

**Congressional Fire Services Institute  
National Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes  
354 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC**

**October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

**Chairman Eddie Buchanan Call to order – 8:30AM**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Chairman's Report – Eddie Buchanan**

- Thanked NAC members for their support and thanked his predecessors.
- Next year is the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of American Burning which justifies the federal government's role in fire and first responder issues.
- The grant programs continue to have positive impact on fire service.
  - John Hall's presentation at last year's meeting shows measurable results from grant programs.
- 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner is next year. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

**Vice Chair Report – Jim Dalton**

- Thanked everyone for electing him to serve as Vice Chair. Notes that Buddy Dewar with NFSA is in attendance
- Have met with Bill Webb for a briefing on the workings of CFSI and the NAC. Attended a kitchen cabinet meeting to participate in CFSI's strategic planning.
- Looking forward to the 25<sup>th</sup> Dinner.
- Excited about working as Chairman of Programmatic Subcommittee.
- Look forward to attending the MFRI program this year.

**Executive Director Report – Bill Webb**

- Noted that Bill Kehoe, Steve Austin, and Jim Estep have attended all twenty-four dinners.
- Sean Carroll is working with Jim Dalton on the seminar program.
- We're working with a production company on marketing the dinner.
- Packet contains first of our dinner ads that features pictures of notable previous speakers. Conducting a drawing for a free dinner ticket and one night hotel stay for people who can list all speakers correctly.
- Noted that award programs will open in December. We are looking for excellent applicants
  - Putting together a compendium of previous winners of the Excellence in Fire-Based EMS Award.
- Listed ways in which CFSI delivering its message

- Presentations at conferences across the country.
  - A recent Hill briefing featuring John Hall, Steve Edwards and Vicki Pritchett that focused on the role of the United States Fire Administration.
  - CFSI Webinar programs featuring federal officials and national fire service leaders.
  - CFSI Alerts highlighting legislative activities
  - Facebook and Twitter
- Thanked Congressman Rob Andrews for helping us secure the Cannon Caucus Room for the NAC meeting.

### **Legislative Report – Sean Carroll**

- Welcome
  - Legislative Memo in folders.
  - Snap shot of issues before Congress.
- Appropriations
  - Congress has approved Fiscal Year 2013 Continuing Resolution through March 27, 2013.
    - Unlikely to complete work on funding bills until 2013.
    - FY13 DHS spending bill
      - H.R. 5855 passed House June 7<sup>th</sup>.
      - S. 3216 passed Appropriations Committee on May 22<sup>nd</sup>.
      - Both bills fund FIRE /SAFER at FY12 level of \$337.5m each.
      - Reductions to USFA.
        - House - \$42,460,000 (-\$1.578m from FY12)
        - Senate - \$44,020,000 (-\$18,000 from FY12)
      - Working with Fire Caucus leadership to get funding moving in the right direction.
      - Bill W mentioned briefing for Congressional staff
        - CFSI helped organize a visit for congressional staff to the National Fire Academy earlier this year.
        - Support for USFA and fire service programs is growing on the Hill, but we need to continue outreach.
    - Administration's FY13 proposal
      - \$335m each for FIRE/SAFER.
      - National Preparedness Grant Program – consolidates a dozen Homeland Security grants into one program with funding going directly to the states.
        - Does not include FIRE/SAFER.
        - CFSI and a number of fire/law enforcement/local government groups have registered concern.
        - Congress agrees with our organizations' concerns but DHS wants to move forward anyway.

- FIRE/SAFER Reauthorization
  - 
  - S. 550 approved by the Senate HSGAC
    - Similar legislation introduced in the House by Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson (TX-30)
    - S. 550 contains many of our recommendations, but there are differences
    - Senate/House authorizers have developed a compromise that contains most of what the fire organizations have requested
    - Strategizing for lame-duck session
- USFA Reauthorization
  - S. 2218 introduced by Senator Lieberman (CT) on March 21, 2012
    - Approved by HSGAC on May 16<sup>th</sup>
    - Would like Senate to consider during lame-duck session
  - H.R. 6229 introduced by Congresswoman Judy Biggert
    - Very similar to Senate bill
- Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act (H.R. 1792/S.1035)
  - Outlined in legislative memo
  - Hoping for a tax package in the lame-duck or early 2013 we can attach bill to, as well as several other fire service tax bills we are working on
  - Jim Dalton adds that they are staying the course on fire sprinkler and thanks the reps of the fire groups and Fire Sprinkler industry. Starting to see progress.
- Safe Building Codes Incentive Act (H.R. 2069)
  - Working with BuildStrong Coalition as well as a number of the NAC organizations
  - Provides states with additional post-disaster grant funds if they adopt and enforce state-wide building codes
  - Slim chance of passage this year, but building support
- We have a great deal of support on Capitol Hill, but we need to continue outreach
  - Organizations are working very closely on issues
- Seminar schedule is in packets
  - Thank you to Programmatic Subcommittee for work on schedule

### **Director of Development Report – Mike Alderfer**

- Fundraising since last NAC
  - Silent Auction
    - Most successful auction to date – in terms of items auctioned and money raised
    - Thanks Firehouse Magazine
  - Day at the Ballpark
    - Great turnout
    - Thanks Fire Team USA and National Fire Sprinkler Association
  - 25<sup>th</sup> Dinner dates May 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>, 2013
    - Hotel Rooms can be booked using the code: **CFS**

- Sponsorship prospectus is located in the folders
- Tables will cost \$2,950 – same as last year and will fulfill dues requirement
- We are looking into a small exhibit area for NAC members and federal agencies at the Hilton and will get more details as they become available.
- Urged everyone to join the Associates Club
- The annual Congressional Fire Training Day will take place on November 16<sup>th</sup>
  - Thanks Steve Edwards and MFRI for hosting

**Presentation – Dr. Robert Griffin**, Science and Technology Directorate, First Responders Division, Department of Homeland Security

- *Refer to the copy of Dr. Griffin's presentation that was included in the packet of information*

**Presentation - Cathie Patterson**

- We opened SAFER
  - Needed special permission to bring in panelists to review 6000 applications
  - Able to put out a few awards at the end of September
- Challenges for this fiscal year is with the Fire Prevention and Safety Grants
  - Have not received guidance on that. Hopefully in December or January
- Operating under a Continuing Resolution until March, 2013 which means there will be an award delay
- We have two people on staff to dig through data which we can use for funding priorities
- With current funding we will be turning down 87% of applicants
  - Working on turn-down notification process
  - We hope to give feedback on why
  - Hoping to do better at giving feedback
- We are publishing a widget list
  - List of items purchased and will help build a case for federal funding
  - Working with USFA on needs assessment
- Questions:
  - **Giff Swaney** asked about Mirco-grants
  - **PATTERSON**
    - Will be discussing the possibility of micro-grants in the annual criteria meeting
    - Micro-grants mean reporting requirements are lower. It is quick procurement and makes draw-down happen faster so it is off the books

**Presentation – Glenn Gaines, Deputy US Fire Administrator**

- Greetings from Chief Ernie Mitchell
- Noted he was appointed March 30<sup>th</sup> 2009 and a few days later came to speak at NAC and asked if there was a possibility to come together as a group and have an impact
- “Fire is Everyone’s Fight”

- Thanked Jim Crawford and Meri-K and USFA for leading the effort with 24 organizations to promote “Fire is Everyone’s Fight”
- Created videos for local and national media and voiced PSAs that are downloadable
- Focused on most at risk
- Sequestration
  - Put together a group to look at sequestration
    - Sequestration will affect everything we do
    - \$4 million dollar reduction in USFA’s budget that would take us to prior 2002 funding or 13% cut
    - Retaining training, collection and analysis of data, research, infrastructure updating
    - National Fire Academy will lose some courses as cost is born-out of travel increases and travel costs rising 24%. Cancel 30 offerings next year
      - Focused on courses that require updating
      - Look at most demand that matches up with most at risk
- Working on extended learning and getting education to firehouses
  - Invest in training programs and state training facilities.
- Fire growth patterns show deployment of 5 minutes no longer works.
  - Losing key building infrastructure in 3 minutes.
  - Aging population present clear and present danger
  - We will reach a point where firefighters won’t be able to reach people in time.
  - Looking to reduce nuisance alarms
  - Development of lower octaves for alarms for younger and older populations.
  - Increase in number of deaths in citizens that are trying to escape
  - Bringing together key members of the Fire Service community for a meeting at MFRI on December 11-12, 2012 to discuss residential fire safety. Issues will cover the built environment and tactics for responding to home fires.
- New risks facing fire service
  - Two states have approved driverless vehicles and UAV
  - Alternative fuels
- American Burning is 40 years old. It is time to bring stakeholders together and look at state of risk. Where have we been, where are we now and where are we going?
  - Looking at holding a meeting in Spring of 2013
- Questions:
  - **Bill Webb:** Can you give some details?
  - **GAINES:**
    - Working on forum and have talked with UL, NIST, NFPA
    - Steps
      - Science behind growth patterns
      - Mechanism in terms of environment.
        - New products in furnishings and floor space layout

- Impact on Demographics
  - Aging, less nimble
- Implications for FF what are some of the success and failures and how should that be infused in training programs
- How do we move forward?
- **Michael Granados:** Are you considering modern lightweight materials?
- **GAINES:** We will discuss that subject matter
  - Goal to get consensus on clear and present danger to US population

### Subcommittee Reports

- **By-Laws** – No Report
- **Ethics** – No Report
- Programmatic – Jim Dalton
  - Notes that Sean covered seminar program in folder
- **Resolutions** – Steve Austin
  - NFF Resolution
    - Support vulnerability risk assessment program
  - Chief Adam Thiel presents resolution
    - Started with Chief Kelvin Cochran
    - An on-line application to assess vulnerability to hazards and risks
    - Adopted by NFFF and received funding from USFA and Honeywell
      - 5-Phase project
        1. literature review
        2. Taking information and creating logic model for web-based application
        3. Set of requirements
        4. Software development
        5. Roll out
      - Project is moving forward well. Phase 4 in early 2013
      - Enlist partners from outside Fire Service
  - Questions - None
  - **Motion to adopt**
    - **Denny Compton moves**
    - **John Granby seconds**
    - **Approved unanimously**
- **Fundraising** – No Report
- **Membership** – No Report

**Unfinished Business** – No unfinished business

## **New Business – No new Business**

### **Motion to adjourn**

- **Steve Austin moves**
- **Denny Compton seconds**
- **Meeting Adjourned**

### **Attendance**

Austin, Steve	International Association of Arson Investigators
Brooks, Paul	Center for Public Safety Excellence
Brower, Fred	Insurance Services Office (ISO)
Buchanan, Eddie	International Society of Fire Service Instructors
Collins Eggerman, Diane	Center for Campus Fire Safety
Compton, Dennis	International Fire Service Training Association
Dalton, Jim	National Fire Sprinkler Association
Edwards, Steve	North American Fire Training Directors
Eisner, Harvey	Firehouse Magazine
Estopp, Jim	CFSI Board of Directors/National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications
Finger, Dave	National Volunteer Fire Council
Gibson, Hugh "Skip"	Insurance Services Office (ISO)
Goldstein, Jim	International Association of Fire Chiefs
Granados, Michael	International Municipal Signal Association
Granby, John	Fire and Emergency Manufacturers and Services Association
Hamins, Anthony	National Institute of Standards and Technology
Hedrick, Cathy	National Fallen Firefighters Foundation
Housewright, Meghan	National Fire Protection Association
Kasinitz, Barry	International Association of Fire Fighters
Kehoe, Bill	Institution of Fire Engineers - USA Branch
Kelly, Patrick	National Society of Executive Fire Officers
LaSala, Ken	International Association of Fire Chiefs
Moore, Dave	International Association of Wildland Fire
Neitch, Deborah	International Association of Arson Investigators
Pritchett, Vickie	National Fire Sprinkler Association
Sharman, Craig	SimplexGrinnell
Spencer, Bill	National Association of State Fire Marshals
Swayne, Giff	CFSI Board of Directors
Thiel, Adam	National Fallen Firefighters Foundation
Wallace, Sean	International Code Council