

**New England Division
International Association of Fire Chiefs**

November 13, 2008
Board of Director Meeting
Springfield Sheraton, MA

Members Present:

President William St. Michel
2nd VP Michael O'Neil
Sec/Treasurer John Wood

Guests:

Fred Stanley, Past President

International Director

Roger Bradley

International 2nd VP Jack Parow

State Vice Presidents

Steve Locke, VT
Roger Audette, ME
Steve Carrier, NH

Exhibitors:

Judy Marshall, Secretary
Mark Hooper, President

Not Present:

David Sayles, RI
1st VP Gerard Dio
Michael Varney, CT
David Jarden, MA

Immediate Past President

Timothy Wall

President William St. Michel called the meeting order at 8:30.

Pledge to the flag followed by invocation.

Secretary Report

The board approved the minutes for the April 24, 2008 meeting. Motion made Chief O'Neil and seconded by Chief Bradley.

Treasurer Report

Chief Wood distributed the treasurer's report showing that the checking account had a balance of \$7,923.27 as of October 31, 2008. The two CD's and the money market account had a combined value of \$40,912.03, making the total cash available at \$48,835.30. A more detailed account of the records is attached. Motion was made by Chief O'Neil and seconded by Chief Carrier to pay all bills and to accept the treasurer's report. Motion Passed

President Report

President St. Michel attended the post June annual conference meeting in CT this past September. He attended committee meetings and it was reported that seven vendors would receive warning letters and another few left early on Saturday, those vendors will not be allowed back. Discussion regarding the hours of operation for the June 24-28, 2009 conference has been discussed. A controversial issue was the banquet tickets for the president's family and community guests. The group feels the best way to handle this issue is to bring it up at the next negotiations.

President St. Michel attended the IAFC strategic planning session in Washington. Member values was a topic at the general session but then the group broke up into groups of six, which had six topics to work on breaking them down into 3 topics. The information has not been completed but will be up on the web page when it is all put together.

The division strategic plan has been finalized, but the secretary will do some editing to the final plan before resending to the group. Minor issues like spelling and sentence structure need attention.

ICC code action committee members from the division need to be appointed. The terms of the past committee members are over. President St. Michel has appointed Chiefs O'Neil, Parow, and St. Michel, and Sensigalli to the code action committee. President St. Michel will contact headquarters with the selections.

President St. Michel would like to see the newsletter renewed. He would like the newsletter to be more about what is going on in each State rather than it all being about the division and IAFC business. Discussion about the time commitment of putting a newsletter together and the frequency took place. Suggestions about putting the president's message in the daily dispatch might be beneficial with possible newsletter information in mailing for the winter seminar. No decision was made on the frequency or development of the newsletter was made.

Web site issues and updates for the web page took place. The web page has not been up dated in a while. Everyone understood that Chief Varney is very busy and has a difficult time keeping the page up dated. They appreciate all he has done to make it what it is, but feel the time has come to pay a person to keep it up dated and current. Motion made to have the secretary/treasurer contact a web master and hire to perform the work and keep the page updated. Motion passed

Constitution and By-laws committee division member to the IAFC needs to be appointed. Past President Brian Hoxsie was the division representative but has not been able to attend meetings and is no longer in the fire service. President St Michel will appoint a division officer to represent the division. He will do this after contacting Retired Chief Brian Hoxsie.

Second Vice President Report

Chief Mike O'Neil reported that the IAFC is interested in getting back involved in collecting money for the GPO. This action would reduce the amount of money the divisions would receive. GPO has an interest in showing at the June conference meaning we would need to double up on the booth space to accommodate their needs.

International Directors Report

Chief Bradley reported that the IAFC is expecting a \$400,000 shortfall in the budget this year. There is a hiring freeze in place and have restricted spending unless approved. The IAFC has taken a position that supports the right of an individual to volunteer for firefighting duties when employed full time in another department. This is known as the two-hatter issue.

IAFC wants to cut one million dollars from the 2009 budget, and increase the membership dues by \$14.00 per member. However, the board wants to keep core programs in place. Discussion about increases to conferences and dues could be counter active in keeping programs moving forward. There maybe a reduction to attendees at the conference and members may have to drop their membership because of budget cuts in local communities.

Chief Bradley reported that Treasurer William Metcalf would attend the June conference coming in June 24 and leaving June 28, 2009. Would like to have a room reserved in his name.

Chief Bradley reported that new IAFC board members would go through orientation the day before the board meeting to help bring them up to speed with the international board and staff. He passed out a quarterly report that Mark Light has produced for the board. He has also attached the minutes of the last board meeting. Chief Bradley also gave a web page for members to get more information about the IAFC it is iafctv.com.

State Vice Presidents Report

Chief Steve Carrier reported that NH has a professional development seminar coming up and he plans to attend.

Chief Steve Locke reported that VT is working on bringing the IAFF/IAFC CPAT program into the State for candidate testing.

Chief Roger Audette reported that the ME chiefs just finished having a professional development program in the State, of which he help organize and participated in. The chiefs are working to remove the state fire service training from the college system and put the program in the department of public safety.

Chief Fred Stanley reported for State Director David Sayles, RI is still working on a fire academy. Retired Fire Chief Jack Chartier has been appointed the fire marshal in the State. Chief Sayles will become the president of the RI fire chiefs association.

Chief Jack Parow reported for State Director David Jarden of MA, the fire chiefs association is working on a strategic plan. There will be a dedication of the Worcester Fire Station on the anniversary of the Cold Storage building.

Chief Tim Wall reported for State Director Mike Varney that CT has a new slate of officers for the fire chiefs association.

Committees

Education committee will have a report ready for the next meeting in February.

Exhibitors Report

Judy Marshall reported that with the economics issues facing the vendors this year, the Exhibitors Association will ask the NEAFC to suspended the increase for the 2009 conference.

Meeting adjourned 12:25

Respectfully Submitted,
John G Wood Jr., Secretary