



IAFC-GLD TRUMPETS

# IAFC - GLD

# E-TRUMPET

Issue 3

August 2009

## FRI 2009 – FIRE RESCUE INTERNATIONAL

The Great Lakes Board hopes to see all of you at FRI this year. The GLD hotel is the Hilton Anatole and hopefully you have already made your reservations. If you are still in need of a room and are having trouble booking the hotel, please send an e-mail to [iroemer@rwmanagementgroup.com](mailto:iroemer@rwmanagementgroup.com) and I will see what I can do. The GLD Board will meet on Wednesday the 26<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 – 3:30 p.m. in the GLD hospitality suite. The GLD annual meeting and luncheon will take place on Thursday from 11:00 – 1:00 p.m. at the Convention Center room D163. Tickets can be purchased for the luncheon from your board members or at the door.

## GLD CLOTHING STORE

Check out the GLD store for great shirts and wind shirts. Go to the GLD web site at [www.GLD-IAFC.org](http://www.GLD-IAFC.org) and click on the GLD store link to view the selection.

## Australian Institute of Police Management

The Great Lakes Board Vice-President Nyle Zikmund has been granted partial sponsorship by the Great Lakes Board to attend the Australian Institute of Police Management, which is the equivalent of the United States National Fire Academy and FBI Academy. Chief Zikmund will attend an intensive two week residency program in their graduate diploma in Executive Leadership. The Institute will cover housing and meals and the Great lakes Board along with Chief Zikmund's Department will help cover the travel costs. Chief Zikmund has provided articles in this issue from his recent visit.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FIRE RESCUE INTERNATIONAL

PLACE – DALLAS, TX

DATES – AUGUST 27-29, 2009

Great Lakes Hotel – Hotel Anatole





## GLD PRESIDENT ANNOUNCES CANDIDACY

The IAFC Great Lakes Division proudly announces that Chief Hank Clemmensen has formally announced his candidacy for IAFC 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President for 2010. Chief Clemmensen is the current President of the IAFC Great Lakes Division, President of the Cook County Fire Chiefs Association, and Fire Chief of the Palatine Rural Fire Protection District in Inverness, Illinois.

Hank Clemmensen joined the Palatine Rural Fire Protection District (Inverness, Illinois) in 2001, following a 26-year fire service career with the Hoffman Estates (Illinois) Fire Department. Chief Clemmensen served as an Assistant Chief and Fire Marshal in Hoffman Estates prior to becoming Fire Chief for Palatine Rural. Chief Clemmensen has served for four years on the Executive Board for MABAS Division 1, serving as President in 2005 and 2006. Currently, Chief Clemmensen is President of the Cook County Fire Chiefs Association (CCFCA) which represents over 120 fire departments, including the Chicago Fire Department. Chief Clemmensen is a member of the Safety, Health, and Survival Section of the IAFC.

Chief Clemmensen has been endorsed by the Executive Boards of the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association, Indiana Fire Chiefs Association, and the Ohio Fire Chiefs Association.

Chief Clemmensen states, "Being a Fire Chief is becoming more challenging every day especially with the current economic climate, federal, state, and local mandates, and preparing for multi-agency emergencies. I am committed to being proactive in working to meet the needs of today's fire chiefs and the needs of tomorrow's fire service through legislation and providing valuable IAFC member services."

Clemmensen believes it is imperative that the IAFC work with the nation's fire service and policy makers to insure access to reliable resources and financial aid for national mobilizations.

Specifically, the IAFC should work toward national mutual-aid and regionalization initiatives and to maintain and effectively use the federal grant programs. Clemmensen added, "The IAFC must be an advocate for the nation's fire chiefs who are facing growing challenges related to funding, staffing, and training."

Clemmensen further states, "Today's fire service has an extraordinary opportunity to align with strategic partners and move in a cohesive direction. I believe that my experience at the local, regional and national level—as well as my understanding of rural and metropolitan communities—will help guide the IAFC as it becomes the driving force behind changing the way the fire service currently does business. I have the conviction to state the facts based on data, even if the consequences are associated with unpleasantness."

# Australian Public Safety

## A visit with our friends

### down under

By Nyle Zikmund

I recently returned from attending a two week Executive Leadership class held at the Australian Institute of Police Management (AIPM) located at the Former Artillery School, North Head Scenic Drive, Manly, Australia.

Whilst the language barrier imposed some consternation at first, within a short measure of time I was acclimated and able to differentiate between your mate (friend), chap (acquaintance) and bloke (just another guy), unless he is a “bloody bloke” which then renders him some type of derogatory status such as inattentive driver.

Should you ever have occasion to visit, you will find a magnificent continent graced with imposing beauty accompanied by amenable citizens intellectually bright with a profound sense of who they are and committed to making contributions to society. Least you question this, consider the fact that Australia, as a percentage of population, provided and sacrificed more men in World War I than any other nation. Today, they still serve with regularity in all United Nations peace keeping missions. All this from a land the size of the lower continental United States but with a population equal only to that of New York (about 20 million).

The vast majority (over 96% of these people live either along the East Coast (Cairns to Sydney), south coast in Melbourne or Adelaide, or the 1.3 intrepid wanders to be found in metropolitan city of Perth located on the west coast.

From this vast expanse comes an equally large public safety service comprised of an enormous number of fire departments (7) and an equally gargantuan partner in law enforcement (8).

Say “bloody what mate?” Seven fire departments and eight police agencies; that’s right. Australia is comprised of seven states;

New South Wales (Southwest area), Queensland Northwest area), Western Australia or WA for short (entire Western half, think Louisiana Purchase), South Australia (central south), Victoria (the only small state and located immediately south of Wales, and the quaint island state of Tasmania. Each of these states has their own fire department thus making six.

The seventh department is the Australian Central Authority or ACT. This is the only “small” organization to be found in the public safety arena in my discoveries. Similar to our District of Columbia, the ACT is the area encompassing and surrounding the national capital of Canberra; pronounced Can –Bra. As an aside, despite an appearance of operating under the English language, the number of invisible R’s that occur in their enunciation of words and the absence of lake of vowel pronunciation takes a bit of adaptation.

Law enforcement is similarly organized with the addition of the Australian Federal Police or AFP. Unlike the FBI, DEA, Secret Service (and a host of others) the only federal police in Australia is the AFP. Along with drug related crimes, one of their primary function, and most recently assigned, is a marked increase in international and regional airport security and law enforcement.

The Northern Territories is not a state, having confirmed their unique status by majority vote as recently as 1998. Peculiar as it may seem, residents get to vote in the national elections, however, their votes are not counted. Similarly, they elect members to parliament who can participate in the process and debate but suffer the same voting privileges as their constituents; none. (Bryson, Down Under).

Students (23) and instructors (8) in the class were representative of every agency with the exception of South Australia. There were ten “coppers”; three from AFP, a Commander from WA, a Superintendent from Queensland and the Toowoomba District no less! Additionally, we were joined by two more of our English speaking friends from the United Kingdom who worked in the Serious Organized Crime Agency as well as

an Australian from WA who worked in their Serious Crimes Organization.

Two of the lead instructors had police backgrounds along with two of the visiting fellows (students/small group leaders). Joining in the learned activity was the Director of Operations for the Honk Kong Ambulance Service, similar position for the ACT as the ambulance is separate and added to this august collection of safety minded leaders were "firey's from New Zealand, Papa New Guinea (PNG), and members from NSW, Queensland, WA, Victoria (called Metropolitan Fire Authority), and Tasmania.

If your inclined to think consolidation is necessary for the future of the fire service, Australia's model might be worthy of a visit. The New South Wales volunteer force is seventy thousand (that's right, 70,000) strong. Dominic Lane, a fellow Visiting Fellow recently accepted a promotion to Assistant Commissioner responsible for this assembled mass. And people thought the Titanic was big! I do not envy his formidable charge.

All but Victoria (Metropolitan Fire Brigade) and the ACT have a rural division along with the Industrial or Union division. Remarkably, and not surprisingly, there are far more similarities with respect to fire issues than there are differences.

Their size does allow economies of scale with respect to purchasing, training, policy development and consistency, and operations. However, that same size hinders implementation, change, and innovation as well as providing a rich environment for bureaucracy to settle its meddlesome nature within. Add to this the significant travel required to interact in a face-to-face fashion and the innumerable challenges posed wherein.

Social evolutionist might benefit from a case study of the Australian Public Safety system specific to the development of it's leaders. Whether by chance, purposeful focus, external forces, or a combination thereof; the AIPM has achieved a virtual diamond in leadership development with the Executive Leadership class.

Could this be a result of a greater societal need resulting from the plethora of bureaucracy

embedded in all organizations but more prevalent and ever increasing with size? Whatever the reason, the experience was profoundly superior to any educational program encountered in the United States (including two baccalaureate degrees, master's degree, EFO and CFO).

Should you ever have the occasion and good fortune to wander on down, I would suggest reading bestselling travel author Bill Bryson's Down Under. Remarkably humorous, painstakingly researched, it is the penultimate encyclopedia as evidenced by the fact that not only have many Australian's read the tome, they recommend it to others!

The participants of the Executive Leadership Program represented the fire and emergency services, state and federal police, Serious Organised Crime Agency and Corruption Commission from throughout Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Papua New Guinea and the United Kingdom. Because of the diversity of the group, many participants commented that the learning was enhanced due to the different management and leadership experiences that the people brought to the program. Comments were also made that they had a greater understanding of the issues fellow agencies were facing and how that knowledge would help them when they interacted in the operational sphere in their own jurisdictions. This is a tremendous outcome for all jurisdictions, AIPM and AFAC as it demonstrates that through its programs the AIPM can further enhance agency effectiveness and that the search for excellence and continuous improvement in its programs does not cease.





## Group Purchasing Can Save You Time and Money!

By  
Chief Bill Mund

You are probably familiar with the concept of group purchasing, maybe you have even tried it in your region or purchased off state contracts. Did you know there is a national group-purchasing program available to you -- free of charge -- in partnership with the Great Lakes Division of the IAFC? This program brings you the convenience of group purchasing with the collective buying power of thousands of fire departments across the country. The program is called "Fire Rescue GPO" and it was started by the Western Fire Chiefs Association in 2001.

The FireRescue GPO functions as a facilitator of national contract pricing on equipment, supplies and services fire departments use every day. There are two types of contracts available: "publicly awarded" and "negotiated". Publicly awarded contracts are created through a procurement/bid process (or RFP). These Cooperative Procurement Agreements contain language that allows for "piggybacking" by other fire departments that have joined FireRescue GPO, thus avoiding the need to create an RFP or bid process themselves. The second type of Agreement is aggressively negotiated and provides national tier pricing.

The FireRescue GPO is not a retailer. Purchases are made directly from the vendor or distributor – in many cases the same ones you already work with! In order to utilize these contracts you must be a member of the FireRescue GPO, which is free and voluntary. There is no obligation or commitment, simply register on the website ([www.firerescue-gpo.com](http://www.firerescue-gpo.com)) to create your free account. Contracts and pricing information is available to members through the website or through the customer service line (800) 810-3909.

program generates revenue for the Great Lakes Division of the IAFC and State Chiefs Association where the purchase was made. The revenue comes from reasonable fees that the vendors pay when a purchase is made through the program. Check out the FireRescue GPO today at [www.firerescue-gpo.com](http://www.firerescue-gpo.com). It is free, easy, helps the fire service, and who knows – you just might save some time and money on your next purchase! Go to the website and request a login name and password today and then use Fire Rescue GPO as another possible source for your purchasing needs. Remember, it costs you nothing to sign up and can potentially save your department some money in these difficult economic times we are facing.

### Some existing contract highlights include:

**Ferno** for Cots, Stretchers and Chair Lifts, **Zoll** for Defibrillators, **MMS** for EMS Supplies, **Grainger Supply** for many of your daily use items, and **Corporate Express** for Office Supplies

Additionally, two of the larger contracts with Fire Rescue GPO are:

**Sprint** for 21% off regularly priced cellular plans personal or department! Note: even if you are already on a "discounted" fire service contract check out this FRGPO contract because it is probably a better discount than what you are currently receiving!

**Airgas** – Guaranteed 5% reduction in medical gas price from your current supplier and as the nation's 2<sup>nd</sup> largest Safety Equipment Supplier, deep discounts in safety supplies.

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