

**Minutes - EDIAFC Board Meeting
February, 25, 2005
Evesham Township, NJ**

The Meeting was called to order by President Cohan at 1:00 P.M. on Friday, February 25, 2005.

President Bernie Cohan	Present
1 st Vice President Michael Chiaramonte	Absent
2 nd Vice President James Watson	Present
Secretary/Treasurer William Askenstedt	Present
International Director William Walton, Jr.	Present
Past President James Seavey, Sr.	Absent
MD Director Jack Gouty	Present
NJ Director Ted Lowden	Present
NY Director Ken Pienkowski	Present
PA Director Robert Stahl	Absent
DE Director Les Warrick	Present

Guests:

Past Presidents:

IAFC Officers: None

IAFC Staff: None

Committee Chairs: Les Warrick - Memorial Committee & Valor Award, Ken Anderson, C&B

Minutes:

There was a **motion to approve the minutes of the 02/13/05 Conference Call** by Walton and a second by Gouty. **Motion approved unanimously.**

OFFICERS REPORTS

President Cohan's Report:

As your President, I continue to act as liaison of the EDIAFC at the following organization meetings: Bayshore Active Fire Chiefs, New Jersey State Fire Chiefs, New Jersey Career Fire Chiefs, New Jersey Volunteer Fire Chiefs, New Jersey Association of Fire Districts and many others.

I have been elected as the President of the New Jersey State Fire Chiefs Association for a two-year term. During my term I have attempted to unite the many New Jersey Fire Organizations into one unified voice. The Board of Directors of the NJ Career Fire Chiefs, The NJ Volunteer Fire Chiefs and the NJ State Fire Chiefs have met and agreed to form the NJ Fire Chiefs Alliance. On April 9th, the Alliance will hold a summit at the Middlesex County Fire Academy, with representatives of most of the emergency service organizations in the state. The monthly

teleconference calls not only keep us all up to date, but save us the huge cost of the face to face BOD meetings we used to have in the past.

As you know, we now have a very good working relationship with the IAFC parent organization and the Five State Chiefs Associations in our Division. In November of 2004, the BOD's of the EDIAFC and the 5 States met at IAFC Headquarters to discuss the many problems in the fire service today. This networking, communications, and information exchange is a definite asset to our Division.

It appears that the "2 Hatter" issue is dormant at this time, due to the IAFF backing the losing Presidential candidate. However our Past President Jim Seavey assures me it will rear its ugly head as soon as the heat dies down.

The Consensus plan that we fought so hard to support has now become law.

The daily dispatch has been well received by all our members.

1st Vice President Chiaramonte's Report:

No Report.

2nd Vice President Watson's Report:

No Report.

International Director Walton's Report:

Thanked the officers for allowing him to run for a second term. The Eastern is doing well. Looking forward to his next term.

Bill reported to the IAFC about the KOP conference and the 5 State Summits. He told the IAFC that the Division remains concerned with the two hatter issue and the funding issues for the NFA. There was a summit of national fire organizations which included 17 key fire service organizations. Five goals were established.

Bill spoke about the social attitudes survey. The IAFC BOD felt it was premature to send out the survey. They were not sure what the purpose of the survey would be.

Garry Briese made a presentation about the IAFC and national fire service situation in Delaware which was very well received. Ken Pienkowski thought that the presentation was something the IAFC should be doing more of.

Bill proposed the IAFC recognize Ernie Day for his long history as an IAFC member. Ken Anderson attended Ernie's funeral and mentioned that Ernie was recognized for many things including the Resolution presented by the Eastern. Ernie was the oldest living Eagle Scout at the time of his death. There was discussion of possible ways to recognize Ernie.

Bill addressed the Boston Globe report on fire service response. It was discussed by the IAFC BOD at length. They thought the report was well done. It was centered around Massachusetts but is applicable nation wide. It pointed out many deficiencies in the fire service

In 2004 there were 104 line of duty deaths. Many (39) were motor vehicle deaths. Bill said many were preventable. Jack Gouty said there is an article in Fire chief Magazine related to seat belts.

Tom Kuntz did a presentation on Wildlands Fires for the IAFC BOD. The Wildlands conference had 900 attendees. Bill said wildlands is the best place to see NIMS work. Tom Kuntz presented what the wildland policy committee is trying to accomplish at the national level. Ted Lowden is a member of the committee.

Chief Michael Freeman from LA County FD did a presentation for the IAFC on Homeland Security and Terrorism.

Bill Walton said there was an editorial in On Scene by Garry Briese about a firefighter death in Memphis. The Fire Chief sent a very harsh letter to the IAFC asking them to censure Garry for his letter. The Metro Chiefs were very upset about the article. Bob DiPoli wrote a letter to the Metro Chiefs saying that in the future the Executive Committee will review editorials which may be sensitive to members and also contact members who may be involved or affected. The Memphis Fire Chief was offered space to write a rebuttal to Garry's article but he declined for now because the matter is in litigation. The IAFC Board agreed Garry had a right to his opinion but when writing in On Scene he was perceived as representing the entire organization. The IAFC Health and Safety Committee will look at the matter and the issue of hazing being part of recruit training. Garry Briese apologized to the IAFC Board for his mistake in judgement.

The IAFC is reviving the Fire Chiefs Assistance Program.

The IAFC BOD discussed the hazmat placards on rail cars. Bill believes the security issue may take precedence over the fire departments needs for placards. The IAFC asked for an alternative method the fire service could use to identify hazardous materials. There was an argument that there is no real history of rail car hazmats that justify the need for the placards. Concern was voiced that the same logic may also be applied to trucks.

Alan Caldwell explained about how Congress funds bills. The Fire Act is proposed at 500 million. Congress could raise the President's proposal. This is the same level proposed last year by the President which Congress raised to 650 million. That could occur again. There was a discussion of the way Fire Act Grants are distributed. Ted Lowden explained that there is an elaborate scheme which determines the distribution. There was considerable discussion of the ways grants are distributed. The consensus was the system has faults but it is still a great deal and it could be a mistake to start picking it apart. Ted Lowden said that there is still a problem getting money to the departments that really need it. Bill Walton said that the match money needed for the grants was reduced from 20% to 10% which may help smaller departments.

The IAFC Bod reviewed there proposed budget. The conferences are now about 61% of the revenue. There are more conferences now so there is less reliance on one. Dues income is down to about 25% of the revenue. The IAFC purchases conference insurance to protect its revenue income. They have also established a "rainy day fund" to cover potential conference income losses. The IAFC has diversified its investments into some higher risk investments while maintaining some stable investments. They have also looked to shorter term access investments. Bill discussed the proposed MOU between the Canadian Fire Chiefs Association and the IAFC.

Don Warden, the Canadian director pointed out that their members do not get many of the IAFC member benefits which are related to American legislation and lobbying. The IAFC has signed the MOU and it is awaiting a ratification from the CFA. A dues rate is yet to be decided. The recommendation is that they be allowed to pay in Canadian dollars instead of US dollars.

Steve Westerman will be the incoming 2nd VP. There are several candidates for 2006. Larry Goroud from Great Lakes has announced for 2007.

There was a discussion of comping section chairs to FRI. It was rejected by the IAFC BOD. Bill Walton said he had made the same request for Division Presidents in prior years and that had also been rejected.

Bill Walton said the site selection committee for FRI had presented a report offering new cities. Detroit will replace Dallas. The three city rotation may also be changed to a annual city or perhaps a 5 or 6 city rotation.

The membership report of the IAFC shows an increase and there is a potential of gaining 2000 members from Canada.

The IAFC Board discussed the Fire Officer PSOB and proposed changes to cover junior firefighters. So far the changes have been blocked. There were many arguments made both for and against PSOB benefits

Bob DiPoli's retirement is coming up in Needham, Mass. Bill will forward details to anyone wishing information.

Bill Walton said the IAFC sent a letter to the family of the firefighter who died in the line of duty in Iraq. Bill Walton asked the IAFC Board to send a letter to the family of every line of duty death In the United States. They will do so.

Immediate Past President Seavey's Report:

No Report. President Cohan read part of an email from Jim Seavey warning the Board that the two hatter issue was not dead, only dormant. Jim encouraged the Division to continue being involved with electronic communications and radio interoperability. The email said that we had improved our relationship with the IAFC but we must remember that we need to provide our input on important information

Secretary Treasurer Report: The Board received a Treasurer's Report and Membership Report in the beginning of February which was reviewed on the February Conference Call. There has been little activity since that time and no report will be presented for this meeting. The Secretary asked if everyone received and read the report. The response was yes.

Correspondence:

Letter of intent to run for President of EDIAFC - Mike Chiaramonte

Letter of intent to run for 1st VP of EDIAFC from James Watson

Letter of intent to run for 2nd VP of EDIAFC from Robert Stahl

Letter of intent to run for re-election as International Director from William Walton

Letter endorsing Jim Watson for 1st VP from Wilmington Manor VFD

Letter endorsing Jim Watson for 1st VP from DSFCA

Delaware Director Warrick's Report:

Delaware is looking toward standardization in the counties and state.

Maryland Director Gouty's Report:

MD has a deadline for NIMs training. Jack attended a seminar on radical Islamism. He can put anyone in touch with the speaker. Ocean City has a 100th anniversary.

New Jersey Director Lowden's Report:

Active attending local meetings and helping Bill Jenaway with the conference. Ted is working with the NFA Alumni Association trying to coordinate there activities with the IAFC. Ted is working with the NJ Chiefs alliance. The alliance includes the State Chiefs, Career Chiefs and Volunteer Chiefs. Ted is working on a recruitment, Conference and Division promotion package to be widely distributed in NJ. Ken Pienkowski asked Ted to share his letter with the other state directors.

Bill Walton announced that Ted Lowden is a finalist in the Harvard Fellowship program.

Bernie Cohan complimented Ted on his job as NJ Director

New York Director Pienkowski's Report:

Ken said he continues to promote Division membership and wrote a letter about the Eastern for Size Up, the NY Chiefs Magazine.

He distributed a recruitment tool being used by the NY Vol. Firemen's Association.

Pennsylvania Director Stahl's Report:

No Report.

President Cohan read a letter to Congressman Pasqueral supporting a permanent standing Homeland Security Committee. Ken Anderson said the committee has been created and Curt Weldon will be the Vice Chair. There is potential for a Fire Service representative to hold a high ranking position on the committee.

Ken Pienkowski asked if the FRI partner registration included a banquet ticket. No one was certain but Bill Walton will check into it. He said there were several good partner programs this year.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

C&B Committee:

No matters have been referred to the CBR Committee for action. It appears unlikely that any constitution or by-law amendments will be submitted in time for consideration at the annual conference in King of Prussia.

I suspect that the committee will be asked to prepare some resolutions for adoption at the Conference.

I am also the Eastern representative on the IAFC CBR Committee. The next Constitution, By-Laws & Resolutions Committee meeting will be held at IAFC Headquarters in Fairfax, VA on March 4-6, 2005. As I write this report, the agenda for the meeting has not been prepared.

Appointments to the IAFC CBR committee are for a 3-year term. My term will end September 30, 2005. I believe the appointment has typically be made by the President, but considered by the Board. I have enjoyed my tenure on the committee. I plan to attend the Denver FRI. However, as I previously reported to you, I feel it is time to retire from the IAFC CBR committee and by that notice gave you ample time to select a new representative.

Codes Committee:

No Report.

Communications Committee:

No Report

Conference Committee:

2005 EDIAFC Conference: Following is general information related to the conference;

1. Speakers - Morning speaker will be Congressman Curt Weldon. The PM speaker will be Dennis Rubin from Virginia speaking on safety
2. Hotels will be The Crown Plaza Valley Forge (full service hotel) at \$109 single and \$119/double or the Fairfield Inn at \$99
3. Sponsors: To date Campbell Supply, ICC, Conectiv Nextel and Motorola have pledged corporate support. NJ State Chiefs, Delaware State Chiefs, Maryland State Chiefs and NJ Career Chiefs have pledged organizational support of \$500.00 each
4. Registration will be \$50.00 and include lunch and 1 banquet ticket. Extra Banquet tickets will be \$35. Please register.
5. The KOP Ladies Auxiliary is working on a luncheon fashion show for the ladies program
6. The conference luncheon will be at a new station with cheese stakes and hoagies
7. The Banquet and President's cocktail party will be held in at the KOP Social Hall.
8. The conference flyer is done and on the web site. Do we want to do a mailing?
11. The conference program will be \$900 for 40 pages with color cover. Bill Jenaway is looking for a sponsor for the book.
12. Jim Broman has emailed that he will attend the 5 state meeting and conference. He is a candidate for IAFC 2nd VP in 2006.

The Secretary sent letters to all five state associations requesting \$500.00 sponsorships on

December 14, 2004.

The Board agreed to have the Secretary negotiate with Nextel, including a technical session by Nextel on interoperability, in return for a \$5,000.00 sponsorship at KOP. The Board also approved keeping the same format for the program book as last year.

Elections Committee: The Secretary reported that nominations for President, 1st VP, 2nd VP and International Director were sent to Elections Chair Larry Vaughan. Larry has received the letters and will forward the committee findings.

Memorial Service Committee: The Secretary stated that Father Steger planned to attend the conference and would help with the Memorial. The KOP Chaplain is also interested in attending.

The Board discussed ways of recognizing Ernie Day. Ken Anderson suggested a recognition of Ernie's accomplishments to be read at the conference.

Valor Committee: Notices were mailed to the states requesting nominations. Nominations will go to the committee and the 25 of March and will be due back April 20th. The award ceremony is to be decided for location.

VCOS:

Bill Walton stated that the VCOS has adopted a nine goal Strategic Plan. Steve Miller could not attend due to health reasons. Bill Askenstedt said he is doing better.

OLD BUSINESS

Banner: Jim Watson said the banner should be done next week.. Bill Walton suggested donating it to the NJ Fire Museum at Allaire in memory of Ernie Day. The subject was tabled until further information was available.

NFA Letter approved by the Five State Summit

Mike Chiaramonte did the original draft. Several changes were proposed and sent back to Mike for final approval. The letter has yet to be completed. The Board voted to send the letter and later opted to wait on the letter.

Fire Rescue GPO

The Fire Rescue GPO E University program for the Board and Five States will be put on by Caryn Tilton on Saturday February 26th in the morning session. Caryn will also do the same program on Sunday at the Delaware State Fire Training Academy. Registrations have been very slow after an initial surge. There have been no RSVPs for the DE session.

FRI Luncheon

Our Board approved the FRI luncheon for 2005. The secretary is working on the arrangements. It should be finalized at the Division Secretaries Meeting on March 18th in Fairfax.

NEW BUSINESS

FRI per diem - There was a motion Gouty and second by Watson that Board approve 4 nights, travel and per diem for FRI in Denver. Ken Pienkowski asked if the motion included Ken Anderson as the C&B representative. The motion was amended to include Ken Anderson. The motion was approved unanimously.

GPO Liaison: Chief Seavey is requesting the Board to fund travel to the Amerinet Meeting in Phoenix and the FRI Meeting in Denver.

There was a motion by Lowden and second by Pienkowski not to pay the expenses for GPO related travel until such time as the financial relationship can be reviewed and be determined to be economical advantageous to the Division. Approved unanimously.

Update on FRI Denver Events; The Secretary reported that arrangements for FRI will be finalized at the Secretary's Meeting on March 18th in Fairfax. We have confirmed a lunch instead of a breakfast and it will be on Friday from 11:30 to 1:00 PM. We have also confirmed the Embassy Suites as our Division Hotel.

Evesham Per Diem: The Secretary requested the Board approve expenses for the Evesham Board Meeting of 2/25& 26 of two nights lodging, two days per diem, and travel. There was a **motion** by Pienkowski and second by Warrick approve the expenses requested. **Approved unanimously.**

IAFC 2nd Vice President 2006: Jim Broman will be attending our conference in King of Prussia and our Board meeting. He is a candidate for IAFC 2nd VP in 2006.

IAFC C&B Committee Representative. The Secretary repeated the report of Ken Anderson wherein Ken has decided to step down from his position on the IAFC C&B Committee. The incoming EDIAFC President will need to make a recommendation to the IAFC for his replacement. It was decided to recommend Ken Pienkowski be reappointed as Director at Large and to select a replacement for Ken Anderson as the Eastern representative. The Secretary was authorized to speak to Larry Vaughan to determine if he was interested in being nominated for the position of Eastern rep on the IAFC C&B Committee.

Conference Registration: Chief Gouty contacted the Secretary about Board registration for the EDIAFC Conference in KOP. The Secretary stated that the Board must vote on the expenses for the conference including whether the registration and or banquet tickets for spouses would be paid for by the Division. The Board opted to fund the registration.

Membership: Ted Lowden suggested that the IAFC staff should send an email to members who sponsor a member saying that the person they sponsored actually joined.

FRI Luncheon: Ted Lowden asked about the format for the FRI luncheon. The Board agreed that it would be better to have a single Board Member make a presentation about the accomplishments of the prior year and the goals for the next year rather than have each Board Member give a report. It was agreed that the IAFC Officers and 2nd VP candidates would still be given time to speak. The Secretary discussed the formats used by other Divisions which vary greatly by Division. He said the lunch should be better because there should be more attendees than for a breakfast. It was also agreed that while the red jackets are not well loved, an identity was required and the jackets serve the purpose. Ted Lowden said we need to present ourselves as best as we can because we have a limited time with our members and need to set our best foot forward. Bill Walton said the Board should decide on a speaker to represent the Board at FRI so that person could be prepared when he arrived. He suggested that Ted Lowden be the lunch speaker. It was also suggested that we invite Dennis O'Neil to speak about the status of the NFA.

Eastern Conference: The Secretary said that NY had offered to host the 2006 EDIAFC Conference in Binghamton, NY. Since then NY has moved their state conference from Syracuse to Lake George. Tom LaBelle has now offered to host the EDIAFC Conference in conjunction with the NY Conference in Lake George. Tom will need an answer as soon as possible.