

Minutes
Western Fire Chiefs Association
Wednesday, August 26, 2009
Dallas, Texas – Convention Center

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"/> Douglas Stevens, Nevada State Vice President |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jeff Johnson, Past President | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paul LeSage, Oregon State Vice President |
| <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Jim Broman, Washington State Vice President |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Doug Williams, California State Vice President | <input type="checkbox"/> Jim Weigand, NCSA Chair |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ken Silva, Hawaii State Vice President | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jeff Griffin, Executive Director |

Staff and guests in attendance: Larry Sagan (Fire 20/20), Ray Bizal (NFPA), Mike Brown, Ed Widdis, & Scott Glowaski (WSAFC), Ted Kunze & Tay Robertson, (OFCA), Manny Neves (for Ken Silva), Paulette Oliver (WHA), Jeff McMenemy (AZ), Al Gillespie (IAFC/NFCA), Crosby Grindle, Kay Johnson and Samantha Simpson. Roll Call taken – quorum established.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

Chief Al Gillespie, incoming 2nd VP of the IAFC thanked the WFCA and the individual states for their support, and he indicated that he looks forward to serving.

Motioned by Doug Williams, seconded by Mark Wendelsdorf to approve the July 23, 2009 minutes. Motion carried.

3. FINANCIAL REPORT

- A. WFCA Year-to-Date** – Kay Johnson reviewed the financial reports and indicated banner bookstore sales in July. She reported that to-date, the bookstore has given back \$88,000 to the states and Divisions. Kay stated that Management fees are up slightly due to an increase from the Oregon Fire Chiefs and that the current net income is at a negative \$12,000. Kay mentioned a slight decrease in advertisement sales in the Daily Dispatch and reported that we received the second quarter GPO check, which was higher than anticipated. Crosby identified the reasons why the second quarter check was a record, described the current contract relationship with NPP and indicated that a new contract is currently being negotiated. **Motioned by Paul Adams, seconded by Warren Cummings to approve the financials. Motion carried.**

4. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Strategic Plan** – Jim Critchley reviewed the proposed Strategic Plan document and asked that everyone read the document, select and identify the priority goals, and give their input with regards to the final plan. Doug Williams asked that the Board stay focused on the best use of time with the best payback in return of services to the members. Jim briefly addressed each strategic goal and asked for Board input, comments, suggestions and recommendations. He asked that any Board member who has a passion for any of the goals/tasks listed, to sign up to be the lead. Doug Williams indicated the importance of state-to-state recognition of training programs and certifications and the ability to get state agencies working together. Jim indicated a key to making this plan successful is in communication. How do we currently communicate, how do we get information to the membership, how do we get information to sections. With regard to Goal #8, Paul LeSage questioned the focus of this goal and asked that the emphasis be geared toward the IAFC Safety and Survival Section more than on the National Fallen Firefighters. Gary asked that everyone review the Strategic Plan, sign up for any tasks and reminded everyone that the goal is to have the plan introduced at the beginning of the year (2010).

- 1) IACP Meeting – Jeff Griffin spoke about his conversations with Mike Matlick and Dave LaFave regarding the leadership program (started at West Point). Jeff mentioned that the current issue is in sustaining their trainers with the current resources. Jeff discussed the potential partnership of

providing an equal number of trainers so that police and fire could both attend and receive quality training. Gary discussed the meeting with the International Association of Chief of Police in Arizona and reported that resources were committed to review the curriculum content (not exclusive to law enforcement) and revise it to be universal to professional leadership. Gary discussed that the current training is an intensive three-month program. Jim Critchley indicated that this would fall in line with the Professional Development Goal. Gary advised that WFCFA will monitor the progress of the curriculum re-draft. Gary also discussed the Harvard Program as another valued training resource.

- B. Email Policy – Jeff Griffin described the draft email policy and requested the board's review and input. He noted that it will be presented at the next board meeting for adoption. The proposed policy is similar to the IAFC email policy and would provide a structure for communicating to our membership.
- C. NCSA Listing Service Proposal – Jeff Griffin discussed his conversations with Jim McMullen and Bob Blackmore. Jeff noted that Jim McMullen was going to send a letter to Bob Blackmore describing the potential risks and exposures of a listing service. Jeff reiterated that Bob Blackmore is concerned with the liability of a listing service. The Board has expressed its concern that a listing services does not fit within our goals and/or mission.
- D. ESCI Partnership Announcement – Crosby indicated that the ESCI Partnership Agreement has been signed Jack Snook visited the office to meet with staff to discuss the services and to brainstorm on ways to work together to add value to both organizations. An announcement has been created to describe how the workshops will be delivered through our partnerships with state chief associations and fire departments. Crosby asked that if anyone is interested in hosting a class or if they had any questions, to let him know.
- E. Policy – Elected Official Recognition – Jeff Griffin advised of the draft policy created to recognize Elected Officials for their efforts and service to the states, WFCFA and the fire service. The purpose of the policy is to establish guidelines and parameters for giving/contributing to elected officials. Following additional discussion, it was agreed that staff would prepare cost samples of recognition gifts for the board's review and input by the next meeting.
- F. 2009 FRI Schedule Review – Staff reviewed the FRI schedule and addressed specific points of interest for the Board as it pertained to the WFCFA functions.

5. NEW BUSINESS

- A. EF Recovery – New Sponsor – Crosby reported that we have added EF Recovery as a new 3-Bugle sponsor. Crosby indicated that they are based in Washington State and they provide an environmental solution to hazmat spills along with a cost recovery component.
- B. Support of Unemployment White Paper – Paul LeSage reported that this issue is tied to the W-2 compensation issue and reported that two departments in Oregon have been forced to pay unemployment for volunteers. Paul gave a brief description of the relationship differences between filing a 1099 Form and a W-2 Form. Paul stated that a call has been sent to Oregon departments in an attempt to determine how many departments are affected by this issue. He indicated that the intent is to put together a "White Paper" to determine the problem. Once the scope has been outlined, then a legal opinion will be prepared. The Oregon Fire Chiefs Association has committed \$5,000 toward the legal opinion. There is a possibility that by the September or October meeting, a request for a monetary contribution (from WFCFA) toward the legal opinion will be made if it is determined that this issue is affecting other states in our division.
- C. WFCFA Talking Points – Gary Aleshire asked the board to review the talking points.
- D. Wildland Firefighting & Reimbursement (letter from Al Tomita) – Manny Neves reviewed the letter from Chief Al Tomita regarding the difficulties in receiving reimbursement for wildland fires in Hawaii. The specific issues are with requesting reimbursement under the Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) program. Manny described a few

of the rules that apply in requesting reimbursement and some of the difficulties they face. Manny asked that if reimbursement is an issue in other states, to contact them (he, or Ken Silva). Hopefully a collaborative effort could be made to get FEMA and/or FMAG to address this issue.

- E. AFG FEMA Regional Contact Info – Paul LeSage advised that the FEMA representative read the notes from our President’s Forum regarding the concern with how departments are shutting down prevention programs based on funding cuts. The representative wanted to emphasize that the AFG grants are available for prevention and that he is willing to help anyone wanting to put together a grant to bolster their prevention program, especially if it is facing cuts.
6. **PRESIDENT’S REPORT** – Gary Aleshire reported on attending the Arizona Fire Chiefs Conference and that he is continuing to work with Jim and Crosby to develop an EMS and Fire and Life Safety Section as a resource and conduit for the states and WFCA.
7. **INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR’S REPORT** – Joe Perry provided a recap of discussions that took place at the IAFC Board meetings. He mentioned that one of the positive changes made was that the Executive Director has been given flexibility to reshape the office and support of the organization. Joe reviewed the following items:
- IAFC is taking steps to reduce their costs and that the Wildland Conference was up about 3%.
 - The Ready, Set, Go program will be presented next year at the conference and a video is being developed.
 - Headway is being made with the National Spectrum Broadband Trust and that there will be stimulus money available for building the network.
 - Firefighters Against Drunk Driving – currently being piloted in Dallas.
 - Best Practices – template of policies and procedures submitted and accepted – special thanks to Mike Brown.
 - Safe Place Presentation - non-profit organization - community buildings as a safe haven for youth.
 - Great discussion with ISO – within the next two weeks they will be able to deliver the specifics.
 - Presentation by the National Association for Hispanic Firefighters - understanding different cultures.
 - Joe indicated that Kelvin Cochran will be sworn in as US Fire Administrator at the conference on Friday.
 - Fire Act Grants and Safer Money, US Fire Administration.
 - IRS issue and volunteers – seeking one definition from the Federal Government.
 - Fire Sprinkler Tax credit – tax allowance for the cost of fire sprinklers.
 - FRI attendee registrations are down slightly but Expo floor numbers are higher than anticipated.
 - Positive feedback about FRI in Chicago for 2010 – interest in visiting a new place.
8. **PAST PRESIDENT REPORT** – Jeff Johnson discussed the following topics in detail:
- IAFC office structure and Mark Light’s role
 - IRS Issue – Congressman Wu’s letter – request for examples of departments being audited by the IRS
 - SAFER Grant – reducing the match, removing the cap, division of grant money – still being negotiated.
 - IAFC Board re-governed – Division of duties, Chief Executive power, scope and authority.
9. **STAFF REPORT** -- Crosby reported on the following:
- Turnout gear RFP awarded to MES, L.N. Curtis, Mallory and Sea Western.
 - IAFC GPO partnership agreement.
 - FireRescue Group Purchasing Associate – business to business type GPO.
 - Attending other division luncheons to cover the GPO, Bookstore and Daily Dispatch.
10. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT** – Jeff Griffin discussed the following:
- A possible enhancement with IFSTA.
 - Two non-fire book products to add to the bookstore – coordinate drop shipping.

- Booth Duty sign up sheet
- WFCAs Talking points
- NCSA listing service - thanked Jim McMullen

11. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS – Due to time constraints Board Members passed on giving their reports other than the ones specifically listed below.

NFPA – Ray Bizal took a moment to thank the WFCAs for taking initiative and passing the resolution on supporting residential sprinklers. Ray looks forward to working with each of the states on getting residential sprinklers into homes.

VICE PRESIDENT – Jim Critchley gave kudos to the staff and he thanked Paul LeSage for taking on duties.

ALASKA – Warren Cummings no report.

ARIZONA – Paul Adams no report.

CALIFORNIA – Doug Williams no report.

HAWAII – Manny Neves thanked Ray Bizal and indicated that they are through the final stages of adopting NFPA 1 and that they are at the public hearing phase. He stated that Fire Safe Cigarette legislation has passed.

IDAHO – Mark Wendelsdorf no report.

MONTANA – Brett Waters stated that the career departments have set up their own fire chiefs association. The recognized state chiefs association represents career, combination and volunteer to make sure there is uniformity in representing the members. Their conference is coming up in September in Helena.

NEVADA – Douglas Stevens stated that he would be happy to take on the PERS initiative if each state rep would send an example their PERS, he will prepare a comparison. He will distribute the Nevada PERS as an example. He asked for the IAFC's position on it as well.

OREGON – Paul LeSage no report.

UTAH – John Evans no report.

WASHINGTON – Jim Broman absent.

NCSA CHAIR – Jim Weigand – absent.

ADJOURNMENT – Meeting adjourned. Next teleconference is set for **September 24, 2009, 1:30 p.m. PST.**

Minutes recorded/submitted by:

Samantha Simpson, WFCAs Administrative Staff