

Minutes - EDIAFC Board Meeting
May 17, 2007
Rehoboth Beach, Delaware

The Meeting was called to order by President Watson at 9:00 A.M. on Thursday, May 17, 2007.

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

Guests: David See Salisbury Md., Steve Miller, Cabin John Park, Md., Dan Lane ICC, Tucker Dempsey, DSFCA, Cynthia Rauso, Burn Foundation, Commission Ayres, Philadelphia Fire Dept.

Past Presidents: Bernie Cohan, Bill Walton, Barry Dampier

Burn Foundation Presentation

There was a presentation by Cynthia Rauso from the Burn Foundation. Handouts were provided along with a DVD on the program. The Foundation has four regional units and has raised over 17 million for burn centers.

The Foundation has an education program that provides training and awareness education and hosts conferences and presentations. They have burn prevention programs and a juvenile fire setter program. There is also a contractor burn prevention program.

IAFC Officers: None

IAFC Staff: Gioia Albi, Membership Director

Committee Chairs: Les Warrick - Memorial and Valor Committees, Dan Lane, ICC and Fire Service Excellence Committee

Minutes:

There was a **motion to approve the minutes of the 0/15/07 Conference Call** by Showmaker and a second by Mellits. **Motion approved unanimously.**

OFFICERS REPORTS

President Watson's Report:

See attached report:

The President welcomed those in attendance.

1st Vice President Stahl's Report:

See attached report:

2nd Vice President Jack Gouty's Report:

See attached report:

International Director Walton's Report:

See attached report. Bill said that most of what he would report on is available in the IAFC email, and web site. He said those communications mechanisms are very up to date.

Bill reported that IAFC is funding travel to the ICC meeting in Rochester. He also added that EDIAFC and the IAFC are working much closer in harmony. Bill said Chief David Daniels has been a great addition to the Board.

The IAFC partnership with Jones and Bartlett has generated about \$62,000.00. Bill felt the partnership was very productive.

Bill commented on the problem of burglar alarms which emit smoke. These alarms generate false alarms and could bring firefighters face to face with criminals. Gioia reported that the FLSS held a conference call with manufacturers and vendors of the alarms. Apparently, both did not realize the issues they were creating.

The IAFC is getting very involved in the PSOB program, because of the number of applications which are being turned down.

Immediate Past President Chiaramonte's Report:

See attached report:

Secretary Treasurer Askenstedt's Report:

Treasurers Report: See copy attached.

Membership Report: See copy attached.

Correspondence:

The following letters were received from candidates for EDIAFC Offices
For President from Robert Stahl
For 1st Vice President from Jack Gouty

For 2nd Vice President from Ted Lowden
For Secretary Treasurer from Bill Askenstedt

All letters were received prior to the deadline for eligibility and all were forwarded to the Elections Chair Larry Vaughan as required by the Constitution and By-Laws.

The following correspondence was sent;

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.

To Kent County, supporting the construction of radio towers to enhance emergency services communications.

There was a **motion** by Bill Walton and second by Jack Gouty to accept the report of the Secretary Treasurer. **The motion was approved unanimously**

Delaware Director Warrick's Report:

See attached report.

Maryland Director Mellit's Report:

See attached report.

Pete Mellits said he is working with the IAFC on the Intrastate Mutual Aid System. Chief David See is representing Maryland at the national level. The first MD meeting was in January. The second meeting was held in May and Jack Gouty represented MSFCA. MD currently has two mutual aid systems in their state and the western area has no system. They are working to consolidate to a single system for the state.

Career, combination and volunteer systems are involved in the MD effort. One of the interesting questions brought up is where is the actual authority for operations under the mutual aid agreements exists. Is there a legal basis for the establishment of command.

Tucker Dempsey said that legislation needs to be established in each state to establish authority and designate the person or agency that will have the legal authority. Each state will likely be different in their mechanism.

It was agreed that the mutual aid organization was a great concept, but it will require action in all of the states to properly establish legal authority. MD will likely operate under MEMA. DE has had the same questions about who will have the legal authority in DE. Some funding is available through IAFC to fund staff and travel for working on the state plans.

Ted Lowden said that the intrastate committee was concerned about states operating the same way. He said it was critical that similar systems were put in place in each state.

Bill Walton said MD was working on their system, prior to funding which is a credit to them.

New Jersey Director Lowden's Report:

See attached report.

New York Director Pienkowski's Report:

See attached report.

Pennsylvania Director Showmaker's Report:

See attached report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Memorial Committee: Les Warrick reported the Memorial Service Program has been completed and will be ready for the conference opening on Friday.

C&B Committee: Jon Townley was not in attendance. His report was emailed to the board previously

Codes Committee: Dan Lane from ICC reported that the EDIAFC will be an ICC chapter. There will be a big push for a residential sprinkler amendments at the Rochester Meeting on May 20 to 26. Dan felt the sprinkler amendment will pass. The Code Action Committee meeting is July 24 to 26 in Maine. The sprinkler code amendment will be on the ICC web cam.

Bob Stahl reported that he gets many draft minutes from various organizations that are not supposed to be distributed. He would like to assure that the Board did not redistribute such communications.

Bob reported that there is an effort to combine ICC and Pro Board Standards to match.

Communications Committee: Deputy Commissioner John Devlin of Philadelphia was appointed in May to replace Mike Granados, who moved to California, as the committee chairman. John was not in attendance. Commissioner Ayres from PFD attended in his place and presented the report of the communications committee. See attached report.

Chief Walton thanked the commissioner for his outreach to neighboring volunteer fire departments. Mark Showmaker commented on the cooperation between the PFD and the surrounding region. Steve Miller thanked the commissioner and said he would share the PFD's outreach program with VCOS. Ted Lowden thanked the commissioner for their assistance to other departments with fire department fatalities.

Ted Lowden commented that wind interference was a major problem with radio communications in the NJ wildfires. Digital radios are picking up too much background noise. The commissioner stated that they are dealing with three lawsuits dealing with failed communications. The commissioner will continue to work on communications issues and share their findings.

Conference Committee: The committee reported that the final arrangements for the conference are complete. An outline of the conference schedule was provided for the Board.

Valor Committee: Steve Reid was not present, but reported in writing that 5 nominations for the 2007 Valor Award were received and that the committee had reviewed the applications. This year's award will be presented to 2nd Asst. Chief Richard J. Gimbl from the Holbrook Fire Department in NY during the Rehoboth conference.

VCOS: Steve Miller reported that the section membership is growing. The goal is 3,000 members by FRI. The leadership program will be presented in Saulsbury, MD in June. It is a very low cost program for the host. Pierce will be providing more financial support in the future.

The key legislative issues are the Volunteer Firefighters Bill of Rights and the Volunteer Job Protection Act. VCOS also dealt with Motorola on the Philadelphia issues with radio repairs.

Steve said David See, the other Eastern Member of VCOS, has been a great asset to the VCOS

The VCOS Symposium will be back at the Sand Key Hotel in Florida and it will be sold out. Book now.

VCOS is helping to sponsor the Aquarium Night at FRI in Atlanta.

Steve reported that Montgomery County was very supportive of including volunteers in the national credentialing process. David See said that the issue of credentials needs to be better defined, but it is critical that there is volunteer inclusion. Ted Lowden said that one issue has been, not whether there is a baseline, but whose baseline is going to be used. There is a problem with setting simple criteria and the inclusion of too many prerequisites.

Steve said the dues By-law that is coming out is strictly to authorize the VCOS Board to raise dues. There is no immediate intent to raise the dues at this time. If the amendment passes, the VCOS Board will have the authority to raise section dues, if and when they feel a dues increase is needed.

Steve said the Windisch Amendment is back on the table. He urged the Board to reject the amendment. The amendment would allow the VCOS Board to elect the officers of the section, rather than having them elected by the membership at FRI, which is currently the case.

The remaining By-Law proposals are strictly to clean up language. Steve asked that they be supported.

David See said he has enjoyed his term on the Board. The leadership seminar will be held at DelMarva FD. There are about 40 people registered so far.

Fire Service Excellence Award - Dan Lane reported that the Board had approved his proposal for the award criteria at their January Board Meeting. He also reported that one nomination was made for the first presentation of the award, which will occur at the conference. An appropriate award had been selected for the recipient and the award is being sponsored by Margaret Gouty

The first recipient will receive the award along in conjunction with the official launching of the award program. The winner will not be announced until the presentation.

OLD BUSINESS

NY LODD - Ken Pienkowski was not present and sent no report.

Fire Rescue GPO:

Bill Askenstedt reported that the GPO revenue continues to grow. This year income was \$5,636.97 of which \$2,353.52 was disbursed to the state associations. Mike Chiaramonte replaced Bill Askenstedt as the interim liaison to the GPO. Mike has asked that the Board begin to promote the GPO and that anyone who knows of vendors who may wish to become part of the GPO, please contact him.

FRI

The Eastern Division hotels for 2007 in Atlanta will be the Embassy Suites and the Sheraton. There are not enough rooms for the entire Division at the Embassy, so we will also be using the Sheraton as well. The Embassy was sold out in April. The hospitality room will be at the Embassy and the Division Lunch will be at the Convention Center.

EDIAFC Conference 2008

The Secretary reported that the 2008 EDIAFC Conference will be held at the Heritage Hills Golf Resort and Conference Center (Brochures were provided). The dates are Thursday, May 1, 2008 through Sunday, May 4, 2008. Hotel offers a lot of advantages. The hotel is located in a nice area of York, PA about a mile or two from VFIS Headquarters. Rooms will be \$129.00 per night, single or double.

Registration will be \$100.00 per person, \$40.00 per person for the banquet and \$25.00 per person for the Partners Program.

The Board Meeting will be held on Thursday morning from 9:00 to noon and the 5 state meeting will be in the afternoon from 1:00 to 4:00 P.M. For those who wish to come in Thursday that are not attending the board meeting, golf will be available at the special rate of \$55.00 per person including cart. That rate will be available throughout the conference.

On Friday there will be a special tour of the York Harley Davison Plant. Buses will transport attendees on a staggered schedule throughout the morning, starting at 8:00 AM.. Attendees would be given the afternoon to register for the conference, have lunch on their own and attend two technical sessions in the afternoon. The ladies would have a choice of numerous factory outlets or visiting the full spa in the hotel. In the evening we would hold the opening reception in the President's suite.

Saturday the Memorial Service will be in the morning followed by the business session and technical sessions after lunch. We will provide continental breakfast and a barbeque lunch. After the memorial

service, the ladies would leave for their program. In the evening, we will have the banquet at the hotel in a outdoor, glass enclosed pavilion presently under construction.

The ladies program will be a bus trip to Moon Dancer Vineyards. The Vineyard has a beautiful french chateau type building with a stone patio overlooking the Susquehanna River. It is a very pretty place. The ladies would get a tour of the vineyard and an explanation of the wine making process, followed by a wine tasting and a lunch on the patio with wines of their choice.

Thursday we would provide lunch for those attending the Board Meeting in the atrium of the restaurant. Golfers would be on their own for lunch. Dinner would be on your own and there is both fine dining and tavern dining available

Friday breakfast would be on your own. Buses would go to Harley and return during the morning. Lunch would be on your own with the spouses and guests. Break would be provided all afternoon.

Saturday we will provide continental breakfast and morning and afternoon breaks with a Barbeque lunch would be provided outside. Saturday's Banquet would be a cash bar.

There will be special golf and spa packages available to attendees and guests at discounted rates.

Garry Briese Recognition

Previously the Board presented a \$500.00 gift card to Garry Briese at an event held in his honor in Washington DC in conjunction with the CFSI Dinner. Garry will also be recognized at the Conference where he will be awarded the first ever recipient of the Division's Fire Service Excellence Award. This is a surprise presentation.

EDIAFC Conference Expenses

The Secretary reminded the Board that they had approved four nights lodging and up to four days per diem, plus travel for the Delaware Conference.

Conference Agenda

The Secretary and President reviewed the Conference Agenda with the Board.

NEW BUSINESS

Public Safety Broadband Trust - Michael Walker made a request to address the Board regarding the Public Safety Broadband Trust. After meeting with Alan Caldwell from IAFC, Michael called yesterday to withdraw his request to meet with us. He stated that Alan requested to be the contact with the Divisions.

The IAFC had endorsed the concept of the PSBT and is working to see one established

Mike Walked forwarded some general principles that he wished the Board to consider.

Those principles are:

1. Public safety has to be in charge of the national public safety broadband network.
2. There needs to be a stand alone entity consisting of public safety leaders that control the network so it will be built to the standards of reliability and redundancy that public safety requires
3. As a public/private partnership, the network needs to consider public safety needs first, and then must be sure that the network is a self-sustaining enterprise.
4. The network must have the ability to build-out in rural and under served areas since public safety must have access to a “universal” system.
5. The system must be kept “evergreen” to stay competitive on the commercial side and to ensure the highest level of technology to public safety users.
6. The network must have access to a satellite overlay to extend the reach of Public Safety’s network to cover areas where a terrestrial build is non-economic and as a back up in times a disasters when existing infrastructures are unavailable.
7. To provide assurance that the network would have the resources to quickly construct and operate a fully deployed network, government loan guarantees are an appropriate model for supporting the public/private enterprise.

. Requiring that 10MHz of the 700MHz band currently scheduled for auction by the FCC under the DTV transition act should be made available under rules that require the winner of the auction to have a binding agreement with public safety for its participation in the national public safety broadband network as a prerequisite to receiving their license.

Chief Wayne Senter request for endorsement as International Director of the Fire and Life Safety Section

At the request of Robert Stahl, Chief Senter’s resume was distributed to the Board prior to the meeting for consideration of the Board’s endorsement. Bob Stahl said there was no one that was active in the section from the Eastern. He said he knew Chief Senter and felt he would be a good candidate. The opposition will be Alan Perdue.

There was a **motion** by Mark Showmaker and a second by Ted Lowden to endorse Chief Senter for the International Board representing the FLSS. **Motion was approved unanimously.**

Burn Foundation: There was a motion by Lowden and a second by Showmaker to donate \$100.00 to the Burn Foundation at the conference. **The motion was approved unanimously.**

Budget Presentation

The Treasurer presented the proposed budget for 2007-08. The budget is a balanced budget of \$70,800.00. **The budget was adopted unanimously by the Board.**

Company Officer Symposium at FRI. Bill Walton reported that he is now on an IAFC committee designed to research how company officers could be integrated into the IAFC. Ted Lowden commented on how the Career Chiefs in New Jersey excluded other officers and those officers in turn formed their own organization, which is now larger and more powerful than the Career Chiefs. There was general consensus that the Division supported integrating company officers. There was discussion of the competition between the IAFC & FDIC conferences. It was represented that FDIC may have better programs than FRI and that may be the attraction.

Membership There was an ongoing discussion on means of increasing membership and improving the FRI programs to compete with FDIC and to attract more people.

Candidate Endorsements: There was discussion of the process of endorsing IAFC candidates. The consensus that there would be no action taken by the Board for 2008, because none of the candidates had addressed the Board thus far. The consensus was to allow any endorsement to come from the floor at the conference.

Delaware: Tucker Dempsey reported on their next meeting of the State Chiefs.

Maryland: There is an issue with private ambulance services being placed in volunteer stations in Montgomery County against the will of the volunteers. Pete Mellits stated that there is still volunteer harassment going on and he reminded the Board that President Jim Harmes of the IAFC has previously stated he was opposed to any form of harassment, yet Chief Harmes did not respond when he was given documentation about harassment of volunteers. Pete asked that the IAFC specifically spell out that they oppose career versus volunteer harassment.

VCOS Amendments: There was a **motion** by Stahl and a second by Showmaker to oppose the Windisch Amendment. **The motion was approved unanimously.**