

**Congressional Fire Services Institute
National Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Washington Hilton
1919 Connecticut Ave, NW; Washington D.C.**

April 27, 2012

Chairman's Report- Steve Austin

- Welcomes everyone. Asks everyone to put phones on vibrate. Asks members to stand in a moment of silence for firefighters who have lost their lives in the line of duty and remembering Hal Bruno. The Pledge of Allegiance is conducted. Begins self-introductions. Recognizes past chairmen of the CFSI National Advisory Committee. Asks Stuart Nathan to give an update on the Roman Kaminski, Past Chairman of the NAC.
- Nathan: Roman is doing well and is back at home not traveling much, but he is doing well.
- Chairman asks if anyone has any updates on Mary McCormack. Jim Dalton responds that he has talked to her within the last month. She is doing well.
- Takes a moment to talk about past Chairman Dennis Compton. Recognizes Eddie Buchanan, who is standing for election for Chair of the NAC. Could not attend the meeting because of a prior teaching commitment.
- Introduces Bill Jenaway.

Bill Jenaway, President of CFSI Board of Directors

- Welcomes everyone and thanks them for being here. Wants to start the motto "2500 for 25" because next year is the 25th dinner.

Steve Austin introduces Bill Webb

Executive Directors Report- Bill Webb

- Thanks everyone for attending. Thanks Lou.
- Attendance was down for the dinner last night. Attributes this to the economy. We were down to about 1600 in the past. We peaked at 2100 in 2002. We are looking at ways to improve the program and putting a lot of effort in the seminars. We are looking for feedback and any ideas for the 25th Dinner.

- Noticed that we sold out our entire room block and hoping that we would have good attendance. We need to go back and look and see if the people who are getting the rooms actually participated in the programs and attended the dinner.
- Wants to thank his staff, Sean Carroll and Mike Alderfer. Mentions the pamphlets for the Barraclough internship. Thanks Janelle Owens.
- Sean will go over the legislative issues.
- Thanks Bobby for the experience at FDIC.
- Will be doing the “Night at the Nationals” program for fundraising. Will also be doing the silent auction.
- Thanks Steve Austin for his service as well as Denny Compton for serving as the Dinner’s Master of Ceremonies.

Legislative Report- Sean Carroll

- Thanks everyone for helping with the seminar programs. We did things differently this year. We blocked off all of the seminars for Wednesday and dedicated Thursday to a day on the Hill. Managed to consolidate the program, yet still have more seminars than before. We had 16 panels. Attendance was down.
- D-Block was approved this year for the construction of a Nationwide Interoperable Public Safety Broadband Network. Thank the IAFC for spearheading that effort.
- Because of the election year, things in Congress have been slowed down. We really have a compressed agenda to get a lot done in a little bit of time.
- We have many appropriations bills may not happen until the end of the fiscal year but Congress is going to start working on those.
- We have tax cuts that are expiring at the end of the year so we will need some kind of tax package for that, which will have to come up soon.
- FIRE/SAFER Reauthorization legislation still needs to be approved
 - The Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee has marked-up the bill and approved it. There are still a few things we are concerned with. Chairman Lieberman and Senator Collins have been working with their House colleagues to help move the bill. The hope is to attach the measure to a legislative vehicle in the Senate so it can easily be passed. Working on getting it through the House. Overall we need to focus on increasing the budget for FIRE and SAFER. It’s been trending downward but we want to increase those figures. Asking for \$405 million each for FIRE and SAFER for Fiscal Year 2013.

- USFA Reauthorization: reauthorization will extend USFA through 2017. Senate committee was supposed to marked-up legislation on Wednesday but they did not. Senator Colburn (OK) was going to offer two amendments.
 - Eliminate Harvard Fire Executive Fellowship. The Senator believes the program is too expensive.
 - Put a sunset on USFA five years after enactment of the authorization. Sunset would terminate USFA if Congress does not approve another reauthorization measure. The amendment would also sunset the Fire Prevention and Control Act. Coburn's staff claims that the purpose is for oversight. The fire organizations wrote a letter that eventually convinced the Senate to delay the mark-up. Thanks everyone for their cooperation with that.
- Legislative Memo is in the folders.

Steve Austin congratulates the Meri-K on winning Anne Philips award last night.

Austin introduces Denise O'Donnell, Director, Bureau of Justice Assistance.

Presentation: Denise O'Donnell, Bureau of Justice Assistance

- Thank you for the invitation.
- Have an Officer Safety Tool Kit that is online that deals with health and wellness issues. Have bulletproof vest partnership program, Medal of Valor and Act of Bravery program.
- Public Safety Officers Benefits Program (PSOB).
- Increasing awareness about the programs.
- People want uncontested claims to be expedited, less paperwork, codes and standards to inform new regulations and new reviews in the future.
- PSOB has created new resources to increase awareness about the program and expedite the process. There is now a help center that is open from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and has outreach specialists that perform biweekly outreach on claims until the required documents are submitted. There are also LAST teams that assist with the filing of a PSOB claims on behalf of the survivors.
- Currently the Assistant Attorney General is doing a top to bottom review of the PSOB program.
- If you would like to comment, please email Thomas.Abt@usdoj.gov
- Questions and Comments:

Barry Kasintiz with a question: What constitutes physical disability? The requirement is very high.

O'Donnell: It is very hard to meet the requirements. Most of it is statutory. The problem is that BJA sees people having problems over time. She would like to see it to be easier to provide coverage. The current standard is not being able to do any work.

Webb: Is there a line item in the budget for how much funding you give out each year? Is the money always going to be there?

- O'Donnell: Funding has been relatively consistent.
- Janke: Such sums as may be necessary. BJA has a budget figure for the death, disability, and education programs. With death, if BJA goes over the amount budgeted, than "such sums as necessary" will be available. Funds in the education and disability accounts can move back and forth depending on where the funds are mostly needed.

Subcommittee Reports:

- By-Laws: **Steve Muncy**
 - We have no by-law changes.
- Ethics: **Doug Aiken**
 - No ethics issues on the NAC. Last October we talked about the white paper and the Code of Ethics. Recognize Tony O'Neill for his hard work in helping him work on the previously mentioned issues.
- Programmatic: **Eddie Buchanan** (absent)
 - Steve Austin: Bill Jenaway and Bill Webb have talked about next year with the 25th anniversary. They will be working on the agenda and we will hear more about it in the fall.

Steve Austin notes that we will come back to resolutions later.

- **Fundraising: Bobby Halton**
 - Looking at an opt-out type of option.
 - Silent Auction and possible baseball game to try to encourage participation.
- **Membership: Janet Wilmoth**
 - Jeff Berend will give the Membership Subcommittee report in place of Janet Wilmoth because she could not be in attendance.
 - The Subcommittee had a conference call March 29th and they received one application from the International Association of Wildland Fire
 - IAWF was established 22 years ago and is a 501(c)3. The subcommittee reviewed their by-laws. Membership is global and broad based including both

individuals and organizations that have a vested interest in wildland fire. Its primary function is to share wildland fire research technology, data collection, and educational programs. They have submitted all required documentation for membership. They have met the financial obligation by purchasing a table at the dinner. The subcommittee approved the application.

- Requesting full committee approval for membership:
- Jeff Berend makes motion to accept the IAWF into the NAC:
 - 2nd: Robert Halton, Ron Sarnicki, Tony O'Neill
 - No discussion. Call for Vote.
 - Unanimously approved

Comments: **Bill Webb**: Kenton Pattie, who was chair of the Membership Subcommittee, suffered a stroke last October/ November. It is a slow recovery for him but he extends his best to all of you and we hope he will come back soon.

Presentation: Cathie Patterson, Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program

- Thank you for the opportunity.
- The AFG program office knows they will turn down 87% of the requests. This is difficult because the AFG office wants to move forward and they still have to turn down people. They will continue to look at what they are doing and look at the data.
- In 2009 the AFG office took 12,000 applications to panel review; in 2011 it took 5,000 applications to panel review. They will make less than 2,000 awards out of almost 17,000 applications.
- The AFG office has an aggressive year. Problems with time. A lot of the problems stem from time of appropriations. Usually the office runs three programs: AFG in the spring, SAFER in the summer and Fire Prevention in the fall. This year they are running five programs. The challenge is getting the money off of the books. AFG office does not want to be jeopardized because they have not disbursed their money.
- They need our support.
- Questions:
 - Steve Austin: How is the data being used and how can people get it from you?
 - Patterson: Please ask. Criteria Development met six months ago. AFG office is trying to take FY2011 applications and review them against the FY2012 applications scoring. Trying to see if that is where the money was intended and was that really where people wanted the money to go. Are applicants not asking for the right thing?. The people

that are asking for money --were they asking for the right things?
Getting detailed information about what was asked for.

- Robert Halton: How are they going to do five programs?
 - Patterson: AFG has two years to disburse the money. So right now the office is still working on the FY2011 funding. AFG has extended deadlines and a few are coming up soon. The AFG office has very few applications that are submitted but they will get it done.
- Steve Edwards comment: Getting data out to the people is so important. Getting information from people who have been successful would be very appreciated.
- Steve Austin comment: When you have an issue just call her office
- Patterson: They are putting together “Get Ready Guides”
- Mary Rose Roberts: Regional preparedness versus local and call to successful stories:
 - Patterson: Regional preparedness has been extremely successful. You get the benefit of numbers. The question AFG wants to answer with the data is who is applying. Trying to have people get more for their money. Things we are finding is people don’t know what to ask for. So hearing stories about how people have been successful is important.
- Barry Kasinitz: May not see the appropriations until the middle of the year. How will that impact what you are doing?
 - Patterson: Well we get two years to disburse money so we can’t really touch the money for FY2013 until it is approved. There is a lot we can do behind the scenes. We can plan for the money but we can’t touch it.

Presentation: Jim Crawford

- Had a passion for fire safety ever since Saw the pictures from America Burning. Thanks for the opportunity to speak and present.
- The question is how do we do that with out repeating what has been done and reinventing the wheel. That is the Vision 20/20 project.
- We are trying to have measurable results. Strategy one is about advocacy for prevention programs. How do we get leaders to support them? There are free tools online.
- “Fire is Everyone’s Fight” was the outcome. It is not controversial. The resolution came from prevention.

- Vision 20/20 has an agreement to refine and promote model evaluation programs for prevention programs, formative process of impact, and outcome measurement for: code enforcement, plan review, fire investigation, public education, and they are hosting the national symposium.
- Appreciation for CFSI.

Steve Austin announces guests who have arrived: Chief Glen Gaines, Ernie Rojan, and Cynthia Leighton. Going to move on to resolutions while Vision 20/20 is on everyone's minds.

Resolutions: Steve Austin

- IFE Resolution in support of "Fire is Everyone's Fight"; **Meri-K Appy:**
 - Education initiative involved hundreds of individuals at the local level and organizations coming together.
 - Strategy 2 deals with the need for greater public education. We felt universal smoke alarms, firefighters entering high-risk homes were the biggest issues. The highest of the high risk (70%) have no smoke alarms. Strategy also has a focus on cooking safety.
 - Make a motion to adopt to support the USFA campaign "Fire is Everyone's Fight"
 - Second: Steve Edwards
 - Edwards wants a change in the language in fifth paragraph. Insert "and residential sprinklers" after "working smoke alarms"
 - Second: John Granby
 - Amendment and resolution approved unanimously
- Resolution in support of programs to raise awareness of proper bonding for yellow corrugated stainless steel tubing to the national fire protection association code; **Bill Spencer**
 - Since 1990, houses have been built with the tubing. If it is not bonded properly and lightning hits, it a fire can start.
 - There are resolutions in the Senate and House and one in front of the NAC.
 - Make a motion to support
 - Second: Pete Willse
 - No discussion, none opposed
 - Motion carries unanimously
- Motion to support addressing the national drug shortage crisis; **Tony Baker**

- Drug shortages have tripled. Hoping the resolution will highlight the issues and the strain on EMS. Fire departments are having outside vendors come in and test their drugs that are nearing expiration. Some departments are also keeping expired drugs on the shelf and using them as back up.
- Having manufacturers report when they are close to having a shortage.
- Tony Baker makes motion to approve.
- Second: Barry Kasinitz
- Approved unanimously
- Resolution in Support of the Fire Police Fairness Act; **Jeff Cash**
 - Act to include fire police in PSOB
 - Jeff Cash offers motion to support
 - Second: Robert Halton
 - Approved unanimously

Presentation: Chief Ernest Mitchell Jr.; U.S. Fire Administration

- Made improvements since “America Burning” was published
- We need to find the parts of the population that we are not reaching
- What USFA is doing:
 - Making improvements to courses and adding courses
 - Need to do more on wildland fires
 - Looking at issue of limiting students to only regionally accredited institutes. Looking at what students education is, not just where they attended. Will now be looking at who Department of Education accepts as accreditors. Ongoing evaluation process.
 - **Question:**
 - Steve Edwards: Individuals getting a bachelor’s degree from a school that is not regionally accredited. They get into the situation where they cannot transfer the credits and cannot get a master’s from a regionally accredited institution.
 - Mitchell: USFA is planning on being very careful and work on accreditation.
 - Helen Johnson: Board of Visitors discussed this issue in meetings prior to this week. Voted to accept the national accreditation and form a study committee that will report back prior to Sept. 1 and address all the issue that we have been discussing.

- USFA is a part of FEMA. Working on a deployment strategy. Trying to get firefighters deployed faster when there are special needs. Will be test running the idea. ESF-4. Submitting to be primary agency. USFA wants to deal more with coordination.

Presentation: Chief Timothy A. Tharp

- Issues dealing with the survivability and sustainability of volunteer and combination fire services across the nation.
- 5-7 year strategic plan with eight challenges that break into 24 initiatives. Need to get the word out to create awareness.
- Challenges: Capabilities and competencies, community relations, recruitment and retention, business structures and financial planning, legislation and regulation, reputation management, and fire service-based EMS.
- Creation of VCOS website that will be a "one-stop-shop"

Unfinished Business: NONE

New Business:

- Jim Dalton: Recognize Nancy Trench

Elections

- Nominations for Chair
- Dan Kaniewski nominates Eddie Buchanan for NAC Chair
- No other nominations. Unanimously approved
- Nominations for NAC Vice Chair
 - Dennis Compton nominates Jim Dalton, no other nominations
 - Approved unanimously

Meeting adjourned.

Attendance:

Steve Austin
Bill Webb
Sean Carroll
Doug Aiken
Jeff Knight
Jeff Berend
Tim Sendelbach
Robert Halton
Steve Muncy
Larry Thibodeau
Randy Roxen
Paul Martin
Diane Collins Eggerman
Nelson Bryner
Vicki Pritchett
Jim Dalton
Bill Spencer
Meri-K Appy
Harry Carter
Ed Altizer
John Bender
Tony O'Neill
Ken Willette
Greg Cade
Ron Siarnicki
Tony Baker
Rodger Reiswig
Jeff Barrington
Joseph Muhammad
Nathan Queen
John Granby
Lee Morris
Dan Kaniewski
Bruce Johnson

Steven Edwards
Barry Kasinitz
Robert Cobb
Hugh "Skip" Gibson
Jeff Cash
Paul Brooks
Giff Swayne
Lou Amabili
Dennis Compton
Bill Jenaway
Khoi Do
Helen Johnson
Pete Willse
Mary Rose Roberts
Craig Sharman
Doug Cline
Stuart Nathan
Bill Kehoe