

GREAT LAKES DIVISION/IAFC

Minutes of August 12, 2004 Board Meeting

New Orleans, LA

I Call to Order

The meeting was held in the president's suite at the Fairmont Hotel in New Orleans. Vice President Kenn Taylor called the meeting to order at 2:30 P.M. CDT. The following members were present: Secretary/Treasurer Ron Hutchings, State Representatives Brian Lott-IN, Randy Sellnow-WI, Dale Duermit-OH, and Paul Klapprich-MN. President Timm Schabbel and Division Director Larry Grorud expect to join the meeting later as they are attending and speaking at a legislative meeting being held by the IAFC at the convention center.

II Acceptance / Additions to the Agenda

Vice President Taylor asked if there were any additions to the agenda that President Schabbel provided to each of the members by e-mail attachment. Hearing none the agenda stands.

III Approval of Previous Minutes

The vice president asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the August 03, 2004 teleconference. Hearing none Klapprich moved to approve the minutes of the August 03, 2004 teleconference as written. Second by Sellnow. The minutes were approved with one abstention by Lott.

IV Old Business

- A. FRI New Orleans: Hutchings reported that, as usual, he had no idea how many to expect at the breakfast tomorrow morning. We know the GLD has a minimum of 200 registered and there is always quite an additional number that are "off the books". Three years ago we had 286 attend the breakfast. Hutchings has guaranteed 200 for this breakfast. Not all of the money has been received from our supporters as yet. If we receive all of the money that has been promised we will not lose money if we have at least 108 pay for tickets.

All attendees to the presidential banquet must have a ticket to get in as tickets will be collected at the door this year. Because of changes in the exchange of banquet tickets no one really knows what the banquet attendance will be and they are considering additional adjoining banquet space to accommodate more than the 1700 spaces available in the main room.

The quality of the Fairmont was discussed and it seems we have some GLD members that do not want to stay here while others have complimented us on the location and the quality of the hotel.

Hutchings reported that the number of GLD members, that he is aware of, attending FRI are as follows by state: IL 59, IN 19, MI 18, MN 25, OH 38, and WI 11. In addition we know there are members attending that are not "officially" registered and there are at least 30 from the GL area registered that are not IAFC members.

- B. Strategic Plan Review: The Strategic Plan was discussed and it was determined that there were no suggestions for major changes. Vice President Taylor suggested we should pinpoint the "hot topics" that we could focus our efforts on. Those suggested were legislative issues, building relationships with state and other organizations and position statements. It was also suggested that we must make

membership a priority. We have been actively pursuing these portions of the plan and have made great progress.

- C. Legislative Network: The vice president provided several copies of the new GLD Legislative Guide Book, for the Board's review, that President Schabbel had assembled. This book lists all of the congressional people and their committees in the GLD area. It also provides three GLD member contacts for each one. While the list is not complete, it is more than 90% finished. With the constant changes in Congress, this will continue to be a "work in progress". It was suggested that this list could be distributed by disc which could be more readily amended. Our next step is to create an e-mail tree for the list of contacts.
- D. Forum 2005 update: Vice president Taylor passed around brochures promoting Forum 2005. The arrangements have been made with the Green Bay Packers to partner with our educational program and Jeff Roemer has arranged for the use of the facilities at Lambeau Field. While the contract has not yet been signed, we will use the Tundra Lodge and Water Park as our headquarters hotel. It was suggested we should put this info on our website ASAP and encourage each of the states to promote Forum '05, if possible. Interest in Forum '05 seems to be running high. At this time (2:50 P.M.) IAFC 2nd Vice President Elect Jim Harmes arrived to sit in on our meeting. He thanked the GLD for our support in his election. A short discussion followed about any additional hot item short programs that could be presented at Forum '05.

President Timm Schabbel and Director Larry Grorud joined the meeting at 3:00 P. M. Grorud reported that the Legislative Meeting had gone very well. There were nearly 200 people in attendance! This is quite a change from the first meeting that 7 or 10 attended. The legislative contacts book furnished by President Schabbel was well received. It was suggested that it may be of value to hold a lobbying seminar at a future FRI.

President Schabbel asked Grorud to comment on the resolutions that have been presented by the SE Division. Grorud stated that all but one appeared to be good resolutions and The Constitution and By Laws Committee and the IAFC Board were recommending members to turn down the request that a spokesperson be appointed for the IAFC. This is not necessary as the IAFC president is the official spokesperson. It is felt that the resolution is badly worded and its intention was to secure a celebrity spokesperson to promote the IAFC. This is now being considered by the IAFC Board.

- E. Fire-GPO Update: Committee member Keith Condra had not arrived at the meeting yet due to a previous commitment.

V Good of the Order

Duermit questioned now that we have a sponsor for the bus transportation why are the room rates still reflecting this cost. Grorud replied that this is just part of the support we receive from vendors to increase revenue from FRI. FRI is still contributing 55% of the IAFC annual budget. The general opinion is that we have to do something to control room costs.

Keith Condra arrived at the meeting at this time (3:12 P.M.).

- E. Fire-GPO Update: Condra reported that not a lot was accomplished at their meeting this morning due to the pressures of FRI. They have scheduled another meeting for the council to be held in

November in Indianapolis. Condra still feels confident that the program is headed in the right direction. GPO has a booth at FRI and plans to use this as their “unveiling”. They will have several representatives from the companies that they have contracts with present. They expect to have another 150 contracts come on line in the next four to six months. Most of these will be Amerinet contracts that we can take advantage of. They are still working to adjust prices on some of the existing contracts as there are numerous individual prices that fire departments can better on their own. Some GLD departments have taken advantage of the savings offered by the Fire-GPO. Second quarter 2004 sales in the GLD were \$110,845.00 for one vendor-Zoll. We are probably still a year away from being fully operational. This next year will see an emphasis on establishing contracts for fire equipment.

V Good of the Order (continued)

Grorud mentioned that the GLD representative to the IAFC Constitution and By Laws Committee was up for reappointment. Chief Tim Farmer of Coon Rapids, MN has filled this position. Taylor moved that Tim Farmer be reappointed as the GLD representative to the IAFC Constitution and By Laws Committee. Second by Duermit. Motion carried. President Schabbel said that he would get a letter to Grorud reappointing Tim Farmer as our representative to the committee.

The IAFC board members are scheduled to arrive at our breakfast tomorrow morning at 7:30 A.M. We will let them address our membership as soon as they arrive. Forum 2005 brochures will be placed on the tables. Our goal is to have the business meeting over by 9:00 A.M.

Hutchings commented that we are in good financial shape at this time. Also, on the membership reports that he had just sent out, the trial memberships were for six months and were given to volunteer fire departments that had received federal grants in hopes that they would renew and support the IAFC.

VI Next Meeting

Klapprich passed around registrations for the MN Fire Chiefs’ conference to be held in Rochester in October. The board will attend this meeting. President Schabbel will work out the date of our annual board meeting with Klapprich and let us know so we can schedule our travel.

The state fire chief organizations’ presidents that are in attendance at FRI have been invited to arrive at 4:00 P.M. today for an informal meeting with the board.

VII Adjournment

Duermit moved to adjourn the meeting. Second by Lott. Meeting adjourned at 3:55 P.M. CDT.

Respectfully submitted,

Ret. Chief Ron Hutchings, Secretary/Treasurer
Great Lakes Division, IAFC