

**Metro Chiefs Winter Board Meeting
Salt Lake City, UT
January 9, 2018**

Members in Attendance

Otto Drozd, III, President
Mike Duyck, Vice President
John Lane, Secretary
Don Lombardi, Treasurer
Robert Rocha, Board Member
William "Shorty" Bryson, Senior Board Member

Staff

Russ Sanders, Executive Secretary
Ken LaSala, IAFC Staff Liaison
Olga Caledonia, NFPA International Director

Guests

Chief Dan Petersen, Salt Lake Unified Authority
Richard Carrizzo, Board Member, FirstNet
Kevin Nida, Senior Public Safety Advisor, FirstNet
Larry Balding, ALERRT program, Texas State University

Call to Order and Welcome

President Drozd begin the meeting at 9:05 am.
He welcomed the Metro Chiefs Board members, staff and guests.
President Drozd introduced Chief Petersen, who welcomed the meeting attendees and gave a brief background of the history of the Salt Lake Unified Authority.

FirstNet Briefing

Chief Carrizzo and Mr. Nida updated the Board about recent developments with FirstNet and its partnership with AT&T. The FirstNet representatives emphasized the need for fire departments to maintain their LMR systems. The FirstNet representatives also discussed developments in LMR radio, which are being built with LTE capability and can survive submersion and the fire environment. In addition, there was a discussion about device interoperability and FirstNet said that it was researching how to allow communications across carriers. The chiefs asked questions about the use of apps to allow LTE phones to access LMR and some of the details of signing fire departments up for FirstNet. FirstNet's representatives pointed out that Apple and Sonim both have Band 14 devices (that work on FirstNet's spectrum). They also said that the buildout will be complete in three years.

ALERRT Briefing

Mr. Larry Balding briefed the Metro Chiefs Board on the Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training (ALERRT) training program for active shooter incidents. This training was developed by Texas State University and is funded with \$10 million by the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance and COPS program. The training is free, but ALERRT cannot cover backfill or overtime. Fire departments can directly access the ALERRT program, but they are encouraged to bring in their law enforcement partners. The ALERRT program is partnering with TEEEX to develop a dispatcher class and a civilian response class. Mr. Balding also has spoken with the IAFF. He is looking for endorsements for his training.

Senior Member Bryson made a motion to endorse the ALERRT program. It was seconded by Secretary Lane and agreed to unanimously.

President's Report

President Drozd reported that he has been busy on several issues since the last meeting at FRI. He attended the IAFC board meetings and teleconferences and served on the IAFC Officers' Qualifications Task Force. He also attended the Urban Fire Forum in September and the IAFC Southwestern Division meeting in October. He also attended the IAFC Board orientation and the CEO symposium to help understand the business side of the IAFC.

President Drozd served as an IAFC representative at the AFG Criteria Development meeting. He reported that the AFG staff said that applications are going down. Chief Drozd thought the fire service should look at how to make it easier for fire departments to apply for and obtain grants, including the development of a fire service grant facilitation service. President Drozd recommended that Metro Chiefs use the IAFF grant review process when applying for AFG grants. Chief Drozd also asked that the AFG grants office put a higher priority on ballistic protection and all-hazards response. He asked that Mr. LaSala draft a blog item on funding sources for ballistic protection for Metro and IAFC members.

President Drozd updated the Board about his efforts to ensure a pipeline of fire service representatives at the JCAT. The IAFC's Terrorism and Homeland Security Committee has developed a strategy, which it is finalizing. Chief Drozd would like to have this strategy ready for the Metro Conference.

President Drozd also brought up Metro Chiefs' representation on NFPA 1616, the Standard on Mass Evacuation, Sheltering and Re-Entry Programs. He is stepping down as the Metro representative. Board Member Rocha will replace him.

President Drozd also announced that the Metro representative on the IAFC Board, Chief Larry Few, is retiring in June. Vice President Duyck will name his replacement after he becomes president.

President Drozd also brought up the 10-Year fire gear study, by Edie Robbins, a student in Florida. Ms. Robbins used 300 pieces of gear from around the nation to test the lifespan of firefighter bunker gear. She worked with a university to do the flame-testing of the gear. The Metro Board was impressed by Ms. Robbins' research. The Metro Chiefs will draft a letter to Ms. Robbins to thank her for her work and coordinate with the IAFC to get her some public media attention and possibly a meeting with NIOSH.

President Drozd also reported that progress was made relating to a resolution by a Florida commissioner at the National Association of Counties (NACo) that concerned the lifespan of firefighter PPE. With the commissioner's support, the NACo decided to pass a resolution to have NIOSH research the lifespan of PPE. The plan is to use the research from NIOSH to revise NFPA 1851, the Standard on Selection, Care and Maintenance of Protective Ensembles for Structural Fire Fighting and Proximity Fire Fighting.

The Metro Chiefs Board discussed the Metro travel policy. The policy stated that a traveling member may request upgraded airfare, including business or first class, up to three times the coach fare for flights beyond the originating continent or if a single leg of the flight is greater than 8 hours. The board discussed limiting the reimbursement for such air travel to two times the coach fare with approval of the Executive Committee.

Senior Member Bryson made a motion to change the travel policy to limit the airfare reimbursement for out-of-continent travel or single legs of flights over eight hours to two times the coach fare. The motion was seconded by President Drozd and passed unanimously.

Vice President's Report

Vice President Duyck serves on the executive committee of FirstNet's Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC). He recognized Chief Carrizzo as a new board member on FirstNet. He said FirstNet is receiving more funding from AT&T at this point than they need to run the network. They are asking the PSAC for recommendations on how to reinvest funds in the network. FirstNet is developing a list of potential projects, which the Metro can send to its members for comment.

Vice President Duyck and the board discussed topics for the educational track for the Metro Chiefs conference. He plans to have a skeleton done by February 14.

Secretary's Report

Secretary Lane reported that there are 113 Metro Chiefs and 92 Senior chiefs.

Since the last meeting at FRI, the following chiefs joined the Metro Chiefs:

- Deryn Rizzi, Vaughn (ON) Fire and Rescue Services
- Kim Ayotte, Ottawa (ON) Fire Services

- Christopher Armstrong, Hall County (GA) Fire Services
- Harold Scoggins, Seattle (WA) Fire Department
- Chief David Coatney retired from the Dallas (TX) Fire Department and became a Senior Metro.
- Chief Charles Gordon retired from the Birmingham (AL) Fire and Rescue department and became a Senior Metro.
- Chief Kyrle Preis retired from the Baltimore County (MD) Fire Department and became a Senior Metro.

The following applications were sent out:

- Clarence Tucker, Akron (OH) Fire Department
- Gary Loesch, Sacramento (CA) Fire Department
- Nick LoCicero, Tampa (FL) Fire Rescue
- Richard C. Ford II, Chicago (IL) Fire Department
- William Swann, Nashville (TN) Fire Department
- Sara Errington, Syracuse (NY) Fire Department
- Christine Uhlhorn, Howard County (MD) Fire and Rescue Services
- Jennifer Aubert-Utz, Baltimore County (MD) Fire Department

The board discussed having Metro Chiefs contact their neighbors to encourage them to join the Metro Chiefs.

Secretary Lane also discussed the nominations for the Metro Fire Chief of the Year and Lifetime Achievement Awards. So far, Chief Ron Siarnicki and Chief Mary Beth Michos have been nominated for the Lifetime Achievement Award and Chief John Butler has been nominated for Metro Fire Chief of the Year.

Treasurer's Report

Secretary Lombardi gave the Treasurer's report. From 2017, the Metro Chiefs had a carryover balance of \$668,315. As of December 31, the Metro Chiefs have raised \$120,952 and had expenses of \$69,538. Overall, there has been a change in Net Assets of \$51,414 for a total balance of \$719,729.

Secretary Lombardi also discussed recent developments relating to the National Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) System. He attended a meeting with Chief David Downey and other US&R chiefs and Mr. Peter Gaynor, the FEMA Deputy Administrator, to discuss standardization of US&R resources. The US&R chiefs are looking at how to tie this effort with the IAFC's National Mutual Aid System program.

He reported that the IAFC also created an Urban Search and Rescue Committee, Chief Downey is the chair and the committee represents members from both state and local US&R teams.

Board Member's Report

Board Member Rocha reported on Latin American recruitment activities. He traveled to Mexico City in July and met with Director Jorge Cortes Hernandez, the Mexico City fire chief, to ask him to join the Metro Chiefs. Chief Cavillo (from Cleveland, OH) met with Chief Alberto Cruz, the fire chief of San Juan, Puerto Rico, and invited him to join the Metro Chiefs too.

In the fall, Board Member Rocha made a bigger push to recruit Latin American Metro Chiefs. In October, he sent letters of invitation to the eight largest Mexican fire departments. He also attended the Mexico Fire Chiefs Convention in November. A key influencer for the Mexican Fire Chiefs is Chief Adolfo Miguel Benavente, the chief of San Luis Potosi. Board Member Rocha asked Chief Benavente to join the Metro Chiefs. Chief Benavente has 730,000 people in his jurisdiction, which is less than the 750,000 required for international members. Ms. Olga Caledonia, the NFPA's International Director, called into the meeting and confirmed Chief Benavente's influence among the Mexican chiefs. The Metro Chiefs Alternate Board Member, Chief Eric Tade, is looking to get a sponsor to fly Chief Benavente to the 2019 Metro Chiefs conference.

Senior Member Bryson made a motion to waive the jurisdictional size requirement for Chief Benavente. It was seconded by Vice President Duyck and agreed to unanimously.

Senior Member's Report

Senior Member Bryson reported that he attended the Labor-Management Alliance (LMA) meeting in Orlando. The meeting went well. The LMA ran out of grant money, so fire departments will have to pay to host a LMA session. The plan is to raise money for the program through the LMA conference.

Senior Member Bryson also reported on the recent developments with NFPA 1710, the Standard for the Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression Operations, Emergency Medical Operations, and Special Operations to the Public by Career Fire Departments. The process is being concluded for a 2020 edition of NFPA 1710. Senior Member Bryson is stepping down as chair and looking for a new chair.

Immediate Past President's Report

Immediate Past President Kerr was unable to attend this board meeting,

Alternate Board Member's Report

Alternate Board Member Tade was unable to attend. He reported that the First Responder Center of Excellence and the National Fallen Firefighter Foundation (NFFF)

are hosting a mental health summit in April. Also, the Denver Fire Department was awarded the Congressional Fire Services Institute's Senator Paul S. Sarbanes Fire Service Safety Leadership Award for its development of a comprehensive health and safety program.

Requests for Funding

Senior Member Bryson made a motion to accept the following requests for funding en bloc:

- \$2,000 for the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition
- \$5,000 for the NFFF
- \$3,500 for the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation

Secretary Lane seconded this motion, which was approved unanimously.

High-Rise Building Safety Advisory Committee Report

Executive Secretary Sanders reported that Chief Bill Stewart submitted the minutes from the October meeting. The big issues include tall-wood-construction buildings, evacuation elevators and flame spread outside buildings as happened at the 2017 Grenfell Tower fire in London.

IAFC Liaison's Report

Mr. LaSala reported that many federal agencies, such as the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the U.S. Fire Administration are shut down due to their funding lapsing. Only essential personnel are working, but not being paid. The Assistance to Firefighters Grant program help line is operational, but the civil service staff are furloughed. The National Fire Academy has had to cancel classes.

Besides funding the government, the IAFC is advocating for Congress to pass legislation to prevent fire departments from having to return spectrum used for communications in the T-Band (470-512 MHz).

Executive Secretary's Report

Executive Secretary Sanders discussed the financial aspects of the 2019 Metro Chief Conference. The conference will be from June 7–14 in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. The conference registration site (www.metrochiefs2019.com) has been open since September 30.

Executive Secretary Sanders also reported on other upcoming events:

- February 27 – Meet with Chief Drozd in Orlando, FL
- April 24-25 – National Fire & Emergency Services Dinner, Washington, D.C.

- April 25 – Metro Meeting with the IAFF leadership, 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
- June 7-14 - Metro Chiefs Conference, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.
- June 17-20 - NFPA Conference and Expo, San Antonio, TX
- July 16-20 - CTIF AGM, Martigny, Switzerland (Vice President Duyck and Executive Secretary Sanders will attend)
- August 7-10 - FRI, Atlanta, GA
- September 12-16 - CAFC Conference
- September 17-19 – Urban Fire Forum, Boston/NFPA Headquarters
- October 16-18 – NFCC (President Drozd and Executive Secretary Sanders will attend)
- Fall – Mexico Fire Chiefs Conference

Old Business

President Drozd asked for old business. There was none.

New Business

President Drozd asked for new business. There was none.

Adjournment

President Drozd entertained a motion to adjourn.

A motion to adjourn was made by Treasurer Lombardi. It was seconded by Senior Member Bryson and agreed to unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.