

Minutes
Western Fire Chiefs Association
Thursday, January 28, 2010
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 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, Kay Johnson, Jennifer Phillips and Samantha Simpson. Roll Call taken – quorum established.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

Motioned by Doug Williams, seconded by Brett Waters to approve the December 17, 2009 minutes. Motion carried.

3. FINANCIAL REPORT

WFCA Year-to-Date – Kay Johnson provided the financial review for year end. She specifically addressed the sales and income of the Daily Dispatch and Bookstore. She mentioned that over \$152,000 in bookstore royalties was distributed to the state associations and divisions. Gary thanked everyone for their efforts in making this a successful year. **Motion by Joe Perry, seconded by Warren Cummings to approve the financials. Motion carried.** Jeff Griffin thanked Gary and Jim for their review of the budget and the adjustments made to ensure a profitable year. Kay discussed the reason and need to transfer some WFCA funds to other banking institutions. In order to transfer funds to new accounts board authorization must be given. Jeff Griffin recommended transferring funds to ensure FDIC coverage. **Motioned by Doug Williams, seconded by Warren Cummings to open accounts at Pioneer Trust for the purpose of securing Certificate of Deposit accounts. The signors on the account shall be the WFCA Executive Director Jeff Griffin, Chief Financial Officer Kay Johnson, and the WFCA Office Manager Jessica Heintz. Motion carried.**

4. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Strategic Plan – Jim Critchley reported progress on the Strategic Plan and that it should be published for the upcoming President's Forum. The idea is to distribute the current plan at the Forum and cooperatively work on the timeframes and ensure we are on track for our Strategic Goals. Jim appreciates everyone's efforts.
- B. President Forum Agenda – Gary reviewed the agenda and stated that a bullet point list will be distributed. He stated that Jim Critchley will take lead on the second day to focus on the Strategic Plan. Please review the document and let staff know if any changes are needed. It is important to have every state well represented. It is a great opportunity to be dialed in with our states and work on building a legislative packet. Joe Perry expressed his interest in getting Tonya Hoover (California State Fire Marshal) to attend to give a presentation on Residential Fire Sprinklers. Gary will contact Tonya Hoover for a formal invitation to attend.
- C. SAFER Peer Review Candidates – The two candidates selected to serve on the SAFER peer review panel were Chief Darryl Oliveira (HI) and Chief Chris Mokracek (AK). They have been notified of their selection.
- D. Daily Dispatch Technology – Jennifer Phillips (Daily Dispatch Manager) reported on the Daily Dispatch upgrades and provided the status of the project and target dates. She indicated that they have identified the features and the methodologies of integrating into the current system and that the most apparent change will be the public website. An entire facelift of the public website will be done. A destination will be created and will be more community oriented where there will be opportunities for readers to upload photos and comment on stories. Jennifer indicated that the "rollout" should come just before FRI (August 1st). Gary indicated that The Daily Dispatch is our banner for the Western Fire Chiefs and this is a small investment on the incredible amount of return we will receive. Jeff Griffin reiterated that the Daily Dispatch is our flagship product that we deliver across the country and is the

only daily communication piece of this nature that is not driven by a for profit company. The potential is phenomenal and Kay is attempting to memorialize what it means financially. Jeff thanked Jennifer for her hard work on the project.

5. NEW BUSINESS

- A. NCSA Training Service Agreement – Gary discussed the NCSA Agreement with the McMullen Company. The hope is to make this a perpetual agreement and it was requested that a paragraph be added for quarterly reporting. An agreement with the additional paragraph will be prepared and presented to NCSA for signature. **Motioned by Warren Cummings, seconded by Paul Adams to move ahead with the agreement. Motion carried.**
 - B. Fire Rescue GPO Video – Gary indicated that a training/informational video for Fire Rescue GPO has been made and will be distributed at the President's Forum. Gary asked that this information be communicated to the membership. The video is posted on the WFCAs website and can also be found on YouTube.
6. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT** – Gary Aleshire reported on being in the Salem office with staff and reviewing the budget. Gary thanked everyone for their diligence in keeping WFCAs profitable.
7. **INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT** – Joe Perry discussed the recent IAFC Board Meeting and reported on the following:
- A. Membership Decline of about seven and a half percent.
 - B. Increase in Federal Grants by twelve percent
 - C. Budget is about three percent below what was budgeted last year
 - D. FRI review of shuttle service and attendee bags
 - E. Silver Ribbon report – which is a guideline and best practice for Youth Fire Service Programs
 - F. Update on the 700 MHz D Block and request to Congress to stop the D Block auction and turn the Spectrum over to the Public Safety Spectrum Trust.
 - G. Firefighter Safety and Deployment Study. The study is available at www.firereporting.org.
 - H. Affiliate Membership Task Force Report - All Divisions expressed an interest in getting company officers involved.
 - I. Request for Federal Military Group Division of the IAFC. A motion has been made and approved by the Board to recommend a Constitutional change to create a Federal Military Fire Service Section.
 - J. WebEx Meeting Program – Might be a tool to use for our conference calls.
 - K. Government Relations Section focus on reauthorization of firefighters grant.
 - L. Safety Health and Survival Section would like to reactivate a task force related to fire ground communications and some of the issues with digital radios.

It was also indicated that the NIST study will be posted mid-March or early April because NIST is going through their technical review.

8. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT** – Jeff Griffin reported on attending financial summits and that consistently 7 of our 10 western states are in the bottom 26 nationwide. Jeff also indicated that Paul LeSage has graciously offered to step up in a volunteer capacity to assist with the GPO each week to make sure the big issues are handled until we have a final solution. Staff will work on what the organization should look like long term. Jeff discussed the Cancer report and the nationwide search of the 31 states that have some type of presumptive disease and will share the data at the President's Forum. Please let us know if you are coming in early or staying late for the President's Forum so we can work with the hotel for special rates.

9. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

VICE PRESIDENT – Jim Critchley reported on continuing to work through a tough budget locally, and expressed his concern about not having the State Fire Marshal. He also discussed the State Fire Service Institute.

PAST PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Jeff Johnson reported on the IRS formally responding to Senator Wu and stating that there is not a national initiative to enforce W-2s in the Fire Service and even though the law exists, they have chosen not to pursue it. Representative Wu has agreed to sponsor legislation. Another initiative is working with Central Station Alarm Association to either allow 90 seconds for call verification for commercial alarms, or improve the technical installation criteria in an effort to drive down their commercial alarm malfunction rate. He concluded by discussing ISO and the rating/evaluation system and that the sample group will consist of twenty departments.

ALASKA – Warren Cummings read an email from his assistant chief regarding a meeting sponsored by the Interior Alaska Builders Association and how residential fire sprinklers fit into an appraisal. It was interesting to find that Appraisers are giving credit for residential fire sprinklers. Warren encouraged checking with appraisers in the respective states to see what they are doing with residential fire sprinklers. The email will be distributed to the Board for their information. Warren stated that they are making a Zoll purchase through the GPO and that the Alaska Chiefs Conference will be held in Juneau, February 9-12. Warren also asked the status on group insurance for the associations and was referred to speak with Kevin Parady at WHA Insurance.

ARIZONA – Paul Adams stated that the State Chiefs Association is gearing up for its strategic plan review and has regional meetings set for the next few weeks. The goal is to align their strategic plan.

CALIFORNIA – Doug Williams reported that Cal Chiefs held its planning session last week. A current debate in California is regarding ambulance vs. ALS. He expressed concern about California's Fire Prevention Bureaus fading.

HAWAII – Ken Silva reported that Hawaii has been awarded the Asian Pacific Economic Conference (APEC) on November 11, 2011. He indicated that they will be hosting 22 heads of state and gave a snapshot of the resources it took when the President recently visited. Chief Silva indicated that they are meeting and planning with the Secret Service and that it will take a statewide effort to get additional training, equipment and staffing. Legislatively – they have a good system for retirement and health benefits, which may come under attack. If some of the proposals go through there may be an exodus of fire service personnel on June 30th of this year. Ken thanked the board for coming to Hawaii "Big Island" for the 5th Annual President's Forum.

IDAHO – Mark Wendelsdorf reported on dealing with budget issues and a number of budget cuts. They are experiencing challenges where the Fire Districts are seeing the shortfall coming this year. They have a legislative EMS issue with the fire service being split with ALS or plans to have ALS. Idaho is facing challenges much like everyone else.

MONTANA – Brett Waters reported that financially the state is still in the black and the expectation is that 2010 will be tough. The Chiefs Association will hold its mid-winter meeting in Bozeman which is the first face-to-face meeting since establishing Career, Combination and Volunteer sections. Plans are being made for the Fire Alliance Conference which will be held in June, 2010 in Butte, MT. The Alliance Conference is put together in cooperation with the Fire Instructors Associations, Fire District Elected Officials Associations, Fire Wardens Association, Volunteer Fire Fighters Association and the Chiefs Association. Legislatively they are working on fire sprinklers and are continuing to work closely with their state building codes department and look forward to that relationship. They are seeing significant challenges by a local builders association. Brett indicated that he had just returned from Baltimore where he attended the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation Advisory Board of Directors meeting. Brett indicated that their next meeting is scheduled to take place in July.

NEVADA – Douglas Stevens stated that being a subscriber to the Daily Dispatch has been absolutely wonderful. They have been able to forward the link to their personnel and have seen positive results. Nevada is seeing budget woes like everyone else. In his department, staff has had to take wage concessions to save some jobs. Doug indicated that interest has been expressed from the state chiefs regarding the updates to ISO and offered assistance if needed with the department study. He indicated that Al Gillespie and Ken Riddle will be attending the President's Forum. The budget is the overwhelming topic in the state.

OREGON – Paul LeSage reported on possible EMS legislation and the work to revamp the way EMS operates with regards to licensure of first response vehicles, as a way to get some DHS grant money for the rural communities. He mentioned 911 Funding being diverted to other state programs. He also indicated that they are waiting on some statistical information regarding cancer. He then discussed the ISO and standards of cover. He encouraged everyone to visit www.firereporting.org for a copy of Dr. Lori Moore's study.

UTAH – John Evans no report given.

WASHINGTON – Jim Broman – absent.

NCSA CHAIR – Jim Weigand – absent.

GOOD OF THE ORDER – Jeff Johnson indicated that tomorrow is Paul LeSage's last regular day of work for the fire district after thirty plus years of service to Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue as he moves into retirement. Joe Perry also indicated that he is retiring and this is his last week of work for UC Davis. The next meeting is scheduled for **February 25th at 1:30 p.m. (PST).**

Minutes recorded/submitted by:

Samantha Simpson, WFCAs Administrative Staff