

Metro Business Meeting Minutes
January 14, 2012
Salt Lake City Marriott Downtown 75 South West Temple

Breakfast in the Boardroom at 8:30 a.m. Meeting starts at 9 a.m.

Members in Attendance

Ned Pettus, Jr., President
Stephen Dean, Vice President
G. Keith Bryant, Secretary
Larry Few, Treasurer
Ken Block, Board Member
William "Shorty" Bryson, Senior Board Member
Rhoda Mae Kerr, Alternate Board Member
Gregory Frederick, President, Immediate Past President
Bill McCammon, Past President
Luther Fincher, IAFC/NFPA Board Representative
Vicki Lee, IAFC Liaison
Russ Sanders, Executive Secretary

Call to Order – Ned Pettus

Opening Remarks & President's Report – Ned Pettus

Vulnerability Paper – The paper was approved by the Urban Fire Forum and the Metro Executive Board at the UFF meeting in October at NFPA Headquarters. A joint news release has been issued and the paper has been sent to all Metro Chiefs. Ned explained that the paper was one tool he used in Columbus to avoid layoffs and, in fact, hire new fire fighters.

Metro-Eagles – We now have an informal working arrangement that includes speaker participation at our respective conferences. Dr. Ray Fowler is the Eagles POC and Denny Compton is the Metro POC. Ned spoke about the importance of Fire-Based EMS.

Vice President's Report – Steve Dean

Conference Program Update – A draft program is on the website. Steve discussed the need to select a conference theme. Send suggestions to Steve and Greg. Steve reviewed the program, including tentative speakers. Jeff Johnson will be the keynote speaker. Shorty will follow up Harold as the Wednesday IAFF speaker. Steve suggested that there be a presentation on WUI. Russ agreed to get a speaker from NFPA and Vicki agreed to get a co-presenter

from the IAFC. Russ and Vicki have met and have made the necessary contacts. The presentation will be Thursday, May 24 from 2-3 p.m. Group discussion on the current economic situation throughout the country (world) and potential strategies for raising new revenue.

Secretary's Report – Keith Bryant

New Members – Keith advised that 12 new members (two are international chiefs) have joined the Metro. We now have 100 Regular Members and 86 Senior Members.

NFPA Research Foundation – Keith represents the Metro on the PASS project and attended one meeting in Austin. The research will be conducted at the University of Texas.

Treasurer's Report – Larry Few

Current balance is \$356,815. If anyone wants to see the full report, it is available by contacting Vicki Lee or Larry Few. Motion to approve by Dean/Second by Bryson. UA.

Board & Staff Reports

Board Member's Report – Ken Block

Presumptive cancer coverage – The federal parliament in Canada has accepted presumptive coverage. Ken is also working with Australian Fire Service on the same issue. Forty three states and eight provinces now have presumptive bills. Ken suggested that the Metro reach out to the NFPA, USFA and other interested agencies to begin tracking these deaths internationally. Russ will include a block of time on the UFF to discuss this and will meet with Dr. Hall and Dr. Fahey to decide who should participate (possibly Alex Furr, Tom Hales and others).

Senior Board Member's Report – Shorty Bryson

IAFF Update – Labor/Management meeting with the IAFF executive staff will be scheduled for the day of the CFSI dinner (April 26, 2012). Shorty will work with Lori Moore to coordinate.

High-Rise Technical Advisor – Shorty has been unable to participate due to other responsibilities, but Russ and Denny Compton are representing the Metro. Miami is a possible site to conduct the actual experiments.

1710 TC – Shorty chaired the 1710 meeting last month in Orlando. Work groups were formed to study and report on the following issues: Smaller Apartment Buildings and Strip Malls; High-Rise Study; Equivalency Language; EMS and Fire Training; 911/Technology Committee, and WUI. Russ advised that the NFPA

WUI section is proposing that a guide be developed by extracting technical provisions from several existing NFPA documents.

Immediate Past President's Report – Greg Frederick

CFOA – Attended the CFOA meeting, which was held in Oxford, England in September. Greg gave a presentation on the “Culture of Safety in the American Fire Service.” Greg briefed the group on UK issues and legislation discussed at the conference.

Electrical Vehicle Safety Conference – Attended the meeting in Detroit. The four primary areas discussed were: Vehicles and batteries, emergency responders, infrastructure, and support services. All information is listed on the NFPA and Fire Protection Research Foundation websites.

D-Block – Participated in meetings to support the Metro position.

SAFECOM – Attended a December 6 meeting in Atlanta where Narrow Banding was discussed. The deadline for compliance is January 2013, and it appears that several states will not be in compliance. Greg advised that each state has an Interoperability Coordinator (he provided a list of all state contacts).

Conference Update – The conference website is up and running www.2012metrofirechiefsconference.com. Overall budget is estimated at \$400K with 50% currently committed. All venues are in place with one exception. There are currently 30 people registered. The E-Board dinner will be Friday, May 19 at the Revenue Restaurant at the Galt House. All meeting information is listed on the website.

IAFC/NFPA Board Representative's Report – FINCHER

Reported on several meetings attended and activities since the Charlotte conference. Jay Feinberg provided a check for \$281 as a dividend on the Metro shirts. Luther is making a new Metro banner.

IAFC Liaison's Report – LEE

IAFC-FRI Metro Proposal – Vicki solicited feedback concerning the FRI conference. She reviewed the proposed program changes, which are designed to encourage Metro Chiefs to stay over an extra day at the conference. FRI is August 1-4 with the Metro events being as follows: Friday educational program (August 3) followed by lunch and the business meeting. The reception would be Friday evening as well. A Metro brunch would be on Saturday (August 4). This would require chiefs to arrive on Thursday and depart on Saturday after the brunch.

Metro Roster – Vicki provided rosters for each member to review before sending an update to the membership.

Executive Secretary's Report – SANDERS

NIST/IAFF/WPI High-Rise Project – Along with Denny Compton participated in several meetings and conference calls. This is a complex project that will take extensive resources to complete.

Urban Fire Forum – Russ advised that he would like to make some program changes for the 2012 forum, specifically dedicating more time to fewer topics/presentations. He suggested possibly four to six “blocks” or themes. One block would be the Cancer Presumptive Issue (see discussion above) and one would be NFPA Updates (Research Foundation Projects, Death and Injury Reports, etc.). He is looking for suggestion for two to four other topics. Anyone with program suggestions should forward them to Russ as soon as possible. The 2012 dates are arrival on Thursday, October 11 in time for a reception/dinner and departure on Sunday, October 14.

Nominations for Board Elections – The nominations for elections open January 31. Greg Frederick, as immediate past president, chairs this committee. The committee (Greg) typically recommends that each existing board officer and member advance one position. The group agreed to the following: On March 27, 2012, when Ned retires as Chief of the CFD, Steve will officially move to President and all board members, except the Senior Board Member, will advance one spot as per the bylaws. Ned will become the Immediate Past President and Greg will remain as Past President until the elections in Louisville. At the Louisville conference, Steve will delegate the President's duties to Ned. The group felt Ned deserved the right to act as President at the conference and, with Steve also serving as the Conference Chair, it is too much to expect him to handle the duties and responsibilities of both positions. The executive board agreed to propose bylaw changes for handling future vacancies.

At the conference, Greg, as Elections Chair, will recommend that all current board members, with the exception of the Senior Board Member, be elected to their current positions (Steve, President, Keith, Vice President, etc.). There will then be two open positions (Alternate Board Member and Senior Board Member) for election from the floor.

Bylaw Issues – Numerous bylaw issues were discussed. Ned appointed Luther to serve as the bylaw chair. Issues to be addressed include, executive board vacancies, membership criteria and the executive secretary's position as a board member.

D-Block – Bill McCammon reviewed a handout that he distributed addressing the history and issues of the Public Safety Broadband Network (PSBN). If you have

questions, contact Bill. Advised that NIST has taken the lead on making certain that the actual devices work properly.

Old Business – Ned Pettus

Thanked the IAFC and Vicki for keeping him informed on important issues, such as Connections and a NHTS Board meeting. Ned assigned members of his department to participate on each project.

Luther advised that the IAFC is working with the HSTA and DOT on identifying issues with emergency services closing highways.

The group discussed ways to increase participation at FRI and issues related to Re-Gen on fire apparatus.

New Business – Ned Pettus

None

Adjourn – Motion by Bryson to adjourn/second by Fincher. UA.