

Minutes EDIAFC Conference Call April 13, 2008 - 7:00 P.M.

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

Minutes

The board received the minutes from the March, 17, 2008 Conference call. There was a **motion** by Cohan and a second by Warrick to approve the minutes of the February Board meeting.

Bob Stahl stated he did not believe the motion that he abstained on was correct as written in the minutes. He said that he would not have abstained if he understood the motion as it was listed in the minutes. He asked that the minutes remove his abstention. **The motion to adopt the minutes was approved with the deletion of the abstention.**

Secretary Treasurer Report: No report. Will be given at the Board Meeting.

The Secretary reported that he had received an email from Robert Holley resigning as NY Director and withdrawing from the nomination for 2nd VP.

Conference Calls: Remember the conference call phone number is: **1-888-891-0496** and the code is **2732021**. All of the calls are Sunday at 7:00 PM. The proposed 2008 schedule is as follows;

Month	IAFC Call	EDIAFC Call	
May	08	18	Mothers Day
June	12	22	Fathers Day
July	10	13	
August	FRI	FRI	
September	11	14	
October	09	12	
November	13	16	
December	11	14	

EDIAFC Constitution and By-Laws: The Secretary reported that the four resolutions for the conference have been copied and will be distributed at the conference as is required in the By-Laws. They have also been posted on the web site and advertised in the Daily Dispatch.

Bob Stahl questioned what the resolutions were. The Secretary explained they were the four changes to the Constitution and By-Laws that were approved by the Board and sent to the IAFC Constitution and By-Laws Committee for review and their approval.

EDIAFC Conference

We are up to \$23,950 in sponsor pledges with \$19,950 received and the balance is outstanding. The \$4,000 out is NYSAFC at \$500.00 and ACS at \$3,500.00. At the present time we have 80 people registered for the conference. That includes 9 Board Members, 10 sponsors and 8 speakers. The numbers do not include partners.

As a reminder, reports for the Board Meeting and Conference minutes are still required. Since we are not putting reports in the program, reports can be of any length. **The deadline is Sunday, April 20, 2008.** They will then be distributed in advance for the Conference and Board Meeting, with the agendas. There is a huge amount to be done prior to the conference so please cooperate by getting your reports in on time.

The Secretary reported the conference program is done and at the printer and the signs recognizing the sponsors are being made. Bus contracts are final, but right now the buses will be half empty due to poor registration. Right now we have only 45 people signed up for the banquet and the Secretary is nervous that the hotel is going to add on room fees due to our very low counts for all of the meal functions. It has been hugely disappointing to do so much work for so few attendees.

The Secretary also expressed concerns that the sponsors who are attending will be very unhappy about investing in such a low turnout conference. It could be very difficult to retain sponsors for the future.

On the last conference call Pete Mellits asked about committee chairs attending the conference and what the Division is doing for those chairs on the previous conference call. He suggested that we comp the chairs their registration fees to the conference. Les said the timing of such a suggestion was too close to the conference to institute this change. Pete argued that we needed to provide incentives to keep people involved. At that time there was a **motion** to move the discussion to the next conference call. **The motion passed unanimously.** It was therefore put on this agenda.

Since Pete was not on the call and there was no other Board Member willing to pursue this issue, the Board opted to leave the motion on the table. Les suggested it be a subject for discussion at the 2008-09 budget approval process.

The Secretary requested a decision on confirming of food counts for the conference and the consensus was to confirm at 100, based on current registration.

The Secretary asked about attendance of the Gouty family and was told to reserve a room for Margaret only for the conference. He stated that despite repeated requests there has been nothing forthcoming from Maryland about who we could expect from the family or fire service coming to either the conference or banquet to honor Jack. There was a message left that Margaret needed 5 rooms, but there were no names, dates or times with the message.

The Secretary reported that there has been no communication from Maryland regarding the presentation of the DC flag at the conference. This issue was raised by several Maryland people including the Director and Past President Seavey. There has been nothing put in the agenda, because we have not had anything confirmed about a DC attendance and no one from there is registered to attend the conference besides Pate and Jim.

Mark suggested that the flag could be presented immediately after the presentation of colors at the opening ceremonies if someone showed up from DC to do it.

There was a question from Bernie Cohan about a five states meeting actually taking place. The Secretary reported that Delaware was attending. Keystone responded to Mark Showmaker that they were not attending. The Secretary asked New York, but has had no response so far. Bernie reported the NJ might be represented by himself and Ken Anderson as Past Presidents. Maryland has not responded.

It was consensus that the Board would be decided over the next two weeks after we got more feedback from the states.

Memorial Service

The Secretary reported that Judy Russell and her husband will attend the memorial service in respect for Father John. The secretary emailed Les and asked him to go ahead with the plaque previously discussed, based on the fact they were traveling from Rochester to attend. Les reported all else is moving ahead for the conference and the plaque has been ordered for Father John. The plaque will be present in the business session at the conclusion of the Memorial Service.

The President reported on his plans for recognition of Jack Gouty. He stated he talked to a lot of people from Maryland at CFSI. They seemed happy with the idea of Jack being elected President and then immediately afterwards, the vacancy being filled by the 1st Vice President.

The President stated he is still attempting to get a copy of the video from the funeral services to use at either the memorial service or the banquet. The exact recognition cannot be determined until we hear from the family and those in Maryland who may be attending.

NYS AFC Conference Call

The Secretary reported that he sat in on a conference call with the NYS AFC. They were very apologetic and embarrassed by the recent back to back resignations of George Maney and Bob Holley. Their Board stated that either Larry Vaughan or Charlie Hungerford would be their recommendation to replace Bob as candidate for 2nd VP and Dan Lane would likely be their Director.

The Secretary explained to the NYS AFC Board that if a vacancy for Vice President were declared, that the EDIAFC Board would have to act to fill it. The New York Director would have to be elected by the NY members present at the conference.

Since the call, Charlie Hungerford has emailed me to say that he is New York's recommendation to replace Bob Holley. Charlie has a lot of experience in all of the chairs and as Secretary Treasurer. The Secretary has yet to be formally advised of Charlie's selection or about NYSAFC's support of Dan Lane. There is also a concern about who from New York is attending to chair their caucus.

Elections

The Secretary asked the C&B Committee and Elections Committee to evaluate the intent of the Board's decision to elect Jack Gouty as President posthumously and submit written comments ASAP. He also requested they participate in the next conference call. In response to that request, Jon Townley resigned from the C&B committee and Larry Vaughan submitted an email, stating that the Election Committee was deferring to the C&B Committee on how to proceed.

The President stated he received guidance from Larry Vaughan and Ken Anderson related to the proper procedures

It was agreed that Jack Gouty, Ted Lowden and Bob Holley would get sworn in at the banquet. Immediately following that, Ted would be moved to President, Charlie Hungerford, the New York Candidate would be appointed 1st Vice President and Les Warrick will be appointed 2nd Vice President.

New York will need to select a new Director and Delaware will need to select a potential replacement for Les as the Delaware Director. The changes will be made at the banquet.

Larry Vaughan as election Chair and Ken Anderson, as the only member of the C&B committee will handle parliamentary procedures at the conference.

Leadership Orientation Meeting

No one from the Eastern was able to attend. The Secretary will be working with Gioia to find out what if anything, needs to be done as a result of the meeting.

Constitution and By-Laws Committee

Jon Townley has sent a letter saying he will be unable to attend the conference due to medical reasons. He has also asked to be replaced on the IAFC C&B Committee. Jon also never completed the Conference Resolutions. They will be done by the Secretary.

The Secretary also contacted Ken Anderson, who is attending the York conference and advised Ken that Jon had resigned and that he could potentially need to offer opinions at the conference, as he is the only remaining member of the committee.

The President asked the Board to seek a replacement for Jon Townley as the chair of the EDIAFC C&B Committee and also as the EDIAFC representative to the IAFC C&B Committee. The matter will be discussed at the Board Meeting in York. The decision will fall to Ted Lowden as the new President to make the appointment of a new EDIAFC Constitution and By-Laws Chairman and a new EDIAFC representative to the IAFC C&B Committee.

ICC Endorsement Request for Endorsement of the CBCAG Act of 2007

The ICC has asked the EDIAFC, as one of their chapters to endorse the CBCAG Act of 2007 by supporting bills S 2458 and HR 4461. These bills would provide funding for code enforcement activities to local jurisdictions to hire staff or purchase equipment needed to better perform code enforcement activities.

The agenda includes discussion of the ICC position described in the hyperlink included in the agenda [Code Council's Press Release on Introduction of the CBCAG Act of 2007](#). The Board was also provided links to the two bills for their review prior to the discussion. They are;

The Community Building Code Administration Grant Act of 2007

- [S. 2458 – Introduced By Senator Mary Landrieu of Louisiana](#)
- [H.R. 4461 – Introduced by Congressman Dennis Moore of Kansas](#)

The Secretary reported that he discussed the bills with Ken LaSala of IAFC Legislative Services. Ken related that the IAFC was not throwing any major effort to support the bills, but the IAFC position was in favor. The bills are consistent with IAFC goals, but are not IAFC priorities. Ken indicated the IAFC would not oppose the bills and would likely sign on as a partner to those supporting the bills. The IAFC does not feel the bills are the real priorities of the fire service and they are devoting their efforts toward the priorities which include the AFG and Safer funding levels.

The President expressed concern that the bills do not specifically fund fire prevention and that much of the money would get absorbed in the building code enforcement areas. After various discussions, he stated he no longer opposes the bills.

The secretary suggested that building codes are of importance to the fire service as well as fire codes and that the initiative, while not perfect was a step in the right direction. He stated that many small communities have little or no funding for code enforcement in some states. He also suggested that as an ICC Chapter, we should work with the very supportive parent organization, as long as their goals are not in conflict with our own or those of the IAFC

There was a planned motion to endorse the CBCAG Act of 2007 and to submit a Resolution to the ICC for forwarding to the appropriate members of Congress, including a cover letter as attached below.

There was a motion by Showmaker and second by Cohan to adopt the resolution and send the letter. The motion was approved unanimously.

A Resolution by The Eastern Division of the International Association of Fire Chiefs to Encourage Congressional Support for the Community Building Code Administration Grant Act of 2007

As, an organization of Fire Service Professionals, representing the states of Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania and the District of Columbia we recognize that people and property in our communities are at risk from a variety of hazards including fire , floods, hurricanes, tornadoes lightning, and snow or ice storms; and

Whereas these disasters have the potential for causing widespread injury, loss of lives, and damage to property, community infrastructure, and the environment; and

Whereas we recognize that effective pre-disaster mitigation, thorough preparedness, timely warning, and well-trained and equipped response forces can reduce injuries and deaths caused by a hazard; and

Whereas the hurricane seasons of 2004 and 2005, the flooding in 2006, and the tornado and wildfire seasons of 2006 and 2007 clearly demonstrate our nations' on-going vulnerability to natural hazards; and

Whereas the devastating impact of recent natural events is evidence of the need for heightened local, state and federal attention to coordinated measures to mitigate the impact of natural hazards on our communities, and has demonstrated a significant need to support the effective work of building code authorities; and

Whereas the adoption of modern codes is a first step in responsible local governance of the built-environment that must then be coupled with effective local capabilities and programs in code administration. Thorough and effective administration of codes allows the maximum benefit of those regulations to be realized in local building safety, enhanced property value, energy efficiency, hazard mitigation and the availability and afford ability of personal and commercial property insurance; and

Whereas effective enforcement of building and fire codes is one of the best means of protecting the welfare of those in our communities, including residents, visitors and emergency responders, from natural disasters that impact our homes, businesses, schools, places of worship, and all other types of construction in the built-environment; and

Whereas, the national benefit providing support for local building code enforcement is clearly evidenced by a recent report of the National Institute for Building Safety that demonstrated that for each federal dollar spent on mitigation the federal government saves nearly \$4 in future disaster recovery expenses; and

Whereas, the Community Building Code Administration Grant Act of 2007, when enacted and funded, will provide competitively evaluated federal grants, locally matched, to local governments who seek to build-up or improve their local code administration and enforcement capabilities.

Therefore, it is resolved that:

The Board of Directors of **The Eastern Division of the International Association of Fire Chiefs** as a membership organization of professionals in building safety and fire prevention, do request our Members of Congress to support the passage and funding of H.R. 4461/S. 2458, the Community Building Code Administration Grant Act of 2007. We further request the International Code Council to deliver this Resolution to Congress and to continue its work on our behalf in the enactment and funding of the Community Building Code Administration Grant Act of 2007.

TO BE FORWARDED ON LETTERHEAD

April 14, 2008

Ms. Sara C. Yerkes
Senior Vice President of Government Relations
International Code Council
500 New Jersey Avenue, NW, Sixth Floor
Washington, DC 20001

Re: Adoption of Resolution in support of the Community Building Code Administration Grant Act

Dear Ms. Yerkes:

I am pleased to forward for your attention and action a Resolution recently adopted by the **Board of Directors Eastern Division of the International Association of Fire Chiefs** in support of the enactment and funding of the Community Building Code Administration Grant Act (CBCAG).

As discussed in the Resolution, the membership of our Association, as professionals serving the public's interest in building safety and fire prevention, clearly recognize both the need for and the benefits of the support the CBCAG will provide. Our success in development and maintenance of national model building and fire safety codes must be matched with local resources and qualifications to ensure capable and thorough adherence to those codes. The CBCAG will provide support to jurisdictions short on resources but committed to improvement of the quality of the built-environment through effective on-going local code administration. Residents of and visitors to our communities will be served every day by higher quality building and, in turn, the nation will be served by improving the resilience of buildings to natural and man-made disasters.

We thank you for your efforts to bring our Resolution to the attention of Congress and to work actively with our Congressional Delegation to gain enactment and funding of the CBCAG.

Sincerely,

Robert G. Stahl, President
EDIAFC

Valor Committee

Steve Reid has obtained a \$1,000.00 sponsorship from Motorola for the Valor Award. This is in addition to a \$100.00 sponsor received previously. MFCA has also sent \$500.00 as a sponsor for the Valor Award.

Fire GPO

The Secretary reminded the Board that they had voted to provide funding for the State Associations to attend the conference and 5 state meeting. So far, only Delaware has representatives coming.

Bank Accounts

The Secretary reported to the Board that Yardville Bank, which is where all of the Division Accounts were held, was sold to PNC Bank. Effective March 12, 2008, all of the Division accounts were converted to PNC accounts. The transition went smoothly and the accounts balanced after the transfer.

The Secretary will review the interest rates and other advantages of the new bank and make recommendations for the future of the accounts if he feels there is a benefit to switching facilities. In the interim, things will all function as they did in the past. The Division was provided new checks and deposit slips at no cost.

The Secretary also reported that Division holds a CD with the old bank which came due on March 16, 2008. The original investment was \$40,000.00. Last year the CD earned \$1,963.09 and was renewed at a rate of 5.12% This year the CD earned \$2,210.50 and it was redeemed at \$44,173.59. Since then interest rates have dropped sharply, another Cd was not pursued at this time.

When the CD was due, the entire principle and interest were deposited into the checking account. Subsequently, a money market which yields 3% was opened as an attached account to the business checking. \$75,000.00 was transferred to the money market from the checking account, leaving about \$40,000.00 in the checking. The money market is paying higher than CDs and leaves the cash fluid if needed.

The Secretary report that there was no immediate need to fill out new signature cards after the change of banks. He recommended that new cards be filled out after the conference, based on the new slate of officers. The Board concurred with the recommendation.

Adjournment

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