

Minutes
Western Fire Chiefs Association
Thursday, December 17, 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 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 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: Jessica Heintz, Crosby Grindle, Clare Taylor, Samantha Simpson, Al Gillespie, and Kevin Brame. Roll Call taken – quorum established.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

Motioned by Doug Williams, seconded by Paul Adams to approve the November 19, 2009 minutes. Motion carried.

3. FINANCIAL REPORT

WFCA Year-to-Date – Jessica Heintz provided a review of the financial reports and indicated that bank accounts will be diversified to ensure funds are FDIC protected. Jeff Griffin reported that financials are better than projected. **Motioned by Mark Wendelsdorf, seconded by Paul LeSage to approve the financials. Motion carried.**

4. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Strategic Plan** – Jim Critchley reported that Strategic Plan tasks/objectives have been assigned. He requested that Board members responsible for the assigned tasks/objectives provide an appropriate timeline. Crosby provided an update on the Professional Development goal and indicated that the direction is to take a leadership role in encouraging the collaborative use of key national programs and encourage a national credentialing standard for professional development of the fire service and chief officers. Crosby indicated that information would be submitted within the next week to be sure we are on track for the President's Forum.
- B. WFCA Contribution Procedure** – Staff advised that the contribution procedure will be "Any requests for contribution will be routed through the respective State VP before being submitted to the WFCA Board for consideration".
- C. 2010 Proposed Meeting Schedule** – Staff advised that a meeting schedule was proposed at the last meeting and the Board's recommendation was to hold meetings on the fourth Thursday of each month (with the exception of November and December). The proposed schedule reflects those dates. **Motioned by Doug Williams, seconded by Brett Waters to adopt the proposed meeting schedule. Motion carried.**
- D. President's Forum Agenda** – Staff stated that this agenda item was to serve as a reminder for the Board to provide their comments, suggestions or topics for the agenda. Gary provided a brief overview of the two days and advised that the Board meeting will be held at 3:30 p.m. on March 17, 2010. Doug Williams indicated that Alaska Airlines has been running a few airfare specials.
- E. International Public Safety Leadership and Ethics Institute (IPSLE)** – Crosby provided a brief history and introduction for Kevin Brame. Kevin Brame then provided a history and overview of the program. He stated that IPSLE is a public safety industry collaborative for leadership development formed in April, 2001 and was funded by the Carl D. Perkins grant. Their program's vision is "Exceptional Leadership Throughout Public Safety Organizations". They are now a 501(c)3 and their program is being used in a variety of situations. The overall program consists of four courses of personal and professional growth designed to lead the participant on a learning journey, which includes:
- 1) Developing self (a personal philosophy of leadership and ethics)
 - 2) Leading others
 - 3) Organizational leadership
 - 4) Ethics and the challenge of leadership

Kevin provided a written program overview and Power Point which further described the program. They are hoping to submit their program to the Federal DHS for review and approval. Assuming it is approved it would then be placed in a State catalog which would make their program available for federal grant dollars. Kevin wanted the Board to be aware of the program, look at the curriculum and see it as an option to promote the program to WFCA members. Following additional discussion, it was determined that WFCA is free to endorse training programs that provide value to our fire service leaders.

5. NEW BUSINESS

- A. State Survey Results – Staff advised that survey results (regarding lobbyist and reimbursement) were provided as information for the Board.
 - B. Best Practices Comparison – Warren Cummings stated that he compared the documents and the findings from his comparison were being provided as information. Warren discussed a couple of the differences that he found. It was determined that at this time no changes are needed and no action will be taken.
 - C. CPAT – Ken Silva made an inquiry about any of the states using an alternative to CPAT. Ken stated that CPAT is being used but it is very cost imperative.
 - D. SAFER Peer Review Candidates – Gary advised that the Western Division needs to submit the names of two candidates to serve on the SAFER Peer Review Panel. Warren noted that the SAFER application period had been extended to January 15, 2010. Staff will select and submit two primary names and two alternates from the final pool of candidates.
- 6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT** – Gary Aleshire reported on attending the Hawaii Chief's conference and thanked them for the hospitality. Gary also discussed the affiliate membership dues proposal reduction to \$25 per member. Gary indicated that Ken Silva has been shadowing Joe Perry.
- 7. INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT** – Joe Perry stated that things are moving rapidly and the biggest thing of interest is the staffing report that will be coming out in January.
- 8. STAFF REPORT** – Crosby is working on a transitional plan from his employment by WFCA to NFPA. He advised that NFPA is redistricting their states and gave an overview of the states he will be working with. It is an exciting opportunity for him and he will continue to work with everyone closely. Crosby will still attend the Utah Conference and the Arizona Fire District Association Conference in January.
- 9. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT** – Jeff Griffin reported that Crosby has accepted a full time position with NFPA which will begin in January. He indicated that we will not hire to fill Crosby's position. Jeff indicated that the final contract has been signed with the GPO and Chief Johnson and Paul LeSage have offered to work closely with them. He added that he will be attending some of the state meetings and later in the year will evaluate our staffing levels. Jeff indicated that this transition does further our ties with NFPA and we are happy with their continued support. He also reported that he attended the Hawaii Chief's Conference and described the award presentation to the Hawaii Chiefs and Chief Silva for their work with elected officials. Jeff iterated that there has been positive movement with the group insurance project and hopes that will be moving forward.

10. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

VICE PRESIDENT – Jim Critchley reported that he is working on not laying anyone off or closing stations. He is looking at creative ways to keep people working with the deficit.

PAST PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Jeff Johnson thanked Crosby for all of his work and what he has brought to the WFCA office. He also asked that a holistic review of the company be done and rethink how we are working within the office, how we are structured, what staff we need, and work with staff on how it should look moving forward.

ALASKA – Warren Cummings discussed the meeting with the Interior Home Builders Association. Warren indicated that some of the concerns the Home Builders Association expressed with regards to residential sprinklers were cost of installation, home appraisals, tax and construction breaks for having residential sprinklers. They believe it would help them sell a house if the incentives were there to do it. Warren thought his could be a beneficial discussion to have in other states as well.

ARIZONA – Paul Adams stated that he had nothing to report.

CALIFORNIA – Doug Williams reported that Saturday is the Memorial Service for the former Santa Rosa Fire Chief. Cal Chiefs will hold their annual planning meeting January 21, 2010 in Riverside, CA. Doug stated that a topic of

concern in California is the dilution of fire prevention as the budget crunch hits. How do agencies balance the needs for fire prevention versus suppression?

HAWAII – Ken Silva reported that Hawaii has been awarded the APEX conference for November 2011. They have started to convene planning meetings in support of APEX. Ken is concerned about resources to support a conference of this magnitude.

IDAHO – Mark Wendelsdorf stated they are still working with their legislature on fire code issues. H thanked Crosby for his help and service over the years.

MONTANA – Brett Waters indicated he had nothing to report at this time.

NEVADA – Douglas Stevens reported on the PERS analysis to compare the trends. He indicated that he has received information from the states, compiled the information and will have staff distribute the information later this month.

OREGON – Paul LeSage had to leave the call before giving his report.

UTAH – John Evans stated that they are getting ready for the January conference. Their legislature is ramping up and the retirement system may be in jeopardy.

WASHINGTON – Jim Broman had to leave the call before giving his report.

NCSA CHAIR – Jim Weigand reported that they will be looking at the dilution issue in prevention as well. He also stated that NCSA will be conducting a study that will be funded by industry regarding exit signs after the first of the year.

GOOD OF THE ORDER – The next meeting is scheduled for **January 28, 2010 at 1:30 p.m. (PST)**.

Minutes recorded/submitted by:

Samantha Simpson, WFCAs Administrative Staff