

Minutes
Western Fire Chiefs Association
Thursday, April 22, 2010
Teleconference

1. CALL TO ORDER

A. Roll Call

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| <input 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 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, Kay Johnson, and Samantha Simpson. Roll Call taken – quorum established.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

Motioned by Doug Williams, seconded by Warren Cummings, to approve the March 17, 2010 minutes. Motion carried.

3. FINANCIAL REPORT

WFCA Year-to-Date – Kay Johnson reviewed the financial reports and indicated that the 2010 first quarter royalties from the GPO and Bookstore have been given back to the States and Divisions and total over \$70,000.00. **Motioned by Brett Waters, seconded by Warren Cummings to approve the financials. Motion carried.**

NCSA Financial Report – Kay Johnson reviewed the first quarter financials received from NCSA.

4. OLD BUSINESS

A. Strategic Plan – Jim Critchley advised that he is working with staff to compile what we learned from the President's Forum together and building a Gant chart for the different task assignments. Jim anticipates having it distributed within the next couple of weeks and will be calling individuals to confirm their respective assignments.

B. Committee Appointments

1) NCSA Board Representative – Doug Stevens graciously volunteered to be our NCSA Board Representative. **Motioned by Warren Cummings, seconded by Paul Adams to appoint Doug Stevens to serve as the WFCA Board representative on the NCSA Board.**

2) UFC/NFPA 1 Technical Committee – Jim advised that NCSA has recommend Morton Myers to serve. This matter is continued to the May 27th meeting pending verification of IAFC Membership.

3) NFPA's Western Regional Code Development Committee – Joe Perry advised that this position is appointed by the IAFC President and we would submit a candidate for his consideration. Staff will distribute a member email blast to solicit interest and find a candidate. This matter is continued to the May 27th meeting.

4) ICC – International Fire Code Council (IFCC) – Jim Critchley advised that this appointment is being made to replace our committee appointee – Eric Mohrman. **Motioned by Paul Adams, seconded by Mark Wendelsdorf to recommend Ernie Misewicz's to serve on the ICC-International Fire Code Council (IFCC). Motion carried.** This nomination will be submitted to the International Fire Code Council for their consideration. Jim Broman suggested a standard appointment "checklist" be created to ease with the process of appointing and he agreed to assist with the draft the document.

C. FireServiceBooks.com – Jeff Griffin advised of the conversations he had with Paul Curtis of LN Curtis & Sons, regarding the URL being one letter different than our FireServiceBooks.com. Mr. Curtis was very open that this was part of their business strategy to grow their bookstore. Paul's offer was to have WFCA purchase the URL FireServiceBook.com for \$2,500. Jeff Griffin indicated that a URL can typically be purchased for about \$6-\$8. Jeff did advise Mr. Curtis of the cyber squatting laws and he indicated he would rethink his offer and let us know. Following additional discussion from various board members, it was **motioned by Jeff Johnson, seconded by Warren**

Cummings to authorize Executive Director Jeff Griffin up to \$2,500.00 to resolve the URL issue with LN Curtis and give him complete latitude to negotiate any figure below that amount.. Motion carried.

5. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Committee Appointees – Jim Critchley advised that there has been a recommendation to have Chief Bill Lankford recognized/awarded as a Lifetime member of the Western Fire Chiefs Association. **Motioned by Warren Cummings, seconded by Paul Adams to approve the Lifetime Membership of Chief Bill Lankford.**
- B. AFG&SAFER Grant – Jim Critchley advised that the grant award pages were being provided as “information only” to the Board.

6. **PRESIDENT’S REPORT** – Gary Aleshire was traveling and not in attendance.

7. **INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR’S REPORT** – Joe Perry indicated that CFSI is next week followed by an IAFC Board Meeting on Friday and Saturday. The IAFC Board will be reviewing two position papers; 1) Home Rule for Code Adoption Authority and 2) Fire Fighter Safety on Lightweight Construction. Joe also indicated that GMC is getting ready to release their “Volt” electric car and they are working with IAFC to put together a nationwide training program to make the fire service aware of the electrical dangers of that vehicle. In addition, Joe discussed the legislation to move with the “D” Block auction.

8. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT** – Jeff Griffin stated that he will be attending CFSI next week and thanked staff for the making excellent appointments on Wednesday and Thursday. He advised that it is not too early to start booking rooms for Fire Rescue International. He would like to ensure strong Western member attendance at FRI. Jeff also discussed IFSTA’s new evolution and having dialogue with them about more activity in the marketplace. He discussed the Division Secretary’s Meeting and the strong relationships with the other Divisions and IAFC.

9. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

VICE PRESIDENT – Jim Critchley had no additional report.

PAST PRESIDENT’S REPORT – Jeff Johnson augmented Joe Perry’s report on the “D” Block auction. He advised of the status of the “D” Block and indicated that it is a big pull and indicated that IAFC will be asking the States and Divisions to reach out to their representatives on the committee.

ALASKA – Warren Cummings indicated that there are two legislative items of interest. First, they passed the operating budget which included a user fee for the state radio system. Beginning the first of the year, they will have to pay for every radio they have on the state system. Secondly, the Residential Sprinkler Bill and debates with the Home Builders came down to the final days of the legislative session. Both the House and Senate had different versions and neither passed.

ARIZONA – Paul Adams stated that the biggest issue remains the State Training System. As of last week, a business plan was approved which establishes the Arizona Center for Fire Service Excellence. It will be a training system run by the state’s fire service (outside state government). Two contracted staff will begin May 3rd. The goal is to get the pending certification programs caught up.

CALIFORNIA – Doug Williams mentioned that they are trying to navigate through the Health & Safety Code, as far as inspection authority goes. With reduction in staff, there are questions about responsibility between building and fire. There have been some discussions with the President of building officials and Cal Chiefs about how that it is interpreted.

HAWAII – Ken Silva reported that he was recently in Washington DC to shadow the global nuclear summit that was being held. He commended Chief Ruben and his group for opening the doors as they prepare for their Apex conference in 2011. Ken indicated that the Hawaii budget is horrendous and there is a great deal of uncertainty. Ken advised that they have a Governor’s race, Mayor’s race and a congressional person that stepped down to run for Governor. On a positive note, Ken indicated that while he was in D.C. he was able to meet with Senator Inouye.

IDAHO – Mark Wendelsdorf reported that they are working on EMS Legislation, which has been most of the focal point from the Fire Service. The Idaho Chiefs Conference will be held in Post Falls, Idaho, May 13-15, 2010.

MONTANA – Brett Waters reported that they are watching budgets, and their Legislature meets next January. He reported much lower than normal snow fall for the season, and they could be looking at a significant fire season. He indicated that he will be attending CFSI on behalf of the VCOS Board. He is up for re-election for the Board Member at Large to the Volunteer Combination Officer Section Board. He asked for WFCA's endorsement for the position. **Motioned by Warren Cummings, seconded by Paul Adams to endorse Brett Waters for Board Member at Large to the Volunteer Combination Officer Section.** Motion carried. Staff will prepare a letter of support.

NEVADA – Douglas Stevens stated that they had a teleconference with their State Board regarding lobbying. They are entertaining the idea of hiring a professional lobbyist to work on their behalf. Doug asked about the ability to fund lobbying without jeopardizing their tax status. He is reaching out to get history on that issue. Chief Johnson suggested contacting the IAFC and speaking with Robert Duke and/or Ken LaSala as they would be able to assist.

OREGON – Paul LeSage – absent.

UTAH – John Evans stated that the Legislature finally finished and their retirement plan took some hits – especially new hires after 2011. John stated that the Utah State Chief Association President resigned to accept a position in California so they will be making an appointment in the near future.

WASHINGTON – Jim Broman reported that the Chief's Conference will be held at the end of May. He hopes that all of the states will work hard to get a representative at the 20/20 symposium and reminded the Board that the application deadline is May 7, 2010.

NCSA CHAIR – Jim Weigand left the teleconference call prior to providing a report.

GOOD OF THE ORDER – Next meeting will be May 27, 2010 at 1:30 p.m. (PST)

Minutes recorded/submitted by:
Samantha Simpson, WFCA Administrative Staff