

GREAT LAKES DIVISION-IAFC

Minutes of the March 31, 2004 Board Meeting -Merrillville, IN

I Call to Order-Introductions

The winter board meeting was held March 31, 2004 at the Radisson Star Plaza Hotel in Merrillville, IN. The meeting was held the day before the start of the GLD Forum '04. President Timm Schabbel called the meeting to order at 9:05 A.M. CST with the following members present: Vice President Kenn Taylor, IAFC Division Director Larry Grorud, Secretary/Treasurer Ron Hutchings and State Representatives Brian Lott-IN, Paul Klapprich-MN, Robert Wilcox-IL, Dale Duermit-OH and William Schmidt-MI.

The following guests were also present for the meeting: Chief James Harmes, candidate for IAFC 2nd Vice President 2004, Chief Dale Henson, President IN Fire Chiefs, Chief Julian Taliaferro, IAFC Treasurer and Chief Jim Broman, candidate for IAFC 2nd Vice President 2006.

II Acceptance/Additions to Agenda

President Schabbel welcomed our guests and asked for additions to the agenda that he had furnished by e-mail. Hearing none, Klapprich moved to accept the agenda as presented. Second by Schmidt. Agenda was accepted.

III Approval of Previous Minutes

The president asked for approval of the minutes of the previous meetings. Duermit moved to accept the minutes of the November 13, 2003 annual board meeting. Second by Lott. Minutes were approved. Schmidt moved to accept the minutes of the January 28, 2004 teleconference. Second by Klapprich. Minutes were approved.

IV Secretary/Treasurer's Report

- A. Financial: Hutchings furnished copies of the ledger summary for the year 2003 and reported we had \$14,596.72 in the checking account and \$56,600.87 in the money market account on 12/31/03. This compares with \$11,112.97 and \$56,018.72 at the conclusion of 2002. While our budgeted income was down by nearly 5% this was more than offset by expenses being nearly 15% below budget. Hutchings also furnished copies of the ledger summary for the first quarter of 2004, which showed income of \$23,071.47 and expenses of \$5,697.38. These figures are a bit out of proportion due to having received most of the income for Forum '04 and not having paid any of the expenses.
- B. Membership: Hutchings reported that as of 03/15/04 we had 2183 members in the GLD. This includes; IL-596, IN-200, MI-358, MN-171, OH-593, WI-244 and other states 21. We have 1869 dues paying members and 2052 voting members in the GLD. The major loss in GLD memberships has occurred in departments that had more than one member. This seems to be a problem throughout all of the divisions.
- C. The secretary provided a written report of the Division Secretaries Meeting March 19-20, 2004 in Fairfax, VA. This report is made a part of the minutes.

Lott moved to accept the secretary's financial and membership reports. Second by Klapprich. Motion carried.

V Director's Report

Grorud reported that the IAFC Board approved a motion to support the Fallen Firefighter Foundation by establishing a walk of bricks in an IAFC section of the memorial. It has been approved for the IAFC to contribute \$10,000.00, and has been suggested that the divisions contribute \$1000.00, state chief organizations \$500.00 and individuals \$200.00. These donations would be lumped together to form an IAFC section. After discussion Duermit moved that the GLD contribute \$1000.00 to support this issue. Second by Schmidt. Motion carried.

Grorud also reported that the IAFC Government Relations Team is now ready to activate a legislative update on their web site. He mentioned that the IAFC may become involved in a law suite with a tee shirt vendor who has been banned from FRI for offensive shirt sales. Board members were cautioned that they may be contacted by Fisher Sports Wear looking for support. Use good judgment in responses. The IAFC is still working to have the Fire Act fully funded at 750 M and to fund the Safer Act at an adequate level. Lott moved to accept the Director's report. Second by Taylor. Motion approved.

VI Old Business

- A. Forum 2004: Hutchings reported that we have approximately 85-90 registered and may have more at the door. There was considerable discussion about the value of the brochure that we produced to promote the Forum. Feelings seemed to be mixed, but all agreed that for the cost it probably did not produce the results we had hoped for. Duermit expressed his opinion that it is time to "shake up" our program and that we may need a change of location and menu. Duermit also requested we plan to adjust our budget to reflect true Forum expense at a future meeting.
- B. State Fire Chief Presidents' Roundtable: President Schabbel reminded us that the state fire chief association presidents' round table is scheduled for this afternoon. Each GLD state will be represented other than Ohio. The agenda for this meeting was reviewed.
- C. Strategic Plan: The president stated he has reviewed the plan in detail and feels that we are only accomplishing about 50% of what we intended. He suggested each one of the state representatives take a section of the plan to review and make suggestions. His main concern is that actions in the plan have not been assigned to individuals. We will look for input from the state presidents this afternoon. This was agreed upon. Following are the assignments for review:
 - 1. Building Relationships and Partners – Taylor
 - 2. Fire and Life Safety – Lott
 - 3. Leading The Fire Service – Sellnow/Klapprich
 - 4. Legislative/Political Action – Duermit
 - 5. Marketing, Branding and Communications – Schmidt
 - 6. Growth and Skill Developments – WilcoxGrorud will send copies of the IAFC Strategic Plan Review to each of the state reps to use as a guide in reviewing our plan.
- D. Legislative Network: The president has received the needed information for Indiana, Ohio and Michigan. Michigan will fill in the few remaining gaps soon. We are already making use of some of the contacts to influence federal legislation. We will attempt to keep everyone informed of legislative update fact sheets furnished by the IAFC. We will also identify what committees each of the GLD legislators are on.

- E. Fire-GPO Program: Andrew Forrester, the new president of the Fire-GPO, will attend our Forum. The president will discuss the program with him and, if there is time, we will sit down as a board. We will consider sending a representative to the Fire-GPO meeting for divisions to be held in May.
- F. GLD Fema Region 5 Partnership: Taylor reports that he has been communicating with Ed Buikema and he expects him to stop by the Forum and possibly add something about the National Incident Management Requirements to Charlie Dickinson's report and also something on the National Emergency Response Plan.
- G. FRI New Orleans: Arrangements for breakfast were discussed with some concern for the price and the opening of the exhibit hall at 9:00 A.M. on the same morning. After further discussing the FRI schedule it was decided that we have a board meeting on the Thursday afternoon at 2:00 P.M. The Audit Committee will meet on Wednesday as early as possible. The price for breakfast tickets will be decided when we get closer to FRI and have a better handle on costs. The future schedule that has been established for FRI is:

August 13 – 16, 2004	New Orleans
August 12 – 15, 2005	Denver
September 15 – 18, 2006	Dallas
August 17 – 20, 2007	New Orleans
August 15 – 18, 2008	Denver
August 27 – 30, 2009	Dallas
- H. Forum 2005: President Schabbel announced he had asked Vice President Taylor to oversee the arrangements for Forum '05. Lott has already made some contacts with interested partners. The Board's feeling is that the whole program should be re-evaluated. We either need a unique program or a unique location. Arrangements have to be made further in advance. The programs must be finalized by FRI. The president appointed Taylor to chair the Forum '05 committee and Lott and Hutchings to assist.

VII New Business

- A. Monthly Teleconferences: President Schabbel expressed his opinion that the teleconferences we have had have worked out well. At a cost of approximately \$100.00 each they are a good way to keep up to date. The president would like to schedule a teleconference in about six weeks. It was determined that Thursday afternoons (other than the first Thursday of the month) would be the best time for most board members. The president will let the board know when the exact date of the next teleconference will be.
- B. UL Partnership: UL has proposed an educational program to the GLD. President Schabbel feels this is something that is geared more to the states educational programs and, without objection, will pass it on to them. It was also suggested we may want to consider UL as a partner in a future forum as their facility would probably be a good draw for attendance.
- C. 2004 State Fire Chiefs' Meetings The schedule for the GLD state chiefs' conferences is as follows:

IL	May 14 – 16	Peoria
WI	June 24 – 27	La Crosse
IN	July 14 – 16	Indianapolis
OH	July 17 – 21	Huron
MI	Sept. 8 – 10	Frankenmuth

MN Oct. 14 – 16 Rochester

The GLD Board will meet during the Minnesota Fire Chiefs' Annual Conference in Rochester. The president will decide the time frame for our attendance, but it looks as though we will have to arrive on October 13 and depart on the 16th.

- D. Policy Statement on Elections: Duermit expressed his concern that anyone running for IAFC office and attending a GLD meeting may not know our policy of only endorsing a candidate at our annual meeting. It was determined that this policy would be posted on our web site and would be furnished to any interested in attending a GLD meeting.

Grorud reported that along with the election of an IAFC vice president, the May ballot will contain wording to: 1) Allow for an electronic ballot. 2) Include a Sunset Clause for all resolutions established by the membership at the conference. 3) Include provision for removal from office for a felony conviction. 4) Allow a retiring board member to serve out his/her term. 5) Allow an officer elected to 2nd vice president or above who retires, while in office, to stand for election for the continuing office(s).

The time being 12:10 P.M. the president declared a recess for lunch. - The Meeting resumed at 12:55 P.M.

VIII State Representatives Reports

- A. Ohio – Duermit reported that Ohio has had their annual legislative breakfast at the state house with over 130 chiefs in “Class A’s” attending. The chiefs had time to mix with the legislators and discuss current interests and then the legislators were on their way by 8:00 A.M. The candy jars are still in use.
- B. Minnesota – Klapprich reported that things are kind of quiet. The first of the year the Executive Secretary of the Minnesota Fire Chiefs retired. The chiefs have hired a new Executive Secretary, Tom Brace who is a long time past Fire Marshal in MN. MN again had their Firefighter Day at the Capitol which included the chiefs, the firefighter association and the union.
- C. Michigan – Schmidt reported that things are kind of in an uproar. The state has removed everything in the Fire Marshal’s Office from the State Police except arson investigation. The Fire Marshal’s office has been moved to Division of Labor and Economic Growth. A new Fire Marshal is to be appointed. It is hoped that someone with fire experience will get the job and that it does not become political. The chiefs’ organization has fallen on financial hard time. The company that has been acting as their Executive Director has not worked out and has been a considerable financial drain. Chief Rich Powell is to function as interim Executive Director. Legislation for firefighter training is still pending.
- D. Indiana – Lott reported that Indiana is nearing one year of working with an Executive Director. Although membership figures have improved, their financial position has eroded some. Pat Rolston, the Executive Director of SEMA has retired and, due to the chiefs’ input, Luther Taylor has been appointed to fill the position of State Emergency Management Director. With elections coming up this year many are jockeying for appointed positions, such as Fire Marshal.
- E. Illinois – Wilcox reported that the Illinois Fire Chiefs had just had a meeting and had created an updated list of legislators for emergency contacts. After all the legislators were identified, they are

now trying to pair them up with two or three chiefs from their area to work with. They just completed a Train the Trainer class for Unified Command. The Board passed a resolution encouraging all Illinois communities to adopt NIMS as their Fire Ground Management System. The Board is also looking at terms of office to determine if changes should be made. They drafted a Political Professional Endorsement Policy for the IFCA. They also approved an expenditure of \$1000.00 for The Fallen Firefighter Foundation. The Continuous Service Bill, which would allow a pension to follow an employee, looks as though it may move now that the union is now behind it. Illinois also has a “Rub and Grub” Meeting coming up with their legislators. The Medal of Honor ceremonies will be in Springfield the second Thursday in May. Lastly the Chicago Fire Department has been having a rough time. Not only did they lose six lives in the Cook County Building fire, there are now accusations of racial slurs being made over the fire radio. The Commissioner has been receiving flack over this. The Illinois Chiefs are writing a letter to the Chicago Tribune objecting to a political satire that they published regarding the racial unrest.

- F. Wisconsin – Sellnow was not in attendance, but provided a written report that is made a part of these minutes.

IX Communications

None

X Good of the Order

Schmidt expressed concern about articles published by the news media outlining weaknesses in Home Land Security that would help terrorists. It was decided this was not something the IAFC could/should attempt to influence.

Chief James Harmes thanked the Board for all of the assistance that has been given to him and hopes that we can turn out the vote to help him.

Hutchings requested that Trumpet articles be sent to him by the middle of April so that the Trumpet can be mailed before IAFC ballots are out.

XI Next Meeting

The next meeting will be a teleconference. After discussion it was decided that expenses would be reimbursed at one night and one day for those who came in on Wednesday and two nights and two days for those arriving on Tuesday. There is no mileage as this is on the communities. Motion by Lott to approve. Second by Schmidt. Motion carried.

XII Adjournment

Duermit moved to adjourn. Second by Lott. Meeting was adjourned at 1:55 P.M. CST.

Respectfully submitted,

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