

**Great Lakes Division – IAFC**  
Minutes of the February 25, 2005 Teleconference

**I Call to Order**

President Timm Schabbel called the meeting to order at 3:37 P.M. EST with the following taking part in the call: President Schabbel, Vice President Kenn Taylor, IAFC Director Larry Grorud, Sec/Treas Ron Hutchings, State Representatives Paul Klapprich-MN, William Schmidt-MI, Dale Duermit- OH, Randall Sellnow-WI, Hank Clemmensen-IL and IAFC 2nd Vice President James Harmes.

**II Acceptance/Additions to the Agenda**

President Schabbel asked for additions to the agenda that he had provided electronically. It was suggested that we discuss the Fire GPO. This was added as item (F) under Old Business. The agenda was accepted.

**III Acceptance of Minutes December 20, 2004 Teleconference**

Schmidt moved to accept the minutes of the December 20, 2004 teleconference call as written. Second by Duermit. Minutes were approved.

**IV Old Business**

A. Forum 2005 Update. Taylor reported the speaker slots had all been filled and it looked as though we had a full schedule and would have little room for discussion time. Hutchings reported that at this time registrations were running ahead of last year although there was still plenty of room for more. Taylor commented on what a great job Jeff Roemer had done working with the Packers and the hotel to set everything up. THANKS, JEFF!

The states fire chief associations' presidents have been invited to join the GLD Board for lunch and a round table discussion on Wednesday afternoon. The GLD will comp the Forum registrations for them. At this time all states have confirmed that an association representative will attend, except IN. The GLD Board meeting will be held at 8:00 A.M. on Wednesday April 06, 2005 with breakfast provided in the MVP Box 4039 at Lambeau Field.

B. FRI-Denver Update. President Schabbel mentioned his concern about the GLD breakfast being the first day of FRI and the difficulty we may have distributing breakfast tickets. Hutchings will attempt to have the breakfast tickets to the state reps by their summer conferences, the first of which is IL in May. Final arrangements may not be completed with the hotel for 60-90 days. There was also discussion about the new FRI schedule and condensing everything. President Schabbel suggested that the state reps discuss this concern with their state organizations to see if this is really what the membership desires.

C. Albuquerque IAFC Board Meeting Update. President Schabbel attended this meeting at the suggestion of the GLD Board last year at our Rochester meeting. He commented that he thought the GLD president attending these meetings was/would be a very worthwhile experience. The interaction with the other Divisions will be valuable to our Division.

Grorud reported that yesterday there had been a "summit" meeting of fire organizations to discuss with Dave Paulisson the future of the Fire Administration and the National Fire Academy and how it can be funded and what services they will provide to the fire service. Grorud does not believe the situation is as serious as some groups think. There was also some concern expressed about the distribution of first responder funds. At this time the first responder funds are going to prevention. Grorud commented this year's Fire Act is scheduled to begin on March 07, 2005 and will be administered the same as last year. Grorud also reported on the IAFC's Board discussion about the Public Safety Officers Benefit Act. Congressman Weldon has proposed changes to the Act to cover younger persons. The IAFC Board voted not to support this legislation. Schabbel also reported it was suggested the new Division Presidents should be sent to an annual IAFC orientation. The IAFC Board took action to approve this suggestion. Duermit suggested we include this as a budget item for our 2006 budget.

D. Legislative Network Update. The GLD Congressional List has been updated. We only had 8 changes out of 86 representatives in the Great Lakes area. The IAFC will provide talking points for persons attending the CFSI dinner this year. We will attempt to use our legislative network to gather congressional support and sponsors for the Sprinkler Tax Credit Legislation.

E. IAFC Division/Section Communications. Harmes reported that at a recent VCOS meeting it was discussed that we could improve communication between Sections and Divisions. It was suggested newsletters should be provided to other Divisions and Sections. It was also discussed that Division Officers should meet at FRI each year to discuss items of mutual interest.

F. Fire GPO. Hutchings reported we have just received a letter from the WFCMA thanking us for our participation in the Fire GPO and they were going to focus on fire related vendors, perfect vendor's agreements to meet each state's bid requirements, streamline accounting, improve the Web page to be more user friendly and market products through additional resources. We also received our first commission check from the Fire GPO for \$267,040. This amount is for the third quarter sales of 2004.

### **V Good of the Order**

Clemmensen reported the IL chiefs have considerable concern about voice over IP (computer communications) doing away with land lines and taking financial support away from 911 boards. The IAFC is looking at this problem from the stand point of safety. We believe the safety issues can be corrected, but the financial issues will be more difficult.

Bob Wilcox appears to have recovered from his illness and is back at work.

### **VI Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be Wednesday April 6th at 8:00 A.M. in Green Bay, WI. The meeting room will be the MVP Box 4039 at Lambeau Field.

### **VII Adjournment**

Clemmensen moved for adjournment. Second by Taylor. Meeting adjourned at 4:44 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

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