



Southeastern Association of Fire Chiefs

Office of the Executive Director

Patsy W. Cimini

1101 Marley Street
Conway, South Carolina 29527

Office: 843-397-9146 Fax: 843-397-9146 Cell: 843-222-7913

Conference Call April 7, 2009

In attendance

Chief David Taylor, President
Chief Norman Knight, 1st Vice President
Chief Kurt Larson, 2nd Vice President
Chief Jack McElfish, International Director
Chief Paul Syx, AL State Director
Chief Kenneth Hannon, GA State Director
Chief Wallace Possich, KY State Director
Chief Jeff Homan, MS State Director
Chief Eddie Phillips, TN State Director
Chief Kevin Taylor, WV State Director
Chief Bob Pudney, FL State Director
Pat Cimini, Executive Director

Not in attendance

Chief Carl Smith, Immediate Past President
Chief Johnny Teeters, NC State Director
Chief Joey Tanner, SC State Director
Chief Richard Burch, VA State Director
Dr. Ragan Vandegriff, Chaplain

Guests:

Chief Dan Cimini, Myrtle Beach Fire Department
Chief Doug Cline, High Point Fire Department

Call to order/welcome

President Taylor called the meeting to order at 11:04 am.

New Executive Director

President Taylor introduced and welcomed Pat Cimini as the new ED. President Taylor, Chief Knight and Chief Pudney went through an extensive search to come to the decision Directors expressed their appreciation.

Conference update

Chief Knight – as of my last email update, there is \$30,875.00 committed with \$11,825.00 in hand. Committed booths 28, apparatus 7 and sponsors 9. Pending booths 10, apparatus 1 and sponsors 2. Thanks to Chief Cimini for his efforts to make this a success. Now we need to bring in registrants.

Chief Cimini – correction to last email update, as of 10:30 Tuesday, we have received another \$2,500.00, 3 committed sponsors and 1 apparatus bringing the numbers to \$33,375.00, committed booths 31 and committed apparatus 8. I received 5 calls on Monday and 2 today expressing interest. We still have Supthen (Platinum sponsor) that should be coming in soon. I am meeting with Convention Makers to rearrange the hall so we will be able to accommodate everyone. Anyone interested in a booth should call my cell (843)450-7155.

Cimini continued

The cash that has been received pays for the hall and Convention Makers set up. I believe that our original expectations will be exceeded. I have a concern about the hotel registration. They have given us a confirmation number that needs to be used when rooms are booked. The number needs to be on the conference registration form so that the hotel can track all bookings related to our conference. We will receive a complimentary room for every 50 rooms booked under the confirmation number.

Chief Taylor – concerns about the website information for the brochure addressed to Chief Larson. We are waiting for Hannah to resolve problems. Problems should be corrected soon.

Program update

Chief Doug Cline – all conference needs for speakers has been passed to Pat. We have been in communication to ensure progress. Any participants flying should contact Pat for pickup at the airport. Transportation will be provided by the Myrtle Beach Fire Dept. At the Congressional dinner I looked at the program for the Eastern conference. In my opinion our program far exceeds theirs. The education committee has done a good job with the program. Now we need to get people to attend. I have been distributing brochures during my speaking engagements approximately 2000 in WV, 1500 in NC and 600 in SC. Brochure needs to be corrected with the most up to date information as soon as possible.

President Taylor – each Board member needs to use their email groups and contacts to promote the conference. Also, please contact Pat with your travel plans so that your arrangements can be made.

Chief Knight – the program book is being put together and we need you to sponsor it by participating. Each State Director should try to get at least one ad for the program. Pat will design an ad form for the program book and send it to everyone. Our goal for this conference is to make money by keeping expenses down but still put on a quality show. We need to set guidelines for future conferences.

Treasurer's report

Chief Larson - \$56,000.00 in checking account with outstanding checks to the IAFC totaling \$39,000.00.

Roundtable

Chief Phillips – in order for Directors to run for office a letter of endorsement from their State Chief is required. Pat please email your contact information to everyone.

Chief McElfish – I appreciate the opportunity to attend and represent us in Washington. It was a great congressional caucus, one of the largest turnouts I have ever seen. The Vice President, some Congress and some Senators were present. We have an International Board call on Thursday I will be sending out information. The IAFC has purchased Jack Snook's company ESCI and they will have an office in NC. Bill Metcalf will be at the Myrtle Beach Conference as IAFC rep. Pat please send out contact information for yourself and Dan.

Chief Homan – we have had several tornados and a couple of line of duty deaths in the last several weeks. Our volunteer communities had a very good legislative session. The Fire Safe Cigarette bill was signed by the Governor. We were able to get the Truss Identification bill and the Mandatory Burn Reporting bill on the Governor's desk awaiting signature. We have gotten 3 out of 4 bills to the Governor's desk. It has been a great year for the fire service in Mississippi to make some changes. I was able to attend the Congressional Fire Service Institute and we upped our participants by two more members. We are slowly but surely making a difference.

Chief Hannon – We are trying to keep our heads above water Georgia has had a lot of rain. Our legislative session went well but it was a tight year. We were able to progress with the state for some training classes. The spring conference went real good it was the largest in several years. Everything is going good in Georgia.

Chief K. Taylor – I can't say enough about Chief Cline getting the word out in WV about the conference. I have been in contact with the Chief's Association, the Training Academy and the State Fire Marshall's office in an attempt to get participation for the conference. Our legislative session is currently in session and will end Saturday. We are trying to follow the lead of other states as far as the Fire Safe Cigarette bill. Last year was our first attempt I feel real good about it this time. I have been in discussion with Chief Knight and he has agreed to come to WV to attend our Professional Fire Chief's meeting in May and we are looking forward to that.

Chief Syx – we had a large group with us in Washington last week. We took along 12 chiefs, members of our Volunteer Firefighters Association and the Alabama Firefighters Association. We had good dialog with all of our representatives.

Chief Possich – legislative session ended last week and our Novelty Lighter bill which we had high hopes for made it through all the committees but died on the Senate floor. We were successful on the Training Center overtime issue we got it passed and corrected the way we wanted it. It is no longer considered a wage but a supplement and therefore state wide it will save the cities and counties about 11 million a year in unnecessary overtime. Please change my email address from wpossich@Frankfort-ky.gov to wpossich@Frankfort.ky.gov.

President Taylor – I don't have anything because the ED process has taken a lot of our time it is about all we have done for the last couple of weeks.

Pat Cimini – please send in requests for accommodations for June as soon as possible so that I will be able to handle your reservations.

President's comments

Pat put together a communication to Board members about program book and ad costs. Also, send out the brochure to all Directors.

Call adjourned by President Taylor at 11:55

