

Nevada Fire Chiefs Association

Roundtable Meeting Minutes

Friday, June 26, 2009

Location: Elko Convention Center
Elko, Nevada

Board Members Present: Al Gillespie; Jay Wittwer; Gary Neilson; Ross Rivera; Ken Riddle

Board Members Absent: Steve Smith; Stacey Giomi; Doug Stevens; Ken Morgan

Welcome: Chief Al Gillespie, President of the NFCA welcomed everyone to the Roundtable meeting. He then thanked and introduced the Fire Chief from Elko, Alan Kightlinger. Chief Kightlinger also welcomed everyone to Elko.

Chief Gillespie then deviated from the agenda and brought forward the new business item: NFCA Annual Conference – FireShowsReno.

New Business:

- **NFCA Annual Conference – FireShowsReno** – Ken Riddle explained that the NFC has partnered with the vendors group that operated the FireTechReno conference and NFCA will have their own annual conference, FireShowsReno on October 27 – 28, 2009 at the Downtown Reno Event Center and Ballroom with the Silver Legacy as the host hotel. Conference brochures were distributed to those in attendance. For the first 100 registrations, a free registration is offered. Ken then introduced Dayle Wellbrock and John Burton, representatives from the Fire Service Vendors Manufacturers Association for FireShowsReno. Dayle explained that FireTechReno was conducted for 9 years and that we were not able to use that name. Feedback from the vendors has been extremely positive and they want to participate in a conference in the Reno area. Dayle provided an overview of events during the conference. John then addressed the group and explained his role with the conference.

Chief Gillespie then resumed the regular agenda order.

Approval of Minutes – October 16, 2008 – Chief Gillespie asked and received a motion and a second to approve the minutes, the minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Chief Jay Wittwer, NFCA Treasurer, reported on the membership drive for 2009 and that membership has increased by approximately 15% for 2009. He then explained that NFCA has three (3) bank accounts and the balances in each of the accounts. As of today, the combined accounts total is \$12,636.19. Chief Gillespie asked if there were any questions and then asked for and received a motion and a second to accept the Treasurer's report, the report was accepted.

President's Report: Chief Gillespie expressed his pleasure in serving as the President of the NFCA over the past few years. He felt the NFCA has been successful in many endeavors including the SAFER grant, 2009 legislative issues and the FireShowsReno conference. He would like to have seen more progress made towards securing funding for the State Fire Marshals' Office and funding for mobilization of fire resources. He would like to see the NFCA focus on these areas in the future. He informed the members that he will be moving into the Past President position but will remain active with the NFCA. He also mentioned that he is the incoming Second Vice-President for the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) and will become the IAFC President in August 2011.

First Vice-President's Report: No report – Chief Steve Smith was unable to attend the meeting due to issues that need his attention in Clark County.

Second Vice-President's Report: No report – Chief Stacey Giomi was unable to attend the meeting.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report: Chief Wittwer added that \$2,000 seed money was provided for the FireShowsReno conference and that the conference should generate additional revenues for the NFCA.

Northwest Representative's Report: Chief Gary Neilson reported that he will be retiring from the Reno Fire Department on July 8, 2009. He mentioned that a successor to replace him has not been named and that he agreed to serve out his term as the Northwest Representative for NFCA. Chief Gillespie reviewed Chief Neilson's long history on the on Board including Chief Neilson serving as the President of the NFCA. Chief Gillespie expressed his appreciation to Chief Neilson for his service.

Southern Representative's Report: Chief Gillespie reported that Chief Ken Morgan was unable to attend to budget constraints within his fire department. Chief Gillespie also reported that Chief Morgan is the NFCA representative to the National Fallen Firefighters group and spends a fair amount of time on these issues.

Northeast Representative's Report: Chief Ross Rivera had nothing to report.

Western Fire Chiefs Association Representative's Report: Chief Gillespie reported that Chief Doug Stevens was not able to attend the meeting but has been representing the NFCA at WFCAs meetings and conference calls.

Executive Director's Report: Ken Riddle reported that he is involved in the day-to-day business for the NFCA including updating the NFCA website on a regular basis with information and fire service articles that may be beneficial to the Nevada fire service. Several documents, reports and jobs are also posted on the website. He continues to manage the SAFER grant program for the Association. He has been working with the Vendors Association and Jo Anne Hill, former Executive Director of the NFCA, on the FireShowsReno conference.

Chief Gillespie asked the members present if there were any questions for any of the Board members regarding their reports. There were no questions asked.

Nevada State Fire Marshal/Board of Fire Services Report: Chief Jim Wright, Nevada State Fire Marshal, reported on several items. He provided a recap of budget cuts to his office during the 2009

legislative and budget process. The NSFMO Office lost a total of 8 positions, 6 of the positions had been vacant for a few years were fee dependent position, and 2 general fund positions were lost, including a receptionist and an education officer position. Total staffing is now 27 positions. NSFMO also has to manage mandated furloughs which will more than likely result in service reductions, mainly in the fire investigations area.

The NSFMO was very busy with legislative issues, spent a lot of time providing information, especially with fire safe cigarettes and novelty lights. SB94, related to defensible space was also passed for the Tahoe and Lake Mead Basins. In April the NSFMO was awarded IFSAC certification for FF and HazMat certifications provided by the NSFMO. They will be advertising for a position in Elko and eventually a position in Las Vegas. Regulatory enforcement is increasing, especially in the area of "hood and duct" maintenance services. Chief Wright provided paper and CD copies of the Nevada 2008 statewide NFRS report, he concerned that reporting has dropped to 67% from a high of 86% in 2006. He emphasized the importance of having Nevada fire departments report NFRS data to his Office. In 2008, there were 29 fire fatalities statewide, 13 related cigarette smoking. To date, for 2009, there have been only 2 fire fatalities. He mentioned preparation for the future adoption of a new fire code for 2009 and the need for the Nevada fire service to be onboard and active in code adoption, especially fire sprinklers. Chief Gillespie suggested that the fire service work together with the local building officials in order to speak with one voice regarding fire sprinklers. Doyle Sutton mentioned that there is good information on the fire sprinkler coalition website for both the fire service and building officials.

Chief Gillespie then introduced Kelli Baratti, form the Nevada Division of Emergency Management (DEM) to provide a report. Kelli let everyone know that she was transferred from the Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF) to DEM and the State Mutual Aid system is now DEM's responsibility. She reports directly to DEM's Deputy Chief as the Operations and Resource Manager. She will be responsible for creating an operations section for DEM. The Duty Officer program is being revamped including training and a rotation system for call. Kelli is also working on resource typing and a technical group will be established to accomplish that task. Nevada will be hosting a national disaster exercise in 2010 involving a mock nuclear incident. It will be a statewide exercise and include activation of the State EOC. Kelli reviewed lessons learned from the Wells, NV earthquake.

Kelli then reported on the IAFC Intrastate Mutual-Aid system (IMAS) on behalf of Chief Mike Brown, the NFCA representative for the IMAS program. In June, the IAFC held a meeting to review the progress made by states. Nevada has progressed and has a good program in place in spite of limited funding. There may be additional grant opportunities for the State. They are also exploring a funding system for mutual-aid mobilization administered through a designated State agency. There were also discussions on a resource ordering system. The IAFC would like to see Nevada conduct a tabletop exercise in 2010. Kelli asked the NFCA to provide input into enhancing the current NVROSS program and whether or not the State should move to the national ROSS. Chief Gillespie suggested that the NFCA consider tying into the national ROSS program and integrating better with emergency management.

Northern Nevada Fire Chiefs Association: Chief Neilson reported that the NNFCA has regular meeting and is discussing the State Mutual-Aid program.

Southern Nevada Fire Chiefs Association: Chief Gillespie reported that the SNFCA is attempting to get better participation of members and have regular meetings.

Nevada State Firefighters Association: Report provided by Mike Heidemann, Executive Director for NSFA. Mike introduced Roy Oxborrow, the incoming President of the NSFA. He then reported on legislative activities that NSFA was involved in this past session and several bills affecting the volunteer fire service. Their major goal was passage of SB-6, the bill regarding volunteer firefighters over the age of 50 and medical claims for heart disease which passed, the bill will require physical examinations. The NSFA is preparing for the 2011 legislative session and will be discussing potential legislation they want to see implemented on behalf of the Nevada fire service, especially the volunteer fire service. Mike also expressed his concerns with the funding for the federal SAFER and AFG grants and that none of the Nevada federal representatives are members of the Fire Caucus. He reported on the 1-800-FIRELINE and other efforts in support of the NFCA SAFER grant and the recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters, including the future development of TV commercial soliciting volunteer firefighters. Mike mentioned his participation on a State EMS Advisory Committee that will address EMS training. He also mentioned the 9-1-1 for kids program. Chief Gillespie expressed his appreciation to Mike and the working relationship over the past few years with the NFCA and the PFFN and the effectiveness of all the organizations speaking with one voice on Nevada fire service issues.

Professional Firefighters of Nevada: No report.

Fire Prevention Association of Nevada: No report.

Permanent Committee Reports: No reports.

Old Business:

- **Nevada State Mutual Aid Plan** – This item was discussed previously in Kelli Baratti’s report.
- **SAFER Grant** – Ken Riddle brought the SAFER marketing material to the meeting and showed these attendance what they look like, including a banner, posters, book marks, door hangers, bumper stickers, and yard signs, all promoting the 1-800-FIRELINE phone number and encouraging people to become volunteer firefighters in their communities. Four counties per year have been identified for the NFCA to work closely with. The NFCA has decided to open the program up statewide for the remaining 2 years. The materials were provided to anyone that wanted them. In the past two years 41 volunteer firefighters have been recruited statewide. Ken reported that SAFER funds are available for reimbursement of lost wages for required training and AD&D insurance. There have been no requests for these funds. Since SB-6 passed and volunteer firefighters will need medical examinations we will ask FEMA if the funds designated for lost wages and insurance can be use for medical examinations.

Ken also reported that the NFCA has applied for a grant related to the rural fire problem in Nevada and the grant activities would consist of conducting home fire safety inspections and smoke alarm installation in rural residential structures. The grant is structured on recommendations from a USFA report on the rural fire problem in the US. NFCA will be notified this fall on the status of the grant.

- **2009 Legislative Agenda** – Chief Gillespie felt that this item has been adequately addressed in previous reports. He again stated that the Nevada fire service had a successful legislative session. Preparation for the 2011 legislative session is underway.

New Business:

- **NFCA Officer Elections** – Chief Gillespie stated that because of the candidates not being able to attend this meeting as required by the NFCA bylaws, he has decided to make appointments to the Board and have a special election at the October 28th meeting in Reno during the FireShowsReno conference. The NFCA Officer appointments consist of:
 - President – Chief Steve Smith, Clark County Fire Department
 - First Vice-President – Chief Stacey Giomi, Carson City Fire Department
 - Second Vice-President – Deputy Chief Mike Myers, Las Vegas Fire & Rescue
 - Secretary/Treasurer – Battalion Chief Jay Wittwer, North Las Vegas Fire Department

Good for the Order & Adjournment:

- Chief Gillespie expressed his extreme pleasure to work with the NFCA and the Board and general membership. He recognized Chief Neilson and Rivera for their support from the beginning of his tenure with NFCA. He then recognized Chief Wittwer for his role as Secretary/Treasurer and Executive Director Ken Riddle.

Meeting Adjourned

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Next Roundtable – October 28, 2009 at 7:00AM in Reno, Nevada at the FireShowsReno conference.