

**Congressional Fire Services Institute
National Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Washington, D.C.**

May 10, 2013

Chairman Eddie Buchanan - Call to Order

Moment of Silence and the Pledge of Allegiance

Bill Jenaway – President, CFSI Board of Directors

- Offered brief observations on the Dinner -- a good program but a bit long.
- The CFSI Board will be meeting to consider objectives for the coming year.

Chairman's Report - Eddie Buchanan

- Great job on Dinner – round of applause for the volunteers.
- Focused comments on the importance of research, sighting efforts of NIST, UL and others.
- Grant funding is important. Impact of research will enable fire service to perform in a safer manner.

Vice Chair Report - Jim Dalton

- Commented on the success of the workshops and recognized how huge the task to organize the entire program.
- Represented CFSI at a Home Fire Workshop at the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute. USFA conducted the event.
- Represented CFSI at a Vision 20/20 meeting. Federal agencies are limited by what they can do. Vision 20/20 fills the holes.
- Will continue to work with Dennis Compton and others on strategic plan that provides a strategic path for the Institute.

Executive Director's Report - Bill Webb

- Focused mostly on the dinner. Attendance was approximately 1700. With costs increasing and revenue remaining about the same, the Institute needs to develop other fundraising programs to increase operating revenue.
- Acknowledged Fire Engineering and JEMS for booth space at their respective conferences.
- Upcoming fundraisers include Silent Auction at Firehouse and another fundraiser at Washington Nationals Game.
- Acknowledged Lou Amabili for his leadership and contributions.
- Looking to recognize individuals and organizations with awards program.
- Congratulations to Ron Siarnicki, recipient of the Mason Lankford Award.
- Let us know if you have ideas for seminar programs and showcase.

Legislative Report – Sean Carroll

- Thanked the Programmatic Subcommittee for work on seminars and to the moderators and panelists. They make the seminar programs successful.
- Took Congress a while to approve the FY13 appropriations. Rescissions affected the final funding levels. CFSI did a lot of work with the appropriations committee.
- Managed to offset cuts to FIRE and SAFER grants.
- USFA took hit after rescissions. Over the last eight years, USFA's budget has been cut by 25 percent.
- Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act: We were hoping it would be introduced by the time of the dinner. Senators Carper and Collins are expected to introduce. Do not expect a House bill until House addresses a tax reform measure.
- Safe Building Code Incentive Act: CFSI is working with the Build Strong Coalition and the National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies on the Safe Building Codes Incentive Act. The legislation would restructure FEMA post-disaster mitigation grants. The coalition hosted a half-day forum on the need for safe building codes the morning of the Dinner.
- Few other bills moving forward. Working with IAFC and NVFC on some volunteer tax incentive legislation.
- Fire Police Fairness Act has been reintroduced in House and Senate. Bill makes fire police eligible for PSOB benefits.
- Pascrell is working on fire campus safety legislation.

Buchanan: Called for self-introduction

Webb: Report on Roman Kaminski

- Stuart Nathan: Roman turned 92 in December and is doing well.

Presentation - Richard Reed, America Red Cross

- Responds to 70,000 fires a year. 94 percent of response is at the local level.
- Chapters located mostly in densely populated areas. More challenging in local rural communities.
- Partner with local jurisdictions. We can't do it all.
- Primary Job: Feeding and providing shelter.
- Red Cross participating with fire departments – local program (Camden, NJ and Chicago)
- Aligning activities at all levels and in public and private sectors
- Technology: Mobile side is where it's going. A lot of opportunities. Hurricane, tornado apps available.
- There is one firefighter for every 280 people in this country. First responders are our neighbors. It's an all-of-nation, community approach. Value-added proposition. Preparedness is not intuitive to our culture.
- AFG Program – home visits. Low-hanging fruits. Potential partnerships. What's the best way to systematically make that happen? Interconnected. Some consistency across the system. Hope to have doctrine in place – this is the objective. This will give consistency

Presentation – Jennifer Taylor, Drexel University

- Received a research and development grant through AFG. There's lots of data about injuries and illnesses. We collect data every day, but we can't tell you what people who are injured do for work. That data is not collected. Working on a proposal to include two data elements in national uniform bill. This is what hospitals send to insurance companies. Currently does not ask what's your job and what's your industry? If we could add these two tiny data elements, we would have injury and illness data on everyone who works including firefighters.
- National Uniform Billing Committee. Adding two data elements is too burdensome for hospitals – so says the Committee. Committee meets again on July 31 in Chicago. Need to have our voices heard at the meeting.
- American Hospital Association set up the committee. Expanded to public health in 1985. This is a voluntary standard-making committee. Committee controlled by American Hospital Association. We need these two data elements.
- It's now your issue. I'm here to help. It's become political. We need to make this committee listen to our concerns.

Jenaway: Issue has already gotten attention on Capitol Hill due to fire service engaging with members of Congress during CFSI events this week.

Giff Swayne: What about non-hospitalized injuries? What about blowback on privacy issue – you're filling forms providing all sorts of information?

Taylor: Wanted to start with the most serious health issues. Will next move to National Uniform Claims Committee to collect data from physician visits.

Nothing we are collecting reveals sensitive information. What we are getting is just 30,000 foot data to see what leading causes of injury are. No privacy concerns because we aren't getting deep information. Fire chiefs tell me a whole spectrum of data is needed. We're getting 30,000-foot data. Collect data now; research comes later. No privacy – we're not getting deep data. Going with state-level data will provide more data.

Presentation – Chris Cooper, Physiological Health Assessment System for First Responders (PHASER)

- Principal investigator for PHASER program at UCLA
- Physiological monitoring of firefighters to identify risks and mitigation strategies
- Charged with identifying and prioritizing risks – cardiovascular risks are leading cause of deaths
- Developing sensors to provide real time feedback on physiological data from firefighters
- Have begun publishing results from tests
- Can provide “wellness score” for individuals
- Objective is the enhancement of first responder health and safety
- Collaboration between academia, industry and government

Subcommittee Reports

- **By-Laws Subcommittee** – No report
- **Ethics Subcommittee** – No report
- **Programmatic Subcommittee** – Jim Dalton
 - Notes programmatic was covered in opening remarks

- **Resolutions Subcommittee – Steve Austin**
 - **IMSA/IAFC Resolution on NPSTC T-Band Report**
 - Doug Aiken presents resolution
 - Support for T-Band report to go before Congress.
 - Provision in law: By 2021, auction off existing T-band spectrum. This spectrum is being used in 11 major cities. These cities are major users of spectrum by the fire service.
 - Don't believe proceeds of this auction will be enough to move public safety, low-level television and industrial users
 - Asking Congress to take another look at auctioning the T-band spectrum.
 - Motion by Doug Aiken
 - Second, Eriks Gabliks
 - Bobby Halton: Do we have an alternative to present to Congress?
 - Doug Aiken: Report asks Congress to cancel auction.
 - Austin noted that the NAC Resolutions Subcommittee fully supported resolution.
 - Resolution unanimously approved
 - **NFFF/IAFC/IAFF/NVFC Resolution on Uniform Billing Code**
 - Ron Siarnicki presents resolution
 - Motion: Ron Siarnicki
 - Second: John Granby
 - Resolution unanimously approved
 - **NFFF/NVFC Resolution in support of Hometown Heroes Act**
 - Austin noted that NAC Resolutions Subcommittee approved resolution
 - Ron Siarnicki presents resolution
 - Under the flag code, Governors can't lower US flags for public safety members who die in line of duty. This resolution would allow them that ability.
 - Motion: Doug Aiken
 - Seconded by: Jim Goldstein
 - Resolution unanimously approved
 - **NASFM/IAFC Resolution regarding propane odorant fade**
 - Bill Spencer presents resolution
 - 2010 fatal explosion in MA. Propane leak at a construction site, but no one knew due to lack of odor.
 - Working PHMSA to address
 - Motion : Bill Spencer
 - Second: Tony O'Neill
 - Ken Willett: Proposed amendment
 - Motion to accept amendment offering clarifying words: Ken Willett
 - Second: Harry Carter
 - Motion carries
 - Resolution unanimously approved
- **Fundraising Subcommittee – Bobby Halton**
 - Fundraising covered in Executive Director's report
- **Membership Subcommittee – No report**

New Business

- Steve Austin: Recommends that NAC Membership Subcommittee looks at American Red Cross for membership to CFSI National Advisory Committee
- Meri-K Appy: July 10 Webinar on *Fire is Everyone's Fight*

Election of Officers

Nomination for NAC Chair: Eriks Gabliks nominates Eddie Buchanan

Nomination for NAC Vice Chair: Harry Carter nominates Jim Dalton

By acclamation, Buchanan and Dalton elected to serve another term as Chair and Vice Chair respectively.

Meeting Adjourned

Attendance:

Eddie Buchanan (Chair); ISFSI
Jim Dalton (Vice-Chair); NFSA
Bill Jenaway; CFSI Board
Giff Swayne; CFSI Board
Lou Amabili; CFSI Board
Bill Webb; CFSI
Sean Carroll; CFSI
Dennis Compton; IFSTA
Steve Austin; IAAI
Doug Aiken; IMSA
Jim Goldstein; IAFC
Daniel Madrzykowski; NIST
Paul Brooks; CPSE
Debbie Sobotka; CPSE
Ron Siarnicki; NFFF
Vickie Pritchett; NFSA
Tim Sendelbach; FireRescue Magazine
Shannon Pieper; FireRescue Magazine
Randy Roxson; USA Sprinkler Fitters
Deborah Neitch; IAAI
Roger Krupp; IAAI
Stuart Nathan; IFBA
Jeff Barrington; Firehouse Magazine
Harvey Eisner; Firehouse Magazine
Ronald Farr; UL
Steve Kerber; SFPE

Justin Arnold; ISFSI
Anthony O'Neill; Pro Board
Dan Bailey; IAWF
Janet Wilmoth; Fire Chief Magazine
John Granby; FEMSA
Steve Edwards; NAFTD
Eriks Gabliks; NAFTD
R.T. Leicht; IFMA
Sara Yerkes; ICC
Skip Gibson; ISO
Robert Cobb; ISO
Bobby Halton; Fire Engineering
Paul Martin; CCFS
Diane Eggerman; CCFS
Ken Willette; NFPA
Donald Bliss; NFPA
Gregory Cade; NFPA
Harry Carter; IFE
Larry Thibodeau; AFSA
Steve Muncy; AFSA
Craig Sharman; Tyco/SimplexGrinnell
Barry Kasinitz; IAFF

Guests:

Cynthia Leighton; Motorola Solutions
Rich Marinucci; Northville Township
Ernest Rojahn; PA Fireman
Nancy Trench; IFSTA
Meri-K Appy; Appy and Associates
Mark Kreutzer; NAEFO
Brian McMahan; NAEFO
Kirk Hankins; IAAI
Bruce Varner; B.H. Varner & Associates
Maxim Batalin; UCLA/Phaser Program
Christopher Cooper ; UCLA/Phaser Program - Presenter
Jennifer Taylor; Drexel University - Presenter
Richard Reed; American Red Cross - Presenter
Liz DiGregorio; American Red Cross
Tim Edwards; Fire News