

**Metro Chiefs Winter Executive Board Meeting
January 12, 2021; 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (Eastern)**

Members in Attendance

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

Guests/Presenters

Chief Richard Carrizzo, IAFC President and Chair of the Board
Assistant Chief Brian Kokkila, 2021 Pittsburgh Metro Conference Coordinator
Dr. Lori Moore-Merrell, IPSDI President & CEO
Chief Gary McCarraher, FirstNet

Business Meeting

Call to Order, Opening Remarks & Review Meeting Agenda

President Lane called the meeting to order at 10:01 am.

He started the meeting by recognizing the various challenges facing Metro fire departments, including climate change; taxed resources due to the pandemic; and civil unrest. He said that the Metro Chiefs will provide to organizations affected by these challenges. He also recognized the effects of the January 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol and asked for a moment of silence to recognize the fallen U.S. Capitol Police officer and others that averted greater tragedy. He said that he would like to start the year with a message of hope and regretted opening the meeting on a somber note.

Introduction of Presenters

President Lane then recognized the guests at the meeting and asked them to give their presentations.

IAFC Update

Chief Richard Carrizzo, the IAFC President and Chairman of the Board, gave a brief update on the IAFC's finances and recovery plans during the COVID-19 pandemic. He asked for the Metro Chiefs' input on how the IAFC should invest unexpected revenue for 2021. The IAFC is focused on its three core missions: education, advocacy, and membership representation. The Metro Chiefs have been asked to supply inputs for the IAFC Board to use to develop a strategic plan in the spring.

FirstNet Update

Chief Gary McCarraher, the FirstNet Senior Public Safety Advisor, updated the Metro Board about FirstNet's rollout. He reported that FirstNet is updating its roadmap and is scheduled to make \$18 billion in investments and enhancements to the network. FirstNet also is updating its core for the development of a 5G network. He also discussed FirstNet's role in the COVID-19 response and updated the Metro Chiefs' Board about the recent incident in Nashville and its effects on the FirstNet network.

CDC/NIOSH/NFORS Project Update

Dr. Lori Moore-Merrell updated the Metro Chiefs' Board about new tools developed by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) and the National Personal Protective Technology Laboratory (NPPTL) to gather information about COVID-19 exposure and the burn rates of personal protective equipment through the National Fire Operations Reporting System (NFORS). The project currently has three fire departments onboard (Los Angeles County, Washington, D.C., and Indianapolis), and wants to add another eight departments. There will be an opportunity for all Metro departments to participate.

Dr. Moore-Merrell updated the Metro Chiefs' Board about the nominations of Alejandro Mayorkas to the U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security. The Metro Chiefs endorsed Mr. Mayorkas. His confirmation hearing is scheduled for January 19. She also asked that the Metro Chiefs endorse Boston Mayor Marty Walsh for Secretary of Labor.

2021 Metro Conference Update

Assistant Chief Brian Kokkila of the Pittsburgh Bureau of Fire updated the Metro Chiefs' Board about the planning for the 2021 Metro Chiefs Conference in Pittsburgh. He discussed the challenges of planning during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Metro Chiefs' Board will meet at a later date to discuss plans for the conference.

President's Report

President Lane gave a report of his activities in the past six months, including his participation in the virtual Urban Fire Forum. He also recognized Alternate Board Member Butler's intent to run for 2nd Vice President of the IAFC.

President Lane also discussed the proposed memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the Metro Chiefs and the Federation of European Fire Officers (FEU). He said that the MOU included standard language that is identical to other Metro Chiefs MOUs. The MOU recognizes the common mission between the Metro Chiefs and the FEU. The president of the FEU, Chief Stephan Wevers, is also a member of the Metro Chiefs. Secretary Rocha recognized this MOU as a good opportunity to recruit Metro Chiefs' members in Europe.

Vice President's Report

Vice President Lombardi gave an update of the education programming for the 2021 Metro Chiefs conference. It will be focused on three elements: COVID-19 response; Economic Effects of the Pandemic; and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. He also

reported on the discussion between Metro Chiefs Board members and DHS Secretary-Designate Mayorkas. He said that Mr. Mayorkas wanted to be an advocate for the fire and emergency service, and he was glad that the Metro Chiefs endorsed him. He also recommended that Metro Chiefs follow discussions about limiting ground ambulance transport billing and how that would affect fire department budgets.

Secretary's Report – Chief Rocha

Secretary Rocha reported that the Metro Chiefs had done good work in the past year recruiting members. He thanks Dr. Onieal and Executive Secretary Sanders for their help in recruiting members. The Metro Chiefs have 292 members, of which 140 are Metro Chiefs and 152* are Senior Metro members.

Since the last Metro Board meeting, we have added 17 Metro members and four* senior members.

The Metro members are:

Scott Cassin	Pasco County (FL) Fire & Rescue
William Anuszewski	Howard County (MD) Fire
Elizabeth "Tammy" Snow	Wichita Fire-Rescue (KS)
Ed Elliott	Chesapeake Fire Department (VA)
Herb Griffin	City of Raleigh Fire Department
Sal Scarpa	Columbus (GA) Fire
Keith Powers	Jacksonville (FL) Fire/Rescue
Guillermo Heard	Laredo (TX) Fire Department
Sara Boone	Portland (OR) Fire & Rescue
Greg Leach	Queensland Fire & Emergency
Brian McDermott	Paterson Fire Department
Butch Inks	St. Paul Fire Department
Jeremy Lami	Mobile (AL) Fire-Rescue
Richard Liebmann	Montreal Fire Department
William Johnson	Cobb County Fire
Jason Wells	Lexington (KY) Fire Department
John Donnelly	Washington DC Fire and EMS

The Senior members are Roy Wilsher, Bernie Kanger and Bob Khan.

*Invoices for Senior members Kristin Chilton, Tim Beckett and Bruno Lachance are being processed.

Secretary Rocha also outlined the procedures for Metro Award nominations. As per policy, the Metro Secretary is the Awards Chair. The Chair will work with the Executive Secretary to solicit nominations from all members for the Metro Fire Chief of the Year (FCY) Award and the Metro Lifetime Achievement (LTA) Award. The first notice was sent to the membership on December 6 and nominations close on January 15. Finally, voting must close at least 20 days before the Pittsburgh conference in order to have time to engrave the awards.

To date, there are three nominees for FCY: Ernest Malone (nominated by Chief Shorty Bryson and Dr. Onieal); Mary Cameli (nominated by Chiefs Dennis Compton and Mary Beth Michos); and John Butler (nominated by Chief Joanne Rund). I have one nominee for LTA, Chief Mike Duyck, (nominated by Dr. Onieal).

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Senter reported that, as of the end of 2020, the Metro Chiefs have \$83,500 in revenue and expenses of \$41,821 for a change in net assets of \$41,679. With a carryover balance of \$773,202, the Metro Chiefs have a current balance of \$814,881.

Board & Staff Reports

IAFC Board Representative and Metro Board Member's Report – Chief Malone

Board Member Malone reported that the IAFC Board is meeting twice a month. They are identifying why a fire chief would want to join the IAFC. In addition, the IAFC Board is reviewing processes and finances at the IAFC. An outside firm was brought in to review the IAFC's business and investment practices.

Senior Board Member's Report

Senior Board Member Onieal reported that he worked on member recruitment with Secretary Rocha. Dr. Onieal also is working on pamphlets to help recruit attendees for the Metro Chiefs conference.

Immediate Past President's Report

Past President Duyck reported on Metro Chiefs Board elections and the process for future conference hosts. On December 10, Executive Secretary Sanders sent a message to all members advising of the procedures for nominations to host the 2024 annual conference. To date, he has received one bid from Tulsa. Bids for the host department are open until the COB on the first business meeting.

As per Section 7 of our bylaws: Members wishing to be placed in nomination for office shall submit their name to the President no sooner than January 30 of the election year, and no later than close of business on the first day of the annual conference. On January 30, Executive Secretary Sanders will send a reminder to all members that nominations are now open.

Past President Duyck also reported on his participation on the IAFC's COVID-19 task force. The task force meets weekly and focuses on the effort to try to speed up vaccines.

Past President Duyck also discussed legislation to promote Next Generation 911 (NG 911) deployment. The upgrade to NG 911 will be a significant expenditure for organizations within United States. The Metro Chiefs are working with the IAFC and other public safety organizations to attach legislation to stimulus bill. Commissioner Adam Thiel also is on this working group. We need to push out the NG 911 alliance's website to the Metro membership.

Alternate Board Member's Report

Alternate Board Member Butler announced his candidacy for IAFC 2nd Vice President. He will be focused on education and diversity, equity, and inclusion issues. Alternate Board Member Butler also reported that he updated the IAFC Board about the IAFC Diversity Equity Leadership Program (iDELP) and got their commitment to support it. He also discussed issues relating to the recent civil unrest and its effects on firefighter safety.

Alternate Board Member Butler moved to discuss Metro Chiefs' donations.

Request for Funding

Executive Secretary Sanders reported that, in compliance with our policy, he received requests for financial support from three organizations. All submittals are in compliance with the criteria outlined in our policy.

Vice President Lombardi made a motion to approve a donation of \$2,000 for the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition. It was seconded by Secretary Rocha and unanimously approved.

Secretary Rocha made a motion to approve a donation of \$5,000 for the National Fallen Firefighter Foundation. It was seconded by President Lane and unanimously approved.

President Lane made a motion to approve a donation of \$3,500 for the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation. It was seconded by Past President Duyck and unanimously approved.

IAFC Liaison's Report

Mr. LaSala updated the Metro Chiefs Board about legislative accomplishments. In December, Congress passed -- and President Trump signed -- P.L. 116-260. This legislation repealed the requirement that the Federal Communications Commission auction public safety spectrum in the T-Band. It also included funding for the U.S. Fire Administration (\$49.269 million) and Assistance to Firefighters Grant program (\$360 million) and SAFER grant program (\$360 million).

Executive Secretary's Report

Executive Secretary Sanders announced his intention to retire on December 31. The plan is to hire his replacement in June and work with the new person until the end of the year. This position will be dedicated to management of the Metro Chiefs.

Old Business

President Lane called for old business. Chief Duyck asked about the motion made at the Edmonton conference (2019) about the Metro Chiefs ethics policy. The Metro Chiefs Board reported last year that it would refer ethics complaints to the IAFC to address.

New Business

President Lane announced that the next Metro Board meeting will be on February 5 to discuss the 2021 Metro Conference. He called for other new business, but there was none.

Adjourn

President Lane made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Past President Duyck and unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.