

Metro Business Meeting #1
May 17, 2022
Memphis, Tennessee

Attendees:

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.) John Lane, Immediate Past President
Ken LaSala, IAFC Liaison
Otto Drozd, Executive Secretary

Call to Order/Invocation

President Lombardi called the meeting to order at 3:20 p.m. He recognized Chief John Alston to give the invocation. He then asked the Metro Chiefs to introduce themselves.

Approval of Minutes from Charlotte Business Meeting

President Lombardi asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the Metro Chiefs meeting at FRI in Charlotte, North Carolina on July 30, 2021.

A motion to approve the previous meeting minutes was made by Chief Luther Fincher seconded by Chief John Alston and agreed to unanimously.

Nominating Committee Report

Chief Lombardi recognized Immediate Past President Lane to report on the recommendations of the nominating committee and the Board. He also recognized Immediate Past President Lane's leadership of the Metro Chiefs during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Immediate Past President Lane reported on the list of candidates:

- President, Robert Rocha
- Vice President, Loy Senter
- Secretary, Ernest Malone
- Treasurer, John Butler
- Board Member, Trisha Wolford
- Senior Board Member, TBD
- Immediate Past President, Don Lombardi
- Alternate Board Member, TBD

Immediate Past President Lane called for additional nominations from the floor three times.

Immediate Past President Lane asked for a motion to approve the nominating committee's report and close nominations.

A motion to close the nominations was made by Chief William "Shorty" Bryson, seconded by Chief Stephen Dean, and agreed to unanimously.

Immediate Past President Lane announced the following nominations for the Alternate Board Member position:

- Salvatore (Sal) J. Scarpa, Columbus Fire & EMS, Georgia
- Joseph Tanner, Horry County Government Fire Rescue, South Carolina
- Donna Lake, Kansas City Fire Department, Missouri
- Steve Dongworth, Calgary Fire Department, Alberta
- Todd Harms, Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District, California

Immediate Past President Lane called for additional nominations from the floor three times.

A motion to close the nominations was made by Chief William “Shorty” Bryson, seconded by Chief Dennis Compton, and agreed to unanimously.

Immediate Past President Lane announced the following nominations for the Senior Board Member position:

- William “Shorty” Bryson

Immediate Past President Lane called for additional nominations from the floor three times.

A motion to close the nominations was made by Chief Russ Sanders, seconded by Chief Luther Fincher, and agreed to unanimously.

A motion was made to proclaim Chief Bryson as the Senior Board Member by Chief Luther Fincher, seconded by Chief John Alston, and agreed to unanimously.

Call for 2025 Conference Nominations

Immediate Past President Lane announces the following bids for the 2025 conference:

- Chief Joseph Tanner, Horry County Government Fire Rescue, South Carolina
- Chief Aaron Lipski, Milwaukee Fire Department, Wisconsin

Immediate Past President John Lane called for additional nominations from the floor three times.

A motion to close the nominations was made by Chief Luther Fincher, seconded by Chief Rhoda Mae Kerr, and agreed to unanimously.

Immediate Past President Lane announced that -- at the next day’s business meeting – each candidate for Alternate Board Member would have five minutes to advocate for their candidacy and the two jurisdictions competing for the 2025 conference would be able to make presentations.

Officers’ Reports

President’s Report

President Lombardi asked for a motion to approve the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Metro Chiefs and the Federation of European Fire Officers (FEU).

A motion to approve the MOA was made by Chief Rhoda Mae Kerr, seconded by Chief Jeff Johnson, and agreed to unanimously.

President Lombardi reported that the Metro Chiefs Executive Board will be developing a strategic plan, which will function as a framework for continuity of the organization.

He also discussed his presentation at the National Fire Chiefs Council about diversity and inclusion. He mentioned working legislation with the IAFC and IAFF. He thanked the Metro Chiefs Board for their work over the past year and stated that he believed in their path and their mission. He also thanked Executive Secretary Drozd and the past Executive Secretary, Russ Sanders, for a seamless transition. He also thanked Senior Board Member Onieal for his efforts to recruit potential Metro members with personal contacts. President Lombardi also discussed his opportunity meet with the Secretary of Homeland Security, Alejandro Mayorkas, during the confirmation process.

Vice President's Report

Vice President Rocha reported that Senior Board Member Onieal's efforts resulted in almost 100 percent participation of eligible chiefs in the Metro Chiefs. He said that this Metro conference broke the record for the number of Metro Chiefs attending and the number of new chiefs attending.

Vice President Rocha also reported that he recruited eight Metro Chiefs from Mexico. He recognized Comandante Sergio Ramirez Lopez, the President of the Mexico Fire Chiefs. Vice President Rocha will be attending the Mexico Fire Chiefs Conference in Durango, Mexico, from October 18-22.

Vice President Rocha discussed the importance of developing an international outreach fund. He pointed out that the Metro Chiefs has success in Mexico by inviting the Mexican fire chiefs to the Metro Chiefs Conference in 2019. He also discussed contacting the South American fire chiefs' organization, OBA- Organizacion de Bomberos Americanos (Organization of American Firefighters). Vice President Rocha said that the international outreach fund could be used to recruit European fire chiefs too.

A motion to create a Metro International Outreach Funding Policy was made by Chief Ken Block, seconded by Chief Alec Oughton, and agreed to unanimously.

Secretary's Report

Secretary Senter reported that he attended the Urban Fire Forum in the fall in Quincy, and the Metro Chiefs Winter Board meeting virtually.

Secretary Senter reported that there are 120 regular Metro members and 91 Senior Metro members.

Since the January Board meeting, the following members have joined the Metro Chiefs:

- Rufus Jackson, Newark Fire Department
- Barbara Tripp, Tampa Fire Rescue
- Andrew Zvanitajs, Vaughan Fire Rescue
- Annette Nance-Holt, Chicago Fire Department
- Michael Duran, Phoenix Fire Department
- Chris Biggerstaff, Plano Fire Rescue
- Paul Hutt, Ottawa Fire Services
- Matt Kinley, Seminole County Fire Department
- Christopher Carbon, City of Madison Fire Department
- Patrick J. Kennedy, Palm Beach County Fire-Rescue
- Jakob Vested Andersen, Greater Copenhagen Fire and Rescue
- Dominic Burchett, Unified Fire Authority (UT)
- Dermot Barry, Tasmania Fire Service

Since the January Board meeting, the following fire chiefs were invited to join the Metro Chiefs:

- Sheldon K. Hao, Honolulu Fire Department
- Clarence Reese, Shreveport Fire Department
- Kristin Crowley, Los Angeles Fire Department
- Allison Armstrong, Toledo Fire & Rescue Department
- Joseph Leung Wai Hung, Hong Kong Fire Services

The Metro Chiefs also added the following Senior members:

- Kara Kalkbrenner, Phoenix Fire Department
- Kim Ayotte, Ottawa Fire Service
- Dan Petersen, Unified Fire Authority

He asked the Metro Chiefs to let the Metro Board know of any potential new members to recruit. He asked that retiring chiefs join as Senior Members and make sure that their successors know the importance of the Metro.

Secretary Senter also announced that the Metro Fire Chief of the Year and the Russell E. Sanders Lifetime Achievement awards would be announced at the closing ceremony. The Metro Chiefs used an electronic voting process this year which resulted in 116 members voting.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Malone reported that he attended the Urban Fire Forum, the Metro Chiefs Winter Board meeting, and the April meeting with IAFF leadership.

Treasurer Malone reported that the carryover balance from 2021 was \$970,766. For 2022 (through March 31), the Metro Chiefs had revenue of \$35,146 and expenditures of \$6,208. So, the final balance was \$999,705.

A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made by Chief Russ Sanders, seconded by Chief Luther Fincher, and agreed to unanimously.

Donations to Other Organizations

President Lombardi calls for motions to provide Metro support to organizations that have been approved by the Executive Board. Executive Secretary Drozd advised that the following organizations have submitted requests for sponsorship in accordance with Metro policy: Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition, National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, and Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation.

A motion to donate \$2,000 to the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition was made by President Lombardi, seconded by Chief Deric Weiss, and agreed to unanimously.

A motion to donate \$5,000 to the National Fallen Fire Fighters Foundation was made by Vice President Rocha, seconded by Chief Keith Bryant, and agreed to unanimously.

A motion to donate \$3,500 to the National Fallen Fire Fighters Foundation was made by Immediate Past President Lane, seconded by Chief Steve Dongworth, and agreed to unanimously.

Board Member's Report

Board Member Butler attended the 2021 Mexico Fire Chiefs conference along with Alternate Board Member Wolford. He included a written report for the meeting minutes.

Senior Board Member's Report

Senior Board Member Onieal emphasized the important of using personal phone calls to recruit new Metro members. He also recommended that Metro leaders thank the spouses of Metro Chiefs for supporting the Metro Chiefs and attending the Metro conference.

Alternate Board Member's Report

The Alternate Board Member did not have a report.

Immediate Past President's Report

Immediate Past President Lane reported that he attended the virtual Metro Winter Board meeting and the in-person April meeting between the Metro Chiefs' and IAFF's leadership.

IAFC Liaison's Report

Treasurer Malone also is the Metro Chief's representative on the IAFC Board. He recognized IAFC President, Chief Ken Stuebing, and IAFC CEO, Chief Rob Brown (both Metro Chiefs), for their leadership of the IAFC. Treasurer Malone reported that the IAFC Board had biweekly, and then monthly, meetings to address IAFC business issues. He reported that the IAFC has its financial house in order.

Treasurer Malone also reported that he attended the IAFC strategic planning meeting in April. Another meeting will be held in June. He also attended the meeting between the Metro's and IAFF's leadership in April.

Legislative Report

Mr. LaSala updated the Metro Chiefs on legislative issues, including the Fiscal Year 2023 appropriations for U.S. programs like the U.S. Fire Administration, and the Assistance to Firefighters and SAFER grant programs. He also discussed important public safety communications legislation affecting Next Generation (NG) 9-1-1 and FirstNet.

Executive Secretary's Report

Executive Secretary Drozd updated the Metro membership about the Metro plans at FRI, including the Metro dinner on Friday, August 26. He also discusses an initiative with CPSE that will highlight accredited Metro fire departments. He is working on the agenda for the Urban Fire Forum in September.

Old Business

President Lombardi called for old business. There was none.

New Business

President Lombardi called for new business.

Commissioner Joe Finn offered a resolution to support the "Medicare Multi-Cancer Early Detection Screening Coverage Act" (S.1873/H.R.1946), which would allow for Medicare reimbursement for multi-cancer early warning detection tests. The resolution also endorsed firefighter cancer screening.

A motion to endorse Commissioner Finn's resolution was made by Chief William "Shorty" Bryson, seconded by Chief Jeff Johnson, and agreed to unanimously.

President Lombardi asked for a motion to adjourn.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Chief Luther Fincher, seconded by Chief Rhoda Mae Kerr, and agreed to unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Metro Business Meeting #2
May 18, 2022
Memphis. Tennessee

Attendees:

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.) John Lane, Immediate Past President
Ken LaSala, IAFC Liaison
Otto Drozd, Executive Secretary

Call to Order

Chief Lombardi called the meeting to order at 3:04 pm.

He recognized Chief Richard Liebmann from Montreal. Chief Liebmann commemorated Chief Bruno LaChance, who passed away recently. He also recognized the work of Chief Gordon Routley with the Montreal Fire Department's Medal of Recognition for Chief Routley's work to protect Montreal from future flooding through flood controls.

Signing of Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) Between Metro Chiefs and FEU

President Lombardi and Chief Stephan Wevers, the President of FEU, signed the MOA between the Metro Chiefs and FEU. President Wevers handed out a special challenge coin designed for the occasion.

Presentations by the Candidates for Alternate Board Member

President Lombardi recognized the following Metro members to give presentations for up to five minutes in support of their candidacies:

- Salvatore (Sal) J. Scarpa, Columbus Fire & EMS, Georgia
- Joseph Tanner, Horry County Government Fire Rescue, South Carolina
- Donna Lake, Kansas City Fire Department, Missouri
- Steve Dongworth, Calgary Fire Department, Alberta
- Todd Harms, Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District, California

Presentations for the 2025 Conference Venue

President Lombardi recognized the following Metro members to give presentations in support of their cities' bid for the 2025 Metro conference:

- Chief Joseph Tanner, Horry County Government Fire Rescue, South Carolina
- Chief Aaron Lipski, Milwaukee Fire Department, Wisconsin

Voting

President Lombardi appointed the following Metro Past Presidents as an elections committee and asked them to distribute, collect, and count the ballots for the vote on the Alternate Board Member and the 2025 host city:

- Chief Luther Fincher
- Chief G. Keith Bryant

- Chief Michael Duyck

Presidential Address of Immediate Past President Lane

President Lombardi recognized Immediate Past President Lane to give his presidential address, because the Metro meeting in 2021 was virtual. Immediate Past President Lane discussed how the pandemic affected Metro fire departments, which had to keep staff safe and provide service to the community. He thanked the Metro Board for its work during the pandemic. He also pointed out how the pandemic highlighted the role of EMS in the multi-hazard role of the fire service. He also recognized Metro members that were affected by COVID-19 through infection, department losses, and family losses.

Immediate Past President Lane discussed the positives of the Metro Chiefs. For example, he discussed the positive impact that his Metro colleagues like Chiefs Kerr, Block and Stuebing provided. He also encouraged members to engage in the Metro, provide input, and connect with colleagues.

Committee Reports

FirstNet

Chief Gary McCarraher with the FirstNet Authority thanked the Metro Chiefs for their support and, specifically, Chief Mike Duyck, for his representation on the Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC). He recognized the anniversary of FirstNet. He also updated the Metro Chiefs about investments and advances in FirstNet, including an upgrade of the core for 5G; changes in the FirstNet leadership; and the announcement of Push-to-Talk products on FirstNet with interoperability with Land-Mobile Radio.

NG 9-1-1

Commissioner Adam Thiel said that the legislation to fund a nationwide transition to Next Generation (NG 9-1-1) was on hold. On behalf of the Metro Chiefs, he participates in weekly strategy meetings.

SAFECOM

Chief William Bamattre discussed the history of SAFECOM, which was developed after 9/11 to improve communications interoperability between jurisdictions and disciplines. He discussed the need to incorporate data into emergency operations. There is a discussion about revising the National Incident Management System (NIMS) to create a section or division for communications and data management. He asked for the Metro Chiefs to support a petition to FEMA to revise NIMS.

A motion to develop a Metro Chiefs position about the inclusion of data into NIMS and the Incident Command System was made by Senior Board Member Onieal, seconded by Chief Kurt Henke, and agreed to unanimously.

Election Committee

Immediate Past President Lane reported the results of the elections.

- Horry County was voted as the location for the 2025 Metro Chiefs Conference.
- There was a tie between Chief Dongworth and Chief Harms for the Alternate Board Member position.

A run-off election will be held at the following business meeting.

IAFF-Metro Alliance

Chief Bryson reported on the relationship between the Metro Chiefs and the IAFF. He reported that the alliance had been going on since 2005 and meeting every year. The alliance has worked with all the U.S. Fire Administrators: Chiefs Paulison, Cade, Cochran, Mitchell, Bryant, and now Dr. Moore-Merrell.

Chief Bryson reported that the Labor Management Alliance (LMA) is working to promote cooperative management relations between labor and management. The LMA uses didactic learning and in-person counseling. He is the liaison to the IAFF, so please contact Chief Bryson with any issues.

IPE Critical Response Group

Chief Dennis Compton reported that nothing has happened since the pandemic.

International Public Safety Data Institute (IPSDI)

Chief Russ Sanders and Chief Compton are the Metro Chiefs' liaisons to IPSDI. IPSDI was brought online in 2018. At the end of 2019, Chief Compton left as the IPSDI Secretary of the Board. The board has been restructured to include Chief John Oates as Chair, and Dr. Bill Jenaway, Dr. Jennifer Taylor, Dr. Ramsey Kilani, Mr. Bob Ramsey, and Chief Compton as Past Member and Advisor. The priorities of IPSDI remain the same. Dr. Moore-Merrell, the U.S. Fire Administrator, was the founder.

FirstNet PSAC

Chief Duyck reported that Congress needs to pass legislation to reauthorize FirstNet past its 2017 sunset date. He said that FirstNet also is holding regional roundtable sessions to ask public safety about their thoughts on how FirstNet is working and what do public safety agencies still wish that FirstNet would do. Please let Chief Duyck know what capabilities you would like FirstNet to have.

New Business

The Metro Chiefs discussed issues arising from the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) educational session. President Lombardi said that he would discuss the DEI discussion with the Metro Chiefs Board overnight. He discussed forming a committee to examine DEI issues as an opportunity to look at the issue more wholly.

Adjournment

President Lombardi asked for a motion to adjourn.

A motion to adjourn was made by Chief G. Keith Bryant, seconded by Chief John Alston, and agreed to unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Metro Business Meeting #3
May 19, 2022
Memphis, Tennessee

Attendees:

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 (ret.) John Lane, Immediate Past President
Ken LaSala, IAFC Liaison
Otto Drozd, Executive Secretary

Call to Order

Chief Lombardi called the meeting to order at 8:03 am.

He outlined the agenda for the day, which included the run-off election for Alternate Board Member and discussing of the Metro Chiefs' DEI agenda.

Run-Off Election

Immediate Past President Lane asked the Election Committee to distribute the ballots for the run-off election. The candidates were:

- Steve Dongworth, Calgary Fire Department, Alberta
- Todd Harms, Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District, California

Immediate Past President Lane asked the Metro Chiefs to return their ballots to the Election Committee members for counting.

Run-Off Election Results

After tabulating the ballots, Chief Steve Dongworth was recognized as the incoming Alternate Board Member.

Old Business

The Metro Chiefs continued the discussion about Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) and the Metro Chiefs' upcoming agenda for the year. The Metro Chiefs focused on deliverables with a focus on progress by the Metro Chiefs' business meeting at Fire-Rescue International (FRI) and continued work at the Urban Fire Forum.

The list of deliverables included:

- To assure diversity in all presentations and panel discussions.
- Support for programs that attract local youth to the fire and EMS service.
- Resolve to establish DEI policies and statements that promote the benefits of DEI and including into the Metro Chiefs' strategic plan.
- Development of a Metro Chiefs' DEI-based code of conduct/code of ethics/oath of office and speaker guidelines.
- Development at the Urban Fire Forum of a Metro Chiefs' position statement on DEI issues.

- Discussion about how to ensure the representation of new Metro members, including a review of the bylaws.
- The development of a Metro Chiefs' workshop/conference/summit on DEI issues to spread initiatives of the Metro Chiefs to personnel in Metro fire departments. This summit also would open opportunities for other members of the Metro Chiefs to participate.
- The development of a DEU training alliance and network of DEI advisors to spread DEI in the Metro Chiefs.
- A focus on member-centered presentations, including consideration of a call for papers/presentations for the next conference.
- The creation of a standing committee or task force to examine specific DEI issues.
- The development of a repository of DEI policies for Metro Chiefs.
- Examination of the proposal to create a DEI position on the Metro Chiefs' Board.

Chief Lombardi said that the Metro Board will develop a work plan to address these recommendations and report back at the FRI meeting about progress.

Adjournment

President Lombardi asked for a motion to adjourn.

A motion to adjourn was made by Chief Dennis Compton, seconded by Chief Kurt Henke, and agreed to unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 am.