

## **Minutes EDIAFC Conference Call July 16, 2006 - 7:00 P.M.**

Present: Askenstedt, Pienkowski, Watson, Gouty, Warrick, Walton, Lowden, Mellits  
Showmaker, Chiaramonte, Stahl  
Absent:

Minutes: The board received the minutes from the Board meeting of 06/02/06 and the Conference Minutes of 06/03/06.

There was a **motion** by Gouty and a second by Warrick to approve the minutes of the 06/02/06 Board Meeting. **Motion passed.**

There was a **motion** by Warrick and a second by Gouty to approve the minutes of the 06/03/06 Annual Conference **Motion passed.**

**Secretary Treasurer Report:** The Secretary has completed all conference communications as directed. All of the conference thank you letters have been sent. The Secretary also distributed the response from President Killen to the Eastern Division letter.

The Secretary asked the Board to review the proposed budget for 2006-07 that was distributed at the conference and adopt it formally or with any changes they deemed appropriate.

There was a **motion** by Warrick and a second by Gouty to approve the 2006-07 budget as proposed by the Secretary Treasurer. **Motion passed** The Board will look to amend the budget to cover the President's Budget should it be amended after state directors submit.

There was a **motion** by Warrick and a second by Walton for each state to provide a budget estimate of the cost of the President to attend their state conference. Ken Pienkowski suggested that we fund the President to go to all five state meetings. The motion was approved.

**Conference Calls:** Remember the new conference call phone number is: **1-866-809-4014** and the code is **2730202**. The proposed schedule for 2006 Conference calls is as follows:

**Aug 13, Oct 15, Nov 12, Dec 17**

All of the calls are Sunday at 7:00 PM.

**IAFC Report:** Bill Walton had no report. lafc Minutes from Board calls were previously submitted.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Valor Committee:** Les Warrick reported on the awards ceremony in Washington DC. The Eastern got great publicity. Les said he will be asking Stephen Reid from DC to take over the committee as chairman.

### **Old Business**

**Fire Service Excellence Award:** Conectiv pulled their sponsorship for 2006 and gave their \$1,000.00 to the conference instead. The Secretary asked Les Warrick to help Dan Lane establish the connection with Conectiv to regain their sponsorship. Les is working with Dan. The secretary reported that Dan sent out the draft to the committee and will be asking to hold a conference call of the committee soon.

## **2006 EDIAFC Conference**

The Secretary reported Conference sponsors pledged \$19,750.00 and we have taken in \$23,941.00 to date. The additional amount collected was from the Philadelphia Convention and Visitors Bureau who pledged \$3,000.00 for the banquet and ended up paying the entire cost of \$7,191.00. There were 72 registered for the full conference. 50 additional registered for the banquet and 15 registered for the partners program.

All of the conference bills have been paid. All of the sponsors who pledged money have paid. All of the registration money due has been paid. The conference currently has an income over expenses of \$12,033.93.

Ted said the conference went together well, but he would like to see better attendance

## **2007 EDIAFC Conference:**

Les Warrick reported there is progress and that the state chiefs have released some funds for the conference.

## **2008 EDIAFC Conference:**

The Secretary reported that he had been contacted by the city of York, PA and they are interested in hosting the 2008 EDIAFC Conference. York is centrally located and has a lot to offer. Attractions include the Harley Davidson Factory, a fire museum and numerous factory outlets.

It may also be possible to approach VFIS about the use of their conference center for the Board meeting and General Session. That facility has a very large training room and a very good cafeteria which charges minimal prices for breakfast and lunch. It is normally not used on weekends and could easily accommodate the Board Meeting on Friday, even though there would be normal business going on.

The York FD has a social club which we could look at using for the Friday night social event and Glatfelter gets very good hotel rates at several nice hotels they use. The banquet could be held at one of several hotels and we could simply charge attendees whatever it costs. York also has buses should we need transport or for a spouses program.

York has invited the Secretary to come out for a weekend to meet with their convention bureau to discuss going to York in 2008. The only costs would be mileage to travel there if the board thought it was worth pursuing.

There was a **motion** by Warrick and a second by Gouty to have the Secretary travel to York to meet with the Convention Bureau to research the possibility of having the 2008 EDIAFC Conference in York, Pa. The motion further authorized the Secretary to open discussions with VFIS about the potential of using their facilities in York and with the York FD about including their museum and social hall in the conference. No arrangements will be made until the Board has reviewed and approved the entire package. **The motion was** approved.

## **National Mutual Aid System:**

The IAFC has adopted the report and all of the recommendations contained in the report, as reported by IAFC President Killen at the EDIAFC Conference. A full time Emergency Management Committee will be established to take over for MASTF.

Ted Lowden reported that he went to Mobile, Alabama in June. They met for two days and worked on the handbook that will support the system. IAFC will distribute the book at FRI with a lot of publicity. The book is essentially a guide on how the system works.

There was further discussion about credentials and something will be coming out through FEMA and the USFA. Ted said that we need to keep a watch on what comes out. Bill Walton said that the IAFC Board took a position similar to the Eastern, which is task oriented rather than certification oriented. Bill thought an interim measure, for possibly the next five years, may be adopted and that the IAFC may get to have further input into the permanent policy.

Ted Lowden said that he told the Task Force that not all of the fire service is NFPA oriented. He also gave an example where Public Works employees may be better suited for some rolls than firefighters. Bill Walton also said many Firefighters are not NFPA based. .

Pete Mellits said the Maryland fire chiefs were concerned that there would be a fitness standard that would require a nationally accepted physical certification. Ted said he was not aware of that requirement. Pete Mellits asked if the information Ted reported was for public knowledge. Ted said it was.

#### **NY Line of Duty Death Meeting:**

Ken reported that the June meeting was cancelled and there was nothing new to report.

#### **New Business**

##### **Audit:**

The secretary told the Board that the audit still needs to be done and asked if the President would approach Jon Townley to do the audit unless the Board preferred someone else. President Watson said he spoke to John Townley and he will do the audit

##### **President Travel Policy:**

The Secretary asked that the Board establish a policy for travel by the President that would establish what trips were covered and the number of nights covered for each trip. The Secretary pointed out that the Board approves travel for the Eastern Conference, the IAFC Conference and the Strategic Planning Conferences for the entire Board and the Board has always voted the number of nights covered for every conference.

In the case of the President's travel, there has been no such policy and there needs to be one in place. The Secretary also suggested that the Board could approve a budget for such travel and allow the President to use it at his discretion as long as the budget was not superceded. The Secretary pointed out that last year the President's expenses exceeded 330% of what was budgeted and that in some cases, expenses for attending state conferences exceeded expenses for attending EDIAFC conferences.

Jim Watson reported that he asked John Townley to produce a Resolution for NYSAFC's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. There was a motion by Warrick and second

##### **Fire GPO:**

There have been a series of postponements of the GPO Conference Call. The call has yet to take place. Minutes of that call will be distributed by the Secretary.

#### **Strategic Planning Meeting**

The Invitations have been sent out for the IAFC Strategic Planning Meeting in October. The dates are October 26 to 29 and the location is the Hilton McLean Tysons Corner (703) 847-5000 The invitations say

to arrive Thursday morning, but the first official function is Thursday evening and there is really no reason to arrive early on Thursday.

The Secretary recommended that the entire Board attend as we have in the past. He suggested three nights hotel and three days dinner allowance since breakfast and lunch will be provided, plus travel expenses. Based on that, Meals and hotel will be \$600.00 per person and travel should average around \$150.00 for a total cost of \$7,500.00 assuming the IAFC pays for Bill Walton.

If the Board approves, the Secretary will handle all of the registrations. Board members should make their own room reservations so that they may make their own preferences at the hotel. If anyone did not receive an invitation, please contact the Secretary for a copy.

There was a **motion** by Warrick and a second by Gouty to approve the entire Board attending the IAFC Strategic Planning Meeting in Tysons Corner, VA from October 26 to the 29<sup>th</sup> and for the Board to be reimbursed three nights lodging, travel and three night dinners. **The motion was approved unanimously.**

### **Katrina Aid**

Jim Watson reported that IAFC President Killen called him and said that some of the departments affected by Katrina are in the need of donations of tools and supplies. Chief Killen asked if the Division would help try to gather these items and help the southern departments.

The Secretary reminded the Board that there are serious logistical problems involved in such undertakings. Ken Pienkowski said that the Division had many departments suffering from their own floods and we had a local need as well. The decision was made to allow the states to work with President Killen directly if they wanted to, because the logistics were too difficult for the Division and also because some states had home issues of their own.

### **Chiaramonte Decision**

Jim Watson raised the issue of whether Mike Chiaramonte could still be our representative on the IAFC Elections Committee, because he no longer lives in the Division. Jim said Bill Killen told him that Mike could no longer serve as our representative. There was discussion that Mike not be eligible. The Secretary said there is precedent that for EDIAFC members to live out of state.

There was a discussion as to whether Bill Killen would appoint Mike, even if he was supported by the Division because the Division recommendation may not be binding on the IAFC President. It was also asked if anyone knew if Mike wanted to the position again. The Board decided to look at other candidates in addition to Mike. The Secretary will contact IAFC about Mike's eligibility.

Pete Mellits asked about the duties of the position. Bill Walton said they are posted on the IAFC web site. He also said the committee may be asked to handle Division elections in the future. A decision will be made on the August 13, conference call.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30