

EDIAFC Conference Call June 13, 9:00 P.M.

Present: Cohan, Askenstedt, Watson, Walton, Seavey, Warrick, Pienkowski, Gouty, Stahl,

Absent: Lowden, Chiaramonte, Tettermer,

Guests: Steve Miller, VCOS

EDIAFC Conference:

The Secretary reported all of the sponsorships for the conference have confirmed. They are;

- NJSFCA will fund the Board Breakfast on Friday and the Conference Breakfast on Saturday. \$500.00
- Delaware Chiefs will fund the BOD lunch on Friday.
- MSAFC will fund the conference lunch and technical session on Saturday.
- NYS AFC will fund a Friday night reception for the BOD, State Association Officers, and EDIAFC Past Presidents in an amount not to exceed \$1,500.00. The reception will be held from 5:00 - 7:00 at the Radisson Hotel in Mt. Laurel through the efforts of Bill Dukes.
- The banquet will be funded by ticket sales.

The conference Program is at the printers. It will be 38 pages with color on the cover and black and white inside. It includes the agenda, all of the sponsors, all of the officer's reports and the memorial service program. Josette has the Banquet program completed and printed. She is in the process of completing the name badges. The final list is needed from Jim Watson ASAP. We will not be making name badges for the Board since you will all have your pocket badges. New officers will have theirs at the conference (Bernie, Mike, Jim & Les).

Sponsors for the conference include Connective @ \$500, Campbell Supply @ \$5,000, VCI @ \$1000, ESP @\$1,000, Cheesquake VFC @ \$500, Airpower Int'l. @ \$300, Urban H.A.R.T. \$500, Virtua Health, Burlington Co. Chiefs \$500 and Commerce bank @ \$3,000. These are in addition to the state sponsored events and The ICC printing and mailing. All of the sponsors have been put on the web site and asked to submit ads. All of the checks are in except Burlington County, Virtua Health and the State Associations. A great deal of thanks goes to Ted for his work on the sponsors.

Commerce Bank will also provide gift bags for the attendees. There was a discussion of handouts to go with the bags. Each State Director is to check with his state for possible handouts to be included. Commerce Bank will supply some as well. The Secretary checked with the IAFC about additional handouts. Ken Pienkowski and spouse have obtained considerable material.

Ted is arranging the catering for the banquet. There will be a band, a dance floor, and a stage for ceremonies. Liquor licenses, insurance and a bartender are in place. Ted and Mary are handling the breaks and breakfasts themselves, which will save considerable money. Ted has ordered all of the signs. Rev Light contacted the Secretary and confirmed his attendance thanks to Ken Anderson's help. Ted has arranged the color guard. Bernie will be the Banquet prayer leader.

The ladies bus trip to Atlantic City is finalized and is being sponsored by MSFA. The bus has been paid for. Mary Seavey will organize the event. The Secretary arranged to get the bus trip back an hour earlier to allow time before the banquet.

The Secretary met with the sales rep from Marriot and switched all of the rooms of conference attendees to the reduced rate with the exception of a few government rates, which were the same, or less. In effect, anyone paying a higher rate was switched to our block, which was almost totally filled. Marriot was most helpful.

Fire Chief of the Year: NY and DE have potential nominees. Nominations should have been to the Secretary by now. To date only NY has submitted any nominations. There was a **motion** by Bernie Cohan for Dan Gaumont for career chief from NY and Chief Gregory Becker for volunteer chief. Second by Gouty. Jim Watson suggested two nominees from Delaware. The Secretary informed the Board that Chief Roser, the volunteer suggested, was not eligible because he was not an active sitting Chief of Department and that no back ground material had been developed for the Delaware nominations, with the deadline being June 30. **The Motion for Dan Gaumont and Greg Becker passed unopposed.** The secretary will file the forms.

Two Hatter Resolution: Jim Seavey has requested the Board to consider a Resolution for the conference related to the two hatter Issue and condemning the testimony of IAFC President Ernie Mitchell. The Board has received a copy from Ken Anderson. The Board was also sent IAFC conference call minutes which indicate that the IAFC worked closely with VCOS to develop the testimony. The Secretary also received correspondence from Fred Windisch, VCOS Director that stated that the VCOS Board had passed a resolution supporting the non-discrimination clause being adding to the Fire Act legislation. His email goes on to say that despite the VCOS Board position, He, Larry Curl who is the VCOS Chairman, Bob Bettenhausen, and Tim Wall worked with the IAFC and agreed to the compromise language in Ernie Mitchell's testimony. This was read by the Secretary during the call.

Chief Seavey stated that there is a great amount of anger over Chief Mitchell's testimony against having the anti-discrimination language included in the Fire Act. He believes the Board must take a strong position on the testimony. He stated that despite the IAFC position taken at their Board Meeting against discrimination against career people who volunteer, the Board has done nothing in support of the position and Ernie's testimony was in opposition to the Board's position.

Steve Miller, the Eastern VCOS representative stated that the VCOS Executive Board had acted in conflict to the position of their Board. He stated that the IAFF had offered to meet with VCOS to discuss the Two Hatter issue but that VCOS chair Larry Curl had not followed through and this was causing dissension in the VCOS Board. To that end, Steve asked Larry to arrange the meeting and Larry deferred to Garry Briese. Steve found this unacceptable and pushed through a motion on the VCOS conference call which set up a three person panel to meet with the IAFF.

Discussion among Board members was divided. While all support the anti-discrimination issue, the Board was split on tying it to the Fire Act. The Secretary urged that the Division not condemn Ernie Mitchell since he apparently took considerable input from VCOS.

There was a **motion by Stahl** and second by Watson to have Jim Seavey draft a letter to Ernie Mitchell and Larry Curl asking them for an explanation of; Why they opposed the anti-discrimination language in the Fire Act, What was the status of the IAFF offer to meet with the IAFC on the Two Hatter issue, and Does the IAFC maintain the position it took at the Board meeting of opposing discrimination against career firefighters who also volunteer. **Motion passed.**

VCOS Issues: Steve Miller was ask to be on the call as the VCOS rep and also to participate in the Two Hatter Resolution because there was discussion as to if and how VCOS participated in the Ernie Mitchell testimony. This was covered in the Two Hatter Issue.

Reflect, Unite and Cherish Stamp: The Secretary stated that a letter had been received from Robert Belinki asking the EDIAFC to support having the posters which were distributed at the 5 state meeting in Evesham made into postage stamps. Part of the proceeds would benefit the NFFF. There was a **motion** by Watson and second by Gouty. **The motion passed without discussion.** The Secretary will draft a letter to the Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee as requested.

FDIC East: Bernie Cohan asked if Jack Murphy could address the Board on Friday regarding FDIC East. 10 minutes were approved and it was requested that any written info Mr. Murphy mat have be sent to the Secretary for distribution in advance.

NY Director: Jim Seavey stated that Ken Pienkowski will be stepping down at the end of next year as New York Director. NYS AFC will likely nominate Norm Knapp as his replacement. Ken will remain as the rep on the IAFC C&B Committee. Ken is accepting a position with FASNY.

2005 Conference: There was a discussion of the 2005 EDIAFC Conference. Bernie Cohan said he received an offer from George Maney, President of NYS AFC to have the conference in Binghamton, NY in 2005. Bernie was informed that the actual rotation of the conference was MD this year and NJ in 2005 even though we had moved to Evesham this year. President Seavey asked that the subject be tabled until the Board meeting on June 25th.

The Board held an Executive Session related to personnel issue at the end of the call. The call adjourned at 10:30.