Congressional Fire Services Institute National Advisory Committee Meeting
Virtual Via Zoom
May 19, 2021

Call to Order
● The meeting was called to order on May 19, 2021 at 1:00 pm.

Bill Jenaway, CFSI Board of Directors
● Thanks to all who participated in CFSI’s symposium.

Presentation on COVID-19 vaccination - Dr. Wesley R. Attwood, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
● U.S. has administered more than 266 million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine as of 5/14/2021.
● CDC Vaccine Task Force focuses on vaccine implementation for essential workers (including first responders) by disseminating information and supporting jurisdictions as they implement vaccine strategies.
● Vaccine distribution sites have expanded with increased vaccine supply.
● Now we have enough vaccine supply, the next focus is on vaccine confidence.
● There is greater vaccine confidence when departments have opted to use EMS personnel to administer vaccines to department members, because people know and trust those they work with.
● There are concerns still about the vaccine, including:
  ○ The vaccine and COVID are too political and COVID isn’t as severe as the media claims;
  ○ Wanting to see what side effects are; and
  ○ People have concerns that the vaccine was rushed and isn’t safe.
● CDC recommends employers encourage vaccination and establish policies to make it as easy as possible for employees.
● Anecdotal estimates that 50-60 percent of fire and EMS personnel are vaccinated as of 5/19/2021.
● First line supervisors are key trusted messengers for vaccination.
● Departments should also try to encourage junior members to get vaccinated.

Chair’s Report
● Chief Ron Siarnicki delivered the Chair’s report.
● As of this week, NFFF has 176 fire and EMS deaths from COVID; 123 fire and 53 EMS.

Vice-Chair’s Report
● Craig Hannan delivered the Vice-Chair’s report.
● Thanks to all who participated in the 2021 virtual symposium.

Executive Director’s Report
● Bill Webb, CFSI’s Executive Director, delivered a report.
● The 2021 symposium was successful and we appreciate all those who participated as a speaker or attendee.
• CFSI has been conducting webinars for the fire service outside of the symposium, putting together a quarterly newsletter, and presenting at outside events.
• CFSI is hoping to have an in-person reception in the fall.

Legislative Report
• Michaela Campbell, CFSI’s Director of Government Affairs, delivered a report.
• Talked about the need for caucus recruitment and changes in caucus leadership in 2021 -- including new co-chair Rep. Brain Fitzpatrick (PA).
• Discussed legislative issues including the American Rescue Plan Act, fiscal year 2022 appropriations, and several standalone bills that CFSI supports.

Subcommittee Reports
• Ethics – No report
• Programmatic – Included in Vice Chair’s report
• Fundraising – Vickie Pritchett
  ○ Please join the Associates Club and continue to support CFSI.
• Membership – No report.
• Resolutions – One resolution was considered by the National Advisory Committee:
  ○ A resolution expressing concern about the need to educate and equip first responders with the information and tools needed to address safety challenges posed by emerging technologies such as electrical vehicles
    ■ Motion: NFPA
    ■ Second: NVFC
    ■ Unanimously approved

New Business
• Seth Statler, NFPA discussed an issue pertaining to codes and standards and copyrights.
• NFFF presented its 2020 Arthur J. Glatfelter Distinguished Service Award to Chief Dennis Compton.

Adjournment
• Upon motion made and duly seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 1:54 p.m.