

Minutes
Western Fire Chiefs Association
Thursday, September 24, 2009
Teleconference

1. CALL TO ORDER

A. Roll Call

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gary Aleshire, President | <input 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 checked="" 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 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 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: Jessica Heintz and Crosby Grindle. Roll Call taken – quorum established.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

Motioned by Doug Williams, seconded by Warren Cummings to approve the August 26, 2009 minutes. Motion carried.

3. FINANCIAL REPORT

A. WFCA Year-to-Date – Jessica Heintz reviewed the financial reports. Motioned by Paul Adams, seconded by Warren Cummings to approve the financials. Motion carried.

4. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Strategic Plan – Jim Critchley advised that he will send out a commitment sheet once Strategic Plan assignment responses have been received from each Board member. Jim expressed his appreciation for those that had already committed to a Strategic task. Gary Aleshire reminded everyone to submit their responses and suggestions to Jim.
- B. Email Policy – Motioned by Paul Adams, seconded by Warren Cummings to adopt the Email Policy. Motion carried unanimously.
- C. Elected Official Recognition Policy – Motioned by Warren Cummings, seconded by Jim Critchley to adopt policy. Motion carried unanimously.
- D. 2009 FRI Review/Recap – Jeff Griffin asked for recommendations for the 2010 FRI event in Chicago. Several Board members expressed their appreciation to staff for a job well done and Jeff Johnson expressed his appreciation for the reception.
- E. Fully Involved Grant Update – Jim Critchley provided an update on the grant and advised that the product is now in an online testing phase. Jim discussed the advantages of the online training product. He reported that the grant application for the injury and prevention database had been denied. After discussing new grant requirements, it was determined that the financial stake and staff time involved would be higher than the outcome. The determination was that it was no longer in scope and mission and did not align with the WFCA Strategic Plan.

5. NEW BUSINESS

- A. IAFC Affiliate Membership - Jeff Griffin described the IAFC's affiliate membership and advised that a request for support may be brought before the Board. He will bring additional information back to the October meeting.
- B. Grant Writing Assistance - Jeff Griffin discussed the possibility of assisting fire departments with their grant writing. He indicated that with the change in the grant rules this could be a potential service for our members.
- C. Safety Officer Section - Jeff Griffin advised that an email will be sent to our membership to get information about how and when perspective firefighters are physically tested to see if they are fit or not. He stated that some departments, through the testing and training evolution, have had serious worker's compensation injuries on candidates that were not physically fit for the fire service.
- D. Division Best Practices - Gary addressed the IAFC document that was distributed by Shawn Stokes regarding Division Best Practices. From a staff perspective it will be reviewed. Gary asked the Board to review the document

and stated that it will be added to the October agenda for further discussion. Joe Perry provided some background and agreed that the purpose of this document is for the Divisions to take the opportunity to look at the best practices being and see what we can use to help improve our organization.

6. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT** – Gary Aleshire provided an update on the IACP Leadership program and stated that the goal is to do a pilot program in 2010, it appears to be on track and the curriculum is coming together. The target is to get three people from every state to participate in this program. Gary reiterated that the IACP program is a retooling – not a commitment or financial obligation for WFCFA to make it an exclusive program. Gary also reported that he will be visiting the office in October to work on drafting the 2010 budget. He hopes to present the proposed budget at the November meeting and that it will be ready for adoption by the December meeting.
7. **INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT** – Joe Perry reported on the Heritage Foundation and their respective reports on the Fire Act Grants. Joe stated that the IAFC is preparing to testify before Congress on the effectiveness of the grant programs. He also reported that our giveaway bags at FRI were a hit. Joe noted that he and Doug Williams will be attending the California Fire Chiefs Conference the last week of September.
8. **STAFF REPORT** -- Crosby indicated that he has been traveling, promoting the WFCFA and its products. He also discussed the training that Kevin Brain provides which is geared towards the fire service and other public safety disciplines, is well established, and has been going for years.
9. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT** – Jeff Griffin indicated that the Great Lakes Division proposed sponsoring an IAFC lunch. Jeff stated that he will present a budget projection once he knows how many Divisions are willing to participate in funding a periodic lunch for IAFC staff. Jeff will notify Great Lakes that we will have a response after the October meeting. Jeff reminded the Board of the Redmond Symposium, November 8-12 and encouraged attendance. Jeff also addressed IAFC affiliate membership and stated that we need to look at how we recruit members, provide them with information about the Western Division and what the Western does. Jeff will provide additional information at the October meeting.

10. **BOARD MEMBER REPORTS**

VICE PRESIDENT – Jim Critchley reported that he is staying busy.

PAST PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Jeff Johnson reported that Joe Perry is doing a great job representing the Western Division. Jeff discussed the status of the Fire Act Grant, and the change in IAFC's governance.

ALASKA – Warren Cummings stated that the Governor attended the opening ceremonies at the Alaska Chiefs Conference in Anchorage and that there were 440 registered attendees. Warren also discussed ISO and the new emphasis on NFPA standards and American Waterworks standards. He gave credit to WFCFA for bookstore royalties and indicated that they have doubled last year's sales.

ARIZONA – Paul Adams gave a quick report on the IAFC Elections Committee – February 1st is the deadline for the 2010 Election and currently Chief Hank Clemmensen from Illinois is the only announced candidate. David Daniels has an exploratory committee for 2011 but has not yet filed paperwork to officially announce.

CALIFORNIA – Doug Williams stated that the California Chiefs conference will be this weekend.

HAWAII – Ken Silva reported that Hawaii is seeing tough economic times and that tourism is way down.

IDAHO – Mark Wendelsdorf absent.

MONTANA – Brett Waters thanked Chief Johnson for attending the Montana Conference and thanked Crosby, Jen and Jessica. Brett stated that the Governor was at their conference and it was great to see his support for the local fire service. Brett indicated that the Montana Board was successful in getting their new format. The Board now consists of three directors (each) from Career, Combination, and Volunteer departments. The hope is that the new format will help to revitalize the Chiefs Association and sustain relationships.

NEVADA – Douglas Stevens absent.

OREGON – Paul LeSage absent – Jeff Griffin reported on behalf of Paul that he and Chief Johnson will be meeting with ISO in the next couple of weeks and Paul will report when he returns home.

UTAH – John Evans reported that legislation is heating up and they are going to work on the pension systems. They will also be going after novelty lighters which they hope will pass this year.

WASHINGTON – Jim Broman reported on Initiative 1033 (tax limitation) and its potential impact. He also discussed the Leadership training that Dave LaFave participated. He stated that Dave would be a good candidate for an instructor role as we look for a combined program across the 10 western states to have fire service representation in the instructor cadre. Jim described an issue with the Labor and Industries Organization and their investigation into

an Everett fire department incident (safety officer not properly outfitted). Jim stated that the Washington Board has a scheduled retreat in November. Jim reported that the Commission on Professional Credentialing has rolled out another designation - Fire Officer. It is targeted towards Lt, Capt, BC and getting them into the designation system and started on building their portfolio. The program was rolled out at FRI.

NCSA CHAIR – Jim Weigand – absent.

GOOD OF THE ORDER – Jim Broman was successfully elected as President of the US Branch of the IFE. One of his tasks will be to engage the US Fire Service in the IFE organization and see how we can make it useful and effective in the US operating area. If you have suggestions, please give Jim Broman a call.

ADJOURNMENT – Meeting adjourned. Next meeting is scheduled for **October 22, 2009**.

Minutes recorded/submitted by:

Samantha Simpson, WFCAs Administrative Staff