

**Congressional Fire Services Institute
National Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Washington Hilton, Washington, D.C.
May 2, 2014**

Call To Order 8:32 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Reports

Chairman – Eddie Buchanan

- Recognition of Past Chairs
- Introduction of Attendees

President – Bill Jenaway

- Thanks to all for everyone's support
- Spoke about challenge of recruiting new membership to Congressional Fire Services Caucus because of the great turnover every year in Congress. We are a strong caucus, but we could become stronger. Urged everyone to knock on doors locally or nationally to try and get new members to join caucus.
- Thanked staff for hard work

Chairman – Eddie Buchanan

- Spoke about importance of fire dynamics research. We are learning all these lessons and how to apply these new tactics.
- Raised concerns about funding trends for research -- has started to dwindle down.
- This research is getting to the field and it's working, but it's critical that we don't stop now because this is the most important thing for firefighters.

Vice Chairman's Report – Jim Dalton

- Thanked NAC for allowing him to serve as Vice-Chair of the NAC. Also, thanked the Programmatic Subcommittee and Sean for the outstanding workshop program this year.
- Congratulations to all award winners from last night, especially Jim Shannon and Mary Marchone, a friend for many years
- We have a big job coming up with mid-term elections for new Fire Caucus members. As Bill pointed out, we do have some work to do with caucus recruitment.
- Hopefully everyone sitting at the table and providing leadership to this organization have joined at some level of the Associate's Club Program.
- Asked attendees to please keep funding in mind for the Robert Barraclough Internship Program. An intern in the CFSI office really helps with the human resources.
- Paul Brooks from Center for Public Safety Excellence is retiring. On behalf of all of us, thank you for all of your hard work and leadership and we wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

Executive Director's Report – Bill Webb

- Thanked everyone for being at the dinner and NAC meeting. Overall, a successful program. The turnout lower, but that obviously has to do with the state of the economy. Trying to stress the importance of the seminars as a reason for attending. There were excellent speakers at each of the seminars. Continue to

get people to come to Washington, DC to meet with members of Congress and cultivate those relationships. Staff will start working on the 27th Annual Dinner shortly. Contact staff if you have any suggestions. We delivered an excellent program this year and on behalf of the Board and staff, thank you to Denny Compton for serving as the MC last night.

- NAC Organizations –looked back at the 1990’s. Some organizations have fallen off the grid. The NAC has been shrinking. We currently have 37 organizations. Back in 1996, worked with Tony O’ Neill, who was Chair of the NAC at the time, and we looked at the criteria for the NAC. We discussed and voted on new criteria:
 - “Applicant must be a national organization with a broad based constituency in the fire safety and emergency response field” – This wasn’t part of the original criteria when CFSI was first formed. This explains why these organizations that weren’t directly involved in emergency response and life safety issues were on the NAC.
 - Establishment of membership fee. We never had a membership fee, but the financial situation of the institute was in need of some type of stimulus to augment our funding. Initial fee was \$2,000; now it’s \$2950 which is the cost of a table at the dinner. This fee has been flat for the past 4 years, but will consider raising the amount when the board convenes for its next meeting. The Hilton is continuing to increase their dinner rates and sleeping room rates, but in order to remain viable, we need to consider raising the fee.
 - Currently have 37 organizations, but in recent years we have experienced opportunities to work with other organizations dedicated to public safety. We have discussed these issues with the Board. We want to make sure that a new organization coming in would work well with our mission and common concern.
 - Added “comprehensive statement of purpose.” This was added because certain groups don’t have bylaws or charters.
 - We have the Resolutions process in place to make sure that our resolutions are addressing the consensus positions of the NAC.
 - **Question:** Barry Kasinitz: Agree with changes. Process wise, why were these changes before the Board rather than the membership committee?
 - Bill Webb: The Board tasked me to meet with the Membership Committee, and they in turn developed this language, and since the Board has the ultimate say, they are the ones that make the ultimate decision.
- Fundraising – Dinner is our major fundraiser. We do the Silent Auction at Firehouse, thank you for that. We also had a Capital’s Hockey Game Night earlier in the year which was successful, as well as the Associates Club and the Robert Barraclough Internship Program. With the cost of the dinner continuing to increase, we need to look at more ways to increase revenue. Bobby Halton is the chair of our Fundraising Sub-committee and we are looking to convene a meeting in Dallas at Fire-Rescue International. We want to reach out to our industry types that involved. We want to sit down and talk to them about how we can get our message out to them better. Hopefully we can develop some ideas for a marketing strategy and eventually a fundraising strategy that would pave the way for greater involvement. We had about 20 tables last night that were present from industry.
 - Denny Compton – Appreciate everyone’s support about the timing of dinner. It is great that we finished on time, but the more important thing is that we had a quality program. Thank you to you and your staff for doing that.

Legislative Report - Sean Carroll

- I do want to thank all of our moderators and seminar panelists this year. We had 32 industry leaders, 6 federal officials, and 8 members of Congress who all volunteered their time and expertise. We are really fortunate to have them. Thank you to Jim Dalton and the Programmatic Sub-committee as well.

- Since last time we met -
 - Coming into the new fiscal year, things didn't look too good on Capitol Hill. Congress shut down, no agreement on FY14 funding, Farm bill threatened to overturn state "fire-safe" cigarette laws, and there were questions about volunteer fire departments complying with the "employer mandate" of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.
- Since then-
 - Congress has approved FY14 funding, and maintained funding levels for USFA and the Urban Search and Rescue System and increased funding for FIRE and SAFER grants.
 - Offending language was removed from Farm bill
 - IRS has ruled volunteers will not be counted under the "employer mandate". Also, the House and Senate passed separate measures to codify this ruling.
 - This demonstrates the importance of the NAC and the influence of our collective organization. We need to continue our efforts, not only in DC but also at grassroots level.
- We still have more work to be done
 - Administration's FY15 budget was released earlier this year.
 - Recommends minor cut to FIRE/SAFER
 - Also, contains a pretty significant cut to USFA and Urban Search & Rescue System
 - We will be back up on Capitol Hill recommending Congress maintain level funding to these programs.
 - National Fire Service organizations request:
 - FIRE/SAFER - \$340m each
 - USFA - \$44m
 - Urban Search & Rescue System - \$35.18m
- We continue to work on a number of legislative issues such as
 - Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act
 - Safe Building Codes Incentive Act
 - Volunteer tax incentive bills
 - Fire Police Fairness Act
 - Campus fire safety bills
 - The legislative memo in your packets goes into detail about everything we are working on. On our website, there are links to all fire service legislation we are monitoring.
- Fire Caucus
 - Need to continue recruitment and urge members to be more active
 - Helps with grassroots advocacy
 - Currently have 257 caucus members. Like Dr. Jenaway said, we need to continue this outreach to find engaging members.
 - We did lose our co-chair Congressman Rob Andrews who resigned from Congress. We asked Congressman Pascrell to take over the position.
 - With all the different groups competing with us for attention on Capitol Hill, we have the advantage that there are firefighters who vote in their districts and fire departments in their districts, so if we could utilize that grassroots effort, we can continue to be successful in DC.

Presentation – Chip Lutton, General Counsel for Nest/Google

- Group of 500 in Palo Alto, CA, mostly engineers. It was founded with the goal of bringing information technology and computer science in the field of household appliances

- Nest Protect Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarm – Main goal was to transition it from a passive, silent device that is ignored into a product that engages people and starts to bring them into learning about their environment and the issue of their own safety.
 - Voice alerts that tell you where/what danger is with wireless interconnect
 - Through wireless connection, ability to log data, push software updates, and send alerts for low battery
- How will these devices contribute to life safety?
 - Interactive user experience – alerts, battery status, late warnings
 - Educational opportunities – working with users to help them understand what to do in an emergency or even customize a personal evacuation plan
 - Providing information for first responders – sensors identifying and locating the danger, notifying of any occupants, and determining activation time of warnings.
 - All data logged from devices is transmitted to the cloud service. We can see real data from real time, which provides us the opportunity to continually improve and do research on what is going on.
 - Question: *Jim Dalton*: Would system function if storm knocked out internet connection?
 - *Chip Lutton*: The device should always work in the house regardless of the internet. Right now, the connection of the internet is dependent on the wi-fi. But as we get into emergency response information, then we are going to have to build additional communication pads for reliability through cell phones or other forms of communication. It's definitely coming.
 - *Barry Kasinitz*: Is there any type of governmental regulations/policies/program that either help advance this technology or hinder it?
 - *Chip Lutton*: A number of initiatives are going to be very helpful to demonstrate the potential of these devices. The trick is that as we see legislation and the evolution of regulations, we don't preclude any possibilities.
 - *Tony O'Neill* – When will this be rolling out to public? Price points?
 - *Chip Lutton*: The Smoke Alarm was released in November of 2013 at \$129. We had a wave feature to hush the alarm, but we have disabled that feature. It will be back on the market shortly.
 - *Ken Willette* – Is the data on the screen showing what is being put up on the Cloud? Can this be available to the fire department, and if they intervene, how would they access that information?
 - *Chip Lutton*: We do have that data as long as wi-fi works; however, we do follow current privacy laws concerning available data.
 - *Bruce Johnson* – You had mentioned there had been multiple technologies to sensor individual units. I know NIST has done some research to look at the type of smoke in comparison with CO. Can you be more discriminatory in fires to distinguish between a friendly fire versus a more serious fire?
 - *Chip Lutton*: As we can really study massive amounts of data and determine the difference between the alarms, we will have the opportunity to differentiate between the types of fire. We hope we can do that through a software update.

Presentation – Daniel Madrzykowski, National Institute of Standards and Technology

- Provided update on research programs at NIST. Focusing work on firefighter protection. Conducting research on protecting firefighters during interior attack.
- A \$26 million expansion of a research facility. In response to the inability to understand the structural failures of the World Trade Center. No one was testing how the buildings would test under load and fire.

- NIST attempting to develop Wildland Urban Interface Hazard Scale
 - Topography, weather conditions, how dense the population is, etc.
 - Still don't have a lot of data, so currently a framework
 - No NFIRS for WUI fires
- Fire Fighting technology
 - We understand the basics of fire and how room fires can spread.
 - We are really interested in firefighter protection.
 - Video demonstrations of new tactics for firefighting technology
- Question: Bill Jenaway: Are all the websites listed on the NIST's website?
 - Dan Madrzykowski: Yes

Break

Presentation – Zach Callahan, American Red Cross

- A strength of the organization is our people. What fire safety legislation do we want to get behind? Let's use the same effort and energy to put forth volunteers to help.
- We recognize that "Fire Is Everyone's Fight™" and feel welcomed into this community to help and move forward.

Subcommittee Reports

Ethics – Doug Aiken – No report

Programmatic - Jim Dalton – Already discussed

Resolutions – Steven Austin

- We received 2 resolutions that weren't quite ready
 - National Association of State Fire Marshals - In support of 10-year batteries in residential smoke alarms. The subcommittee discussed and unanimously agreed that that scope of proposed resolution was outside of the mission of CFSI.
 - International Code Council - Support of a Disaster Savings Account Act of 2014. This sets-up a fund to prefund potential disaster response and there would be some type of a savings account to encourage people to mitigate. In concept it was a great resolution, but it wasn't quite ready. Resolution tabled until we can get more information.

Fundraising – Bobby Halton

- Discussion with Bill Webb and will convene a meeting at FRI and forward that information to the Board in December.

Membership – Chief Dennis Compton – No report

Presentation – Ryan Parrott, Sons of the Flag Organization

- Sons of Flag was created because:
 - Being burned is one of the most traumatic and painful injuries that one can endure.
 - Severe burns are also amongst the most expensive injuries to treat.
 - Burn survivors typically have to endure countless surgeries with small gains.
 - Burn surgery is a niche field that is incredibly underfunded.
 - Current technologies that are available and in early phase testing are not being implemented quickly enough.
- Currently partnered with Parkland Hospital, Brigham & Women's Hospital, and Brooke Army Medical Center. SOTF is actively pursuing partnerships with other hospitals throughout the country that house Certified Burn Units. Acknowledged the work of IAFF in burn research and treatment.

- Not looking for funding, but rather spreading the word about the mission of SOTF.

Unfinished Business - none

New Business

Meri-K Appy - Representing Vision 20/20

- Strategy 2 - Prevention marketing
 - Working with a social marketing firm to help identify more impactful messages on smoke alarms;
 - New theme: “Where There Is Love, There Are Smoke Alarms”. Social marketing researchers telling us that it’s not good enough to say what smoke alarms will do in future. They need a closer reward, like their family and loved ones.
- Strategy 3 – Culture Change
 - One of our big focal points is community risk reduction
 - AFG grants prioritize home fire safety visits and installing alarms and educating residents. These are proven to work fast and need more fire departments doing community risk reduction
 - Vision 20/20 is close to getting private sector funding to introduce a tool kit to do an effective fire home safety visit because we don’t have these tools

Elections

Steve Austin

- Office for Chair open
 - Nominations: Dennis Compton nominates Jim Dalton
 - After 3 calls, Jim Dalton becomes Chair of NAC
- Office for Vice Chair open
 - Nominations: Tony O’ Neill nominates Doug Aiken
 - After 3 calls, Doug Aiken becomes Vice Chair of NAC
- Comments from both Jim and Doug

Adjournment – 11:10 a.m.

CFSI NAC MEETING ATTENDANCE

Douglas Aiken; International Municipal Signal Association
Lou Amabili; CFSI Board of Directors
Justin Arnold; International Society of Fire Service Instructors
Steve Austin; International Association of Arson Investigators
Dan Bailey; International Association of Wildland Fire
Jeff Barrington; Firehouse Magazine
Paul Brooks; Center for Public Safety Excellence
Eddie Buchanan; International Society of Fire Service Instructors
Sean Carroll; Congressional Fire Services Institute
Harry Carter; Institution of Fire Engineers - USA Branch
Douglas Cline; International Society of Fire Service Instructors
Diane Collins Eggerman; Center for Campus Fire Safety
Dennis Compton; International Fire Service Training Association/National Fallen Firefighters Foundation
Jim Dalton; National Fire Sprinkler Association
Steve Edwards; North American Fire Training Directors
Harvey Eisner; Firehouse Magazine
Rick Fagan; Center for Public Safety Excellence
Ronald Farr; UL
Eriks Gabliks; North American Fire Training Directors
Hugh "Skip" Gibson; Insurance Services Office
John Granby; Fire and Emergency Manufacturers and Services Association
Bobby Halton; Fire Engineering Magazine
James Hill; International Association of Black Professional Fire Fighters
Bill Jenaway; CFSI Board of Directors
Bruce Johnson; International Code Council
Barry Kasinitz; International Association of Fire Fighters
Roger Krupp; International Association of Arson Investigators
Ken LaSala; International Association of Fire Chiefs
Daniel Madryzkowski; National Institute of Standards and Technology (Presenter)
Paul Martin; Center for Campus Fire Safety
Lee Morris; Fire Apparatus Manufacturers' Association
Steve Muncy; American Fire Sprinkler Association
Mike Natchipolsky; FireRescue1/Fire Chief
Stuart Nathan; International Fire Buff Associates
Chris Neal; CFSI Board of Directors

Deborah Neitch; International Association of Arson Investigators
Tony O'Neill; National Board of Fire Service Professional Qualifications
Sarah Owen; UL
Steve Peavey; International Fire Marshals Association
Ryan Pietzsch; VFIS
Vickie Pritchett; National Fire Sprinkler Association
Kevin Quinn; National Volunteer Fire Council
Allan Rice; North American Fire Training Directors
Randy Roxson; USA Sprinkler Fitters Association
Leila Sammander; Congressional Fire Services Institute
Craig Sharman; SimplexGrinnell
Kenyatta Smith; International Association of Black Professional Fire Fighters
Giff Swayne; CFSI Board of Directors
Nicole Testa Boston; Society of Fire Protection Engineers
Terry Victor; SimplexGrinnell
Bill Webb; Congressional Fire Services Institute
Crawford Weistling; International Association of Arson Investigators
Ken Willette; National Fire Protection Association

GUESTS:

Meri-K Appy; Vision 20/20
Zach Cahalan; American Red Cross (Presenter)
Zoz Cuccias; Nest Labs
Tim Edwards; Fire News
Wendy Gifford; Nest Labs
Tom Hayden; Center for Campus Fire Safety
Steve Kerber; UL Firefighter Safety Institute
Cynthia Leighton; CFSI Volunteer
Chip Lutton; Nest/Google (Presenter)
Brian McMahan; National Association of Elected Fire Officials
Ryan Parrott; Sons of the Flag (Presenter)
Shane Ray; South Carolina Fire Marshal's Office
Ernest Rojahn; Lancaster County Firemen's Association/Pennsylvania Fireman
Betsi Schumacher; Nest Labs
Rich Timmons; Nest Labs
John Walters, III; Sons of the Flag