

2009 AFCA General Membership Meeting

Thursday, September 24, 6:00 PM
Dena'ina Convention Center

MINUTES

I. **Call to Order** – President Doug Schrage called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m.

II. **Pledge of Allegiance**

III. **Roll Call & Introductions – All Board Members present but Mark Barker and Eric Mohrmann**

MEMBERS/GUESTS PRESENT: Betty Svensson, Eric Shueunemann, Steve Troxell, Gordon Descutner, Crosby Grindle, Ray Bizal, Jack Willard, Mitch Flynn, Scott Learned, Matt Johnson, Dave Tyler, Jodie Hettrick, Matthews, Mike McKinga, Bob Himes, Young Suenram, Chris Mokracek, Mahlon Greene, Richard Boothby, James Steele, Johnny Murdock, Bridget Bushue, Charles Brown, Edith Curry, Carin “Bear” Bjornvonletzendorf – Delta Junction, Elsie..Buddy Lane, Brian Long, Tom Kurth, Greg Larson, Ben Beaver, Mark Hall, Jonathan Otto, Tom Kurth, Lisa Anne Nilsen, Yancey Nilsen, Dave Tyler, Tom Oxnam, Corwin Matthews, Lake Louise VFD, Michael Ahkinga, Wales VFD, Clifon Wiehl, Tanana FD, Joseph Strongheart, Nunam Iqua FD, Joseph Kosbruk – Nightmute VFD, John Hayes – America Heart Association, Dorothy Alexie – Pilot Station PD, Stephanie Villareal - Palmer FD, Richard Harkness – Seldovia Village/Barbara Heights VFD, Elsie Vent – Huslia VFD,

IV. **Agenda -**

V. **Approval of Minutes – Sept. 3, 2009** – Jeff Tucker made a motion to approve the minutes as written, second by Michelle Weston. Motion carries.

VI. **Reports of Officers and Standing Committees**

- a. Treasurer report - Sue Sanborn reported \$25,125.79 in the operating account and \$5,259.36 in gaming account.
- b. Nominations - Rocky Ansell advised 4 positions were up for election, president, 1st vice president, 2nd vice president and board Seat E. Rocky stated the following individuals were nominated and accepted for the following positions: Jeff Tucker nominated for President, Rocky Ansell for 1st Vice President, James Baisden for 2nd vice President, Michelle Weston and Eric Mohrmann for Board of Directors. Matt Johnson and Bob Himes were appointed to Seats B and C respectively by President Schrage. Dave Tyler made a motion to close the nominations, second by Edith Curry. Nominations closed. Each nominee gave a brief presentation and introduction; Doug Schrage spoke on behalf of Eric Mohrmann, who could not be at the conference this year.
- c. Resolutions - Rocky Ansell presented two resolutions to the membership for review. Resolution 2009-03 and Resolution 2009-04. Jeff Tucker made a motion to approve Resolution 2009-03 regarding residential sprinklers, second by Mark Hall. General discussion followed on Resolution 2009-03. Mark Hall made a motion to amend to strike the line that refers to the cost of the installation of \$1.61 per foot, second by Scott Learned. None opposed. Motion carries. Resolution 2009-03 amended to exclude “WHEREAS the Alaska Fire Chiefs Association understand that fire sprinklers are now more affordable with a national average of \$1.61 per square foot of sprinklered new construction, and”. Unanimous approval. Resolution passes. Bob Himes made a motion to approve Resolution 2009-04, second by Jodie Hettrick. General discussion followed. Unanimous approval. Resolution passes.
- d. President’s report - Doug Schrage introduced Jim Foster to the membership who presented CPR in a Box, which is CPR training for families by the Laurel Marshall Foundation.

- e. 1st VP report - Jeff Tucker touched briefly on three issues. 1. ALMR - Sits on the council for ALMR on behalf of AML. 2. Alaska Municipal League – that organization represents the local municipal governments throughout the state of Alaska. Work on policy statements on our behalf and we have a great working relationship with them. 3. Legislation – this past year has been a very active year for legislation. Discussed briefly the sprinkler legislation and ALMR. Discussed takes our Association working together to make an affect.
- f. Legislation - Michelle Weston wanted to know how many individuals went to Juneau to lobby and the experience. Most important item to work on as a group is the capital funding program. Spoke about visit from Max Gruenberg and the push for support of matching grant funds for rural departments or smaller departments who cannot afford the match. This would be available to all the fire departments in Alaska. General discussion followed. Tax credits on home sprinkler systems – Mike McGowan introduced this draft legislation, which was explained by Michelle to the membership. Restrictions on Novelty Lighters sales – Michelle presented a poster to the membership and explained the dangers of novelty lighters. General discussion followed. Dave Tyler suggested we change the wording to say ‘toy-like’ lighters from Novelty lighters. Fix benefits for PERS Tier 4 and medical claim injury gap, which states on certain parts of retirement system you are covered; if you injured in a 5-year gap you are not covered. Scott Learned explained further. General discussion followed.
- g. Grants & WFCA - Warren Cummings told he put a couple grant reports on each table for review by the membership. Gave the annual report presented to the Western Fire Chiefs conference in Dallas last month. Crosby Grindle spoke about the Fire Service Book Store aka as the Fire Chiefs bookstore – explained the bookstore to the membership. Can usually match or beat any pricing and share revenues with the Alaska Fire Chiefs Association. Fire Rescue GPO – a group purchasing program for fire chiefs and chief officers across the country aimed at bringing savings to fire departments and sometimes their firefighters. Have a full-time contracting attorney to assist fire departments or their procurement officer. Daily Dispatch – free email news blast. We want to make that a better service for those in Alaska. If you know of some story that has been published and you want it to get on the Daily Dispatch, please email them. WFCA and IFCA reorganizing whereby a CEO can represent the association. Understand the importance of medical exams for all fire fighters. Changes coming to ISO – will be meeting with them two weeks in New Jersey. Interested in joining the International Association of Fire Chiefs Association, see Warren Cummings for registration. Introduced Betty Svensson to the membership. Betty represents Alaska Municipal League and is a firefighter with the Capital City Fire Rescue.

February 9, 10, 11 and 12 will be the Spring Conference in Juneau. Mark your dates.

VII. Guest & Special Reports

- a. Gordon Descutner, Fire Standards Council spoke about the Fire Standards Council and what programs/projects are being worked on and/or improved. Wanted to recognize Jack Smith, Scott Learned and Brian Long – who are on test bank committees. Encourage everyone to voice their concerns to the Fire Standards Council. Host of topics that FSC is looking at right now, to include driver/operator standard. Welcomed Robert Denard, new council member from Sitka; and John Downs from Copper Valley. Remind drop date of December 31st for Fire Officer I conversion. After December 31st will require a full training program for Fire Officer I. Primary focus is updating what we currently have for adoptive standards. Testament to the work of this group and many others that the Fire Standards Council is no longer on the legislative priority for funding. 990 applications and 964 certifications were processed through the Fire Standards Council office.
- b. Dave Tyler, State Fire Marshal – Passed out some certificates of appreciation. Takes us this long to compile all the NFIRS data submitted to them. Perfect NFIRS

reporting for 2008. Chena VFD, Rural Deltana, North Pole Fire Department, Steese Area Volunteer Fire Department.

1. FY11 Budget
 - a. Operating
 - b. Capital (\$164k for mobile solutions)
 - c. I need information for your capital projects
2. Office of Rural Fire Protection
 - a. Over 130 units across the State
 - b. Our office is concentrating on training, AVI (Alaska Village Initiatives) is putting units together
3. Office of Oil and Gas
 - a. FLS got the spending authority
 - b. DNR did not get the authority to give us the money to spend.
 - c. We still have one TAPS position working within the JPO
 - d. It is our goal to have two Plans Examiners and a clerk at this office
4. Blue Light authorizations
 - a. The AKSFM does not like them (Everyone goes home)
 - b. Streamlining process for Chiefs
 - c. Letter requesting authority to issue blue light letter sent to FLS by chief.
 - d. Fire Chief will sign affidavit stating responders are Familiar with the law and that their vehicles meet the standard required by statute.
 - e. I will send authorization letter to be copied and issued to responders by Chief.
 - f. This letter will expire every two years, or when the fire chief is replaced.
 - g. This letter will need to be in each vehicle that the responder may use.
 - h. This letter will be issued to the responder, not the vehicle.
 - i. It will be signed by the fire chief and the responder at the bottom.
5. ISO
 - a. After trip to Kenai Peninsula I noticed that they had a different experience with ISO than the Interior Fire Chiefs did.
 - b. I am suggesting that a working group or forum be put together to identify issues that arose across the state from recent ISO evaluations.
6. Deputy Fire Marshal's
 - a. Fairbanks and Anchorage hiring process
 - b. Commissions and expanded duties/responsibilities
7. Fire Flyer
 - a. Will be going out in November and again before summer. Trying to send out twice a year.
- c. Brian Kelly, Intrastate Mutual Aid System (IAFC) – retired Fire Chief from San Mateo, California. Spoke briefly on what the purpose of the Intrastate Mutual Aid System was about and how and why it was started. There was not a uniform mutual aid system in place. Fire Chiefs got a grant from FEMA to try and develop within the 50 states a template for mutual aid which everyone will adopt, with variances for each state. Alaska's group has developed a draft plan for a state-wide mutual aid system which would incorporate the smallest fire departments and the largest fire departments within the state. Bridget Bushue advised Alaska has a rough draft plan at this point and working towards everyone getting on the same page. Hoping to

post on a web site for everyone's review and input. The idea will be to call one phone number to activate the plan.

- d. Ray Bizal, National Fire Protection Association -
 - e. Crosby Grindle, Western Fire Chiefs Association –
 - Crosby reminded everyone present about using the Fire Service Bookstore (www.fireservicebooks.com) which serves as the Alaska Chiefs Bookstore. We are IFSTA's largest distributor but also sell books from over 70 other publishers. Books can be ordered by phone, fax or website and POs are accepted. A significant amount of revenue from book sales is returned to the Alaska Fire Chiefs Association. A couple of members also made mention of our ability to match or beat competitors prices in almost all cases;
 - Reminder about the FireRescue GPO program (www.firerescue-gpo.com) and the new publicly awarded contract for turnout gear through MES. One of the members asked for information about the purchasing process for his department and suggested this be included on our website - we will work on that!
 - Reminder about the Daily Dispatch and asked everyone to please use the Daily Dispatch for job ads and used equipment classifieds to support the program because it is expensive for us to produce. Also, asked the membership to please forward news items they know about that should be included in the Daily Dispatch to us so we can increase the amount of AK news we report.
- Finally, Crosby recognized and thanked Edith Curry for serving as the Alaska representative on the Western FireRescue GPO Advisory Council and as the Fire Bookstore liaison for the Alaska Fire Chiefs Association.
- f. Tom Kurth, Division of Forestry – Tom Kurth felt this year highlighted some of the efforts of this association – had a lot of fires that took Forestry's attention. Many thanks to this association and their firefighters who assisted us throughout this wildland season. This Association took the initiative to make sure their firefighters have wildland fire training and bringing them up to task for the wildland fire season. Surplus engines available. Cooperative effort in recruitment and retention and maintaining a good relationship with your local forestry is paramount. Hoping local fire departments can assist task forces with tenders in the upcoming season.
 - g. Chris Mokracek, SERC – One meeting in July because of H1N1 meetings in the state. Renamed Disaster Search and Rescue Committee (DSRC). Meeting again in November. Representation on the Committee – State Division of Homeland Security, Alaska Fire Chiefs, AK National Guard, Dept of Defense, Dept of Interior, US Coast Guard, Dept. of Homeland Security and FEMA.

VIII. Old Business

- a. Constitution and Bylaws (Tucker) – Jeff Tucker reported AFCA membership approved changes to the bylaws, which redefined membership and to address our dues structure. In doing so, I think we made it more confusing than it was to start with. This was discussed at our Board meeting on Tuesday evening, September 22. To take effect, the membership needs to approve these changes. Changes are: Regular members – members that are currently...; Associate members – nonvoting members.....change LIFE membership to meritorious membership....Changes made to the dues structure was to reflect we have an annual membership fee of \$100 and a LIFETIME membership fee is \$800. Changing currently a member who paid a lifetime membership fee is exempt from conference fees changing whereby only meritorious members will be exempt from paying conference fees. LIFETIME members will have to pay conference fees. Dave Tyler made a motion to accept the changes as addressed by Jeff Tucker, second by James Steele. General discussion followed. Changes have been unanimously approved. This meeting constitutes as the 30 day notice and will be brought up again at our February business meeting and once ratified will take affect at our business meeting at the Fall Conference next year.
- b. Membership (Baisden) – suspend to next teleconference
- c. Fundraising (Smith)
- d. Volunteer Recruiting (Himes, Ansell, Bartley, Johnson, Willard, Axtell)
- e. Background Checks (Smith)

IX. New Business

- a. Regional Chiefs Associations (Tucker) – We have AFCA and several regional chiefs association, Interior Chiefs Association, etc., none of these chapters are linked with each other. Called and talked to presidents of the state-wide associations and have all agreed in concept that we develop some type of working relationship with the various associations in the state. Jeff Tucker has been contacted by the Chief in the Copper Valley area and they are interested in starting a Chiefs Association in their area. Will be working with the other chief associations and working out some type of format so all the associations are speaking in one voice.
- b. Elections
 - i. President (Schrage) Jeff Tucker elected as President
 - ii. 1st Vice President (Tucker) - Rocky Ansell as 1st Vice President
 - iii. 2nd Vice President (Weston) – James Baisden as 2nd Vice President
 - iv. Seat E (Mohrmann) – Michelle Weston to Seat E
 - v. Replacing James Baisden on Seat B is Matt Johnson
 - vi. Replacing Rocky Ansell on Seat C is Bob HimesPresident Jeff Tucker thanked those members present for their support and without their continued support nothing would get done.

X. Good of the Order

- a. Lynn Wilcox retirement
- b. Drawing for Class A Uniform
- c. Tom Monk – Jeff Tucker said a sad piece of news is that Tom Monk passed away today.
- d. Muster tomorrow is at 7 a.m.

- XI. Adjourn** – Motion to adjourn the meeting made by James Baisden, second by Rocky Ansell. Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.