

In The Matter Of:
Meeting

Fire Chiefs Annual Board of Directors Meeting
April 02, 2019



Min-U-Script® with Word Index

NEW ENGLAND DIVISION
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS
APRIL 2, 2019

ANNUAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
PROVIDENCE HILTON HOTEL, PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

HEARD BEFORE:

CHIEF/FIRE MARSHAL TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN, PRESIDENT

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

2ND VICE PRESIDENT, CHIEF JOHN DUROSS
MA DIRECTOR, CHIEF CHARLES DOODY
VT DIRECTOR, CHIEF MICHAEL BUCOSI
NH DIRECTOR, CHIEF STEVEN ACHILLES
INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR, CHIEF STEVE LOCKE
1ST VICE PRESIDENT, CHIEF KENNETH W. RICHARDS, JR.
SECRETARY/TREASURER, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER,
FIRE CHIEF RETIRED JOHN G. WOOD, JR.
CT DIRECTOR, CHIEF PETER J. STARKEL
RI DIRECTOR, CHIEF JAMES McLAUGHLIN
ME DIRECTOR, CHIEF THOMAS HIGGINS
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT, CHIEF CHRIS CHRISTOPOULOS

ALSO PRESENT:

CHAPLIN REVEREND GARY BLUME

1 (CONFERENCE COMMENCED AT 3:05 P.M.)

2 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: I'd like to
3 call the annual meeting to order at 3:05. Could
4 we all stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

5 (WHEREUPON ALL MEMBERS STAND)

6 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: Please
7 remain standing. Reverend Blume for the
8 invocation.

9 REVEREND GARY BLUME: Please bow your
10 heads for a moment of prayer, please. But before
11 we do so, could we take just a moment to remember
12 Fred Stanley, a member of this organization and
13 an instrumental part of firefighting in New
14 England for years. A moment of silence, please.

15 (MOMENT OF SILENCE)

16 REVEREND GARY BLUME: Gracious and all
17 mighty God, we thank you for this opportunity to
18 come and gather to do what we can to help our
19 communities, and help our association, to help
20 our division, to do those things needful, promote
21 the fire services in New England.

22 We ask for Your blessing upon all of the
23 communities represented here today, and all of
24 those families, as well. Bless them all. In
25 Your name we pray, and in Your name we live.

1 Amen.

2 (ALL RESPOND AMEN)

3 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: Thank you,
4 Reverend. We're going to do a few introductions.
5 We're very fortunate this afternoon to have Chief
6 Gary Ludwig, the incoming First Vice President
7 nominee and incoming President of the IAFC,
8 (inaudible) Chief of Staff to the Executive
9 Director of the IAFC, so we're very fortunate
10 that you people -- we thank you for coming up and
11 taking the time out of your schedule. I know you
12 guys are pretty hectic down there. So we
13 appreciate that you're taking some time with us.

14 (APPLAUSE)

15 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: We have Bob
16 Duval, we all saw earlier, Bob Duval from NFPA.

17 (APPLAUSE)

18 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: Any past
19 presidents from the IAFC? Any past presidents of
20 the New England Division?

21 (APPLAUSE)

22 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: Thank you,
23 guys, very much. We do have a guest that came
24 up, Roger Bradley. He's the former -- he was the
25 International Director for the terms -- so we're

1 happy to have Roger up here for this meeting.

2 (APPLAUSE)

3 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: Chuck is in
4 the back from Decos (phonetic). We also have Bob
5 Seltzer, the President of the New England
6 Association. So we welcome everybody to come.

7 (APPLAUSE)

8 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: I'd like to
9 introduce Frank Brown, Chief Frank Brown, he's
10 the President of the Rhode Island Fire Chief's
11 Association, just to say a couple of words on
12 behalf of the Rhode Island Fire Chiefs.

13 CHIEF BROWN: Good afternoon,
14 everybody. Welcome to Rhode Island. I bring
15 greetings from the Rhode Island Association of
16 Fire Chiefs and our entire membership. I'd like
17 to congratulate President Tim McLaughlin for his
18 years of service to the Division and how he
19 always represents Rhode Island, and our State
20 Fire Marshal couldn't be more happier.

21 I'd also like to give a shout out to
22 Director Jim McLaughlin, who will be stepping
23 down after today as the Director for Rhode Island
24 (inaudible) Operations Officer for Rhode Island
25 EMA. (Inaudible). I'm sorry if I let the cat

1 out of the bag.

2 Jim has been such an advocate here in Rhode
3 Island for the Rhode Island Fire Service, and we
4 have (inaudible) done for us, and we thank you
5 for your position up here and looking out for us
6 in Rhode Island.

7 I really didn't know what to say today, but
8 I said I'd come up with a couple of facts maybe
9 you guys don't know about with Rhode Island.

10 Rhode Island is, obviously, the smallest
11 state in New England. We cover 1,214 square
12 miles. I know some of you are like, (inaudible).
13 So from north to south we're only 48 miles, and
14 from east to west we're 37 miles.

15 A couple of other facts is that the official
16 name of Rhode Island is the State of Rhode Island
17 and Providence Plantations. Also, Mr. President,
18 I don't know if you know, but Rhode Island never
19 ratified the 18th Amendment of Prohibition.

20 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: I'm well
21 aware of that, Chief. I celebrate that every
22 day.

23 CHIEF BROWN: We like to kid each
24 other. But on behalf of the Rhode Island
25 Association of Fire Chiefs, enjoy the rest of

1 your conference. Until we meet again, everyone,
2 please stay safe. Thank you.

3 (APPLAUSE)

4 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: So
5 communications. We don't have any. Secretary's
6 report.

7 CHIEF WOOD: Good afternoon. Point of
8 order to start with: Any time anyone is going to
9 speak, please stand, give your name, so the
10 stenographer can record it, so we have who's
11 speaking and what they're speaking about. So,
12 please, do that. She happens to have my name,
13 that's why I did not give my name right now. So
14 please remember to do that. If you don't, the
15 President will probably scold you.

16 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: I'll just
17 ask you to leave.

18 CHIEF WOOD: So the Secretary's report,
19 I submitted it in a written report, and there are
20 some extra reports here in writing. So I can
21 read it to you, if you'd like, or you can accept
22 it as a written report, the way it is.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Where are those,
24 again?

25 CHIEF WOOD: They're right on top of

1 (inaudible).

2 CHIEF SOUCEY: I make a motion to
3 dispense with the reading.

4 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: Stand,
5 please.

6 CHIEF SOUCEY: Richard Soucey, Rhode
7 Island.

8 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: Motion on
9 the floor.

10 CHIEF SPURR: Second. Chief Robert
11 Spurr, Avon, Massachusetts.

12 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: All in
13 favor.

14 (VOICE VOTE)

15 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: All opposed.

16 (NO RESPONSE)

17 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: Ayes have
18 it. Treasurer, (inaudible).

19 CHIEF WOOD: Also, the minutes of
20 February 14th were distributed in written form to
21 the Board. We need a motion to accept those.

22 CHIEF SPURR: So moved. Chief Robert
23 Spurr, Avon, Massachusetts.

24 CHIEF SELTZER: Second. Chief Seltzer,
25 Smithfield, Rhode Island.

1 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: We have a
2 motion and a second. All in favor.

3 (VOICE VOTE)

4 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: All opposed.

5 (NO RESPONSE)

6 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: Ayes have
7 it.

8 CHIEF WOOD: Just a little about -- FRI
9 is going to be in Atlanta this year. Housing is
10 open; registration is open. Try to get your
11 reservations in. We have a small block of rooms.
12 I think we have a block of 60 rooms at the Omni.
13 It's the hotel -- we were there the last time; we
14 were at the same hotel. It's a small block. So
15 if you don't get in there, then you'll end up in
16 one of the other hotels.

17 Because all of the other divisions are in
18 that hotel, as well, along with some sections and
19 the Executive Board or the Board of Records from
20 the IAFC. And they use it for other speakers,
21 and so forth. Again, that's in August, FRI
22 Atlanta, and we're staying at the Omni.

23 Life (phonetic) will be on Thursday, as it
24 has been in the past. Any questions about
25 Atlanta? Anybody have any questions about

1 Atlanta? Hotel? Nothing. Great. That
2 concludes my -- the Secretary's report.

3 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: Thank you,
4 John. The President's report: Probably the most
5 important issue we've been discussing for the
6 last, I guess, year or so is the consolidation of
7 the -- of this division and the New England
8 Association of Fire Chiefs.

9 I think a lot of people, unless you're
10 actually actively involved, people don't
11 understand why we have two. So we've been
12 muddling through, trying to get this thing put
13 together. And we've been meeting, and Chris
14 Christopoulos, I'm going to bring him up here for
15 a quick explanation of where we are in the
16 process. Because he's been spearheading this for
17 the division side anyway.

18 So Immediate Past President, Chris
19 Christopoulos, come up here.

20 CHIEF CHRISTOPOULOS: Thank you,
21 Mr. President. So this process started awhile
22 ago, and the Association put together a group of
23 representatives, as did our Board, two Board
24 members from each group and two members at large
25 from each group.

1 And we finally had a face-to-face meeting
2 down in Springfield a few months back, hammering
3 out what the potential concerns, questions,
4 issues that may or may not be related to becoming
5 one voice for the New England fire service.

6 Subsequently, we had our Board meeting a few
7 weeks ago down in Springfield, Mass., and we
8 developed what we felt was a road map to address
9 some of the concerns, largely related around
10 legal implications, some bylaws, how to
11 transition the Board of Directors.

12 It didn't seem like it was an unobtainable
13 list. We met with the Association Executive
14 Committee or Executive Board earlier today, and
15 agreed that we would begin the process to move
16 forward, to jointly hire an attorney to look at
17 the legal implications of combining two 501C3s,
18 and to further appoint two representatives from
19 each group to work on developing a set of bylaws
20 that is consistent with our requirements for the
21 International Association of Fire Chiefs, and
22 still meets both groups' original mission.

23 So we'll -- they'll be putting -- our Board
24 has already voted to cover half the cost of an
25 attorney. We will be providing a recommendation

1 for an attorney through the Association for them
2 to (inaudible) the full Board.

3 So I think fundamentally it's moving in a
4 good direction. And with your permission, I'd
5 like to read a motion.

6 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: You have my
7 permission, sir.

8 CHIEF CHRISTOPOULOS: Thank you. So I
9 would move to instruct the Board of Directors of
10 the New England Association of Fire Chiefs to
11 move forward with the consolidation process, to
12 merge the New England Association of Fire Chiefs
13 with the New England Division, unless there are
14 legal impossibilities to that process.

15 In order to approve the consolidation by
16 vote of the membership will be at a meeting to be
17 determined. We had originally thought about
18 doing that meeting at the annual meeting next
19 year, but there may be a possibility to do a
20 special meeting for each group earlier. So I
21 would entertain that motion.

22 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: We have a
23 motion on the floor, as Chris just read. Do we
24 have a second?

25 CHIEF MICHAEL VARNEY: Second that.

1 Mike Varney, Ellington, Connecticut.

2 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: We have a
3 second on the floor. All in favor -- any
4 discussion on that? Any discussion at all.

5 (NO RESPONSE)

6 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: No
7 discussion. All in favor.

8 (VOICE VOTE)

9 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: All opposed.
10 (NO RESPONSE)

11 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: Ayes have
12 it. Thank you. That's actually the biggest
13 thing that we've had going for the last year or
14 so. It looks like we're moving in the right
15 direction. I think it's pretty important for New
16 England to get this done, have one group, one
17 voice instead of having two competing -- not so
18 much competing, but in the way -- where we can
19 have one, and we can make it big. Special
20 development will be huge, and then the show.

21 So we have some logistics to work out, but I
22 think within the next six months we should be
23 well on our way. So I appreciate Chris. Chris
24 has done a lot of hard work on this, along with
25 his counterparts of the Association. So I do

1 appreciate that.

2 We'd like to get a report from the IFC. So
3 we'd like to bring up Chief Gary Ludwig.

4 CHIEF LUDWIG: Good afternoon,
5 everybody. It's an honor and a pleasure for me
6 to be here as your First Vice President. I bring
7 greetings from our President, Dan Nicholson. He
8 wishes he could be here. Unfortunately, he
9 couldn't be. With that said, I'm honored to be
10 here.

11 I also want to pass out congratulations to
12 Chief John Wood and Chief Tim McLaughlin and the
13 rest of the Board on an outstanding conference.
14 I have never been to this conference, but I'm
15 quite impressed. It's evident that your
16 organization here in New England is quite
17 vibrant, active, and very much engaged. And all
18 that I saw this morning and this afternoon, the
19 speakers were fantastic and a great flow of
20 information occurred. So, again, my
21 congratulations to all of you on running an
22 outstanding conference.

23 It's also my pleasure to serve on the IFC
24 Board of Directors, and Steve Locke is on the
25 Board of Directors with me. He's your

1 representative as your International Director,
2 but he'll be coming off and becoming Treasurer
3 next August. So congratulations to Steve. Let's
4 all give him a round of applause.

5 (APPLAUSE)

6 CHIEF LUDWIG: I look forward to
7 serving with him. He's quite a smart individual,
8 has a keen perspective of things, so Steve is
9 going to be a great asset as our treasurer for
10 the IFC.

11 Steve and I and the rest of the Board of
12 Directors just met last week in Reno. So I just
13 kind of want to give you an update as to what's
14 going on within the organization. I'll give you
15 the highlights.

16 It's been interesting for me, as a new
17 member of the Board, to get a nose underneath the
18 tent, so to speak, and see all of the things that
19 are going on, and I am quite amazed. It would be
20 an hour or more for me to just sit here and talk
21 about all of the things that your organization is
22 doing, and how active we are, and so many
23 different facets of fire services and emergency
24 services, not only nationally, but
25 internationally with all of the things we're

1 doing. So I'll just give you the highlights of
2 some of those things.

3 When we met there in Reno, we were also
4 there at the same time as -- the same conferences
5 that were going on while we were there was the
6 WUI, which is the Wildland Urban Interface
7 Conference, they were there, and also our new
8 Community Risk Reduction Conference. That was a
9 first-ever conference.

10 Both were well attended, and I believe the
11 WUI conference had over 450 people at it. I'm
12 sorry. The Community Risk Reduction had over
13 450, so it was quite well attended. It was a
14 good flow of information. And as you know,
15 Community Risk Reduction is the new buzzword
16 within our profession.

17 Tommy Weber was there, who's also a Director
18 with ISO. And it's so important that, again, we
19 raise community risk reduction and have those
20 plans and those assessments done, because those
21 are worthy of some ISO points also. So don't
22 forget that.

23 Some of the things that came out of that
24 include a new guide that's been offered by the
25 International, and it's a Wildland Interface

1 Chief's Guide to Wildland Fires. And I know you
2 don't have a lot up here of wildland fires in the
3 northeast, but it does happen.

4 In fact, one of the things we learned at the
5 conference is that there no longer is just a fire
6 season. There's a fire year. Because the fires
7 are continuing, as we're seeing, for whatever
8 reason, occur year-round throughout the United
9 States.

10 The other thing that was introduced there at
11 the conference includes a new flyer that talks
12 about how you, as an IAFC member, can get
13 involved. There's multiple ways that you can get
14 involved in our organization. That includes
15 becoming an instructor, you can serve on a
16 committee, you can serve as a representative to
17 an external organization, you can write an
18 article. We're always looking for someone to
19 write articles for (inaudible) publications.

20 So there are multiple things to do to get
21 involved. If you want to find out more, go to
22 the IAFC website. There's a flyer that's out
23 there about how you can get actively involved in
24 IAFC.

25 So I'm going to talk about something that's

1 kind of important, and that is, what is going on
2 in Washington, DC, and how we, as members in the
3 IAFC and as an organization as a whole, need to
4 have a voice heard about what's going on on
5 Capitol Hill.

6 At the end of April here, we will be up in
7 Washington, DC for the Congressional Fire Service
8 dinner. I don't know how many of you plan on
9 attending, but if you're there, I ask you,
10 please, get involved and engaged and go up to
11 Capitol Hill with us.

12 I'm going to read some statistics here of
13 what's going on under the new proposed federal
14 budget. So the Trump administration has proposed
15 a new federal budget. If you look at nondefense
16 spending, there's a cut of approximately
17 8.5 percent cut to agencies that are not defense.
18 Well, that impacts a lot of federal funding that
19 we receive.

20 Now, the United States Fire Administration
21 will receive an increase of about a million
22 dollars, but let me go through some of the
23 proposed cuts that we will see that will impact
24 fire service if the budget goes through as
25 written.

1 So there is a decrease of \$5.6 million in
2 the Fire Grant Program -- the Fire Bank Grant
3 Program. So out of \$344 million, they will cut
4 about \$5.6 million out of that Fire Bank Grant.

5 The Saver Grant is also going to receive a
6 proposed cut of 5.6 million.

7 The Urban Area Initiative (sic), UASI
8 grants, will see a proposed cut of \$213 million.
9 Those are mostly grants that impact metropolitan
10 areas.

11 The State Homeland Security Grant gets a
12 proposed cut of \$193 million dollars.

13 And if you're familiar with the Volunteer
14 Fire Act Grant, which is administrative through
15 the states in order to help rural communities
16 with their fire departments, that is a proposed
17 cut of about \$6 million.

18 So you can see, there's a lot of proposed
19 cuts in the budget, federal budget, that will
20 impact the fire service. So it's so viably
21 important and so critical that we get up on
22 Capitol Hill and speak with our legislatures and
23 inform them on the issues of the impact of these
24 cuts and what will occur in fire service.

25 It's going to impact multiple areas, also.

1 As an example, the assistance of the ALERT Grant.
2 If you're familiar with the ALERT Grant, that
3 stands for Assistance for Local Emergency
4 Response Training. It's a hazmat grant that the
5 IAFC (inaudible) where we go out and teach rural
6 communities about hazardous material mitigation.
7 That is completely eliminated in the federal
8 budget proposals.

9 The United States Fire Administration's
10 State Fire Training grants is also targeted for
11 elimination. So, again, I can't stress enough
12 how important it is that we get up and speak with
13 our legislators. And if you can't come to
14 Washington, DC at the end of April, it's so
15 important that you reach out to your legislators
16 and let them know about these budget cuts, and
17 you advocate they be restored back.

18 Some other updates I need to give you is
19 that we just recently held an International
20 Association of Fire Chiefs conference, which
21 truly was international. We just held our
22 first -- I'm sorry, our second international
23 conference in Bahrain. That was attended, also,
24 by 450 people. And that was very successful,
25 also.

1 Again, we continue to reach out to expand
2 our footprint into especially the Middle East.
3 If you're familiar, we also work with Saudi
4 Aramco, and we have a (inaudible) program where
5 we bring Saudi Arabian firefighters over to the
6 United States.

7 I think we've actually just graduated the
8 16th one the other day. It was on our Twitter
9 feed. So, again, international footprint
10 continues to expand, and we live up to our name
11 being international.

12 Just a couple of more things I want to talk
13 about. We, the IAFC, moved our headquarters out
14 of Fairfax last year to our new headquarters up
15 in Chantilly, which is very close to Dulles. So
16 it's beautiful and very expansive. It is exactly
17 what the staff needs in order to do the work of
18 the IAFC. So if you have not been there, we
19 encourage anyone in the area just to stop in and
20 see that. Members are encouraged to visit and
21 just stop in.

22 Lastly, I'm going to reiterate what I heard
23 earlier; that is, please, we're looking for you
24 to attend and be a part of Fire Rescue
25 International, which will be in August in

1 Atlanta. It's always full of tons of
2 information. The networking is more of a value
3 that I find, along with the education, but the
4 networking is just fantastic, where you reach out
5 and talk to others and deal with others who might
6 be having the same problems.

7 So with that said, I think we're going to
8 hold any questions you might have regarding the
9 IAFC. I will be available after this meeting.
10 If you have any specific questions, you can reach
11 out to me, and I will answer whatever I can.

12 Again, I'm honored to be your first Vice
13 President, and with God's blessing and health for
14 the next five months, coming in as your
15 President. So thank you very much again.

16 (APPLAUSE)

17 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: Thank you,
18 Chief. Being part of the IAFC as a division, we
19 know what value that IAFC has for all the
20 firefighters throughout the country. I know
21 whether it's your career or a combination as a
22 volunteer, there's something for everybody,
23 there's a value.

24 We're very fortunate in Rhode Island. I
25 think we're sending our constituents down there

1 next week or the week after to meet with
2 congressional people from Rhode Island.

3 We're very fortunate being so small, it's
4 that one degree of separation here. So we
5 have -- we get an audience with them. We can see
6 them, and they're -- I think all four are very
7 pro fire department. And Jack Reed is the
8 ranking guy on the senate side. So I think we've
9 got some good pull down there. And we'll be down
10 there, and I know our people will be talking
11 about the budget and the cuts.

12 CHIEF LUDWIG: Our staff always puts
13 together talking points. So we'll have talking
14 points prepared for all those going up on Capitol
15 Hill. Thank you.

16 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: Thank you,
17 Chief. The next is the International Director's
18 report. Steve Locke, who Chief Ludwig just said,
19 is going to be coming in as the Treasurer for the
20 IAFC. I think it's fantastic that New England is
21 going to have a seat at the table. I think it's
22 awesome. Steve Locke.

23 CHIEF LOCKE: Thank you. I'll be
24 brief. Gary did a great job (inaudible) for
25 what's happening at the IAFC. For the last 11

1 years, I've had the honor and privilege of
2 serving on the Board of Directors here. I did
3 nine -- what we actually call a nine-year
4 sentence working through the Chairs.

5 And then I'm finishing my first one, a
6 three-year term as your International Director.
7 And Roger served many years in that role.

8 When the role of the IAFC treasurer we knew
9 was going to come open last year about this time,
10 the current treasurer was terming out, and we
11 knew he was going to step in and run for the
12 second VP. I recall calling John on a Friday
13 night, and he said, Are you ready to run a
14 national campaign? Because this is going to
15 be -- this will be fun. And it was fun.

16 So I want to thank -- almost every state --
17 I think every state in New England sent me some
18 money. I never would have thought you would have
19 to raise between 8 and \$10,000 to run for a
20 volunteer position with the IAFC. But that
21 ultimately, as Gary can attest, is what it takes.
22 You have to be out there at the session meetings
23 to gain support.

24 I know Timmy and Chuck are in the room, both
25 with the V cost (sic), delivering the V cost

1 endorsement early on really scares away the
2 folks, so I want to thank those folks.

3 And, ultimately, you can't do this without
4 the support at home. So my second conversation,
5 after John, was not my wife, but my deputies.
6 One is in the room now. You know, I know they
7 can take care of (inaudible) I'm being taken care
8 of. They certainly stepped up to the plate.
9 They run the place every day.

10 So, thank you to as least one of my deputies
11 that's here who sort of carries the (inaudible)
12 for me when I'm out traveling around, because the
13 campaign season was a little crazy.

14 But with that, the IAFC is a \$20 million
15 business with (inaudible) full-time employees, 75
16 to 80 full-time employees, and it is truly
17 international. I think when Roger was on the
18 Board during the 2008 crisis, most of the money
19 was derived from the FRI Conference. Attendance
20 went down, and that took a serious hit to the
21 budget.

22 Now, with diversification, I think the
23 numbers are less than 40 percent, maybe even
24 lower than that, comes from the conference. So
25 there are a lot of -- a lot of money is coming

1 out of the Middle East on contracts.

2 And these are things that we don't
3 necessarily see every day, but it is -- this is a
4 very integral business with a lot of things going
5 on working on your behalf.

6 Just kind of on a local note, when Deputy
7 FEMA Director was out here in Rhode Island, when
8 he was awaiting confirmation, they called the
9 IAFC, because that was an important endorsement
10 to have. So Mark Light (phonetic) and some folks
11 from Rhode Island got on the phone, because they
12 wanted to make sure that it was a supporter of
13 the fire service, and he's in place today. So
14 that's what our International does for us with
15 the local folks.

16 So with that, thank you for letting me serve
17 as your International Director for three years
18 and on your Board for the last 11, and I look
19 forward to the next three years as serving as
20 Treasurer. Thank you.

21 (APPLAUSE)

22 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: Committee
23 reports, bylaws. Chief Doody.

24 CHIEF DOODY: Thank you, Mr. President.
25 On behalf of Chief Lori Balos (phonetic) for the

1 CBR committee, just a brief report for you.

2 We met a couple of times via conference call
3 in February/March, and basically reviewed some
4 technical amendments for some different
5 divisions, like the Safety, Health and Survival
6 section, the Company Officers section. Just kind
7 of improving some of the cleanup things they did
8 to the bylaws.

9 One of the important things that I was asked
10 to pass along to you, a couple of important
11 dates: May 8 to June 7, the IAFC election period
12 is open. As you know, that's an online election
13 process. Chief Spurr chaired the committee.
14 He's here --

15 CHIEF SPURR: Yeah.

16 CHIEF DOODY: So June 1st -- I'm
17 sorry -- July 1 is the deadline to submit items
18 to the CBR committee for consideration during the
19 committee's FRI 2019 meeting.

20 So if there are any bylaws you needed
21 reviewed or any amendments you want to make to
22 the bylaws, you can submit those up to July 1 so
23 the committee can take a look at it.

24 Other than that, Mr. President, that's all I
25 have.

1 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: Thank you,
2 Chief.

3 CHIEF RICHARDS: As everybody knows,
4 with the GPO, they have standing contracts for
5 all of us from New England that's involved in
6 International that you can get ahold of. They
7 have some really good contacts, everything from
8 turnout gear all the way to fire apparatus. So
9 if you're out there, and you're in the need to
10 buy gear or an aerial -- a million-dollar aerial
11 piece, if you go through GPO and it's something
12 that you like, you don't have to go to bid, it's
13 already taken care for you.

14 So I encourage everybody to look at their
15 lists, see what they have, and if they can help
16 you out, then by all means, take advantage of it.
17 It's an excellent program offered to all of us.

18 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: Thank you,
19 Chief Richards. Election Committee, Chief Spurr,
20 Robert Spurr.

21 CHIEF SPURR: Thank you, Mr. President.
22 I'm Chief Bob Spurr, Avon, Massachusetts, and I
23 represent the Division -- the Elections
24 Committee, and I Chair that committee.

25 This year's elections are uncontested at the

1 IAFC level. All things going well, which I
2 assume this year they will, Chief Ludwig will be
3 coming in as President, Chief Ottogroves
4 (phonetic) will be coming in as First VP, Chief
5 Rich Corrizzo (phonetic) Second VP.

6 There's one declared candidate at this point
7 for next year's election. And that is Chief,
8 Donald Black from North Carolina. We have not
9 had any other candidates at this point to clear;
10 however, that process is open until February 1 of
11 '19 (sic). So there's still plenty of
12 opportunity.

13 We don't know -- assuming from the CBR
14 report there will definitely be some (inaudible)
15 actions down there. But don't forget, we have
16 now taken the IAFC election and encompassed
17 everyone other than Metro into our election
18 process. So if (inaudible) has an election, it's
19 still going to appear on the same ballot.

20 Anybody that has a change in there, it's
21 going to appear on it. You will still get
22 ballots. If you belong to any of those sections,
23 you're still going to get them. Please vote in
24 them.

25 We're kind of interested to see how it goes

1 this year without an IAFC race to see what
2 happens in the voting process. But we're still
3 going to keep the streamline and make it easier
4 for you. Thank you.

5 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: Thank you,
6 Chief. Chuck Flynn.

7 CHIEF FLYNN: You heard from Tim --

8 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: Say your
9 name, please.

10 CHIEF FLYNN: Chuck Flynn, Suffield,
11 Connecticut, (inaudible) Chair. We have a DCLS
12 and a (inaudible) coming up in the beginning of
13 May. Scholarships have been awarded. There are
14 scholarships coming up for FRI and DCLS, if
15 you're a member, with some of our partners like
16 Partners Solutions.

17 And, again, I spoke with the (inaudible) in
18 November, which always has scholarships. It's a
19 sellout.

20 This will be the last year you hear of a
21 fall symposium in the west. We're going to
22 change the symposium to the spring to market it
23 better. We're actually looking to -- we're
24 probably going to St. Paul, Minneapolis next year
25 for the May conference. It's more voluntary.

1 There's a combination of departments out there to
2 draw from.

3 Other than that, we continue to work on
4 behalf of the fire service. You will see our
5 paper come out once it's approved by the Board,
6 and new interim fire Chief, that we've been asked
7 by a bunch (inaudible) with the EFO section, so
8 you will see that, as well. That's all I got.

9 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: Thank you
10 very much, Chief. We're going to come to the
11 Election of Officers. What we have up for
12 election this year, we have the President from
13 Connecticut, the first Vice President for Maine,
14 the second Vice President from Massachusetts,
15 State Directors for Mass. and New Hampshire for a
16 two-year term, the secretary/treasurer for a
17 three-year term, and the International Director
18 for a three-year term.

19 So we're going to take nominations for --
20 President from Connecticut, we're going to take
21 nominations.

22 CHIEF STARKEL: I nominate Chief Ken
23 Richards.

24 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: Stand up.

25 CHIEF STARKEL: Peter Starkel, Columbia

1 Fire Department from Connecticut. I nominate
2 Chief Ken Richards for President of the New
3 England Division, IAFC.

4 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: We have a
5 nomination on the floor.

6 CHIEF WALL: Tim Wall, North Farms
7 Volunteer Fire Chief, Wallingford, Connecticut,
8 proudly seconds that nomination.

9 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: Thank you,
10 Chief. We have a nomination and a second. Do we
11 have any other nominations?

12 (NO RESPONSE)

13 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: Do we have
14 any other nominations for the position of
15 President from Connecticut? Any other
16 nominations?

17 (NO RESPONSE)

18 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: That's
19 closed. Chief Ken Richards from Old Mystic will
20 be the incoming President. Sorry about that.
21 All in favor.

22 (VOICE VOTE)

23 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: All opposed.

24 (NO RESPONSE)

25 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: Congratu-

1 lations.

2 (APPLAUSE)

3 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: First Vice
4 President from Maine.

5 CHIEF LOCKE: Steve Locke from Vermont.
6 I nominate John Duross, Saco, Mains, as the First
7 Vice President.

8 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: We have a
9 nomination of Chief John Duross from Maine.

10 CHIEF THURLOW: Chief Thurlow from
11 Scarborough, Maine. Second the motion.

12 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: We have a
13 nomination and a second. Any other nominations
14 for First Vice President for Maine?

15 (NO RESPONSE)

16 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: Any other
17 nominations for First Vice President for Maine?

18 (NO RESPONSE)

19 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: All in
20 favor.

21 (VOICE VOTE)

22 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: All opposed.

23 (NO RESPONSE)

24 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: Ayes have
25 it. Congratulations.

1 (APPLAUSE)

2 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: We have
3 Second Vice President for Massachusetts. Any
4 nominations for Second Vice President for
5 Massachusetts?

6 CHIEF SPURR: Chief Robert Spurr, Avon,
7 Massachusetts. I nominate Chief Charles Doody,
8 Canton, Massachusetts.

9 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: Do we have a
10 second?

11 CHIEF WOOD: John Wood. I second the
12 motion for Charles Doody.

13 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: Any other
14 nominations for Second Vice President for Mass.?

15 (NO RESPONSE)

16 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: Any other
17 nominations?

18 (NO RESPONSE)

19 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: Nominations
20 are closed. All in favor.

21 (VOICE VOTE)

22 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: All opposed?

23 (NO RESPONSE)

24 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: Congratu-
25 lations.

1 (APPLAUSE)

2 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: We have a
3 State Director for a two-year term for
4 Massachusetts. We'll do that one first. We have
5 a State Director from Massachusetts.

6 SPEAKER: Charles (inaudible)
7 Massachusetts. I'd like to nominate Chief Keith
8 Stark from Weymouth, Massachusetts.

9 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: Do we have a
10 second.

11 CHIEF SPURR: Chief Robert Spurr from
12 Avon, Massachusetts. I would like to second.

13 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: We have a
14 nomination and a second. Any other nominations
15 for State Director for Massachusetts?

16 (NO RESPONSE)

17 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: Any other
18 nominations?

19 (NO RESPONSE)

20 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: Any other
21 nominations?

22 (NO RESPONSE)

23 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: Nominations
24 are closed. All in favor.

25 (VOICE VOTE)

1 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: All opposed.

2 (NO RESPONSE)

3 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: Congratu-
4 lations, Chief.

5 (APPLAUSE)

6 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: Congratu-
7 lations. The journey begins, my friend. State Director
8 for New Hampshire for a two-year term.

9 CHIEF CHRISTOPOULOS: Chris
10 Christopoulos, Lebanon, New Hampshire. We'd like
11 to nominate Chief Brian Rhodes from Nashua, New
12 Hampshire.

13 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: Do you have
14 a second.

15 CHIEF ACHILLES: Chief Achilles,
16 Portsmouth, New Hampshire Fire. Second that.

17 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: We have a
18 nomination and a second. Any other nominations
19 for New Hampshire?

20 (NO RESPONSE)

21 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: Any other
22 nominations for Director for New Hampshire?

23 (NO RESPONSE)

24 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: Any other?

25 (NO RESPONSE)

1 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: Nominations
2 are closed. All in favor.

3 (VOICE VOTE)

4 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: All opposed.

5 (NO RESPONSE)

6 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: Ayes have
7 it. Congratulations.

8 (APPLAUSE)

9 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: Secretary
10 treasurer for a three-year.

11 CHIEF COONEY: Scott Cooney, Hartford,
12 Vermont. I nominate John Wood.

13 CHIEF COLLETTE: Aaron Collette,
14 Burlington, Vermont. I second that.

15 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: I'm not even
16 going to take anymore nominations for this one.
17 All in favor.

18 (VOICE VOTE)

19 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: Opposed.

20 (NO RESPONSE)

21 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: The ayes
22 have it. Congratulations, John.

23 (APPLAUSE)

24 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: We have
25 International Director, now that Steve Locke is

1 moving up to Treasurer, for a three-year term.

2 Do we have any nominations?

3 CHIEF JAMES McLAUGHLIN: Jim Wright
4 from Sharon, Massachusetts. I honorably would
5 like to proudly present Chief Charles Doody from
6 the Canton, Mass. Fire Department for
7 International Director for the New England
8 division.

9 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: Thank you.
10 Do we have a second?

11 CHIEF KELLEHER: Mike Kelleher from
12 (inaudible) Fire. I second the nomination of
13 Charles Doody.

14 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: Any other
15 nominations for the International Director?

16 CHIEF ACHILLES: Mr. President, Steve
17 Achilles, Portsmouth, New Hampshire. I recommend
18 and nominate Chief Christopoulos from the Lebanon
19 Fire Department for International Director.

20 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: Do we have a
21 second for the nominee?

22 CHIEF BRADLEY: Second. Roger Bradley,
23 Retired, Hanover, New Hampshire. I second.

24 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: Do we have
25 second. Any other nominations?

1 CHIEF STARKEL: Mr. President, Peter
2 Starkel. I nominate Chief Tim Wall.

3 CHIEF IDE: Chief Kevin Ide, Dayville,
4 Connecticut. Second.

5 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: Okay.

6 CHIEF WALL: Mr. President, Tim Wall.
7 I'm honored and privileged to be nominated for
8 representing the New England Division, but I
9 decline the nomination to support a friend of
10 mine, Chris Christopoulos.

11 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: Okay, Chief.
12 Thank you. We have a race for International
13 Director. Chief Doody and Chief Christopoulos.
14 I'm going to turn this over to John Wood so he
15 can explain the process.

16 CHIEF WOOD: John Wood,
17 Secretary/treasurer. Because it is -- we'll do
18 an Australian ballot for this election, so that
19 it will be easier to do the vote and count. So
20 the way it will work is, if you don't have your
21 IAFC member card with you, we're going to process
22 everyone through where the lunch room was today,
23 where you went to get lunch. Out front there's a
24 table there. Christine Bothier is going to be at
25 that table with a computer. We have the latest,

1 as of the end of March, the list of membership.

2 She'll verify that you are a current member
3 of the IAFC and the Division. And then once she
4 verifies that, you go in the room, there's a
5 sheet of paper in there, some pens, and you can
6 write down Chris or you can write down Charlie.
7 Put it the box that's there, and then you'll exit
8 through the other door.

9 So you're going to go in right-hand door and
10 exit through left-hand door. Hopefully, you'll
11 come back here, see the results, and there will
12 be a swearing in of the officers.

13 So is everybody clear on how that process is
14 going to work? We're going to leave the room
15 here, walk out, file line, whatever you want to
16 do. We'll verify membership, you'll go in and
17 vote, and then return back here, hopefully.

18 Once the votes are in, we will stay there,
19 we will count the votes. Once the votes are
20 counted, I will come in and give the results of
21 the election. Any questions?

22 (NO RESPONSE)

23 CHIEF WOOD: Any concerns?

24 (NO RESPONSE).

25 CHIEF WOOD: Anybody that might be in

1 the arrears, we'll have to deal with that. If
2 you go up and your membership is in the arrears,
3 it doesn't mean you can't vote, but it depends on
4 how long it has been in arrears. Just give us a
5 couple of minutes. We're going to go out and set
6 up.

7 (BRIEF RECESS)

8 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: I'm going to
9 call the meeting back to order. Thank you. The
10 results of the election for International
11 Director for a three-year term are Chris
12 Christopolous 37; Charlie Doody 25.
13 Congratulations, Chris.

14 (APPLAUSE)

15 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: Could we
16 have the First Vice President from Maine, Second
17 Vice President from Massachusetts, the State
18 Directors from Massachusetts, New Hampshire
19 Connecticut, and Vermont, the
20 Secretary/Treasurer, and the International
21 Director. Come up to the roster for a swearing
22 in by Chief Ludwig.

23 CHIEF LUDWIG: We'll go ahead and get
24 started here. First of all, congratulations to
25 you all. Before I swear you in, I just want to

1 say, I'm thoroughly impressed with the New
2 England Division. You guys are very active and
3 vibrant, and we're excited to have this
4 organization as an integral part of the IAFC.

5 You guys contribute so much, and we're just
6 so proud and excited to have you as a part of our
7 organization. So thank you, all, for serving.

8 I always like to say, a true test of
9 someone's character is someone who is willing to
10 do something for someone else, that you expect
11 nothing back. And truly you all are in that
12 arena, that you're going to be doing something
13 for others and you expect nothing back. So I
14 think that's a true testament to your character.

15 Again, congratulations. And it's my honor
16 to swear you in. So I ask you to raise your
17 right hands and repeat after me.

18 I, state your name, hereby swear that I will
19 support the constitution, and bylaws, and at all
20 times bear true allegiance to the goals and
21 purposes of this division, and the International
22 Association of Fire Chiefs, Incorporated.

23 I further swear to perform the duties and
24 responsibilities of my office to the best of my
25 ability. And at the end of my term of office, I

1 will deliver my successor all records of said
2 office, so help me God.

3 (WHEREUPON ALL ELECTED OFFICERS RECITE
4 ALONG WITH CHIEF LUDWIG)

5 CHIEF LUDWIG: Congratulations,
6 gentlemen.

7 (APPLAUSE)

8 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: We're going
9 to have Ken Richards step up here, and he's going
10 to give the Oath of Office by Secretary John
11 Wood.

12 CHIEF WOOD: It's my pleasure to swear
13 in your new President, Ken Richards, this
14 afternoon. I look forward to working with you in
15 the next year, Ken.

16 CHIEF RICHARDS: Thank you.

17 CHIEF WOOD: I, state your name, hereby
18 swear that I will support the constitution and
19 bylaws, and at all times bear true allegiance to
20 the goals and purposes of this Division, and the
21 International Association of Fire Chiefs,
22 Incorporated.

23 I further swear to perform the duties and
24 responsibilities of my office to the best of my
25 ability. And at the end of my term of office, I

1 will deliver to my successor all records of said
2 office, so help me God.

3 (WHEREUPON CHIEF KENNETH RICHARDS
4 RECITES ALONG WITH CHIEF WOOD)

5 CHIEF WOOD: Congratulations.

6 (APPLAUSE AND STANDING OVATION)

7 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: Well, my
8 sentence is up. I always said I could have
9 robbed a Cumberland Farms and gotten out of jail
10 faster than serving through the Chairs of this
11 organization. It's been nine good years. I met
12 a lot of great people. This is a great Board to
13 work with. The gentlemen I've worked with prior
14 to put a lot of time and effort in representing
15 New England.

16 Each state, you know, the person that sits
17 on this Board is out there fighting for your
18 state, and we work very well with the IAFC. So,
19 for me, it's been a pleasure; it's been a great
20 ride.

21 I can't thank John enough. I mean, John,
22 he's basically the big toe of this operation
23 here. He really is. He keeps the thing running.
24 All the President does is kind of just show up
25 when John tell you to. So I'm grateful for his

1 friendship. I'm glad he's here for three more
2 years, because he became a good friend of mine,
3 as are all the members of this Board.

4 I'll be around. Maybe not as often as I
5 was. As the Immediate Past President, maybe if
6 John needs a vote or something, I'll be around.

7 But it certainly was a pleasure. All
8 kidding aside, it was a pleasure, and it's been
9 an honor for nine years to serve with this
10 dedicated group of people that I've been able to
11 meet. I consider them all friends.

12 I thank the Board, members past and present,
13 Members of the Board for their support as I went
14 through the Chairs.

15 I congratulate Chief Richards. I know Chief
16 Richards is very dedicated to the Division, and I
17 know he's going to do a fantastic job as he picks
18 up the baton and runs with it for the Division.
19 So congratulations to you, Chief Richards.

20 CHIEF RICHARDS: Thank you.

21 (APPLAUSE)

22 CHIEF RICHARDS: Thank you, Chief. On
23 behalf of the Members of the Board of Directors
24 of the New England Division of the International
25 Fire Chiefs, I would like to thank you for your

1 past nine years. And I don't believe it was a
2 sentence. Even though you say that, I think you
3 enjoyed every minute of it.

4 Nine years of your dedication and service as
5 past president, and you still have another year,
6 so you still have a little bit more of your
7 sentence. It was an absolute pleasure serving
8 under you as the First Vice President.

9 And I think I talk for all the Board and all
10 of the membership, along with the joking and
11 everything, your heart is as big as any heart we
12 have seen, to do what's right for the members of
13 the New England Fire Service.

14 So on behalf of the Board and Members of the
15 New England Division, please accept our token of
16 appreciation. Fire Marshal, Tim McLaughlin,
17 President, New England Division, International
18 Association of Fire Chiefs 2018/2019. Thank you
19 very much.

20 (APPLAUSE)

21 CHIEF RICHARDS: Before we turn it back
22 over to Tim to close it out, this is his weekend,
23 but I'd just like to say, it's an absolute honor
24 and a privilege to be standing here in front of
25 you as the newly elected President of the New

1 England Division.

2 You have a superb group of people sitting up
3 here at this table. We're on the phone with each
4 other, we meet on a regular basis. And all of
5 them, I can honestly say, have all of you in
6 every single one of their decisions. It's all
7 about fire service. It's all about what we can
8 do to make your community safer, your community a
9 better place to live, and all of you, a better
10 person, a better firefighter, a better officer, a
11 better Chief, a better Commissioner to serve your
12 community.

13 That's what this organization is all about.
14 This organization is all about the New England
15 Fire Service. So in the next year, as I was
16 talking earlier to the Board, there's several
17 things I would like to set as goals as the
18 President.

19 One of them is I feel we need to have a much
20 more -- we need to get out much more to our
21 clientele, you. We're going to look at going a
22 lot harder on social media, Facebook pages, et
23 cetera, and get the information out to you that
24 you need to make your communities a safer place,
25 and make you and your members and your officers

1 better officers to make your community safer.

2 Professional development has always been in
3 my heart. When I was coming up through the ranks
4 of the fire service, I started at 14 years old as
5 a junior fire fighter. I was very fortunate to
6 become a career firefighter at the age of 18, two
7 years out of high school, and I became Chief of
8 Department at 21. It will be 36 years this June.

9 I cut my teeth on training, I was a training
10 officer for many, many years. So that's a huge
11 part of what I feel this organization should be
12 doing.

13 The other goal I have is I feel very
14 strongly, and we had an Executive Board meeting
15 earlier today, I feel very, very committed to the
16 consolidation of the New England Division and the
17 New England Association of Fire Chiefs. I just
18 think it's the right thing to do for the New
19 England Fire Service.

20 And no matter what we do here as members, as
21 Board members, as officers, as Executive Boards,
22 at the end, it's not about us, it's not about Ken
23 Richards, it's not about Tim McLaughlin, it's not
24 about John Wood, it's about the people we serve.
25 It's about other community and about the people

1 that work underneath us that are our family and
2 our fire departments.

3 So we, as the two groups, need to come
4 together, we need to stay focused on our family,
5 which is our members and our members' families,
6 and we need to be the best leaders we possibly
7 can be in New England for the fire services.

8 That's what I'd like to do in the next year.
9 And I would appreciate all of your prayers
10 throughout the year, and all of your support to
11 make this happen. Because we're going to do it
12 as a group. I can't do it alone. You can't do
13 it as a Board.

14 We need all of you to (inaudible) people
15 that are members of these two organization to
16 make this happen. I feel it can happen. I feel
17 it's the best thing to do. And no matter what,
18 at the end of the day, it's not what's good for
19 each individual, we need to do the right thing.
20 And the right thing is to do what's best for the
21 community, and I feel this needs to happen.

22 Thank you very much. I look forward to the
23 next year.

24 (APPLAUSE)

25 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: That

1 concludes the annual meeting for 2019.

2 CHIEF WALL: Any new or old business?

3 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: Any new
4 business?

5 CHIEF WALL: Just a question. What is
6 the policy of the New England Division endorsing
7 a candidate for Second Vice President of the
8 IAFC? So, is there a policy or there is no
9 policy?

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Longstanding
11 practice?

12 CHIEF WOOD: John Wood,
13 Secretary/Treasurer. There's no written policy
14 on endorsing candidates at any level. However,
15 there has been a longstanding policy. And at one
16 time a vote, way back in the '90s, the Board
17 voted at one of their Board meetings not to take
18 positions to endorse candidates.

19 They took a position that they would, within
20 their own ranks and the membership, talk about
21 the individuals that may be running. But they
22 never would come out and endorse a candidate.

23 However, that has changed over the last, I
24 don't know, four or five years. The Board and
25 the membership has, on a couple of occasions now,

1 stepped away from that long-time not policy but
2 procedure, I guess, and has endorsed some of the
3 candidates. So it's sort of hit or miss.

4 CHIEF SPURR: Mr. President, if I may.
5 Bob Spurr, Avon, Massachusetts. Thank you, John.
6 I would recommend that the Board review a policy
7 on endorsements that's just been put out by the
8 VCOS (phonetic), and is being circulated to
9 sections by the Elections Committee as a best
10 practice. It may not fit perfectly, but there
11 are many good recommendations in it moving
12 forward. And I will gladly forward that to you.

13 CHIEF WALL: Well, I strongly encourage
14 the Board, without no policy in effect, to
15 consider and research and endorse Donna Black, a
16 Chief from (inaudible), North Carolina. That's
17 not a motion. That's an encouragement. That's a
18 statement from Tim Wall. Thank you.

19 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: Chuck.

20 CHIEF FLYNN: Mr. President, I will get
21 you the DCLS endorsement policy so that the New
22 England Division can review it.

23 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: Thank you,
24 very much. Roger.

25 CHIEF BRADLEY: Roger Bradley, Hanover,

1 New Hampshire, retired. I would just like to
2 caution the Board and the membership to think it
3 through before you have a knee jerk reaction to
4 anything, in that, historically, I know that at
5 one point we were strongly supporting a
6 candidate, and then, oh, guess what, one of our
7 New England Chiefs ran for Second VP, and we were
8 kind of sitting between a rock and a hard place.
9 So that's just, throw a little caution to the
10 wind. That's all.

11 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: Thank you,
12 Roger. Any other new business?

13 (NO RESPONSE)

14 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: Any old
15 business?

16 (NO RESPONSE)

17 CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: Before we
18 adjourn, there's going to be a Presidential
19 Celebration downstairs. When you come off the
20 elevator, take a left, and there's a room on the
21 left-hand side. You'll see it. There will be a
22 Presidential Celebration. So there will be a
23 cash bar and hors d'oeuvres being passed out in
24 honor of our new President. Motion to adjourn.

25 CHIEF LOCKE: So moved.

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CHIEF BRADLEY: Second.

CHIEF TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: All opposed.

(NO RESPONSE)

(CONFERENCE ADJOURNED AT 4:27 P.M.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Denise A. Webb, Notary Public, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true, accurate, and complete transcription of my stenographic notes taken at the time of the aforementioned conference.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 17th day of April, 2019.

 

DENISE A. WEBB, CSR/RPR/NOTARY PUBLIC
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES APRIL 7, 2022

DATE: April 2, 2019
IN RE: New England Division, International Fire Chiefs
Annual Board of Directors Meeting

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