



## FLSS Board Meeting

April 18, 2018 - 1330 hours

Board Members:

Chief Andy King, Chair  
Chief Greg Rogers, Vice Chair  
Chief Michael O'Brian, International Director  
Stephen Hrustich, Secretary / Treasurer  
Chief Adolf Zubia, Immediate Past Chair  
Daniel Finnegan, At-Large Board Member  
Angie Wiese, At-Large Board Member  
Chief Ray Reynolds, At-Large Board Member  
Chief Mark Chubb, At-Large Board Member

Ed Hadfield, At-Large Board Member  
Jason Hoevelmann, At-Large Board Member  
Chief Michael Whim, Public Safety Specialty Rep.  
Meri-K Appy, Education Specialty Rep.  
Howard Hopper, Engineering Specialty Rep  
Peg Paul, Ex Officio Board Member  
Vickie Pritchett, Ex Officio Board Member  
George Michehl, Ex Officio Board Member

Staff: Russ Chandler

Chief King began the meeting by stating that at 6 minutes into the conference call a quorum was not yet present. The meeting continued addressing only those items not requiring a vote.

### 1. Approval of minutes from March and April

As a quorum was not present this item will be addressed at the next meeting.

### 2. Report from the Chair (Andy King)

- a. Chief King addressed AFG Reviewers noting the short turnaround time. This went out to membership and received a good response from safety & health and FLSS. The FLSS executive prioritized and sent back results which were then submitted to FEMA. No further information will be received as selection results are not provided.
- b. Chief King then reported that it is time to send out a blast to membership. There are no elections this year as all are uncontested. There is one issue where a two or three year term will be decided. Russ was not present to confirm Friday, the 10<sup>th</sup>, for the FRI meeting and luncheon. Chief King will follow up and make sure this date is confirmed. Items to include in the blast to membership should be forwarded to Chief King or Russ.
- c. Discussion followed regarding the fire service caucus. It was noted that fire sprinklers will be a hot topic, and Vickie's video is planned to be shown. A link to the video will be included in the blast.
- d. Chief King commented on the monthly report Russ sent out. He noted that the report included good detail for this Board as well as for others. Comments can be sent to Russ or to the group. Chief King referenced some discussion of getting extra hours for Russ, but he stated that Russ is good about staying under his 240 allotted hours.
- e. Chief King stated that June will be almost a year since the Board's vision, missions, and priorities were discussed. This needs to be revisited in the next month or two. Progress has been made in many areas, and follow up is needed on what has been accomplished. (See Fire & Life Safety Section Issues at the end of these minutes.)

### 3. Report from the Vice Chair (Greg Rogers)

- a. Chief Rogers reported that, as stated in the last conference call, the IAFC Board approved moving forward with the conference. Unfortunately, Lisa Yonkers, Executive Director with IAFC, has been away on business, but she will touch base with Chief Rogers when she is available and establish what needs to be done. Chief Rogers will also make contact with those that want to be involved so he can pick speakers and

begin putting together a program. He noted the need for a face to face discussion to determine what expenses would be covered and to discuss the 2019 budget. He suggested discussing this at FRI noting that he should have a program put together at that time with hopes of advertising at FRI. He would like to have flyers at the FLSS booth as well as making sure IAFC can advertise during their FRI presentations and programs. Lisa has already mentioned including information as part of an educational package.

- b. Chief Rogers will be leaving tomorrow to go to the fire code hearings as he is a member of the fire code development committee. He will then visit with Dan Finnigan in Virginia and present for NEMA. Initiatives include reliability for systems and connecting building systems and fire and life safety systems. This will wrap around the last FRI technical session regarding future technology, virtual reality, and connecting with buildings and building systems. He plans to share with the industry how what they're doing will impact what we're doing in the future.
- c. Chief Rogers stated that there will be another FCAC meeting in June. Preliminary dates need to be provided to the Chair to see if this can move forward. The meeting will be to decide how the proposals went and see if there are any final proposals to submit. He also stated that the Board needs to start thinking about the next appointees to make to the FCAC committee.

4. **Report from International Director (Michael O'Brian)**

- a. With regard to the tall wood issue and timber topic, it was noted that this can be a divisive issue. The entire issue was presented to the big Board. A decision was made to produce paper, and as of now the IAFC big Board wants to vote in opposition. Most have passed the committee already, and a call of action will occur when government members vote. American Wood Council and other groups should work together toward common ground.

Chief Chubb expressed concerns that when something is defined as a firefighter safety issue, others tend to feel a moral judgment is being made. Most of the technical concerns he has heard expressed relate to a perceived inability to justify proposed changes to the area and height table. He also stated that most of the decisions are to make room between categories, and he noted that a radical rethink independent of this issue may be needed. He stated that most other regions don't deal with area and height, and there is no sound basis for the area and height table. He stated that he is not sure he agrees with their position, but he is also not sure our opposition is the right response.

5. **Report from Secretary/Treasurer (Stephen Hrustich)**

- a. Stephen referenced the spreadsheet he sent out on the current budget. Vision 20/20 came out of January, and there are no expenses as of today through April that have hit the budget, only some additions. Chief Rogers asked if a face to face meeting was needed during the FLSS conference to address the 2019 budget and to determine what would be covered for Board members. Board members agreed. The 2019 budget can be finalized at this year's FRI. This will be communicated in a future conference call. The draft will need to be submitted prior to FRI, but the budget can be finalized afterward. Chief Rogers noted that other Boards pay for travel and lodging, and members can choose to stay for the conference and pay for their own registration. This will be discussed at the annual meeting in July or August. A motion to accept the April budget was not able to be taken as a quorum was not present. April and May will both need to be accepted next month.
- b. Stephen had to exit the conference call early, so he was unable to report on the recent actions at the Vision 20/20 Conference. Chief King stated that all comments were positive and the conference was reasonably well attended. A report is not yet available.

**6. Elections & Bylaws Report (Howard Hopper)**

- a. Howard was not able to attend. Chief King reported that with no challenges for the incumbents, there will be no electronic elections. As for the At Large Board members there is one seat that is a one-year term while the other seats are three-year terms. Since Bylaws does not address, the Board shall resolve. He also noted the potential for a non-chief to potentially fill the International Director position.

**7. Old Business**

None.

**8. New Business**

- a. Chief King referred to information from Ken LaSala on Federal Register: Agency Information Collection Activities: Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request; Federal Hotel and Motel Fire Safety Declaration Form - <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2018/04/05/2018-06979/agency-information-collection-activities-submission-for-omb-review-comment-request-federal-hotel-and> The deadline for this is May 7, and Board members can submit individually. There was some confusion about the purpose, and Chief King noted they are just reviewing how long it would take as part of their requirement.
- b. Chief McDowell requested Life Safety / Sprinkler data for Virginia's effort. ED Mark Light requested information to assistance with their plight. Information was requested regarding residential sprinklers as a mandate, affordable housing, etc. He is looking for anything to help make a compelling argument for residential fire sprinklers. A suggestion was made to forward the request to Vickie Pritchett. Another suggestion was made to pull from the fire sprinkler initiative to support. Chief O'Brian stated that he forwarded a few things from NFPA and pointed to research boards.

**9. Staff Report**

- a. No decision has been made regarding the NFPA Annual Conference. There is no MOU stating that we will maintain a booth at this event. Discussion followed regarding whether or not there would be enough votes and the benefit of having as many representatives from FLSS there as possible.
- b. Leslie Distiller, IAFC, Corporate Relations Executive, is working with new Kidde rep, Jessica Byrd, on existing agreements. She is also working on the MOU with HFSC.
- c. An email was sent to Board members on critical information needed for 2018 FRI prior to 4/30/18 to determine position papers, handouts, and staffing for the FLSS table, and whether or not slides or a presentation should be shown on a monitor screen. Volunteers or section members are needed in the area to cover. An online silent tool is needed that Russ can manage for us. Thursday can be handled. Friday is the day of the meeting. Saturday is another 3 or 4 hours plus breakdown. Information can be emailed to Chief King, Russ, or the entire Board. Chief King would like to have all Board members at the luncheon if possible.
- d. Chief King reported that FLSS Stationary should be done soon and should be back this week.
- e. Chief King understands that pocket badges from the last order did not show up. If you ordered a pocket badge and did not receive it please send him an email. If you need pocket badge or business cards please let him know as well.

**10. Roundtable**

- a. Chief Chubb attended the IFP conference in March in Orlando. He reported that the presentations were valuable particularly noting a presentation from an Assistant Commissioner from London Fire Brigade. She shared research she has done on fire incident command as well as implications of universal design particularly in an aging population. He noted the need to discuss standards and stated that the call for diversity is expanding. He then flew to the UK and met with International General Assembly where there was quite a bit of concern regarding the government review of the Grenfell fire and the impact on public and private sectors. This could impact our own codes and standards. Australia has something similar to NFPA 285, and he thinks

it is being debated currently. Items omitted may be a bigger deal than initially thought. Chief Rogers stood in during a couple of sessions while in Florida for another conference, and he agreed with the quality of the presentations.

b. Peg reported that the HFSE did receive a FEMA grant to fund a developer consensus program. She noted that the NHB lobbied sprinklers out of the code. There is now an effort to get sprinklers into entire developments at a time. This has been a soft launch, and articles have been placed with Firehouse. She encouraged Board members to visit [Homefirespinkler.org/CRR](http://Homefirespinkler.org/CRR) and review the nine steps to a safer community program. She stressed the importance of providing AHJs with the tools needed to educate planners and other stakeholders so they understand that they can discuss developer incentives even if it is not in the code. She also referenced a survey that determined there was a lack of awareness of these incentives. She expressed the need to be involved in the pre app process. She shared an article from Chief Denny Compton with Chief King and Chief O'Brian on the role of sprinklers in general and CRR. She will share this article with the group including three video clips. This information will be included in the next blast that goes out. Minimally, a link will be included.

c. Chief King referenced news from Russia last month regarding 64 people killed in a shopping mall that had been converted from a candy factory. Issues included blocked exits and sprinkler impairments. Russia is now looking at other shopping malls and finding multiple violations. They arrested the facility manager, the tech who was responsible for maintenance, as well as the inspecting officer and chief officer with the fire service. Efforts are being made to get charges dismissed against the fire service officers.

d. Chief King noted the timeliness of the Trump Tower fire and referenced the possible benefit of retrofitting. Peg stated that Trump Towers in Chicago had successful activation during a trash fire that also ironically occurred on the 50<sup>th</sup> floor. Dan noted that fire alarm systems and security work are also covered under the tax break law. He will forward any handouts he finds on this.

e. George encouraged attendees to register for FRI now while hotels near the conference are still available.

11. **Adjournment:** Adjourned at 1431 hours.

## **June 2017 Fire & Life Safety Section Issues**

### Code Development

- ICC Code hearings
- Developing a more effective methodology for maximizing our effectiveness on code committees, especially NFPA committees. Our reps are often flying solo on these committees, and have little interaction/guidance on key issues – two-way sharing of information.
- Supporting the ICC and NFPA effort to promote adoption of a 3-year code cycle
- Staying on top of ESS (energy storage system) hazards, code development and fire department responses to incidents/fires
- Promote affordable continuing education programs available through NFPA and ICC.
- Building materials and their effect on home safety (processed wood tall structures as well)

### Public education – Community risk reduction

- Leveraging FLSS leadership to encourage greater visibility and adoption of CRR among IAFC leadership and members (including a new position paper on CRR)
- HELPING IAFC MOVE BEYOND CHANGE YOUR CLOCK, CHANGE YOUR BATTERY to bring our organization into consensus national messaging for smoke alarms.
- Developing stronger relationships to build a focused national effort towards Community Risk Reduction outreach.
- Push for stabilization of prevention grant funding that is not tied to fire operations and safety research.
- Public apathy towards fire risks and proactive programs to mitigate that apathy.
- residential sprinkler advances into modern construction
- Excessive emphasis on code enforcement as opposed to fire safety
- Failure to distinguish between hazards and risks
- Tendency to rely on broad-brush over-simplifications and technology as opposed to targeted interventions, behavioral change, and social capital to produce measurable results

### Membership

- Need to continue to recruit five bugle chiefs (Chief of Department) - to serve on our board.
- Enhance or strengthen our sphere of influence. Beyond codes - need certifications and so only.
- Building membership
- Identify strategies to promote mentoring of Fire Marshal's and Fire Prevention Personnel to reach higher levels in the organization.
- Bringing in a new generation of fire officials to become involved in FLSS activities, including code development

### Conference/Partnerships

- Conference venture with NFSA
- Creating more partnerships with IFMA

- Finalizing a partnership with NFSA.
- Advocate for the use of AFG Safer Grants to include both part and full-time staffing of fire prevention bureaus