

Minutes
Western Fire Chiefs Association
Thursday, May 27, 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 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 type="checkbox"/> Jim Weigand, NCSA Chair |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ken Silva, Hawaii State Vice President | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jeff Griffin, Division Secretary |

Staff and guests in attendance: Jessica Heintz, Kay Johnson, Samantha Simpson, Greg Keller and James McMullen (NCSA). Roll Call taken – quorum established.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

Motioned by Doug Williams, seconded by Paul Adams, to approve the April 22, 2010 minutes. Motion carried.

3. FINANCIAL REPORT

WFCA Year-to-Date – Kay Johnson reviewed the financial reports and the general financial standing of the Association. She reported specifically on the revenues from the Daily Dispatch, membership dues, Bookstore, GPO and management fees. GPO royalties returned to date are just over \$12,000.00 to the Divisions, \$10,000 to IAFC and \$12,000 to the States. Bookstore royalties returned to the States and Divisions through April is approximately \$53,000.00. Motioned by Paul Adams, seconded by Warren Cummings to accept the financial report. Motion carried.

4. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Strategic Plan** – Jim Critchley indicated that he is working through the Strategic Plan timelines and preparing the Plan for publication at the next meeting.
- B. Committee Appointments**
- 1) UFC/NFPA 1 Technical Committee – A recommendation letter to appoint Morton Myers (Chico, California) has been submitted to the NFPA Standards Council for their consideration.
 - 2) NFPA's Western Regional Code Development Committee – Staff will send an email blast to the membership and have a list of qualified candidates ready for the Board's consideration at the June meeting.
- C. Life Membership Recommendation** – It was advised that only retired members with more than ten years consecutive membership can be awarded IAFC life membership. Staff will review the WFCA bylaws regarding membership.
- D. Daily Dispatch Update** – Jeff Griffin indicated that the update is on track and should be ready for FRI.

5. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Bookstore Website** – Jeff Griffin stated that the existing bookstore website is an old cold fusion site and needs to be updated. A website analysis has been made and bids and recommendations have been requested for site improvements. The goal is to evolve the website to increase web sales. Funds budgeted for marketing will be allocated to help pay for the updates. Paul Adams stated that we should move expeditiously on this product. It was agreed by consensus to accept Jeff Griffin's proposal to use funds from future brochure printing and mailing costs towards the upgrades
- B. IAFC VCOS International Director Seat** – Brett Waters discussed the request from David Fulmer for WFCA's endorsement for the IAFC VCOS International Director's Seat. Brett indicated that there are two candidates for the open position – David Fulmer and Shane Ray from Tennessee, and that both candidates are seeking WFCA's endorsement for the open position. Several Board members provided comments and following additional discussion, it was motioned by Jim Broman, seconded by Joe Perry that in light of the excellent qualifications of both candidates and considering that the WFCA Board did not have an opportunity to dialogue with either of the

candidates, the Board opts to not offer an endorsement for either candidate and will recommend that WFCAs members carefully examine both candidates and make their own selection. Motion carried.

- C. Fire Rescue International Schedule – Gary Aleshire requested that the Board members planning to attend FRI submit their travel dates to staff. Gary encouraged all Board members to assist at the booth.
- D. NCSA Survey – Jim McMullen discussed NCSA's proposal to conduct an exit sign survey and advised that the NCSA Board voted unanimously to conduct the survey. Jim indicated that the survey would encompass about 1,000 fire prevention officers who have inspected fire exit signs. The information compiled from the survey would focus on how well exit signs are being maintained. The survey would be funded by Jessup Manufacturing and there would be net revenue of \$20,000.00 for WFCAs from the survey. The survey would be launched at the annual meeting next month during the NFPA Conference. NCSA is seeking WFCAs's consent to proceed with the survey. **Motioned by Joe Perry, seconded by Warren Cumming to accept the NCSA's proposal to conduct the exit sign survey. Motion carried.**

- 6. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT** – Gary Aleshire attended the Idaho Fire Chiefs Conference and thanked the chiefs for the hospitality and the opportunity to present.
- 7. **INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT** – Joe Perry passed the report to Ken Silva as Joe was unable to attend the last IAFC meeting. Ken indicated that the meeting was very interesting and he has a greater appreciation for the different geographical perspectives on fire service issues. Ken indicated that the result of the 2009 audit came in and it was a clean report with no recommendation. Ken also discussed the presentation on response to bomb injuries from the CDC. All sections of the IAFC are now chartered to provide continuity and direction. He also discussed the IAFC's tightened budget and positive financial standings.
- 8. **DIVISION SECRETARY REPORT** – Jeff Griffin introduced Greg Keller, retired Fire Chief from Salem, and discussed Greg's role in working with the GPO. He indicated that Greg will attend FRI. Jeff reported that Chief Johnson was on Capitol Hill testifying, and the "D Block" seems to be moving in a good direction. He discussed the conversation with Paul Curtis of LN Curtis regarding the Bookstore URL issue, and the agreement reached to exchange existing URLs. Jeff then discussed membership trends and advised that all division membership is down slightly. He recommended that we continue to educate people on the importance of becoming a member and to work on a membership drive.

Jeff also reviewed the staffing and organizational chart and long-term strategy for staffing. He discussed staff's assessment and request for leadership in the Salem office. Jeff stated that with Crosby stepping away from his position, we have an opportunity and available funding to provide for an on-site CEO Executive Director three half days per week. Jeff would continue as Division Secretary. Following additional discussion, a request was made for a job description of the position. **Motioned by Doug Williams, seconded by Mark Wendelsdorf to empower a committee of the President, Vice President, Jim Broman, and Jeff Griffin to move forward in a timely manner to develop a job description. Paul Adams requested that the motion be amended to authorize the creation of the position and then to move with a job description and recruitment. Motion carried as amended.** Staff will work with the committee to develop a job description and present it to the Board at the next meeting.

Jeff then discussed the recent attendance at CFSI and the meetings with elected officials. He discussed the "snooper" grants and the possibility of pursuing grants later in the fall, potentially partnering with departments. The hope is to wind up with a series of the devices that can be placed around the division to do air quality testing with fire calls. He reminded the Board of the upcoming NFPA's conference. Jeff also addressed the proposed New Jersey legislation to prohibit police officers from giving fire personnel difficulty at emergency scenes to keep traffic flow moving on major highways. The information will be distributed to the Board for their review. In conclusion, Jeff discussed the Metro Chiefs meeting in Memphis, Tennessee and indicated that for the first time WFCAs was allowed to give a presentation regarding the Daily Dispatch, Bookstore, and GPO.

9. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

VICE PRESIDENT – Jim Critchley was experiencing phone difficulties and was unable to report.

PAST PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Not in attendance

ALASKA – Warren Cummings expressed disappointment in WFCAs during CFSI when they showed up at the meetings the Alaska delegation had with their legislative representatives. The Alaska delegation was unaware that WFCAs would be attending, and Warren believed it may have caused more harm than good. The lack of coordination

was the main problem. Warren also reported that they are into their wildfire season and that a couple of villages had to be evacuated due to fires. Following Warren's comments, Jeff Griffin indicated he would be sending an apology to the Alaska Chiefs for any misunderstanding resulting from the CFSI meetings..

ARIZONA – Paul Adams stated that the big issue in Arizona is immigration. There is supposed to be a major demonstration in Phoenix over the weekend and they are preparing for any problems with that. It is also having a financial impact because events and conferences are being cancelled. Things are dry and they are expecting a significant fire season at this point.

CALIFORNIA – Doug Williams was not able to report.

HAWAII – Ken Silva stated that they are attempting to wrap up their budgets. Legislatively they had some gains and actually got the opportunity to ban fireworks. The decision-making is now at the county level as opposed to State level. Chief Silva is the Defacto State Fire Marshal and Fire Chief doing state work with county resources. He has gotten about \$100,000 from the State to provide some staff to do state work.

IDAHO – Mark Wendelsdorf thanked Gary for attending the Idaho Fire Chiefs Conference. Mark indicated that they have received a lot of rain, allowing the fuels to grow and they anticipate a busy fire season. In recent elections, one of his neighboring fire departments lost its override. They will have one more chance for a temporary override in August and will be forced to start layoffs if it doesn't pass. The issue needed a super majority to pass and they only received 44% of the votes. It will be interesting to see how things develop as the budgets get tighter.

MONTANA – Brett Waters reported that their Fire Alliance Conference will be in Butte the 17th to 20th of June. He would like a representative from the WFCA Board to be there if possible. Budgets in the state are mixed. Most of the budgets are from tax revenues and there has been growth. Many of the local areas are looking at a flat line budget with a possible 2% increase. In other municipalities where they rely on other revenues they are looking at cuts. The following fiscal year might be significantly impacted with revenue issues. There is concern with the upcoming mid-term elections. It is currently raining and they are preparing for a significant fire season.

NEVADA – Douglas Stevens had nothing to report.

OREGON – Paul LeSage reported that Oregon's budget is \$511 million short. He indicated that he will attend the June teleconference, and advised that the Oregon Fire Chiefs Association selected Fire Chief Mike Duyck of Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue to be the new Western Representative.

UTAH – John Evans had nothing to report.

WASHINGTON – Jim Broman stated that they are in the middle of their annual conference and he really appreciated having Chief Critchley attend. He provided good information about the Bookstore and GPO. Jim believes the impression of WFCA is reaching a strong level and he wants to continue to promote that. Washington has a new State Fire Marshal; Chuck Duffy who is a retired Chief Officer most recently out of the Renton Fire Department. This is the first time in state history that they have had a State Fire Marshal with a fire service chief officer background. He seems to be coming into the position with a very open and positive approach.

NCSA CHAIR – Jim Weigand was not on the call.

GOOD OF THE ORDER – Next meeting will be **June 24, 2010 at 1:30 p.m. (PST)**

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