

Congressional Fires Services Institute
National Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Senate Dirksen Building, Room G50
October 28, 2010

Call to Order 8:33am

- Steve Austin calls meeting to order, leads the Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman's Report – Steve Austin

- Noted Eddie Buchanan was unable to attend because of family reasons
- Review of the first half of the year
 - Economic problems have led to CFSI tightening its belt
 - Sales of apparatus are down 45% industry wide
- New Members of Congress do not know the fire services needs
 - Educate members of congress at state and local level
- Fundraising
 - NAC members must encourage their organization to attend the 2011 dinner
 - Must continue to pledge to foster nonpartisan cooperation in order to move the agenda of the fire services forwards.

Bill Webb – Introductions of attendees

Richard Serino; Deputy FEMA Administrator

- Discussed the importance of FEMA working with federal, state and local governments.
- FEMA worked with USAR teams in Haiti
- Emphasis on the importance of seeing the individual citizens affected by a disaster as members of the team, as a resource.
 - Educating local communities helps alleviate the workload for FEMA and first responders
- Questions – What is the feedback concerning the level of funding and support given to USFA?
 - There is always a need for more funding. FEMA is looking at ways to bring teams in quicker for disasters, having teams work together and creating team leaders for local fire services.
 - Meri-K stated the Home Safety Council is working on fire safety education materials for the section of the population who cannot read English. Send her an email for more information.
- Bill Webb presented Richard Serino with a painting.

Dr. Denis Onieal; United States Fire Administration

- National Fire Academy trained 120,000 people last year and is on schedule to train 120,000-130,000 people for the fiscal year of 2010.
- There are 3 types of evaluations trainees go through.
 - The first is an end of course evaluation.
 - The second is test format.
 - The third is an evaluation 3-6 months after training filled out by the student's supervisor who is given a list of the course objectives. There is a 60% response rate from the supervisors.
- Questions – Is the credentialing project for fire and emergency services personnel back on the front burner?
 - The 2005 major fire service group credentialing project has been approved by Homeland Security. They are in discussions to look for a small group of firefighters to deploy and create an association with the National Guard.
 - The recommendations and base credentialing from 2005 will be carried forward?

- Yes, as far as Denis Onieal knows.

Executive Director's Report – Bill Webb

- CFSI's 2010 fiscal year left us in somewhat good standing.
- 2010 Dinner was down a little in revenue, some of the loss was made up by sponsorship opportunities.
- Baseball outing in Philadelphia was a success, thank you to Fire Team USA.
- Associate's Club program needs more funding.
- 2011 Dinner
 - Seeking sponsors for the dinner, beginning an aggressive marketing campaign.
 - CFSI pavilion is a new feature at the dinner. It will allow NAC members and federal agencies to highlight their initiatives.
 - Excellence in Fire Services-Based EMS Award will be introduced. It will recognize fire departments for outstanding contributions and service in the field of emergency medical services.
- Monthly webinar program continues. Thank you to our 2010 speakers.
- CFSI educational programs include the Congressional Firefighter Training Program taking place on November 11th and the Congressional Ride-Along Program.
- Presented video describing the importance of AFG and SAFER programs.

Steve Austin introduced past chairmen.

- Stuart Nathan – Roman is doing well, will be 90 in December.

Break: 9:50am

Legislative Report – Sean Carroll

- Website has updated information regarding current legislation.
- Little to report at the moment because of the significant midterm election coming on Tuesday. It is unlikely that much legislation will move through the lame duck congress.
- After the election we will actively begin recruiting new members for the caucus who will be active. We will work on educating the new Members of Congress on what the caucus does and look to identify possible future leaders of the caucus.
- Would like NAC members to be more active in speaking with their government officials, especially in their home offices.
- The seminar schedule is up on the website. Wednesday the seminars will be on the Hill. Thursday the seminars will be at the hotel.

Development – Michael Alderfer

- 2011 Dinner
 - New interest in the dinner coming from trade shows.
 - Dinner dates are April 6th and 7th 2011
 - Tickets are now on sales, urge all NAC members to purchase tickets for tables.
 - Please book your hotel early.
 - If there is a need for smaller meetings during the dinner, please contact CFSI staff to help facilitate the meeting.
- MFRI is almost fully booked.
- Please donate to the Associates Club.
 - Meri-K: all NAC members should belong to the Associates Club. It is not possible to reach out for support if 100% of your key people are not members.

Joseph Kennedy; Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco Firearms, and Explosives (ATF)

- MATCH Act (H.R. 1727, S. 1684)
 - Creates an arsonist registry for convicted arsonists. The registry would be maintained by ATF and would only be accessible to law enforcement and fire investigators.

- Federal Fire Fighters Fairness Act (HR948, S599)
 - Would amend the US Code to create a presumptive disability for certain diseases.
 - The ATF wish to include fire investigators.
- Need to expose more congressional staffers to fire scenes and to educate them on the fire investigative process.
- Question – In reference to MATCH Act, what percentage of convicted arsonists are serial arsonists?
 - There is currently no research on the matter.
 - If there are any more questions, Joseph Kennedy can be reached by email at Joseph.Kennedy@atf.gov

Subcommittee Reports

- By laws: No Report.
- Ethics: No Report.
- Programmatic: Sean covered it in his report.
- Fundraising: Continue to fundraise.
- Membership: Several applications for membership were presented at the last meeting; some were deferred for review by the board.
 - Bill Webb: Application from ISO was unanimously accepted by the CFSI Board. ISO joined the NAC in July.

Meri-K Appy Presentation

- Home Safety Council has two new programs.
- Fire and Burn Safety Program for Children
 - Works with National Head Start Association to educate preschoolers and their parents about fire safety.
- Expert Network Academy launches in January. It is an online learning platform for educators. Includes modules of fall, choking, suffocation and poisoning prevention.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business

- **Resolutions**
 - One resolution was unanimously passed by the Resolution Subcommittee and given to this body to vote.
 - SAFER grant program can only be used for fire department that is increasing staffing. Temporary waiver authority was put in place that allowed department to use SAFER money to rehire people who had been laid off. It expired on September 30, 2010. Legislation has stalled to keep the waiver during recessions. Want to change the language to continue the waiver for one year.
- Question - Is one year enough?
 - Because the vehicle we are looking at will only apply to FY11
- Motioned by Ken LaSala; International Association of Fire Chiefs
- John Granby (FEMSA) seconded the motion
- No further discussion
- Unanimous vote to pass resolution

Ron Siarnicki

- Added names to the memorial in Emmitsburg. Only 80 names from 2009 added.
- There is a telecasting of the service and a live stream through Channel 9 in DC. 1.2 million webpage view in 5 days.

Next meeting scheduled for April 8, 2011, following the 23rd Annual National Fire and Emergency Services Dinner Adjournment: 11:30am by Steve Austin