

Metro Chiefs Business Meeting
Friday, July 30, 2021, Grand A (Westin Hotel)
All times are Local Charlotte Time (Eastern)

Members in Attendance

Chief Don Lombardi, President
Chief Robert Rocha, Vice President
Chief Loy Senter, Secretary
Chief Ernest Malone, Treasurer
Chief John Butler, Board Member
Dr. Denis Onieal, Senior Board Member
Chief Trisha Wolford, Alternate Board Member
Chief John Lane, Immediate Past President (Tentative)
Ken LaSala, IAFC Liaison
Russ Sanders, Executive Secretary

Introduction of Guests/Presenters

Chief Tonya Hoover, USFA Administrator (Acting)
Chief Gary McCarraher, FirstNet
Kelly Ransdell, NFPA
Division Chief Damian Owens, Charlotte Fire Department
Assistant Chief Brian Korkila, 2020-2021 Pittsburgh Metro Conference Coordinator
Battalion Chief Jason Stuart, 2022 Metro Conference Coordinator
Chief Josh Waldo, Fire Chief for Bozeman (MT) Fire Dept., Candidate for IAFC 2nd VP.

President Lombardi convened the business meeting at 10:00 a.m.

- He introduced the guests and reviewed the agenda for the meeting.

Chief Tonya Hoover, Acting U.S. Fire Administrator

- Chief Hoover reported that she was waiting to hear from the White House about the appointment of a U.S. Fire Administrator.
- She updated the Metro membership about programs at the U.S. Fire Administration, including the Fire programs and National Fire Incident Reporting System.

Chief Gary McCarraher, FirstNet

- Chief McCarraher recognized Chief Mike Duyck's work on the FirstNet Public Safety Advisory Committee.
- He updated the Metro membership about FirstNet deployments during wildland fires, during the January 6 incident at the U.S Capitol, and during the Surfside building collapse.
- He reported that FirstNet has over 2.5 million connections that included 17,000 agencies.
- FirstNet is working on the capability to map first responders in buildings, but it's not ready for IDLH environments.

Kelly Ransdell, NFPA

- Ms. Ransdell gave an update of NFPA activities and said that NFPA can assist Metro departments through the NFPA regional directors.

Chief Gina Sweat, Memphis Fire Department

- Chief Sweat updated the Metro membership about the 2022 Metro Chiefs Conference, which will be held in Memphis.
- The Memphis Fire Department is working with the Pittsburgh conference team to transfer everything.

Division Chief Damian Owens, Charlotte Fire Department

- Chief Owens discussed the agenda for the Metro Chiefs' dinner on the evening of July 30.

Assistant Chief Brian Kokkila, 2020-2021 Pittsburgh Metro Conference Coordinator

- Chief Lombardi recognized Chief Kokkila for his work on the Metro Conferences in 2020 and 2021.
- Unfortunately, both conferences were canceled due to COVID-19.

Chief Josh Waldo, Fire Chief for Bozeman (MT) Fire Department

- Chief Waldo introduced himself as a candidate for IAFC 2nd Vice President.

Business Meeting

President Lombardi convened the business meeting at 10:24 a.m.

- He asked the Metro members in attendance to introduce themselves.

Approval of the May 10, 2021, Virtual Annual Business Meeting Minutes

President Lombardi asked for a motion to approve the previous meeting's minutes.

- They have been posted on the Metro Chiefs' website.
- *Motion to approve by Chief Ron Siarnicki, seconded by Chief James Clack, and unanimously agreed to.*

President's Report

President Lombardi welcomed the Metro membership recognized that this meeting is the last official meeting for Chief Russ Sanders serving as Executive Secretary.

- He discussed a new NFPA program, Outthink Wildfire, which addresses the wildland fire issue.
 - He asked for a motion to approve a resolution supporting the NFPA's Out-think Wildfire.
 - *Motion to approve by Chief Luther Fincher, seconded by Chief Duyck, and unanimously agreed to.*
- President Lombardi also updated the membership on the Metro education series.
 - The focus has been on virtual education, because the conference was canceled due to COVID-19.
 - The educational series has discussed COVID-19 response and the economic ramifications of the pandemic; Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives; a discussion with IAFF General President Ed Kelly; and an update on the building collapse at Surfside, Florida.
- President Lombardi also updated the membership on a DEI project.
 - He is working with Dr. Jennifer Taylor.
 - He will re-send a survey to Metro members.

- He is working with Dr. Taylor to develop a scholarly article about DEI and the fire & emergency service.
- He wants to develop training and a base/platform for DEI in the Metro fire & emergency service.
- Vice President Rocha reported that the Memphis educational program would create a work product on DEI with inputs from the Metro Chiefs.
- Alternate Board Member Wolford said that she was collecting data and doing research on DEI.
 - She is focusing not just on race or gender, but also different idea structures and the societal cultural shift of beliefs.
- Treasurer Malone said that DEI should be embedded in the culture of an organization.
- President Lombardi also reported that he met with IAFF General President Ed Kelly.
 - He talked to General President Kelly and how to build relationships for the future.
 - He will discuss the Labor-Management Alliance in the future.

Vice President's Report

Vice President Rocha reported that the Metro Chiefs have been conducting business through the executive board.

- He thanked President Lombardi and Executive Secretary Sanders for their work on the virtual education session.
- He also discussed the increase in Metro membership to 298 members.
 - He thanked Secretary Senter, Senior Board Member Onieal and Mr. LaSala for their work on this recruitment campaign
- Vice President Rocha said that he is working on the educational program for the 2022 Memphis conference.
 - He is working with Assistant Chief Kwame Cooper, Los Angeles Fire Department, on a DEI class.
 - If Metro Chiefs have recommendations for the educational program, please contact Vice President Rocha.
- Vice President Rocha intends to attend the Urban Fire Forum, the Metro Winter Board meeting, and the meeting with the IAFF leadership.
- Vice President Rocha also highlighted the Metro Chiefs' outreach to the Mexican Fire Chiefs association.

Secretary's Report

Secretary Senter reported that the Metro Chiefs have 146 Metro Chiefs and 153 Senior members.

- Since the Metro business meeting in May, the Metro Chiefs added three new members:
 - Michael Washington, Cincinnati (OH) Fire Department
 - Douglas Schrage, Anchorage (AK) Fire Department
 - Aaron Lipski, Milwaukee (WI) Fire Department
- We also invited:
 - Barbara Tripp, Tampa (FL) Fire-Rescue
 - Andrew Zvanitajs, Vaughan (ON) Fire and Rescue Service
- The Metro Chiefs are working with IAFC staff to send out an updated Metro roster by September.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Malone reported on Metro finances.

- For 2020, the Metro Chiefs had a preliminary carryover balance of \$814,881.
- For the first half of 2021, the Metro Chiefs had revenue totaling \$121,250 and expenses totaling \$12,385, which resulted in a balance of \$923,746.
- Chief Otto Drozd made a motion to accept the Metro Treasurer's report, which was seconded by Chief Johnson, and unanimously agreed to.

Board Member's Report

Board Member Butler reported that he attended the virtual CFAI meetings.

- He also covered national media calls about the urban search and rescue response to the building collapse in Surfside, Florida with Chief Dave Downey.

Senior Board Member's Report

Senior Board Member Onieal discussed his retirement from USFA and the appointment of Chief Hoover as the Deputy U.S. Fire Administrator and Eriks Gabliks as the new Superintendent of the National Fire Academy.

- Senior Board Member Onieal also recognized President Lombardi for this leadership and Vice President Rocha, Executive Secretary Sanders, and Mr. LaSala for the successful membership recruitment campaign.
- He recognized Executive Secretary Sanders for all his work for the Metro Chiefs.
- He also discussed DEI issues.

Alternate Board Member's Report

Alternate Board Member Wolford said that she's willing to help Metro members and encouraged them to contact her.

Immediate Past President's Report

Immediate Past President Lane expressed his regret that he was unable to attend the meeting due to COVID-19 restrictions.

- He said that he virtually attended the International Cities Conference in Mississauga, Ontario on May 27-28.
- He also participated in the Metro educational sessions, which he thought were excellent.
- He is looking forward to the 2023 World Fire and Police Games in Winnipeg.

IAFC Liaison's Report

Mr. LaSala gave an update on pending legislation in Congress.

- He thanked former U.S. Fire Administrator, G. Keith Bryant, for his leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- He also recognized PCG as the sponsor of the Metro Chiefs' lunch.

Executive Secretary's Report

Executive Secretary Sanders discussed two issues.

- *Metro-FEU MOU*: Update: All E-Board members have a copy of the draft MOU.
- *Global Fire Service Leadership Alliance*: Executive Secretary Sanders is working with Australian and European contacts to resurrect the GFSLA.

Committee Reports

Chief Duyck and Commissioner Adam Thiel updated the Metro membership about pending Next Generation 9-1-1 legislation.

- Chief Duyck discussed his representation of the Metro Chiefs on the IAFC's COVID-19 task force too.
 - The task force is working on planning and lessons learned for future pandemics.
 - He also represents the Metro Chiefs on the FirstNet PSAC.
 - Please let him know if Metro Chiefs have issues with FirstNet.

SAFECOM

Commissioner Thiel reported that SAFECOM has been holding virtual meetings.

- The first in-person meeting will be in December.

Old Business

Old Business was addressed during Executive Secretary Sanders' update.

New Business

- Executive Secretary Sanders thanked Chief Ron Siarnicki for his frequent reports on COVID-19 fatalities among fire, EMS, and law enforcement personnel.
- Board Member Butler thanked the Metro Chiefs membership for their support of Alternate Board Member Wofford and him.

Adjournment

President Lombardi asked for a motion to adjourn.

- A motion to adjourn was made by Chief Bryant, seconded by Chief Ray Barnes, and unanimously accepted.
- The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.