

# ALASKA FIRE CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION

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**MINUTES**  
August 6, 2009



**Teleconference call-in number is 907-459-6769.**

**I. Call to order** – President Doug Schrage

**II. Roll Call**

### Officers

President, Doug Schrage (present)	Anchorage Fire Department
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President, Jeff Tucker (present)	North Star Volunteer Fire Department
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Michelle Weston (excused)	Anchorage Fire Department
Sec/Treasurer, Sue Sanborn (present)	North Star Volunteer Fire Department
Seat A / 07-10, Jack Smith (excused)	North Slope Borough Fire Department
Seat B / 07-10, James Baisden (present)	Nikiski Fire Department
Seat C / 08-11, Rocky Ansell (present)	Alaska Division of Forestry
Seat D / 08-11, Mark Barker (present)	
Seat E / 06-09, Eric Mohrmann (present)	Capital City Fire & Rescue
Past President, Warren Cummings (present)	Fairbanks Fire Department

**Roll Call Members:** Dave Miller, James Steele, Betty Svensson, Edith Curry, Mike Branum, Jason Elson, Mitch Flynn, Brian Beauvais, Ray Bizal, Chris Mokracek, Dave Hull, Gordon Descutner, Mark Beals, Lynn Wilcock, Steve Crouch

**III. Approval of Agenda** – Agenda approved as presented

**IV. Reading and Approval of Minutes:** Rocky Ansell made a motion to approve the minutes of June 4, 2009, as presented, second by Warren Cummings. Motion carries.

**V. Reports of Officers & Standing Committees**

### Treasurer Report – Sue Sanborn

Balance Operating Account: May 20, 2009 \$19,187.77

Balance Operating Account: June 18, 2009 \$19,012.08

Deposits: \$904.20

Withdrawals: 1,079.89

Payables: Credit Card bank fees: \$297.90; check to A.A.F.A.I. for registrations to Forensic Fire Scene Reconstruction Seminar - charged using AFCA's credit card \$425.00; check to North Star Volunteer Fire Department for credit card charges - \$87.00; check to Jeff Tucker for \$144.99 – reimburse for car rental WFCFA President Forum; check to State of Alaska for registered agent name change from Dave Tyler to Doug Schrage - \$25.00; check to Kevin Towsley Memorial Fund \$100.00.

Balance Gaming Account, May 22, 2009 \$10,259.36

Balance Gaming Account, June 22, 2009 \$ 5,259.36

Withdrawals: \$5,000.00 check to ASFA Fallen Firefighters Memorial Fund

## **Membership Report**

06/07 Active Members (116)

07/08 Active Members (102)

08/09 Active Members (89)

06/07 Active Life Members (51)

07/08 Active Life Members (58)

08/09 Active Life/Honorary Members (65)

06/07 Sustaining Members (8)

07/08 Sustaining Members (3)

08/09 Sustaining Member (5)

06/07 Associates (5)

07/08 Associates (5)

08/09 Associates (4)

Totals: 06/07 -180 total membership 07/08 - 168 total membership 08/09 – 163 total membership to date

(See membership roster on web site: [www.alaskafirechiefs.org](http://www.alaskafirechiefs.org) )

***President's report*** – President Schrage advised we have received a lot of requests for information to be shared, some from solicitors or advertisers, which Sue Sanborn is asked to pass on this information via our AFCA email list serve. My email box gets rather full; the outcome is that the AFCA email system becomes irrelevant. Let's try to keep information pertinent to the organization and its mission, so that when you do get an email from Sue you know it is important. I am just trying to maintain the relevance of the information being shared. 2. I want to strongly promote the leadership conference that Chief Baisden and others are promoting next week in Nikiski. 150 registrations so far. You can register for the week or a day. AFCA is a sponsor. Rare opportunity to listen to some high quality speakers. 3. \$200 donation for Marty Dobbins, Fire Marshal in Yukon who suddenly passed away, memorial. 4. I appointed Chief Mokracek to represent the Chief's Association on the State Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Committee. His task will be to understand our assets and use throughout the state and will report back to us. 5. Strongly encourage you and your organization to use the Fire Service Book Store; allows you to get books at a discount and it produces revenue for our association. Buying books through their web site has produced \$2,500+ in revenue for AFCA this last quarter.

***1<sup>st</sup> Vice President's report*** - Jeff Tucker / ALMR & AML (not available at this time)

***2nd Vice President's report*** - Michelle Weston / Government Relations (excused)

***Seat A***- Jack Smith / Fundraising (excused)

***Seat B*** - James Baisden/ Membership & Recruiting – Nothing to report at this time.

***Seat C*** - Rocky Ansell / Health and Safety – Rocky reported on the few incidents reported across the US, where fire fighters who are both wildland and structural reported to structural incidents wearing wildland gear and there were injuries as a result of this. We know you are not supposed to do that. So, wear the right gear for the job. Report is out on the jerry can/muffler incident – Contact Rocky and he will email it to you if you would like a copy of the report. Rocky's email address is: Rocky\_Ansell@dnr.state.ak.us

***Seat D***- Fire Standards Council – Gordon Descutner reported there are changes to NFPA 1001 – primarily at the Firefighter 1 level. Had to purchase a number of texts for this review and purchased them through the WFC Book Store and received a much better rate through them. Wanted to remind everyone have approved new revision to 1041 instructor information and

implementing the new information this fall – pilot test bank this fall. Regarding Fire Investigator background information it looks like it will only be a policy change and not any regulatory change for the Fire Standards Council.

*Seat E* - Eric Mohrmann / Information Officer (had to leave teleconference – not able to report)  
*Past President's report* - Warren Cummings talked about the Fire Service Book Store and how it is a great revenue source for the association. We are not telling you that you have to buy from them, but if you find it cheaper somewhere else, I am sure the book store will match it for you. FYI – for those AFCA members attending the Fire Rescue International in Dallas next week, Western Fire Chiefs will be having a meeting at noon on Thursday and encourage you to attend.

## VI. Special Reports

- a. Fallen Firefighter Memorial – Mark Barker state most of you should have received my emails on the memorial. Our plan is/was to do a firefighter memorial for the conference. I have not been able to get things pushed through as quickly as I would like to. Meeting this afternoon and will let you know where we stand on that. A portion of the Leadership Conference fees are being offered to the Memorial. Just received a call from Sitka – holding a volunteer night fundraiser and these funds will go directly to the Memorial. Thank you to other folks who have given significant amounts of money. Ordered the plaque for the Memorial – 13 new plaques added this year. For those of you who are face book folks – a lot of photos on Alaska Firefighter Memorial face book page – if you need to use photos from the face book page, go ahead and use them. Looking at setting up a Firefighter Memorial table at the Fall Conference.
- b. State USAR (Urban Search and Rescue) – Chris Mokracek – Had our first meeting 3 weeks ago – Anchorage Fire Department, Coast Guard and AFCA. What I am going to do is to put out a survey to all the departments in the state to find out what their current USAR preparedness is to find out where we all are at on a baseline. Put together a wish list from that to get training needed. Doug Schrage encouraged everyone to review the survey and complete it and send it back to Chris Mokracek
- c. Fire Rescue GPO – Edith Curry – Appointed Edie to represent the Chief's association to provide information and feed back to Fire Rescue GPO. First teleconference on July 21<sup>st</sup>. The Fire Rescue group is a national purchasing group free of charge to all [www.fireresue-gpo.com](http://www.fireresue-gpo.com) – sign up to get a password and then you can access everything. You can piggyback on a bid or create your own bid. I have a lot of information that I can forward out – still a question if you have to sign a contract with them or if you can piggy back on – this is something we will find out and hopefully will have the information for our next teleconference. If interested, please let Edie Curry know and she will forward the information to you. Doug Schrage advised as strict as Anchorage FD's purchasing rules are, they did allow the Fire Rescue GPO bid.
- d. ASFA/AFCA Fall Conference 2009 – Doug Schrage – Most of the generic information is available on the web site. 1. I have distributed an AFCA meeting agenda. We are basically having 4 meetings. Our customary Tuesday meeting is for the Board of Directors only. Wednesday is vendors' night. Thursday evening is our general membership meeting where we hope all members will come – we will conduct general business, nominations, etc. at this meeting. We will have our joint ASFA and AFCA association board meeting and we have a meeting scheduled for the joint conference committees and next year's host. Friday night is traditional bowling night! I will be distributing information on discounted travel on ERA and Frontier. I regret the information is not available right now. Conference hotel is the Sheraton; however, we have reserved a block of rooms at the Marriott for the Chief's Association, as most of the chief's association meetings are at the Marriott. We are getting a lot of attendance from outside fire departments. I believe training will be as good as you will get anywhere and we are looking forward to hosting all of you and your departments.

## VII. New Business

Nominations/Committee: President Schrage reported Rocky Ansell has served in leading our Nominations Committee consistently over the past few years. Eric Mohrmann, Seat E, expires September; Doug Schrage's term as President expires. Looking forward to hearing Rocky's report at the Tuesday's Board meeting in September. If you are interested in filling any of these board positions, please submit your name to Rocky. Rocky's email address is: [Rocky\\_Ansell@dnr.state.ak.us](mailto:Rocky_Ansell@dnr.state.ak.us)

- Sprinkler Coalition – Doug Schrage requested Ray Bizal to speak to the Sprinkler Coalition. Jeff Tucker currently on train to Fairbanks. Ray advised currently establishing where the legislation is at; you may get a call from Jeff Tucker for you to visit with your legislator in your district to talk about this issue. Jeff was going to try to meet with the new governor and see how best to address this bill when it comes back. Ray also said the WFC have passed a resolution supporting the adoption of sprinklers. General discussion followed.
- Forestry: Lynn Wilcock reported currently 2.6 million acres so far are burned. 15 staffed fires across the state – 3 of the main ones are the rail belt on west side of Nenana river about ½ million acres now. Rex Creek fire started in the hills north of Healy – in one night burned a 10 mile run. Lower 48 type 2 team on the Hard Luck fire on the back side of Murphy Dome in Fairbanks. Started to rain last night and has relieved some of the concerns. There is a burn ban in affect upper Tanana Valley and Copper River Basin. I will be retiring on August 31<sup>st</sup>; this will be my last AFCA teleconference. I would like to thank the Chief's Association and strongly ask your support of Rocky Ansell. Doug Schrage thanked Lynn for his support of the Association over the years. Hopes that Lynn will stay involved with the Association even though he is retired.
- Fall Conference: President Schrage stated the Joint Conference Committees are institutionalizing the name of the annual Fall Fire Conference to Alaska Fire Conference. Jeff Tucker and Dave Miller have been discussing this in regards to having a simple title, a recognizable title henceforth. Jeff Tucker came on line at this point and advised a resolution or motion on the floor will be presented during our joint ASFA and AFCA meeting at the Fall Conference in September.

## VIII. Old Business

- Southside Bingo – President Schrage reported somewhat disturbing news to share; I am sorry to have to report this. On my urging we pulled our gaming permit from the Hooks and Ladders down on the Kenai to a larger operation in Anchorage – were hoping for more consistent income, better reporting and reaching a larger audience. I just learned that Southside Bingo closed their doors; however, the owner of the Bingo operation has a soft spot for us and recognizes his obligation to us and is taking us to Big Daddy's Pull Tabs, located at the northeast corner of Boniface and Northern Lights.
- AML Conference next week – Any comments to the policy statement, please email Jeff Tucker by Monday. Jeff Tucker's email address is: [jtucker@northstarfire.org](mailto:jtucker@northstarfire.org)
- Dave Miller said Sitka raised a little over \$5,000 to go towards the Fallen Firefighters Memorial. Grants: Firefighters Association has several grants – through one grant sent recruitment posters to all the fire departments throughout the state, I hope you put them up. Through a SAFER Grant we will do a mailing to all of the residents in the state who have a combination volunteer/paid fire department to become a volunteer in your fire department – this will not be mailed to Fairbanks, Anchorage or Kenai. Warren Cummings asked Dave Miller to send his cards to Fairbanks Fire Department and Warren will distribute to the fire departments around them. Grant for recruitment from a company out of Idaho who is doing everything from TV, to radio, face book, everything recruiting stuff for us in the next few weeks. Will have a table at the conference to talk about what they do. Grant allowing us to bring 20 rural fire chiefs to the conference.

**IX. Good of the Order** – James Baisden in Nikiski reported Chris Mokracek and CES are definitely putting on a good conference with all the Chiefs they are bringing up. Give us a call (776-6401); or send us an email (jbaisden@borough.kenai.ak.us) if you want to come. Don't let the registration fee get in your way. We want to get as many people here as possible.

**Provident Company** – Doug Schrage, Jeff Tucker and Warren Cummings met with Provident Company, which promotes various insurance products pertinent to fire fighter and rescue organizations – we will continue to meet with them and hopefully will eventually be able to offer something to the fire departments.

**X. Adjournment** – Meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m. Minutes taken by Susan Sanborn

Next teleconference will be September 3, 2009 – 9:00 a.m.