

Nevada Fire Chiefs Association

Roundtable Meeting Minutes

Friday, June 20, 2008 – 10:00 am

Location: Fallon Convention Center
Fallon, Nevada

Board Members Present: Al Gillespie; Marty Scheuerman; Steve Smith; Jay Wittwer; Jim Madden; Gary Neilson; Ross Rivera; Ken Riddle

Welcome: Chief Al Gillespie, President of the NFCA welcomed everyone to everyone to the Roundtable meeting, recognized and thanked the Executive Board members for their participation

Approval of Minutes – November 9, 2007: President Gillespie asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the November 9, 2007 Roundtable meeting. A motion and second was made and the minutes were approved.

Approval of Agenda – June 20, 2008: President Gillespie asked for a motion to approve the agenda for today's meeting. A motion and second was made and the agenda was approved.

Treasurers Report: Chief Jay Wittwer, Secretary/Treasurer for NFCA, thanked the NFCA Board for the donation they made to the Nate Adelson Hospice made on behalf of his sister. He then provided an overview of the funds that NFCA has. The NFCA has 3 bank accounts; one for SAFER grant funds, with a balance of \$10,058; the NFCA main checking account balance is \$2,317; and the NFCA savings account balance is \$2077. The total fund balance in the NFCA bank accounts is \$14,453.50. As of today the Association has no outstanding bills except ones from attending this meeting. President Gillespie asked for a motion and second to accept the Treasurer's report.

Board Member Reports:

- **President:** President Gillespie indicated that NFCA accomplished many items this past year including enhanced relationships with our partners, NSFA and PFFN; stability at the Executive Board level; appointment of Doug Stevens as the Southern Representative; working on the Interstate Mutual Aid system through a grant from the IAFC; attended the WFCFA President's Forum; and, appointed Ken Riddle as the permanent Executive Director.
- **First Vice President:** Chief Marty Scheuerman reported that he will report on the Nevada Mutual Aid Plan and IMAS project later in the meeting under those specific agenda items. He has been working with the State and Federal government concerning Fire Management Assistance Grants (FMAG) which is the reimbursement process to local governments for federal wildland fires. He will be attending additional meetings with FEMA regarding changes to the reimbursement process. Primarily concerned with the change requiring local governments to pay costs up front and then wait for reimbursement from FEMA. He mentioned the NFCA Strategic Plan is on the NFCA website, including assignments and will be revisited in October once he has completed the IMAS project.
- **Second Vice President:** Chief Steve Smith reported that he is assisting Chief Scheuerman with the Mutual Aid Plan review, including EMAC and NEMAC.
- **Secretary/Treasurer:** Chief Wittwer had nothing additional to report at this time.
- **Northwest Representative:** Chief Gary Neilson wanted to emphasize the importance of increasing attendance at the October NFCA Roundtable meeting due to upcoming issues. The meeting will be held in conjunction with the Firehouse Conference in Las Vegas.

- **Southern Representative:** Chief Gillespie commented that Chief Campbell who was the Southern Representative has retired and has accepted a position with the Dallas Fire Department. He and the Board wish Chief Campbell the best. He also mentioned Chief Doug Stevens, Henderson Fire Department will be the Southern Representative.
- **Northeastern Representative:** Chief Ross Rivera reported on concerns with the requirement for National Registry testing for EMT certification. Mike Heidemann added that the State EMS Office will provide reimbursement for the cost of this testing after the person becomes a member of a provider service.
- **Western Fire Chief Association Representative:** Chief Jim Madden reported that the WFCA meets face-to-face three times a year and has a conference call each month. They conducted a strategic planning meeting in February and in May the President's Forum where they invite the WFCA 10 state Chiefs organizations and the states fire marshals. The WFCA has transitioned from being perceived as a fire code organization to a fire chief's organization. The services they provide include the Daily Dispatch, an email news service sent to all 50 states, they have the fire service bookstore, which NFCA has partnered with and receives a percentage of the profits for all the books purchased from Nevada. Chief Madden encouraged the Nevada fire service to purchase books from them which will help support the NFCA. They also have group purchasing program for the fire service, currently they have a great deal for Sprint/Nextel users. They also have an association management service available. Currently the key issues the WFCA is working on include residential fire sprinklers by taking the position that all single family residences have fire sprinklers. The next face-to-face meeting of the WFCA will be in Denver at the IAFC FRI conference.
- **Executive Director:** Ken Riddle introduced Clare Taylor, Manager of the WFCA Fire Service Bookstore who provided an overview of the services and publications they offer to fire departments. Riddle reported that the November Fire-Rescue conference held in Las Vegas the past five years has been cancelled. He has been working on the membership directory and asked those present to review the draft for accuracy. We are seeking sponsors for printing the directory due to the cost of printing. NFCA is able to process credit card payments now for membership dues. Coordinating the grant from the IAFC for the State Mutual Aid Plan. He attended the CFSI event and the WFCA President's forum with Chief Gillespie. The NFCA website is available for posting materials that the members would like to see.

State Reports:

- **Nevada State Fire Marshal:** Nevada State Fire Marshal Jim Wright reported on the following items.
 - The DPS was reorganized and has a new Director, with a law enforcement background, who would like to see more involvement with Emergency Management;
 - Chief Wright provides the fire service perspective to the Director and is well supported;
 - State budget issues and budget cuts at the State level, Chief Gillespie offered the support of the NFCA if needed;
 - Many changes in the organization and vacancies that are unable to be filled, currently 8 vacancies, primarily in plan review positions and training positions;
 - Chief Wright was appointed by the Governor as the Co-Chair of SERC last week, this appointment may open another position for the fire service to replace his previous Commissioner position, Chief Gillespie offered to provide support from the NFCA to draft a letter recommending a fire service person for the open position;
 - Many of the items from the previous LCB audit of the NSFMO and the 2 year work plan developed by Chief Wright have been completed;
 - Continuing and enhancing regulatory investigations of fire code violations;
 - NSFMO staff have been leaving tags on fire extinguishers and are checking cards for employees

servicing extinguishers;

- The 2007 NFRIS has been completed and Chief Wright provided copies, there has been a slight decrease in Nevada fire departments reporting data;
- There have been 18 fire deaths in the State as of today in 2008;
- The NSFMO is working on code adoption issues:
- The issue of reciprocity with California for fire officers has not been productive;
- They are also preparing for the fireworks season and are concerned with varying regulations from County to County;
- The NSFMO legislative agenda will include fire safe cigarette legislation;
- He addressed the issue with NFPA 25 and fire sprinkler obstruction testing, his office will interpret the standard and issue an opinion; and,
- Chief Wright answered questions posed by the Executive Board and members.
- **Northern Nevada Fire Chiefs Association:** They are having quarterly meetings, next one on July 2, 2008.
- **Southern Nevada Fire Chiefs Association:** The departments in Southern Nevada are meeting and discussing operational, training and fire code issues.
- **Nevada State Firefighters Association:** NSFA Executive Director, Mike Heidimann reported on the great working relation with NFCA and asked the NFCA for their support of legislation for heart/lung coverage for volunteer firefighters. A motion was made and seconded and passed unanimously to support the heart/lung legislation for volunteer firefighters over the age of 55. He also reported on the following items.
 - State laws on workers compensation affect volunteer firefighter recruitment and retention;
 - The NSFA has a new travel service that can be accessed on their website;
 - He provided information on the requirement for National Registry testing for EMT certification;
 - He reported that NSFA has increased AD&D coverage for NSFA members;
 - He mentioned the re-employment exemption for volunteer firefighters receiving PERS benefits; and,
 - Provided information on the fire sprinkler incentive act changing the number of years for depreciation.
- **Professional Firefighters of Nevada:** No report, President Gillespie commented on the working relationship between the PFFN, NSFA, and the NFCA and felt that the relationship will continue for the benefit of the Nevada fire service.
- **Fire Prevention of Nevada:** No report.

Permanent Committee Reports:

- **Audit:** No report.
- **Constitution & By-Laws:** No report.
- **Credentials:** No report
- **Fire Code:** No report.
- **Legislative:** No report.
- **Membership:** No report.
- **Nominations:** No report.
- **Resolutions:** No report.
- **Retired Fire Chiefs:** No report.
- **WFCA Representatives:** Report by Chief Madden previously provided.
- **EMS Committee:** No report.
- **Education:** No report.
- **Volunteer:** No report.

Old Business:

- **SAFER Grant:** Ken Riddle reported on the activities in support of the NFCA SAFER grant and recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters statewide. The NFCA is coordinating with the NSFA and an Advisory Committee. Marketing materials have been printed and distributed in Clark, Pershing, Washoe and White Pine Counties. Samples of the recruitment posters, book marks and door hangers were made available to the members in attendance. NSFA offered to provide a recruitment power point to the NFCA for use in recruitment.
- **Nevada State Mutual Aid Plan:** Chief Scheuerman reported on the meeting held in May to review the State Mutual Aid Plan and that the NFCA Plan is better than what many states have. They are continuing to compare the plan with those that are considered “best” practices. There are addition meeting planned in the north and south. The IMAS committee is reviewing NEMAC, reimbursement issues, and coordination issues. A draft of the updated plan will be available after the next IMAS meeting.
- **NFCA Strategic Plan:** Copies of the NFCA draft Strategic Plan are on the NFCA website for review and includes assignments and responsibilities for each section. The plan will be finalized in late 2008 with a complete action plan. Chief Scheuerman added that the work on the plan is postponed until completion of the IMAS project.
- **2008 Membership Directory:** Ken Riddle reported on the development of the 2008 NFCA membership directory. Two copies were made available for review to the members in attendance. Ken asked for those present to review for accuracy. Assistance for funding to print the directory is being sought.

New Business:

- **NFCA Southern Representative Appointment:** President Gillespie announced that Chief Doug Stevens, form Henderson FD will be appointed to replace Chief Campbell
- **2009 Legislative Agenda:** Chief Gillespie reported that the NFCA will support the following legislative issues for 2009.
 - Fire safe cigarette legislation
 - Ban on novelty lighters
 - Seat belt legislation making non-use a primary traffic infraction
 - Support of the heart/lung coverage for volunteer firefighters over the age of 55
- **IAFC 2nd VP Endorsement:** Chief Scheuerman took over the meeting and reported that the NFCA Executive Board will be supporting Chief Al Gillespie for the position of Second Vice President of the IAFC for 2009. A motion was made seconded and passed unanimously endorse Chief Gillespie’s candidacy for IAFC 2nd VP for 2009.
- **2009 NFCA Elections:** Elections for NFCA officers will be held in June 2009 at the NSFA annual training conference. New officer will begin their terms in the fall of 2009 in conjunction with the NFCA fall Roundtable meeting. Chief Gillespie will be appointing a Nomination Committee.
- **Firehouse Central Agreement:** Ken Riddle reported on an agreement between the NFCA and Firehouse Central as the host for the NFCA fall Board and Roundtable meetings. The Firehouse Central conference will be October 13 – 17, 2008 at the Las Vegas Convention Center.
- **NFPA Report:** Ray Bizal, from NFPA provided information and an overview of the NFPA’s activities.
- **Other Items:**
 - Kurt Latipow mentioned that he has been appointed the IAFCWUI conference committee and that Tim Alameda is the NFCA representative. The conference will be in Reno on March 22 – 26, 2009.
 - Mike Hedimann reported on the activities of the Board of Fire Service, Fire Standards and Training Board and that a state EMS Advisory Board is being established.

- Chief Madden mentioned the ICC hearings in September and the efforts to pass requirements for residential fire sprinklers in the code for single family residences. He mentioned that there will be some funds available to assist with travel expenses.
- Doyle Sutton mentioned the IRC Fire Sprinkler Coalition and provided contact information.

Good for the Order & Adjournment: No other business was brought up and the meeting was adjourned.