



**Great Lakes Division - IAFC**  
**Minutes**  
**Board of Directors Meeting in Atlanta, GA**  
**August 26, 2015**  
**8:30AM**

Present: Jack Baus, Danny Sink, Nyle Zikmund, Timm Schabbel, Mark Rohlfing, George Esbensen, Dave Peterson, Chip Welch, Jeff Howell, Scott Skeldon, & Linda Stone.

1. Call to Order - President Jack Baus started today's meeting at 8:42AM.
2. Additions, changes, etc. – Today's agenda accepted.
3. Introduction of new members - Round table introductions followed.
4. Previous meeting minutes from the August 4, 2015 conference call - approved by Skeldon & supported by Esbensen.
5. Executive Director Report – Linda reported on the following:
  - a. Linda sent the financial report electronically to the Board members a few days ago. Motion made by Esbensen to accept the financial report. Peterson seconded. Motion carried.
  - b. The investment portfolio has been setup. \$30,000 initial investment with Raymond James Investments.
  - c. Discussion on long-term plans with Avon Protection & their 5-year, \$45K contract for Sole Sponsorship of the GLD Division Luncheon.
  - d. Linda attended the Division Secretaries meeting yesterday afternoon, and provided a brief report. Most important to note – The IAFC Executive Board has asked Mark Light to figure out the future plan for the Association and its divisions, and to bring back his recommendations & research to the Board. Nyle provided insight on the actual Board Meeting when this discussion occurred. More to come by March 2016.
  - e. Conference Partnerships – Discussion followed on previous \$1,000 sponsorship support with a few Michigan events:
    - i. Northern Mich Fire Chiefs – July 13-14, 2016 in Petoskey, MI (Confirmed presenters include Tim Sendelbach, Charlie Dickinson, Nick Brunacini, Ian & Karen Gregory, & David Page. Optional charity golf outing (WMAFC Pennies from Heaven) on Friday, July 15<sup>th</sup>.
    - ii. RAFT Leadership Conference April 5, 2016 – confirmed presenters include Haydn Shaw, Jim Schafer & Chuck Burkell.
    - iii. SE Mich Fire Chiefs Midwest Fire Rescue Expo –April 6, 2016 in Novi, Michigan. 135+ vendors.

Linda requested \$5,000 to increase visibility the above mentioned Conferences being held in Michigan. Rohlring made the motion to invest \$5,000 into the above mentioned Conferences (at Linda's discretion) being held in Michigan, due to Linda's affiliation with this State. Anything above & beyond the investment will be given back to GLD. Seconded by Sink. Motion carried unanimously.

- iv. Linda will draft a proposal with recommendations & expected guidelines when supporting & partnering other State Associations.
  - v. CFSI 2016 – Linda will move forward with scheduling another Legislative Crash Course in partnership with the IAFC, in Washington, DC.
6. International Director Report – Nyle Zikmund attended the Board Meeting. Linda will forward all recent meeting minutes and related presentations to the Board members. Nyle touched base on a few of the highlights, but will forward the minutes ASAP.
- a. NFORS – collects operational data on fire scenes, to be used as a national collection database.
  - b. Met new executive director of Emergency Services Consulting International (Sheldon Gilbert & Jack Snook).
  - c. AT&T and AMR - new partners
  - d. Discussion on membership & fiscal reports were reported.
  - e. Corporate program (\$50K sponsorship) has expanded, and much discussion followed amongst our Board.
  - f. ISO updates
  - g. Division dues & new EFO section. Discussion followed on the current membership counts within the sections.
  - h. Legislative issues
  - i. Nyle posed the question of should we offer to work closer with the IAFC to focus on membership. Discussion followed on GLD's visibility and the immediate relationship between GLD's marketing attempts, and visibility at State conventions.
7. President Report- President Jack Baus reported on the following:
- a. Tonight's Hospitality Suite conflicts with the IAFC Welcome Reception. Nyle provided insight on the IAFC's Board meeting and their discussion of conflicting events. Discussion followed.
  - b. This past year with Linda's help, has been very good.
8. Vice President Report – Danny Sink reported on the following:
- a. Recent internal audit, with Sink, Rohlring & Schabbel – all questions were answered in a timely fashion, and the audit went smooth.
9. Fire Rescue GPO Report – Jeff Howell provided some updates
- a. New vendors
  - b. New marketing outreach, looking to attend the State conferences.
  - c. This group is meeting tomorrow in Atlanta, so Jeff will forward the minutes ASAP.
  - d. Much discussion followed on the benefits of GPO, and some of the hurdles.
10. State Directors
- a. IL – Jeff Howell reported that the governor is pushing for pension reform. State chiefs association has a new executive director that is currently working on their foundation that

supports fire officer education. The Canadian National Railroad has an app for accessing transport information.

- b. OH – Scott Skeldon reported that the Board will attend a 2.5 day retreat (Oct 1<sup>st</sup>) for strategic planning purposes for the future, including new chiefs resources.
- c. MI – Dave Peterson reported that the State Fire Marshal’s contract has been extended by 90-days. He provided details on the current role of the FF Training Council, and scaling back of inspections. The EMS manager has resigned, which has caused some issues. MAFC conference is coming up in October. State executive director’s contract is expiring soon, so they may be looking at a change in the future.
- d. MN – George Esbensen reported on the legislative successes that have occurred in the past year. One of only four states to pass an aggressive flame-retardant ban. Passed Non-career firefighter survivor benefits, and increased pension funding. Discussion followed on the Builders and their lobbying capabilities. State Firefighters Memorial Sept 27<sup>th</sup>. Conference Oct 22-24 in Duluth. State Chiefs Association Officer Election coming up, as George is a nominee for president. George noted that this will be his last meeting as the rep on the GLD.
- e. WI – Mark Rohlfling reported on current legislative issues, such as novelty lighters and mini-maxi, Mobile Integrated health, and Rail companies. State fire chiefs conference is considering moving around the state, with decision to come soon. Mark provided information on different sections becoming involved with the State.
- f. IN – Timm reported that they just finished their conference last week, and was well attended. They also have successful sections. The first MAMA-C agreement recently passed. Danny Sink provided details on the legislative issues, such as defined contribution & benefit. He mentioned EMS tax proposal and the State fire academy system. Discussion followed on legislation that prohibits a career firefighter from serving on that same town’s council. Discussion followed on the dates of the State conference being so close to FRI.

## 11. Old Business

- a. Hospitality Room Arrangements
- b. Review membership meeting agenda

## 12. New Business

- a. Guest Presenters
  - i. Tommy Hicks & Denise Michaud IAFC – Chief of Programs & Technology – in-depth review of MyHelix.org. More to come.
  - ii. Terry Monroe IAFC – Membership update – Provided detailed information on membership trends, as well as resource site KnowledgeNet.
- b. Cancer Initiative Resolution – received by Eastern Division. The Board made a unanimous motion to draft a similar resolution. Jack will mention during tomorrow’s membership meeting.
- c. Columbia Southern University’s request for partnership – after much discussion, the Board made a unanimous decision to decline the offer to partner with CSU.
- d. Any items for tomorrow’s meeting –
- e. Consider new Marketing/Tag Line - Great Lakes...Making Waves
- f. International Director’s position on this Board – Scott Skeldon provided historical & by-law information.

g. Consortium of Fire Accreditation Managers – Timm Schabbel mentioned that possible partnership with connecting with this Association. After discussion, Timm will move forward with connecting with this group and exploring possibilities.

13. Good of the order – Next meeting (Aug 27<sup>th</sup> Division Luncheon)

14. Adjourn – 2:38PM. Unanimous Motion.