

Minutes EDIAFC Conference Call July 15 - 7:00 P.M.

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

Absent: Maney,

Minutes

The board received the minutes from the May 17, 2007 Board of Directors meeting
There was a **motion** by Warrick and a second by Showmaker to approve the minutes of the May 17, Board Meeting. **Motion passed.**

The board received the minutes from the May 18, 2007 Annual Conference
There was a **motion** by Warrick and a second by Showmaker to approve the minutes of the May 18, EDIAFC Conference. **Motion passed.**

There are no Official minutes from the June conference call, because no official action was taken.

Secretary Treasurer Report:

Treasurer's Report - Due to the minimal activity since the Conference, there is little to report. None of our financial records were lost from the computer issues. All of the bills, which were primarily officer's expenses have been paid, thanks to Josette writing the checks and bring them to the hospital for my signature.

Membership Report - Membership is running just slightly ahead of last year at this time. We have crept slightly past Southeastern in members, but we are far behind in dues paying members.

Correspondence: No report

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
August	09	12
September	13	16
October	11	14
November	08	11
December	13	16

IAFC Report:

Bill Walton reported there is a lot going on with the 700 MHz auction. The IAFC is working on it on a daily basis. Bill said the NFVC took credit for the PSOB hearing on the Hill, but in reality it was the IAFC who took the lead.

Bill said the registrations for FRI are running ahead of last year. Bill said that the Company Officer Symposium was doing well. The Secretary read the actual numbers which do not necessarily bear that out.

Committee Reports**Memorial Committee:**

No report

C&B Committee:

The Secretary reported that the Division will be asked for their recommendation for the Eastern slot on the IAFC C&B Committee. That recommendation is made by the Division President around FRI. Jon Townley is currently our representative and can be reappointed or replaced. Our recommendation is binding.

Ken Pienkowski is currently the Representative at Large on the IAFC C&B Committee. That appointment is made by the IAFC President. We asked Ken be appointed by Bill Killen who appointed him. We can recommend that Ken be reappointed, recommend someone else, or do nothing. Our recommendation for the at large position is not binding on the IAFC President and we can only hope he considers anything we suggest. Typically, that position is filled by someone from the President's Division.

Ken Pienkowski is not interested in the position and has dropped his membership in IAFC.

Valor Award:

The Secretary reported that we did not get any sponsors for the Valor Award Program last year and the cost is getting near \$1,000.00 between awards and the expenses for people to attend conferences to make the presentation. He suggested that the committee be tasked with trying to solicit sponsors. Steve Reid has also written some new material for the web site which was posted during the past month

Fire Service Excellence Award:

The Secretary reported that we did not get any sponsors for the Excellence Award Program last year and the cost is around \$500.00 for the award. He suggested that the committee be tasked with trying to solicit sponsors. This year there was no expense to present the award since the recipient

was already attending our conference. If we have to present the award in another venue or if we pay expenses for the recipient to attend our conference, the cost of this program will also hit \$1,000.00 or more.

Dan Lane has left ICC, but has informed the Secretary that he intends to stay active in the Division and will retain the chair of the Excellence Committee. Dan intends to seek the New York Director's position the next time the position is open. He has also offered to continue to help get sponsor money from ICC in the future.

The consensus was that to ask both the Valor Committee and the Fire Service Excellence Committee to work on soliciting sponsors.

Old Business

At the recent Board Meeting, there was a motion to donate \$100.00 to the Burn Foundation when they attended the Conference on the 18th. No one showed up and it was the consensus of the Board that we not make the donation. Since the donation was voted by the Board, There should be a motion to rescind the original motion.

There was a **motion** by Cohan and a second by Gouty to rescind the motion to donate \$100.00 to the Burn Foundation. **The motion was approved unanimously.**

There was discussion by the Board, but no official action taken regarding Fire GPO disbursements being made to the Keystone Chiefs. Some Board members had suggested that they not be included, because of their failure to participate in the Division all year.

The Secretary reported that the bulk of the GPO revenue in PA was related to EMS purchases by the Philly area burn centers and not from Fire and EMS agency purchases.

There was **consensus** that we would hold GPO disbursements to the Keystone Chiefs until a decision can be made at FRI.

2008 EDIAFC Conference:

The President forwarded comments about the conference via email. They are as follows:

I would like to see a solid conference. By "solid conference" I mean one that has good social events but especially has good technical sessions. Technical sessions that, on their own merits, would make people to want to attend. Some of the DE conference programs were good and some OK. I think we can do better. As Bill A. has stated we want to make some income. However, if we can draw in some new attendees and/or prospective members, it can result in new members. This could result in additional long-term income and long-term returnees.

There should be a significant difference in price for members and non-members. Nothing is set in stone as of yet, but Bill A. suggested a price of \$100. I believe that should be a member price and a

different price for non-members, say \$150. That would encourage persons to be members to attend. Even if only our regular members attend there would be a perception of their membership having value.

In addition to having the Harley Davidson plant tour there should be at least one technical session available on Friday morning. This could be a session that could be run early morning and repeated late morning. It would provide people things to do while waiting for the tour. Also, there may be some persons who are not as interested in a tour as attending a technical session. Saturday afternoon could be filled with technical sessions and perhaps some concurrent sessions.

We should consider a separate fee for persons who wish to attend only Saturday – possibly excluding the banquet. This would afford “local people” to attend the meeting and programs while they may not want to attend the entire conference. We get the advantage of more contact and networking.

At Rehoboth Beach, DE, I contacted Commissioner James Roth, of Hanover, PA. He is a long-time member and supporter of the EDIAFC. He has attended numerous EDIAFC Annual Conferences and IAFC FRI's. Commissioner Roth can serve as a liaison to the Executive Fire Officers of York County (I believe that is the name of the group). This group consists of career Chiefs and they can be of assistance.

Commissioner Roth also suggested a possible technical program. Four volunteer companies near Hanover merged into one fire department. Consolidation and merging are hot topics in Pennsylvania and other states in our division and this may be a good subject. Some of the local combination departments are looking to merge and that could be done before the conference.

The National Fire Academy is about one hour away. Persons there could be a source for speakers and programs. Ken Farmer, former Chief from North Carolina, and a chief in the NFA National Fire Programs Division has already offered to speak. I believe Denis Onieal, NFA superintendent could also be persuaded to speak. Other potential speakers could be Burt Clark and Chuck Burkell from NFA, Greg Cade and Charlie Dickinson from USFA, and Chief Siarnicki from Fallen Firefighters. Another possible speaker could be Tom Conway, formerly Evesham Manager and now with Abington Township. Tom has instructed at NFA on Executive Fire Officer/Municipal issues.

Another thought would be to get continuing education credit for our programs. The programs could count towards a number of certifications, re-certifications, refreshers, etc. We could do this as an ICC chapter, possibly through a PA Educational Training Agency (ETA) (such as Bucks County), and/or through individual States. Also, we get “one full day of training” from ICC as a chapter so we need to consider if it will be in conjunction with the conference or at some other time. I have not, as of yet, received specific information on what “one full day of training” means but we can work on that issue.

The Secretary reported that he had begun working with the York Convention Bureau to reserve the Harley Tour and buses for the tour. The tour had been reserved. Buses are not yet secured. York will also provide staff for registration Thursday evening and Friday morning. They will have gift

bags for attendees which we can add anything to that we would like such as membership brochures, conference materials and the like.

The Secretary reported that three sponsors have been obtained thus far and over \$10,000.00 has been pledged. The Secretary recommended that each Director attempt to solicit at least to sponsors for the conference. State Directors should solicit sponsorships from the state associations as in the past.

Chief Devlin from Philadelphia has sent a proposal on the EMS Tracking Program they will be doing at the conference as well as a bio of the speakers. He also said that Commissioner Ayres would like to do a presentation on Emergency Preparedness. **The Board opted to wait to FRI to give the Commissioner an answer**

The Secretary stated we need to begin work on the technical program immediately. Aside from PFD, PFESI and Ed Mann have offered potential programs if we need them.

Getting the program lined up is key to advertising to get people to come. People don't come to conferences when they don't know what is on the program. The early registrations for Delaware prove that. DE registration did not pick up until the program was finally available.

The Secretary stated he did not agree with the fact that there was no rush to do things for the conference and stated that the Board needed to **move quickly**.

FRI Atlanta

The Secretary recommended having the EDIAFC Board Meeting at FRI on Thursday morning between 8:00 and 10:30. This conflicts with the IAFC Business Meeting and the Keynote address, but allows us to meet before the Division Lunch and before the VCOS meeting, two important events. **The Board Accepted the Secretary's recommendation.**

IAFC has now requested that the Divisions host the attendees of the Company Officer Symposium at their Division Luncheons. They are charging \$395.00 to attend and are asking that we host the attendees at our luncheon. The idea is that it will promote networking.

The Secretary asked the IAFC for an approximate number of people who might be attending. There are 6 attending from Eastern. He also directly requested that Michelle Biersner find out if the IAFC was willing to pay for the lunch or share in the cost in any way, since the IAFC was charging \$395.00 for people to attend. Both questions were posed in the same email.

Michelle answered by sending an email to all Divisions telling them how many people were attending from each Division. She did not respond to the question of whether the IAFC would help offset the costs.

The Secretary reported that several Division flat out rejected the IAFC request. One reason was that it was too "last minute" Other reasons were the cost and one Division said they had no room.

Most Divisions charge their own members to attend the luncheons, so it was hard to imagine why the IAFC thought the Divisions would pay to host guests, especially with the high price the IAFC charged for attending the program.

The Secretary reported that there were only 6 people registered from the EDIAFC. He asked the Board to respond to the IAFC that we rejected the request and suggest that in the future the IAFC plan such requests with more advance notice and that the IAFC also cover the costs out of the registration fees charged to participants. The Secretary stated that he believed it was outrageous that the IAFC charge the amount they were charging and then asking the Divisions to cover the costs of feeding the attendees.

There was a motion by Askenstedt and a second by Cohan to inform the IAFC that we would be glad to add tables for the Eastern Members attending and share our hospitality, provided the IAFC covered the costs for the number of lunches we provide to the guests.

NY Line of Duty Death Meeting:

Ken Pienkowski is no longer on the Board. George Maney the new director from NY had volunteered to monitor this program and report as needed. The secretary reported that, NY State Fire Administrator Burns left that position a few months ago and he coordinated the program. Since then, nothing has happened. Retired Chief Thomas Murphy from Endicott New York was finally hired to replace Burns last week, but he resigned after only one day on the job for unknown reasons. As a result the LODD program remains in limbo.

Fire GPO:

We continue to see a decent revenue stream. We have received the first check for this fiscal year which was \$1,515.45. There has been nothing new from Mike Chiaramonte, since he took over as the liaison. Mike is leaving the division and will need to be replaced as the liaison. The Board recommended Past President James Seavey.

President Stahl said he was not sure if Seavey was interested. The decision was postponed until FRI

Elections:

The Secretary commented on the great job done by the elections committee and Larry Vaughan and Charlie Hungerford in particular. He reminded the Board that Mike Chiaramonte was our current representative to the IAFC Elections Committee and needed to be replaced since Mike is switching Divisions. The Secretary recommend that the Board appoint Larry Vaughan as the Eastern recommendation for our representative on the IAFC Elections Committee. That recommendation is binding on the IAFC.

Mike currently is the chair of the committee, but our representative will not be the chair, although he could be considered, it would be very unlikely that a new member of the committee would be elected as the chairman.

ICC

We have been awarded our ICC Chapter status. The materials are in the process of being sent to us. There will be more to report after they arrive. I will most likely remain as an annual sponsor of our conference according to Dan Lane, our former representative.

The President said we are entitled to a free registration to the annual conference. He does not know if he can attend or get someone else to go.

The President also said we are entitled to a free training day. More information will be provided by the President when ICC responds to his questions.

EDIAFC Constitution and By-Laws

There were many emails circulated by the Board on possible amendments to the Division By-Laws. There was discussion about what the best approach is to adopting the needed changes.

The President said he would like to discuss the changes to the By-Laws at FRI when we meet.

IAFC Leadership Conference

The IAFC Leadership Conference will be held October 26 and 27, 2007 at the Capital Hilton in Washington DC. Registration for the Conference is \$75.00 and rooms are \$195.00 per night. The IAFC is requesting attendees to respond by July 20th. Breakfast and lunches are included in the registration fee.

It will cost on average \$1,100.00 per person to attend based on three nights hotel, three days per diem, registration and travel costs. There was a **motion** by Watson and a second by Warrick that the division send anyone from the Board who can attend to the conference and provide expenses to include travel, three nights lodging, three days per diem and the registration fee. **The motion was passed.**

Jack Gouty will send out an email on dress code.

Bernie Cohan said he sent out 13 letters on arrears Two people are renewing.

Jim Watson thanked everyone for their support while he was President.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 P.M.