

**Minutes**  
**Western Fire Chiefs Association**  
**Thursday, January 29, 2009**  
**Teleconference**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

**A. Roll Call**

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|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gary Aleshire, President                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mark Wendelsdorf, Idaho State Vice President |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jim Critchley, Vice President                  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brett Waters, Montana State Vice President   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Joe Perry, International Director              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jim Madden, Nevada State Vice President      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jeff Johnson, Past President                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Paul LeSage, Oregon State Vice President                |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Warren Cummings, Alaska State Vice President   | <input type="checkbox"/> J. Kevin Nalder, Utah State Vice President              |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paul Adams, Arizona State Vice President       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jim Broman, Washington State Vice President  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Doug Williams, California State Vice President | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jim Weigand, NCSA Chair                      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ken Silva, Hawaii State Vice President         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jeff Griffin, Executive Director             |

Staff and guests in attendance: Kay Johnson, Crosby Grindle, and Samantha Simpson. Roll Call taken – quorum established.

**2. CONSENT AGENDA**

Motioned by Doug Williams, seconded by Paul Adams to approve the December 18, 2008 minutes. Motion carried.

**3. FINANCIAL REPORT**

- A. WFCA Year-to-Date – Kay Johnson reviewed the financial reports and stated that the amounts listed are preliminary year end totals. The bookstore royalty amounts were questioned and explained. **Motioned by Warren Cummings, seconded by Mark Wendelsdorf to approve the financials. Motion carried.**

**4. OLD BUSINESS**

- A. Strategic Plan – Gary Aleshire indicated staff will submit a monthly request to each Board member for status updates on their respective action toward their assigned strategic goals.
- B. NCSA Training Services Agreement – Gary Aleshire advised that this agreement has been signed.
- C. Fire Rescue GPO State Representative – Crosby Grindle stated he is still seeking GPO state representatives. The Board mentioned that potential recruits are hesitant to volunteer because of the unknown time commitments. Crosby will send a request to each of the Board members that will indicate the nature of activity and time commitment anticipated. Paul Adams advised that Ron Dennis will be the rep from Arizona.

**5. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. AZ House Bill 2267 – Paul Adams discussed this legislation which would prohibit local jurisdictions from adopting a mandatory sprinkler ordinance. Paul indicated that the focus was not on residential sprinklers; it was on the issue of local control and that adoption of Codes and Ordinances should be left to the local jurisdiction rather than dictated by the State.
- B. Statement of Support for Guard and Reserve – Gary Aleshire asked if the Board would favor preparing a letter of support similar to that of the IAFC. Staff will distribute a "Draft" support letter for review and comment.
- C. State Approach Regarding Residential Sprinkler Issue – Joe Perry indicated that the IAFC was notified of the residential sprinkler ordinance issues in Arizona and North Dakota. Staff will draft a resolution and submit it to the Board for input. This topic will be addressed at the upcoming President's Forum.

- 6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT** – Gary Aleshire stated that he recently attended the Washington Chief's Board meeting. One of the exciting developments from that meeting was a discussion for developing a legislative issues link on the Daily Dispatch®. The Washington legislative information published/broadcasted by the State office will be used as a "pilot" template. Jennifer Phillips (Daily Dispatch) will work with Laurie Perry (South King Fire & Rescue) to get a template created. The goal is to bring the other states on as quickly as possible and share information through an ongoing and updated version of legislative sessions. Gary thanked Washington for stepping up to be the "test" state. Gary reported that an outline is being created for the President's Forum and requests will be circulated to each state for their input

regarding emerging issues, pressing issues and needs. These issues will help guide the direction of WFCA's future strategic plan. Each State attendee will be asked to submit/discuss their respective issues and needs.

7. **INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT** – Joe Perry discussed the recent IAFC meeting. He stated that the IAFC adopted its Strategic Plan. The IAFC also gave its endorsement to develop a national GIS plan where the entire U.S. would be mapped for emergency services purposes. The IAFC is exploring a relationship with a company called Fire Recovery USA which assists fire departments in recovering some of their costs. Joe also reported that the IAFC endorsed the use of "plain language" for radio communications. The IAFC is continuing to accept applications for individuals seeking appointment to the Presidents administration. Joe also addressed the Public Safety Officer concept and stated that both the IAFC and IAFF have literature on the issue. Lastly, he mentioned concern with the drop in FRI registrations.
8. **STAFF REPORT** -- Crosby informed the Board that he attended the Utah Fire Chiefs' meeting this month and appreciated the reception he received. He was able to provide them with an update on Western activities. Crosby also reported that Jessica Heintz has filled the position of Office Manager to assist with oversight as we continue to grow and develop our staff and programs. Crosby is assisting Jessica with strategic staff reviews and an organizational flowchart.
9. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT** – Jeff Griffin advised that Jessica will be providing the daily office management and Kay will continue to oversee our financials and assist Jessica with the transition. He reported that the biggest internal office issue is space due to the continued growth of the Bookstore. Jeff stated that we are adequately staffed in the Bookstore as two new full-time employees have been hired to replace part-time positions. He advised that the insurance program is up and running and that Kevin will be contacting the state chief associations regarding improving their coverage while reducing their premiums. Staff is working to schedule a meeting with NFPA. Jeff is excited about the overall direction of the office.
10. **BOARD MEMBER REPORTS**

**VICE PRESIDENT** – Jim Critchley advised that he will be the Tucson representative on the Arizona Fire Services Institute. The group is comprised of fire districts, fire chiefs, and firefighters that meet to discuss items that can be pushed forward from a fire service point of view. He is looking forward to new challenges as the Assistant Fire Chief.

**PAST PRESIDENT** – Jeff Johnson – absent.

**ALASKA** – Warren Cummings reported that the Alaska Fire Chiefs' Association will be holding its conference in Juneau February 10-13, 2009, and that Chief Al Gillespie is a guest speaker. In conjunction with the conference, a grant workshop will be sponsored by MES (Brian Vickers) and Brian Ippsen from FEMA 10 will be there to discuss the Fire Act Grant. Warren stated that it is a worthwhile conference and additional information can be found on the Alaska Chiefs' website. He mentioned that Alaska will be sending 3-6 chiefs to Washington for CFSI in April.

**ARIZONA** – Paul Adams reported that the Arizona Cardinals are really in the Super Bowl.

**CALIFORNIA** – Doug Williams stated that the California Chiefs held their annual planning meeting. The key topic was the financial situation, coping with it and the impact it will have on their Fall Conference. Another topic was EMS and the rights of the fire service to provide EMS services at the transport level. Chief Williams wanted to remind everyone of the IAFC Wildland Conference in Reno in March. Doug stated that Chief Bob Roper has been encouraging people who are interested in the LEOSAD concept to attend. Doug will invite the President of the California Fire Prevention Officers to participate in the Forum.

**HAWAII** – Ken Silva indicated that Hawaii has experienced a 10% downfall in tourism in the past year. Tourism is their economic engine and the trickle down effect is felt by all. All of the state fire departments are under a tremendous "flat budget" guideline. Three key legislative issues are 1) Ban Consumer Fireworks; 2) Fire Safe Cigarette Legislation; and 3) Ban on Novelty Lighters.

**IDAHO** – Mark Wendelsdorf reported that the Idaho Fire Chiefs' Association updated their Strategic Plan. Mark also indicated there is an EMS issue and the State is attempting to redo the rules on licensure. He also mentioned that the Builders' Association is attempting to change the makeup of the Board that recommends code adoption. Mark stated that the SW area of Idaho will be the host of the Special Olympics in a couple of weeks.

**MONTANA** – Brett Waters stated that Montana is in its legislative session. He mentioned that some counties are trying to take power and authority away from the elected board of trustees that govern the fire districts and the fire service areas of the state. He indicated that this year is the best year ever for the Fire Alliance as far as working together with fire service chiefs associations, fire instructors, district trustees, and volunteer firefighters. He stated that the Montana Chiefs are revising their association's Bylaws. They are also experiencing significant attack on

any sprinkler requirements for revision review and code. The homebuilders and the developers have been successful at taking them on and getting them on the sprinkler requirements. Belgrade is in the highlights of the Daily Dispatch due to local issues; the city is considering starting their own stand alone fire department. Tourism is down and everyone is tightening their belt.

**NEVADA** – Jim Madden – reported that the Nevada State Legislature starts next month and the push is for Fire Safe Cigarettes and banning novelty lighters. They are working on an October 26-27 conference in Reno at the Silver Legacy. Jim is retiring and has requested a replacement on the Board; his last day with the City of Henderson will be April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**OREGON** – Paul LeSage – absent.

**UTAH** – Kevin Nalder – absent.

**WASHINGTON** – Jim Broman reported that the Legislature is in session. A key issue is to obtain statewide CBRNE legislation to create a network of Hazardous Materials response teams much like Oregon, but the concept comes down to financing. The Governor has indicated that they will look at all Boards and Commissions such as the statewide Fire Protection Policy Board and the EMS Trauma Care Council; Legislation has been introduced to eliminate them. The State Department of Health has always conducted the EMT and Paramedic Certification Exams at no cost to the local government. They are proposing to move that to the National Registry which would do two things: 1) Increased cost of paying the test fee and 2) go from local testing to limited testing locations throughout the state. On a local level they are facing a similar issue as Belgrade, Montana. Due to an imbalance in service level and inadequate funding the station has been closed and the City filed suit to make the fire district open the fire station.

**NCSA CHAIR** – Jim Weigand reported that NCSA is working to make the requested changes directed by the Board within the agreement and they are watching the Arizona bill and other legislative issues.

11. **GOOD OF THE ORDER** – Warren Cummings advised of the \$130 savings in FRI registration fees if registration was completed by today. Jeff Griffin thanked Gary for his visits to Salem. Jeff reminded everyone of the CFSI event in April in DC. **Motioned by Warren Cummings, seconded by Paul Adams to adjourn the meeting.**
12. **ADJOURNMENT** – The next meeting is scheduled for **February 26, 2009, 1:30 p.m. PST.** Meeting adjourned.

Minutes recorded/submitted by:  
Samantha Simpson, WFCB Administrative Staff