

EDIAFC Conference Call July 11, 7:00 P.M.

Present: Cohan, Askenstedt, Walton, Seavey, Gouty, Warrick, Chiaramonte,

Absent: Lowden, Pienkowski, Watson, Stahl

Minutes: The board received all of the minutes from the Board Meetings of 6/25/04/ The 5State Meeting of 6/25/04 and the conference minutes of 6/26/04. Several people submitted corrections but none affected the intent or meaning. The only real correction was the omission of Bryan Ward as one of the NJ Valor Members. He was listed in the minutes as Bryan without the last name. Members should correct their copies. All of the other changes were spelling and grammar and all have been fixed.

The minutes will be placed on the web site when approved. Given the nature of the corrections they are not worth downloading by the Board but members can read them or download them.

There was a **motion to approve the minutes of the 6/25/04 Board meeting** as corrected by Gouty and a second by Walton. **Motion approved unanimously.**

There was a **motion to approve the minutes of the 6/25/04 5 States meeting** as corrected by Seavey and a second by Gouty. **Motion approved unanimously.**

There was a **motion to approve the minutes of the 6/26/04 Conference** as corrected by Walton and a second by Warrick. **Motion approved unanimously.**

EDIAFC Conference:

Currently we are about \$4,726.57 in the black but there are several bills outstanding. We also have yet to receive checks for New York for the reception, NJ for the breakfasts, and MSCFA for the lunch and technical sessions. There is also several hundred dollars in registration vouchers still out. We will finish in the black if all of the commitments from sponsors are received. State Directors should follow up with their states.

Income for the conference so far is \$12,413.00 from sponsors and \$5,250.57 from registrations and some misc. receipts. Expenses so far are \$13,937.00 and there are probably another \$1,000.00 out there.

The Secretary reported that Ted and Mary Lowden had personally laid out about \$650.00 for conference supplies. Primarily for food and beverage. Ted mailed the entire package to the Secretary about two weeks ago and it has never arrived despite the fact that several other mailed packages did arrive from Ted. Because there are no other backups for these expenses, the Secretary requested the Board to go on record in the minutes as approving the expenses based on an itemized letter from Ted and from Mary Lowden detailing the expenses. Bill pointed out that the items purchased were clearly delivered and that in some cases President Seavey had accompanied Mary to make the purchases. He also felt that the Division should not allow the Lowdens to bear the cost of these expenses simply because receipts were lost. The Secretary believed that a motion by the Board and recorded in the minutes would satisfy the auditors. There was a **motion** by Gouty and a second by Chiaramonte to authorize payment of the expenses based upon a written letter itemizing the expenses from Ted & Mary in an amount not to exceed \$650.00. **The motion passed unanimously.**

The secretary requested anyone still having expense reports to please submit them.

2005 Conference: We should know by the end of July if King of Prussia will be offering to host the 2005 conference. We will need to decide at FRI.

Two Hatter Issue: During the last conference call it was decided that the Board would not pass a Resolution requested by President Seavey related to Chief Ernie Mitchell's Testimony as regards the Two Hatter language in the Fire Act. Instead, the Board opted to approve a letter to Ernie Mitchell requesting an explanation as to why Chief Mitchell testified that the language should be left out. Chief Seavey was to draft the letter. On this conference call, the Board decided to hold any further action until FRI. Mike Chiamonte asked why Larry Curl did what he did. Chief Seavey repeated the history of the VCOS issues. There was a motion by Chiamonte and a second by Seavey to formally invite Bob DiPoli to the EDIAFC BOD Meeting at FRI. Bernie will write the letter.

Committee Appointments: The current EDIAFC Committees are posted on the web site. The Secretary reported that he has made changes which have taken place so far this year including the new Valor Committee and the deleted Volunteer Committee. Other committees will be posted as they are appointed by President Cohan. Committee chairs will be asked to review their web pages and make any changes they deem necessary. President Cohan covered the appointments. They can be found on the web site. Steve Reid was added to the Elections Committee

Valor Committee: The Valor Committee is no longer self supporting. Our expenses this year were around \$750.00 and we only get \$500.00 from VFIS. It should be noted that this year we did not have to pay any lodging fees for the winners so our costs were reduced. The Secretary stated we should be looking for a second sponsor to make this committee stable. The secretary is still trying to track down the missing \$250.00 from VFIS.

SPM in Denver: We have learned that the IAFC is not going to pay for the Division Presidents to attend the SPM despite our request. This was declined by a motion of the IAFC BOD with Chief Walton in opposition. The IAFC is also not paying for lodging for the SPM for the States. The states who send people to the Wildfire Best Practices Conference will use the airfare afforded to them to attend the conference, but will have to pay the extra days rooms on their own. Some meals are provided at the meeting, but meals are not covered either. The IAFC is funding the conference attendees through a grant. They are actually not paying for anyone to attend other than their own board and invited guests.

President Cohan stated he had written to Evesham asking them to send Ted Lowden. He felt that he thought the Secretary should be one of the three Division Officers to attend. Mike Chiamonte requested he be sent. It was requested that any Board Member willing to attend should inform the Secretary and President. Chief Cohan thought the Secretary should attend and is recommending that the President, 1st VP and Secretary should attend as the Eastern Reps. Jim Watson will likely be sent by Delaware. Les Warrick thought he might go on his own. Bernie may go as the NJSAFC rep and Seavey may go from MSAFC since Gouty cannot attend.

Daily Dispatch: The Secretary reported he had been on two conference calls and exchanged numerous e-mails with the Company of Griffin-Tabor in Oregon. Jeff Griffin is the Secretary of the Western Division and his company provides the Daily Dispatch to all of the states in the Western Division. Jeff is willing to bring the Division on as the second IAFC Division to be involved.

The Dispatch is a daily newsletter set up very similar to the events page of our web site. It highlights items in a line or two and provides a hyperlink to the item. This saves space and allows readers to select what they want to read by scanning a menu. It has a national news, division news and state news section. It contains advertising, classified ads, A copy of the project plan and an Oregon version of the Daily Dispatch is included with the minutes or as a separate email.

The Board agreed to allow the Secretary to go forward with the project and agreed with his recommendation that it be piloted in NY first. The company believes they can cover the costs with advertising and the Eastern will have access to free space to advertise events and post articles. The Dispatch will have the Eastern name and logo and the state association name and logo (assuming they agree). Otherwise it will simply read NY Edition. The hope is to pilot the first editions before FRI. Fire GPO ads will be a big supporter of the dispatch.

Initially we will give it to all EDIAFC and state association members. The Board agreed to let the dispatch be the free tickler to non-members and use the GPO advertising to interest non-members to join.

IAFC Report:

The Secretary informed the Board that this was the last scheduled conference call. He requested that Bill Walton provide future dates which are based around IAFC Conference calls. Bill will schedule the calls with IAFC based on the dates provided by Bill W.

Bill Walton provided comments on the items in the Minutes of the IAFC Board Conference and spoke favorably of the NEMA issue. The IAFC approved the FEMSA issue which would add safety labels to gear and equipment. It has been approved pending legal review. Bill Walton suggested writing a letter to Jim Harnes congratulating him on his victory. Bernie will write the letter. Mike Chiaramonte commented that Eastern voting was poor.

Bill Walton commented on the FCC ruling in favor of the Consensus Plan. Bill Askenstedt said he had several discussions with Nextel during the past week because of their concerns about legal action from Verizon which he NJ based. He has been helping them with NJ contacts to help head this off. Bernie has also written to Senator Lautenberg asking him to back off the Verizon support and to endorse the Consensus Plan.

Bill Askenstedt said he felt Nextel will stay with the Consensus Plan despite the 2.5 billion dollar price tag placed by the FCC. He and President Cohan will continue to work with Nextel in the ongoing battle which may become worse. Bill told Nextel that they should respond quickly and come out with an implementation plan ASAP to get Fire departments personally involved.

Bill Askenstedt questioned the item in the IAFC Conference Call Minutes related to VCOS working with the NVFC, and IAFF to develop a new Fire Code. Bill Walton will attempt to find out what this was all about.

Editorial Note: It is very clear to the Secretary that the minutes that are distributed are not well read. While the minutes of the IAFC Conference Call are very vague and almost certainly mis-written, a new fire code should have sent shock waves, particularly when the partners are VCOS, NVFC and IAFF. While most of them are of little impact, I try to put notes like, "You really should read these!" when I think it is important. Hope you all will.

Fire Rescue GPO: Jim Seavey reported that New England had joined and he thought Southeastern had or would very shortly. He urged members to visit the new web site.

Parades: Jack Gouty polled the Board about riding the back step on apparatus during parades. DE, NJ and NY responded they did not permit it.

FRI Banquet: Jack Gouty asked about banquet dress at FRI. There was no general ruling or consensus. Jack also reported he will be late for the Board Meeting at FRI.