

**Minutes**  
**Western Fire Chiefs Association**  
**Thursday, May 28, 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 type="checkbox"/> Douglas Stevens, Nevada State Vice President            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jeff Johnson, Past President                              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paul LeSage, Oregon State Vice President     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Warren Cummings, Alaska State Vice President              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Evans, 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: Crosby Grindle, Kay Johnson, Jessica Heintz and Samantha Simpson. Other guests were Ray Bizal (NFPA Western Regional Manager), Bill Lankford, James McMullen (NCSA Executive Director), and Ken Riddle (NV Executive Director). Roll Call taken – quorum established.

**2. CONSENT AGENDA**

Motioned by Paul LeSage, seconded by Paul Adams to approve the April 22, 2009 minutes. Motion carried.

**3. FINANCIAL REPORT**

- A. WFCA Year-to-Date – Kay Johnson reviewed the financial reports and indicated that our building rent increased. Jeff Griffin indicated that we always want to be frugal with our income and expenses. **Motioned by Mark Wendelsdorf, seconded by Paul Adams to approve the financials. Motion carried.**

**4. OLD BUSINESS**

- A. Strategic Plan Goal #2 – Jim Broman addressed the Strategic Goal regarding professional development. He indicated that a survey of the ten western states should be developed and distributed to identify the needs of the states and a gap analysis prepared. Jim stated that the focus should be consistent with the IAFC's Officer Development Handbook, the NFPA standards for professional qualifications and Chief Fire Officer Designation. He also stated that there would be value in having a resource group debate, discuss and work with the issues to provide the board guidance. Inevitably it may require some commitment from WFCA for funding and travel. Gary asked that Jim proceed and bring additional information to the next meeting. Ken Silva indicated that he would be willing to participate.
- B. Ready, Set, Go Position Statement – Doug Williams stated that the Ready, Set, Go program was unveiled publicly in California. Doug recommended that WFCA Board endorse the Ready, Set, Go program. Gary Aleshire asked that a resolution be drafted and presented to the Board for their consideration at the next meeting.
- C. ESCI Classes – Crosby stated that Chief Wendelsdorf has agreed to assist with this program. Crosby is continuing to work with Jack Snook to set up the professional development workshops in partnership with our state chief associations.
- D. NCSA Listing Service Proposal – Jim McMullen discussed the listing service proposal he presented in Napa, CA. He indicated that the proposed document came from the questions raised in Napa and he would like the Board's recommendation. Gary requested additional information (business structure, background, tenure and proposal) before proceeding with this business venture. Jeff Griffin will work with Jim McMullen to address the liability issue. Jim McMullen indicated they would bring a complete proposal back to the Board for consideration.

**5. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. FRI State VP Reports – Staff indicated that annual reports are due and asked that they be submitted on or before July 31, 2009. Staff will send an email reminder to the Board.
- B. NCSA Correspondence re: AC405 – Jim Weigand indicated that the proposed letter expresses the concerns about going through the Evaluation Service to bypass the ICC Committee to gain approval for material that may be questionable in fire protection. The letter is a way to encourage them to follow the proper route.

- C. Residential Sprinkler Resolution – Ray Bizal indicated that a general WFCAs position statement in support of residential sprinklers would assist state chiefs associations with the anti-sprinkler legislation. Joe, Gary, Jim and Jeff will collaborate with the IAFC on developing a more pointed resolution. A draft position statement will be presented at the next board meeting.
- D. MABAS – Jeff Griffin indicated that a small contingency would travel to meet with the MABAS board and see if it is appropriate for WFCAs to visit a similar approach. Jeff stated that Jay Reardon has scheduled a day and a half event in July to meet. Jim Broman expressed interest in having someone familiar with mobilization included in the process. Jim suggested contacting Mike Matlick (WA State Fire Marshal). Jeff Griffin stated that Randy Simpson (OR State Fire Marshal) will be attending. Jeff agreed to contact Mike Matlick to see if he would also be able to attend.
6. **PRESIDENT’S REPORT** – Gary Aleshire expressed his appreciation for those able to attend the President’s Forum and indicated that he appreciated the strong showing from the IAFC.
7. **NFPA REPORT** – Ray Bizal stated that NFPA is focusing its efforts on residential sprinklers and working with the expectation that more home builders will have anti-sprinkler legislation. NFPA is looking at ways to address and prepare for the anti-sprinkler legislation attempts. He also stated that things are going well and they appreciate the partnership with WFCAs.
8. **INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR’S REPORT** – Joe Perry stated that the IAFC’s recent Board meeting and event (similar to the President’s Forum) was well attended. All sections and divisions were represented, it was a great exchange of information and the process was well received. The IAFC will be supplying a summary report from that meeting.
9. **STAFF REPORT** -- Crosby reported that as he travels to our ten western states (as well as the Eastern Division), appreciation is being expressed for the partnership and programs that bring them value and revenue. There was actually a comment that the GPO revenue helped make up for the shortfall in membership revenue. Crosby provided an update on the Nevada Fire Chiefs conference plan and request. He also stated that the IAFC voted to work with the GPO again and that this relationship should be positive for both associations. Crosby will meet with IAFC staff next week and is hopeful that we could have something announced by FRI. Crosby also mentioned that the NPP contract addendum had recently expired. We are back to the old agreement and should be receiving more revenue.
10. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT** – Jeff Griffin reported on a busy month and addressed the IAFC strategic meeting. He indicated that there will be significant new direction and focus. Jeff also reported on good safety events, meeting with the Washington Chiefs about a grant and on a possible partnership with the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation for web page material. Jeff also stated that he spent time with the Great Lakes Division and they have agreed to pilot the Interim Chief program.
11. **BOARD MEMBER REPORTS**
- VICE PRESIDENT** – Jim Critchley is looking forward to the MABAS trip in Chicago.
- PAST PRESIDENT’S REPORT** – Jeff Johnson - absent.
- ALASKA** – Warren Cummings – Absent. Bill Lankford stated that he is proud of the job that the Board is doing and that he is now a fire safety project manager in Anchorage.
- ARIZONA** – Paul Adams reported that the Arizona Chiefs conference is scheduled for the last week in July and exhibitor support and conference registrations are going well. On a local note - about nine departments are exploring the fire authority concept.
- CALIFORNIA** – Doug Williams indicated that budgets are still a concern in California. Fire season started with a big blast around Mother’s Day in Santa Barbara with a deployment of 5,000 people to the May fire. Cal Chiefs are looking at budgets and EMS questions.
- HAWAII** – Ken Silva stated that he has heard a lot of good things about the President’s Forum and was sad he could not attend. He thanked Ray Bizal for doing a great job in getting the new fire code ready for adoption. Hawaii is still faced with budget struggles and attempting to meet the budget challenges. There is a proposed merger with EMS & Ocean that would add 500-600 personnel to the existing 1200 personnel. He said it would be good for public safety but would present a huge challenge.
- IDAHO** – Mark Wendelsdorf reported on working with the State Legislature to address the problems in the fire code. They are scheduled to meet on June 10<sup>th</sup> and have contacted Randy Simpson, Oregon State Fire Marshal who has been helping with the fire code issue.
- MONTANA** – Brett Waters wanted to echo everyone’s thoughts on the Napa trip and thanked everyone for the hospitality as the new state VP. He stated that the Montana Chiefs adopted the new set of Bylaws similar to IAFC

and they will provide for equitable representation on Chiefs Board to deal with diverse issues. Their conference is scheduled for September in Helena and they have good vendor participation.

**NEVADA** – Douglas Stevens – absent.

**OREGON** – Paul LeSage reported that Oregon is facing state finance problems as well. He indicated that one department has closed its entire training and prevention section. He stated that the Legislative session is winding down and a lot of funding issues are being discussed – but they were able to get cancer legislation passed.

**UTAH** – John Evans discussed Chief Johnson's visit and presentation. He also indicated that they just finished an exercise on their statewide mutual aid plan.

**WASHINGTON** – Jim Broman left meeting prior to giving his report.

**NCSA CHAIR** – Jim Weigand stated he had nothing additional to report.

**ADJOURNMENT** – Meeting adjourned. Next meeting is scheduled for **June 25, 2009, 1:30 p.m. PST.**

Minutes recorded/submitted by:

Samantha Simpson, WFCB Administrative Staff