Monday, May 16 – Business Session #2

Call to Order & Announcements

President Block opened the second business session at 2:53 pm

Elections

Immediate Past President Larry Few recognized Chief Mike Duyck from Tualatin Valley, Oregon and Chief John Lane from Winnipeg, Canada, who gave five minute speeches in support of their candidacies for Alternate Board Member.

Presentations for 2019 Conference Venue

Immediate Past President Few recognized President Ken Block and Chief Darryl Jones, who gave ten minutes speeches highlighting why their cities (Edmonton and Pittsburgh) should host the 2019 Metro Chief Conference.

Voting

Chief Block announced election committee:
Chief Keith Bryant, Oklahoma City, OK
Chief William Bryson, Senior Metro
Chief Robin Paulsgrove, Senior Metro
Chief Greg Fredericks, Louisville, KY

Ballots were distributed; voting occurred and ballots were collected by the election committee members.

Chief Block informed the membership that the appointed committee members collect and count the votes and the Chair of the committee reports the results

Legislative Report

Chief Greg Cade reported on the following legislative issues:

- Representatives Richard Hanna (R-NY) and Bill Pascrell (D-NJ) introduced the Firefighter Cancer Registry Act (H.R. 4625) to establish a voluntary national cancer registry for firefighters at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Senators Robert Menendez (D-NJ) and
Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) introduced the Senate companion bill (S. 2799). We hope to pass this legislation this year.

- The NFPA still does not have access to death and injury reports from the Public Safety Officers’ Benefits program. It is continuing to push the U.S. Department of Justice on this issue.
- The NFPA and IAFC are examining legislation to conduct research into wood high rise construction (S. 2892).
- The NFPA and IAFC also are working to protect funding for the U.S. Fire Administration, Assistance to Firefighters Grant program (including SAFER) and other federal fire service programs. We expect Congress to have to pass a continuing resolution before the elections.

Committee Reports

FirstNet and SAFECOM

Chief William Bamattre and Chief Mike Duyck are the Metro Chiefs’ representative to SAFECOM. Chief Bamattre began the report by discussing the importance of data and predictive analytics. He emphasized the importance of data to future fire and emergency service operations.

Ms. Vicki Lee, on behalf of Chief Jeff Johns, a FirstNet board member, updated the Metro Chiefs Board on FirstNet’s plans. FirstNet issued its RFP for a commercial partner in January. FirstNet expects to award the contract by November 1. It hopes to deploy the network in 2018. It will have non-mission critical voice. A “mission critical Push-to-Talk” standard has been developed; however, it will take awhile for devices to be developed with this capability. Fire and EMS departments should continue to maintain their land-mobile radio (LMR) systems.

After the contract is awarded, FirstNet will have to present the state plans. State governors will have to decide to accept the plan; do nothing and let FirstNet build its network; or reject the plan and build the state’s own network to FirstNet’s requirements. FirstNet wants to make sure that public safety organizations in large metropolitan areas participate in the governors’ decisions.

Chief Bamattre also discussed the statutory requirement that public safety agencies vacate their T-Band spectrum. At this point, the Federal Communications Commission will have to answer basic questions about how the transition will be implemented.

Chief Duyck updated the membership about SAFECOM. SAFECOM has developed one page documents to explain public safety communications issues, such as the need to maintain land mobile radio systems to different audiences: public, elected officials, etc.
High-Rise Project

President Block reported on behalf of Chief Bill Stewart. The high-rise committee met on October 29 and 30, 2015 in New York City. The committee reviewed and finalized drafts of the high-rise residential report. The report is expected to be released in the second or third quarter of 2016.

Presumptive Cancer

President Block updated the membership about efforts to pass legislation granting a presumptive disability to firefighters with cancer. He gave a presentation on this issue at last year's NFPA Emergency Responder Forum and asked NFPA for a report on occupational cancer and line of duty deaths.

President Block also reported that 37 US states have presumptive cancer disability legislation, while 13 states have not acted yet. Kentucky was a recent state to pass this legislation. In Canada, only two provinces do not have presumptive legislation. In Australia, almost 100% of firefighters are covered by presumptive legislation. European nations are beginning to examine the issue; Chief Block is working with Germany and the Scandinavian countries on this issue.

Smart Fire Fighter of the Future

Chief Keith Bryant said that he had nothing to report.

UAV Task Force

Chief Bryant reported that the IAFC established a task force to examine issues relating to unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV). IAFC sections and committees are represented on the committee as well as the Federal Aviation Administration. The task force has submitted a request for NFPA to develop a UAV standard. The task force currently is developing web-based guidance document that it would like to complete by FRI for IAFC Board acceptance.

Election Results

Chief Bryant announced the election results:

Chief Fincher was elected as Senior Member.
Mike Duyck elected as Alternate Board Member.
Edmonton, Alberta was selected as 2019 host city.

The executive secretary will hold the ballots for 24 hours after which time they will be destroyed.
Old Business

President Block called three times for old business. There was no old business.

New Business

President Block opened the floor to new business.

Immediate Past President Few announced that he will be candidate for IAFC 2nd Vice President in 2017. He asked for the section’s support.

Motion by Chief Richard Dyer for the Metro Chiefs to support Immediate Past President Few’s campaign with a $5,000 donation. The motion was seconded by Chief R. David Paulison. The motion was approved unanimously.

Chief Manny Navarro discussed the need to support Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) system. He introduced a resolution in support of the authorization of $50 million per year for the USAR system.

Motion by Chief Luther Fincher to adopt the resolution. The motion was seconded by Chief Richie Bowers. The motion was approved unanimously.

Adjourn – President Block entertained a motion to adjourn.

Motion by Chief Luther Fincher to adjourn. The motion by seconded by Chief William Bamattre. The motion was approved unanimously at 4:00 pm.