

## **Congressional Fire Services Institute National Advisory Committee Meeting**

Washington Hilton  
1919 Connecticut Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC  
April 26, 2019

### **Call to Order**

- The meeting was called to order on April 26, 2019, at 8:32 a.m. by Chief Greg Cade, Chair of the National Advisory Committee.
- Chief Cade led the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance
- Roll Call was taken

### **Dr. William Jenaway, President of the CFSI Board of Directors**

- Thank you to everyone in the room for support of CFSI and a great program last night.
- Need to be active in recruiting more members of Congress to the Fire Caucus
  - We've had some success this year, we need to keep it up
- Was on Capitol Hill Thursday and had a successful day

### **Chair's Report**

- Chief Greg Cade delivered the Chair's report
- Congratulations to CFSI staff for work on symposium and dinner
- Looking for input on how to make the fire service a safer profession
  - Not just here, but around the world
  - The U.S. continues to provide leadership, but also need to bring back excellent ideas from other countries
- We'll continue to reach out to you to help get the message to Capitol Hill

### **Vice-Chair's Report**

- Chief Ron Siarnicki delivered the Vice-Chair's report
- Hosted a two-hour program engaging emerging leaders in the fire service
  - Many first-time attendees to the Symposium/Dinner
  - Our responsibility to mentor the next generation of leaders

### **Executive Director's Report**

- Bill Webb, CFSI's Executive Director, delivered a report
- Thank you for everyone's support in putting on the dinner
  - MFRI, IFSTA, NFFF
  - Master of Ceremonies Denny Compton
- Good attendance at the event
- New support – Anheuser-Busch water program
  - They want to expand the program. CFSI offered its support with this effort
- We've been stressing the educational portion of the event
- Send your ideas to the Programmatic Subcommittee

- Congratulations to award recipients
  - If you know of individuals and organizations deserving recognition, please let us know
- Trying to expand exposure for our sponsors – reach out to Steven
- Will be releasing a 2019 holiday ornament
- 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Harry S. Truman Legacy Symposium and the Truman Fire Forum
- Community Risk Reduction Symposium with Vision 20/20 – recognized Meri-K Appy
  - Appy - Vision 2020 received a grant to host a symposium with CFSI to prepare the future leaders of community risk reduction
  - Appy – Recent smoke alarm summit in Baltimore to identify gaps practices and behavior research

### **Legislative Report**

- Sean Carroll, CFSI’s Director of Government Affairs, delivered a report
- Folders contain our recent legislative memo
  - Snapshot of some of the issues we have been and will be working on
  - Legislative Outlook and list of legislation is posted on our website
- Congressional Fire Services Caucus –
  - Began the year with 199 members
  - Co-Chairs have led an aggressive recruitment campaign in conjunction with local, grassroots outreach
  - Currently at 221 members
  - Senator Thomas Carper (DE) is the current chair
- Fiscal Year 2020 Appropriations
  - Working with Congressional allies to increase appropriations for FIRE/SAFER, USFA, the Urban Search & Rescue System, and to fully fund the Firefighter Cancer Registry
- Technical correction so qualified improvement properties (QIP), including fire sprinkler retrofits, are eligible for accelerated depreciation (S. 803/H.R. 1869)
- Will be working with Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr. (NJ-9) on a high-rise fire sprinkler retrofit bill
- Several initiatives contained in resolutions that will be discussed later today
- Many more initiatives covered in the legislative memo and on our website

### **Presentation – Pamela Williams, BuildStrong Coalition**

- December 2018 report from the National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS), the benefit-cost ratios for mitigation strategies studied found:
  - Adopting model codes saves \$11 per \$1 spent
  - Federal mitigation grants save \$6 per \$1 spent
  - Exceeding codes saves \$4 per \$1 spent
  - Mitigating Infrastructure saves \$4 per \$1 spent
- 2018 Congress passed the Disaster Recovery Reform Act (DRRA)
  - \$1-3 billion in the hands of states/locals to invest in mitigation
  - Allows FEMA to fund the implementation and enforcement of codes
  - Clarifies that mitigation efforts in post-wildland fire areas are allowable expenses
- BuildStrong is working with FEMA to draft guidance

- Working with states that have taken proactive measures that allow them to tap into an extra 10% of disaster funds
- BRIC – Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities
  - Build capacity across the country – small investments can make a difference
  - FEMA is wholly embracing these concepts and working with the Coalition
- Power/water/infrastructure is where we need to invest
- None of these assistance programs exist in a vacuum
  - Pre-disaster mitigation conversation flows right into the disaster recovery conversation and all these programs are being leveraged with funds from other agencies and departments
    - Finally, connect more dots than ever before
  - The burden still lies with the state and local levels
  - BuildStrong Coalition is trying to highlight best practices
- Other issues discussed include the surface transportation package, potential infrastructure package, appropriations for disaster programs, and the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Program (CDBG-DR) authorization
- July 22<sup>nd</sup> - Forum on Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities
- Q&A – Julius Hallas (NASFM) – Is the focus on new construction or retrofit?
  - Williams – It absolutely needs to be a combination. There is an opportunity for retrofitting. We need to look at new construction, but we have such a stock of older properties. Need to address human behavior and educate on why we need to invest in codes.

**Presentation – Mike Varney & Chief Richard Carrizzo (FirstNet) and Guerdy Charles (AT&T) –**

- Varney - Looking at ways to continue to improve the network and meet the needs of public safety
  - Looking to the future to ensure FirstNet is meeting the needs of the public safety community
  - Leveraging LTE technology: Need to increase coverage and capacity, improve situational awareness, and integrate voice communication
    - Need to do all of this in a secure information exchange environment
- Carrizzo – This is a 25-year program and we’re only 18 months into it. We’re still building the system.
  - Takes approximately \$81 million annually to run the general operations of the system
    - FirstNet Authority takes another \$81 million in a contingency in case anything happens
    - First reinvestment check for \$78 million came last year
    - Should receive another \$78 million this October
    - Over the next 25 years, FirstNet Authority will take in a little less than \$30 billion
  - Developing a roadmap to determine where we need to go
  - First Responder Network Authority governs AT&T
- Charles – Personal survivor of multiple fires

- Served at World Trade Center for three weeks following the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks
- The year prior to FirstNet was instituted, AT&T's emergency response team responded to 27 emergencies
  - AT&T participated in more 272 emergencies last year
- FirstNet is the fastest growing telecommunications network in the United States
  - Over 575,000 FirstNet connections with over 7,200 agencies
- The pace of adoption is increasing
- Q&A – Justin Daniels (CCFS) – Heard statement that FirstNet expected to reach 60% adoption by the end of the year. Is that accurate?
  - Charles – That is probably a little low. We are on pace to eclipse that.

### Subcommittee Reports

- **Ethics** – No report
- **Programmatic** – Ron Siarnicki
  - Thank you to the Programmatic Subcommittee
  - Opened Call-For-Proposals in the summer;
    - Received nearly 40 proposals
    - Increased number of seminars we offered this year
    - Will do another call this summer, so start thinking of some ideas
  - Continued our partnership with Columbia Southern University;
    - CSU provides CEUs for the seminars at no additional cost to CFSI or the participants
  - Hosted 18 Seminars over two days
    - The most comprehensive program we've hosted
    - Town Hall meeting was well attended and had some good discussions
- **Fundraising** – Vickie Pritchett
  - Fundraising subcommittee has been working with Steven Tramel to enhance existing fundraising programs
  - What more can our organizations do as members of the National Advisory Committee to financially support CFSI?
    - Please consider joining the Associates Club if you are not already a member
  - Continuing holiday ornament program
  - Please share your ideas with the Fundraising Subcommittee – we want your ideas
- **Membership** – Tony O'Neill – No new applications for membership
  - If you are aware of any national fire service organizations that may benefit from joining the National Advisory Committee, please contact Bill Webb
- **Resolutions** – Four resolutions were considered by the National Advisory Committee
  - *A resolution expressing support for requiring federal infrastructure investments be designed and constructed to the latest codes and standards*
    - Offered by the International Code Council, and cosponsored by the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the National Association of State Fire Marshals, and the National Volunteer Fire Council
    - Motion: International Code Council

- Second: UL
- Seth Statler – recommend an amendment
  - Change language where it reads “Model codes” to “consensus-based codes”
  - Motion second – National Fallen Firefighters Foundation
  - Motion to amend unanimously approved
- Unanimously approved
- *A resolution expressing concern about growing damage from wildfires and encouraging increased support for coordinated community risk reduction, research, and suppression efforts, including adequate equipment as well as personnel resources*
  - Offered by the National Fire Protection Association, and cosponsored by the International Association of Fire Chiefs, and the International Code Council
  - Motion: National Fire Protection Association
  - Second: International Association of Wildland Fire
  - Sean DeCrane – recommend an amendment to use “consensus-based” so the resolution is consistent with the previous resolution
  - National Association of State Fire Marshals and International Association of Wildland Fire requested to be listed as co-sponsors
  - Unanimously approved
- *A resolution in support of the Helping Emergency Responders Overcome (HERO) Act*
  - Offered by the International Association of Fire Fighters, and cosponsored by the National Volunteer Fire Council
  - Motion: International Association of Fire Fighters
  - Second: National Fallen Firefighters Foundation
  - Unanimously approved
- *A Resolution in support of legislation extending the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund Act*
  - Offered by the International Association of Fire Fighters, and cosponsored by the National Fire Protection Association
  - Motion: International Association of Fire Fighters
  - Second: UL
  - Unanimously Approved

### **Election of Officers**

- Chair
  - Motion to nominate Greg Cade made by Tony O’Neill
  - Second by Paul Brooks
  - Second by Sean DeCrane
  - Unanimously approved
- Vice-Chair
  - Motion to nominate Ron Siarnicki made by Tony O’Neill
  - Second by Bobby Halton
  - Second by Marc Bashoor

- Unanimously approved

### **Unfinished Business**

- No unfinished business was discussed

### **New Business**

- No new business was discussed

### **Adjournment**

- Upon motion made and duly seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 10:34 a.m.

### **ATTENDANCE:**

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Cade, Greg          | National Fire Protection Association (NAC Chair)                               |
| Siarnicki, Ron      | National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NAC Vice-Chair)                       |
| Jenaway, Bill       | Congressional Fire Services Institute Board of Directors (President)           |
| Neal, Chris         | Congressional Fire Services Institute Board of Directors (Secretary/Treasurer) |
| Austin, Steve       | Congressional Fire Services Institute Board of Directors                       |
| Echols, Peggy       | Congressional Fire Services Institute Board of Directors                       |
| Webb, Bill          | Congressional Fire Services Institute (Executive Director)                     |
| Carroll, Sean       | Congressional Fire Services Institute (Director of Government Affairs)         |
| Banks, Wally        | International Fire Buff Associates   |
| Bassi, Preet        | Center for Public Safety Excellence  |
| Brooks, Paul        | Institution of Fire Engineers - USA Branch                                     |
| Carroll, Sean       | Congressional Fire Services Institute  |
| Compton, Dennis     | International Fire Service Training Association                                |
| Daniels, Justin     | Center for Campus Fire Safety  |
| DeCrane, Sean       | Underwriters Laboratories  |
| Drennan, Vina       | Common Voices  |
| Finger, Dave        | National Volunteer Fire Council  |
| Gibson, Hugh "Skip" | ISO  |
| Granby, John        | Fire and Emergency Manufacturers' and Services Association                     |
| Halas, Julius       | National Association of State Fire Marshals                                    |
| Halton, Bobby       | Fire Engineering/FDIC  |
| Hannan, Craig       | International Fire Service Training Association                                |
| Krupp, Roger        | International Association of Arson Investigators                               |
| Lang, Dave          | International Association of Fire Fighters                                     |
| LaSala, Ken         | International Association of Fire Chiefs                                       |
| Leighton, Cynthia   | Fire and Emergency Manufacturers' and Services Association                     |
| Lynam, David        | International Fire Marshals Association  |
| Marinucci, Rich     | Fire Department Safety Officers Association                                    |

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| McDonald, Candice   | Cumberland Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association            |
| McSweeney, Kevin    | Center for Campus Fire Safety                                |
| Meissner, Shannon   | International Association of Fire Fighters                   |
| Moore, Dave         | International Association of Wildland Fire                   |
| Muncy, Steve        | American Fire Sprinkler Association                          |
| Narva, Jon          | National Association of State Fire Marshals                  |
| Nathan, Stewart M.  | International Fire Buff Associates                           |
| O'Neill, Anthony    | National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications   |
| Pegram, Steve       | International Society of Fire Service Instructors            |
| Pritchett, Vickie   | National Fire Sprinkler Association                          |
| Queen, Nathan       | International Association of Black Professional Firefighters |
| Ray, Shane          | National Fire Sprinkler Association                          |
| Roxon, Randy        | USA Sprinkler Fitters  |
| Sactor, Alan        | Center for Campus Fire Safety                                |
| Sobotka, Debbie     | Center for Public Safety Excellence                          |
| Spencer, Bill       | National Association of State Fire Marshals                  |
| Statler, Seth       | National Fire Protection Association                         |
| Stewart, Addington  | International Association of Black Professional Firefighters |
| Stittleburg, Phil   | Institution of Fire Engineers USA                            |
| Valentine, Victoria | Society of Fire Protection Engineers                         |
| Victor, Terry       | Johnson Controls/SimplexGrinnell                             |
| Weber, Tom          | ISO  |

Speakers & Guests:

|                   |                                       |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Appy, Meri-K      | Vision 20/20                          |
| Carrizzo, Richard | FirstNet                              |
| Charles, Guerdy   | AT&T                                  |
| Klima, Ed         | First Responder Center for Excellence |
| McCarragher, Gary | FirstNet                              |
| Ozog, Jerry       | Pennsylvania Fire & Rescue Inst.      |
| Rojahn, Ernest    | PA Fireman                            |
| Varney, Michael   | FirstNet                              |
| Williams, Pam     | BuildStrong Coalition                 |