

Minutes
Western Fire Chiefs Association
Thursday, October 23, 2008
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 type="checkbox"/> Montana State Vice President (pending appointment) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Joe Perry, International Director | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jim Madden, 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"/> J. Kevin Nalder, Utah State Vice President |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arizona State Vice President (pending appointment) | <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: Chief Rich Cowger (representing MSFCA), Kay Johnson, Crosby Grindle, and Samantha Simpson. Roll Call taken – quorum established.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

Motioned by Paul LeSage, seconded by Ken Silva to approve the September 18, 2008 minutes. Motion carried.

3. FINANCIAL REPORT

A. WFCA Year-to-Date – Kay Johnson reviewed the financial reports. Motioned by Jim Broman, seconded by Warren Cummings to approve the financials as presented. Motion carried.

4. OLD BUSINESS

- A. NCSA Business Decision – Gary Aleshire reported that we received a proposal from The McMullen Company regarding NCSA. In order to evaluate the impact NCSA has on the certification process in California, Doug Williams agreed to contact the California Chiefs Association and the State Fire Marshal's office. Doug will provide the Board with an update at the November meeting.
- B. NCSA Inventory Disposal – Kay Johnson addressed the (out-of-date) NCSA inventory. Staff has put together an order form which reflects the current inventory on hand and will submit the list to the membership. As a means of disposal, the order form will be circulated to the WFCA membership to see if any member is interested in obtaining the books. The requesting member would be asked to pay the shipping charges on the requested inventory. Motioned by Paul LeSage, seconded by Warren Cummings to dispose of out-of-date NCSA inventory.
- C. Grant Proposal – Strains & Sprains – Jim Critchley advised that this grant proposal (with CTI) is for strains and sprains and appears to fit closely with our mission. This grant aids in the development of tools and research to help Chief Officers make better decisions regarding strains and sprains and brings an awareness of the impact on all organizations. Motioned by Warren Cummings, seconded by Kevin Nalder to proceed with Strains and Sprains grant proposal.
- D. Building Proposal – Jeff Griffin advised the Board that we have negotiated with the owner of the proposed building. With the Board's approval we will enter into an agreement to allow further due diligence and gathering of data. At the next meeting Jeff will advise the Board of progress. Motioned by Warren Cummings, seconded by Jim Madden to proceed with the building proposal.
- E. Insurance Update – Jeff Griffin stated that there may be an opportunity to purchase a group insurance policy. A policy could be created under WFCA and the other Chief Associations would be additional named insured parties. This may not be appropriate for all states; but would be a great member benefit. Jeff will provide additional information at the November meeting. Traditional association package would cover the general liability: Board Meetings, Annual Conference, day-to-day activities of the associations, and employment practices. Any property would be a separate additional purchase. The Board asked that Jeff contact the State Association Presidents to present this proposal for their consideration.

- F. Strategic Plan – The 2008-2010 Strategic Plan was distributed to the Board. Gary asked that this remain on the agenda and for the Board to provide updates as we accomplish the tasks. Paul LeSage gave a brief update on ISO and thanked Alaska, Idaho and Washington for their valuable input. Paul will distribute the finalized list to the Board for comment.

5. NEW BUSINESS

- A. 2009 Proposed Budget – Gary Aleshire advised that he and Jim Critchley spent time in Salem reviewing the budget and meeting with staff. The proposed budget is conservative and has an assumption column if we purchase a building. Kay Johnson reviewed the considerations. **Motioned by Paul LeSage, seconded by Doug Williams to approve the 2009 Proposed Budget.**
- B. Association Position – Leave Early / Evacuate or Stay and Defend (LEOSAD) – Doug Williams addressed the concept that was introduced to the California Chiefs in September and was promulgated by Chief Bob Roper (Ventura, CA). The intent of the policy is to change how we teach the residents when they are in the path of a wildfire – when is it appropriate to stay and when is it appropriate to evacuate. Chief Roper is asking WFCA to endorse the concept. Chief Williams will contact Chief Roper to see if there is additional information that can be provided to the Board. This will allow time for our VP's to go to their states for dialogue and report at the next meeting.
- C. OFIA – Request for Endorsement – Gary Aleshire stated that we received a request from the Oregon Fire Instructor's Association asking for WFCA's endorsement of their Safety and Survival Symposium. **Motioned by Doug Williams, seconded by Ken Silva to support the OFIA Safety and Survival Symposium.** A letter of support will be provided.

6. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT** – Gary Aleshire reported on the Salem office visit and looks forward to being at the office every other month. Gary will attend the IAFC Leadership Forum in Washington, DC.

7. **INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT** – Absent.

8. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT** – Jeff Griffin thanked Gary and Jim for coming to Salem. Jeff and Crosby attended the California Fire Chiefs Conference. WFCA is attempting to expand the Fire Service Bookstore across the nation.

9. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

VICE PRESIDENT – Jim Critchley reported that the trip to the Salem office was productive.

PAST PRESIDENT – Jeff Johnson indicated that IAFC has submitted comments on the ADA requirements as it relates to the private living quarters of fire stations. He provided the update that the Public Safety Spectrum Trust is out for review and is anticipated to be out for bid early Spring. The timeframes to build it have been lengthened, the coverage requirements have been reduced, the minimum bid has been reduced and the penalty for failing to successfully negotiate has been eliminated which should elevate its likelihood of success.

ALASKA – Warren Cummings stated that they have received about six inches of fresh snow.

ARIZONA – Absent.

CALIFORNIA – Doug Williams reported on the California Chiefs' Conference and he thanked both Jeff and Crosby for being present.

HAWAII – Ken Silva reported that he just returned from the National Association of State Fire Marshals' Conference. Ken believes there is an opportunity to build the relationship between State Fire Marshals and our Chief Associations in the West as Washington will be hosting the 2009 Conference. Ken would like to be the liaison and work on scheduling a meeting with the Executive Boards of WFCA and NAFSM.

IDAHO – Mark Wendelsdorf reported on an interesting event in which they helped the Department of Agriculture with depopulating birds using foam.

MONTANA – Chief Rich Cowger reported that hopefully by the next meeting they will have an appointment.

NEVADA – Jim Madden indicated he had nothing to report.

OREGON – Paul LeSage was off the call.

UTAH – Kevin Nalder had nothing to report for Utah.

WASHINGTON – Jim Broman stated that the Washington Fire Chiefs will hold their Strategic Planning retreat mid-November.

NCSA CHAIR – Absent.

GOOD OF THE ORDER – The Board went into Executive Session to discuss the Partnership Agreement with Arizona. Upon conclusion of Executive Session, **Warren Cummings** motioned to approve entering into the Partnership Agreement with the Arizona Fire Chiefs' Association as arranged by the WFCAs Executive Committee, seconded by **Jim Broman**. The motion carried.

12. ADJOURNMENT –The next meeting is scheduled for **November 20, 2008, 1:30 p.m. PST**. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes recorded/submitted by:

Samantha Simpson, WFCAs Administrative Staff