

GREAT LAKES DIVISION OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS

Annual Meeting August 13, 2004 New Orleans, LA

The annual meeting of the Great Lakes Division was held in the Grand Ballroom of the Fairmont Hotel in New Orleans, LA. There were 156 attendees at the breakfast at 7:30 A.M. that preceded the meeting. Prior to the meeting the following IAFC officers addressed the membership: President Elect Bob DiPoli, Treasurer Julian Taliaferro, 2nd Vice President Elect Jim Harmes, Past President Randy Brugeman and President Ernie Mitchell. All complimented and thanked the GLD for participation in the IAFC and the support we have shown to them while each carried out their office. Harmes in particular thanked our Division for the support we gave him in the recent election and said "his election would not have been possible without the GLD". Also addressing the group was Chief Steve Westermann who is currently the Missouri Valley Director to the IAFC Board. Westermann is a candidate for the position of 2nd Vice President of the IAFC in 2005. He outlined his vision for the IAFC and asked for our support in 2005. Chief Jim Broman addressed our group as well. Broman is a candidate for IAFC 2nd Vice President in 2006. He is past president of the Washington State Association of Fire Chiefs and has been active on many IAFC Committees and Sections. The last to address the pre-meeting breakfast group was Dave Daniels who is chairman of the IAFC Health and Safety Committee. After re-acquainting us with the importance of health and safety for fire fighters of America, and pointing out that this is a major concern of the IAFC as well, he informed us that the Health and Safety Committee would like to become a Section of the IAFC. He is providing petitions and asks that anyone interested to please sign up and support them as a Section.

A. Call Meeting / Appoint Sergeant of Arms

President Timm Schabbel called the 2004 Annual Meeting of the Great Lakes Division to order at 8:05 A.M. CDT. The first order of business was to appoint Chief Tim Farmer of Coon Rapids, MN to the position of Sergeant of Arms.

B. Stand for Pledge of Allegiance / Opening Prayer

The Pledge of Allegiance and opening prayer by Chief Dale Duermit followed.

C. Introduction of Officers

The president introduced the GLD Board members that were present. They were: Vice President Kenn Taylor, Division Director Larry Grorud, Secretary/Treasurer Ron Hutchings and State Representatives Dale Duermit – OH, Brian Lott – IN, Robert Wilcox – IL, Randy Sellnow – WI, Paul Klapprich – MN and our Michigan Representative Bill Schmidt who could not be with us today. The president also introduced the IAFC Past Presidents in attendance: Chief Jim Halsey, Chief Rich Marinucci and Chief John Buckman, III. He also recognized the IAFC staff representative to our meeting, Susan Kalish.

President Schabbel welcomed the representatives from the state fire chief organizations in attendance: Ohio- Past President Stan Crosley, Michigan-President Jim Peterson, Illinois- President Jay Reardon and Wisconsin- President Jack Running. The president told the membership that the GLD Board has been working hard to develop a relationship with the state chiefs' organizations and we are pleased to have these representatives with us today.

D. Recognition of Sponsors

The president recognized the importance of the Division sponsors who help us put on the annual meeting. We could not do this without them. He mentioned the following individually and asked them to come forward to address the membership if they desired: Crimson Fire, Spartan Chassis,

American La France and Plymovent Exhaust Systems. The representatives from Plymovent Corporation thanked the GLD for the ongoing relationship we have had and look forward to continuing this in the future.

E. Constitution and By Laws Committee Report

There was no report

F. Secretary Treasurer's Report

- a.** Financial: Treasurer Hutchings reported that we started year 2003 with \$11,112.00 in the checking account and \$56,018.00 in a money market account for a total of \$67,132.00. During 2003 we had income of \$50,364.00 or 96% of budget and expenses of \$46,298 or 85% of budget leaving an ending balance of \$14,597.00 in checking and \$56,600.00 in the money market for a total of \$71,197.00 and a net gain of \$4065.00 for 2003. For the first 7 ½ months of 2004 we had income of \$43,217.00 or 79% of budget and expenses of \$29,143.00 for 48% of budget for a balance of \$28,421.00 in checking and \$56,850.00 in money market making a total of \$85,271.00 in assets. This figure is a bit high as we do have considerable outstanding expenses at this time. Chief Stan Crosley, OH moved to accept the treasurer's report. Second by Chief Jay Reardon, IL. Motion passed.
- b.** Membership: Secretary Hutchings reported GLD membership as of July 01, 2004 was 2208. By state membership was: IL – 594, IN – 200, MI – 366, MN – 174, OH – 600, WI – 250, other states 24. The Division has 1849 dues paying members and 2015 voting members.

G. IAFC Director's Report

Grorud reported that the IAFC had been working diligently on the fire service communication problem. They have been working with the FCC specifically, promoting the Consensus Plan which would provide for Nextel to pay the cost of relocating and refitting radios for the fire service and public safety. On Monday the FCC published a report that basically adopted the Consensus Plan. This is not over yet. The rules will be released and published in the National Register. Nextel will then have thirty days to accept the offer. Nextel's original proposal included \$850 million and the FCC rule calls for \$4.5 billion. Nextel will have to determine if they can accept this change. Also, during the thirty days this decision can be appealed. It is possible that another communications company will appeal as there is some industry backed opposition.

The IAFC Board has reviewed the financial status of the Association and we are in good shape. Grorud specifically complimented retired treasurer Bob Counts from OH for the present good conditions. His first goal was to create a \$1million reserve to defend against an unfavorable happening. At that time the operating budget was around \$3 million and now the budget is close to \$7 million. The Board has taken action to get our assets to the \$7 million level. This is not that far away as we do own our own building which has a value of over \$2 million.

Grorud commented on the change of schedule for the presidential banquet. With the new schedule it is possible we might have more than 1700 attend which is the limit for the main ballroom. The staff has made provisions for overflow into other rooms if we have an excess of 1700. The rooms would provide for a video feed and the tables will be provided with extra perks for those that are in those rooms. The Director reported there are six resolutions that will come before the general meeting on Sunday morning. He briefly reviewed the resolutions and stated the IAFC Board and the Constitution and By Laws Committee recommend the passage of all of the resolutions except the last which calls for a national spokesperson for the IAFC. They feel the IAFC president is this spokesperson and what the resolution really calls for is a celebrity spokesperson which the Board will consider.

Additionally, a task force is to be set up to review the three city rotation for FRI. This year is the first year of a new three year rotation of a six year cycle that includes New Orleans, Denver and Dallas. The IAFC is committed to this new rotation except that the contract has not been signed with Dallas for the last year (2009). Anyone with comments on this subject is asked to get them to Grorud or any GLD board member and they will be passed on to the task force. We expect the task force to report in Denver in 2005.

In closing Grorud promoted the signing of the petition to form an IAFC Health and Safety Section. The signatures of 150 members and their commitment to pay an approximately \$20.00 Section dues is required to form the Section. He also thanked the membership for their support of the IAFC and assured everyone that their voice is being heard at the IAFC.

H. Audit Committee Report

Committee Chairman Dale Duermit reported that the Audit Committee, consisting of Kenn Taylor, Timm Schabbel and himself, met on Monday July 19, 2004 in Huron, OH. The Committee found the record of receipts and disbursements to be in excellent condition and complimented the Secretary/Treasurer on the job he continues to do on our behalf. The Committee assures the membership that the financial records are in excellent condition and the overall financial condition of the GLD continues to be very healthy. Brian Lott – IN moved to accept the audit report. Second by Stan Crosley – OH. Motion approved.

I. Special Reports

Fire Rescue GPO: Deputy Chief Keith Condra of Fishers, IN Fire Department reported that the GLD Board had recently asked him to represent the GLD on the Fire GPO Advisory Board. He has accepted this “honor” along with representatives from four other IAFC divisions. To date meetings have been held in Seattle and New Orleans with numerous teleconferences. We now have contracts with Boise/Max Office Supplies, Henry Schein, EMS Supplies and Ferrno just to mention a few. A new, much friendlier web site has been launched for easier use. An e-newsletter is available to those who sign up to receive it. Condra asked for available lists of e-mail addresses to be sent to him so the newsletter might be more widely distributed. With the formation of the Advisory Council it is a new beginning for the Fire GPO. We are expecting a lot more activity in the next 12 months with better pricing, more contracts and more website enhancements with web site purchasing. He believes the Fire GPO will help, not only our members, but aid the IAFC and GLD in membership advancements. Brochures are available on site today. Condra offered to discuss any questions anyone might have. Just contact him. The Fire GPO has a booth on the exhibit floor at FRI.

J. Reading of Communications

There were no communications.

K. Unfinished Business

- a. Congressional Contact Efforts: President Schabbel reported a Congressional Legislative Network Contacts List has been completed. This has been an ongoing project the president has spearheaded for over the past year and is ready for distribution. We have identified the legislators from the 86 districts across the GLD and their committee assignments. We have also attempted to locate 3 chiefs in each district and encouraged them to develop a relationship with their representative or his office. Through this we hope to be able to provide information to the CFSI.

We want to be able to supply congressional update information from the IAFC using the IAFC “hot Sheets”. Now we need for each of the chiefs we have identified to contact their representatives and start building relationships. In the event we need to get an important opinion to the members of Congress, the contact chiefs will be provided with “talking Points” for that proposal.

L. New Business

- a. Forum 2005: Vice President Kenn Taylor reported that the initial planning for Forum '05 has been completed. We have a tremendous program planned for April 7 and 8, 2005 at Lambeau Field in Green Bay, WI. We have teamed up with the Green Bay Packers which will present a program on what it takes to put a municipally owned NFL team together and being able to supply the emergency services and safety for these large scale events. The stadium has just been remodeled and added to, to provide a number of meeting rooms, restaurants and shops. Lodging at a “very special price” will be available at the Tundra Lodge and Water Park. Room fees will include four passes for the Water Park. This may be a great opportunity to bring your families with kids and/or grand kids to have an early spring vacation. All rooms are suites and our rate for the Wednesday and Thursday of the Forum is \$99.00 per night. For anyone wanting to extend their stay we have been offered a special rate of \$129.00 for Friday and Saturday evenings. The lodge is two blocks away from the stadium. Also for the fiscally fearless, there is the Oneida Bingo and Casino a few miles down the road. There will be more information available in the Trumpet, on the web site and in the upcoming state publications. There are a limited number of brochures for the Forum and the Tundra Lodge on each table. Take them with you and start making plans for Forum '05 next April 7 and 8 in Green Bay.
- b. Position Statements: Copies of the GLD Position Statements are on each table. President Schabbel mentioned that this is a program that was started by Past President Farmer and one that we are very proud of. This process lets the GLD membership and the IAFC know where we stand on various issues. The GLD Board reviews and updates these statements on a regular basis. We ask that our members review these statements also and if there are comments on those that exist or suggestions for new positions, communicate this to a board member and all suggestions will be considered by the Board.

M. Recommendations for the Good of the Division

The president asked if there were any comments from the floor. Chief Tim Farmer – MN moved that the GLD endorse the candidacy of Steve Westermann for the position of IAFC 2nd vice president in 2005. Second by Chief Jim Peterson – MI. There was no discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

N. Adjournment

President Schabbel thanked the members for participating in the annual meeting. He stressed that it is very important for members to know that the Board is here to serve them. If there is something we can do better to accomplish this let us know.

Chief Robert Bates – OH moved to adjourn the meeting. Second by Chief George Brown – OH. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 A.M. CDT.

Respectfully submitted,

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