

Metro Business Meeting Agenda
Date: January 25, 2022 Time: 10 a.m. – Noon ET

Members in Attendance

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

Guests/Presenters

Dr. Lori Moore-Merrell, US Fire Administrator
Chief Ken Stuebing, IAFC President and Chair of the Board
Jason Stuart, 2022 Memphis Metro Conference Coordinator
Michael O'Brian, Brighton Area Fire Authority, Candidate IAFC 2nd VP

Business Meeting

Call to Order, Opening Remarks & Review Meeting Agenda

President Lombardi brought the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. (Eastern). He welcomed the Board members and introduced the guest speakers.

- Dr. Lori Moore-Merrell, U.S. Fire Administrator
- Fire Chief Ken Stuebing, President and Board Chair, IAFC
- Fire Chief Michael O'Brian, Brighton Area Fire Authority, Candidate IAFC 2nd Vice President
- Jason Stuart, Battalion Chief of Special Operations, Memphis Fire Department

U.S. Fire Administration

U.S. Fire Administrator Moore-Merrell briefed the Metro Board about her new initiatives for the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA). She discussed a focus on addressing the wildland fire problem, including involvement in the new wildland fire commission. She also discussed the need to make changes to the National Fire Data Center and better connect it real-time to local fire departments. In addition, she would like to streamline the dataset for the National Fire Incident Reporting System. Administrator Moore-Merrell also said that she would focus on addressing the problem of major urban fire deaths.

Administrator Moore-Merrell also discussed Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI) initiatives. She and Vice President Rocha briefed the Metro Board about the educational sessions at the upcoming Metro conference, including one day dedicated to DEI sessions.

IAFC Election

Fire Chief Michael O'Brian of the Brighton Area Fire Authority (MI) is running for the position of IAFC Second Vice President. He currently is a member of the IAFC Board of Directors and represents the Fire & Life Safety Section.

IAFC Update

IAFC President and Chair of the Board, Fire Chief Ken Stuebing, updated the Metro Board about developments at the IAFC. He discussed the IAFC's COVID-19 response; budget changes; and areas of focus. He also thanks Past President Lane for his work in the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs' National Advisory Council; Chief Stuebing will be replacing him. He thanked Treasurer Malone for his work on the IAFC Board.

2022 Metro Conference Update

Chief Stuart updated the Metro Board about the 2022 Metro Conference on May 15-19. He reported that the conference already has 46 registrants and 44 paid sponsors. Chief Stuart is working on marketing the conference to Metro and Senior Metro members.

President's Report

President Lombardi said that he appreciated Chief Drozd's transition to Executive Secretary. He also updated the Metro Board about his trip to visit the United Kingdom National Fire Chiefs Council (UK NFCC). President Lombardi discussed his interest in bringing the Metro Chiefs, IAFC and UK NFCC together to develop data-driven analysis and training. He discussed the NFCC's focus on the response to incident involving batteries and electrical sources too.

President Lombardi also discussed his plans for the future. He discussed the need to do strategic planning and highlighted that "where the Metro goes, the fire service goes." He also asked the Metro Board to help recruit new Metro Board members, specifically the positions of Alternate Board and Senior Board members, which will be open in May.

Vice President's Report

Vice President Rocha thanks Board Member Butler and Alternate Board Member Wolford for attending the Mexico Chiefs conference in September. He asked the Metro Board to support bringing the Mexico Fire Chiefs President to the Metro Conference in May.

Motion by Board Member Butler to fund the travel of the Mexico Fire Chiefs President to the Metro Conference in May as a one-time opportunity. The motion was seconded by Senior Board Member Onieal and passed unanimously.

Vice President Rocha said that this relationship with the Mexico Chiefs will open opportunities for the Metro Chiefs to meet South American fire chiefs. He also discussed the need to develop a Memorandum of Understanding with the Mexico Chiefs discussing reciprocal agreements. Vice President Rocha also suggested developing a scholarship program for other fire organizations with which the Metro Chiefs have Memoranda of Understanding. Chief Rocha also said that he would attend the 2022 Mexico Chiefs conference in Durango.

Vice President Rocha expressed interest in holding an in-person strategic planning session as part of the Winter Board Meeting in 2023. He will secure a moderator for this session.

Secretary's Report

Secretary Senter reported that the Metro Chiefs have 122 Metro Chiefs and 99 Senior members.

Since the Metro business meeting in August, the Metro Chiefs added 5 new members:

- William "Trey" Mayo, Winston-Salem Fire Department
- Roman Nelson, New Orleans Fire Department
- Christian Schmidt, Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service
- Antonio Burden, Augusta (GA) Fire Department
- Joseph Leung Wai-hung, Hong Kong Fire Services Department

We also invited:

- Louis Winston, Howard County Fire & Rescue Services
- Barbara Tripp, Tampa (FL) Fire-Rescue
- Andrew Zvanitajs, Vaughan Fire and Rescue Service

Secretary Senter said that he would ask for help recruiting new and Senior Metro members.

Nominations for Awards:

As per policy, the Metro Secretary is the Award's Chair. The Chair will work with the Executive Secretary to solicit nominations from all members for the Metro Fire Chief of the Year Award and the Metro Lifetime Achievement Award. Secretary Senter reported that the first notice was sent to the membership on December 16 and nominations close on January 30. Finally, voting must close at least 20 days before the Memphis conference to have time to engrave the awards. Secretary Senter reported that he already received four nominations for Fire Chief of the Year and five nominations for the Metro Lifetime Achievement Award.

Secretary Senter also reported that he has been appointed to serve as an alternate IAFC representative to the DHS Emergency Sector Services Coordinating Council (ESSCC). He also attended the Urban Fire Forum.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Malone reported that, for 2020, the Metro Chiefs had a preliminary carryover balance of \$814,881. For 2021 (through November), the Metro Chiefs had revenue totaling \$145,542 and expenses totaling \$93,246, which resulted in a balance of \$867,177. (This number is rounded to the nearest dollar.)

Vice President Rocha made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. It was seconded by Senior Member Onieal and passed unanimously.

Board & Staff Reports

Board Member Report

Board Member Butler reported that he was working on an equity advisory council with Chief Mary Beth Michos through the FESDI program. He also is working to resuscitate the IAFC's iDELP.

As the CFAI representative, Board Member Butler said that CFAI has held 71 virtual hearings in the last 12 months with 83 agencies seeking accreditation. He also reported on the Mexico Chiefs Conference. He said that the Mexico Chiefs expressed interest in developing a training academy that could trade instructors between the U.S. and Mexico. However, he wanted to confirm that conversation with the Mexico Chiefs.

President Lombardi asked Vice President Rocha, Senior Board Member Onieal, Board Member Butler, and Alternate Board Member Butler to craft ideas for working with the Mexico Chiefs that can be discussed at the Metro Conference in Memphis. Vice President Rocha will follow up with the Mexico Chiefs.

Senior Board Member's Report

Senior Board Member Onieal discussed the importance of Metro member recruitment. He emphasized the importance of one-on-one calls to recruit members. He also recommended that the Metro Chiefs invite military recruiters and high school & college sports recruiters to speak at the 2023 Metro Conference to discuss how to recruit the new generation.

Vice President Rocha thanked Senior Board Member Onieal for his leadership and participation in Metro recruitment. He asked Dr. Onieal for continued help with international recruiting.

Alternate Board Member Report

Alternate Board Member Wolford reported on the mission that she and Board Member Butler took to attend the Mexico Chiefs conference in September. They received a warm reception from the Mexico Chiefs. She discussed the interest in developing Metro relationships with South American chiefs and the need to highlight a stronger legacy of women in the fire service.

Immediate Past President's Report

Past President Lane reported that he retired from the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service on January 1. He attended the Urban Fire Forum and emphasized the benefits of in-person attendance at the meeting. He also attended the CTIF virtually. Immediate Past President Lane asked that COVID-19 testing costs be included in the allowable reimbursements for Metro Chiefs' travel.

Past President Lane reported that Chief Stuebing replaced him on the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs' National Advisory Council. He also said that the Metro Board needs to appoint his successor to the FM Global Advisory Group. He also said that he is encouraging Canadian Metro Chiefs to submit their names for the Metro Board vacancies.

The immediate past president chairs the committee responsible for board elections and future conference hosts. On January 31, the Executive Secretary will send a message to all members advising of the procedures for nominations to host the 2025 annual conference. Bids for the host department are open until the COB on the first business meeting.

Elections

Immediate Past President Lane reported that, as per Section 7 of the Metro Chiefs' bylaws, members wishing to be placed in nomination for office shall submit their name to the President no sooner than January 30 of the election year, and no later than close of business on the first day of the annual conference. On January 31 the new Executive Secretary will send a reminder to all members that nominations are now open.

Request for Funding

Immediate Past President Lane reported that the following requests for funding had been vetted and were eligible for the Metro Chiefs Board's consideration:

- President Lombardi: Motion to approve financial support to the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition for \$2,000.
- Vice President Rocha: Motion to approve support to the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation for \$5,000.
- Lane: Motion to approve financial support to the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation for \$3,500.

Due to time constraints, these motions passed virtually by unanimous consent after the meeting.

IAFC Liaison's Report

Mr. LaSala updated the Metro Chiefs' Board on federal legislative and regulatory issues.

Executive Secretary's Report

Executive Secretary Drozd said that the Metro Board will be meeting with IAFF General President Ed Kelly and the IAFF staff on April 7. He has reserved a block of rooms for the meeting and is working on the agenda with IAFF staff.

He also gave an update on the Metro Chiefs Conference in Memphis. There will be a signing ceremony of the MOU with the FEU at one of the business meetings at the Metro Chiefs Conference.

Executive Secretary Drozd updated the Metro Chiefs Board about his efforts to re-energize the Fire Based EMS Advocates. He also discussed a partnership with CPSE, that can leverage CPSE resources, such as articles and webinars to highlight best practices within Metro Accredited Departments. He highlighted the following topic areas:

- Use of Data
- Culture of Cooperation - Labor/Management and sustainability of efforts
- Health and Safety or Pre-Fire Planning best practices

Executive Secretary Drozd discussed the Metro Board's interest in doing strategic planning during future winter board meetings. The meetings will be face-to-face and focus on a short horizon (1–2-year timeframe) due to the dynamic external environment and one-year tenure of the Metro Chiefs President. Executive Secretary Drozd also informed the Metro Board that NFPA is updating its website to tailor the experience for the individual member.

Old Business

President Lombardi said that there was no old business.

New Business

Vice President Rocha discussed challenges facing international Metro members. He recommended that the Metro Chiefs look at using affiliate memberships, as defined in the bylaws, to bring new groups to work with the Metro Chiefs. For example, affiliate members are allowed to bring nine chiefs to the Metro Conference if they meet Metro membership requirements.

Adjournment

Chief Lombardi adjourned the meeting at 1:52 p.m.