

**Metro Business Meeting Agenda
August 20, 2020, 1:30 p.m. (Eastern)**

Board Members in Attendance

John Lane, President
Don Lombardi, Vice President
Robert Rocha, Secretary
Loy Senter, Treasurer
Ernest Malone, Board Member
Denis Onieal, Senior Board Member
John Butler, Alternate Board Member
Mike Duyck, Immediate Past President
Ken LaSala, IAFC Liaison
Russ Sanders, Executive Secretary

Call to Order, Opening Remarks & Review Meeting Agenda

President Lane opened the meeting at 1:31 p.m. (Eastern). He commented upon the COVID-19 pandemic and the uniqueness of holding a virtual meeting of the Metro Chiefs membership.

Chief Lane asked for a motion to accept the meeting agenda.

A motion to accept the agenda was made by Board Member Ernest Malone and seconded by Treasurer Senter. It was accepted unanimously.

Guests Presentations

FirstNet

Chief Richard Carrizzo, IAFC 1st Vice President and Board Member of the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) and Mike Worrell, Director of Field Operations, gave a short update on FirstNet's progress:

- Robert Osterthaler has been appointed the new FirstNet Board Chair.
- FirstNet played an important role in helping communities respond to COVID-19.
 - FirstNet has been used to allow 9-1-1 dispatchers to work remotely and to support rural hospital centers.
- It is important that public safety remain engaged in FirstNet's development.
- FirstNet is reinvesting in the system to meet public safety's needs.

- Metro chiefs are encouraged to engage in the FirstNet Roadmap consultations to make sure that FirstNet makes the necessary investments in the network.

IAFC Update

Chief Rob Brown, the IAFC Interim Executive Director, thanked the Metro Chiefs for their participation in the “virtual FRI.” He reported that the IAFC is making significant strides to address financial issues. Also, the IAFC is setting up new programs to meet the needs of IAFC members facing the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting economic slowdown.

IAFC President’s Reflections

Chief Gary Ludwig, IAFC President and Chairman of the Board, thanked the Metro Chiefs for their support and the opportunity to serve. He recognized Chief Malone for his leadership on the IAFC Board of Directors. He also recognized Sr. Board Member Onieal and Past President Duyck for their work on the IAFC Economic and COVID-19 task forces, respectively. Chief Ludwig explained how the IAFC has become a clearinghouse for data and information during the COVID-19 pandemic. He also recognized Chief Brown’s work to resolve the IAFC’s financial issues.

President Lane thanked Chief Ludwig for taking on issues head-on. He said that Chief Ludwig has been an effective voice politically. President Lane also thanked Chief Ludwig for working to ensure that firefighters are considered first for vaccines.

Business Meeting

President’s Report

President Lane reported that the overarching focus has been the challenges due to COVID-19 pandemic. Metro chiefs are focused on keeping staff safe and dealing with an increase in call volume. He said that he is concerned about the impact on first responders on the front line. He discussed the fatalities in Metro departments due to COVID-19 and expressed his heartfelt condolences to those communities.

President Lane reported that there was not much travel this year due to COVID-19 and asked Executive Secretary Sanders to update the membership on some programs.

Vice President's Report

Vice President Lombardi reported on the Fire Chief of the Year and Lifetime Achievement Awards. A digital vote was held in June and the following chiefs were honored:

- Metro Fire Chief of the Year Award – Chief Charles Hood
- Metro Lifetime Achievement Award – Chief (Dr.) Denis Onieal

The award recipients have received their awards; however, along with the 2021 award recipients, Chiefs Hood and Onieal will also be recognized at the 2021 Annual Conference in Pittsburgh.

Vice President Lombardi is reviewing the educational plan for the 2021 conference. Metro Chiefs are encouraged to contact Chief Lombardi if they are interested in presenting.

Vice President Lombardi also updated the membership about Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) issues. The IAFC set up a US&R committee chaired by Chief Dave Downey. It is working on cataloging resources for federal, state, and local urban search and rescue teams. The committee is developing a more comprehensive website on the IAFC webpage. It also is considering a US&R conference in late 2021 in coordination with State Urban Search and Rescue (SUSAR) organization.

Secretary's Report

Secretary Rocha reported that the Metro Chiefs have 134 Metro members and 144 Senior Metro members. This a total of 278 members of the Metro Section.

He reported that the Metro Chiefs have recruited 8 fire chiefs from Mexico. This is after Secretary Rocha and other board members attended the Mexico Fire Chiefs conference last year. He would like to discuss future projects with Mexico at a later Metro Chiefs meeting.

Since the January Board meeting, the following chiefs joined the Metro Chiefs (16 new members):

- Jim Davis, Fort Worth (TX) Fire Department
- Xavier Espino, Long Beach Fire Department
- Tiffany Green, Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department
- Wim Van Zele, Fire Brigade BWZG Ghent
- Arturo Ramirez Arellano, Culiacan
- Jose Manuel Garcia Chavez, Bomberos Municipales Morelia
- Daniel Curia, Charleston (SC) Fire Department

- John Steinbeck, Clark County Fire Department
- Alan Cominsky, Miami-Dade Fire-Rescue
- Sergio Ramirez Lopez, Protección Civil y Bomberos Zapopan
- John DiBacco, Norfolk Fire-Rescue Department
- William “Trey” Mayo, Winston-Salem Fire Department
- Michael Baker, Tulsa Fire Department
- Robert Weech, Polk County Fire-Rescue
- Paul Dow, Albuquerque Fire Rescue
- Joe Zatylny, Edmonton Fire Rescue Services
- Sal Scarpa, Columbus Fire & Emergency Services

The following 11 chiefs were invited:

- Scott Cassin, Pasco County Fire & Rescue
- Landry Merkison, Clayton County Fire & Emergency Services
- Marvin Riggins, Macon-Bibb County Fire Department
- Michael Callahan, Kansas City Kansas Fire Department
- William Anuszewski, Howard County Department of Fire and Rescue Services
- David Witt, Kern County Fire Rescue
- Elizabeth “Tammy” Snow, Wichita Fire-Rescue
- Robert Zoldos II, Durham Fire Department
- William Swann, Nashville Fire Department
- Ed Elliott, Chesapeake Fire Department
- Herb Griffin, Raleigh Fire Department
- Keith Powers, Jacksonville Fire/Rescue Department
- Guillermo Heard, Laredo Fire Department

As part of his recruitment campaign, Secretary Rocha is reaching out to county departments. Sr. Board Member Onieal has offered to help with recruitment.

Treasurer’s Report

Treasurer Senter reported that **as of July 31, the Metro Chiefs have \$74,375 in revenue and expenses of \$35,421 for a change in net assets of \$38,954. With a carryover balance of \$712,920, the Metro Chiefs have a current balance of \$751,874.**

A digital vote was held in June and the following charitable donations were approved by the membership:

- Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation – \$3,500
- Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition – \$2,000

- National Fallen Firefighters Foundation – \$5,000

Treasurer Senter reported that he represents the Metro Chiefs on the group planning the NFPA Fire Service Needs Assessment. The fifth survey will come out later this year. In the past, 19.4% of fire departments only participated. The data in this report is important, so he encouraged all Metro departments to contribute information to the survey,

Board & Staff Reports

Board (Metro/IAFC) Member's Report

Board Member Malone reported on the IAFC's Board's efforts to improve the IAFC's finances and commit the association become member focused. He also thanked Chief Ludwig for his leadership of the IAFC.

Board Member Malone reported that he was involved in the IAFC Diversity Executive Leadership Program (iDELP) and the Human Relations Committee. He attended the Urban Fire Forum last year. He also attended the IAFC Board meetings in December and March as well as the IAFC Board calls, which take place every two weeks. In addition, he attended the Metro Chiefs' Board's virtual meeting with the IAFF membership in April.

Senior Board Member's Report

Sr. Board Member Onieal thanked the membership of the Metro Chiefs for the Lifetime Achievement Award. He said that he will help Secretary Rocha with membership recruitment. He also will call Metro Chiefs to encourage them to attend the conference in Pittsburgh.

Sr. Board Member Onieal reported on the IAFC Economic Committee's work, which included distributing information on federal aid programs. He is concerned about the long-term effects of economic collapse, especially the decline in commercial real estate property taxes and income taxes. The Metro Chiefs and IAFC will need to provide resources to help fire departments weather the storm.

Alternate Board Member's Report

Alt. Board Member Butler said that he had no new activity to report.

Immediate Past President's Report

Past President Duyck announced the Metro Executive Board Election Results. A digital vote (first time ever) was held in June and the following chiefs were elected:

- John Lane, President
- Don Lombardi, Vice President
- Robert Rocha, Secretary
- Loy Senter, Treasurer
- Ernest Malone, Board Member
- Denis Onieal, Senior Board Member
- John Butler, Alternate Board Member
- Mike Duyck, Immediate Past President.

Past President Duyck gave a big “Thank You” to Chiefs “Shorty” Bryson and Otto Drozd for their many years of service on the Board and a big “Welcome” to our two new Board Members Chiefs Butler and Onieal.

Past President Duyck also reported on his participation on the IAFC’s COVID-19 task force. He is joined by Sr. Member Onieal, Chief Ken Stuebing, and Dr. Lori Moore-Merrell. The task force has weekly teleconferences and provides resources to the IAFC’s website, which is a great resource for COVID-19 information.

On public safety communications issues, Past President Duyck reminded members that he serves on FirstNet’s Public Safety Advisory Committee. Commissioner Adam Thiel and Chief Bill Bamattre also serve on SAFECOM. He also is working with Commissioner Thiel and Chief Carrizzo on Next Generation 911 legislation. Metro chiefs are encouraged to consult Past President Duyck, Commissioner Thiel and Chief Bamattre with questions about public safety telecommunications issues.

Past President Duyck thanked the Metro Chiefs for the opportunity to be their president and looks forward to seeing everyone in Pittsburgh next year.

IAFC Liaison’s Report

Mr. LaSala updated the Metro Chiefs on federal legislation.

The CARES Act (P.L. 116-136) included \$100 million for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program to help fire departments pay for supplies for COVID-19 response. Fire departments also can be reimbursed for COVID-19 relief through the Disaster Relief Fund.

One major focus has been on retaining firefighter staffing during the crisis. For the Fiscal Year 2020, DHS announced that the SAFER grants will have a three-year period of performance and no local match requirement. The funds can be used to retain and re-hire firefighters. The FY 2020 SAFER application period is expected at the end of this year. The House also passed the Heroes Act (H.R. 6800), which would allocate \$500 million each to the AFG and SAFER

grant programs and allow SAFER funds to be used to retain and re-hire firefighters. The Senate has yet to consider the Heroes Act.

Executive Secretary's Report

Executive Secretary Sanders updated the Metro Chiefs on a couple of issues:

Urban Fire Forum LIVE!

As you know, due to the pandemic, we were forced to cancel both the 2020 Annual Metro Conference and the 2020 Urban Fire Forum (UFF). In order to continue the important work that we have been doing through the Metro/UFF, we will be presenting **Urban Fire Forum LIVE**, which will include a series of eight presentations. Some of the topics will introduce new initiatives, while others are updates on the work we have done over the past 12-18 months. Our goal is to deliver to you the latest information provided by the top experts on each topic. We want this to be quality time, so we are limiting each presentation to one hour or less (30-45 minutes for each presentation, followed by 15 minutes or less for Q&A).

On Thursday, August 27, 2020, at 1 p.m. Eastern, USFA Administrator Chief Keith Bryant and NFPA President and CEO Jim Pauley will open *UFF LIVE* with the latest information from the NFPA and USFA. Each following Thursday through October 8, another important topic will be presented and discussed. All presentations will begin at 1 p.m. Eastern.

You should have received an earlier invitation. If you did and accepted, you will have a Microsoft Teams link on your calendar for each presentation. You can access each presentation by clicking on the “**Join Microsoft Teams Meeting**” link included in this message below, and Executive Secretary Sanders also will be sending you a new invitation link a few days before each upcoming presentation.

[Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

These presentations, which will be co-hosted by Dr. Lori Moore-Merrell and Executive Secretary Sanders, are first and foremost for Metro Chief members; however, if you want to forward the link to key members of your staff or gather everyone together for a presentation, please feel free to do so.

We are excited to bring you **Urban Fire Forum LIVE**, and we sincerely hope that you will join us for each important presentation. All the best, and more to come.

Update on the Annual Conference

Pittsburgh was offered and accepted the opportunity to host the 2021 Metro Annual Conference. This would not have been possible without Directors Gina Sweat and Ned Pettus, Jr., agreeing to delay their events by one year. Therefore, Memphis will now host the 2022 Metro Annual Conference and Columbus will host the 2023 Metro Annual Conference. Thanks to all involved for making the adjustments necessary to ensure that Pittsburgh, who had invested a huge amount of time, energy, and resources in planning the 2020 Annual Conference, had the opportunity to host in 2021.

Executive Secretary Sanders also reported that he is a member of the National Alliance for Suicide Prevention COVID-19 Steering Committee. They are working on a legislative proposal for Congress to help fire departments with mental wellness issues.

Executive Secretary Sanders also said that he appreciated getting timely responses from the Metro Chiefs membership for information requests. The Metro Chiefs requesting information always appreciate the quick and helpful response that they get.

Old Business

President Lane asked if there was any old business to come before the membership. There was none.

New Business

President Lane asked if there was any old business to come before the membership. There was none.

Adjourn

President Lane asked for a motion to adjourn.

A motion to adjourn was made by Vice President Lombardi and seconded by Past President Duyck. It was accepted unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m. (Eastern).