



**Wisconsin State Fire Chiefs Association
Annual Business Meeting
8:00-10:30am, Sunday, June 25, 2006
Regency Suites/KI Center, Green Bay, Wisconsin**

1.0 Call to Order: Bruce Fuerbringer, President called the meeting to order.

2.0 2006 Conference Evaluation: Bruce Fuerbringer presented the updated registration figures: registrants - 334-Registrations (315-2005); 110-Pre-conference Seminar Attendees (82-2005); 371-Friday Lunch (201-2005); 147-Friday Dinner Buffet (201-2005); 149-Saturday Lunch Buffet (not held in 2005); 371-Saturday Banquet (372-2005); Spouse Activities: 24-Beading Class, 49-Spouse Lunch, 14-Clay Polymers; __ Golf Outing (__ - 2005); 88-Vendors (92), 90-booths (99), 28-vehicles - 22-inside; 6 outside (2005 32 - 22-inside; 10-outside).

3.0 Approval of the Minutes of the June 24, 2005 and June 26, 2005 Business Meeting.

MOTION: It was moved by Gene Reece, Jr. (Appleton) and seconded by Pete Waldkirch (Newburg) to approve the minutes of the June 24, 2005 and June 26, 2005 Business Meetings.
Motion passed.

4.0 Business Manager Update: Jane Svinicki, CAE, reported on the activities of the business office since starting on February 14, 2006. She noted that the new membership directory was distributed at the conference. Future directories would offer expanded advertising opportunities. A redesigned web site will launch by the Fall of 2006. The new website will include a members only section and enhanced content. A proposal for a new quarterly publication has been presented to the Board, which will be discussed under new business.

The WSFCA Board of Directors is seeking new ways to partner with associate members. Some of the ideas proposed at the annual vendor meeting on Saturday morning were, magazine and directory advertising, website advertising, sponsorship of monthly email blasts, co-sponsorship of training opportunities and booth selection by vendors. These opportunities will be put into sponsorship packages for associate members to receive more recognition for support of the association.

5.0 Proposed By-Laws Changes: Tim Franz presented the by-laws changes for consideration. There was discussion on the change from one vote per member to one vote per department. Several members spoke from the body against the change. Larry Groud (Janesville) said it was a fairness issue and that every member should have a vote.

MOTION: It was moved by Gene Reece, Jr. (Appleton) and seconded by Bob Schaefer (Slinger) that the by-laws not be changed to one vote per department, therefore continuing the current standing of one vote per member. **Motion passed.**

There was discussion on allowing electronic voting by the membership and Board of Directors. Several members expressed concern that all members be allowed to vote, including those without access to email or computers. Jane Svinicki said that the state of Wisconsin corporate statutes required that all members be notified, including those without access to electronic means, when holding an electronic vote.

MOTION: It was moved by Larry Grorud (Janesville) and seconded by Jack Running (Township) that the remaining bylaws change be approved with the following addition the electronic meeting and voting requirements, “provided that all participants have access to the meeting and vote.”
Motion passed.

The Board of Directors was instructed to thoroughly review the entire By-laws after revisions to insure all of the changes at this Business meeting were incorporated.

6.0 New Business

6.1 Quarterly Magazine Proposal: Bruce Fuerbringer presented information on the quarterly magazine proposal which is endorsed by the Board of Directors.

Why is the Board Should Be Considering this Proposal.

- Long history with Dispatcher
- Have worked with Dispatcher to upgrade in recent years
- Appears to be some interest in continuing with the Dispatcher as the WSFCA “Official Publication”
- Recognizes stated concerns over advertising, etc.
- A successful history of doing things a specific way does not preclude the need to constantly seek to improve services and raise the professional image of the WSFCA.
- The Board recognizes that there is still may be a ‘nitch’ that the Dispatcher will fill, but does not feel that the Association should pay to fill a ‘nitch’.
- Financial Consideration: WSFCA currently budgets \$10,000 to pay for the Dispatcher.
- A magazine is projected to at minimum break even, and potentially generate revenue for the Association.
- It is a fiscally prudent proposal to bring to the body at a time when no one wants to see dues increases, while the work load of the Association continues to increase and services broadened.

Dispatcher Format: Communications from the WSFCA Executive Board, local news/incident articles, other articles as submitted, multiple organization information, advertisements, newspaper-grade format.

Magazine Format: Communications from WSFCA Executive Board, articles from various professional categories provided, local interest articles, advertisements, magazine-grade format, editorial/Letters from readers, training tool.

Examples of Article Categories: Feature articles on WSFCA supported efforts (Burn Camp, Great Lakes Division, FF Memorial); Professional Development, articles by NFA/State of Wisconsin Fire Service Instructors, leadership development; Volunteer Chief Corner, (legislative challenges, recruitment/retention, community involvement, response surveys); Career Chief Corner (legislative challenges, hiring processes, local ordinance ideas, outreach ideas, response surveys); In-common (fire prevention ideas, fund raising initiatives, celebrating success, sharing challenges; technology (manufacturer/vendor articles, industry concerns, product innovations, information services advancements, radio interoperability), Legal Corner, (litigations, grievance arbitrations, insurance questions); Firefighter Health & Safety, Safety Officer Corner, Training Officer Corner, Specialties Report (hazardous materials, dive rescue, confined space/collapse rescue, above ground rescue).

Member & Outside Experts: Many experts within our organization and outside experts willing to contribute (NFA, NFPA, Sprinkler Association, Vocational Colleges, Vendors, Physicians, Attorneys

Goal of the *Wisconsin Fire Chief* magazine:

- NOT to put Dispatcher out of business
- Members can still subscribe
- To improve professional image of our Association, comparable to what other State Chiefs Associations are doing
- Publish articles that are important and informative to the Fire Chief of the 2000's
- Reduce expenditures, fiscal responsibility
- Create a recruitment tool for members and vendors
- Publication specific to Wisconsin Fire Chiefs demonstrate quality improvement and importance of Wisconsin fire service

A Win-Win Opportunity

- Individual member support for Dispatcher
- Organizational financial benefit from *Wisconsin Fire Chief Magazine*
- Maintain local flavor for those that want it
- Increase professional image for WSFCA

If not now, when? With many new WSFCA initiatives the momentum is here.

MOTION: It was moved by Larry Grorud (Janesville) and seconded by Jack Baus (Menomonie) to move ahead with the *Wisconsin Fire Chief* magazine as the official publication of WSFCA. **Motion passed.**

There was a member request to recognize Bob Arndt for his many years of service. The Board will consider this request. Bob Arndt asked that any funds that would be used to recognize him be given to the Burn Camp.

6.2 Legislative Request: Dave Bloom reported that Senator Ron Brown was running for re-election and requested membership support because of Senator Browns long-time support of fire service.

MOTION: It was moved by Larry Grorud (Janesville) and seconded by Niles Weborg (Ephraim) to endorse Wisconsin State Senator Ron Brown for re-election. **Motion passed.**

6.3 Line of Duty Deaths: Niles Weborg (Ephraim) thanked WSFCA and Dave Bloom for their support of expanding the definition of line of duty deaths resulting from heart attacks.

7.0 IAFC Drawing: The IAFC drawing was won by Steve Anderson, Fire Chief, City of Pestigo.

8.0 Good of the Order: The following announcements were made.

8.1 Strategic Plan: Glenn Linzmeier said WSFCA would be updating its strategic plan and requested member ideas.

8.2 2007 Conference: Tim Franz requested ideas for the 2007 conference. He wants to provide educational content for both volunteer and paid chiefs.

8.3 Fire Codes: Jim Stupka (DePere) requested that WSFCA lobby for a comparison of the fire codes.

9.0 Meeting Adjourned: MOTION: It was moved by Niles Weborg and seconded by Bill Koehler to adjourn the 2006 business meeting. **Motion passed.**

Respectfully submitted
Jane Svinicki, CAE, Business Manager
(Drafted 6/26/06)