

Great Lakes Division, IAFC
Minutes of the April 06, 2005 Board Meeting
Green Bay, WI

I. Call to Order

The spring meeting of the GLD Board of Directors was held in conjunction with Forum '05 in Green Bay WI. The Board met in the MVP Box of the Green Bay Packers at Lambeau Field. The Green Bay Packers are hosting our meeting and the Forum to follow on April 07 and 08, 2005.

GLD President Timm Schabbel called the meeting to order at 8:35 A.M., CDT with the following members present; Vice President Kenn Taylor, IAFC Division Director Larry Grorud, Sec/Treas Ron Hutchings, State Representatives Paul Klapprich-MN, Dale Duermit-OH, Brian Lott-IN and Randy Sellnow-WI. We had two guests present, IAFC 2nd Vice President Jim Harmes and Retired Chief and past WI State Representative Jeff Roemer who is chairing the Forum '05 committee.

President Schabbel welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Roemer and Taylor for all the effort they had put into the arrangements for Forum '05. Taylor said Roemer was deserving of all of the credit as he had done most of the work and he (Taylor) had just gone along with Jeff's suggestions.

II. Acceptance / Additions to the Agenda

President Schabbel asked if there were any additions to the agenda that he had provided to the board members electronically. Hearing none, the agenda was adopted.

III. Approval of Previous Minutes

Duermit moved to approve the minutes of the February 25, 2005 teleconference. Second by Sellnow. Motion was approved. The minutes were approved as written with one abstention (Lott).

IV. Secretary/Treasurer's Report

- A. Financial: Hutchings referred the board to the accounts balance sheet they had received dated March 31, 2005. To that date we have had expenses of \$5162.00 and income of \$17, 288 for the year 2005, which is 8% and 29% respectively of budget. At this time the balances are somewhat out of what is expected as we have almost all of the income for Forum '05 deposited and have not paid any of the bills. The totals for the first quarter show \$30,887.00 in the checking and \$57,202.00 in money market for total assets of \$88,226.00.
- B. Membership: The secretary furnished a membership report for the 4/4 quarter of 2004 which included past numbers back to 2003. The year end report for 2004 showed a total 2258 members which compared to 2100 at the end of 2003. Present membership by state is: Illinois-611, Indiana-202, Michigan-373, Minnesota-172, Ohio-624 and Wisconsin-250 with 26 retirees in other states.
- C. IAFC Secretaries' Meeting: Hutchings reviewed several items that were mentioned by Garry Briese; 1) The IAFC would like to see the directors reports be more informative as to what is going on in the divisions 2) We should share more information between the divisions and the sections 3) Divisions should do more to bring the states together 4) Division strategic plans are too ambitious. We should use what fits from the IAFC plan and run with it. There also was considerable discussion at the meeting about E-mail spam. The IAFC is concerned that E-mail

blasts that are sent out could be considered spam. We were cautioned that the E-mails must have the full address of the sender and allow for recipients to opt out of receiving these messages.

Pilot testing for the Near Miss Program is underway. GLD fire departments that were selected to participate are Ft. Wayne, Loveland-Symmes and Toledo.

V. Director's Report

Grorud has been providing each board member with electronic reports as he receives them; thus, we should all be up to date on IAFC activity.

- A. NFA /USFA Update: Member alerts have gone out. They did hold a summit meeting and goals are established. We are told that the program is still being supported. Now we must be sure that the budget supports it also.
- B. Fire Act/Safer Update: Next year's Fire Act has been proposed in the president's budget at \$500 million. There is an ongoing effort to increase this funding. No funding has been designated for the Safer Act. Grorud is of the opinion that funding for each of these Acts will be increased. Grants for the Safer Act will be determined by a point system and all sizes and make ups of departments will have an equal chance to receive a grant. This year's budgeted amount is \$65 million.
- C. PSOB Update: To date there has been no change in the Public Safety Officer's Benefit Act. Congressman Weldon has proposed a bill to extend the benefits of this Act to younger persons. The IAFC Board decided to take no position on this bill. During GLD Board discussion about the proposed amendment it was determined that a fourteen year old boy whose death raised the problem was not part of a Boy Scouts of America program, but was a junior fire fighter. It was suggested that youngsters involved with fire department programs should be part of an Explorer Program and thus have some benefits in that way. Duermit moved that the GLD Board take a position of informing the IAFC Board of Directors that we are unhappy with the fact that they took no position in supporting changes in the PSOB Act to cover younger persons who are part of a junior fire department program. Second by Sellnow. Motion carried.

At this time IL State Representative Hank Clemmensen joined the meeting. President Schabbel called for a brief recess.

VI. Old Business

- A. State Fire Chief Presidents' Roundtable: President Schabbel called the meeting back to order after a 10 minute recess. We are expecting representatives from the following states to join the Board for lunch and a roundtable discussion following our board meeting. The states are Illinois, Ohio, Minnesota and Michigan.
- B. Forum 2005: Taylor distributed an agenda for the next two days. Roemer described the location of the rooms we will use for our functions. Tonight's reception will be in the bar area of the Tundra Lodge. Each person will be furnished two beverage tickets and hot food will be provided. For tomorrow night's dinner, Pierce Manufacturing has committed to fund the dinner at about \$3500. It is hoped they will also fund the reception.
- C. FRI 2005: Distribution of breakfast tickets was discussed again. If arrangements with the hotel can be confirmed early enough the secretary will try to have tickets distributed to the state

representatives before the Illinois May meeting. It was also suggested that we use our E-mail tree to inquire who of the FRI attendees will be attending the breakfast. Most importantly, we must get the word out that the breakfast will be earlier in the conference schedule than usual.

- D. Forum 2006: There was some discussion about tying our annual Forum in with a GLD state conference. It was concluded this was not a viable concept. The Board again discussed the value of offering the Forum to our members each year. It was agreed that even though we only register 75-80 members, we are providing a local conference that is very inexpensive and does fill a need at no or little cost to the Division. Taylor stated he has not made any progress with Harley Davidson. The Board reviewed other possible partners for future forums. Those mentioned were Ford, Caterpillar, Motorola, Indy Speedway, Pierce, ICMA, Boeing, Underwriter's Laboratories, John Deer and Notre Dame University.
- E. Legislative Network/Partnerships: To be discussed at the President's Roundtable.
- F. Fire-GPO Program Update: Hutchings commented on information the secretaries received at their recent meeting. We were told that the Western Division is doing well with the program although they realize there is a long way to go. They want to develop quotes that will be acceptable to the bid process of all of the states. They have promised the quarterly reports will be timelier and that there will be major improvement in the web page by FRI. Lott called Keith Condra, GLD representative to the Fire GPO, by cell phone which allowed him to address the Board. He reported that other Division representatives shared our concerns, especially those of timely reporting of sales. Condra will be attending the upcoming GPO meeting in Phoenix at which time they hope to work through many of the problems we have. The web page is way behind and even though we were scheduled to receive our own "Daily Dispatch" after the first of the year it has not happened. After considerable Board discussion, the general opinion was if we do not see some major improvement in the Fire GPO by FRI we would consider discontinuing active support of the program in the future. Condra was asked to convey this decision to the GPO Board when they meet in Phoenix.
- G. ISO Partnership: President Schabbel met with an ISO representative. ISO is encouraging the divisions to provide information to its members as to what ISO can do to help fire departments. It also expects us to feed back information that will aid them.
- H. IP/911 Issue: The use of internet phone service is making it difficult to track 911 calls and it is not possible to access the 911 ser charge that supports many PSAPS. While the taxing of phone service is a state issue it is federal rules that prohibit taxing internet phone service. Safety issues are beginning to be addressed. Grorud will carry these concerns to the IAFC.
- I. IAFC Division/Section Communications: Harmes mentioned that he did not believe the Divisions and Sections adequately communicated with one another. Schabbel stated that there was interest in organizing a meeting of the Division and Section leaders before the next IAFC board meeting. We also discussed the possibility of posting the Trumpet on our web site or mailing individual copies to each IAFC Division officer. After discussion Duermit moved we approve the expense for sending President Schabbel to the May 20-21 IAFC board meeting one day earlier so he might attend the proposed meeting of the Division/Section officers. Second by Lott. Motion carried. Hutchings will provide the next Trumpet in electronic form for dispersal to the Divisions and Sections.

VII. New Business

- A. Public Safety Departments: There was considerable deliberation about the various forms of Safety Department Management. It seems that in most communities that have reorganized their Safety Department Management the fire chief's job has been eliminated. There was discussion by Sellnow about what help there is available to fire chiefs who are being needlessly harassed by elected officials. Grorud stated that the IAFC's "Chief Under Attack" program was being redone and should be ready by mid year. He suggested Sellnow phone Garry Briese and mention these problems to him as it is his understanding that the updated program will only address the chief's problems with labor and not elected officials as in the past. Harmes will also discuss these concerns with Briese.

- B. 2005 State Fire Chiefs' Meetings: President Schabbel distributed a list of known meetings and conferences for years 2005-06. He asked that anyone who could add to this list provide him with the additional information. Several changes and additions were mentioned. We will attempt to keep this list updated on our web page. The GLD Board should plan to attend the Illinois Chiefs' meeting in Peoria October 18-22, 2005. Taylor, who will be president at that time, will determine the exact dates and times. There was no other new business.

VIII. State Reports

President Schabbel asked to hold the state reports for the president's roundtable to follow, time permitting.

IX. Communications

Grorud informed us that Alan Caldwell was to receive the Mason Langford award at the CFSI Dinner for his efforts in government relations work for the fire service.

X. Good of the Order

Lott stated he planned to step down from the IAFC Elections Committee after 10 years of service. He suggested that if any board member knew of someone who would be interested in serving in that capacity they should let the president know as it is up to him to make a new appointment. Hutchings mentioned we also needed a GLD nominations and Elections committee for FRI. President Schabbel stated that with the board's approval he would appoint Duermit, Taylor and himself to audit the treasurer's books at the Ohio Fire Chiefs' meeting in July. There were no objections. Sellnow announced he would be stepping down as the state representative from Wisconsin in June. He expressed his regrets for leaving and will work to find someone to take his place. The Board thanked Randy for his years of service to the GLD.

The president recessed the meeting until after lunch and the presidents' roundtable.

After lunch there was an open forum with all those present for the morning board meeting and in addition the following attended: John Schuldt, Vice President IL Fire Chiefs, Mel House, President OH Fire Chiefs, Tim Farmer, Past President MN Fire Chiefs, Doug Doefer, MI Fire Chiefs and in dual roles Lott represented the IN Fire Chiefs and Sellnow represented the WI Fire Chiefs. President Schabbel stated this was the second meeting of the GLD Board with the officers of the state fire chiefs' associations and was a continuation of our effort to develop better communications between the Division and the states and among the states within the Division.

The president distributed updated copies of the GLD Congressional Legislative Network Manual which identifies a congressional representative in each of the 86 districts in the GLD. We have tried to determine 3 fire chiefs for each representative that are able to establish personal contacts with that person or their office. We will attempt to keep these chiefs updated on talking points to use by providing them with "hot sheets" as they become available from the IAFC. President Schabbel also provided a listing of the congressional representatives that were members of the Fire Caucus. He suggested each state work to get all of their representatives signed on to the Fire Caucus. There followed a general discussion about what each state is doing towards legislative efforts.

The president reviewed the GLD Position Statements and encouraged the state organizations to review the Statements and make comments and suggestions.

While discussing interstate communications it was stated that all IAFC communications are being passed on to state presidents. It was suggested that each of the states' publications could be sent to each of the other state presidents which would make for a useful exchange of information. It was agreed that fire service communications are much improved.

Remarks were made about how each of the states are addressing and organizing state response plans for various types of hazards. While none of the states have their plans completed all states are in some form of development even though the plans vary.

Taylor reviewed the Forum schedule for the evening and the next two days.

There was a question about the study that is being performed to determine response times for fire departments and what part the IAFC is playing in it. Some of the questions were, "Where is the reporting information coming from?", "How old is it?" and "How should we that are not having these problems respond?" We do not feel that this information is adequate.

President Schabbel reminded everyone present that the GLD breakfast meeting at FRI will be an hour earlier and a day earlier in the schedule.

The president asked for a board recommendation for expenses for this meeting. Lott moved that we approve board expenses of one day per diem and one hotel night for each board member. Second by Clemmensen. Motion carried.

There being no other business to come before the board Lott moved for adjournment. Second by Klapprich. Meeting was adjourned at 2:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

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