

New England Association of Fire Chiefs, Inc.
International Association of Fire Chiefs
April 8, 2021, 09:00
Board of Directors Meeting
Grappone Conference Center Concord, NH

Members Present: Ken Richards, Chuck Flynn, Steve Carrier, John Duross, Charles Doody, John Wood, Robert Bradley, RI., Robert Gowans, Chris Christopoulos, Michael Bucossi, VT., Kevin McAllister, VT., Darrell White, ME., Keith Stark, MA., Thomas Higgins, ME, Ken Jones, NH.,

Members Not Present: Peter J Starkel, Steve Locke

This meeting was for the Board only due to Covid-19 restrictions on spacing.

Pledge to the flag followed by Chief Ken Richards providing prayer.

President Duross called the meeting to order at 09:00

Secretary Report

Minutes of the January 20, 2021 Board of Directors Zoom meeting were presented in writing and accepted as written. Motion by Chief Richards, and McAllister motion passed.

Discussion regarding pocket badges for the board and members. After a brief discussion the board decided to keep the same badges with the IAFC logo. Motion was made by Chief Flynn, 2nd by Chief Richards to purchase badges for the new board members coming in June 2021. Motion passed

Secretary to order 100 window stickers from the IAFC to be distributed to the board.

June Expo and Annual Meeting

The Worcester DCU Center has been used as a hospital up to March 31, 2021. However, they will be keeping set up as a hospital until the end of May. MA has not opened their guidelines for convention use of the Center as well. With this information obtained on April 7, 2021 from the DCU Center we will need to cancel our exhibits floor Expo. Discussion regarding the annual meeting and professional development programs could continue in a reduced capacity. A location to be determined.

Motion made by Chief Flynn 2nd by Chief Richards to cancel the 2021 Expo at the Worcester DCU Center, but continue to explore the possibility of an annual meeting staying with the same dates set in June if possible. Motion passed

Motion by Chief Richards 2nd by Chief Higgins to offer refunds as requested by an exhibitor for the 2021 Expo. The choices are; full refund forfeit booth space, partial refund move deposit to 2022 keep same space, or move full payment to 2022 and keep same booth space. Refunds would be allowed until June 26, 2021, when the Expo would have ended and the 2022 Expo deposits will start. Motion passed

Secretary provided a program format and pricing from the AC Marriott in Worcester for an annual meeting. Discussion and a question about the hotel and their ability to have 100 attendees in two separate rooms while still meeting the State guideline came up. A phone call to the hotel confirmed they could do one room with 100 attendees, but the other room would only hold 50 attendees. Chief Doody asked about holding the annual meeting in another State. He suggested checking with the Sheraton Hotel in Portsmouth NH., were the division held a similar venue a couple years earlier. This idea was accepted by the group. There are concerns about the cost of the program, which could reach \$25,000.00 with hotel rooms, instructor fees, advertisement, meals, and additional program fees. We would need to get sponsors, possibly 12-15 exhibits, and donations to keep the attendee fees at or about 100.00. In addition, the board would like to hold the annual meeting the same dates as scheduled previous June 23-24, 2021, if possible. But are willing to move the annual meeting a day one way or the other if need be.

Motion by Chief Richards 2nd by Chief Flynn to have an annual meeting with professional development in June 2021. Motion passed

Dress Code for Annual Meeting will be a Class A uniforms.

Secretary/Treasurer will contact the Sheraton Hotel, Portsmouth, NH to negotiate a pricing/program for the annual meeting and professional development immediately after this meeting. Which was accomplished at lunch period. The Sheraton will send proposal on Friday. A decision must be made as quickly as possible do to the 11th hour planning for this event. The board will stay with the format presented earlier.

With the addition of golf on Wednesday morning prior to the annual meeting. The lead or chair will be Robert Bradley.

2022 Expo Discussion

A motion by Chief Flynn 2nd by Chief McAllister to keep the 2022 Expo in Worcester on June 22-25, 2022. Motion passed

There was conversation about the fact that 2022 will be the 100th year from the date the New England Association of Fire Chiefs were formed. President Duross put a committee of 6 together one board member from each State. They are; President Duross, Chiefs McAllister, Jones, Bradley, Flynn, Stark. President Duross will chair the committee.

Treasurer Report

Treasurer presented a written report to the board. Motion by Chief Bradley 2nd by Chief Higgins to accept the treasurer's report and pay all bills. Motion passed

Discussion regarding the membership reports sent to the board members each month. It is the responsibility of the State Director to follow-up with contacting the chiefs in arrears. And welcome the new members of the division, which is also part of the report. Retired members should be reported to the IAFC so they are no longer billed for dues and the records are correct, while providing if possible the name of the new chief. If they meet the requirements for life membership contact the secretary or the IAFC membership department so it is recorded.

President Duross questioned if this was in the job description and new officer guidance packet, Secretary to check if it is part of the document.

Presidents Report

President Duross asked if everyone received the job descriptions and asked for them to be approved. Motion made by Chief Doody 2nd by Chief Stark to approve the job descriptions as presented. Motion passed

Communication from George Farrell a past officer of the division who is asking for donations to help children with blood cancer. He is trying to raise \$50,000.00 for this cause. Motion by Chief Doody 2nd by Chief Richards to donate \$500.00. Motion passed

Chief Richards spoke about his reason for running for a director's position with VCOS. A motion by Secretary Wood 2nd by Chief Christopoulos that the NEAFC endorse Chief Richards for this position. Motion passed

International Directors Report

Spoke about membership issues and how they are being fixed.

FRI to go forward in Charlotte, NC., in July.

IAFC is reducing the headquarters' foot print it will not affect operations.

The private company under the IAFC is being reorganized new officers.

Committees

Election-Chief Robert Spurr will be serving his last 3-year term this coming FRI.

President will need to select a board member to serve on the committee. President Duross will appoint an officer at the June annual meeting. This will allow the new appointee to attend the meeting at FRI.

GPO- Ken Richards no report at this time.

Old Business

Secretary Wood brought to the attention of the board that booth space prices should be increased. The prices for the booths were set in 2019, in three years the prices for labor have gone up as well meals, and other items. He suggested a \$25.00 increase per booth. Motion by Chief Doody 2nd by Chief Bradley to charge an additional \$25.00 per booth. Motion passed

New Business

Chief Ken Jones would like to see a proposed budget put together for the FY 21/22. Motion by Chief Flynn 2nd by Chief Jones that the presidents of the Association formalize a budget working with the treasurer. The budget year 10/1/21-9/30/22. Motion passed

Meeting adjourned 13:00

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