

Metro Business Meeting Agenda
Date: Monday, May 10, 2021, 11 a.m. Eastern

Board Members in Attendance

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

Guests

Chief Tonya Hoover, Acting U.S. Fire Administrator
Mr. Jim Pauley, President & CEO, National Fire Protection Association
Chief Ken Stuebing, Acting IAFC President & Chairman of the Board
Chief Rob Brown (Ret.), IAFC CEO

Welcome and Introduction of Guests

President Lane began the meeting at 11:04 am (Eastern).
He introduced the guests.

U.S. Fire Administration Update

Chief Hoover updated the Metro Chiefs about COVID-19 and its effects on operations at the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA). Under the leadership of Eriks Gabliks, the new Superintendent of the National Fire Academy (NFA), the NFA is now open. In addition, the new Executive Fire Officer program is up and running. NFA also intends to have its new Learning Management System operating in July. In addition, there will be a new gate and entrance protocols for the Emmitsburg campus.

USFA also is engaged in several policy initiatives. It hopes to have an updated *America Burning* report and new *America Burning – WUI* report out in late 2021. USFA also was involved in the federal COVID-19 task force hosted by the Department of Health & Human Services. It will host a COVID-19 “hot wash” to discuss lessons learned from the response to COVID-19. USFA also is involved in FEMA mitigation efforts, especially the focus on building codes, resilience, and preventing wildland fires.

NFPA Update

President Pauley discussed NFPA’s 125th anniversary. NFPA is doing a series of virtual talks. Also, NFPA just released *NFPA 1700, Guide for Structural Fire Fighting* with free training. NFPA also is developing a new standard on fire protection in cannabis facilities (NFPA 420).

President Pauley also addressed the need to protect the copyrights on NFPA standards. The cost of the standards helps to fund their development. If a NFPA standard is incorporated by reference by federal, state, or local government, the standard can still be read online for free. It just cannot be downloaded or printed. He asked for the Metro Chiefs' support for NFPA's efforts to protect its copyrights.

President Lane made the following motion:

"The Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association supports the efforts of the National Fire Protection Association, along with other Standard Development Organizations, to advance the protection of copyrights for standards incorporated by reference including by educational and federal legislative efforts."

The motion was seconded by Vice President Lombardi and unanimously approved.

President Pauley thanked the Metro Chiefs for their support. In addition, he thanked the Metro for naming Metro Lifetime Achievement Award after Executive Secretary Sanders.

IAFC Update

Acting IAFC President Stuebing updated the Metro membership about COVID-19 and its effects on the finances and operations of the IAFC. He highlighted the work of the IAFC to advocate for its members in Washington including more funding for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant and SAFER programs as part of COVID-19 relief legislation and advocating for protection of users of the 4.9 GHz band. The IAFC also stood up a membership task force to increase membership and develop better ways to communicate with members. He also announced that Chief Brown has been appointed IAFC CEO/Executive Director. Chief John Butler, the Metro Chiefs Alternate Board Member, is running unopposed for IAFC 2nd Vice President and has joined in IAFC Board deliberations on strategic planning and diversification of revenue.

IAFC CEO Brown discussed the financial ramifications of COVID-19 for the IAFC. He also discusses IAFC plans to hold Fire-Rescue International in Charlotte, North Carolina from July 28-30. The IAFC is focused on the health and safety of attendees and has appointed a Chief Medical Officer to maintain the health and safety of the conference attendees.

National Fallen Firefighter Foundation Update

Chief Ron Siarnicki thanked the Metro Chiefs for support the National Fallen Firefighter Foundation (NFFF). He reported that 179 fire and EMS personnel had succumbed to COVID-19. The NFFF is having its Local Assistance State Teams help the families.

2022 Conference Update

Executive Secretary Sanders recognized the work of Assistant Chief Brian Kokkila on the canceled 2020 and 2021 Metro Chiefs conference. The Pittsburgh team is working with the Memphis team to shift sponsorships from Pittsburgh to Memphis. Memphis Fire Chief Gina Sweatt invited the Metro membership to attend the Metro Chiefs Conference at Memphis' Peabody Hotel in May 2022.

Business Meeting

Call to Order, Opening Remarks & Review Meeting Agenda

President Lane called the business meeting to order and reviewed the agenda.

Approval of the August 20, 2020, Virtual Annual Business Meeting Minutes

President Lane asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the previous business meeting. A copy of these minutes was sent to all members and posted on the website.

A motion was made by Chief Rhoda Mae Kerr to approve the minutes, seconded by Vice President Lombardi, and approved unanimously.

Officer Reports

President's Report

President Lane recognized the past year as “annus horribilis” and discussed the toll taken by COVID-19. He asked for a moment of silence for victims of the COVID-19 pandemic in metropolitan fire departments. He also discussed other events that fire departments faced last year, including active shooter incidents, civil unrest, and increasingly severe wildland fires and other climate events.

President Lane said that the Metro Chiefs prevailed through this adversity by sharing information and best practices. He thanked Executive Secretary Sanders and IAFC-Metro Liaison Ken LaSala for their work during the year.

President Lane also said that he was optimistic for next year as more vaccinations are taking place. He noted that Metro departments are being asked to assist in public vaccination campaigns. He also recognized the work of the Metro Chiefs board, including the work on member recruitment by Secretary Rocha and Senior Board Member Onieal. He also congratulated Chief Brown on his appointment as IAFC CEO, and former U.S. Fire Administrator Keith Bryant for his appointment as Oklahoma State Fire Marshal. President Lane also recognized Chief Mary Cameli and Chief Mike Duyck for their awards. Finally, he recognized Executive Secretary Sanders for his dedication as the “rock” of the Metro Chiefs and recognized that the Metro Chiefs Board named the “Russell E. Sanders Lifetime Achievement Award.”

President Lane also reported that the Metro Chiefs Board approved the following funding requests during the January 12, 2021, Winter Board meeting:

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

Chief Dennis Compton made a motion to approve these donations en bloc, seconded by Chief Kerr and unanimously approved.

President Lane also recognized Alternate Board Member Butler's candidacy for IAFC 2nd Vice President.

Secretary Rocha made a motion to endorse Chief Butler for the IAFC 2nd Vice President, which was seconded by Chief Compton, and unanimously approved.

Vice President's Report

Vice President Lombardi reported that he gave a 30-minute presentation on COVID-19 to the International Association of Fire and Rescue Services (CTIF) at the request of the CTIF President Milan Dubravac.

Vice President Lombardi outlined the educational sessions for this year's virtual Metro conference. All members will be invited to attend online. The sessions are outlined below:

June 10, 2021

**1300 to 1400
Eastern**

COVID-19

Dr. Sarah Jahnke

- Research Discussion – Scope and Intent
- White Paper
- Metro Participation – Opportunities and Actions

June 17, 2021

**1300 to 1400
Eastern**

COVID-19

Response, Vaccine Delivery, Best Practices, and Lessons Learned

- U.S. Panel
- International Panel

June 24, 2021

**1300 to 1400
Eastern**

Economics

Dr. Michael Bognanno

- 2-year Macroeconomic picture
- Pandemic (and Other Disasters) Impact on state and local governments

Dr. Lori Moore-Merrell

- Data collection to support federal, state, and local funding needs

July 1, 2021

**1300 to 1400
Eastern**

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)

Dr. Jennifer Taylor

- What is DEI really?
- Do you hear what I hear? Intent vs. Perception
- What is Unintended Bias?
- New Challenges: Understanding SOGI

July 8, 2021

**1300 to 1400
Eastern**

Updates

DHS/FEMA

- Alejandro Mayorkas, Secretary DHS
- FEMA Administrator

USFA

- USFA Administrator

July 15, 2021

**1300 to 1400
Eastern**

IAFF and Metro Joint Meeting

(The goal is to have local presidents join their Metro Chiefs)

Live: Discussion with IAFF General President Ed Kelly and Metro Chiefs President Don Lombardi

- Importance of building strong labor/management relations at all levels: We are in this together!
 - COVID-19 Long-Term Impact
 - Economics- Dwindling Revenues
 - DEI
 - New Challenges Ahead

The Global Fire Service Leadership Alliance (GFSLA) partners have been invited to join us for one or more presentations.

Secretary's Report

Secretary Rocha reported on his focus on recruitment and retention over the past year. He and Senior Board Member Onieal contacted all potential members of the Metro Chiefs. He recognized the increasing number of Metro members and their diversity. Below is a summary of the Metro Chiefs' progress:

New Member Update: January 2020

Metro Chiefs	121
Senior Chiefs	<u>105</u>
Total	226

January 2021

Metro Chiefs	140
Senior Chiefs	<u>152</u>
Total	292

May 2021

Metro Chiefs	146
Senior Chiefs	<u>152</u>
Total	298

Since the January Board meeting, the Metro Chiefs added 6 new members:

- Jeff Buchanan, Las Vegas Fire Rescue
- Jeffrey Happ, Columbus (OH) Division of Fire
- Desmond Fulton, Denver Fire Department
- Karen Fry, Vancouver Fire Rescue Services
- Randolph Royal, Colorado Springs Fire Department
- Michael Morgan, South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service

The Metro Chiefs added two new Senior members:

- Bobby Nugent, Greensboro Fire Department
- Ted Collas, Colorado Springs Fire Department

The Metro Chiefs also invited two new members:

- Gregory Holness, Broward County Sheriff's Office
- Jim Robinson, Greensboro Fire Department

Secretary Rocha recognized Chief Mary Cameli as the recipient of the Metro Fire Chief of the Year (FCOY) Award, and Chief Mike Duyck as the recipient of the Russell E. Sanders Lifetime Achievement (LTA) Award. Chief Cameli thanked the Metro for the FCOY award and the Metro Chiefs' vote of confidence. Chief Duyck thanked the Metro Chiefs for the LTA award and called it a highlight of his career.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Senter reported that as of the end of 2020, the Metro Chiefs had \$83,500 in revenue and expenses of \$41,821 for a change in net assets of \$41,679. With a carryover balance of \$773,202, the Metro Chiefs had an unaudited end-of-year balance of \$814,881. For the first quarter of 2021, the Metro Chiefs had \$30,000 in revenue and expenses of \$200 for a change in net assets of \$29,800. The total balance for the first quarter of 2021 is \$844,681.

Vice President Lombardi made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, which was seconded by Chief Kerr and adopted unanimously.

Board & Staff Reports

IAFC Board Representative and Metro Board Member's Report

Board Member Malone reported on his activities over the past year as a member of the IAFC's Board of Directors. He said that the IAFC Board has biweekly meetings to discuss how to put the IAFC on a stable financial path and re-focus on its core mission of "Lead. Educate. Serve." He also reported that he attended the IAFC Board in-person board meeting in March 2020; attended the virtual Urban Fire Forum; and attended the IAFC December/January Board virtual meeting.

Board Member Malone was thanked by Acting IAFC President Stuebing for his leadership on the IAFC Board. Also, it was requested by the Metro membership that he distribute IAFC meeting minutes to Metro members.

Senior Board Member's Report

Senior Board Member Onieal recognized Secretary Rocha, Vice President Lombardi, and Executive Secretary Sanders for their successful membership recruitment effort. He said that the effort demonstrated the success of the personal touch in recruiting potential members. He also highlighted the extra funding for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) and SAFER programs and funding for local governments in the American Rescue Plan Act (P.L. 117-2).

Alternate Board Member's Report

Alternate Board Member Butler thanked Chief Stuebing for onboarding him with the IAFC Board. He updated the Metro Chiefs on developments as the Metro representative on the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI). Alternate Board Member Butler also recognized the work done by Washington D.C. Fire & EMS Chief John Donnelly in raising awareness about COVID-19. Alternate Board Member Butler also discussed his successful efforts to recruit Metro Chiefs in Maryland.

IAFC Liaison's Report

Mr. LaSala reported that the Metro meeting, lunch, and dinner will be held at FRI in Charlotte, North Carolina on July 30. The meeting will take place at 10:00 am followed by lunch at 12:00 pm. The dinner will be held at The Mint Museum with cocktails starting at 6:00 pm.

Mr. LaSala also gave a legislative update. The American Rescue Plan Act (P.L. 117-2) included an extra \$200 million for the SAFER grant program and \$100 million for the FIRE grant program. This addition brings the total Fiscal Year 2021 funding to \$560 million for SAFER and \$460 million for FIRE. (FIRE received an extra \$100 million for COVID-19 response as part of the CARES Act (P.L. 116-36) last year).

The IAFC has the following objectives for the infrastructure bill:

- \$1 billion for Fire Station Construction grants
- \$15 billion for Next Generation 9-1-1 deployment
- \$350 million for retrofitting fire sprinklers in public housing

- Legislation to accelerate depreciation for retrofitting fire sprinklers in high-rises (serves as an incentive for building owners to retrofit their high-rises with sprinklers)

Executive Secretary's Report

Executive Secretary Sanders thanked the Metro membership for honoring him by naming the "Russell E. Sanders Lifetime Achievement Award" for him. He said it was a great honor.

Executive Secretary Sanders also reported on this transition plan. The NFPA plans to hire his successor by September. He will work with the new person from September through January to ensure a successful transition.

Committee Reports

NG911

Immediate Past President Duyck and Commissioner Adam Thiel updated the membership about legislation to fund a nationwide transition to Next Generation 911 (NG 911). The LIFT America Act (H.R. 1848) includes legislation authorizing \$15 billion to fund the transition. This legislation is supported by the Metro Chiefs and the IAFC and developed with other law enforcement and EMS organizations and APCO. This NG 911 legislation would benefit large and small organizations and includes funding for training. We need to work to ensure that this public-safety-approved legislation is included in the infrastructure bill.

SAFECOM

There was no report from the SAFECOM committee.

Hi-Rise Committee

Executive Secretary Sanders reported that Chief Bill Stewart is leaving the committee. The Metro needs a new representative.

Chief Brian Schaeffer announced that the International Women in Fire Conference will in Spokane, Washington from September 28 to October 1. This conference offers a great opportunity to learn about Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion programs.

Old Business

President Lane discussed the MOU being developed between the Federation of the European Union Fire Officer Associations (FEU) and the Metro Chiefs. Executive Secretary Sanders is working with his Australian and European contacts to resurrect the GFLA.

Vice President Lombardi made a motion to re-name the Lifetime Achievement Award as the "Russell E. Sanders Lifetime Achievement Award." The motion was seconded by Chief Compton and adopted unanimously.

Elections

President Lane recognized Immediate Past President Duyck to give the report on elections:

- Chief Michael Baker, Tulsa, OK, will host the 2024 Metro Annual Conference. (A link to the Tulsa Metro Chiefs Conference video can be found here: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/09k70y9fxt8dj3h/2024%20Metro%20Fire%20Chiefs%20Conference%20Deck%201.ppsm?dl=0>)
- On February 12, 2021, the membership approved the Nominating Committee's proposal as follows:
 - Metro Vice President Chief Don Lombardi was elected President.
 - Secretary Chief Robert Rocha was elected Vice President.
 - Treasurer Chief Edward "Loy" Senter was elected Secretary.
 - Board Member Ernest Malone was elected Treasurer.
 - Alternate Board Member Chief John Butler was elected Board Member.
 - Senior Board Member Dr. Denis Onieal was elected to a second one-year term.
 - Upon Chief Lombardi's election to President, Chief John Lane succeeded to the Immediate Past President position.

On May 7, 2021, the membership elected Chief Trisha Wolford as the Alternate Board Member.

Immediate Past President Duyck thanked the Metro Chiefs for their support over the years, and for the opportunity to work with the Metro Board. He said that he made many friends over the years and looks forward to remaining a member of the Metro.

Immediate Past President Duyck then administered the oath of office to the 2021-2022 Metro Board members.

New Business

President Lombardi recognized Chief Lane and Chief Duyck for their leadership during their tenures in office. He welcomed Chief Wolford to the Metro Chiefs Board. He also discussed working with Executive Secretary Sanders during the transition.

Adjournment

President Lombardi asked for a motion to adjourn.

A motion to adjourn was made by Chief Kerr, seconded by Immediate Past President Lane, and unanimously adopted.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm.