



New Look to Trumpet



IAFC-GLD TRUMPETS

The GLD Board has decided to update the Trumpet Newsletter. This is your first chance to take a look at the new format. Jeff Roemer, a past board member from Wisconsin and President of RW Management Group, Inc. will be the editor for the E-Trumpet.

The updated Trumpet will be designed to provide all Great Lakes Members with quarterly updates on the activities of the Great Lake's Board, the IAFC, member states and significant news in the fire service.

Please take the time to review this newsletter and share your thoughts and concerns with Jeff Roemer. If you have articles that you would like included in future newsletter please send this information to Jeff. Jeff's contact information can be found near the back of this issue included in the Board contact information section.

The Great Lakes Board continues to enhance the communication abilities with its members. The newsletter is designed to provide all of you with information that is readily available and assists you with the professional management of your departments.



GLD Board Goes to Washington D.C.

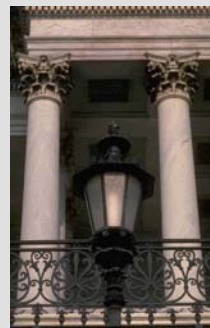
President Hank Clemmensen requested that the GLD Board take a more aggressive role on federal legislation issues that impact the fire service. The board agreed with Chief Clemmensen and voted to attend the Congressional Fire Services Institute (CFSI), April 1-3, 2008.

Your full Board will be working on a program and attending the CFSI in force to meet with congressional leaders on the needs of the fire service. The Board will also be putting together a

program for all the GLD members who will be attending. The Board headquarters for the CFSI will be at the Hilton Washington. Please contact your Board representative if you plan on attending so that we can coordinate out activities.

The board has listened to the membership and realizes that you want the Board to take a more active role in federal legislation that affects the fire service. This is a major commitment by the Board and we

are all looking forward to making this event a great success.



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- ◆ New Look to Trumpet
- ◆ GLD Board Goes to Washington D.C.
- ◆ FLSA Perspective
- ◆ Board Contact Information
- ◆ Fire –EMS Safety Support System



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>President's Message</i>	2
<i>Director's Message</i>	2
<i>FLSA Perspective</i>	4
<i>Fire-EMS Safety</i>	4



President's Message



Hank Clemmensen, Chief Palatine Rural Fire Protection District 35 N. Ela Road Inverness, IL 60067 847-991-8700 hclemmensen@prfpd.org

Welcome to the new "E-Trumpet"! It has been almost a year since the last Trumpet was published, and a lot has changed since then. Let me start out by saying that we lost a dear friend and colleague last year. Chief Ron Hutchings was the Secretary/Treasurer for the Great Lakes Division and passed away on August 24th, 2007. He was also the editor for the Trumpet for many years, and I would like to dedicate this first issue of the E-Trumpet to Chief Ronald "Hutch" Hutchings.

I would also like to introduce you to some of your new Board members. We had to make some changes to our Board, due to Chief Hutchings passing and due to Chief Larry Grorud becoming a Vice-President of the IAFC. Chief Kenn Taylor, Immediate Past President, was appointed as Director and Chief Tim Farmer (ret.) was appointed as Secretary/Treasurer. Both of these ap-

pointments were made until the next election at the Annual Meeting in Denver on August 14th. Your new Vice-President is Chief Nyle Zikmund from Spring Lake Park, Minnesota. The new Ohio Representative is Chief Scott Skeldon from Plain City, Ohio and the new Minnesota Representative is Chief Bill Mund from St. Cloud, MN. I would like to thank Chief Dale Duermit (ret.) and Chief Paul Klapprich (ret.) for all their years of service to the Great Lakes Division.

Last October, I had the privilege to attend the Leadership Summit in Washington, where the IAFC presented a day and a half of great up-to-date leadership material that I found vital for the fire service. It also afforded me the opportunity to attend my first IAFC Board meeting as President of the Great Lakes Division. I was very impressed how the Board and all the IAFC staff

came together and worked so hard for the good of the Fire Service as a whole. I also attended the Winter Board meeting last January in New Orleans which was capped off with a tour of the area by Chief Charles Parent, Superintendent of Fire Department.

CFSI

By now you have noticed that there is no Forum in 2008. Although we have had some very successful Forums in the past, we are going to change gears this year and focus on legislative issues. On April 2nd & 3rd, the Great Lakes Board will be attending the Congressional Fire Service Institute Dinner.

Director's Message



Kenn E Taylor, Chief Violet Township Fire Department 8700 Refugee Road Pickerington, Ohio 43147 614-837-4123 Chief590@violet.oh.us

It is truly a pleasure having the honor representing the Great Lakes Division on the IAFC Board. So far it's been a great learning experience. We met for the January Board Meeting in New Orleans. The following are the highlights from that meeting.

The Board agreed to fund a face to face meeting for the Division Task Force. The GLD is represented by myself, President Clemmensen, and Secy - Treas Farmer. The task force continues to have monthly conference calls in an attempt to establish some consistency between the Divisions, as well as share best practices and member benefits. It is felt that a face to face meeting will be required before a final recommendation can be made to the Board.

The Board accepted a \$25K donation from GM for use by the Ethanol Emergency Response Coalition's initiative to identify and distribute best practices and recommendations for emergency responses involving ethanol.

The Board approved the EMS Sections request to apply for 2 seats on the Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for EMS Professionals (CoAEMSP). This group will be estab-

lishing the accreditation standards or requirements for paramedic training programs. We will now have IAFC (and fire based) EMS represented on this committee.

The Board approved the beginning steps for the creation of a "Services Division" and a "For Profit Subsidiary". This would allow the IAFC to begin to offer other services to allied organizations. Such as association management services to divisions, state organizations, etc. There a vast number of services that potentially could be provided by the IAFC and result in enhanced revenue for our organization.

The Board also heard a report on the conference site selection committee for the 2010 conference location. They have it narrowed down to Washington DC and Chicago. Negotiations are being finalized.

Finally, we took a window tour of the damaged areas of New Orleans and St. Bernard Parrish, which was lead by the New Orleans Fire Chief. It was a very moving experience for me since I have not been back to New Orleans since our last conference there. The French Quar-

ter appears to be ok and back to normal, but the 9th ward and St. Bernard Parrish is a whole different story. Many houses still unoccupied and damaged, businesses are slowly coming back, but many are still vacated. I was most amazed how many fire stations are still (2 1/2 years later) not occupied. These guys are still operating out of a trailer or mobile home in some parking lot with their apparatus parked outside. These guys are still struggling! But, their attitudes are good and they are committed to bringing the area back.

I'm having a great time representing you. If you ever need anything, please feel free to call.

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FLSA Perspective

Jeffrey R. Roemer, Public Safety Management Consultant

Our firm has been working with many departments and their attorneys reviewing FLSA requirements and how it affects the way we pay volunteers. The one area of concern that we are finding is in regards to what is a nominal fee for service. Departments need to be aware that it is not as simple as comparing a full time firefighters annual wage of \$60,000 and deciding that volunteers can be paid 20% or \$1,200 per year. This must be broke down to the amount of hours the full time firefighter works compared to the amount of hours the Volunteer puts in annually.

The bottom line is that all firefighter whether volunteer or career need to be handled as employees and we need to have clear and accurate records of when they actually worked. If you have concerns relating to their pay and it's compliance with FLSA check with your municipalities attorney. We all need to take a proactive approach to determining our compliance with FLSA and not wait for a complaint and review by the Department of Labor.

Fire/EMS Safety Support System February 2008

The new IAFC Fire/EMS Safety Support Systems has four components:

Take 5 for Safety Training Drills

These 5-minute safety oriented training drills are posted at the beginning of each month on www.iafc.org and www.iafcsafety.org. A different topic is covered each month to ensure that annually, a wide variety of safety issues is addressed in an easy-to-access online format.

Safety, Health and Survival Week (June 22-28, 2008)

Each year, the third week of June is designated as Safety, Health and Survival Week. Co-sponsored by the IAFF and the IAFC, and in partnership with several other fire service organizations, sample daily schedules, training drills and numerous other safety resources are made available online to fire/EMS departments for them to use in enhancing the daily focus on safety.

Fire/EMS Survival Alerts

Part of the new Fire/EMS Safety Support System, the Fire/EMS Survival Alerts are designed to deliver critical safety information to the fire service when certain criteria are met. These notifications will be emailed to IAFC members and posted on www.iafc.org and www.iafcsafety.org to provide an alert to fire chiefs, fire officers, firefighters and EMS providers around the world. These notifications will also be sent to fire service media organizations.

A Fire/EMS Survival Alert should cause all members to stop what they are currently doing and review any actions relevant to the notification. The overall length and steps related to the Stand Down locally should be determined by the fire chief of the organization. The ultimate goal is to ensure that the information related to the event(s) is fully understood, reviewed by and trained upon by all fire/EMS personnel in the organization, so that the incident risk is minimized.



Fire/EMS Safety Support System Continued

The following events will guide the determination of issuing a Fire/EMS Survival Alert:

1. An event that causes more than one firefighter/EMS line of duty death.
2. An event that causes the death of a civilian due to the actions of a fire/EMS service member.
3. Increasing trends of an identified hazard or deficiency that leads to an increased number of personnel injuries.
4. Severe reported near-misses that demonstrate the need for immediate safety training or the correction of operational deficiencies.

A request to issue a Fire/EMS Survival Alert may come from any member of the SHS Section Board of Directors. The determination to issue the alert will be the joint responsibility of the IAFC President, the SHS Section Chair, the SHS Section International Director and the IAFC Executive Director. Any one of the individuals may initiate action, involving the other three immediately to determine which type of alert should be issued:

TYPE 1 ALERT – TO THE ENTIRE IAFC

The Type 1 alert requires the approval of the IAFC President in consultation with the individuals listed above. If the consensus is that the alert is not of the gravity that it would require a Type 1 alert, it would automatically revert to a Type 2.

TYPE 2 ALERT – TO THE IAFC SHS SECTION

The Type 2 alert requires only the approval of the Section Chair (or Vice Chair in the Chair's absence).

Once a Fire/EMS Survival Alert is issued, fire chiefs should make an appropriate, immediate and concerted effort to correct safety deficiencies and provide safety training on the items pointed out in the notification. Recommended response levels are listed below:

Green Response - *The department is aware of the situation, has clear policies and feels confident that they could either prevent the occurrence or react in a timely manner to an occurrence.* Activities could be as simple as an email, newsletter or memorandum to the department passing on the alert to other more complex activities as the fire chief sees fit.

Yellow Response - *The department is aware of the situation, has clear policies, but sees opportunities for improvement or review by the department.* Activities associated with this reaction should be focused on the areas where improvement are necessary and should at the very least involve some form of training or official transmittal of the alert to the entire department.

Red Response - *The department does not have clear policies, or does not feel that they could react in a timely or effective fashion to this type of event.* In these cases the department should take immediate action to notify the department of the alert as well as initiate a process to address obvious deficiencies. Actions may include everything from policy changes and/or training to a full "stand down" of the department.

Fire/EMS Stand Down

A national fire/EMS Stand Down will only be issued when a safety concern arises which is significant at the national and/or international level and for which astute fire chiefs will suspend all non-emergency operations in order to train and/or review information with the entire fire department.

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WE'RE ON THE
WEB AT:
WWW.GLD-
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Who is the Great Lakes Division?

We are a division of the International Association of Fire Chiefs and therefore we operate under the following IAFC Mission Statement:

Our Mission: To provide leadership to career and volunteer chiefs, chief fire officers and managers of Emergency Services Organizations throughout the international community through vision, information, education, services and representation to enhance their professionalism and capabilities

Our Division represents the states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin. The board of directors is comprised of a State Representative from each of the six states who are elected to three year terms. The "Executive Officers" are elected by the membership at large and includes the president and vice president who serve two year terms. There has been a long-standing "handshake agreement" that the vice president is elected from each state on a rotational basis to ensure that one state does not dominate the board on a long term basis. There is also an understanding among the members that normal progression is the vice president is elected to the position of president upon completion his term.

Our International Director - the person who represents our Division on the International Board - is elected to a three year term as is our Secretary/Treasurer. Both of these positions are elected from the membership at large



INDIANA FIRE CHIEFS
ASSOCIATION

