

Nevada Fire Chiefs Association

Roundtable Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 16, 2008

Location: Las Vegas Convention Center
North Hall, Room 225
Las Vegas, Nevada

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

Welcome: Chief Al Gillespie, President of the NFCA welcomed everyone to the Roundtable meeting. He deviated from the agenda and introduced Steve McClintock, past President of the Nevada State Firefighters Association (NSFA) for his report.

Steve reported on the legislative efforts to get heart coverage for volunteer firefighters over the age of 50. A BDR has been drafted in conjunction with the Professional Firefighters of Nevada (Rusty McCallister). The NFCA voted in June at the NSFA conference in Fallon to support this bill. Steve distributed copies of the BDR to those present. He then explained the intent of the bill and the provisions for physical examinations for volunteers if the bill is passed. Chief Gillespie thanked Steve for his work on this bill and reminded everyone that NFCA is in support of this bill and asked for everyone's support.

Treasurer's Report: Chief Jay Wittwer, NFCA Treasurer, reported on the NFCA three (3) NFCA accounts and the balances in each of the accounts. The combined accounts total as of today is \$21,168.27. He then reported on the upcoming membership drive and the potential revenues generated from membership dues.

President's Report: Chief Gillespie introduced Chief John Ocegüera, Assistant Chief for North Las Vegas Fire Department and the Majority Leader of the Nevada Assembly and expressed his appreciation for attending the Roundtable meeting. He then reported on IAFC staff member, Heather Westfall, who was killed in Hawaii recently while on vacation. Heather had worked with the NFCA on several issues. Chief Gillespie mentioned that the Nominations Committee chaired by Chief Steve Smith, was working to identify individuals interested in running for NFCA officer positions and asked anyone interested to let the Board know. NFCA Officer Elections will occur in June 2009 at the NSFA Annual Conference. He then mentioned the Life Safety Initiative Program for Region 9 headed up by Ron Dennis, Executive Director for the Arizona Fire Chiefs Association.

First Vice-President's Report: Chief Marty Scheuerman reported that he has items to report on under new and old business. He mentioned the Nevada Wildland Urban Interface Summit was held in Reno in September and was very successful. He and Chief Jim Wright were part of the panel presenting information to the attendees.

Second Vice-President's Report: This report was deferred pending Chief Steve Smith's arrival to the meeting.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report: Chief Wittwer indicated he had no additional items to report.

Northwest Representative's Report: Chief Gary Neilson reported on the creation of an annual conference that the NFCA is working on with the former organizers from Fire Tech Reno. The NFCA has been approached by Dale Wellbrock and Joe Sposato to partner for a new fire conference in Reno. Chief Gillespie provided the history and background on the past relationship that NFCA has had with Fire-Rescue magazine and their annual conference and our partner this year, Firehouse Central conference.

Southern Representative's Report: Chief Doug Stevens recently joined the Board as the Southern Nevada Representative. He reported on the quarterly meetings with the area's police and fire chiefs and the request from Sherriff Doug Gillespie to partner with law enforcement for providing input to the State Homeland Security Commission regarding how Homeland Security funds should be allocated. He will report back on the progress of this partnership. Chief Gillespie mentioned that the Nevada fire service will be represented better from a funding perspective with this partnership.

Northeast Representative's Report: Chief Ross Rivera reported that White Pine County has formed a fire district. He also reported that the State EMS Office has a mobile testing trailer that is brought out to the rural areas for National Registry EMT testing. This makes it easier for the rural EMTs to take this test. There are reimbursement funds available to cover the cost of testing. Chief Gillespie inquired as to whether White Pines had selected a fire chief, which Chief Rivera responded that they had selected David Hendricks. Chief Gillespie asked that NFCA welcome him and offer any support he may need.

Western Fire Chiefs Association Representative's Report: Chief Jim Madden reported that the WFCFA has increased membership and is financially sound. He also reported that they have been successful in transitioning from a code organization to a fire chief's organization. He mentioned the services provided by the WFCFA, including the fire service bookstore. The NFCA has a partnership with the fire service bookstore and receives a percentage of profits from any books purchased in Nevada. Chief Wittwer mentioned that the fire service bookstore can provide books for the lowest prices and will meet or beat any price. Information on the fire service bookstore is on the NFCA website, including a direct link to the bookstore. Chief Madden also mentioned the WFCFA Daily Dispatch, a free electronic newsletter that is sent everyday to subscribers throughout the US.

Executive Director's Report: Ken Riddle reported that he updates the NFCA website on a regular basis with information and fire service articles that may be beneficial to the Nevada fire service. Several documents and reports are also posed on the website. He then reported on the membership drive for 2009 that he and Chief Wittwer are working on in an effort to increase membership for the coming year. He asked for NFCA members to provide contact information for potential new vender members. He met with Chief Doug Stevens upon his appointment to the Board and provided an overview of the NFCA. He participated in a conference call with the NFPA and members of the Nevada fire service to discuss fire safe cigarette legislation. He also continues work on the NFCA SAFER grant program.

Nevada State Fire Marshal's Report: Chief Jim Wright reported on several items. The 2006 State Fire Code was recently adopted and the NACs were cleaned up. The changes to the NACs are on the

NSFM website. He was pleased to see all the fire departments in Clark County moving to the International Fire Code (IFC). His Office will be focusing on licensing and monitoring of fire protection companies to ensure compliance to State laws and regulations by stepping up enforcement activities. He related some of the most recent enforcement issues. He mentioned that there had been an audit of the NSFM Office and they have made many changes to address the issues identified in the audit. He reported on the Training Bureau's activities regarding hazardous materials training and other training programs. The Training Bureau has been moved back to the NSFM headquarters. He mentioned the IFSAC certification process underway and that there would be an onsite review in January 2010. He then reported on staffing changes and new positions in the NSFM Office. Chief Wright reported on the impact of budget cuts and the future concern with other budget cuts in FY2010 – 2011. He reported that there have been 25 fire deaths statewide and that 10 could be attributed to smoking materials. The receptionist position has been eliminated and the Office will be using an automated directory for incoming calls or call directly. The NSFM website is being revised. New legislation coming as a result of the Lake Tahoe fire will focus on the two fire districts on the Nevada side and will require a wildland interface code. The new hazardous materials data base should be available in December 2009. The Board of Fire Service will be meeting later this month and there is a vacancy on the Board that needs to be filled.

Ken Riddle asked Chief Wright about his appointment to the SERC and he stated that his appointment had been contested because of a perception of a conflict of interest and he was not appointed.

Northern Nevada Fire Chiefs Association: Chief Scheuerman reported that activities included dealing with the State Mutual Aid plan and the similar issues that the NFCA is dealing with.

Southern Nevada Fire Chiefs Association: Chief Steve Smith reported that SNFCA is being reformed and getting involvement from the other Southern Nevada fire chiefs.

Nevada State Firefighters Association: Report provided by Steve McClintock at the beginning of the meeting.

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** – Chief Scheuerman reported that there have been ongoing meetings over the past year and that a grant from the IAFC has assisted with funding. The existing plan has been reviewed and recommendations for changes are being considered. The plan recognizes the different needs of each of the areas of the state, north and south. Work is moving forward with Nevada Department of Emergency Management (DEM) and the NEMAC agreement is also being reviewed in conjunction with the Nevada Mutual Aid Plan. Chief Scheuerman would like the State to take ownership of the Plan. Specific “branches” have been identified in the Plan. As part of the requirement of the IAFC IMAS grant a tabletop exercise needs to be conducted by March 2009. The State has provided funding for a State

Mutual Aid Coordinator through NDF but that position may be in jeopardy. Nevada DEM may take this function over. Copies of the draft and changes were provided to those in attendance. One of the recommendations may be that agencies “opt-out” of the Plan instead having to “opt-in” for participation. A meeting for the second week in November in Reno has been scheduled to continue this project.

- **SAFER Grant** – Ken Riddle reported that the NFCA SAFER grant is in the second year of recruitment and retention for volunteer firefighters. In the past six-months there have been 10 new volunteer firefighters recruited, 4 in Pershing County and 6 in Clark County. Marketing materials continue to be distributed. Four additional counties will be added this next quarter and includes Lincoln, Nye, Mineral and Elko.

New Business:

- **2009 Legislative Agenda** – Chief Gillespie covered the legislative items that NFCA is supporting. They include heart coverage for volunteer firefighter; safe cigarette legislation; novelty lighter ban; and seatbelt primary offense legislation. Chief Scheuerman asked everyone to support the State Fire Marshal’s Office that may experience additional budget cuts during the legislative process. He also mentioned that we need to keep an eye on the combined taxes and fire district funding. Chief Gillespie asked Chief Ocegüera to provide his perspective on the upcoming legislative session, which he did.
- **Wildland Fire Position** – Chief Scheuerman reported that the Board took action on this issue which involves private insurance company representatives showing up on wild land fires and spraying the homes they insure with fire retardant gel. There are liability issues with these people showing up. The California Fire Chiefs and the IAFC has taken a position and the Board agreed to support that position.
- **NFPA Proposal – Local IMS** – Chief Scheuerman reported that this issue has to do with a proposal to the NFPA from Chief Alan Brunacini supporting local incident management systems different than NIMS. Several national fire organizations are opposed to the proposal. The NFCA Board will support those organizations opposed to the proposal.

Good for the Order & Adjournment:

- Ken Riddle announced to the membership that Chief Al Gillespie announced his candidacy for the IAFC Second Vice-President position for 2009. Chief Gillespie asked for individual support and endorsements from those so inclined.
- Chief Madden mentioned the recent addition of fire sprinklers to the International Residential Code. He reminded everyone that the Home Builders Association will be trying to have the requirement removed and that we need to keep an eye on this issue.

Meeting Adjourned

Next Roundtable – June 25, 2009 in Elko, Nevada at the Nevada State Firefighters Annual Training Conference.