

WISCONSIN FIRE INSPECTORS ASSOCIATION

QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING

Monday 18, May 2009

The Plaza Hotel & Suites, Wausau, WI

Call to Order at 1007 hours

Roll Call

President	Ron Omernick	present
1 st Vice President	Sue Phillips	present
2 nd Vice President	Tom Clark	excused
Exec. Sec. Treasurer	Laurie Frey	present
Recording Secretary	Kevin T. Erdmann	present
Past President	Tod Doebler	present
Parliamentarian	Jeff Pollard	present
Area 1	Vacant	
Area 2	Scott R. Wagner	present
Area 3	Vacant	
Area 4	John Niederer	absent
Area 5	Gordy Jepsen	present
Area 6	Tom Wendt	present
Area 7	Joe Gabe	present
Area 8	Bill Becker	absent
Area 9	Dale Garski	present
Area 10	Tom Waydick	absent
Area 11	Vacant	
Area 12	Josef Eklund	present
Area 13	Dave Krupich	excused
Area 14	Vacant	
Area 15	Arthur Gil de Lamadrid	absent
Area 16	Dave Neihaus	absent
Dept. of Commerce	Joe Hertel	present
Guests: Matt Mertens1033		

President Ron Omernick read the updates from Tom Clark from the Fire/EMS coalition.

Updates from the 2nd Vice President, Tom Clark

Fire/EMS Coalition meeting held April 9, 2009 in Madison
We achieved a big victory with the Coalition. The members of the Coalition voted to allow the Inspector's to form a sub-committee concerning residential sprinklers. The backing of this legislative coalition is important to achieving our goal of fire sprinklers in the home and preventing needless deaths. As you may be aware, the home builders associations in many states, 14 so far, have been working on laws to prevent home sprinklers being mandatory, basically overturning the ICC vote held last Fall at the state level. One of our goals will be to overturn a 1978 law which prevents a local community to require residential sprinklers for single family homes. Another goal will be to educate the public and (unfortunately) fire fighters in the state of the safety and benefits of residential fire sprinklers.

Greg Hanchar is no longer employed by the Wisconsin Technical College system. Mr. Hanchar could have been compared to Dan Menigan, for those who remember Dan, both difficult people to deal with at the state level. The Coalition feels that the new Education Director will lead the Technical College system in a better direction and look forward to improvements in the Fire Service and Training programs.

We all know how the economy is doing, of course this affects the State budgets. Currently the State wants to increase the Technical School budgets by 61%, but this increase in money would come out of some of the 2% dues from the insurance companies. Mixed feelings on this, obviously we want to support fire/EMS training ect., but this will affect our own communities. Coalition is working on a compromise of lowering the 61%. Another important State budget proposal is to take 1% of the 2% dues to balance the budget. Example: your community receives \$100,000 from 2% dues, 1% or \$1,000, would be taken and used to balance the State budget. Another proposal is to cut Shared Revenue by 1% to communities. You can see the impacts on your fire department and communities with the upcoming budget.

State wide radio system is still in progress. Wisconsin will be using the State Patrol repeaters instead of building a completely separate

system. This will save millions of dollars compared to surrounding States, which did not do this.

Bylaw and SOG Committee meeting held April 22, 2009 in Pleasant Prairie

Jeff Pollard and I met to discuss and act on the changes that were directed by the President and Board. Added a term for the Executive Secretary/Treasurer and the Assistant position. Ethics Officer and job description added. Please have Mr. Pollard review the changes.

Area 4 training and meeting held on 4/22/09

Training provided by James Schfiliti from Fire Safety Consultants concerning Pallet Storage and Commodities. Held elections and John Niederer elected Chairman for Area 4, Thea Cox remaining as the Secretary/Treasurer. No nominations for the Vice President, this will remain open.

Commercial Building Code Fire Protection Committee meeting held April 21, 2009 in Madison

The 2009 International Building Code is still on track to be adopted by the State next around July 2010. Not much stood out in the changes for fire protection. Fire sprinklers requirements for educational occupancies are decreasing from 20,000 square feet to 12,000 square feet. A few definitions have been added in the sections where they belong to avoid skipping around the book. Some of the Wisconsinisms have been deleted.

President Ron Omernick went on with the president's report. He spoke on the WTCS meetings, two were held. WTCS wants more monies from the 2% dues. The motion was defeated. WTCS has been getting \$600,000. There was a question on a audit from WTCS as to where the money is used. The Fire Chief's association would like to start an academy; it would be similar to the National Fire Academy. It might be at Volk Field. Tod Doebler asked Joe Hertel if he has any insite to an audit. Joe stated that he is not sure how WTCS works. The Wisconsin Academy would mimic the National Academy. It would run both beginner and advanced classes and if needed it would travel around the state. They would contract teachers. Joe Hertel asked if anyone had checked into the Wisconsin State Patrol Academy.

Audits for the Association. Ron spoke on quarterly audits. Costs for the audits are very high. Laurie Frey, Sue Phillips, and Jeff Pollard assisted with the transition from Gil Hucek to Laurie. Ron thanked them for all they did during the transition. The Executive Board would like to see a professional audit and the same company do it that did it last time. The audit would cost about \$4000-\$6000. Dale Garski stated that their city auditor could do it for \$4000. Joe Hertel spoke on how the electrical inspectors do their books. They do internal audits. Sue Phillips stated that the audit should be done by the same company and that it is done before the convention. She said that we could see where the association is and that can present this at the annual business meeting at the conference. There was some further discussion on the audit. Laurie Frey stated that an audit is fine, however she said that she would like an accounting firm do the taxes.

Joe Ekland made a motion that the audit be done as soon as possible and by the same auditor.

Gordy Jepsen seconded.

Motion carried.

There was an amendment to the motion to use the same company to clear things up and change next year.

Joe Ekland moved and Scott Wegner seconded.

Motion carried.

Matt Mertens spoke on the scholarship committee. Laurie Frey stated that she has \$750 in the fund now. There were no line item deposits from the conference last year.

Matt would like to do one for Pub Ed and one for Code. It would cover the cost of the conference and hotel.

Ron Omernick questioned how much the scholarships would be.

There was discussion on the costs of the conference and room rates.

Gordy Jepsen made a motion for the board to earmark \$1000 for scholarships for the fall conference.

There was discussion on where the scholarship committee stands and what committee it is under. Tod Doebler questioned on the \$750 and if the additional \$1000 would be \$1750 or would the \$750 be for promotions for the scholarships. Sue Phillips stated that it would be about \$483 a person therefore \$1000 would cover two persons.

There was discussion on if we will have enough monies for the fall conference.

Dale Garski seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Ron Omernick stated that the scholarship committee will fall under the fall conference committee.

Matt Mertens spoke on the web site update. He passed around a mockup of what it might look like. Pricing for the new web site update would be

\$2000. \$1000 down and \$1000 when done, about 6 weeks to do. There was discussion on how it will work and who will be able to change it. The web master charges \$35 and hour for updates. Forms will be able to be filled out on the web site and forwarded to the correct persons.

The fees break down as follows \$115 for hosting, \$16.95 domain fee, \$35 hourly updates for a total of \$2000.

Pictures and videos would be able to be added to the web.

Last year the domain fee was \$142.80

There was discussion on the benefits of an updated web site.

Gordy Jepsen made a motion to pay \$2000 fee \$1000 to start, \$115 for host, \$16.95 domain and \$35 hour for web site. Dale Garski seconded.

Motion carried.

Jeff Pollard handed out the proposed by-law changes.

Summary of By-law changes – April 22, 2009

By-law and SOG Committee

Updated Table of Contents

References to Assistant Secretary / Treasurer

Article III Structure

- A. OFFICERS. There shall be a President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, and Executive Secretary / Treasurer, **Assistant Secretary / Treasurer**, Recording Secretary, and Past President throughout the calendar year. Each officer shall attain office and fulfill the duties as follows:

Article III Structure

- A. OFFICERS
 - 5. **ASSISTANT SECRETARY / TREASURER.** A regular member in good standing appointed to an indeterminate term limit by the President and confirmed by the Board of Directors. The Assistant Secretary / Treasurer shall:
 - a. **Act as an assistant and under the direction of the Executive Secretary / Treasurer in the completion of day-to-day activities and transactions in the support of the Association.**
 - b. **Shall serve as a backup to the Executive Secretary / Treasurer in case of absence or illness.**
 - c. **Able to move to the Executive Secretary / Treasurer position as directed or appointed by the President and confirmed by the Board of Directors**
 - d. **As Assistant Secretary / Treasurer, shall attend the Executive Board and Board of Director's meetings as a non-voting participant unless filling in for the Executive Secretary / Treasurer.**

- B. EXECUTIVE BOARD. The Association shall have an Executive Board whose members consist of the President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Executive Secretary / Treasurer, **Assistant Secretary / Treasurer**, and Past President. The Executive Board shall:
- C. BOARD OF DIRECTORS. The Association shall have a Board of Directors consisting of: The five (5) members of the Executive Board, the Area Chairs, **the assistant secretary / treasurer**, and the Parliamentarian. The Board of Directors shall:

Article V General Provisions

B. VACANCIES

5. **ASSISTANT SECRETARY / TREASURER - Shall be filled in accordance with Article III(A)(5)**

Adjusted referenced by-law citations due to the above addition

6. **RECORDING SECRETARY - Shall be filled in accordance with Article III (A)(6)**

And:

9. **IFMA CHAPTER PRESIDENT - Shall be filled in accordance with Article III (A)(8)**

D. MEETINGS

1. Executive Board Meeting – shall:
 - b. A quorum is necessary to conduct business and shall consist of at least three (3) members of the Executive Board present, **(not including the Assistant Secretary / Treasurer unless filling in for the Executive Secretary / Treasurer).**

References to Executive Secretary / Treasurer

Article III Structure

A. OFFICERS

4. **EXECUTIVE SECRETARY / TREASURER.** A regular member in good standing appointed to **a maximum four (4) year term limit** by the President and confirmed by the Board of Directors. The Executive Secretary / Treasurer shall:

References to Ethics Committee

Article III Structure

D. COMMITTEES

6. **ETHICS COMMITTEE.** A standing committee having responsibility for:
 - a. **Developing and maintaining a Code of Ethics for the Association.**
 - b. **Advising the President and Executive Board on matters concerning ethical conduct and behavior.**
 - c. **Overseeing and investigating any allegations of misconduct by Association members.**
 - d. **Consisting of at least two (2) members, one who shall be a member of the Board of Directors, appointed by the President, and who shall serve as**

the committee Chairperson, All others shall be regular members of the Association in good standing.

Jeff spoke on how the committee came up with the changes. He that spoke on article III Assistant Sec./Treas. It was mentioned it the last audit to come up with the new position. There was discussion on the articles and term limits. There was discussion of wording and changes and term limits. Sue Phillips would like added that the assistant also be the registration assistant at the conference. Jeff will take the changes back to the committee. There was discussion on check off lists for each position on the Executive Board.

Jeff then passed out the Ethics changes and additions. He spoke on how and where he took them from.

Tod Doebler spoke on the needs for a list of what the treasurer has that is association property and what needs to be turned over when a change occurs. Also a time frame for handing over the materials.

There was discussion on the storage of records, electronic and other means. Laurie spoke on what records need to be saved. She has already gone threw some of them. Where should they be stored was a question. What if they get flooded or something else. Laurie will talk to the auditors on what needs to be saved. Jeff spoke on some records that were held by persons that have passed away and the records were lost for ever.

Jeff Pollard spoke on the Ethics changes and misconduct procedures. He spoke on where they came from and the need for them. The audit stated that this needed to be addressed. Ron stated that the committee has put a lot of work on these changes.

Jeff spoke on some wording changes in the by-laws. Some are just type mistakes or the wrong word.

Break for lunch at 1156hrs

Reconvene at 1245hrs

Jeff Pollard spoke an additional SOG changes. The audits will be quarterly by the finance committee and a yearly by a professional. There was discussion on the changes. Jeff spoke on the code of conduct. Copies will be given to speakers and vendors.

Jeff spoke on corporate ethics. We will revisit the changes at the next board meeting.

Ron Omernick asked that the board keep a listing on what anyone had done during the year so it can be posted for the fall business meeting. Areas please list trainings, meetings and the number that attended. There is hope to put this on the new web site. Ron asked that the areas forward future meetings to him so that he can attend area meetings.

Ron spoke on the Congressional Fire Services Institute. Ron stated that each fire department should have a liaison for the legislation. Ron stated it was a very good trip and very informative. There will be an article in the next Fire Journal.

Fire and EMS Coalition. Ron stated that Tom Clark is doing a great job. Tom is looking for volunteers for this committee.

Ron Omernick brought up video taping at the conference. There is an issue with copyright. There was discussion on permission. Ron asked should we have them sign off on this. Is there anyone that would video tape the sessions. Matt Mertens stated that we should budget for the taping of the sessions. Statement was made that it should be a professional. Discussion on the videos. Jeff Pollard stated that if you are a member you should have a log in on the web. Tod Doebler mentioned on adding files and maybe not videos. The Yahoo group is already there and they can add almost anything. Sue Phillips stated she thinks that is unfair to those that attend the conference. There was discussion on attending the conference vs videos on the web. The subject was tabled until the next meeting.

Ron Omernick said that we need a yahoo guru. He mentioned Tod Doebler. Tod stated that he could help, however Molly from Falls River is the contact person.

Treasures report. Checking \$596.27, \$34,791.72. A copy of the ledger will be attached to the e-mail. I cannot attach it to the minutes.

2009 Conference update. Laurie Frey stated that 90% of the classes are set. Wednesday and Thursday will be a lunch and learn. Prices for the conference are up \$25. Vendors' night estimate on vendors and sponsors is good. Banquet night will have a Marti Gras theme; dinner will be a buffet with Cajun inspired food. There will be a mask contest. Fund raiser for the scholarship committee, each Area should bring a basket with a theme (movie night, fishing, dining out.) does not need to be Marti Gras theme. If you have any questions contact Laurie Frey. There will be an auction for the baskets. Committee is trying something new for this year. Maybe contact vendors in your area and see if they would like to donate a basket.

Conference costs for 2009

Member	Non-member
1-day \$110	1-day \$145 and will include a one year membership
3-day \$150	3-day \$185
4-day \$175	4-day \$210

Laurie asked if any fire department has a Pub Ed for best practices for Tuesday at the conference.

Sue Phillips stated that general sessions will be in the morning and breakout classes will be in the afternoon. Sue talked on what classes will be held. Watch for information soon. Tank program will be at the conference. Laurie asked if anyone knows a New Orleans type of band for the banquet.

Department of Commerce. Joe Hertel spoke on contractor licensing. Stated that Bob Dupont will be at the conference this year. There is a Fire prevention meeting tomorrow that he and Tod will be at. Question on the IRC and will it be adopted. The building inspectors have come out for the code. It is a matter of what the builders will do. Looking for doing a partial similar to the sprinkler code a give and take.

Membership Committee. Suggestions to have areas visit fire departments in their areas. There was discussion on handouts. There will be a table at the State Chief's convention in June 26th at the Dells. There was discussion on the table and help is needed. Sue Phillips has a questioner that will go to the Chief's e-mail tree.

Awards Committee. Nominations are needed for Chief and Inspector of the year.

There was discussion and questions on committees and joining them. Sue Phillips asked what are the committees and the responsibility of same. Jeff Pollard stated that it is in the by-laws. There was more discussion on committees and time spent and what a committee does. Sue thought that there should be outlines for the committees.

Finance Committee. Sue Phillips stated that there has been no formal audit yet. Sue stated that areas that make purchases the association is tax exempt. You will be reimbursed however not for tax. Sue also stated that receipts are needed for reimbursed. For mileage Laurie will use map quest. There was some discussion on past bills and things that need to be addressed.

Site Selection Committee. They are looking for 2013-2014. There was discussion on new sites. 2009-2010 Wausau, 2011-2012 Green Bay. Chula Vista in the Dells was mentioned. Wilderness also was mentioned. Stevens Point also was mentioned. Any suggestions contact the committee.

Fire Fighter Memorial. No action taken at this time. Steve Kobach was not at the meeting. The Board would still like to see the audit.

New Business. Matt Mertens spoke on a legislation liaison. There was discussion. Contact the Chief's association to have Dave Bloom represent the Association. Joe Hertel stated that if we have a lobbyist would change the income tax for the association. There would be additional tax reporting to do. There was discussion on what to and were to go with a lobbyist.

Sue Phillips stated that there is a need to change our financial institution. Can we make a change? Scott Wegner made a motion to change banks. Tom Wendt seconded. There was some discussion on what bank to change to. It was mentioned that the association should have a credit card. Motion carried.

Ron Omernick stated that the next board meeting will be August 31st 1000hrs and November 2nd at 1600hrs both in Wausau.

Past President Tod Doebler spoke on the NFPA conference in Chicago. Tod is our representative. Tod talked about sending another person. Ron is going on his own accord. The association is paying for Tod's room. Laurie Frey spoke on the last conference she attended in Boston. Ron Omernick spoke on the controversy about sending Ron to the Congressional Fire Services Institute. Ron stated that conferences are worth while to attend and it is what the attendee puts into it. There was discussion on the decisions the board makes. Joe Ekland stated that the board voted on this. The board makes decisions on how the association spends monies. Tod suggested we send a Pub-ED person. There was a question is there a Pub-ED person in mind. Scott Wegner made a motion to send someone to NFPA conference not to exceed \$2500. There was discussion on the motion and who to send. Joe Hertel spoke on how the electrical inspectors do their conventions. Laurie Frey was nominated to attend due to short notice. Dale Garski seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Around the Areas

Area 6 Tom Wendt stated last meeting was May 6th President Omernick attended. Next meeting is July 8th in Beaver Dam. They are checking into running a Fire Inspector class at Fox Valley.

Area 7 Joe Gabe stated their last meeting was 3 weeks ago President Omernick attended. They have an issue with a College in the Green Bay area with water supply questions.

The city on Manitowoc is having an issue with a property on the water front and is having legal issues.

Area 9 Dale Garski had a meeting last week and President Omernick attended.

Area 12 Joe Ekland stated a meeting tomorrow in Memomonee

Meeting Adjourned at 1518hrs

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin T. Erdmann
Recording Secretary