Minutes
Western Fire Chiefs Association
Thursday, July 23, 2009
Teleconference

1. CALL TO ORDER

   A. Roll Call

☒ Gary Aleshire, President	☒ Mark Wendelsdorf, Idaho State Vice President
☒ Jim Critchley, Vice President	☒ Brett Waters, Montana State Vice President
☒ Joe Perry, International Director	☒ Douglas Stevens, Nevada State Vice President
☐ Jeff Johnson, Past President	☒ Paul LeSage, Oregon State Vice President
☒ Warren Cummings, Alaska State Vice President	☐ John Evans, Utah State Vice President
☒ Paul Adams, Arizona State Vice President	☐ Jim Broman, Washington State Vice President
☒ Doug Williams, California State Vice President	☐ Jim Weigand, NCSA Chair
☐ Ken Silva, Hawaii State Vice President	☒ Jeff Griffin, Executive Director

Staff and guests in attendance: Manny Neves (for Ken Silva), Jessica Heintz and Samantha Simpson. Roll Call taken – quorum established.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

Motioned by Doug Williams, seconded by Warren Cummings to approve the June 25, 2009 minutes. Motion carried.

3. FINANCIAL REPORT

   A. WFCA Year-to-Date – Jessica Heintz reviewed the financial reports. S he noted a slight decrease in employment ad revenue and an increase in sponsorship ad revenue. She stated that the 2009 1st Qtr. GPO royalties check had been received and that the amount will be reflected in the next financial report. She also reported that the State and Division GPO royalty checks have been distributed. Jeff Griffin provided additional information regarding the Daily Dispatch, GPO revenues, the Bookstore and the work being done on the budget adjustment. He advised that with the staff cuts, payroll expenses should line back to projections. Gary Aleshire advised that an adjusted budget will be provided to the Board at the next meeting. Jim Critchley asked the Board to please do their part in encouraging sales in the bookstore at their state chief association meetings. Doug Williams advised that L.N. Curtis representatives were in his area promoting their bookstore. Motioned by Paul Adams, seconded by Paul LeSage to approve the financials. Motion carried.

   B. NCSA 2nd Quarter Profit & Loss- Jessica reviewed the NCSA Profit and Loss statement.

4. OLD BUSINESS

   A. Strategic Plan Goal #2 – Gary Aleshire stated that a meeting has been scheduled with IACP at the Arizona Chiefs Conference and that additional information will be provided to the Board at the meeting in Dallas. Gary advised that he and Jim will work with ESCI on the draft of the Strategic Plan so it can be presented to the Board at FRI for consideration and input.

   B. Ready, Set, Go Resolution / Position Statement – Gary Aleshire noted that the resolution and position statement had been published in the Emerging Issues of the Daily Dispatch and posted to the WFCA website as a resource.

   C. NCSA Listing Service Proposal – Jeff Griffin detailed the conversations he had with Bob Blackmore and Jim McMullen. Jeff stated that Bob Blackmore expressed extreme concern with the long-term liability. Jeff expressed appreciation of the direction NCSA was headed with the training classes and certifications – but expressed the significant concerns with branding items with WFCA. Jeff will prepare and submit a summary letter to Bob Blackmore for his review and validation. Jeff advised that this is not a venture for WFCA.

   D. FRI State VP Reports – Staff asked for State reports, encouraged Board members to sign up for booth duty and asked the Board to review the contact list and notify of any changes needed.

   E. Residential Sprinkler Resolution & Position Statement – Gary Aleshire reported that the resolution and position statement has been distributed and posted on the WFCA website.

F. Solberg & Adams / ESCI Agreement - Jeff Griffin indicated that ESCI brought the Solberg & Adams group to WFCA to use for telephone auditing and that the results have been extremely consistent in reducing telephone cost and providing savings. Jeff asked for Board permission to have Crosby move forward with the ESCI contract. **Motioned by Warren Cummings, seconded by Paul Adams to have Crosby execute the agreement with ESCI and present it to the Board for final approval.**

G. President Forum – Gary Aleshire indicated that the 2010 President Forum dates have been set and will be March 17-19, 2010 in Hawaii. The Hilton Waikoloa has been secured for the location and Gary reviewed the scheduled dates. Manny advised that attendees will fly directly into Kona. Gary Aleshire indicated that a draft schedule will be distributed to the Board which will list the tentative schedule through 2020.

H. MABAS – Jim Critchley addressed his trip to Chicago to view the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System. Jim provided a brief description of the system, how it operates, its grant revenue, and that it is a good system to get mutual aid into the state. Jim provided additional information regarding MABAS and stated that the Western Division could help each other by working on their state to state agreements and part of those plans should include how to receive the resources.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2009 FRI WFCA Board Schedule – Staff reviewed the draft FRI schedule and asked for contact information, suggestions, and input. A final schedule will be sent to the VP's and state chief association offices.

6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Gary Aleshire reported on his visit to the Salem office, working on the budget, plans to attend the Arizona Chiefs Conference and that he looks forward to seeing everyone in Dallas.

7. INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Joe Perry discussed his conference call with the IAFC Board and the steps they are taking to address budget concerns, the membership drive, and a decline in conference attendance. Joe also stated that the Division Task Force has finalized the "Best Practices" document and the Constitution and Bylaws template for the Divisions. These documents will be presented to the IAFC Board at their meeting on Tuesday, August 25th at 1:00 p.m. Joe also stated that locally, on campus, he is preparing for a 20% reduction after just completing a 15% reduction. Joe Perry reported that the totals for fire station grants were in and that 6,000 fire departments applied and the amount requested was 9.76 billion dollars out of the $210 million allotted.

8. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Jeff Griffin reported on attending the National State Fire Marshal's conference, the Metro Chiefs conference and IFSTA's annual conference. Jeff expressed concerns about safety and construction material being used as part of the push to "go green". Jeff stated that the IAFC did a stellar job addressing the cancer study at the Metro conference. He applauded them for being on point and addressing this issue. Jeff also discussed the difficult issue between paid firefighters and volunteers with the grant funding allocations. Paul LeSage iterated the multiple issues with regards to the funding. Paul stated that the IAFC has gone on record saying that they believe the percentage associated with staffing should be more than the percentage for equipment. This sets up a collision between the volunteers who seek equipment and the IAFF who is a huge proponent of increasing staffing. Following additional discussion, it was agreed that Joe Perry would contact Jeff Johnson to gather speaking points on the issue.

9. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

VICE PRESIDENT – Jim Critchley commented on visiting Salem and reported on the fire at the recycling center in Tucson.

PAST PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Absent.

ALASKA – Warren Cummings stated that he just returned from doing grants last week. He indicated that almost 20,000 grants were submitted of those, 12,000 were taken to be graded. Warren stated that the fire station grants will be judged next week in Baltimore and to give a reference – there were about 5,000 grants submitted for fire stations – Alaska had 33 and were requesting 96 million dollars. Warren also reported on the forest fires burning South of Fairbanks (30,000 acres) and one to the west at about a quarter million acres and growing rapidly.

ARIZONA – Paul Adams reported that the Arizona Chiefs Conference begins Tuesday.

CALIFORNIA – Doug Williams stated that California is waiting on budget news and that the Cal Chiefs Conference is scheduled for September 28-30 in Riverside.

HAWAII – Manny Neves stated that there was no report at this time.
IDAHO – Mark Wendelsdorf reported that Idaho is struggling with budget as well.
MONTANA – Brett Waters reported that they are gearing up for fire season.
NEVADA – Douglas Stevens stated that their legislature wrapped up and that novelty lighters and fire safe cigarettes passed. Doug also stated that personally the Henderson Fire Department switched their purchasing to the bookstore and are they very impressed with the pricing and the service.
OREGON – Paul LeSage commented that the legislature closed out with no major impacts this year on the fire service. Paul indicated he is still working back and forth with ISO and he has had contact with Washington folks on some of the new 9A rating they are doing. He is attempting to get responses from ISO on where they are in the re-rate process.
UTAH – John Evans absent
WASHINGTON – Jim Broman absent
NCSA CHAIR – Jim Weigand reported that NCSA is working to put the training program together and they are moving forward.
ADJOURNMENT – Meeting adjourned. Next meeting is scheduled for August 26, 2009, 3:30 p.m. at the Dallas Convention Center.

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