

Minutes EDIAFC Conference Call February 11, 2007 - 7:00 P.M.

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

Absent:

Minutes: The board received the minutes from the January 20, 2007 Board of Directors meeting

There was a **motion** by Chiaramonte and a second by Pienkowski to approve the minutes of the 10/15/06 Conference Call. **Motion passed.**

Secretary Treasurer Report:

Treasurer's Report - No report.

Membership report - No report.

Correspondence:

The following letters were received from candidates for EDIAFC Offices

For President Robert Stahls letter arrived during the conference call.

For 1st Vice President from Jack Gouty

For 2nd Vice President Ted Lowden has not been yet submitted.

For Secretary Treasurer from Bill Askenstedt

For Secretary Treasurer from Jon Townley

All letters received thus far were forwarded to the Elections Chair Larry Vaughan as required by the Constitution and By-Laws. There are still several days left for candidates to declare. The deadline is February 15th.

The following correspondence was sent;

The Board approved a letter being sent to Motorola, IAFC and the Metro Chiefs in support of the concerns of the Philadelphia Fire Department's that emergency services radios were being sent out of the United States to be repaired and supporting their concerns of the quality and security of that process.

This letter has still not gone out because several emails to Philadelphia asking for further information have gone unanswered. VCOS also met with Motorola at their Board Meeting and found that Motorola had presented a great deal of evidence that they had cooperated with PFD and thought the issues were resolved.

Mike Chiaramonte also spoke with Motorola representatives and he reported that his conclusion was much the same as VCOS. It appears that Commissioner Ayers may have blown the whole situation out of proportion. He said he was given a great deal of documentation on the efforts of Motorola to resolve the problems. Mike said that despite everything else, Motorola was still moving their operations back to the US.

Mike reported that Motorola was shocked that PFD still thought there was an issue.

Since the letter has not yet been sent, the Secretary recommended that the Board reverse the motion to send a letter. There was a **motion** by Chiaramonte and a second by Askenstedt not to send the letter to Motorola and instead to contact PFD. Ted asked that as part of the motion, we respond to PFD that we investigated the matter thoroughly and were informed that Motorola has worked earnestly to resolve the issue. The Motion was approved unanimously.

To IAFC and VCOS expressing concerns that federal funded credentialing programs were being piloted with the exclusion of volunteers and supporting VCOS to be the lead agency to research and develop a position on the issue.

VCOS discussed the situation at the Board Meeting and found that the pilot program did exclude volunteers, but that was only for the pilot program and there is no intention of a policy to exclude volunteers. It was only done to expedite the pilot program because the career people already had background checks which made it simpler to use them. VCOS will write a letter if the Board desires, but they are not taking a stand on the matter at this time.

Since that time, Steve Miller reported that Montgomery County has continued with the credentialing process for their special operations teams and they have begun including volunteers in that process.

Jack Gouty said that Montgomery County refused to participate unless volunteers were included.. Pete and Jack agreed the issue was resolved for now.

Les Warrick asked what exactly does credentialing mean. Ted answered that there is no exact criteria established as yet and it is still an unknown and unresolved issue. He said the most modern model is what is currently underway in Maryland.

Bill Walton said he and the IAFC Board had very little information as to what was going on with the process.

Pete Mellits explained that the first step was a bar coded ID that defined a firefighters skills and qualifications. He said that DHS felt career people had better background clearances to start off with. In Montgomery County that is not the case, career and

volunteer people get the same checks. Pete said Montgomery is the pilot program for volunteer credentials.

Les expressed his feelings that volunteers would still be left behind.

To Kent County, supporting the construction of radio towers to enhance emergency services communications. The letter was received and we received thanks from Kent County and Mike Walker. Jack commented that he thought the towers were approved. Pete confirmed that the county had approved the towers and forwarded their recommendation to the state.

Conference Calls: Remember the conference call phone number is: **1-866-809-4014** and the code is **2730202**. All of the calls are Sunday at 7:00 PM. The 2007 schedule is as follows;

Month	IAFC Call	EDIAFC Call
February	08	11
March	08	11
April	12	15
May	10	No call due to Board meeting
June	14	17
July	12	15
August	09	12
September	13	16
October	11	14
November	08	11
December	13	16

IAFC Report: Bill Walton sent the Board copies of the IAFC adopted budget for 2007 in an email prior to the call. At that time he was uncertain if he would be on the call.

Bill reported on the problems with the MSA pass devices. The IAFC is pursuing the issue through the Safety and Survival Section and developing a position paper.

Bill said the member alert was out on the Garry Briese retirement reception. You can register on line.

Bill said the IAFC is addressing the Defense Authorization Act which would give the President the authority to activate state National Guard Units. He said the Division may want to take a position in the future.

Bill stated he agreed with Bill A that a small annual dues increase may have been better than the \$20.00 approach taken by the IAFC

Mike asked if the IAFC was in a panic mode because they were worried about future conferences. Bill responded that the Board was looking at a deficit in 2006 and there were concerns about Garry leaving. Mike said committee budgets were hit hard.

Mike also asked what the IAFC was doing to charge sections more money. Bill said that the IAFC C&B was changed to say that sections must be financially self supporting. Bill said the Fire and Life Safety section told the IAFC that they could not yet support themselves. Bill said that there were also issues raised about the money that VCOS had accumulated. It was determined that the money was dedicated to specific training programs sponsored by vendors.

Bill asked that Eastern members who are attending to where their red coats. The President said the Board should wear their red jackets.

The Secretary Treasurer question the \$160,000 expenditure item for 2006 for consultants which was double the 2006 budget and several other items in the budget that seemed out of whack .and if the \$368,000 transfer from Capital represented a loss. Bill Walton was uncertain about either issue and promised to check.

Committee Reports

Memorial Committee: Les Warrick reported the Memorial Service Program is in progress and will be ready for the conference. Les is working on a reverend. Jim said there were local people available. Les is also working on flowers.

C&B Committee: Ken Pienkowski reported the next meeting is in March.

Fire Service Excellence Award

Mike Chiaramonte reported that he submitted the nomination for Garry Briese for the first recipient of the award as he volunteered to do at the Board meeting. Jim, Les and Bill Walton were to look into obtaining an eagle sculpture for he award. The award will be presented at the Rehoboth Conference, where Garry will be the Keynote Speaker

Old Business

2007 EDIAFC Conference:

President Watson reported that the conference was making progress. There was another meeting today.

2008 EDIAFC Conference: The Secretary reported that he has begun to work on sponsors and presenters for the conference. He spoke to Commissioner Ayres from Philadelphia and requested they do a presentation on their fire based EMS data collection. There has been no response as yet

More serious solicitation will be done immediately after the Delaware Conference.

The Secretary asked Bob Stahl to contact the Chief of York and ask them to participate in the conference. Bob said he would do so.

The web page will be launched after the Delaware conference and there will be hotel and conference info available to attendees of the Delaware conference.

The Secretary is working with the IAFC staff to develop a professionally done conference brochure and to get marketing assistance from the IAFC. Prices should be ready for Board review by the March call.

Technical assistance and promotional assistance has been promised by PC&VB, PFD, PFESI and Ed Mann the PA Commissioner.

The Secretary asked the Board to appoint people to work on the Technical Programs and on sponsors, so that he could concentrate on the logistics and marketing of the conference.

FRI Atlanta

The Division Hotel will be the Embassy Suites and the overflow hotel will be the Sheraton. They are within walking distance and the Embassy is the closest to the Convention Center.

Last week, VCOS had their Board meeting in Tampa and Steve Miller was to check on the VCOS offer to do a joint hospitality room with the Eastern. At their meeting, VCOS voted against doing a joint hospitality room with us.

NY Line of Duty Death Meeting:

Ken Pienkowski reported nothing has happened recently

Fire GPO:

No report.

Fire Corps

At the January Board Meeting, Mike Chiaramonte was asked to go back to Larry Curl to find out if there were any existing Fire Corp advocates in the Eastern States or if there were any lists of who had programs in each state. The intent was to help make the requested selection of advocates for each state easier. Mike distributed a list of fire departments in the Division that currently had Job Corp Programs in place via email prior to the conference call.

Mike Chiaramonte supplied the following job description for the State Fire Corps Advocates

Tasks of Task Force Division / State Advocate

1. Help create awareness in the geographic constituency

2. Help obtain and staff booth space and or speaking opportunities at events in the geographic constituency
3. Help obtain mailing lists or emails in the geographic constituency
4. Help obtain PSA and web placements in the geographic constituency
5. Identify State Advocates (State advocates replicate duties of division)
6. Participate in the train the trainer program (dates to be determined)
7. Participate reporting system of activities to share with National Office
8. Assist departments interested in developing Fire Corps programs

Mike reported that there are no official state advocates at this time. He asked that each state supply an advocate who would serve in their state. He suggested the state directors go to the departments in their state that have programs and try and solicit someone who would accept the position.

Ted asked why we were getting involved and under whose authority. Mike responded that it was a request from Larry Curl and that all of the Divisions were complying. Jack said Maryland already had an advocate. Mike asked Jack to supply a name.

Ken Pienkowski said that Larry Curl already asked the NVFC to find advocates. He said it would be embarrassing that we were soliciting double advocates. Ken suggested that we needed more clarification from Larry Curl. He suggested we let the NVFC handle the advocate selection.

Mike will research this further. Mike also asked if we wanted to have Larry Curl on the next call. The Board seemed to be set against it and Mike dropped the issue.

Presentation for Garry Briese

The Secretary reported that the \$500.00 gift card for Garry that was authorized by the Board had been received.

IAFC State Forums

At the January Board meeting it was agreed that all of the state directors would solicit a person from their state to serve as the moderator of their state's legislative forum on the IAFC web site. It was agreed that the nominee would have to be an IAFC member.

The following nominations have been made

Delaware -

Maryland - Maryland has selected a member.

New Jersey - Two nominees were selected for NJ. Neither has accepted.

New York - Bob Holley was working on New York

Pennsylvania - PFESI

New Business

IAFC Leadership Orientation & CFSI

The IAFC Leadership Orientation will be held on March 26 & 27 at the Hilton Garden Inn which is located across the highway from the IAFC Office in Fairfax. The meetings will start on Monday, March 26 at 8:00 A.M. This was formerly known as the Division Secretary's Meeting

The IAFC will be inviting the Division President to attend and most Divisions send the incoming President as well. The IAFC pays for the Secretary to attend, but Division Officers pay their own way.

The Secretary requested the Board to fund two nights hotel and per diem and travel for the President and 1st Vice President to attend the meeting.

There was a **motion** by Pienkowski and a second by Chiaramonte To approve the travel and per diem for the two Vice Presidents since the President can not attend. **The motion was approved unanimously.**

The Board previously approved the President's expenses to attend the CFSI Dinner and also expenses for making a presentation to Garry Briese on behalf of the Division. The presentation will be made in Wednesday the 28th and the dinner is on the 29th. The secretary stated that based on the prior actions of the Board two additional nights hotel and two additional days per diem were entitled to the President to remain in DC for those two events.

The Secretary reported that it was likely that both he and the president would be at the event for Garry and at the CFSI Dinner. The secretary will cover his own expenses for the additional days and the President is likely to have a sponsor for his dinner ticket, as does the secretary. The IAFC will fund Bill Walton to attend all of the events as well.

Elections

This year the position of Secretary Treasurer is contested. This will mark the first time ever that we have needed to do a mail ballot. This was not budgeted, since it has never happened before, so there will be a budget deficit caused by this. Postage and mailing will run about \$3,500.00

Over the past years, Larry Vaughan has pretty much been a one man committee. Our By-Laws say that the Secretary should mail the ballot, but as a candidate, that is totally inappropriate and

it should be handled by the committee. The good news is that our printer is in Rochester which will make it easier. Larry however will undoubtedly need some help. Mike offered to volunteer.

The By Laws say ballots should be mailed 60 days prior to the conference, so that means they should be mailed by March 15th. That is not a lot of time. The ballots are opened at the conference by the committee and there is where Larry will need help.

Windisch Amendment

The Secretary reported amendment will be placed on the VCOS ballot. It won approval of the VCOS Board to be placed on the ballot, but will go on the ballot without a recommendation pro or con from the VCOS Board. The amendment would allow the VCOS Board to elect the VCOS officers instead of them being elected by the membership at the conference. It will be important for the Eastern to oppose this By-Law change.

Dues Increase

The IAFC is proposing a \$20.00 dues increase. VCOS is proposing an amendment that would allow their Board to increase dues from \$25.00 to as high as \$45.00 without going back to the membership. Their stated intent is not to enact the entire \$20.00 increase immediately but they are seeking the ability to do so if needed. Both of these increases will make it hard for the Division to ask for an increase, even though the IAFC and VCOS have had more recent increases than the Division.

Mike Chiaramonte said that we need to plan how to timely get ballot information to our members.

Ted Lowden said the Division should look at the expense side of the revenues to see if there were areas we could save and also that we should be looking for new alternative revenue sources.

Ted Lowden said he was not sure we should not just be involved in finding people to fill random jobs like the Fire Corps advocates or the State Forum moderators. There was general discussion that we should not be involved in the Fire Corp selection process.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 P.M.