

**EDIAFC & 5 State Chiefs Associations Summit
Evesham Township - June 25, 2004**

The Summit convened at 1300 on Friday, June 25, 2004

President James Seavey provided the welcome and opening remarks. He thanked Chief Lowden for hosting the second summit meeting and conducted a roundtable self introduction.

Report on The EDIAFC - James Seavey, President

President Seavey Reported on the EDIAFC position on the Two Hatter Issue. He stated that he was concerned that the Fire Act could be jeopardized if the Fire Service did not stay together in support of the Act. He said the Two Hatter Issue should be dealt with as a stand alone issue apart from the Fire Act. He was not happy with Ernie Mitchell's testimony but could live with it if the IAFC followed through on the Two Hatter Issue.

Jim said there are two approaches to be followed. First, the IAFC should follow up on the proposal of IAFF President Schaitberger to meet VCOS to resolve the differences. Jim said the Eastern Board has asked the IAFC to move forward with the meeting. Second, if the IAFF balks on the meeting, then the IAFC should push ahead with legislation to fix the problem.

Report on the IAFC - William Walton, International Director

(Bulleted items are from Chief Walton's written report.)

It's been another exciting year for the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC). Some highlights are as follows:

- We paid the mortgage off on the headquarters building, saving a substantial amount monthly.
- We approved the Officer Development Handbook, giving all Fire Officers the opportunity to follow a step process assisting in career development.
- We joined with many other agencies in support of the consensus plan, which would spread the cellular spectrum to stop interference with 800 MHZ public Safety.
- We lobbied for the Safer Act, Fire Act Grant, and the extended coverage for the PSOB Plan, all in the best interest of our members.
- We met with Secretary Ridge, Department of Homeland Security; Director Paulison, U. S. Fire Administration and Director Mencer, Office of Domestic Preparedness. All three have been supporters of the Fire/Rescue/EMS responders and we look forward to their continued support.
- The Leadership Summit continues to gain support from the State Fire Chiefs' Associations. We realized a 100% gain in attendees in 2003.
- We, along with the FBI, published a Model Procedure Guideline for responding to suspicious packages.
- We lobbied the U. S. Department of Transportation, along with the IAFF to expedite the Research and Development to require excess flow valves to be installed on all new and renewed natural gas lines.

- The two-hatter issue has been a hot topic and we have continued to lobby in support of the choice to volunteer. We opened dialog with IAFF President Schaitberger and will continue to pursue all options.
- The Strategic Planning session will be held in Denver, CO on October 15 and 16, 2004. This continues to grow each year with more Division Officers and State Chiefs' Associations becoming involved. The Iafc has received a grant to fund the President of each State Chiefs Association to attend
- Fire Rescue International will be held in New Orleans, LA on the dates of August 13 - 16.

We will continue to lobby on your behalf and in the best interest of this Nation's Fire Service. If there is anything you wish me to address, please feel free to contact me at waltonjr@comcast.net.

Chief Walton reported that over 4,050 ballots have been received so far in this year's elections.

Chief Walton reported that the IAFC had received a \$750,000 grant to study Firefighter "near misses" from the USFA. He believes the Fire Act Funding, although less than last year is still good, given the costs of the war. He also reported that the IAFC is supporting the use of existing state training academies rather than the creation of contractor training programs to administer ODP training funds.

Chief Killen commented that the Navy's fire budget is down by \$30 million. He stated that the Iraqi Fire Chiefs have held their first meeting in Iraq and that they may be represented at FRI.

Report on the Eastern Conference - Ted Lowden, NJ Director

Ted reported all was ready to go. He discussed parking issues and the availability of maps and directions to the various venues. He reminded attendees to take the bags. He hoped everyone would enjoy the conference. Ted reminded those at the meeting that there was a reception at the Radisson. He asked attendees to support our sponsors and enjoy themselves. He explained the set up for the ladies bus to Atlantic City.

Chief Seavey stated that dress was casual with the exception of the Memorial Service.

Report on FRI - William Askenstedt- Secretary Treasurer

The IAFC Conference is in New Orleans on August 12-15, 2004. The new format has exhibits on Friday and Saturday, and the banquet on Saturday night. There is no longer a need for a Sunday night stay. The Eastern Hotel is the Sheraton and that will be the location of the hospitality room. Details of Eastern events are on the EDIAFC Conference page at www.ediafc.org/conference.html The EDIAFC Breakfast will be on Friday morning at 8:00 AM in the Convention Center. The Room will be announced when determined. Full details of the conference can be found at <http://www.iafc.org/conferences/fri/index.asp> on the new IAFC web site. On line conference and hotel registration is also available here. Members should watch both the Eastern and IAFC web sites for updates on the conferences. Father Steger will do Mass on Sunday morning at 8 AM at the Convention center.

Reports of the States

New Jersey - Ken Anderson

Ken reported the following items in NJ:

1. Chief Bill Dukes is attempting to form a coalition of Fire Service groups in NJ to become more effective legislatively.
2. FDIC East will be in Atlantic City in October. The State Chiefs will be a co-sponsor
3. The Fire Service Emergency Deployment Act has been adopted. It is designed to prevent self deployment. The Act allows the Bureau to regulate mutual aid.
4. Funds have been provided to purchase a computer and a printer for each Municipality through an ODP Grant.
5. Counties Coordinators will each get a laptop through the same grant.
6. The state is working on amendments to the Emergency Management Plan. The proposals give the State Police more control
7. The state is considering mandated training bills.
8. There is a grant program proving automatic defibrulators to Fire Departments.
9. There are concerns about use state training facilities rather than creating new OEM training facilities for ODP training
10. There is a committee studying communications and inter-operability.

New York - Executive Director Tom LaBelle

Tom reported the following items:

1. The NYSAFC Conference was a great success. Ted Lowden was a presenter
2. The Association is doing fire training at the old Concord Hotel. About 100 students attended at a cost of \$30 each. They will be doing it again in October.
3. There will be an accreditation class in September for CFOD in Syracuse. NY is a certified accreditation agency
4. NY will be going to Maryland on Monday to look at their statewide alerting system in the hope of cloning it in New York.
5. The Board swore in their ICC members. NYy is having statewide ICC training.
6. NY Congressman Sherwood Bohmert provided testimony on the Fire Act with input from the NYSAFC.
7. NY has partnered with Delmar Publishing to provide EMT re-certification on line. They hope to produce a similar program for code inspectors.
8. There is a movement among physicians in New York to eliminate the Volunteer EMS.

Chief Seavey thanked New York for their hospitality in Syracuse and their help with the Valor Award ceremony which he and Chief Cohan attended.

President George Maney thanked the EDIAFC for their ad in the New York 100th Anniversary Book and for their representatives who attended the conference.

Pennsylvania - Chief Tom Markey, 2nd VP Keystone Chiefs

Tom reported that Pennsylvania has passed a uniform construction code which is already being attacked, particularly in rural areas.

There is a move in the PA State Legislature toward regional consolidation of the volunteer fire service. They are working on legislation which will legalize consolidation.

Delaware Chief Kevin Wilson, President DSFCA

Kevin reported the following items for Delaware

1. Delaware did an expo and golf tournament with their June 24th conference. They had great attendance and 39 vendors.
2. Delaware is looking to adopt NIMS statewide. DE or CA may be beta test sites.
3. DE is working with the Lt.. Governor on a cardiac screening program, which would provide stress tests for firefighters.
4. DE endorsed the Belinki poster becoming a stamp.
5. DE will send their President to Denver for the IAFC SPM.
6. DE is switching to the 800 band next generation radios for communications.
7. DE has received accolades for their web site from Firehouse Magazine
8. The Chiefs are supporting a blood drive and organ donor program.
9. The next conference will be in Cheswold on September 15th.
10. DE is putting Fire Chiefs in recruitment and retention booths at their expo.
11. DE is working with the Department of Natural Resources on regulations.
12. De is working on hazmat signage for tanks. They were successful in keeping tanks marked based on their contents and size.. The new regulations will provide signs on tanks containing 250 gallons or more of hazardous materials and 20,000 gallons of fuel oil.

Mary land - Chief Roger Steger, President MSFCA

Roger reported the following items for Maryland:

1. The MSFA conference just concluded and was very well attended.
2. The Chiefs meet on 8/7 in Damascus and 11/13 in Hebron.
3. The Chiefs have changed their By-laws and now meet 4 times per year instead of 2.
4. There is a meeting on 6/28 to demonstrate the Maryland Alert System.
5. Maryland is working on emergency communications and they are beginning to share information with law enforcement now that security concerns are allayed. New York is looking at the MD system to see if can be used there. Roger explained some of the workings of the system. He felt it worked very good. Maryland is careful who they let on their system.
6. Maryland OEM has been reorganized recently.

Jack Gouty reported that Anne Arrundle County was having a high rate of cancer deaths. Maryland is looking at the link between transformer oils burned at Fire Academies and the incidence of FF cancer.

Chief Killen commented that NASA had looked into similar studies at the Kennedy Space Center.

ICC - Dan Lane

Dan Lane thanked the Division for supplying 4 reps to the Council. The ICC is working on code issues related to truss placarding and is supporting the FEMA initiative on vacant structures. They have about 10 code change proposals for the next cycle. Dan reminded attendees to bring code change proposals to their reps and to supply support material for their proposals.

The State of Pennsylvania finally adopted a statewide construction code and it has come under attack in many rural areas. Bob Stahl said the ICC was helpful in getting the uniform construction code passed in Pennsylvania.

Bill Askenstedt thanked Dan Lane for the ICC support of the conference. ICC did the printing and mailing of the conference flyer and registration form.

Valor Nominations: Committee Chair Jack Gouty

It is a privilege for me to announce that the winner of the 2004 Medal of Valor from the Eastern Division of the International Association of Fire Chiefs is Captain Brian J. Stevens of the Manlius Fire Department, Manlius, New York. He was selected for actions taken at a structure fire on March 7, 2002, at 2841 Sweet Road, Pompey, New York.

President Seavey and President Cohan attended the Valor Award ceremony held at the NYS AFC conference in Syracuse. Chief Gouty read the submitted report and runner up plaques were distributed to the appropriate state directors. He noted that Chief Ray Gill from the winners department was involved with the winning rescue attempt but refused to submit his own name. He noted that the award ceremony held at the NYS AFC Conference went very well. Jack thanked Cabin John Park VFD for their help with the runner up certificates.

Chief Gouty announced his resignation as committee chairman at the conclusion of his report.

New Business

Fire GPO Update - Jim Seavey

Chief Seavey distributed packets containing information related to the Fire GPO. He attended the Amerinet Conference in Seattle. His packets covered the Amerinet/GPO Meeting in Seattle. The packet included notes from other IAFC Division reps on their impressions of the meeting. Amerinet is currently supporting the GPO with substantial amounts of money. They expect to be in the red for 5 years before they begin to realize profits.

Jim spoke on the history of the GPO which began with the Western Fire Chiefs in 1992. Eastern joined in 2003. Since joining with Amerinet, the GPO has developed a new logo and a new web site slated to go on line on July 9th. They have also developed an Advisory Council to interact

with the Fire Service. Jim is the Eastern Representative.

Jim commented that the GPO sales have been tremendous on the west coast but very limited in the east. The western sales are generating tremendous revenue. We now have access to over 4,000 contracts.

The new Advisory Council has directed the web site consultants to re-work the web site to make it more user friendly. The web site will include an E University where firefighters can obtain on line training.

Jim provided examples of some of the products and vendors under the GPO contracts. Henry Schein, Sherwin Williams, Office Max and Home Depot were mentioned. Henry Schein is one of the largest EMS suppliers in the country. Air Liquide and Boise Cascade were also mentioned. Boise Cascade will be interviewing Fire GPO members to learn how to better serve the fire service. Boise Cascade will issue Office Max discount cards to firefighters in New Castle County as a test. Sherwin Williams is issuing discount cards to fire departments and their members. Departments will get a 37% discount and members will get 30%

The breakdown of the Fire GPO Commissions is; 20% to IAFC, 20% to the Division, 20% to the State Association, 20% to Klackimus County and 20% to Amerinet. Klackimus was the originator. Amerinet uses there 20% to offset costs of administering the GPO. Checks for the Divisions will include the state share which the Division will distribute.

New England has just joined leaving only the Southeastern Division not yet in the GPO. The potential revenues for the Divisions are substantial.

Jim stated the possibilities for the GPO were enormous. He commented on a chair designed for firehouses which is super durable and on the GPO contract. He reported that Cisco foods is also under contract. They supplied all of the food for the California wildfires under the GPO contract.

Members of the Advisory Council for the GPO are paid. They must sign ethics statements that they will not hold interests in any of the companies under contract.

Chief Granados asked if County purchasing units could buy from the contract. Chief Seavey answered that as long as one member of the agency was a member, the agency could use the contracts.

Mike asked where the revenue comes from. Chief Seavey responded that every contract carries a 1% or 2% service fee. That fee is split up into the 5 groups of 20% each.

Chief Seavey noted that the GPO is looking to work on fire hose contracts and emergency lighting contracts.

Chief Granados asked about the quality. Chief Seavey responded that the product specifications can be obtained of the web site. He said the GPO strives for quality products. Seavey also stated that Andrew Forrester, the Executive Director of the GPO would be at the conference on

Saturday to do a presentation

Chief Seavey stated that Garry Briese had reservations about the GPO because it might hurt the IAFC exhibitor base. In contrast, Jim said that many Amerinet vendors now want to exhibit at FRI.

Chief Killen also expressed concerns about losing the vendor base for FRI and about the “Walmart” effect on small dealers. He also mentioned that one of the GPO vendors donates a percentage of their GPO sales to the IAFC Foundation.

Chief Seavey said that the Fire Service has an obligation to the tax payers to save money. He stated the quality must be equal. He said the GPO will save the taxpayers a lot of money.

Tom LaBelle said he was not overly concerned about the loss of exhibitors in NY. Their goal is more service oriented and their primary concern is to provide a way for the vendors and the fire service to interact effectively. They want to assure that the Fire Chief can get the best possible product.

NFFF - Bill Askenstedt

Chief Askenstedt mentioned supporting the proposed Belinki Stamp. Delaware has gone on record in support. He also asked if any of the states had done anything to promote or sell the prints. No one reported any activity to date. (The stamp has since been rejected by the Postal Service).

NFA - Chief Ted Lowden

Chief Lowden asked the group to support continued funding for the NFA to end the constant battles to keep the NFA opened and fully operational. Kevin Wilson voiced Delaware’s support. Ted felt this an issue that the states can cooperate on.

Kevin Wilson said that Steve Austin said all of the talk about the NFA cuts was a bunch of hype. Delaware supports the NFA. Bob Stahl commented that he feared the NFA would be gone within 5 years. He stated good people are leaving because they fear the future of the NFA.

ODP Funds - Chief Ted Lowden

Chief Lowden suggested that the IAFC should tell the Federal Government that the Fire Service is no better prepared now than they were on 9/11 to respond to a terrorist attack. This is because ODP money is not getting down to the local level end user. He stated we must end the myth that is being developed that all of the money being allocated has made things better. People are misinformed that things are better. We have more responsibility but no more equipment.

Chief Watson said some equipment was distributed in Delaware. Chief Lowden said he was expected to get some equipment but no one really asked what he needed. He suggested that someone needed to inventory what was already out there before handing out equipment. He

noted the computers being distributed in New Jersey, He neither wants one nor needs one, but nobody asked.

Bob Stahl and Mike Chiaramonte argued that the funding at the NFA has already been cut and that there is no longer any program development money.

There was a **motion** by Watson and a second Bill Killen to present to the membership, a Resolution to have letters sent from the Division and each of the 5 states. The letter would be sent to the White House, Governors, and Legislators of each state. The letters would support permanent funding for the NFA and would encourage better distribution of ODP funds to the end user.

Chief Lowden asked Chief Killen why the Division should not become “bad boys” with regards to this issue. He asked what is the IAFC prepared to do. Do they have a plan we can support or does the Division have to go on record alone? Chief Killen said that going to the legislators was the right way to go and that was not being “bad boys”.

There were numerous comments regarding how to influence political movement. Bill Killen complimented Garry Briese on separating the Chiefs from the IAFF in the eyes of the White House.

The Motion was approved unanimously.

Chief Lowden commented that this motion was why the 5 state meetings were instituted. He told Chief Killen that he needs to understand what is happening in the Division.

Two Hatter Issue - Ted Lowden

Chief Lowden asked Chief Killen why the IAFC has not taken a firm position on the Two Hatter Issue. He stated this was a serious issue in the Division and it was cause for serious concern among our members. He said that the IAFC needs to say that Two Hatter Discrimination is wrong. He said that the Division is working hard to support the IAFC but the IAFC needs to work hard to help.

Chief Killen responded that the issue must be decided in court by a test case. Ted asked if that was the official IAFC position, Bill said it was his position. Ted responded that the IAFC needs to take a position because this is a hot issue.

There was a discussion of the various IAFC Board Members' positions on the Two Hatter Issue

Chief Seavey asked why the IAFC was so afraid of the issue. He asked why the IAFC simply refused to condemn the IAFF. Chief Lowden told Chief Killen that the way he made him feel was the way all of the Eastern Board Members feel when they face the same questions every day.

Chief Seavey asked why the IAFC refused to follow its own resolution which says they oppose discrimination. Chief Killen said we can not do a thing about what the IAFF puts in its Bylaws.

Chief Walton said he fights very hard for the Two Hatter position. He said he pushed for the meeting with Schaitberger and the VCOS. Bill said many of the career officers on the IAFC Board don't care about the Two Hatter Issue. He said it was an uphill battle to get the Board to take a position on this issue.

Chief Seavey said the Board was obligated to support this issue even if they were not affected.

Chief Walton said that the IAFC didn't abandon the Two Hatters and Harold Schaitberger didn't do it. It was the brother firefighters from the Two Hatters own local that were to blame.

Ted Lowden stated that the point of the exercise was to let Chief Killen know how important the issue is. He said he continues to support the 5 state process. He asked Chief Killen not to take the conversations as an attack but rather as an indication of the importance of the issue.

The State Meeting was adjourned.