presidents must be paid for by the Divisions.

The Secretary report that although he usually attends both the Leadership Orientation and CFSI, this year he will not be able to attend either event due to a rare conflict with his work schedule. He stated that it is important that the Division be represented at the meeting and recommended that at least one of the three Presidents attend.

The Board decided they will send a representative to the meeting..

ICC Endorsement Request for Endorsement of the CBCAG Act of 2007

The ICC has asked the EDIAFC, as one of their chapters to endorse the CBNACAG Act of 2007 by supporting bills S 2458 and HR 4461. This bill would provide funding for code enforcement activities to local jurisdictions to hire staff or purchase equipment needed to better perform code enforcement activities.

The agenda includes discussion of the ICC position described in the hyperlink included in the agenda [Code Council's Press Release on Introduction of the CBCAG Act of 2007](#). The Board was also provided links to the two bills for their review prior to the discussion. They are;

The Community Building Code Administration Grant Act of 2007

- [S. 2458 – Introduced By Senator Mary Landrieu of Louisiana](#)
- [H.R. 4461 – Introduced by Congressman Dennis Moore of Kansas](#)

The Secretary reported that he discussed the bills with Ken LaSala of IAFC Legislative Services. Ken related that the IAFC was not throwing any major effort to support the bills, but the IAFC position was in favor. The bills are consistent with IAFC goals, but are not IAFC priorities. Ken indicated the IAFC would not oppose the bills and would likely sign on as a partner to those supporting the bills. The IAFC does not feel the bills are the real priorities of the fire service and they are devoting their efforts toward the priorities which include the AFG and Safer funding levels.

The President expressed concern that the bills do not specifically fund fire prevention and that much of the money would get absorbed in the building code enforcement areas.

The secretary suggested that building codes are of importance to the fire service as well as fire codes and that the initiative, while not perfect was a step in the right direction. He stated that many small communities have little or no funding for code enforcement in some states. He also suggested that as an ICC Chapter, we should work with the very supportive parent organization, as long as their goals are not in conflict with our own or those of the IAFC

There was a planned motion to endorse the CBCAG Act of 2007 and to submit a Resolution to the ICC for forwarding to the appropriate members of Congress, including a cover letter as attached below.

The President asked the Board to hold the motion until the next conference call to allow him time to get some points clarified about the issue. The motion was held. The proposed motion and cover letter follow and will be discussed on the next call for action.

**A Resolution by The Eastern Division of the International Association of Fire Chiefs
to
Encourage Congressional Support
for the
Community Building Code Administration Grant Act of 2007**

As, an organization of Fire Service Professionals, representing the states of Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania and the District of Columbia we recognize that people and property in our communities are at risk from a variety of hazards including fire , floods, hurricanes, tornadoes lightning, and snow or ice storms; and

Whereas these disasters have the potential for causing widespread injury, loss of lives, and damage to property, community infrastructure, and the environment; and

Whereas we recognize that effective pre-disaster mitigation, thorough preparedness, timely warning, and well-trained and equipped response forces can reduce injuries and deaths caused by a hazard; and

Whereas the hurricane seasons of 2004 and 2005, the flooding in 2006, and the tornado and wildfire seasons of 2006 and 2007 clearly demonstrate our nations' on-going vulnerability to natural hazards; and

Whereas the devastating impact of recent natural events is evidence of the need for heightened local, state and federal attention to coordinated measures to mitigate the impact of natural hazards on our communities, and has demonstrated a significant need to support the effective work of building code authorities; and

Whereas the adoption of modern codes is a first step in responsible local governance of the built-environment that must then be coupled with effective local capabilities and programs in code administration. Thorough and effective administration of codes allows the maximum benefit of those regulations to be realized in local building safety, enhanced property value, energy efficiency, hazard mitigation and the availability and afford ability of personal and commercial property insurance; and

Whereas effective enforcement of building and fire codes is one of the best means of protecting the welfare of those in our communities, including residents, visitors and emergency responders, from natural disasters that impact our homes, businesses, schools, places of worship, and all other types of construction in the built-environment; and

Whereas, the national benefit providing support for local building code enforcement is clearly evidenced by a recent report of the National Institute for Building Safety that demonstrated that for each federal dollar spent on mitigation the federal government saves nearly \$4 in future disaster recovery expenses; and

Whereas, the Community Building Code Administration Grant Act of 2007, when enacted and funded, will provide competitively evaluated federal grants, locally matched, to local governments who seek to build-up or improve their local code administration and enforcement capabilities.

Therefore, it is resolved that:

The Board of Directors of **The Eastern Division of the International Association of Fire Chiefs** as a membership organization of professionals in building safety and fire prevention, do request our Members of Congress to support the passage and funding of H.R. 4461/S. 2458, the Community Building Code Administration Grant Act of 2007. We further request the International Code Council to deliver this Resolution to Congress and to continue its work on our behalf in the enactment and funding of the Community Building Code Administration Grant Act of 2007.

TO BE FORWARDED ON LETTERHEAD

March 16, 2008

Ms. Sara C. Yerkes
Senior Vice President of Government Relations
International Code Council
500 New Jersey Avenue, NW, Sixth Floor
Washington, DC 20001

Re: Adoption of Resolution in support of the Community Building Code Administration Grant Act

Dear Ms. Yerkes:

I am pleased to forward for your attention and action a Resolution recently adopted by the **Board of Directors Eastern Division of the International Association of Fire Chiefs** in support of the enactment and funding of the Community Building Code Administration Grant Act (CBCAG).

As discussed in the Resolution, the membership of our Association, as professionals serving the public's interest in building safety and fire prevention, clearly recognize both the need for and the benefits of the support the CBCAG will provide. Our success in development and maintenance of national model building and fire safety codes must be matched with local resources and qualifications to ensure capable and thorough adherence to those codes. The CBCAG will provide support to jurisdictions short on resources but committed to improvement of the quality of the built-environment through effective on-going local code administration. Residents of and visitors to our communities will be served every day by higher quality building and, in turn, the nation will be served by improving the resilience of buildings to natural and man-made disasters.

We thank you for your efforts to bring our Resolution to the attention of Congress and to work actively with our Congressional Delegation to gain enactment and funding of the CBCAG.

Sincerely,

Robert G. Stahl, President
EDIAFC

Valor Committee

Steve Reid has obtained a \$1,000.00 sponsorship from Motorola for the Valor Award. This is in addition to a \$100.00 sponsor received previously. MFCA has also pledged \$500.00 to the Valor Award.

Fire GPO

The President discussed the now discontinued disbursement of GPO funds to the states. He suggested that in lieu of dispersing the funds, we should inform the states that we will no longer be seeking sponsor dollars from them for the conference or that we use the funds to offset travel expenses for State representatives to attend the Five State Summit Meetings.

The Secretary suggested the latter, because it would encourage the 5 state associations to participate in the meetings and we would be likely to see better attendance which should be a goal of the organization.

There was a **motion** by Lowden and a second Showmaker to have the state shares held and be available for travel expenses to send representatives to the 5 state summit meetings. He clarified that the intent was that each of the states would be eligible for full travel expenses up to, but not exceeding 20% per state of the total combined state shares.

It was further clarified that each state would have access to 20% of the total state funds, regardless of the sales in their state. The intent of the Board was to get more participation from the states in the summit meetings by off setting travel costs.

The motion passed unanimously.

(For clarification, the GPO revenue is divided into five pools of funds. One of those is the Division piece. The Division share is divided into halves, with one of the halves going to the Division and the other half split between the states, based on the sales in each state. The Division now gets another of the 5 shares which formerly went to the IAFC. That full share belongs to the Division.)

Affiliate Membership

The President requested that the Board discuss the dues amount for affiliate members in light of the fact that they would receive minimal service from the Division. The Secretary stated that the important issue was to have the IAFC affiliate members also be members of the Division and recommended the dues be set at \$10.00.

The President pointed out that the dues amount should be voted on by the membership at the conference, but the Board should make a recommendation to the body.

There was **motion** by Showmaker and a second by Walton to recommend to the membership that the dues for affiliate members be set at \$ 10.00. It was further moved that this recommendation be

presented for adoption at the York Conference in May. **The motion was approved unanimously**

Bank Accounts

The Secretary reported to the Board that Yardville Bank, which is where all of the Division Accounts were held, was sold to PNC Bank. Effective March 12, 2008, all of the Division accounts were converted to PNC accounts. The transition went smoothly and the accounts balanced after the transfer.

The Secretary will review the interest rates and other advantages of the new bank and make recommendations for the future of the accounts if he feels there is a benefit to switching facilities. In the interim, things will all function as they did in the past. The Division was provided new checks and deposit slips at no cost.

The Secretary also reported that Division holds a CD with the old bank which came due on March 16, 2008. The original investment was \$40,000.00. Last year the CD earned \$1,963.09 and was renewed at a rate of 5.12% This year the CD earned \$2,210.50 and it was redeemed at \$44,173.59. Since then interest rates have dropped sharply. As an interim measure, the full amount will be re-invested in a 91 day note at 3.7 % at another financial institute which offered better rates.

The Secretary assured the Board that the funds were not needed in the immediate future and recommended that they be reinvested in a longer term note based on the best available rates. The Board approved investing the money per the Secretary Treasurer's recommendation.

The Secretary report that there was no immediate need to fill out new signature cards after the change of banks. He recommended that new cards be filled out after the conference, based on the new slate of officers. The Board concurred with the recommendation.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 P.M.