

**Congressional Fire Services Institute  
National Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes  
Phoenix Park Hotel, Washington, DC**

December 11, 2014

**Call to Order: 8:32 am**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Harvey Eisner Recognition** - Moment of Silence

- *Note 20 page tribute in Firehouse magazine*

**Roll Call & Introductions**

**Reports**

**Chairman's Report – Jim Dalton**

- Thanks for opportunity to chair committee
- Reflection on role as Chairman
  - Help CFSI grow financially and in terms of its impact on Capitol Hill
  - More firmly solidify CFSI's financial standing
- Objective/outcome of the CFSI strategic plan
  - Create major funding streams – plan calls for 80% of revenue from the dinner, 20% from other sources
  - Maintain CFSI sponsors and dinner as key revenue
  - Ideas for additional revenue
    - a. "Text message" contribution campaign
    - b. Expand the corporate contribution campaign
    - c. Develop annual raffle program
    - d. Utilize social media for fundraising
    - e. Utilize dinner to grow Associates Club Program
    - f. Sponsor/host additional programs that would focus on other critical issues
- As revenue increases CFSI can:
  - Hire staff for marketing and public relations efforts
  - Move office to more suitable work environment
- All ideas are encouraged, please forward them to CFSI
- Identify easier efforts first and work on those to bring in money initially, and then work on other more challenging items
- Associate Club Program
  - NAC members should become members - primary responsibility
- Internship Program - need funds to obtain and keep interns that assist CFSI to fulfill its mission

**Vice Chairman's Report – Doug Aiken**

- Thank you to Dennis Compton for leading strategic planning sessions

- Look forward to working, learning more and supporting CFSI related activities
- Communications Update - location and accuracy of wireless of 911 calls
  - FCC recently released proposed rule regarding indoor location for wireless 911 calls
  - Two public safety organizations worked directly with wireless companies and submitted comments
    - These comments greatly watered down the FCC's original efforts
    - National fire and law enforcement organizations were not included in discussions with the wireless companies
  - Comments to FCC due on Monday (12/15/14) - CFSI may comment as an organization
  - CFSI NAC organizations need to ensure original efforts by FCC are not watered down
  - International Municipal Signal Association will comment on docket
  - Need to convince FCC to go back to original proposal
- Questions, Answers, Comments
  - Kevin O'Connor, IAFF - FCC needs to understand that the two groups do not speak on behalf of public safety. NAC needs to be clear to the FCC that the two organizations only represent about 2% of public safety
  - Two groups met with 4 major carriers before any other entities/organizations knew about it
  - Doug Aiken - Consensus plan submitted by APCO and NENA relies on technology that is not proven. Lots of issues still need to be addressed.
  - FCC needs to give everyone a chance to comment and participate in the process
  - Bill Jenaway – communication issues were discussed with CFSI Board and they support those views of the NAC

**Presentation – B. Todd Jones, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives**

- Learning about the work and importance of the relationship with national fire service across the country
- Fire arms, explosive, and arson make up much of ATF's work.
- Most arson investigations are prosecuted in state court.
- **ATF needs to strengthen relationship with fire service and NAC groups. We are looking for partnerships.**
- ATF has good relationship with state and local entities
- ATF has 4,500 FTE; smaller than LAPD
- ATF is not scaled to work effectively unless they have partnerships.
- **Over the next year, whatever we need to do, we need to find more opportunity to work together.**
  - ATF does a lot of work with IACP.
  - ATF doesn't do enough with the fire service on fire/arson missions.
  - ATF is not first responders. How many FD's have skilled trained arson capabilities.
- ATF has excellent facilities:
  - Annandale - great fire lab. Re-creates fires to obtain origin, how it spreads, etc. National Center for Explosives and Research
  - Front Royal (VA) - canine training program. Accelerant detective and bombs, etc.
- Over last 18 months - 200 new special agents were hired. Sequestration, etc. hurt, but agency is getting healthier.

- Don't dissolve the ATF - don't just advocate on Capitol Hill for budgetary concerns, but for substantive causes.

#### **Executive Director's Report – Bill Webb**

- Thank you to FAMA/FEMSA GAC for sponsoring the CFSI reception
- Thank you to the National Fire Sprinkler Association for sponsoring breakfast for the NAC meeting
- CFSI is a lean operation - as we discuss initiatives, CFSI looks for NAC members to support, give advice and direction to CFSI.
- Ended budget year September 2014 slightly in the red.
- Hockey Game - thank you to Vickie Pritchett and Common Voices for support of the annual event
- Silent Auction – held at Firehouse Expo
- Internship – want to get interns year around. Working with Steve Edwards to engage students from University of Maryland. CFSI internships are paid. Contact CFSI if you have candidates interested in internships.
- CFSI conducted numerous presentations and attended a number of conferences and trade shows. Also had articles published in trade journals and conducted webinars.
- Fundraising & Marketing
  - CFSI convened a business advisory group at FRI in Dallas to gain insight into what fire service organizations think about CFSI and how to get them engaged to support efforts. Outside consultant helped with this effort.
  - CFSI is looking to develop and enhance their marketing efforts.
- 2015 Dinner – changed title/name of dinner (now a symposium/dinner) to put more focus on the learning aspect of program, i.e. seminars, opportunity for Hill visits, etc.
- CFSI Board approved motion to increase price of program from \$295 to \$325. NAC membership will increase to \$3,250.
- Dinner theme is the “Future Depends on Informed Leaders.” Need to get next generation of leaders involved.
- CFSI Awards Program will launch next week. Starting process early and will end early.
  - Working to change awards program presentation at dinner to keep the audience engaged.
- Fundraising efforts are a driving force to be able to keep CFSI staff
- Congressional Fire Services Caucus numbers are good but we need to increase membership and get more members engaged. CFSI looks to NAC members to reach out to their MOC to get them engaged.
- Questions, Answers, Comments
  - Kevin O'Connor, IAFF – Rep. Mike Bost, IL - former firefighter, new freshman, maybe he can help with caucus recruitment.

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

- Upcoming seminar program is in folders.
- Thank you to subcommittee for helping put the seminar program together
  - Did something different this year with an open call for presentations
  - Helps to ensure programs put together are going to be appropriate

- Most panelists are finalized
- Finalizing MOU with Columbia Southern University - CEU's for those attending seminars
- Lost 42 caucus members following November elections - mostly retirements.
  - Approximately 200 current caucus members...was once over 300. Need quality over quantity, but also need to get numbers up.
  - Members are more eager to sign up when they hear from constituents in their districts - local firefighters.
- Victories on Capitol Hill:
  - Increase in FIRE/SAFER Grants for FY14
  - Farm Bill - removed language that could negatively impact state "fire-safe" cigarette laws
  - IRS ruled volunteer fire departments do not need to comply with the employer mandate in the Affordable Care Act.
  - DOD - reversed to halt access to military equipment
  - Every congressman has firefighters as voters, and a fire house around the corner from their district office
- Omni bus will be passed with exception of DHS funding. DHS will operate on a continuing resolution through February 2015.

#### **Presentation – Dr. Lori Moore, International Association of Fire Fighters**

- The National Fire Operations Reporting System (NFORS)
- Project goals – assure adequate fire resources, optimize fire operations, reduce firefighter injury and death, minimize civilian injury and death, and minimize property loss.
- Need input from fire service to move forward. Creating software to use locally.
- Options - connect directly with NFIRS; use software vendors many fire departments are already using today or use NFORS to incorporate data with NFIRS.
- Must have fire service data in real-time. Getting information two years later is no longer viable.
- What's Next - how do we now get the data out to stakeholders for real time access? Where do we go from here with the fire service data?
- Questions, Answers, Comments
  - Dennis Compton – will this program roll out with decision making scenarios - is this included? Real live scenarios on how to use this?
  - Dr. Lori Moore – Yes, this will happen.
  - Steve Edwards – who is going to fund this moving forward - AGF grant for 3 years, then what?
  - Dr. Lori Moore – Emergency Performance, Inc. (<http://911perform.org>) will house data, then perhaps NIST? Still up in the air right now, will be part of discussion at next stakeholders meeting.
  - Tony O'Neil – NYC system is doing this right now. NFORS is similar to this program
  - March 2015 is next meeting.

#### **Subcommittee Reports**

##### Ethics – Doug Aiken

- No reporting activity

### Programmatic – Doug Aiken

- Thank you to Sean Carroll for producing the seminar program information
- NAC members are encouraged to get the seminar information out to their membership and support the program

### Resolutions – Steve Austin

- No resolutions to consider
- Purpose of committee is to encourage and screen resolutions.
- Not too early to think about the NAC meeting following the 2015 dinner.
  - Committee can help to vet resolutions and help formulate content language for resolutions

### Fundraising – Jim Dalton on behalf of Bobby Halton

- Please forward any fundraising ideas and suggestions to CFSI
- Questions, Answers, Comments
  - Vicki e Pritchett – encourages NAC members to take the time to join the Associates Club. Send email to five people to encourage them to join as well.

### Membership – Chief Dennis Compton

- Suggests NAC members take Associates Club forms to their own board members and get them to join.
- Subcommittee was recently reconstituted – Dennis Compton, Jim Dalton, Tony O’Neill, Steve Edwards, Bill Webb (Ex-Officio)
- Committee met on Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> via conference call.
  - Reviewed two applications. Common Voices and Cumberland Valley Volunteer Firemen’s Association
  - Common Voices
    - a. An advocates' coalition incorporated as a 501(c)(3) in 2010 in Tennessee. These are individuals who have been directly affected by fire. By bringing their voices together, they hope to educate others regarding fire and its devastating impact.
    - b. The Common Voices advocates are working hard to raise our nation’s awareness about the deadly impact of fire. Each of the advocates has first-hand experience with the impact of fire in that they have lost a family member in a fire, or they are a burn survivor themselves. Their stories are real and their message is one of hope for our nation.
  - Cumberland Valley Volunteer Firemen’s Association
    - a. Mission Statement: *Providing firefighters and emergency responders with training, leadership, and fraternalism for more than a century.*
    - b. Founded in 1901 as a nonprofit association of fire departments along the Cumberland Valley Railroad (CVRR) between Harrisburg, PA and Harrisonburg, VA, the CVVFA is an early example of a public-private partnership between government, the fire service, and the private sector (railroad). The CVVFA’s early work centered on the standardization of firefighting equipment and practices between the fire companies in four states along and adjacent to the rail corridor, with the CVRR benefiting from improved fire protection to its infrastructure and rolling stock.

- c. The CVVFA is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation incorporated in Pennsylvania in 1950, and maintains its home office in Hagerstown, MD. The Association's rolls number over 1300 members from 30 states and the District of Columbia, with members including not just firefighters, but also participants from a wide cross section of the public safety community from across the nation.

- **Motion – to accept recommendation of membership subcommittee to approve the membership of Common Voices into the membership of the NAC**
  - Approved – Seconded by Anthony O'Neill
  - Motion Passed (all in favor - none opposed)
- **Motion – to accept recommendation of membership subcommittee to approve the membership of the Cumberland Valley Volunteer Firemen's Assn. into the membership of the NAC**
  - Approved – Seconded by Jim Dalton
  - Motion Passed (all in favor - none opposed)

**Presentation – Craig Sharman & Fernando Gomez, Joint Tyco/Honeywell presentation: FIRE SAFETY IN BRAZIL**

- Santa Maria night club fire similar to fire in Rhode Island (referring to Station Club fire in West Warwick)
- Fire safety landscape in Brazil needs improvement/reforms.
- Tyco/Honeywell – approach with Brazil, we experienced this and we have suggestions to offer
- World Cup 2014 and then with the Olympics 2016 – need to improve perception globally about fire protection in Brazil. They want a good perception.
- Measure introduced into national government (Brazilian National Congress) – sets up a life safety framework by granting powers to third parties to develop codes at the state and local levels. Measure has enforcement penalties, construction licensing requirements, etc. General policies that can have teeth moving forward.
- Post legislative initiatives include development of a Brazil life safety code, training of local authorities about modern fire equipment and code enforcement, and development of public fire prevention infrastructure.

**Unfinished Business – none**

**New Business**

Meri - K Appy – Vision 20/20

- Jim Crawford sends his regards
- Please visit website [Homesafetyvisit.org](http://Homesafetyvisit.org) – online guide for fire departments to conduct effective home safety visits. Model home visits video is posted as well.
- Another project – apps. that can be downloaded. All resources are free
- Webinar went well with approx. 160 participants. Need to get word out even more.

Sara Yerkes – ICC

- Beginning code development. Cloud-based process for better participation. Get involved.
- Expanded adoption cycle for 6 years – ICC has concerns.
- Please join the Coalition for Current Safety Codes

- Launching outreach campaign - educate legislators about building safety codes. Why jurisdictions should stay current with building codes.

Shane Ray – National Fire Sprinkler Association

- Why are issues being worked on in absent or around the USFA?

**Adjournment – 11:20 am**

Jim Dalton – Thanks to everyone for their personal commitment. Have a safe holiday season.

Motion to Adjourn – Denny Compton

Seconded – Doug Aiken

**CFSI NAC MEETING ATTENDANCE**

Jim Dalton; NFSA (NAC Chair)

Doug Aiken; IMSA (NAC Vice-Chair)

Bill Jenaway; CFSI Board of Directors

Giff Swayne; CFSI Board of Directors

Bill Webb; CFSI

Sean Carroll; CFSI

Sylin Bynoe; CFSI

Steve Edwards; NAFTD

Kevin O'Connor; IAFF

Vickie Pritchett; NFSA

Anthony Hamins; NIST

Roger Krupp; IAAI

Deborah Neitch; IAAI

Mike McAdams; NFORS

Tom Hayden; CCFS

Diane Eggerman; CCFS

Randy Roxson; USA Sprinkler Fitters

Preet Bassi; CPSE

Tim Sendelbach; Firehouse

Ronald Farr; UL

Justin Arnold; ISFSI

Dave Finger; NVFC

Ken LaSala; IAFC

Ron Siarnicki; NFFF

Bill Kehoe; IFE

Dave Moore; IAWF

Nicole Testa Boston; SFPE

Bill Spencer; NASFM

Craig Sharman; Tyco/SimplexGrinnell

Sara Yerkes; ICC

Mike Natchipolsky; FireRescue1/Fire Chief

Ryan Pietzsch; VFIS

Shane Ray; NFSA

John Granby; FEMSA

Lee Morris; FAMA

Steve Muncy; AFSA

Hugh Gibson; ISO

Anthony O'Neill; Pro Board

Dennis Compton; IFSTA

Steve Austin; IAAI

Sarah Owen; UL

Guests:

B. Todd Jones; ATF (Presenter)

Lori Moore; IAFF (Presenter)

Fernando Gomez; Honeywell (Presenter)

Rod Ammon; Stonehouse Media

Meri-K Appy; Vision 20/20

Dhiren Chauhan; Motorola

Ross Arends; ATF