

**CONGRESSIONAL FIRE SERVICES INSTITUTE
NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

Phoenix Park Hotel
Washington, D.C.

December 16, 2015

Call to Order (Jim Dalton), Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance

- Introductions

Comments – Bill Jenaway, President

- Thank you for the Holiday Party last night
- Thanks for everyone's support of CFSI

Reports

Chairman – Jim Dalton

- In the near future we need to develop a new strategic plan for beyond 2016
- Focus as Chairman:
 - CFSI current office space is not super great
 - Need to address pay for staff.
 - Natural disaster or terror attack around time of dinner would cut all funding
 - Need to raise 20% of dinner intake (\$140,000) at other times
 - Fundraising ideas are good, but it's not as easy to implement
 - National Fire Sprinkler Association: \$26,000 for CFSI move (furnishings, continuing fundraising effort and the rest will go into the budget)

Executive Director – Bill Webb

- Looking for a new CFSI office in Rosslyn; looking to move in April
- Biggest challenge is the fundraising dinner
 - Dates are set so far in advance
 - We are working to make sure we deliver a great program and people can still meet on the Hill to discuss issues with staffers/Congressmen who are there
 - We are looking for ideas for how to get involvement
 - Additional costs for us if we don't meet minimum food & beverage and room requirements
- Hilton contract takes us through 2018. We're looking beyond 2018 for a venue
- Three options:
 - (1) Washington Hilton, (2) Gaylord, (3) Marriot Marquis
 - Conducted site visits with CFSI Board Member Giff Swayne at Hilton and Gaylord
 - Both properties submitted proposals that included many options
- CFSI Board wants input from all stakeholders
 - Must let hotels know our decision by the end of this year
- *Refer to attached PowerPoint presentation for information Webb presented about both properties.*
- **Sarah Yerkes:** What other hotels are there near the Gaylord for overspill?

- **Bill Webb:** There are five other hotels. We are not going to sign any contracts with the other properties, but folks will have the option to make their own reservations
- **Bill Spencer:** question about drive time to each hotel
 - **Bill Webb:** drive times are based off of a Mapquest, which doesn't account for rush hour traffic
 - **Bill Spencer:** Gaylord seems to be more of a self-contained conference area. Most of the people who come to the dinner want to go to the Hill and it just seems like it's easier to get back and forth between the Hilton and the Hill than out the Gaylord and back; DC has more things to do for everybody
- **Steve Muncy:** How do you think the Gaylord location will affect Congressional representation at the dinner?
 - **Bill Webb:** We've gotten input from Caucus leadership. Some of the members did say that they'll go wherever the event is and some of the others have concerns about going out there, so it's kind of 50/50 and noncommittal
- **Steve Muncy:** Do we have cancellation insurance (event insurance) on the dinner?
 - **Bill Webb:** We do not have that. I've looked at it before, but it's really expensive
 - **Steve Muncy:** It's not anymore –one devastating event can do you in
- **John Granby:** Are we looking farther out six years or so for Marriot availability as a possible change in venue instead of looking at just a 3-4 year period?
 - **Bill Webb:** I talked with the Marriott about 2019-2021 and they are completely booked. They aren't even taking phone calls for beyond 2021.
 - **John Granby:** Brought up the fact that moving the event will cause a rebranding of the dinner from a Washington based business/Hill event to what some people perceive of the Gaylord with the hotel and the casino – mental perception of the dinner might change and we might lose some of what we have now
- **Ken LaSala:** If we move out to the Gaylord, how would we deal with transportation? Especially for people with early meetings.
 - **Bill Webb:** We would have an earlier shuttle service (one normally starts at 7:30 a.m.) We would look into asking local departments if they could help out in that area to augment our shuttle system
- **Dave Moore:** For our membership, there is a benefit to saying we're coming into the District because most people who fly in from out west really rely on the Metro and a change to the Gaylord might deter a few people
- **Barry Kasinitz:** Gaylord is great. It has better rooms, more room, interesting community. Shares same concerns about perception of being in DC
- **Jim Dalton:** Moving the dinner outside the city will rebrand it. If we stay at the Hilton, we have the whole Hilton to ourselves, which leads informal communication (people you want to see will be around in lobby) – “we own the place” mentality
- *CFSI Vice President Jim Estep offered some thoughts of his own that were not included in Bill Webb's presentation.*
- **Jim Estep:**
 - Gaylord: The National Harbour is basically a small city...it was a \$4 billion project...it is the largest convention center/hotel in Washington region
 - Gaylord is a Marriott from management perspective
 - MGM is building a huge casino/resort and small hotel
 - Gaylord handled a large 6,800 people Air Force conference very well

- Secretary of AFA mentioned Gaylord facility & how marvelous it was
- Branding: a lot of major organizations are moving out of Washington
- Transportation is important; no trouble getting in and out of National Harbour: shuttle from Harbour to Alexandria
- They are building condos by the Washington Hilton
- The Gaylord could attract more families to our program which would energize our program.
- **Dennis Compton**
 - Gaylord is absolutely beautiful
 - Bigger decision than just picking facility
 - Gaylord will rebrand the dinner
 - Government budgets might not have room for transportation to Gaylord
 - Is it worth the risk to move the dinner to the Gaylord?
 - Denny tries to look at dinner through different eyes – imagines it for the future of the fire service
 - Suggests that we talk to young people who came to dinner for the first time (and DC for the first time) and see what impressed them/what they liked
- **Sarah Yerkes:** commented on what Denny said
 - For a fire Marshall coming from Jackson Hole, Wyoming seeing a room full of 2,000 of her peers was career changing moment
 - Dinner is a fundraiser, but it's purpose is to bring people in the fire service together

Presentation of Legislator of the Year Award – The Honorable Steny Hoyer (MD-5), United States House of Representatives

- Intro by Jim Estepp
- Pleased and proud to work with fire services and serve as Co-Chair of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus
- Number one priority is to give resources to firefighters to come home safely every time
- National and local partnership is so important (local responders respond to national issues like 9/11)
- We have a responsibility to help those who got hurt in the line of duty
- Optimistic for second session of Congress
- Recently enacted four pieces of legislation, bipartisan with majority
 - Critical import/export work – significant majority supported measure.
 - Democrats and Republicans rewrote No Child Left Behind
 - Bipartisan highway deal – significant majority
 - Work on Visa waiver program
- Need to come together nationally for fire services

Break

Presentation – Tom Harbour, United States Forest Service

- Intro by Bill Webb
- The number of large fires on federal land is increasing
- Wildland firefighters are 1-2% of folks who fight fires

- Things are going to get worse in the near future
- Potential for loss of people, property and place
- It's an American issue, not just the West
- Half of land is burnable in U.S. (over a billion acres)
- Wildland urban interface (WUI)
 - USFS is getting more involved with this, to protect homes and warehouses
 - No one entity responds by themselves: Everybody puts differences aside and deals with emergency, but we tussle again when emergency is over
- Recap 2015 fire season – might set a record for most numbers of acres burned in one calendar year; most significant western wildfire season yet
 - \$1.7 billion to suppress fires on National Forest property (which is after upfront prevention money)
 - Mobilized the most number of people ever (2,000 more firefighters)
 - Firefighters have stepped up interest and training; stepped up at local level
 - Five line-of-duty deaths, 1 because of the stress of work
- Dan Olsen is acting Director starting January 2016
 - Hope he can continue the interaction the Forest Service (USFS) has with CFSI
 - They're going to look to us for solutions and ideas
 - USFS has the pieces, we just need to find the oomph to actually do something
- **Barry Kasinitz:** Tom has managed and advocated to get wildland fires front and center on the national scene. Question about funding issues.
 - **Harbour:** When I started, fire was a small portion of the USFS; now 52% of funding is for fire
 - Emergency funding: I am the vulture that takes funding from other projects in order to fight fire – causes disruption for what the money was originally intended for
 - Wildland Disaster Funding Act (didn't make it into omnibus) – try to solve funding issue → we need to solve it

Reports

Legislative/Programmatic – Sean Carroll

Programmatic

- Review submissions for seminar program with subcommittee
- Partnership with Columbia Southern University to assign CEUs to seminar program (entire seminar program eligible for CEUs)

Legislative

- Omnibus bill was introduced this morning (12/16/15) for FY16 funding
 - FIRE and SAFER Grants funds – \$345 million each
 - Increase of \$5 million each over FY15
 - USFA – \$44 billion
 - Urban Search and Rescue – \$35.18 million
 - James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Reauthorization Act (H.R. 1786) included in the omnibus spending bill
 - **Barry Kasinitz:** two programs – (1) financial compensation (for five more years) and (2) health monitoring program (this is the real

focus; permanent program until 2090) for those who have gotten sick over the years; cancer waves are coming up that are clearly related to toxins at 9/11

- Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act – trying to get a tax incentive for the retrofit of automatic fire sprinkler systems
- More comprehensive report will be provided in a legislative memo

Development – Steven Tramel

- Contact him for any issues/questions about the dinner

Subcommittee Reports

Ethics – Doug Aiken – No report

Programmatic – Doug Aiken – Report provided by CFSI staff

Fundraising – Bobby Halton – Report provide by CFSI staff

Membership – Dennis Compton – No report

Resolutions – Steve Austin

- Think about resolutions you want considered at the next meeting
- *First resolution*: Resolution offering support for the maintenance of ATF
 - Roger Krupp (IAAI) presented
 - Congressional efforts to eliminate ATF
 - This would be detrimental to the fire service
 - ATF helps local departments with fire investigation and training
 - Jim Estep: Motion; Dave Moore: Second to approve resolution → motion carried, unanimously approved
- *Second resolution*: Resolution in support of federal legislation, funding and policies to address firefighter occupational cancer
 - Ron Siarnicki presented
 - Additional research needed, more funding needed, public recognition of firefighter line-of-duty deaths resulting from cancer needed, support of Public Safety Officers' Benefits, implementation of the work of the Fire Service Occupational Cancer Alliance
 - ICC requested to be added as Co-Sponsor
 - Tom Weber: Motion; John Granby: Second → motion carried, unanimously approved

Presentation – Dennis Compton, National Fallen Firefighters Foundation

- Fire Service Occupational Cancer Alliance emerged from Tampa 2 Summit in March 2014
- Created a forum for organizations and researchers to discuss the issues of occupational cancer (met January 2015)
 - There is a lot of research and science behind this issue
- Created a Steering Committee that met in May 2015 to develop action plans for the recommendations that emerged during the January 2015 Forum
 - Focused on issue of prevention and policies dealing with prevention
 - IAFF presentation to understand real meaning of presumptive legislation

- *Fire Service Occupational Cancer Alliance* named
- *Fire Service Occupational Cancer Alliance* meeting in October 2015 – reviewed Steering Committee’s work from Phoenix, branded the *Alliance*, named prevention program, reviewed CFSI Resolution on fire service occupational cancer and looked into research gaps (Research Agenda Symposium) and roles of *Alliance* partners
- 50-60% of line-of-duty-deaths will be occupational cancer in the future
- Next steps: NFFF will facilitate the *Alliance*, find funding to sustain alliance, identify who is already doing what and what needs to be addresses, plan next meeting of the *Fire Service Occupational Cancer Alliance*
 - Set research agenda to get more data for the fire service and cancer
- Recognize Victor Stagnaro from NFFF
- Report is being wrapped up (includes January, March & October 2015 meetings, along with implementation plan for *Alliance*)
- **Bill Jenaway comment:** *Alliance* should reach out to insurance/worker’s comp companies as a potential funding source; attorneys also invest in these kinds of projects too
- After meetings, many major fire departments went back and immediately implemented changes from what they learned from the researchers

Unfinished Business

- There are challenges for the dinner this year since Congress won’t be in session
 - What can we do differently that will get people to come?
 - Provide thoughts to the CFSI staff

New Business - None

Adjournment

- Kevin Quinn of the NVFC offered a motion to adjourn.
- Seconded by Dave Moore of the IAWF
- Motion approved

CFSI NAC MEETING ATTENDANCE:

Justin Arnold – International Society of Fire Service Instructors
Steve Austin – International Association of Arson Investigators
Greg Cade – National Fire Protection Association
Sean Carroll – Congressional Fire Services Institute
Dennis Compton – International Fire Service Training Association
Bob Cumberland – Cumberland Valley Volunteer Firemen’s Association
Jim Dalton – National Fire Sprinkler Association
Diane Eggerman – Center for Campus Fire Safety
Jim Estep – CFSI Board of Directors; National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications
Dave Finger – National Volunteer Fire Council
Hugh “Skip” Gibson – Insurance Services Office (ISO)
John Granby – Fire and Emergency Manufacturers and Services Association
Allison Hahn – Congressional Fire Services Institute
Bill Jenaway – CFSI Board of Directors
Barry Kasinitz – International Association of Fire Fighters
Steve Kerber – Underwriters Laboratory
Roger Krupp – International Association of Arson Investigators
Ken LaSala – International Association of Fire Chiefs
Dave Moore – International Association of Wildland Fire
Lee Morris – Fire Apparatus Manufacturers’ Association
Steven Muncy – American Fire Sprinkler Association
Mike Natchipolsky – FireRescue1/Fire Chief
Stuart Nathan – International Fire Buff Associates, Inc.
Tony O’Neill – National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications

Sarah Owen – Underwriters Laboratory
Ryan Pietzsch – VFIS
Larry Preston – North American Fire Training Directors
Nathan Queen – International Association of Black Professional Firefighters
Kevin Quinn – National Volunteer Fire Council
Randy Roxson – USA Sprinkler Fitters Association
Robert Sale – International Code Council
Ron Siarnicki – National Fallen Firefighters Foundation
Debbie Sobotka – Center for Public Safety Excellence
Bill Spencer – National Association of State Fire Marshals
Steven Tramel – Congressional Fire Services Institute
Bill Webb – Congressional Fire Services Institute
Tom Weber – Insurance Services Office (ISO)
Sara Yerkes – International Code Council

GUESTS:

Rod Ammon – Stonehouse Media
Ross Arends – Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives
Tom Harbour – United States Forest Service
Congressman Steny Hoyer (MD-5)
Victor Stagnaro – National Fallen Firefighters Foundation