

Notes from the IAFC Southwest Division Board Meeting held on May 24, 2023

- The Board met in-person with Erik Gabliks, Superintendent of the National Fire Academy for over an hour.
 - The EFO program will move to a quarterly application process.
 - NFA is pausing the Managing Officer classes so that they can be refreshed with more up to date and relevant curriculum.
 - NFA is back to full normal status (pre-COVID operating status and attendance volumes).
 - Fire and Arson Investigation remains in high demand.
 - It is a lengthy class.
 - ATF participates and provides instruction.
 - NFA now has an electrical fire lab on-site.
 - A courtroom has been added to one of the buildings, and real attorneys are brought in for mock trial with the F & A students.
 - NFA is developing a WUI component in cooperation with the NWCG.
 - Class leads to IAAI certification.
 - EMS programs are growing.
 - Budget increase.
 - Staff increase of one fulltime person.
 - There remains a lack of awareness, nationally of the NFA and the courses offered and available, both off and on campus
- The Board met in person with Tonya Hoover, Deputy Administrator of the US Fire Administration for over an hour. Superintendent Gabliks remained in the room.
 - USFA needs to be the main conduit into the Federal system for all fire and EMS needs. Heavy lift.
 - Discussed the six initiatives from the USFA Summit on Fire Prevention and Control.
 - Marketing and branding to the fire service and public is a common theme developing from each of the six initiative committees.
 - Discussion on SAFER and AFG Grants. Note that the Region 6 FEMA building has SAFER and AFG staff, but they aren't part of and don't report to any Region 6 FEMA personnel.
 - Discussed conversion of NFIRS to <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/nfirs/neris/>
 - There will a national, third-party software data collection system for NERIS. This is to get it out of the ponderous Federal system.
 - It will be more modern, up to date, particularly coding and EMS coding.
 - It will reduce the time needed to prepare reports compared to NFIRS.
 - It shouldn't take more than five clicks to get most of a report done as so much data is already available and can automatically be pulled in from other sources.
 - USFA is working with CAD vendors to standardize CAD systems for data reporting and collection.
 - **There is an FAQ on the NERIS website. This is updated frequently. ALL are welcome to submit questions to allay fears on transition to NERIS.**
 - This will be a multi-year process.
 - Individual departments will be able to easily pull reports based on their parameters without having to go through states.
 - There will be an AI component in the future.
 - A few states will be selected for beta purposes, first.
 - They are also working with current software vendors (ESO, FirePrograms, etc.)
 - NERIS will be more like an app that is continually updated similarly to a phone app (behind the scenes).

- The Board met with Rob Brown, CEO and Executive Director of the IAFC
 - The Board informed Mr. Brown that SAFER, AFG and FPS grants continue to be a mystery, particularly in criteria areas and reasons for not awarding. Criteria Development Committee for these grants will be meeting 18-19 July. The IAFC has two reps on that Committee. Concerns can be routed to them to be addressed during the Committee process this year. Mr. Brown will get that info to the SWD Board.
 - IAFC is looking at DOE/EPA grant possibilities that may be available to the fire service.
 - There is discussion that EMS should be moved out of US DOT and into DHS to be more effective. There has been discussion that it moves into USFA (my recollection, not official IAFC position)
 - The dues structure for the IAFC is under consideration for change. They are looking at many state Fire Chiefs Associations to bring IAFC more in line with those common practices. Nothing official approved or proposed yet.
 - There will be an official yearbook for the IAFC 150 celebration.
 - There will be an IAFC 150 celebration in Baton Rouge on October 20 at the IAFC SWD annual conference. The IAFC official founding is October 20, 1873
- President's Report
 - He is attending state conferences among the SWD but can't make all and asked Board members to help.
- First VP Report
 - In Arkansas they have finally moved the State Fire Marshal's Office out of the State EMO.
- Second VP Report
 - Reminder that college scholarships are available to children of IAFC SWD members. The deadline to apply is July 31.
 - NM has approved the use of medical marijuana for public safety employees. Unsure how they will be implemented.
 - NM has approved 100% retirement for fire personnel, so that whatever you are making on the day you retire is your pension for life.
- International Director
 - Absent on vacation.
- Sec/Treas
 - Budget is good.
 - Working on a possible contract with Lexipol.
- Arkansas VP
 - Absent
- Louisiana VP
 - There is a slight delay in their State Fire Chiefs Academy program rollout (copied from TFCA).
- Oklahoma VP
 - Active legislation session
 - Updating the OFCA C&BL.
 - OFCA dues will be increasing slightly.
 - OFCA is working on minimum standards to be a Fire Chief
 - Currently someone with three months of experience and no fire training can be the Fire Chief (for example).
- New Mexico VP
 - Absent due to work issues.
- Texas VP
 - Working on IAFC SWD Conference in Denton for 2024.

- The Board met with Membership Director Danny Gray
 - Working to improve membership retention and renewal.
 - Great success in getting renewals and new members.
 - May try to move to a single renewal date for all IAFC members (like IACP) instead of enrollment date to simplify renewals. Nothing official currently.
- The Board then voted to approve holding the IAFC SWD Annual Conference in Denton, Texas in October 2024 with much appreciation to Denton Fire Chief Kenneth Hedges.