

New England Division International Association of Fire Chiefs

Board of Director Meeting
November 6, 2003
Springfield, MA

Members Present:

President Jack Parow

1st VP William Weston

2nd VP Brian Thibeault

Sec/Treasurer John Wood

Inter. Director Roger Bradley

Exhibitors:

Judy Marshall

Guest:

Fred Stanley

State Vice Presidents

Stephen Allen, NH

Gerald Dio, MA

Michael O'Neil, VT

James Farrell, ME

Brian Hoxsie, RI

Not Present:

IAFC 2nd VP Robert DiPoli

Timothy Wall, CT

Immediate Past President

Chief Michael Lajoie

Board members met at 8am for a special meeting before the regular meeting to review and work on the draft strategic plan for the division. President Parow will make needed changes made by the board and will then email the new strategic plan to the officers of the division for distribution to the State Fire Chief's Association Presidents. The division officers will review the draft with their State Presidents and invite them to a meeting on December 4, 2003 to get their input on action items. This meeting ended at 10:00.

President Parow called the Board of Directors meeting to order at 10:15 and pledge to the flag.

Chief Lajoie gave invocation.

Secretary Report

Chief Wood presented the written minutes of the previous meeting. Chief Michael Lajoie made a motion to accept the minutes Chief Michael O'Neil seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Annual meeting minutes were presented for officers to read, they will be acted on at the next meeting.

Newsletter guidelines were distributed to the group and reviewed.

Badges were distributed to officers.

Motion by Chief Weston seconded by Chief Farrell to have both plaques designed by and purchased by Chief Dio for retired members. Motion Passed

Treasurer Report

Chief Wood distributed the treasurer's report showing that the checking account had a balance of \$9,381.42. The two CD's and the money market account had a combined value of \$49,458.19 as of 10/31/03 making the total cash available at \$58,839.61. A more detailed account of the records is attached. Motion was made by Chief Brian Hoxsie and seconded by Chief Michael Lajoie to pay all bills and to accept the treasurer's report. Motion Passed

International Directors Report

Chief Bradley spoke of the Wild Land Fire legislation briefing by the IAFC. Nancy Weaver from the IAFC sent out a News Alert regarding a Prime Time program on ABC about the Night Club Fire in West Warwick.

President Report

Chief Parow spoke about the membership alert from IAFC. Contact IAFC or see the web-page to sign up and get on the list for the alerts. There was discussion about sending too many letters both individual and form to the legislators, therefore, losing the effectiveness of sending them. The general feeling of the group was that you do not lose any effect and that the legislators want to hear from you. President Parow participated in the quarterly division teleconference with the IAFC. He attended the RI Fire Chiefs Association meeting in Block Island along with Secretary/Treasurer John Wood and VT State VP Michael O'Neil. He attended the Maine Fire Chiefs meeting where Chief Michael Lajoie received an award for Fire Chief of the Year.

President Parow would like to thank all the officers that attended the Strategic Planning meeting in NH. He also attended the Leadership Summit in Washington, DC sponsored by the IAFC and found it to be very informative.

Nextel has a priority service for their towers that allow first responders to access service before any other service is allowed for non first responders. They also have five (5) mobile towers and 5000 phones to bring to an emergency scene. They will and can fly in the equipment and service it as well. He believes the service is free during an emergency.

President Parow attended the NEAFC meeting in Killington, VT.

Committee Reports

The joint conference is June 23-27, 2004; President Parow would like everyone to arrive on Wednesday evening. There will be a joint dinner meeting for work assignments and to address other issues of the conference.

The contract for 2004-2006 was distributed to all the officers and discussed. Kudos' to the committee on the contract.

Seminar Committee

President Parow appointed Chief Brain Hoxsie, Chief Steve Allen, and Chief Timothy Wall to the committee. The committee will bring the complete package to the December 4, 2003, meeting for input and approval.

Logo, Branding, and the Banner Committee-Chief Brain Thibeault suggests reducing the States on the logo by 1/5 or 1/4 which he thinks would look better. Chief Thibeault made that a motion Chief Lajoie seconded the motion passed. Chief Thibeault will email the new look to all the officers for approval. Chief Thibeault will then have the new logo put on a banner and will get a plaque for the division booth.

State Vice Presidents Reports

Chief Hoxsie RI- Chief Retired Jerry Bessette has accepted a chief's position with the Barrington Fire Department. He is no longer retired. There is a teleconference coming up for the by-laws committee.

Chief Dio MA-Attended the Strategic Planning meeting in October and has met with the MA Fire Chiefs president and vice president. One of them will attend the meeting on December 4, 2003. Chief Dio is researching a standard uniform regulation for the fire service.

Chief Allen NH- Attended the Strategic Planning meeting in October. Chief Allen will be attending a retirement party for Donald Bliss, State Fire Marshal in December.

Chief Farrell ME-Chief Michael Lajoie received the Fire Chief of the Year award at the Maine Fire Chiefs Meeting in October. The web-page has been updated for the division along with the newsletter alerts for the IAFC. Maine Chiefs are putting a committee together to meet with the Maine Municipal Association of the City and Town Mangers.

Chief Michael O'Neil VT-Homeland Security Grants have been reviewed and awarded. There is a push to increase membership in the State.

Unfinished Business

Chief Weston thanks everyone for the help at the hospitality room in Dallas.

New Business

Chief Weston is working on a membership drive with the IAFC to promote new membership. He does not think it should be put on the State Vice Presidents to do a lone. President Parow wants to have a committee to work on membership. Chief Thibeault will chair and organize a plan.

The president appointed a By-laws committee to review and make changes. Chiefs Wood, Hoxsie, and Lajoie will make up the committee.

President Parow appointed himself and Chief Michael Lajoie to a committee to look into a Chaplin for the division.

Received a letter from Dan Lane requesting the division appoint four members to a group for the ICC updates. President Parow will appoint after the State Vice Presidents get back to him no later than the end of November with recommendations.

President Parow distributed job descriptions to the officers for discussion. The question is should these be included in the by-laws. The officers are to review and bring back any suggested changes to the December 4, 2003 meeting or email the president with ideas and/or suggestions.

Exhibitors Report

Judy Marshall thanks everyone for including the Vendors Association in the Strategic Planning process.

Other

Retirement Life Membership and Plaque Clarification

A fire chief must have 10 years of active service prior to retiring to qualify for life membership and a plaque. That is 10 years as an active fire chief and 10 years as a dues paying member of the IAFC. If a fire chief retires prior to 10 years and continues to pay his/her dues they then would qualify for life membership not a plaque.

Chief Lajoie thanked Chief Bradley for his help during a fire chief issue in Lewiston, Maine.

Meeting Adjourned 14:30

Respectfully Submitted,
John G Wood Jr., Secretary