



UTAH STATE FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION



Steve Foote, Fire Chief, South Salt Lake F.D., President
Kevin Ward, Fire Chief, Layton F.D., 1st VP
Bradley C. Wardle, Fire Chief - Retired, Asst Director, UFRA, 2nd V.P.
Coy Porter, Fire Chief, Retired, Provo F.D., Past President
Frank Heumann, Asst Chief, Park City Fire District, Secretary
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MEETING MINUTES 9:00 a.m., Thursday, September 13, 2007 Sheraton City Centre, Salt Lake City

Presentations

Introduction of Board Members, Executive Committee, and Guests

Utah Bureau of EMS Director, Paul Patrick, presented on potential legislation to change ground ambulance transport licensing. The BEMS's attorney recommends making changes in rule rather than in statute. The Bureau plans to hold meetings with stakeholders around the State to establish some consensus, if possible. Issues involve RFPs, need & necessity, seven-digit numbers, and competition for inter-facility transports. Patrick wanted representation from the State Chiefs to work with the Bureau. A motion carried to create an ad hoc committee with at least one member from each first and second class county to help the Bureau develop the rule changes.

Patrick also updated the group on EMT-Paramedic registry testing, with the hope of implementing changes in the spring of 2008.

Business Meeting

I. Review and Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes

Minutes were approved unanimously.

II. Reports of Committees and Board Members

President's Report—Kevin Ward

- As President Foote had text messaged Vice President Ward from his broken fire truck in either Kansas or Wisconsin, he was not sure, and asked to be excused, Chief Ward reported on his behalf that there will be an effort to conduct regional meetings by board members along with the promotion of leadership training for chief officers.

Secretary/Treasurer Report—Frank Heumann

- Financials were reviewed.

League of Cities & Towns Report—Tom Kuhlmann

- Fitness & Wellness are on the agenda at this year's conference. Retirement issues were addressed in St. George, particularly plans to sponsor defined contribution legislation by Representative David Clark. Also, technical amendments were discussed regarding the wildland fire suppression fund and allowing entities other

than unincorporated county areas to participate. A motion was made and amended to create a committee from the Chiefs Association, having representation from each of the State regions, to research and develop a policy recommendation regarding the suppression fund issue and wildland urban interface response procedures. This committee will work with Tracy Dunford and Ron Morris' offices.

Legislative Report—Coy Porter

- Porter reported on the Utah Fire Caucus luncheon, scheduled for February 4, 2008, and that two new co-chairs for the caucus are being sought to replace David Clark and Patrice Arent. Chief Dave Austin reported on the proposal of a legislative change to HB 65 (2007) regarding special districts that amends the number of board members allowed for Class 1 counties. The amendment would also add class 2 counties to the section, including only the service areas that provide fire protection, paramedic and emergency services. This would allow the increase of the maximum certified tax rate from its current 0.0014 to 0.0023. State Fire Marshal Ron Morris shared the discussion that the Lt. Governor and DPS Commissioner have had with Morris regarding the possibility of merging some of the operations of Forestry, Fire & State Lands under the management of the State Fire Marshal's Office. The focus of the discussion was on wildfire response within the state.

EMS Report—Jim Hansen

- Two chief positions are open on the EMS committee, one representing urban and the other representing rural communities. Any chiefs interested in filling these spots can go to the utah.gov website and complete the application form on the Committees page.

Communications Report—Steve Foote (Absent somewhere in the Midwest)

- In the absence of the "Master Pontificator," Porter and Kuhlman reminded members to contact UCAN for the re-banding of their 800 MHz radios, which is currently offered without cost. If entities wait too long, they will be responsible for the cost.

State Fire Marshal Report—Ron Morris

- A HazMat rule has been presented to the Fire Prevention Board regarding standardizing hazmat certification. It is recommended to require a minimum number of hours for training for hazmat awareness ops and technician and that a lesson plan be provided to anybody that wants to teach for the certification. Student will be tested to a level of competency.
- Morris' office has requested \$500,000 in supplemental funding to help finish up the command training center and get the mobile training center on the road. They have also asked for \$300,000 from the legislature to add to the \$300,000 they currently to fund a few more small rural agencies to come up and participate in fire training. Commissioner Duncan has approved it and he has sent it on to the Governor's office to put into the budget; from there it will go to the legislature for approval. The money is available in restricted funds.
- Smoke alarm information is now available for fire service organizations to use. They can put their own logo on the bottom of the documents and use them in their cities and counties any way they wish.

- Morris' office has teamed up with Unified Fire Authority to provide lock boxes for all schools in their jurisdiction for quicker access. Morris hopes to have grant money available in the future to do the same for all schools throughout the State.

NFPA/ICC Report

- The code hearing for the 2008 ICC Codes will conduct the final hearing in March 2008 in California for printing in January 2009.

III. Old Business

N/A

IV. New Business

1. Election of Officers—Nominations for 2nd Vice President were made for Mike Jensen and Mike Mathieu. Chief Mathieu received the majority of votes in a closed ballot. Other officers advanced in their positions.
2. Leadership Symposium—The Fire Alliance sponsored Leadership Symposium, traditionally hosted in Salt Lake, will be held in St. George on January 16, 2008, in conjunction with the Winter Fire School.
3. PMA Rate Restructuring—Paul Patrick reported on amending the process of paramedic service reimbursements. The subject is in the brainstorming phase and is quite complex because of Medicare reimbursement rules. The Bureau of EMS is exploring ways to streamline the reimbursement process for agencies providing PM service but not the transport service.
4. Volunteer Fire Officer Training Grant (SAFER Grant)—Coy Porter reported on a \$125,000 grant for volunteer fire officer training (for retention, leadership, Office 1, Instructor 1, and CTC classes) that was submitted by UFRA, requiring a sponsor. The State Chiefs Board was approached and agreed to sponsor the grant prematurely due to application deadlines. A motion was made and was carried by the membership to allow the application to stand.
5. Fund Raising Update—Fund raising efforts are still being pursued by the Board.

V. Good of the Order

- Commission Duncan expressed his thanks to the State Chiefs for their participation at the 911 ceremony in Salt Lake County.
- Ron Harris, on behalf of the Utah State Firemen's Association, requested a speaker from the State Chiefs Association to help with the October 13 memorial service.
- The new officers of the State Chiefs Association were sworn in by the Secretary. (Chief Ward moved to President, Chief Wardle to Vice President, Chief Foote to Past President, and Chief Mathieu was elected as 2nd Vice President.)

VI. Adjournment