

Congressional Fire Services Institute
National Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
District of Columbia Fire & EMS Museum
439 New Jersey Ave, NW; Washington D.C.

October 26, 2011

- Steve Austin calls meeting in to order. Asks members to stand as Pledge of Allegiance is conducted. Then introduced Bill Jenaway, CFSI President, for his remarks.
- Bill Jenaway welcomes everyone to meeting. Introduces the board members present.
- Steve Austin: Eddie Buchanan unable to attend. Helping in search efforts for a young man with autism that disappeared in the Richmond area. This is a very busy time for CFSI as Bill and Sean have been working diligently in educating Congress. Issues involving PSOB, appropriations, and the decline in state and local grants are all at the forefront of CFSI.
- **Bill Webb's report:**
 - Welcomes attendees and asks for feedback on the new venue. Thanks Walter Gold for allowing the meeting to be held at Engine 3.
 - Have completed our 2011 budget and operated slightly in the red
 - Cutting back on certain expenses in preparation for challenging year
 - Remain hopeful for a positive 2012 Fiscal Year.
 - Dinner. CFSI will raise the price of a dinner ticket from \$275 to \$295; hence the price for a standard table will be \$2950. The price increase was needed to offset the annual increase in Hilton charges. CFSI has not increased the ticket price in four years. Given the quality of the program and the mission CFSI performs, the CFSI Board determined that the increase was justified.
 - Outreach. CFSI continues to go to trade shows and conferences.
 - CFSI Board decided to name internship program in honor of the late-Robert J. Barraclough.
 - Getting ready to launch 2012 CFSI awards programs.
 - Conducting fire training day for Congressional staff on Friday, October 28th at the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute.
 - Webb interrupts remarks for introduction of special guest.
- Steve Austin introduces Congressman Gus Bilirakis (FL-9)
- Congressman Bilirakis

- Honor to be present at meeting.
- Familiar with all the great things that the fire services have done over the years.
- It has been a busy year for the House Homeland Security Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness and Response.
- Held briefing on October 25th on the impact of the emergency management response of Hurricane Katrina.
 - Great progress by FEMA post-Katrina but progress can still be made.
 - FEMA better in alerting the public..
- Committee has included a provision allocating the “D Block” to public safety in the Department of Homeland Security Authorization Bill.
- Committee has also held hearings on the WMD Prevention and Preparedness Act of 2011 to address how the measure would help prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from a WMD attack.
- Next week the Committee will receive an update from the Secret Service on their efforts of protecting the 2012 Republican and Democratic National Conventions. The Republican National Convention will be held in home state of Florida.
- Planning hearings on the development of new technologies and equipment for first responders.
- Continuing to monitor the appropriations process and negotiations. Supports increased funding for FIRE and SAFER programs.
- Thanks for keeping our country safe.

- **Bill Webb’s report (continued):**

- Continuing our webinar programs.
 - Sean Carroll will talk to you about legislative issues.
 - Traveling to different seminars, trade shows, and events.
 - Online newsletter and blogs help track what is going on in D.C.
- Questions?

- **Sean Carroll’s report:**

- Updated legislative memo in folders.
- Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee recently approved the President’s nomination of Chief Ernest Mitchell Jr. to be Administrator of the United States Fire Administration.
- House passed 2012 Homeland Security Appropriations bill. Funding level still down from fiscal year 2011. House did approve amendment to increase funding for FIRE and SAFER above the level initially proposed in the bill.
- CFSI is on Capitol Hill everyday sitting down with members of Congress looking to keep these programs going.

- Senate DHS Appropriations bill was approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee. Has slightly higher funding levels for FIRE and SAFER at \$375 million each, but once again down from FY11.
- FIRE/SAFER Reauthorization – H.R. 2269 introduced by Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson (TX-30), ranking member of House Science, Space, and Technology Committee.
- Committee majority will likely introduce their own version of the bill. New staff members on Capitol Hill not familiar with many of these programs so we are familiarizing them.
- Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee has approved the Fire Grants Reauthorization Act, S. 550, but with a sunset amendment, sponsored by Senator Coburn (OK), to eliminate the AFG and SAFER programs by October 1, 2016.
 - Working with allies on Capitol Hill to address the Coburn sunset.
- Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act has been reintroduced in the 112th Congress. Slightly modified from last version.
 - Support on the Hill for concept of fire sprinkler incentives but future status of the measure depends on what tax reform package will be approved by Congress.
- We are working to advance “D- Block” through Congress.
- “Super Committee” (Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction) has to put forth \$1.5 trillion in cuts over the next ten years by November 23rd.
- PSOB grant program is a major issue of concern. Senator Leahy has introduced S. 1696 intended to strengthen the program. The legislation includes a provision that will provide mandatory funding for disability benefits. The legislation also includes vascular rupture as an incident covered by the Hometown Heroes provisions.
 - Some issues with bill. Under the current regulations, fire and law enforcement cadets may not qualify for survivor and disability benefits. Instead of classifying “candidate-officers” as public safety officers, the bill creates a completely new category with stricter regulations. We are working to change this provision.
- Steve Edwards
 - 12% of fire services deaths happen in training.
 - Worried that training will not be covered and the North American Fire Training Directors (NAFTD) will be withholding their support for Senator’s PSOB bill.
- Sean Carroll
 - Covered in new bill if the training consists of hazardous, dangerous or strenuous activities.
 - Provisions very difficult to change once passed into law.

- Questions
 - Barry Kasinitz: Regarding difficulties in reauthorizing FIRE and SAFER programs. Would you be able to explain authorization funding verses appropriation funding of the bill? It seems to be very convoluted.
 - Sean Carroll: I can try but as you said it is very convoluted. DHS reauthorization bill was a one-year bill, but there was a proposed amendment to add on the FIRE and SAFER reauthorization bill which was a five-year reauthorization.
 - Barry Kasinitz: Traditionally, when Congress considered budget cuts they looked at reducing appropriation levels. Now, however, they are considering using reductions to authorization levels.
 - Sean Carroll: In meeting with House Committee on Science they said there will likely be lower authorization level.
 - Chief Robert Halton: Who can set authorization levels?
 - Barry Kasinitz: Each committee has a cap on how much they can spend on their programs.

- **Mike Alderfer report:**

- Last year, completed first dinner as the Director of Development at CFSI.
- New programs at dinner that were successful included stair climb and barbeque. Wish to grow programs in the coming years.
- Baseball game in September saw the Phillies play the Cardinals. There was a great turnout for this event. Always hard to plan an event in the fall but next year will try to get more people to attend.
- Associates Club has been growing every year and we appreciate our members' donations.
- Looking at new ways for the club to grow. The bundling program would allow members to move up in the Associates Club by bringing in new members.
- The 2012 Dinner will be May 2nd and 3rd. Tickets currently on sale.
- Sponsorships available at dinner, and developing new ideas on implementing sponsorships. Look forward to talking to anyone about sponsorship opportunities. Questions?

- Steve Austin introduces Dr. Denis Onieal

- **Presentation: Dr. Denis Onieal, Superintendent, National Fire Academy**

- Two and a half years ago an article was published about firefighter bad behavior.
- Coincided with a vehicular crash that claimed the lives of a firefighter's family. The driver that caused the crash was a drunk firefighter.
- Seeds of own destruction are inside their organization.

- Break
- **Presentation: Dr. John R. Hall Jr., Division Director, Fire Analysis and Research, National Fire Protection Association**
 - Third Needs Assessment of the U.S. Fire Service PowerPoint
 - On October 29th, states will be getting assessment reports, state specific fact sheets.
 - Extremely grateful to Bill Webb for getting the word out.
 - In the needs assessment, we ask “What do you have?” instead of “What do you need?”
 - Results on several aspects of training. The question asked was, “Are the people in your department formally trained for the mission that they are responsible for?” The results were good news, bad news. Numbers are down from 2001 report but there is still room for improvement.
 - Adequacy of Personnel
 - Need enough stations for adequate speed of response
 - Progress in cities but still seeing problems in rural areas
 - Personal protective or firefighting equipment
 - Self contained breathing apparatus
 - Personal protective clothing
 - Portable radios
 - Engines and pumpers
 - Few departments can handle unusually challenging incidents such as structural collapse and wildfires. Need for agreements to work together.
 - Progress in reducing needs but needs are still large. The smaller the community the greater the need.
 - Success requires continued momentum and commitment.
- Questions
 - Meri-K Appy: Is education for fire safety issues included within the study?
 - Dr. John Hall Jr.: Yes. Limited progress, but we did not have room to include that issue in the PowerPoint.
 - Meri-K Appy: Is there a sign of cost savings with specific resources?
 - Dr. John Hall Jr.: Compiled costs to deal with another 9/11. We could do some cost benefits on some of these resources.
- **Presentation: Maggie Wilson, Assistant to Firefighters Grant Program**
 - Have been looking at FY11 and its appropriation levels.
 - Made online system more user friendly with charts recording high, medium and low priorities within the grant guidance.
 - Had a criteria meeting for FY12 last week
 - Applications for grants will be different in the 2012 fiscal year
 - Changed questions in application
 - Availability of quick reference guides

- Scoring will be different with pre-score now counting for 50% of final grade and panel score counting for 50%
 - Hope that this year's process will be faster than years past. The number of applications is decreasing but the overall amount of money requested is increasing.
 - Application period for SAFER will begin around the end of November
 - Fire prevention application will most likely start mid to late January
 - There will be more outreach in the response and evaluation periods
 - More feedback for the organizations that don't get funded. Questions?
- **Presentation: Chief Tim Butters, Deputy Administrator, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration - US Department of Transportation**
 - Describes PHMSA as “a little known agency with a significant public safety mission.”
 - Responsible for 2.5 million miles of gas and liquid pipe lines.
 - Over 1 one million of hazmat shipments by air, rail ground and marine per day.
 - Annual estimated value of \$1.4 trillion.
 - Most of staff works in 10 regional offices across the country, and not in D.C.
 - Hazmat Safety Program
 - Ensure compliance by shippers and carriers with federal Hazmat regulations in partnership with FAA, FRA, FMCSA and US Coast Guard along with state and local public safety officials.
 - Safety in the transportation of hazardous materials.
 - Hazmat transportation emergency response training.
 - Shipment of lithium batteries in bulk by air cargo is a great concern due to the potential for spontaneous ignition and fire. Bulk shipment in passenger aircraft is prohibited.
 - Almost 2 million copies of the 2012 Emergency Response Guidebook will be shipped in February 2012 to the states for distribution (contact information can be found at www.phmsa.dot.gov).
 - Hazmat transportation by modes and pipelines are generally very safe. Nearly all shipments of hazardous materials arrive to their final destination without incident. The number of hazmat incidents is declining, along with related injuries and deaths. Pipeline related deaths and injuries, however, have been increasing.
 - Pipeline Safety Program
 - States Enforce safety federal pipeline safety regulations for intrastate and local distribution pipelines. PHMSA has direct enforcement over interstate transmission pipelines, as well as all the pipelines in Alaska and Hawaii.
 - Provides inspector certification training and require operators to provide training and information to local responders.

- PHMSA certifies state pipeline safety programs, including inspector certification.
 - Aging pipeline infrastructure, particularly in the older eastern cities, will be costly due to the complicated network of infrastructure.
 - Challenges for pipe line industry include increase in demand for natural gases, public perception of risk, and the repair, replacement or rehabilitation of older pipelines or obsolete materials.
 - Secretary LaHood's Pipeline Safety Call to Action
 - Reauthorization of pipeline safety bill.
 - Call on industry to step up efforts to identify high risk pipes and accelerate repair or replacement.
 - A national Pipeline Emergency Response Forum will held December 9th at DOT Headquarters in Washington to discuss how local emergency responders can better understand the pipeline risks in their communities and be better prepared to respond in the event of incident and how the pipeline industry can better support the emergency response community PHMSA is asking that a representative from each fire and emergency service organization can attend to ensure that all perspectives have the opportunity to participate.
 - Questions:
 - Jim Estep: Had experience with pipeline organizations and not coordinated with local and state systems. How could this be improved?
 - Tim Butters: Department of Transportation is working with the pipeline operators and industry associations to improve their understanding of emergency response safety issues.
- **Subcommittee Reports**
 - By-Laws: No report
 - Programmatic: No report
 - Fundraising: No report
 - Membership: No report
- **Resolutions**
 - **Safe Building Codes Act of 2011 (International Code Council)**
 - Sara Yerkes of the International Code Council: The adoption and enforcement of current model building and fire safety codes help assure that structures are safe, sound and sustainable.
 - Sara Yerkes: Move to approve resolution
 - Steve Muncy: Seconds motion
 - Motion approved without objection

- **Combating Counterfeit Goods and Online Theft (National Fire Protection Association)**
 - NFPA not present to introduce resolution. Resolution brought forward by NAC Chair Steve Austin.
 - Dennis Compton of the International Fire Service Training Association: Paragraph five of the resolution should be removed.
 - Dennis Compton: Moves to approve resolution
 - Kevin O'Connor: Seconds motion
 - Kevin O'Connor: Moves to amend and strike paragraph five
 - Harry Carter: Seconds motion
 - Amendment passes without objection
 - Motion approved without objection

- **Ethics**
 - Doug Aiken has started with Fire Service Reputation Management which discusses harassment, discrimination, and alcohol abuse. Not trying to pass as resolution yet but would appreciate feedback before final copy. Comments accepted by Doug Aiken until December 1st (daiken@imsasafety.org).

- **Unfinished Business**
 - Meri- K discusses SIDS and the safety issues for babies not sleeping in cribs.

- **New Business**
 - Dennis Compton states that the CFSI Strategic Plan has been developed for 2012-2014.

 - Kevin O'Connor raised the issue of Citizens for Fire Safety (CFFSI). The organization has been misleading the public about its mission in advancing public safety. CFFSI has used a variety of tactics to align itself to mainstream fire service organizations, including CFSI. They are funded largely by the chemical industry and attempt to portray themselves as an organic group of concerned citizens interested in fire safety. No one questions their right to advocate on their issues. However, the tactics they employ are sometimes offensive and designed to create an element of fear. Several IAFF State Associations including Vermont, Washington and Maine have expressed concern. Bill Webb indicated that several years ago CFSI sent Citizens for Fire Safety a letter directing to cease portraying itself as CFSI. The issue will be referred to the CFSI Board for review and action.

 - Kevin also raised the issue of polyurethane foam. Many fire service organizations have attempted to address the fire and life safety concerns of this product over the years. Chief Glenn Gaines has been working with

the Consumer Product Safety Commission on this issue. But, CPSC has been slow to react. In fact, Chief Gaines recently posted a useful article on Facebook comparing how Great Britain has more effectively dealt with the issue than our country has. Kevin related that he has had preliminary conversations with Energy and Commerce Committee Chair, Fred Upton, on this issue. It was suggested that CFSI take a leadership role in bringing stakeholders (fire service organizations, appropriate governmental agency, Congress, the polyurethane/flame retardant industries and code enforcement agencies) together to discuss this issue and hopefully address the safety issues surrounding the product. The matter was referred to the CFSI Board for review and action.

- Second call for new business
 - Dan Kaniewski donates to the Robert J. Barraclough Internship Program.
 - Ronald Siarnicki thanks members for help at National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Ceremony.
 - Third call for new business
 - Bill Webb announces holiday party will be December 13th. Thanks Walter Gold for hosting meeting.
- Meeting adjourned