



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS
FEDERAL and MILITARY SECTION
QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

1 Jun 2022
Teleconference

Present:

Fire Chief Todd Canale, Chair
Ms. Jennifer Hansen, Bureau of Land Management Representative
MSgt Douglas Cox, US Air Force Representative
Assistant Chief Justin Deemer, US Navy Representative

Chief Kevin McGee, IAFC Chief Operations Officer
Mr. Ken LaSala, IAFC Director, Government Relations and Policy

Not Able to Attend:

Fire Chief Jonathan Mattingly, Vice Chair, At-Large Representative
Fire Chief Don Rodgers, DLA Representative
Fire Chief Jay Schiedewitz, US Army Representative
US Marine Corp Representative - Vacant
US Coast Guard Representative – Vacant

Chief Bill Rehkoph, IAFC Communications and Marketing Director

Board Meeting Call to Order: Chief Canale called the meeting to order at 1610 (EST)

Request to Revise Agenda: None

Program and Presentation from Guest: None

Past Meeting Minutes:

Minutes were approved via unanimous vote.
Motion: Approve the Minutes as presented
Moved: Chief Deemer
Second: MSgt Cox
Motion: Passed

Financial Report:

Assumed carry over balance of prior year 2021:	\$32,817.00
Income:	\$ 2,475.00
Expenses:	<u>\$ 228.00</u>
Net Asset Balance:	\$ 35,064.00

Motion: Approve the Financial report as presented (no motion)
Moved: XXX
Second: XXX
Motion: XX

IAFC has implemented a new accounting system as on 1 Jan 22 and monthly reports will be sent to the Section treasurers on a monthly basis. Chair will get with Chief Mattingly for an updated budget this week. (Canale)

Report from Officers:

- Air Force
 - NSTR
- BLM
 - NSTR
- Navy
 - NSTR
- Chair
 - NSTR

Committee Reports:

- Election
 - Positions up for election in 2022 -Navy, Coast Guard, Defense Logistics Agency, and the Marine Corps. Chief Deemer (Navy) is running unopposed, Chief Rodgers (DLA) is retiring and Chief Shughart (DLA) is running unopposed. Potential candidates from USCG and Marines will be contacted this month. (Canale)
- Liaison Report
 - Kevin McGee informed the section that Bill Rehkopf was recently hired as the new IAFC Communications and Marketing Director. Mr. Rehkopf has an extensive journalism and fire service background. (McGee)

Old Business:

- Membership
 - Chief Canale asked Board Members to try and recruit new members

New Business:

- Fire Rescue International (24 – 26 Aug 22)
 - Registration is now open
 - Chief Canale working with AF Reps on acquiring rooms at Gov't Rates
 - Chief Canale will work on Keynote to address Fed Mil members
 - No booth this year, the Section will utilize static sources to advertise
- Strategic Planning
 - IAFC Phase II Strategic Planning meeting currently underway. The Section will review the IAFC goals and objectives and update current vision, mission, and goals of the Section. (Canale)
- Special Claim Handling Unit
 - IAFC has created procedures to streamline administrative process to handle special claims and will continue to educate claims analysts. (McGee)
- Legislative Update (LaSala)
- PFAS Legislation

- According to the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020, DOD has until January 2023 to publish a military specification for a PFAS-free firefighting agent for use at all military installations and to ensure that such an agent is available for use no later than October 2023. S.231, PFAS Act
- Summary: Requires the department of Homeland Security, in consultation United States Fire Administration, Environmental Protection Agency, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health to:
 - Develop and publish guidance for firefighters and other emergency response personnel on training, education programs, and best practices;
 - Make curriculum available that is designed to:
 - reduce and eliminate exposure to PFAS from firefighting foam and personal protective equipment;
 - prevent the release of PFAS from firefighting foam into the environment; and
 - educate firefighters and other emergency response personnel on foams and non-foam alternatives, personal protective equipment, and other firefighting tools and equipment that do not contain PFAS
 - Create an online public repository, which shall be updated on a regular basis, on tools and best practices for firefighters and other emergency response personnel to reduce, limit, and prevent the release of and exposure to PFAS.
 - Status: Unanimously passed the Senate on July 30, 2021.
 - IAFC Position: The IAFC supports this bill. IAFC President Chief Kenneth Stuebing said the following when the bill passed committee: “This legislation will develop helpful guidance that local fire departments can use to reduce firefighters’ and the general public’s exposure to PFAS. Now that it has advanced through committee, I urge Congress to pass the PFAS Act as soon as possible.”
- S. 3662, Preventing PFAS Runoff at Airports Act:
 - Summary: Temporarily increases the federal cost share of PFAS testing equipment at part 139 airports to 100%. Part 139 airports are airports that: serve scheduled and unscheduled air carrier aircraft with more than 30 seats; serve scheduled air carrier operations in aircraft with more than 9 seats but less than 31 seats; and the FAA Administrator requires to have a certificate.
 - Status: Passed the Committee on Commerce Science and Transportation on March 22, 2022

and that non-traditional and non-fire ground injuries are still covered by OWCP.

- Cancer Coverage: DOL will establish new connections between the special claims handling unit and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) to assess workers' compensation claims from firefighters suffering from cancer. Through these connections, NIOSH will use findings from the National Firefighter Cancer Registry and other projects to educate the special claims handling unit's staff on the service connections between firefighters' jobs and incidences of cancer. While the DOL is unable to unilaterally establish a cancer presumption, this new partnership will better educate OWCP staffers and should lead to more approvals of benefits for firefighters battling service-connected cancer.
- H.R. 521/S. 129, the First Responder Fair RETIRE Act
 - Summary: This bill allows a federal first responder to remain in the accelerated retirement system if they are placed in another civil service position outside of that system after returning to work from a work-related injury or illness. Further, if such an employee is separated from service before they are entitled to receive an annuity, they may receive a refund of their accelerated contributions
 - Status: H.R. 521 passed the House Oversight Committee and Reform Committee on May 11. No action has been taken in the Senate.
 - IAFC Position: The IAFC has not taken a position on this bill this year.

Good of Section:

- **Next Board Meeting:**
 - August 24 at 1500 (Fire Rescue International)
- **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 1725.

Motion: To adjourn meeting

Moved: Ms. Hansen

Second: Assistant Chief Deemer

Motion: Passed

Minutes submitted by:

T. Canale
Chairperson
Federal Military Section