

Minutes EDIAFC Conference Call September16 - 7:00 P.M.

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

Minutes

The board received the minutes from the August 22, EDIAFC Board Meeting. There was a **motion** by Showmaker and a second by Maney to approve the minutes of the August 22 Board Meeting with an editorial change in grammar. **Motion passed.**

Secretary Treasurer Report: Expenses have been paid for Board Members who have turned them in. Bills for the hospitality room were reimbursed to Russell. The IAFC invoice for the luncheon has not yet been received. Costs for the Board and the hospitality room are about \$12,000.00. Another \$4,000.00 plus will still be paid for the luncheon.

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
October	11	14
November	08	11
December	13	16

Fire Rescue GPO: Jim Seavey reported Verbally at the conference that he met with several GPO members in Atlanta and that he is now up to speed with the latest GPO information. He will participate in the future GPO conference calls.

EDIAFC Constitution and By-Laws: President Stahl contacted Ken Anderson to ask his assistance with C&B Committee issues while Jon Townley is recovering from illness. Ken will help out along with Jon. Bob Stahl will participate in the process and he also requested Barry Dampier for New York and Bob Edwards from PA to help out. The committee will begin work on correcting some language in the elections area of the Constitution as well as other language changes needed.

Kentland (Maryland) Volunteer Fire Department

At FRI, The Board decided to have the President state the Eastern's position of opposing discrimination and harassment in the fires service and in particular, career/volunteer harassment. The President was unable to state that position at FRI, because the business sessions was adjourned without the call for business from the floor.

The Board discussed the current situation in Kentland and decided that the President should express the Division's view in a letter to the IAFC Board of Directors. The President will send a

letter stating a general position that requests the IAFC to oppose any form of career/volunteer discrimination or harassment.

The President stated that he asked Bill Walton to put this item on the agenda at this week's IAFC BOD meeting. He explained some issues and read the material that BOB was originally going to use at the Saturday Atlanta FRI meeting. Bill Walton reported that, while there was support on the harassment statement, the IAFC BOD was reluctant to enjoin a "labor issue." Also, It is unclear as to VCOS involvement. Bill asked that the President have VCOS evaluate the situation. He said that VCOS already looked at it and that they too agreed that it was a labor management issue and not a harassment issue. At this point the IAFC board will not be taking any official position.

Pete Mellits said the IAFC position was a cop out, because the harassment issue is a County wide in PG County. Bob Stahl said that if that were the case, then Pete had to document the county wide seriousness. Pete said that there are about a dozen issues that he could document. George Maney asked if the effected people could not file a grievance with the IAFC.

Ted Lowden asked why the affected people do not file civil or criminal lawsuits. Pete said that is being done. He said he understood the IAFC not wanting to take a stand on a specific issue, but he did not understand why the IAFC could not make a broad statement denouncing harassment.

Bob stahl suggested that we need to read exactly what the IAFC minutes state on the subject. He also suggested that we check to make sure that all of the VCOS Board really did opt not to get involve and if so, when that meeting occurred.

Bill Walton expressed that he stated to the IAFC Board what the Eastern position was and that we are opposed to any type of volunteer harassment.

Pete Mellits said that he would make a general statement at the PG County Convention that the EDIAFC has made a statement to the IAFC Board related to harassment and that we are waiting for the IAFC position.

The Board will not take any other action until more info is gathered.

Affiliate Membership

The Secretary repeated his concerns that the new affiliate membership category could mean loss of regular members to the Division and have financial repercussions as a result. The Secretary stated that the IAFC must be forced to include Division Membership for affiliate members. He stated that he believed there were elements of the IAFC Board that would like to see Divisions eliminated or at least reduced in their influence.

The Secretary reported that he met with the Presidents of the Southeast and Western Divisions, along with the Western Secretary and incoming Board Director. The two Presidents planned to address there opposition to the lack of inclusion of the Divisions in the affiliate process, at the

general business meeting at FRI, but they were prevented from doing so by the lack of a call for business by the Second VP Kelvin Cochran. The Secretary also stated that the New England Division was also upset by the process.

The Secretary pointed out that there was a potential for an immediate loss of dues income if eligible regular members opted to switch to affiliate memberships. He recommended that the Division immediately ask the IAFC to include the Divisions in the affiliate process. He suggested meeting with the other Divisions at the Leadership Summit to express joint opposition to the disenfranchisement of the Divisions. He also suggested that the group examining the By-Laws, establish an affiliate membership category for the Division.

The President stated that Bill W. also spoke to our position on the Affiliate Membership. I also talked to him before and after the IAFC BOD conference call about this issue.; While other Divisions expressed a desire to speak against the present method at FRI, none of the International Division Directors supported him at the meeting. While we can wait until the end of October to talk to the other Division officers we may want to correspond with the other Divisions, expressing our points, prior to that time. If they concur, we can ask them to inform their International Directors of their position.

Bill Walton said that none of the other Division Directors had anything to say about the Affiliate issue and that he was surprised that no one else supported our concerns. Bill Askenstedt and Bob Stahl both expressed surprise that no other Divisions were concerned.

The Board discussed the issues. Bill Askenstedt will email all of the other secretaries and ask them why none of their directors expressed concern about the issues we raised. Ted also asked that the Secretary find out if anything changed the minds of the other Divisions about the issues.

FRI 2008

The Secretary confirmed that we have a confirmed room block at the Marriot in Denver which will accommodate all of our members. The hotel has already confirmed the block and we will have 350 rooms plus 25 VIP rooms. That is more than we ever book in our block. Marriot has also stated that they will support our conference in York. Details of that support are yet to be worked out.

We will need to discuss the hospitality room in Denver, because with that many rooms all in the same hotel, the costs for the room could be considerable. One answer is to obtain sponsors and it is suggested we begin that process right after the York Conference. The Secretary will work with the hotel to get the largest room possible, but often, IAFC, which pays the room cost for the Secretary, President and hospitality suite, places limits on how much they pay. It is possible that to obtain a larger suite, we could incur room costs that are considerable. We will need to look closely at what we intend to spend in next year's budget.

Several Board Members stopped in New England's room and commented on the fact that NE has many sponsors and seems to do quite well at getting money.

EDIAFC Conference

Mark Showmaker reported that a few sponsors were obtained during the FRI Conference and he has obtained others locally. All Board Members need to assist in soliciting additional sponsors.

Greg Cade from the USFA has been invited to attend as the Keynote Speaker. Mark thinks that he will come. He has also lined up most of the speakers and hopes to wrap things up.

We are making good progress on sponsors.

Jones and Bartlett Agreement

The Secretary had sent the Board a link to the agreement that Jones and Bartlett requires in order to participate in their referral program. Under the program, the Division would get commissions for books bought off the J&B web site when the purchaser jumped from the Division web site to the J&B web site. President Stahl asked the Secretary to investigate the agreement at FRI

The Secretary previously asked the Board to review the conditions of the agreement and be prepared to make a decision on participation as well as how to proceed if the Board opted to go forward.

The president reported in an email the following;

We voted at FRI to put the Jones and Bartlett link on our website. The Secretary-Treasurer sent out an email to everyone concerned about the agreement language requiring a privacy policy, and specifically one that discloses cookies.. I have had some correspondence with Bill A. on this subject. Whatever we want to do the Jones and Bartlett agreement can certainly be re-examined. However, agreement or not, it would appear we should have a privacy policy statement on our website - and in the near future. Among other things we already have links to websites that use cookies (IAFC, VFIS, JEMS). Also, we collect information on our website as well as link to web sites that collect information.

Please see <http://easy-cgi.com/about+us/newsletter/2007-01/article2.html> for some information on when you should have a privacy policy. When you read on this subject you will see there is a specific law regarding the possibility of children using your website. That is why most website privacy policies, including the IAFC's, includes language regarding children under the age of thirteen.

If you want to see some examples of a Privacy Policy go to one of these:

<http://www.iafc.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=2>

<http://www.glatfelters.com/privacypolicy.htm>

<http://www.dol.gov/dol/privacynotice.htm>

However, they do not need to be complicated. I put one together using a generic form from Better Business Bureau and modifying slightly with some "modified acquired" material. After reading some others I recently changed mine a bit. You can see mine at

<http://www.isrt.com/Privacy%20policy.htm>

Also on the website - some of you, and others, asked about putting our photos and bios on the web site. When I brought up doing this at FRI a number of you said it was already done and we just needed to add some people. While looking at the web site regarding the need for a Privacy Policy at the web site I could not find the pictures and bios When I questioned Bill A. about it he said it had been removed. Since most of you thought it was already there I told him, "Most Board members think those items are already there. Unless the Board reverses their desires then I believe they should be there and we need to work on getting it done."

If a majority wishes to not have those pages on the website then somebody propose we do not have them and we can vote on it. However, I already heard that they are there and it is a good thing to have them there. Certainly many other fire service organizations, including state chiefs organizations in our Division, have them on their site. So "unless the Board reverses their desires" "we need to work on getting it done" and that means all of us ensuring we provide Bill A. with picture and bio information in the near future.

PFESI Dinner

The Secretary stated he sent copies of an email from PFESI to the entire Board. The email contained a solicitation for either tickets to their annual dinner or ads in the Dinner Program. He suggested that the Board may wish to promote the Division and the York Conference by taking an ad in the program

There was a **motion** by Showmaker and a second by Gouty to take up to a full page ad in the PFESI rogram book for their annual dinner. The ad will advertise our conference and also solicit membership. . **The motion was approved unanimously.**

There was a **motion** by and a second by that the EDIAFC **The Motion was approved unanimously.**

Report on DE Interstate Mutual Aid Meeting

Les Warrick attended the meeting to represent the President who was unable to attend. Les reported, the meeting was essentially a startup meeting. Les and Bill Walton talked about the meeting and they felt the EDIAFC did not have a lot of involvement. The heads of the task force are both IAFC members. Les will contact the new President of the DE Chiefs to get his opinion on what level of involvement the Division should have.

Bob thought that since this was a regional plan, the Division should have some involvement. Mark Showmaker said PA did theirs without EDIAFC involvement. Bill Walton and Les said they were doubtful that the task force wanted much EDIAFC input. They said the leaders of the task force seem to have a plan already in mind.

Mark asked what involvement we should have based on the fact that the overall plan was an IAFC program. Bill Walton said that it was an IAFC program, but the IAFC was basically letting the states do their own plans. Pete Mellits said MD has some limited involvement, but Maryland basically did their own plan on their own. The IAFC participated in one of the three MD meetings that developed the plan. Mark said that he was not aware of IAFC input in the PA plan. Pete said the IAFC staff is invited to the next Maryland Meeting.

Les said that the leadership in DE has basically stated they did not feel they needed any IAFC staff help to do their plan. Les will let the Board know if things change and any help is desired. Bob stated that he received a request for help from the DE State Chiefs. Les will follow up with the new President.

Leadership Summit

The President stated in an email, "I believe that all members of the Board felt an obligation to attend the Leadership Forum if they were available. At this point, after our Friday FRI meeting, I do not believe that is necessarily the case. Therefore, if somebody does not want to go we can cancel them. We may not be able to get the \$50 registration fee returned, but we can save on the \$223 per night hotel reservation (you can cancel up to three days before the forum), and save on travel and meals. However, we already committed to send anybody that can go and if they want to go then we should still pay for them. i.e.. If you really do not want to go, feel no obligation to do so, and we can save your expenses. I do not want this to be misconstrued as pressure to stay home. I believe there will be some good substance at the Forum and it can be worthwhile to attend. Also, as we said in the meeting, continue to work on sponsors and some of these issues go away....."

The Board discussed the situation and

NJ State Chiefs Meeting

Bernie Cohan stated he attended the NJSAFC Chiefs meeting and read a statement on behalf of President Stahl and the EDIAFC. He said it was well received. The statement will be included in the minutes of the conference.

Good of the Order

Bob Stahl said he attend an ICC meeting in Denver. He thanked Bill Walton for representing the Division at the IAFC Board Meeting.

Pete mellits said he is changing jobs and will be sending updated contact info

Bill Askenstedt said he will be out of contact for two weeks while on vacation in Canada. Anyone needing anything should contact him prior to Thursday.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 P.M.