

**Congressional Fire Services Institute
National Advisory Committee Meeting
National Fire Protection Association
50 F Street, NW
Washington, DC
December 8, 2016**

Call to order - Doug Aiken

- Pledge of Allegiance
- Recognized past chairs
- Introductions

Opening Remarks - Bill Jenaway, President of the CFSI Board of Directors

- Congress will be in session for the dinner so hope to see all organizations there
- Need to get new members of Congress involved in the Congressional Fire Services Caucus

Reports -

Chairman- Doug Aiken

- Only 22 organizations remain from original NAC
- National broadband network
 - AT&T is rumored to be the lone remaining bidder
 - Lawsuit has been filed by a rejected bidder
 - Final Award is delayed
- Kitchen cabinet meeting
 - Implemented strategic plan for fundraising
 - Urge to continue support with new legislative issues on hand

Vice Chairman - Greg Cade

- Honored to be Vice Chair and looking forward to working with organizations

Executive Director - Bill Webb

- **2016 year in review**
 - Advocacy
 - Sean has been doing a lot of work recruiting caucus members
 - Respond to calls on Capitol Hill about specific issues
 - Organize and attend meeting with members and their staff
 - MFRI Congressional Fire Training Day included sprinkler trailer from National Fire Sprinkler Association
 - Work with federal agencies and Vice President's office on a variety of issues
 - Education and Outreach
 - Work beyond Washington DC: presentation in Colorado, Oregon, Oklahoma among other places.

- Participate in webinars (Alabama), speaking at Banquets
 - Involved in Fire Service Occupational Cancer Alliance
- Tributes and Recognition
 - Congressional Flag Presentation Ceremony on Capitol Hill for to honor fallen firefighters
 - CFSI Awards programs
- Communication
 - Website is undergoing changes
 - Getting the word out via Facebook, emails and articles
- Fundraising
 - 77% dependent on dinner
 - 3 current programs; Ornaments, Silent Auction, Hockey game
- “Forging New Relationships” is the theme for the 2017 Symposium and Dinner
 - Hotel reservations will be up on website next week

Legislative Report Sean Carroll

- 24 members of fire caucus not returning in the 115th Congress
- Current Fire Caucus Chair Bill Pascrell will be awarded CFSI Legislator of the Year Award
- Need to reach out to new members of Congress and educate them on the Fire Caucus
- Public Safety Officers’ benefits program
 - DOJ released two proposed rules
 - CFSI and other national fire service organizations submitted comments on both rules
- During the 115th Congress we will continue to work with the National Fire Sprinkler Association on Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act
 - Oakland fire shows how important legislation is
 - Will also continue to work with organization to pass Firefighter Cancer Registry Act
- Main priority for 2017 is reauthorization of Assistance to Firefighters/Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grant Programs
- **Question – Bill Kehoe:** Will committee assignments be known by the time the dinner starts?
 - Sean: Yes, we should know the make-up of the committees by then. CFSI will provide information moving forward.

Presentation - Russell Jackson and Billy Hayes, National Center for Fire and Life Safety

- Russell Jackson
 - National Center for Fire and Life Safety
 - Fire service artifacts were donated to county in Alabama
 - Contacted key attraction museum experts for ideas

- Focus groups met with members of fire service
 - Creating an engaging and interactive experience
- Billy Hayes
 - 4 Zones
 - Transportation
 - Environmental
 - Home
 - Work
 - Statement support
 - Looking to have agencies show interest in project
 - Calera, Alabama is location of museum

Subcommittee Reports

- **Programmatic - Greg Cade**
 - CFSI conducted an open Call-for-Proposals for the 2017 Symposium;
 - Received 32 proposals covering a wide variety of topics;
 - Many of the proposals were excellent, but due to time and space constraints we were unable to select them all;
 - Seminar program will consist of 11 seminars on Wednesday, April 5th, all of which will be eligible for CEUs from Columbia Southern University;
 - CFSI will also be conducting a Town Hall meeting with the IAFC, IAFF, NVFC, and NFFF on Thursday, April 6th to discuss Firefighter Behavioral Health;
 - A full seminar schedule is in your folders.
- **Membership - Dennis Compton**
 - No new members
 - Completed review of past members of NAC and looking for new members
- 2017 dinner prices are increasing to \$350 per person and \$3500 for a bronze table. This is consistent with the CFSI strategic plan. (Bill Webb)
- **Resolution - Steve Austin**
 - Resolution in support of the 3-year code adoption cycle submitted by the International Code Council
 - **Robert Neale**
 - Many states and localities are facing legislative attempts to change the code adoption cycle to a 6-year or a 9-year code cycle
 - Austin – Resolutions subcommittee unanimously supported this resolution
 - **Steve Austin** – Move for adoption
 - **Tom Weber** - Second Motion
 - Resolution unanimously approved

Break

Presentation – Denise Blakenship

- **USDA Forest Service**
 - Wild Land Fire Agencies
 - Fish and Wildlife
 - USDA
 - USDOJ
 - Wildfire Cohesive Strategy has 3 tenants
 - Restore and Maintain landscapes
 - Work with our partners to try to reduce hazardous fuels in wildlife communities
 - Great success developing partnerships over past 10 years
 - Fire-adapted communities
 - Focus more on fringes of forest where communities are located
 - Let fires do what they need to do
 - Radical bug infestations on West Coast due to climate change
 - 7400 homes and other structures were destroyed in 2016 from wildfires
 - 9 out of 10 wildfires are human caused
 - Wild Fire response
 - We are not a structured firefighting organization
 - Rely on partners for fighting forest fires
 - Park service has a strong structured firefighting organization
 - 2016 Forest Service detected hazardous fuel activity on 3 million acres
 - Develop sense of community around forest fire prevention
 - Longer fire seasons and bigger wildfires every year
 - Forest Service had 10,000+ firefighters available in 2016
 - All with local, state and tribal partners
 - Firefighter safety and public safety is #1 priority
 - Drones flown by public over wildfires threaten safety.
 - Ground airplanes when drones are present
 - Resilient Landscapes
 - 58 million acres of National Forest Systems lands are near the WUI
 - Tools for informed decision making
 - Enterprise Geospatial Tool
 - Wildland Fire Decision Support Systems
 - Let us know where we can and can't go in a wildfire
 - Fires are beginning to out flank the models

- Need for updated models
- Aviation for Wildfires
 - Single Engine Air Tankers
 - Water Scoopers
 - Lead Plane and Air Tankers
 - 24 air tankers on contract this year
 - 7 new air tankers from the Coast Guard are in the works currently
- Fire budget is based on a 10-year average
 - Problems are beginning to arise because budget is being cut
 - 39% reduction in costs in natural resource capacity

New Business - Dennis Compton

- Oakland not tragic; it was predictable and we all know it.
- Funding for prevention and education is not what it's supposed to be; it's been devastated. In some major cities, it's been eliminated.
- Many occupancies haven't been inspected for years.
- Firefighters are entering homes that in the past would have been considered industrial buildings. It's dangerous to our firefighters. Don't know anything about the buildings, what's in it, and who's living there.
- There's a term called non-essential employees developed by elected officials. When I hear fire officials use that term, I want to strangle them.
- The people in Oakland died in that building because "non-essential" people couldn't protect them.
- Need to protect with code, built-in protection, public education, and emergency response.
- Answer's not fewer fire resources. You need as many resources for the single fire as you do for multiple fires. They usually occur one at a time, and adequate resources and staffing are needed. Also need to include prevention and public education to protect communities.
- This is not about what part of the system is more important.
- Let's think about developing a White Paper that talks about the fire problem in the US – what does it really take to protect the people and where do we stand with this.
- We need to tell the story. If we don't who will? It's about all the components I talked about.
- Propose a White Paper coming out of this group. No one's going to get hurt by this.
- Any opposition?
- **Dalton**
 - This isn't personal – this isn't about the US Fire Administrator and his predecessors.
 - USFA's power and authority have been weakened.

- **Compton**
 - It's a moving picture and we keep showing snapshots. We need to have a movie that tells a story.
 - This should be developed by a NAC task group that this group can review. We know what needs to be in it. Here's the story, here's where we're at.
- **O'Connor**
 - We do need to educate ourselves, but the ultimate goal is to focus on an external audience. After the economy tanked in '07, less resources for fire service.
- **Compton**
 - Answer is to properly staff and resource the fire service.
- **Cade**
 - Liken this back to a couple of years when DOJ proposed \$23 million for body cameras. Wouldn't do a bit of good. But the people forced the President to take action.
 - The 50 who died (Oakland and Gatlinburg) is acceptable to the White House; otherwise, you would have seen the President on TV. Don't disagree with doing a White Paper. Need to do something now. Can't reinvent the wheel with America Burning.
- **Compton**
 - No commission unless we state the problem. Can't run-in with a document (American Burning) that was made in the '70's because it won't address the problem.
 - Document needs to be inclusive, a document that won't splinter the group (NAC).
 - Audience is inside and out. We do have to decide, can't wait. Are we interested in doing this? Don't just focus on USFA component. This is just one component.
- **Edwards**
 - Convince them (elected officials) that the progress we've made since 20 years ago is not good enough. Need to make it factual. Has to be from the outside looking in. Need to have today's circumstances and have the organizations here today take part in this.
 - Can't look at it from our view only.
- **Queen**
 - Minorities suffer the most. We have to encourage firefighters to tell City councils that we need to change things. Need to get to the grassroots level to make things happen.
- **Compton**
 - Task Group to outline and develop a White Paper that describes the essences of the fire service in protecting our nation as best we can.
- **Jenaway**
 - NAC proceed with motion and ask for the CFSI Board's support or endorsement

- We can facilitate quickly.
- Compton is asked by NAC Chair – and agrees to serve as chair of Task Group
- **MOTION:** Develop a White Paper for the consideration by the CFSI Board that describes the current state of the American fire services' ability to protect this nation from fire and other related hazards.
- **Ray**
 - The paper needs to come from this advisory group, not the board or other ad hoc groups.
- **Neale (ICC)**
 - This will be a futile exercise and here's why. We lose 10,000 seniors every year in falls, 50,000 in auto accidents...This is an acceptable level of loss. To write another paper – we have such a report in American Burning. I'd recommend taking 1-2 local fire service people at the local level and getting them to do something rather than writing a white paper.
- **Compton**
 - That white paper won't sit on a shelf.
 - Who's the mayor of Oakland partially blaming? It's the fire chief. No elected official's going to stand up and say hey we're the ones who cut the budgets.

Adjournment

ATTENDANCE:

Aiken, Doug - International Municipal Signal Association
Austin, Steve - International Association of Arson Investigators
Bryner, Nelson - Engineering Laboratory; National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)
Buckman, John - FireRescue1/Fire Chief
Cade, Greg - National Fire Protection Association
Carroll, Sean - Congressional Fire Services Institute
Compton, Dennis - International Fire Service Training Association
Cumberland, Robert - Cumberland Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association
Dalton, Jim - National Fire Sprinkler Association
Davis, Evan - International Association of Fire Chiefs
Edwards, Steve - North American Fire Training Directors
Finger, Dave - National Volunteer Fire Council
Gibson, Hugh "Skip" - Insurance Services Office (ISO)
Goldstein, Jim - International Association of Fire Chiefs
Granby, John - Fire and Emergency Manufacturers Services Association
Jenaway, Bill - CFSI Board of Directors
Keeler, Deborah - International Association of Arson Investigators
Kehoe, Bill - Congressional Fire Services Institute

Krupp, Roger - International Association of Arson Investigators
Meissner, Shannon - International Association of Fire Fighters
Merryman, Jeff - Fire Department Safety Officers' Association
Moore, Dave - International Association of Wildland Fire
Morris, Lee - Fire Apparatus Manufacturers' Association
Nathan, Stuart - International Fire Buff Associates
Neale, Robert - International Code Council
O'Connor, Kevin - International Association of Fire Fighters
O'Neill, Tony - National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications
Owen, Sarah - Underwriters Laboratories
Pietzsch, Ryan - VFIS
Pritchett, Vickie - National Fire Sprinkler Association
Queen, Nathan - International Association of Black Professional Fire Fighters
Quinn, Kevin D. - National Volunteer Fire Council
Ray, Shane - National Fire Sprinkler Association
Sharman, Craig - SimplexGrinnell
Siarnicki, Ron - National Fallen Firefighters Foundation
Spencer, Bill - National Association of State Fire Marshals
Testa Boston, Nicole - Society of Fire Protection Engineers
Tramel, Steven - Congressional Fire Services Institute
Webb, Charlie - Congressional Fire Services Institute
Webb, Bill - Congressional Fire Services Institute
Weber, Tom - Insurance Services Office (ISO)

Presenters:

Blankenship, Denise – United States Forest Service
Hayes, Billy – National Center for Fire and Life Safety
Jackson, Russell – National Center for Fire and Life Safety

Guests:

Appy, Meri-K
Paulison, David