



International Association of Fire Chiefs

Constitution, Bylaws and Resolutions Committee Business Meeting Minutes San Antonio, Texas 17 August 2016

Participants:

CBR Committee Members:

Lorrie Kalos, Chair (at-large)
James M. Grady III, Vice Chair (Great Lakes)
John D. Rukavina, Senior Advisor (Southeastern)
Jack Taylor (Missouri Valley)
Warren B. Cummings (Western)
Martha Ellis (at-large)
Dan Eggleston (at-large)
Charles Doody (New England)

Staff:

Jim Philipps, IAFC staff

Not in attendance:

CBR Members: *Denis Pilon (Canadian); Larry Vaughan (Eastern); Melvin Wheat (Southwestern).*
In-coming CBR Members: *Andrew Pless (Great Lakes); Jonathan Kanzigg (Southeastern).* Incoming Western Division member not yet appointed.

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Chief Kalos at 2:05 PM.

Chief Kalos

Introductions of committee members, guests and staff.

Chief Kalos opened the meeting by introducing herself and asked committee members, guests and staff to do the same.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Chief Kalos

Approval of the Minutes

Kalos reported that approval of the minutes would be tabled as they are not

available at this time. Staff indicated the minutes would be redistributed for comment.

Chief Kalos Report from the Chair

Kalos reported that it was a busy year for the committee as a result of last year's member-approved amendment to the Constitution and Bylaws (CBL) regarding section officer eligibility. The change resulted in several sections submitting amendments to their bylaws to bring their boards into compliance. Often, the sections requested prompt CBR Committee action to secure approvals in time for their 2016 elections. Several conference calls were held to accommodate the sections. These included EMS, EVM, Company Officers and VCOS.

Kalos reviewed the CBR Committee report she would give at the IAFC business meeting on August 18. Items included the two CBL amendments voted on this year.

The first was moving the duties of the CEO/Executive Director from the CBL to the IAFC Policy and Procedures Manual. That amendment was approved by the membership as recommended by the board of directors and the CBR Committee.

The second amendment would have expanded the eligibility requirements for section officers. That amendment was rejected by the membership as recommended by the board of directors and the CBR Committee.

In addition, Kalos will report at the business meeting that the committee developed a proposed policy to seat and unseat section representatives on the board of directors based on section membership. The policy was adopted by the board of directors.

Further discussion ensued about the EVM Section's proposed amendment to their bylaws. The section leaders missed the February 1, 2016, deadline to submit changes in time for CBR's spring meeting. Kalos reported that conference calls were held in May to find a solution to the section's concerns about their bylaws being in compliance in time for their 2016 elections. As a result, the board of directors, upon the recommendation of CBR, extended by 90 days the terms of current EVM Section board members to allow them time to change their bylaws and hold elections in the fall.

MOTION: 17 August 2016
Motion made by Chief Grady, seconded by Chief Cummings, to approve the EVMS bylaws amendments as submitted.

Discussion: Chief Cummings raised a question about IAFC Life Members being eligible to serve as an EVM Section officer since they don't pay dues.

Motion carried 8-0.

Chief Kalos
Elections Task Force

The committee heard a report from Terry Monroe, IAFC director of membership and marketing, about the Elections Task Force created by President Rhoda Mae Kerr. The goal, he said, was to consolidate all IAFC elections under a single time period and use one online elections software and a single ballot per member to make the elections process less confusing and increase voter participation. Mr. Monroe said the plan was to conduct a pilot election process in 2017 without seeking any changes to the CBL during this period. Kalos said the committee would entertain any amendments to the CBL at FRI 2017, if necessary, after the pilot election procedures were conducted and analyzed next spring.

MOTION: 17 August 2016
Motion by Rukavina, seconded by Chief Doody, to endorse the direction the board of directors is going based on recommendations of the Elections Task Force in regards to balloting procedures in 2017. Further, the CBR Committee is unaware of any impediments in the CBL to conduct the 2017 election as a pilot effort.

Motion carried 8-0.

Chief Kalos
Resolution for Chief Rhoda Mae Kerr

MOTION: 17 August 2016
Motion made by Chief Doody, seconded by Chief Ellis, to approve the resolution to honor Chief Rhoda Mae Kerr for her service as president and chair of the board in 2015-2016.

Motion carried 8-0.

Chief Kalos
Consider items to be removed from CBL and placed into Policy and Procedures Manual as recommended by the board of directors

Rukavina suggested that the Binding of Officers (Article I, Section 4) provision is a fair item to move to policy. Kalos suggested the Rules of Order (Bylaws Section IV) need not be in the bylaws and could be moved to IAFC Policies and Procedures Manual. Kalos also suggested that Bylaws Section III. Miscellaneous - Subsection 1. (Installation of Officers) and Subsection 2. (Special Ballots) be moved up to the subsection regarding Elections.

After some discussion, the committee agreed that none of these recommendations change the provisions in any way and the recommendations, once approved, would

be placed on the ballot in 2017 for membership vote.

MOTION: 17 August 2016

Motion made by Rukavina, seconded by Chief Cummings, to direct IAFC staff to make current policy available to membership by posting it on the IAFC website. Further, policies posted online should be indexed for easy navigation.

Motion carried 8-0.

Chief Cummings said he's not inclined to consider removing any additional items from the CBL; they should be considered on a case-by-case basis. Kalos said the committee will revisit the items identified today at the March 2017 meeting in Fairfax, Virginia, and prepare them for the 2017 ballot.

The committee decided without a formal motion or vote to direct Kalos to write the IAFC president to inform him that the CBR Committee will prepare the items identified today during the March 2017 meeting for a member vote next spring and any further changes (removing items from the CBL to policy manual) would be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Other Business

John Rukavina

Rukavina said the IAFC has decided to change its direction. We are not just a fire chiefs' organization (e.g., the creation of the Company Officers Section). The problem is that we want a broader membership, but then handcuff new members who are not fire chiefs by not allowing them to serve on the board of directors.

He proposed an amendment to the CBL that would allow 75% of the board to consist of regular members and 25% other member status to create diversity on the board. Further, he would recommend that sections be allowed to sit two thirds of their boards as regular members and one third as other member status. According to Rukavina, this will serve the IAFC better; what the IAFC did last year (amending the section officer eligibility requirements) created unintended consequences. Why invite others into the association if we don't allow them to serve on boards? We (the IAFC) made a wrong turn. Something to think about and consider in 2017 at the earliest.

Roundtable

Chief Cummings - Thanked Jim Philipps for pulling together the Policy and Procedures Manual this year. Cummings said he had a good six years serving on the CBR Committee and thanked John Rukavina for all his contributions and insights over the years.

Chief Kalos – We need two nights and airfare for the March committee meeting, not just one. Jim Philipps should request it in the committee budget. That's the way it has always been done in the past. Possible spring meeting dates: March 3-4 or March 10-11. Staff should prepare a timeline calendar for 2017 on committee meetings and deadlines. Continue monthly committee leadership calls with staff liaison and schedule two tentative full committee conference calls between the two in-person meetings.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:45 PM.