

1 43th
2 ANNUAL CONFERENCE
3 of the
4 NEW ENGLAND DIVISION
5 of the
6 INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
7 FIRE CHIEFS
8 *****
9 ANNUAL MEETING
10 *****
11 President: Chief Timothy S. Wall
12 Wallingford, Connecticut
13
14 Sheraton Springfield Hotel
15 Springfield, Massachusetts
16 Thursday, June 19, 2008
17 3:30 P.M.
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MONICA L. CAMERON
Shorthand Reporter
32 Berkshire Street
Holyoke, MA 01040

1 Springfield, Massachusetts
2 Thursday, June 19, 2008
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Annual meeting NEDIAFC
PROCEEDINGS

Annual Meeting

PRESIDENT TIMOTHY S. WALL (Wallingford, CT):

I call the Annual Meeting of the New England Division of International Association of Fire Chiefs to order. With that, we'll have the invocation.

REVEREND MICHAEL J. LECKIE, CHAPLAIN (Hope Valley, RI): Let us pray. O God, again we ask your blessing upon this whole conference but particularly on the Division meeting today. May everything that's said and done be for the honor and glory of your name and for the good of this organization, for the support and the welfare of the firefighters who are under the direction of the chiefs who are here.

May we see the men and woman whom we lead and whom you lead to be the greatest resource that we have in our department, and may we offer them every opportunity to grow and the knowledge that they need

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to serve the people who call when they are in need. We ask your gift of wisdom to those in leadership that they make good decisions and right decisions and decisions that are based on the good of the people.

We ask that you continue to bless us in the work we have done. Give rest to those who have gone before us on whose shoulders we stand, and we thank you for them who helped us to become who we are

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10 today. We ask this, Father, because we know you are
11 gracious and good and the source of all that is good
12 in our lives. Amen.

13 (Amen.)

14 PRESIDENT WALL: I ask you to remain standing,
15 and President Bob Di Poli, would you, please, lead us
16 in the pledge to the flag?

17 CHIEF ROBERT A. DIPOLI, RETIRED (Medfield, MA):
18 My pleasure.

19 (The Pledge of Allegiance was said.)

20 PRESIDENT WALL: All be seated. Welcome,
21 President Di Poli. The minutes of the previous
22 meeting, John Wood.

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1 CHIEF JOHN G. WOOD, JR., RETIRED,
2 SECRETARY/TREASURER, (Norwich, VT): The minutes of
3 the previous meeting have been approved by the board
4 of directors at their quarterly meeting, and they
5 are here for you to review if you would like to do
6 so. I'll leave those there.

7 PRESIDENT WALL: The next order of business,
8 I'd like to go into Communications, and I'd like
9 Chief Jack Parow, Past President of the New England
10 Division, to come up and address the Division.

11 CHIEF JOHN E. PAROW (Chelmsford, MA): Thank
12 you. We have a correspondence that was sent to
13 President Wall from Carl Smith, Jr., from
14 Thunderbolt, Georgia. "The intent of this
15 communication is to notify the New England Division

16 of my candidacy for Second Vice President of the
17 IAFC in 2009. I would also like to formally ask for
18 your endorsement and support of my candidacy." He
19 gave us a list of his qualifications.

20 Some of them -- I'm just going to be brief --
21 some of them consist of, he's current President of
22 the Southeastern Division, Past President of the
23 Georgia Fire Chiefs. He's been very active in the

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1 fire service as the Chief of the Thunderbolt Fire
2 Department where he's been chief, I think, for the
3 last 13 or 14 years. He was a volunteer chief for
4 most of that time up until the last couple of years
5 of which he's now a paid chief. Prior to that, he
6 was on Savanna, Georgia, Fire Department as a career
7 firefighter.

8 He's unable to attend the conference today. As
9 I said before, he's President of the Southeastern
10 Division. Their conference is the exact days as our
11 conference, so he's unable come up. "I would
12 respectfully ask that my request for endorsement be
13 shared with your membership. If you are allowing
14 candidates time to speak, I would respectfully ask
15 for the opportunity to have someone speak on my
16 behalf.

17 I would also ask your consideration for the
18 opportunity to address your members at FRI in Denver
19 in August. It's my intention to attend the 2009
20 conference. At this time, I am unable to address
21 both the board and the membership." With that said,

22 Carl Smith, Georgia, I think a well-qualified
23 candidate running for Second Vice President in 2009.

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1 We're very fortunate not only to have Carl, but
2 we have Al Gillespie running for Second Vice
3 President. I'll let Bob speak on his behalf in a
4 minute. Al was here. Most of you heard him speak
5 at lunch. He did have to leave to catch a plane.
6 He had a 5:30 plane. He has to get back to Nevada.
7 He's President of the Nevada Fire Chiefs. He has a
8 meeting tomorrow that he cannot miss, so he had to
9 get back. He sends his regrets. He also asked for
10 the Division's endorsement.

11 I'll let Bob -- Bob and Al have been friends
12 for quite some time. Will you speak on Al's behalf?

13 CHIEF ROBERT A. DIPOLI: Yes. I'll be brief.
14 I've got to tell you, both candidates are real good
15 people. I've known Carl Smith for a number of
16 years. He's a very likable kind of guy. I've known
17 Al Gillespie a little bit longer. Al and I go back
18 to EFO back in the early 90s.

19 From my viewpoint, this organization has become
20 extremely complex. It's a very, very difficult job
21 to lead this organization today, and I think Al's
22 level of experience and vision overshadows Carl. Al
23 was chosen for the Harvard Fellowship Program. Al's

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1 an EFO grad. He's leading a good-sized very
2 progressive fire department out in North Las Vegas,
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3 Nevada.

4 I'm going to be supporting Al in 2009. It's my
5 viewpoint. I brought him around; I introduced him
6 to a lot of you last night here, and I think he's a
7 shining star who will follow in the footsteps of
8 people like Jeff Johnson and our own Jack Parow this
9 year. So that's just my point of view.

10 PRESIDENT WALL: Thank you. I would like to
11 acknowledge in the room from the New England Fire
12 Equipment Exhibitors Association, a good friend and
13 supporter, Judy Marshall, representing that
14 association here. President Mark Hooper is still
15 over working at the hall. Judy, thank you for being
16 here. Also, I'd like to acknowledge, if you'd like
17 to say a few words, President Tom Lambert from the
18 Association. Tom.

19 PRESIDENT THOMAS S. LAMBERT, NEAFC (North
20 Hampton, NH): I'm all set with a few words. It's
21 just a pleasure to be here.

22 PRESIDENT WALL: What we'd like you to do is,
23 when you get up and speak or ask a question, can you

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1 please announce who you are and where you're from so
2 we can get it properly recorded and help our
3 reporter over here. Thank you.

4 Thanks for all your good leadership and your
5 work this year, Tom. I appreciate it. Next, I'd
6 like to introduce Chief Jeff Johnson, Second Vice
7 President of the IAFC. Chief Johnson, would you,
8 please, come forward and say a few words?

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9 (Applause.)
10 CHIEF JEFF JOHNSON, SECOND VICE PRESIDENT,
11 IAFC: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the
12 board, and for all you chiefs in attendance, it's
13 nice to be back here. For the record, I'm Jeff
14 Johnson, Second Vice President of the International
15 Association of Fire Chiefs from Oregon.

16 Let me give you just the briefest update on
17 what the IAFC is up to and what we've been working
18 on. I want to make sure I leave some time for
19 Executive Director Mark Light. I just want to
20 publicly acknowledge what I think has been a
21 spectacular change in the IAFC under Mark's
22 administration and the staff. We have been so
23 pleased, Mark, with the job you've done and the

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1 orientation toward the members and some of the
2 initiatives you've embraced. You've just been
3 fantastic.

4 (Applause.)

5 The IAFC has been working hard this year to
6 find ways to add value to its members. We know in
7 the end that if members don't see a value in the
8 IAFC, they'll choose to put their money in other
9 places; and from my perspective, what's going on in
10 the last five years, especially since post 911, is
11 there's been an increasing trend in
12 nationalization of fire service.

13 There are many chiefs in this room who remember
14 a time when if you wanted to send one firefigther

15 into a burning building or send six, that was your
16 decision because you were the fire chief, and there
17 was no such thing as Ops and Awareness Certification
18 for Hazmat. You trained at the level you chose as
19 the fire chief. There were no requirements that you
20 be NIMS certified. And there were no a lot of
21 things that are currently either consensus
22 expectations or legal requirements on fire chiefs.

23 Whether we like it or not, there is a greater

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1 and greater emphasis on creating a single national
2 strategy for the fire service, and that's touching
3 each of us. And that makes, more important than
4 ever, the IAFC and its divisions and the
5 associations that feed into the IAFC, it makes the
6 participation of fire chiefs like yourselves more
7 important than ever.

8 One of the things we're also working on now is
9 the federal funding. It's become a big part of most
10 of our lives. It surfaces in the forms of grants or
11 adequate funding to the U.S. Fire Administration or
12 the National Fire Academy. Currently, we're
13 fighting a \$260 million proposed cut in the 2009
14 Fire Act Grants.

15 You can help us a lot here by when you talk to
16 congressmen and women that you tell them how
17 important the National Fire Academy is, the U.S.
18 Fire Administration, and how important these grants
19 are. It does make a difference. We're seeing that
20 because the House of Representatives is proposing

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21 \$570 million for FIRE and \$230 million for SAFER,
22 and both of these are increases in the current
23 programs. This week, we'll see what the Senate does

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1 with it.

2 Your work in Capitol Hill makes a difference.
3 Chief DiPolio is renowned for his work there. People
4 still talk about how effective he is. All of us can
5 make a similar contribution, and this is a good time
6 to do it.

7 Some of you have begun to hear about an issue
8 called the "Digital Radio Noise Problem." To kind
9 of distill it down, if you have digital radios,
10 their ability to encode the noise properly and voice
11 properly in the face of chain saws in the background
12 or vibrating face mask alarms, it really kind of
13 sends the ability to turn that into an intelligible
14 voice signal; it turns it into garbage.

15 The IAFC has led the charge on this and
16 recently obtained a science-based report on the
17 problem. That will be released, I believe -- is it
18 the end of this week, Mark, or early next week?

19 MARK LIGHT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, IAFC: Probably
20 another two weeks.

21 CHIEF JEFF JOHNSON: Another two weeks. We're
22 working with our allied police and EMS officials,
23 SAFECOM is involved, as well as NIST, and we have

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1 more work to do. I know Director Light and
2 President Westermann met with Motorola to discuss
3 some of the challenges, and we're making sure we
4 cover our bases, but you need to know that we're on
5 it, and, in fact, led the charge in this issue. If
6 you want more information on that, you can find it
7 on the IAFC web site.

8 The week of June 23rd through the 27th is the
9 Safety Health and Survival week. This year's theme
10 is committed to long-term results. It's not too
11 late for your individual departments to get
12 involved. This is a meaningful thing that whether
13 you're a career volunteer combination, this is one
14 thing we can all be committed to together.

15 We also recently created an IAFC technology
16 counsel. Maybe as a fire chief, you found yourself
17 talking to your technology-abled people, and they're
18 talking in what appears to be a foreign language.
19 It isn't uncommon. We know that there's a greater
20 emphasis on technology in the fire service.

21 Whether that's the Computer-Aided Dispatch
22 System or the GPS AVL units or just the radios, it's
23 a bigger part of your lives. We created a counsel

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1 to help vet some of these technologies and find the
2 best practices and provide a place where tools can
3 be developed to help ordinary fire chiefs utilize
4 technology more effectively.

5 The ICC will be holding final action hearings
6 in Minneapolis, Minnesota, this September. This is

7 a contested issue. So if you are an ICC member, we
8 urge you to go there and vote. Now, the IAFC is not
9 providing funding for travel for people to show up,
10 but if you go to the web site, it's called "The
11 Coalition Web Site," and the ICC has a role in that.
12 If you go to that web site, and you can find the
13 link at the ICC, they have methods and tools
14 available to help you go if you need to go.

15 There's been -- I know it's kind of an area
16 that this issue has appeared largely in this area,
17 and that's the issue about ionization smoke alarms,
18 and I want to share with you what the IAFC Board has
19 been discussing on this issue.

20 To the IAFC Board, we parallel NFPA's position,
21 which is, ideally, when it comes to smoke alarms,
22 where you need a smoke alarm, you have both
23 ionization and photo-electric, but to us, it's

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1 really kind of an issue of good, better, and best.
2 The best thing is to have smoke alarms and fire
3 sprinklers; and good is to have ionization that are
4 hard-wired, or better is that; and good is to have
5 ionization.

6 We're afraid that if we outlaw them, the lives
7 that have been saved by ionization smoke alarms,
8 that will be taken off the table, and we're
9 concerned that there hasn't been adequate research
10 in science and that some of the other failures
11 associated with smoke alarms, for example,
12 ionization smoke alarms, the battery life isn't

13 nearly what it is in -- or photo-electric isn't
14 nearly what it is in ionization.

15 We just want to see more work and more science
16 brought to bear on this before we outlaw them. It
17 just boils down to an issue of good, better, and
18 best. We're going to continue to follow this issue
19 closely, and we urge you to do the same.

20 Lastly, the IAFC Constitution and Bylaws have
21 not been adjusted or tweaked in about 135 years, and
22 we have constituted a membership task force to take
23 a look at how our current structure meets the needs

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1 of our future members and our current members. The
2 task force will lead the effort. The study needs
3 significant feedback from all of you and, of course,
4 from our states and our divisions.

5 As you see that happening, please feel
6 comfortable getting ahold of us and saying, this is
7 our opinion on this, and make sure that you get
8 involved, because at the end of the day, the one
9 thing we want to be is effective and make sure that
10 we serve you. So with that, I'll take any questions
11 that you may have of the IAFC.

12 CHIEF JOHN E. PAROW: Is it my understanding
13 that Senator Kerry has filed legislation to outlaw
14 ionization smoke detectors?

15 CHIEF JEFF JOHNSON: I don't know. Mark, do
16 you know?

17 DIRECTOR MARK LIGHT: My understanding is that
18 he wrote a letter to the Consumer Product Safety

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19 Commission asking them to respond to Chief Fleming's
20 out of Boston's request of March for them to answer
21 a number of questions, but I'm not aware of any
22 specific legislation being filed.

23 CHIEF JOHN E. PAROW: Thank you.

16

1 CHIEF JEFF JOHNSON: Any other questions?

2 Thank you very much for the time.

3 PRESIDENT WALL: Thank you for being here.

4 (Applause.)

5 I'd like to introduce Mark Light, Executive
6 Director of the IAFC. While he's making his way up
7 here, I'd just like to recognize Jim Carter of the
8 IAFC staff from membership services, a sharp-dressed
9 individual and gentleman. Welcome to New England.

10 (Applause.)

11 MARK LIGHT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, IAFC: As Chief
12 Johnson said, it's been a wild, fast, and furious
13 year. As of June 1st this year, I've completed my
14 first year as a permanently appointed executive
15 director. It's been a very fast and enjoyable year,
16 getting to go to these division conferences and
17 section conferences and meeting your members and
18 interacting with our members.

19 I want to just share a couple of things that we
20 have done at the operational and the staff level for
21 you to be aware of and then talk about the small
22 event that's coming up in about 57 days that we want
23 to make sure everybody's aware of and, hopefully,

1 you'll all be able to attend and bring lots of
2 people with you.

3 Upon being appointed as Executive Director, one
4 of the things that we started looking at was our
5 bench strength and our organizational structure
6 within the IAFC headquarters themselves. I'm proud
7 to say that we actually captured one of the New
8 England officers. He was on the New England Board,
9 and he is now part of our staff as Assistant
10 Director of Programming, John Wolfe. He's
11 somewhere in Kansas or Missouri for the last couple
12 of days working with our Hazard Material Fusion
13 Center.

14 So we've been able to build some good bench
15 strength with a lot of good quality fire service
16 folks and association management folks that will
17 give us the ability to take and administer the
18 programs to the board and their members that they
19 feel that they need.

20 There are a couple things that we see as really
21 being critical over the next several months that we
22 were working on very heavily. One is the federal
23 transition to a new government. When November

1 occurs and we have a new president elected, there
2 will be a tremendous amount of discussion on who's
3 going to fill what positions. One of the things
4 that we're doing at the staff level is we want to be
5 poised to be able to influence that, and we need

6 your help.

7 We need you, one, hopefully you may be
8 interested in coming to Washington, D.C. and be
9 considered for some of the various positions that
10 will open up in the federal government. There will
11 be thousands of them, literally. Often we think
12 about the U.S. Fire Administrator and FEMA Director
13 and that's about it, and after that, you don't
14 really think of a lot of others, but there are a
15 tremendous number of positions that will be open.

16 So if you are interested, please catch me while
17 I'm here at the conference, and we'll be glad to
18 share some things about the positions that we know
19 and give you some informational things you may want
20 to do between now and then. Because we will get the
21 call. We've already met with Senator McCain's
22 staff. We're in the process of getting ready to
23 meet with Senator Obama's staff.

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1 So we are already laying out what the policy,
2 what the issues are for the fire service, and when
3 they call and say, can you send us six names for
4 this particular position, we want to be able to do
5 that, but it has to come from you all. We
6 continually tell them, we want people with real life
7 experience there, but, often, we have no one who's
8 interested in doing it.

9 So we want to have a fire chief and fire
10 service experience at the top levels. Well, that
11 has to come from you. So if you're interested,

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12 please see us on that, because we're putting
13 together a list and maintaining the records so that
14 we can continue to work on that.

15 The board took a very bold step in January and
16 we formed a two-pronged approach to provide
17 additional services to our members. We now have a
18 department within the IAFC called IAFC Services.
19 With that, we're doing things such as the
20 Association Management Services for Other
21 Associations.

22 We're doing things such as Assistant Department
23 for Strategic Planning, being able to assist them in

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1 any number of ways where they may contract with the
2 IAFC for us to assist in services they may normally
3 have to go out and pay to get somebody to do. We
4 are using a process of having people such as
5 yourselves, fire service professionals, where we
6 contract with you, we pay you and then may send you
7 to do some work at a particular fire department. So
8 that's one part of it.

9 The other piece is we form a full-profit
10 subsidiary of the International Association of Fire
11 Chiefs called Global Public Safety Solutions, GPSS.
12 That group will do things such as assist with fire
13 chief searches, assist with instant critiques, do
14 things that may be more politically sensitive or
15 have higher liability on the association.

16 For example, had the city of Charleston
17 contracted with the association a year and a half

18 ago to do a study of their department, and the IAFC
19 or Global Public Safety Solutions had gone in and
20 studied it and found that there were certain things
21 but didn't find some significant things that
22 resulted in the death of nine firefighters, the
23 liability of that would be very, very high.

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1 We don't want to attach that to the IAFC.
2 Instead, we would put that to the for-profit side to
3 be able to provide some of those services. We're in
4 the process of ramping that up. We now have free
5 staff that are working, and we just received our
6 first contracts yesterday. This is the way that we
7 see as trying to reduce the dependence upon dues and
8 Fire Rescue International revenues that come in. So
9 you'll be hearing more about that as we go about.

10 We'll be partnering with a number of consulting
11 firms that are already out there so that we can draw
12 on the expertise of them and use the expertise of
13 the IAFC and some of our members.

14 We will have a strategic planning session at
15 the end of October, October 31st and November 1st,
16 in Washington D.C. The IAFC Board of Directors met
17 in Denver in May and came up with three broad areas
18 or three words that kind of summarize what the IAFC
19 is about, and that is "lead, educate, and serve."

20 Then it will be up to the members to attend the
21 strategic planning session to put together, "What
22 does that mean?" What kind of services do our
23 members want from us when we go back out and when

1 we're delivering services that helps you be a better
2 fire chief, that helps you do your job better as a
3 fire chief. So you'll be hearing a lot more about
4 that. We invite all of you to come to that on
5 October 31st and November 1st.

6 Then the last thing I want to cover is one that
7 is critical to the ongoing success of the
8 International Association of Fire Chiefs. That is
9 Fire Rescue International. This year it is Denver.
10 This is our second time back to Denver. Last time,
11 we had a fairly significant drop of attendees
12 because we don't get the drive-in traffic.

13 What that means is, we need to rally our folks
14 and have more fly-in traffic to increase the number
15 of people that will be there. This year is shaping
16 up to be very good. We're ahead of where we were
17 last time in Denver for our full conference
18 registrations, and that's very positive.

19 In fact, there's good news, bad news with that.
20 Many people call all the time and say, I can't get
21 rooms; I've waited and I've just tried to go online,
22 and I can't get rooms. What can you do? Our
23 rooming folks are working around the clock trying to

1 figure out how to get as many rooms as they can,
2 because there's a little, small event that occurs
3 the week after we leave called the Democratic

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National Convention.

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5 As you can imagine, any rooms that we haven't
6 taken, they, obviously, are starting to come in and
7 starting to prepare for their event. So the good
8 news is, the rooms are filling up. The bad news is,
9 it's getting tougher to get a room. Don't let that
10 stop you, though, because we will work to make sure
11 we get rooms for anybody that wants to come.

12 As of yesterday, I think we had 582 exhibitors.
13 So our exhibitors are looking very strong. Right
14 now, by all indications, it's a strong show. But
15 we're very worried with the economy of what's going
16 to happen. When we started looking at air fares,
17 air fares now are routinely coming in at over \$500.

18 When we started looking at the price of fuel
19 for people to even drive to Fire Rescue
20 International, it starts being tougher and tougher
21 to be able to do that. So what we have to make sure
22 of is that we are given the best value for the money
23 that we can for that.

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1 We have excellent educational sessions. We
2 have sessions for fire commissioners. We have
3 safety, health, and survival sessions this year. We
4 have a human resources pre con. We have the
5 Commission on Fire Accreditation International and
6 CPSC. It's all rolled in to get another opportunity
7 to get that kind of training for accreditation and
8 chief fire officer designation.

9 We now have a company officer program. The

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10 challenge that we give you is for each one of you to
11 bring a company officer with you. We have Level 1
12 and Level 2. If you brought an officer with you
13 last year, this year bring that one back for Level 2
14 and bring a new one for Level 1. Because I think
15 that we see that as the future of the IAFC. The
16 company officers, get them in now, give them
17 education, give them training as they progress up
18 through the ranks.

19 We have advance leadership courses that are
20 going to be there and a wide range of things that
21 will be going on, so we invite all of you to come.
22 If you need additional information on it, let us
23 know, but it is in Denver from August 14th to the

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1 16th.

2 Now, along the same lines with Fire Rescue
3 International, we were going to go to Philadelphia
4 in 2010, and Philadelphia called us and said, we've
5 got a small problem. You missed the deadline and
6 we're not going to have the convention center ready.
7 It won't be big enough to hold you in 2010. So
8 we're going to bow out.

9 So we had to go back out and find a new place,
10 and we're pleased to announce that we will be going
11 to Chicago in 2010. It's been many years since
12 we've been to Chicago. We think that will be an
13 excellent opportunity for the Chicago Fire
14 Department and the entire Chicago region to showcase
15 what they have. So you'll be hearing more about

16 that, and I just wanted to share that with you, that
17 we will be going to Chicago in 2010. So kind of
18 keep those things in mind.

19 Remember, Fire Rescue International is the only
20 national fire show, the only national fire show,
21 where a hundred percent of the revenue goes back to
22 the fire service. We're proud of that, and we try
23 to make sure that that always happens and, again, it

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1 assists in keeping our membership dues down. With
2 that, as Chief Johnson said, I'll be glad to take
3 any questions or find me out as we're here for the
4 next couple of days. Thank you very much.

5 CHIEF JAMES M. TRAINOR (Meriden, CT): I called
6 yesterday -- I went online yesterday for a room and
7 wasn't able to get one. So I called Spago, and they
8 put me on a waiting list. They actually called me
9 today and said they had a room available. So if you
10 call and get frustrated, they're very responsive to
11 your requests.

12 MARK LIGHT: And that's exactly right. Get a
13 room. Find a hotel and get locked in so you got a
14 room, and then when you go on the list, they're
15 continually working those exhibitors or giving them
16 back room blocks, so for the most part, by the time
17 the conference gets there, most people will want to
18 be where they want to be. Any other questions?
19 Thank you.

20 (Applause.)

21 PRESIDENT WALL: I'd like to acknowledge and

22 have all who have served as President of the
23 Division to please stand.

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1 (Applause.)

2 Also, all the presidents who have served as
3 President of the Association. I see Chief Susi.
4 Are there any others here?

5 (Applause.)

6 I call on John Wood for the Secretary's report
7 and the Treasurer's report, please.

8 CHIEF JOHN G. WOOD, JR.: I've got a
9 page-and-a-half written report that's on the back
10 table there for those of you who might like to see
11 if you haven't already got it. The Treasurer's
12 report is back there as well, and there is an agenda
13 back there. So on the back table there, there are
14 reports, and, unless otherwise, I'll submit the
15 report as a written report rather than read to you
16 the page and a half.

17 CHIEF FREDERICK STANLEY (Hope Valley, RI): I
18 make a motion to accept.

19 CHIEF DARREL FOURNIER (Freeport, ME): I second
20 it.

21 PRESIDENT WALL: All those in favor, say aye?
22 (Aye.)

23 Opposed? Motion carried.

28

1 CHIEF JOHN G. WOOD, JR.: I was going to speak
2 about Denver. Those of you who might be having

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3 trouble with rooms in Denver, get the touch with me
4 as well. I work with Spago quite a bit, and
5 sometimes we can work out some availability. So if
6 anyone should have problems, you'll have these
7 dates, and you find out that you're having
8 difficulty, let know, and I'll see what I can do.

9 We have about 110 people that are registered
10 for housing right now. So that's quite a few rooms
11 taken. Some have doubled up. I'm anticipating
12 about 150, 160 from the Division in attendance
13 there, which is a good number, one of the higher
14 numbers that we've had from the Division. At any of
15 the conferences, I think that's probably higher than
16 the last time we went to Denver. So that's a good
17 thing. As you said, registrations are up.

18 The Treasurer's report -- any other questions
19 on Denver? The Treasurer's report, I'm not going to
20 read line by line. As I said, there's copies of the
21 report up there, but I will go through the income
22 for the past year, and this is a report that goes
23 from May 1, 2007, to April 30, 2008.

29

1 The income was \$58,653.01. Disbursements was
2 \$60,015.88. The balance sheet as of April 30, 2007,
3 was \$18,917.69. That makes a total income for the
4 year, \$77,570.70. Less the disbursements,
5 \$60,015.88. That leaves a balance in the checking
6 account of \$17,554.82.

7 We have a two-year certificate of deposit,
8 \$12,454.59. A one-year certificate of deposit,

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9 \$13,643.60. Money market, \$14,738.04. For a total
10 of \$40,836.23. With the checking, it's \$17,554.82.
11 That leaves total assets of the Division at
12 \$58,391.05.

13 CHIEF JAMES M. TRAINOR: I make a motion to
14 accept the Treasurer's report.

15 CHIEF OTIS C. WYATT, JR., RETIRED
16 (Narragansett, RI): Second.

17 PRESIDENT WALL: The Treasurer's report has
18 been seconded. Any questions on the motion? All
19 those in favor, say aye?

20 (Aye.)

21 Opposed? Motion carried.

22 President's report. In the past several weeks,
23 continued to work with the Conference Committee and

30

1 several associations on logistics for a successful
2 2008 conference. This will be New England
3 Association of Fire Chiefs 86th Annual Conference.
4 The Division continues to work with the IAFC's
5 Division Task Force Committee. Chief Bradley, Chief
6 Wood, Chief Wall are on that committee.

7 Our next scheduled conference call is July 2nd
8 and July 30th. The New England Division Board of
9 Directors agreed with the update and rewrite of the
10 Division's Strategic Plan and the new member packet.
11 We're just working out some of the text and laying
12 out the plan. And, Buddy, thank you very much for
13 your efforts and your help. It's appreciated.
14 Thank you very much.

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15 CHIEF BRIAN J. THIBEAULT, RETIRED (Plymouth,
16 NH): You're welcome.

17 PRESIDENT WALL: Looking back over the past
18 year, the Division has continued to improve our
19 communications by updating our web site and the use
20 of a conference line to have conference calls when
21 they're called upon. We have held several
22 conference calls throughout the year to do Division
23 business.

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1 The past several months, coordinated two new
2 state directors who will be representing the State
3 of Maine, to my right, Chief Roger Audette.

4 (Applause.)

5 From the State of Vermont, Chief Steve Locke.

6 (Applause.)

7 Please welcome these chiefs. They're here in
8 Massachusetts, Springfield, so you can't get out.
9 You're here for another ten years. Welcome.

10 Recently, I attended -- and I see that he's here;
11 he's served as President of Division -- Chief
12 McDonough's retirement party on June 11th. Chief
13 Bradley and myself represented the Division in the
14 IAFC. Chief McDonough, congratulations.

15 (Applause.)

16 Following up for this year, hopefully next year
17 coming back to this conference with the help of
18 Chief Stanley and Chief Otie Wyatt, we'll have some
19 history of the IAFC Division to share with you at
20 next year's conference, next year's annual meeting.

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21 What I'll do is, if there's any questions for me,
22 I'll take any questions. Hearing none, I will
23 introduce our International Director for his report.

32

1 Chief Roger Bradley.

2 (Applause.)

3 CHIEF ROGER BRADLEY, INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR,
4 NEDIAFC (Hanover, NH): You know what's amazing is
5 that all of the items that I thought were important,
6 three-plus pages of handwritten material, has
7 already been presented to you.

8 (Applause.)

9 PRESIDENT WALL: Next.

10 (Laughter.)

11 CHIEF RICHARD A. SUSI, IMMEDIATE PAST
12 PRESIDENT, NEAFC (Cumberland Hill, RI): I make a
13 motion to accept his report.

14 (Laughter.)

15 FROM THE FLOOR: I second it.

16 CHIEF ROGER BRADLEY: Mark, warped minds think
17 alike, I guess. Just a couple of things that I'll
18 tell you about that they didn't. A couple of them
19 is the retirements that I was able to attend and
20 represent the IAFC.

21 Tim alluded to Chief McDonough's down in
22 Connecticut a couple weeks ago. Also, I had the
23 opportunity to go over to Cape Elizabeth, Maine, and

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1 make a presentation to Chief McGouldrick who was
2 retiring for the second time, the first in South
3 Portland. Then he served another several years as
4 chief in Cape Elizabeth, and he retired again.
5 Then, also, a Past President of the Division, Chief
6 Brian Thi beault from Plymouth. I attended his party
7 this spring as well.

8 Chief Wall also alluded to the fact that he and
9 John Wood and myself have been serving on the
10 Division Task Force. We're making progress on that,
11 but we still need some more time before we have that
12 concluded and are able to get our report to the full
13 board.

14 I did everything I could and was successful in
15 representing you in attending all of the IAFC Board
16 meetings in the past year and participated in all
17 but one monthly teleconference. One Thursday, I was
18 on the road or something and missed that one.

19 I just want to bring to your attention, from
20 what I'm seeing, what I'm hearing, I'm extremely
21 confident that our own Jack Parow is going to be the
22 next Second Vice President of the IAFC, and I
23 certainly personally look forward to welcoming Jack

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1 and working with Jack. I can't quite say it's a
2 given, but I think we all know that he's going to be
3 there.

4 I would just like to take this opportunity to
5 thank you, the membership, for allowing me to
6 represent you, to serve you, and hopefully make a

7 small difference in the betterment of the fire
8 service in this country and around the world, and
9 it's been incredible.

10 Chief Johnson alluded to it earlier, and I had
11 it written down here on my notes, but I think it's
12 important to reiterate this; we have passed the
13 one-year mark with Mark Light as our new Executive
14 Director, and Mark has done incredible things at the
15 IAFC. He has turned that organization around 180
16 degrees.

17 The morale of the many, many staff from all
18 through the organization, all positions, is way up
19 here, and, as you know, organizationally, if you
20 have a high morale, you're going to have high
21 output; you're going to have high expectations, and
22 you meet them. I think we just need to congratulate
23 and thank Mark one more time for the excellent work.

35

1 (Applause.)

2 Now, there's one thing I need to do. Chief
3 McDonough, could you come and see me for a moment,
4 please?

5 CHIEF RICHARD MCDONOUGH, RETIRED (Southington,
6 CT): I'm not sure I want to. I don't know.

7 PRESIDENT WALL: Come around.

8 CHIEF ROGER BRADLEY: One thing that I have
9 been doing for several years is buying retirement
10 patches from Chief Wyatt, which is the official
11 dress uniform patch. Those of you who don't know
12 and haven't seen this, it's the official IAFC patch.

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13 It was originated in New England.
14 Otie and Mert Dyer, who was a chief in
15 Peterborough, New Hampshire, who recently passed
16 away, designed it, and there's something about the
17 New England Association, registered or something,
18 but all that nonsense doesn't matter. This is it.
19 I keep a supply on hand, and when I do
20 represent the IAFC and the retirement organizations,
21 I usually remember to take one. The bottom line is,
22 two weeks ago, I forgot to take one and present it
23 to Chief McDonough, but I remembered to bring it

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1 today.
2 CHIEF RICHARD MCDONOUGH: Thank you, sir. I
3 appreciate it.
4 (Applause.)
5 FROM THE FLOOR: It's official now, Rich.
6 (Laughter.)
7 CHIEF ROGER BRADLEY: How are we? Are we
8 pressed for time? I need about three more minutes.
9 PRESIDENT WALL: Okay.
10 CHIEF ROGER BRADLEY: For those of you who have
11 seen this and know about "Life and a Can of Beer,"
12 please hang with me. Those of you who haven't, I
13 think this is pretty neat.
14 "When things in your life seem almost too much
15 to handle, and 24 hours in a day are not enough,
16 remember the mayonnaise jar and the beer.
17 A professor stood before his philosophy class
18 and had some items in front of him. When the class

19 began, wordlessly, he picked up a very large and
20 empty mayonnaise jar and proceeded to fill it with
21 golf balls. He then asked the students if the jar
22 was full. They agreed that it was.

23 The professor then picked up a box of pebbles

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1 and poured them into the jar. He shook the jar
2 lightly. The pebbles rolled around into the open
3 areas between the golf balls. He then asked the
4 students if the jar was full. They agreed it was.

5 The professor next picked up a box of sand and
6 poured it into the jar. The sand filled up
7 everything else. Once more, he asked the students
8 if the jar was full. They responded yes. The
9 professor then produced two cans of beer from under
10 the table and poured the entire contents into the
11 jar, effectively filling the empty space between the
12 sand. The students laughed.

13 Now, said the professor, as the laughter
14 subsided, I want you to recognize that this jar
15 represents your life. The golf balls are the
16 important things; your family, your children, your
17 health, your friends, your favorite passions, things
18 that if everything else was lost and you only
19 remain, your life would still be full.

20 The pebbles are the other things that matter,
21 like your job, your house, your car. The sand is
22 everything else, the small stuff. If you put the
23 sand into the jar first, there's no room for the

1 pebbles or the golf balls. The same goes for life.
2 If you spend all of your time and energy on the
3 small stuff, you'll never have room for the things
4 that are important to you.

5 Pay attention to the things that are critical
6 to your happiness. Play with your children. Take
7 time to get medical check-ups. Take your spouse out
8 to dinner. Play another 18. There will always be
9 time to clean the house and fix the disposal. Take
10 care of the golf balls first, the things that really
11 matter. Set your priorities. The rest is just
12 sand.

13 One of the students raised his hand and
14 inquired what the beer represented. The professor
15 smiled and said, I'm glad you asked. It just goes
16 to show you that no matter how full your life may
17 seem, there's always room for a couple of beers."

18 (Applause.)

19 PRESIDENT WALL: Thank you, Chief Bradley.
20 Committee reports from any board members? Moving
21 right along. Any new business to be brought up at
22 this time?

23

1 CHIEF BRIAN J. THIBEAULT: Mr. President, I'd
2 like to submit the Elections Committee report.

3 PRESIDENT WALL: Please come up.

4 CHIEF BRIAN J. THIBEAULT: I'm the New England
5 representative to the Collections Committee of the

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6 IAFC. I'm just going to submit the report in
7 writing. I can give it to you electronically if you
8 want it that way, John.

9 Everybody is fully aware of most of the
10 activities of the Elections Committee, and what we
11 do is, all of the material that goes into the
12 balloting and everything else is always approved by
13 the Elections Committee. All the advertisements
14 that the candidates put out, any materials that have
15 the IAFC logo on it are approved by the committee.

16 Our committee does most of these things through
17 e-mails, but we have had, I think, three or four
18 teleconferences in the past few years. I'm just
19 going to take a second to talk about the process and
20 what the Division has decided they wanted done.

21 As you know, I retired at the end of April from
22 the Plymouth Fire Department. I don't feel or I
23 didn't feel that as time goes on that I really

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1 should continue to serve out as your representative
2 of the Elections Committee without having someone
3 supporting me in an office on a regular basis.
4 Since that time, some things have changed, and I can
5 communicate especially with Joy via Blackberry, so
6 99 percent of the time I had that kind of
7 communication going.

8 I told the board, I think at the February
9 meeting, that I didn't want to do it anymore. The
10 board asked that I stay on until the election, so I
11 proceeded to do that. Member services requests that

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12 whatever changes made that that occur as we certify
13 the votes in Denver.

14 So it's my intent, with the Division and the
15 board's permission, to stay on, and when the new
16 member to the Elections Committee comes on, they
17 requested that both of us be at the Elections
18 Committee meeting on Wednesday at, I think, 10:00 at
19 FRI in Denver. So that's my intent right now,
20 unless the Division presidents have an issue with
21 that.

22 PRESIDENT WALL: I have none, but I don't know
23 if to-be-president Bill St. Michel does, but I'm

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1 sure we'll work it out.

2 CHIEF WILLIAM ST. MICHEL (Durham, ME) I have
3 no issues with that. I think that's the best
4 direction for the Division to go.

5 PRESIDENT WALL: I'll entertain a motion to
6 accept the Elections Committee report in writing and
7 verbal by Buddy.

8 CHIEF JOHN E. PAROW: Motion to accept.

9 PRESIDENT WALL: Second?

10 CHIEF RICHARD MCDONOUGH: Second.

11 PRESIDENT WALL: Any questions on the motion?

12 All those in favor, say aye?

13 (Aye.)

14 Opposed? Motion carried. Any other committee
15 reports to come forward? Gerry Dio?

16 CHIEF GERARD DIO (Worcester, MA): Just an
17 update on the EMC Committee. We met last week in

18 Kansas City. We packaged everything up. We've been
19 working closely with EMAC and EMO with regards to
20 coming out with an educational product for the fire
21 service and the fire chiefs with regards to EMAC and
22 how it functions.

23 They did some work with regards to more work

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1 with regards to the issue at the meeting in Kansas
2 City, and, hopefully, we're shooting to come out
3 with a product at FRI -- is that -- Mike Varney is
4 also on the committee with me.

5 CHIEF MICHAEL D. VARNEY (Ellington, CT): Yes,
6 that's still the plan.

7 CHIEF GERARD DIO: That's still the plan to
8 come out with a finished product at FRI. So you
9 keep your eye on it, and we'll be giving you a
10 notice where it is. If you're interested in EMAC
11 and the fire service involved with them to move
12 assets around the country in the event of an
13 emergency and major disaster, that finished product
14 will be out there if you're interested in August at
15 FRI at Denver. Mike, do you have anything you want
16 to add to that?

17 CHIEF MICHAEL D. VARNEY: No. Just an add-on
18 to the Emergency Management Committee, all the other
19 subcommittees from the New England Division, there
20 are many participants on the subcommittees. There
21 were several people there. They all met and
22 produced reports, and, again, as was earlier
23 mentioned, some of our focus is really concerned on

1 the transition which will happen early in 2009, and
2 we'll position all of the work we're doing with,
3 specifically, FEMA and DHS, and all that will
4 transition with the new organizations.

5 We're developing some documents to feed into
6 the large IAFC documents. We have a lot of good
7 relationships now with the U.S. Forest Service and
8 DHS and FEMA. We'll just continue with those
9 efforts. There will be so much more extensive
10 reports that will come out soon through different
11 outlets of the IAFC as usual with biweekly news
12 letters and on the web sites. That's all I have
13 that's significant, unless there's any questions?

14 PRESIDENT WALL: Thank you Chief Dio and Chief
15 Varney. Any other committee reports to come
16 forward? Chief Fred Stanley, let me know if the
17 booth is all ready to go. We have a schedule when
18 to be at the booth. Thank you, Chief Stanley, for
19 setting up the booth.

20 Under new business, I'd just like the minutes
21 to reflect of the attendees who are at our annual
22 meeting. We have First Vice President, Chief
23 William St. Michel; Second Vice President, Gerry

1 Dio; Secretary/Treasurer, John Wood; State Vice
2 Presidents Mike Varney, Steve Carrier from New
3 Hampshire, Dave Jardin from Massachusetts, Chief

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4 Mike O'Neil from Vermont, and our new member, Chief
5 Roger Audette from Maine; and our New England
6 Director, Chief Roger Bradley from New Hampshire.

7 What I'd like to do at this time, due to a
8 conflict on our Saturday night, the new officers are
9 going to be sworn in by Chief Jeff Johnson at the
10 banquet, but Chief Audette has a commitment back in
11 Maine. So I'd like Chief Johnson, if you could step
12 forward over here with Chief Audette to install
13 Chief Audette.

14 CHIEF JEFF JOHNSON: It is my honor to install
15 you as a new officer of the New England Division of
16 the IAFC. I urge you to accept the challenge to
17 lead your division to new and higher levels of skill
18 and ability. I know that you will do a superb job.
19 Please raise your right hand and repeat after me.

20 "I swear that I will support the constitution
21 and bylaws and, at all times, bear true allegiance
22 to the goals and purposes of the New England
23 Division and the International Association of Fire

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1 Chiefs. I will perform the duties and
2 responsibilities of my office to the best of my
3 ability, so help me God." Congratulations.

4 (Applause.)

5 PRESIDENT WALL: Any other new business to be
6 brought forward? Any unfinished business?

7 CHIEF OTIS C. WYATT: Mr. President, I've
8 already heard the good remarks from my cousin Roger
9 Bradley who has mentioned that Mert Dyer had passed

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10 way. I'd like to ask the membership that's present
11 if they have any contact with Mert Dyer's son or his
12 ex-wife, either one, as they may or may not realize
13 Mert was a long-time very active member of this
14 group as well as the New England Association, and he
15 was a parliamentarian in many cases.

16 He did an awful lot in the history -- and I'm
17 the historian for the Association -- in getting that
18 CD out last year. One of the things we're looking
19 for is that we've been trying to accumulate hard
20 copies of all the Red Books, and the Secretary, Dick
21 Wehter, has a complete set, and Mert Dyer had the
22 second complete set. We'd certainly like to get
23 hold of that.

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1 If anybody in New Hampshire knows how to get
2 hold of either his former wife or Ken Dyer -- I
3 understand his son's name is Ken -- who lives in
4 Medford, Mass., if somebody can find that out,
5 either Dick Wehter or myself would be delighted to
6 talk to them and make sure those books don't get
7 discarded or destroyed before we have an opportunity
8 to at least know what's going on. Thank you.

9 PRESIDENT WALL: Chief Roger Bradley?

10 CHIEF ROGER BRADLEY: Director Mason and I just
11 communicated, nonverbal, but Rick is able to handle
12 that task, Otie.

13 CHIEF OTIS C. WYATT: He can handle any task.

14 FROM THE FLOOR: You got it, Otie.

15 CHIEF ROGER BRADLEY: We'll work on it.

16 CHIEF OTIS C. WYATT: Thank you, Roger.

17 PRESIDENT WALL: That would be helpful to
18 secure the history and also work for next year.
19 Hopefully, there's a presentation on the history of
20 the IAFC at the meeting next year. Any other
21 unfinished business?

22 CHIEF DARREL FOURNIER: Maybe you can help me
23 out, Mr. President. We're looking for an

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1 appointment from New Hampshire and one from Vermont
2 to work on the residential sprinklers for the ICC.
3 We've got the other states represented. I've been
4 looking for one member from each state. So if you
5 could make that happen and get the names to me so I
6 could put that in through the ICC, I would be very
7 appreciative.

8 CHIEF ROGER BRADLEY: Mr. President?

9 PRESIDENT WALL: Yes, Chief Roger Bradley.

10 CHIEF ROGER BRADLEY: Director Mason and I just
11 communicated again --

12 DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF MICHAEL HOISINGTON
13 (Hooksett, NH): I'll get it to you after.

14 CHIEF ROGER BRADLEY: Thank you.

15 PRESIDENT WALL: Any other unfinished business?
16 We took care of the IAFC candidates for 2009. Chief
17 Gillespie was here, and Chief Carl Smith was unable
18 to attend. Under "Other," I'd like to introduce a
19 slate of officers for the upcoming year for the
20 Division. We need nominations for President, First
21 Vice President, Second Vice President and the State

22

Director from Vermont.

23

CHIEF DARREL FOURNIER: It would be my pleasure

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1 to nominate Bill St. Michel to be the President of
2 the Division. Or do you want them all?

3 PRESIDENT WALL: Let's do them all.

4 CHIEF ROBERT A. DIPOLI: Mr. President, it's my
5 honor to nominate Chief Gerry Dio from Worcester to
6 be First Vice President.

7 CHIEF JOHN G. WOOD, JR.: Mr. President, I
8 would like to nominate Chief Michael O'Neil from the
9 Burlington Fire Department to the Second Vice
10 President of the New England Division.

11 PRESIDENT WALL: Chief O'Neil, do you have a
12 State Director from Vermont?

13 CHIEF MICHAEL O'NEIL (Burlington, VT): Yes.
14 Mr. President, I'd like to proudly enter the name of
15 Chief Steven Locke of the Hartford Fire Department
16 as the representative from the State of Vermont.

17 PRESIDENT WALL: Do we have a second on those
18 officers? Chief Bradley?

19 CHIEF ROGER BRADLEY: I second all of those
20 nominations.

21 PRESIDENT WALL: Any discussion on the
22 nominations or questions on the nominations? Chief
23 Varney?

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1 CHIEF MICHAEL D. VARNEY: I don't have a
2 question on the nominations, just that Connecticut

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3 needs to nominate to fill a vacancy for a two-year
4 term; is that correct or no?

5 PRESIDENT WALL: Let me get clarification on
6 that.

7 CHIEF JOHN G. WOOD, JR.: That's correct.

8 PRESIDENT WALL: That is correct. We'll come
9 back to that. We'll do the slate of officers for
10 the Division. Chief Parow?

11 CHIEF JOHN E. PAROW: I make a motion that
12 nominations be closed and the Secretary casts one
13 ballot.

14 CHIEF JAMES M. TRAINOR: I second the motion.

15 PRESIDENT WALL. All those in favor, say aye?
16 (Aye.)

17 All those opposed? Motion carried. With that,
18 I'll entertain motions for the State Directors who
19 are up for a two-year appointment from their state.

20 CHIEF JAMES M. TRAINOR: I'd like to nominate
21 Mike Varney.

22 CHIEF RICHARD MCDONOUGH: I second.

23 PRESIDENT WALL: The Secretary/Treasurer will

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1 vote on that. The State of Connecticut did nominate
2 Chief Mike Varney. Any other nominations for the
3 State of Connecticut? I entertain a motion to close
4 the ballot and have the Secretary cast one ballot.

5 CHIEF RICHARD MCDONOUGH: Motion.

6 PRESIDENT WALL: Chief McDonough made that
7 motion.

8 CHIEF DARREL FOURNIER: Second.

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9 PRESIDENT WALL: All those in favor, say aye?
10 (Aye.)
11 Opposed? Are there any other states that are
12 up for -- that was the only state that was up at
13 this time. With that, I'll close our New England
14 Division of International Association of Fire Chiefs
15 Annual Meeting. It's been an honor and pleasure of
16 serving this Association, serving as the 42nd
17 President of the New England Division. Is there any
18 other item to be brought up at this meeting?
19 CHIEF ROBERT A. DIPOLI: Mr. President, just
20 briefly, I know we've heard from two candidates for
21 Second Vice President, and should the Division be
22 considering an endorsement of either candidate, I
23 would ask that you hold off on the endorsement

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1 process until we meet at FRI in Denver.
2 Just thinking back to 1997, 1998, when I was a
3 candidate, and we had some issues within the
4 Division that, I think, had a detrimental effect on
5 the election. Where Jack has received the support
6 of the Chief from Georgia that's running, I think it
7 would be in the interest of the Division not to make
8 an endorsement at this time and consider it after
9 the votes are counted in August.
10 CHIEF DAVID JARDIN (Stoughton, MA): Can we
11 make that in the form of a motion?
12 CHIEF ROGER BRADLEY: No.
13 PRESIDENT WALL: Secretary/Treasurer Chief John
14 Wood?

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15 CHIEF JOHN G. WOOD, JR.: I'd like to add to
16 Chief DiPolli's comments about that. It was years
17 ago, there was some issues with the Division
18 endorsing candidates too early. They took a
19 position on a candidate, and then shortly after they
20 took a position, a new candidate came long, and they
21 didn't know about it, and they ended up liking that
22 candidate better than they liked the one that they
23 actually supported. It created a lot of problems

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1 within the Division.

2 So there was a motion back then that the
3 Division would never take a position on supporting a
4 candidate. And I know that that has changed
5 somewhat over recent times. I think I would like to
6 even extend out, a little bit more, that time frame
7 from August to February. They have until February,
8 all the candidates, to -- correct me if I'm wrong --
9 they have until February to throw their names into
10 the hat, the candidates do.

11 So we should wait until everybody's got their
12 names in the hat and we know who's running before we
13 start taking positions on supporting people, I
14 think. It creates problems for our own membership,
15 I think, when we do those things. So in asking, I
16 guess I would ask that, let's wait until we get all
17 the names in before we do that.

18 And I'll use a more recent time as an example.
19 With Second Vice President Jeff Johnson, who would
20 have ever thought that Kelvin Cochran, after being

21 elected, would have taken a new job, leave, and the
22 reason that Jack had an opportunity to run was
23 because the board decided to move Chief Jeff Johnson

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1 into the Second Vice President's position. It
2 opened up a whole new group of people. So those are
3 the kinds of things that happen.

4 I think that somebody mentioned earlier -- I
5 think it was you, Bob -- it's becoming more complex,
6 and people are doing and moving much more now than
7 they did in previous years, so I would just, maybe,
8 caution that we should wait until February. Thank
9 you.

10 PRESIDENT WALL: Chief Fournier?

11 CHIEF DARREL FOURNIER: I guess one question
12 that I have, would it be appropriate under the
13 recommendation of President DiPoliti that we make a
14 motion or have a policy that we don't endorse until
15 February? I just think that would set the tone for
16 future years that we don't get caught in those
17 positions we have in the past, and we set a policy
18 at this point that would eliminate problems in the
19 future.

20 CHIEF BRIAN J. THIBEAULT: If I could just
21 comment on that, if I could. Unless you do
22 something with the Constitution and Bylaws, it's not
23 binding. We can vote to say we aren't going to do

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1 it, and at the next meeting, we could vote to do it,
2 and it can be done. I totally agree with what has
3 been said here.

4 I think that unless we have a particular issue
5 like we promoted for Bob and we voted for Chief
6 Parow that that may be the instance where we didn't
7 want to wait. But I agree that it seems kind of
8 premature for us to take someone that we really
9 don't know and then do something before the filing
10 deadline, which is February 1.

11 So I concur with what John said, I think that
12 we, and especially the board -- I mean, if somebody
13 said something to the board at any level, the board
14 could say, hey, look, we don't want to entertain
15 that right now because at our annual meeting, the
16 membership pretty much voiced their opinion.

17 PRESIDENT WALL: Chief Bradley?

18 CHIEF ROGER BRADLEY: My recollection, going
19 back a number of years, is that the New England
20 Division didn't endorse candidates unless they were
21 our own. I may not be thinking straight, but that's
22 my recollection. The other thing, I think, that if
23 you look back in the umpteen years that I have been

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1 involved representing this division, you can see
2 many board members and past presidents of the IAFC
3 making endorsements on candidates.

4 I don't believe that you will find my name
5 personally endorsing anyone over all the years that
6 I've been involved. It's just one thing that I am

7 not comfortable doing as a board member, endorsing
8 someone running.

9 So I personally have never endorsed any of the
10 candidates, although I've been, as you well know and
11 can imagine, you can very quietly do good work for
12 someone without having your name spread all over the
13 place. That's the way I choose to operate, and I'd
14 like to see this membership operate that same way.

15 PRESIDENT WALL: Chief Jack Parow?

16 CHIEF JOHN E. PAROW: I'm not sure which way
17 you want to go, with Roger, with John or Bob, but I
18 would like to have a candidate that's within the New
19 England Division be able to be endorsed prior to
20 February and August.

21 It's very important, not only to have the
22 support of the Division ahead of time before you go
23 feet first into running -- hopefully, you would have

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1 the board prior. So if we could make an exception
2 to all three of those, however they work out, that
3 we could endorse candidates from the New England
4 Division on an earlier date, say in June, I think I
5 would be agreeable.

6 PRESIDENT WALL: Chief Mason?

7 CHIEF RICHARD A. MASON (Concord, NH): Why
8 don't we just leave it the way it is and take it on
9 a case-by-case basis. You need a vote anyway.

10 PRESIDENT WALL: Chief O'Neil?

11 CHIEF MICHAEL O'NEIL: I make a motion that we
12 refer this to the Constitution and Bylaws Committee

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13 for further discussion and recommendation to the
14 full board.

15 CHIEF DAVID JARDIN: Second.

16 PRESIDENT WALL: Chief O'Neil, when you say, to
17 the full board, the Division?

18 CHIEF MICHAEL O'NEIL: The Division membership.

19 PRESIDENT WALL: It's been seconded by Chief
20 Dave Jardin. Any discussion on the motion? Do you
21 want to clarify? That the Division -- the officers
22 of Division Board would --

23 CHIEF MICHAEL O'NEIL: The officers of the

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1 Division Board would make a recommendation to the
2 membership on what we would do for endorsements in
3 the future. That way, we could address all of these
4 issues including our own representatives should they
5 decide to run for office in the IAFC.

6 CHIEF JOHN G. WOOD, JR.: I understand the
7 motion to be that this issue will be brought to the
8 Constitution and Bylaws Committee for review and
9 discussed at a board meeting, and the board to give
10 a recommendation to the annual membership next year.

11 CHIEF MICHAEL O'NEIL: That's correct.

12 PRESIDENT WALL: Any question on the motion?
13 All those in favor, say aye.

14 (Aye.)

15 Opposed? Motion carried.

16 PRESIDENT WALL: Other business to be brought
17 forward?

18 CHIEF JOHN E. PAROW: Are we going to go to the

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"Other" after?
PRESIDENT WALL: After the other "Other." Any other items to be brought forward?
CHIEF WILLIAM ST. MICHEL: President Wall, I just want to take the opportunity to thank you on

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behalf of the Board of Directors, the Division. It's been quite a year, and under your leadership, the accomplishments, the training that was put out to the membership, Fire Team USA, the ISO training, it was enhanced greatly, as well as we've updated the strategic plan, the new member packet, and it's all a credit to your leadership. Our web site has come online. It's been a pleasure and an honor. You've provided us with excellent guidance. Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT WALL: Thank you very much.

CHIEF WILLIAM ST. MICHEL: On behalf of the board and the membership, I also would like to enhance the economy in Maine, and I have an L.L. Bean gift certificate for you.

PRESIDENT WALL: Wonderful. Thank you very much.

CHIEF WILLIAM ST. MICHEL: Wicked good.

(Applause, laughter.)

PRESIDENT WALL: I will say, that's a place I've always wanted to go up to. I've never been up to the one in Maine, so this is a good opportunity.

1 Thank you very much. As I said earlier, it's been
2 an honor and pleasure to serve as your 42nd
3 President of the Division. All the work goes on by
4 the gentlemen to my right and to my left, and some
5 are not here today, so I appreciate all your help
6 and guidance. It's a group effort; it truly is.
7 Chief Parow?

8 CHIEF JOHN E. PAROW: I just want to take a
9 couple seconds to thank the board for their support
10 and endorsement for my candidacy for Second Vice
11 President and to thank the membership and the board
12 for all the hard work that they've done for me.

13 There's e-mails still flying out there in
14 space, so two weeks to vote, I think there's about
15 300 -- I'm just taking from past years; I don't have
16 any inside info on this -- about 300 New England
17 votes still hanging out there, that if you go back
18 home and you know someone that may not have voted or
19 questions you about voting, you can vote until
20 July 1 at midnight.

21 So try to get those votes out. Every vote
22 counts. If you can reach out in the e-mail network
23 before July 1 just to remind everybody to vote, I

1 would appreciate every vote that I can possibly get.
2 I don't want to put this thing to bed for another
3 two weeks. We should have the results July 7th, or
4 I'll have the results July 7th. The IAFC will put
5 something out shortly after that.

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6 One final thing, we know it's a funny year this
7 year with Kelvin Cochran dropping out in November.
8 We never had a full meeting of the Association or
9 the Division. The endorsement I have is from the
10 board. Just for the archives, I would request and
11 ask for the endorsement of the full Division, if
12 possible. Thank you.

13 CHIEF WILLIAM ST. MICHEL: I would like to make
14 a motion that we endorse at the annual meeting Chief
15 Jack Parow for his run for Second Vice President of
16 the International Association.

17 CHIEF JAMES M. TRAINOR: Second.

18 PRESIDENT WALL: Any discussion on the motion?

19 CHIEF OTIS C. WYATT: Can we vote twice?

20 PRESIDENT WALL: Well --

21 CHIEF BRIAN J. THIBEAULT: As many times as you
22 want, Otis.

23 CHIEF OTIS C. WYATT: Oh, okay.

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1 (Laughter.)

2 PRESIDENT WALL: All those in favor, say aye.

3 (Aye.)

4 Opposed? Motion carried.

5 CHIEF JOHN E. PAROW: Thank you very much.

6 PRESIDENT WALL: I'll entertain a motion for
7 adjournment.

8 FROM THE FLOOR: Motion.

9 CHIEF BRIAN J. THIBEAULT: Second.

10 PRESIDENT WALL: So moved. Enjoy the
11 conference. Thank you.

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(Annual Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.)

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1 COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
2 COUNTY OF HAMPDEN

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4 I, MONICA L. CAMERON, hereby certify that the
5 foregoing transcript of the 86th Annual Meeting of
6 the New England Division of the International
7 Association of Fire Chiefs is a true and accurate
8 transcription of my stenographic notes to the best
9 of my knowledge and ability.

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Monica L. Cameron
Shorthand Reporter

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