

**Metro Chief Business Meeting  
August 26, 2022; 10:00 a.m. (Central)  
San Antonio, TX**

Attendees:

Chief Robert Rocha, President  
Chief Loy Senter, Vice President  
Chief Ernest Malone, Secretary  
Chief John Butler, Treasurer  
Chief Trisha Wolford, Board Member  
Chief Steven Dongworth, Alternate Board Member  
Chief William “Shorty” Bryson (Ret.), Senior Board Member  
Chief Don Lombardi, Immediate Past President

Staff:

Chief Otto Drozd (Ret.), Executive Secretary  
Ken LaSala, IAFC Staff Liaison

Call to Order, Opening Remarks & Review Meeting Agenda –

President Rocha called the business meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and gave an update. He said that the Metro Chiefs had developed four work groups to address issue pertaining to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI). The work groups cover:

- Policy
- Best Practices
- The Metro Conference
- Further Discussion

He also discussed the Metro Chiefs’ efforts at international outreach. The Metro Chiefs have good relationships with fire chiefs’ organizations in Asia, Europe, Australia, the United Kingdom, and Mexico. The Metro Chiefs’ leadership is exploring a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with the Organization de Bomberos Americanos (OBA) (Organization of American Firefighters). The MoA will be like existing Metro MoAs. They are meant to open dialogue with other chiefs’ organizations and include no financial commitment.

*A motion to allow the Metro President to engage in outreach to develop a MoA with OBA was made by Chief Sam Peña, seconded by Dr. Niles Ford, and agreed to unanimously.*

President Rocha also reported on the Metro Executive Board’s August 24 meeting with the U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security, Alejandro Mayorkas. The Metro Board and the IAFC Executive Committee discussed issues such as reauthorization of FirstNet, the need to have screening in the fire service for cancer, how supply chain issues are affecting the delivery of fire apparatus, ambulances, and firefighting equipment.

Approval of the May 17-19, 2022, Annual Business Meeting Minutes

President Rocha asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the Memphis business meeting. A copy of the minutes was posted on the Metro website and all members were notified.

*A motion to approve the previous meeting minutes was made by Chief David Paulison, seconded by Dr. Niles Ford, and agreed to unanimously.*

### Vice President's Report

Vice President Senter reported that he attended the recent CTIF meeting in Slovenia. He met with fire service professionals in the EU, Asia, and Africa. He noted his meetings with Senegal and South Korea.

Vice President Senter discussed the other nations interest in fire-based EMS. Most other countries have national EMS systems or third service systems. The COVID-19 pandemic exhibited the limits of these systems, including issues with workforce, turnover time of patients and hospitals, and long dispatch times. He said that Poland's fire service reached out to him.

He said that he was looking forward to the Urban Fire Forum and next year's Metro Chiefs conference in Columbus. He also discussed his work on the DEI task group.

### Secretary's & IAFC Board Members Report

Secretary Malone reported that the Metro Chiefs have 215 members, including 123 regular members and 92 Senior members.

Since the Metro business meeting in May, the Metro Chiefs added 2 new members:

- Kristin Crowley, Los Angeles Fire Department
- David Povlitz, Arlington County (VA) Fire Department

We also invited:

- Charlie Salazar, Orlando Fire Department
- Raied (Ray) Jadallah, Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Department
- Paul Burke, Boston Fire Department

Secretary Malone reported that the rosters were provided to the membership for review and have been updated. He recognized Executive Secretary Drozd's and Mr. LaSala's work to keep the rosters up to date.

He also recognized IAFC Past President Ken Stuebing and Chief Douglas Schrage for their leadership of the IAFC. He said that he would send out the IAFC's legislation update and WHAT report summarizing accomplishments of the IAFC.

### Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Butler reported that the Metro Chiefs ended 2021 with a balance of \$970,766. Through June 30, the Metro Chiefs had an increase in revenue of \$53,888 and expenses of \$57,461 for a reduction in net assets of \$3,573. As of June 30, the Metro Chiefs' balance was \$967,193.

*A motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by Chief Kerr, seconded by Chief Peña, and agreed to unanimously.*

## **Board & Staff Reports**

### Board Member's Report

Board Member Wolford said that she had been focused on the outcomes from the Metro Conference in Memphis. She is co-chairing the Metro Policy Task Group with Treasurer Butler. They have developed five action items:

- Code of Conduct/Oath of Office
- Mission/Vision & Values
- Position Statement
- Statements of Policies that Support Personal Innovation or Growth

#### Senior Board Member's Report

Senior Board Member Bryson said that he had just rejoined the Metro Executive Board at the Memphis Board meeting. He is co-chairing the Further Discussion DEI Task Group with Chief Lombardi. Also, he is the Metro Liaison to the IAFF and attended the April meeting between the Metro and IAFF leadership. He is working with the IAFF to cultivate a good relationship with the Metro Chiefs.

#### Alternate Board Member's Report

Alternate Board Member Dongworth reported that he also had just joined the Metro Executive Board in Memphis. He is co-chairing the Best Practices DEI Task Group with Secretary Malone.

#### Immediate Past President's Report

Immediate Past President Lombardi reported that he will be attending the NFCC Conference in the United Kingdom. He is co-chairing the Future Discussion DEI Task Group.

#### IAFC Liaison's Report

Mr. LaSala updated the Metro Chiefs about pending U.S. federal legislation on Capitol Hill, including the funding for the U.S. Fire Administration and the Assistance to Firefighters Grant and SAFER programs. He asked members to support legislation to develop mental health resources for fire and EMS personnel. He also highlighted legislation to extend operations at FirstNet past 2027 and fund \$10-\$15 billion for the nationwide transition to Next Generation 9-1-1. In addition, he asked members to call their Senators and Representatives in support of extending the Medicare ambulance add-on payments, which expire at the end of the year. The IAFC's Government Relations web page ([www.iafc.org/gr](http://www.iafc.org/gr)) has updated information and resource materials.

#### Executive Secretary's Report –

Executive Secretary Drozd reported on the efforts to address DEI issues were developed at the Memphis conference. He also highlighted the IFSTA Conference, which was in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The conference is free and focused on emerging issues.

From the international perspective, Executive Secretary Drozd reported on the NFCC meeting in the United Kingdom, where Chief Lombardi will present on DEI issues. Also, the President Rocha will be attending the FEU meeting in Madrid to discuss the effects of climate change. The Urban Fire Forum in September also will have a global perspective in discussing the impacts of climate change. The Metro Chiefs also are working with AFAC, the Australian and New Zealand National Council for Fire and Emergency Services to update the existing MoA.

Executive Secretary Drozd also discussed the Urban Fire Forum in September. There will be a focus on developing DEI toolkits. Also, Drexel University will discuss an AFG proposal to develop a DEI toolkit. Other topics to be discussed will include emerging energy technology, the global impact of climate change on emergency operations, and equity issues relating to major fires and the fire service.

## Committee Reports

### *Communications Committee*

Chief Duyck updated the Metro Chiefs about FirstNet. FirstNet is developing forums to solicit user input for reinvesting into FirstNet. He urged the Metro Chiefs to engage in the process and use this opportunity to set the direction of FirstNet.

He also discussed Next Generation 9-1-1. OnStar is now providing vehicle crash information to first responders. The EU is developing compulsory systems to connect cars to 9-1-1 systems.

## Metro Task Group Reports

### *Metro Policy Task Group*

Board Member Wolford referred to her earlier report. Please contact her with any questions or recommendations.

### *Metro Best Practices Task Group*

Secretary Malone and Alternate Board Member Dongworth reported that their group meets for one hour on Fridays. They are examining how the military, businesses, and nonprofits address DEI issues. Also, they are starting with the King County Fire Chiefs Association's DEI document and toolbox. The Metro task group is developing a DEI assessment tool.

### *Metro Conference Task Group*

Vice President Senter reported that they are developing DEI practices for the Metro Conference to make available to members. They want to ensure DEI representation at the conference and develop member-centered presentations. They also are developing comprehensive speaker guidelines, which are under review.

### *Metro Further Discussion Task Group*

Immediate Past President Lombardi and Senior Board Member Bryson are taking the work from the other task groups and looking at how to incorporate DEI into the annual conference. Also, they are looking at alliances on DEI issues and leveraging existing relationships with organizations like the NFCC, IAFC, and IAFF.

At the Winter Board meeting, the Metro Chiefs Executive Board will look at the work being done, set benchmarks, and update the membership about progress on this effort.

### Old Business

President Rocha called for Old Business. He discussed the recent Metro-IAFF statement on PFAS.

### New Business

Chief Rhoda Mae Kerr made a motion, seconded by Chief Peña to endorse Board Member Wolford's campaign to run for IAFC 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. Executive Secretary Drozd said that this issue would be discussed at the 2023 Metro conference in Columbus.

### Adjourn

President Rocha asked for a motion to adjourn.

*A motion to adjourn was made by Chief Kerr, seconded by Chief Peña, and agreed to unanimously.*

Re-opening the Business Meeting

*A motion to re-open the business meeting was made by Chief Ken Stuebing, seconded by Chief Kerr, and agreed to unanimously.*

U.S. Fire Administrator Position

*A motion was made by Dr. Denis Onieal to make the nomination of the U.S. Fire Administrator a Senate-confirmed position, seconded by Commissioner Adam Thiel, and agreed to unanimously.*

Adjourn

President Rocha asked for a motion to adjourn.

*A motion to adjourn was made by Chief Kerr, seconded by Chief Stuebing, and agreed to unanimously.*

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.