

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

November 5, 2009

Board of Directors Meeting  
Springfield Sheraton, MA

Officers Present:

President Gerard Dio  
1<sup>st</sup> VP Michael O'Neil  
2<sup>nd</sup> VP Steve Carrier  
Sec/Treasurer John Wood

Guests:

Fred Stanley, Past President

International Director

Roger Bradley

State Vice Presidents

Steve Locke, VT  
David Sayles, RI  
David Jarden, MA

Exhibitors:

Tom Simonelli, Secretary

Not Present:

Roger Audette, ME  
Past President William St. Michel  
Chris Christopoulos, NH  
Michael Varney, CT

President Gerard Dio called the meeting to order at 8:30.

Pledge to the flag followed by invocation.

Secretary Report

The board approved the minutes for the May 14, 2009 meeting. Motion made by Chief O'Neil and seconded by Chief Bradley. The annual meeting minutes for June 25, 2009 were presented as printed. Motion by Chief Steve Locke to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Chief David Sayles, motion passed.

The web page update is in process, contact with a company in Maine who created and works on Durham and Freeport Fire Departments web pages is moving forward.

Discussion about the hospitality room at FRI Chicago regarding the hotel and the problems associated with bringing in our own refreshments took place, the general feeling is to wait and see what happens when we arrive there. It may be that individual members would bring refreshments to the room for the events.

The conference contract with the NEAFC is up for renewal. The general feeling at this time is to extend the contract for one year and see how the economy is recovering and how the concerns of the Division are addressed in regard to having more involvement in the annual conference. Chief Steve Locke moved to extend the current contract between the Division and Association until Oct 1, 2010, seconded by Chief David Sayles motion passed.

The annual conference and meeting discussion continued, but focused on the Division's annual meeting and how to fit it in with the Association's annual meeting. The conference schedule is tight and trying to fit in two annual meetings is getting difficult while trying to get participation for the meetings and the conference from our members. Some of the issues are that there is very low attendance at the Division's annual meeting as few as 10 members. IAFC officers travel to the meeting to report to the membership each year and candidates for second vice president do as well to speak to the membership,

however, there are very few members to share information with. Because the schedule is so tight business is rushed, and the meeting usually follows an event that restricts members' attendance.

Alternate meeting times and places were discussed; it is difficult to find another time at the June conference for the meeting. Discussion and consideration about having the Division annual meeting at FRI took place. Attendance at FRI meeting are always higher and range from an all time low of 30 at Dallas in 2009 to as high as 120, but normally there is an average of 90. Other divisions have their annual meetings at FRI and the officers of the IAFC are already in attendance as well as candidates for office, who are also in attendance. In addition, there are sponsors who attend the meeting at FRI.

The board felt that moving the annual meeting to FRI would be a benefit to the members of the Division, by having more members present at the meeting, better representation by the six States that make up the New England Division, it would be more cost effective for the Division and the IAFC, there would be better communications between the IAFC staff, and officers of the Division. There was a motion by Chief David Sayles, seconded by Chief Michael O'Neil to move the annual meeting to FRI each year and have the secretary investigate any issues that might affect the annual meeting being held at FRI, motion passed.

#### Treasurer Report

Chief Wood distributed the treasurer's report showing that the checking account had a balance of \$29,962.78 as of October 31, 2009. The two CD's and the money market account had a combined value of \$41,846.26, making the total cash available at \$71,809.04. 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

The treasurer then passed out checks from the GPO share revenue; discussion took place that waiting to combine the checks for a semi annual accounting might be better served. Chief Michael O'Neil suggested that a new GPO committee member for the Division be selected. President Gerard Dio appointed Chief Steve Carrier as the replacement for Chief O'Neil.

#### President Report

President Gerard Dio would like to have the officers email the meeting dates of their State Fire Chiefs Association meetings to him, so he can attend a State Chiefs meeting in each State. He has already attended the RIFCA meeting. He found it to be well attended, with a great meal and lots of fun.

#### First Vice President Report

Chief O'Neil reported that he participated in conference calls for GPO. He also attended the advertisement committee meeting for the annual conference in June and there are plans to change the way the committee has marketed the event in the past.

#### Second Vice President Report

Chief Carrier attended the post conference meeting in Stowe, VT and participated in the contract negotiation between the NEAFC and the Division.

There was discussion about the seminar for next spring. Chief Carrier and Chief Sayles are working together as a committee to pull the program together. There might be one in February and March possibly in April, one maybe in NH, while the other in RI or Springfield, MA. A motion was made by Chief Steve Locke and seconded by Chief Jardin to have a one-day seminar in NH, the date and time to be announced, motion passed.

The seminar committee will put a program together and email the dates and times with the topics for the two seminars, one in NH and the other in Springfield, MA.

## International Directors Report

Chief Bradley submitted a written report, which is attached to the minutes.

## State Vice Presidents Report

Chief Steve Locke submitted a written report.

Chief David Jarden reported that MA is facing budget short falls and the State is reducing state aid to the local communities. Fire academy may not run a summer class. Chief Jarden is the contact for the retirement plaques. The procedure is that if a state vice president needs a retirement plaque they should contact him with the name of the person retiring with the information. Chief Jarden will contact the IAFC to insure the member meets the 10-year requirement for life membership. He will then have the plaque company ship the plaque to the state vice president or his designee. It is required to be a chief for 10-years and be a member of the IAFC for 10-years.

Chief David Sayles submitted a written report.

## Committees:

The ICC committee will have two replacements on the committee from the Division. Chief Kevin Glagen from MA will replace Chief Jack Parow, and Chief William St. Michel will replace Chief Darrell Fournier, as appointed by the President Dio.

By-laws committee will need to meet to discuss changes and clean up. Consideration needs to be given to; affiliate membership, and changing the time and place to swear in officers for the oath of office. Secretary Wood will call a meeting.

## New Business

Chief David Sayles made a motion to take a half page advertisement in a book to benefit Hospice of Southern CT and the Thomas Valley Council for Community Action for the amount of \$250.00, seconded by Chief David Jardin, motion passed.

President Dio, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President O'Neil, and Secretary/Treasurer Wood attended a strategic planning meeting for the NEAFC. This planning meeting took place over the past two days in Springfield. This strategic planning meeting focus was on the future of the annual conference. One of the items that came from the meeting was there needs to be better communications between all groups who are working toward the same common objective and goals. Therefore, there was agreement that all conference business be discussed at the joint conference meeting on Friday morning, including any votes that would affect the annual conference. Therefore, on this day and immediately following the Division meeting a joint meeting will take place.

Meeting adjourned 11:30am.

Respectfully Submitted,  
John G Wood Jr., Secretary