



## Quarterly Board of Directors Meeting Minutes March 13, 2021 via Video Conference

1. The meeting was called to order at 9:01 am Pacific Time by President Candy McCullough and a quorum was established with the following members of the Board of Directors present:
  - Candy McCullough, President
  - Robert (Bob) Skaggs, Vice President and Past President
  - David Burnett, Secretary and Oregon State Director
  - Ken Schmalbeck, Treasurer and Missouri State Director
  - Bruce Suenram, Montana State Director
  - Cliff Avery, Texas State Director
  - Gerry Gustafson, Washington State Director
  - Orlanda Smith, Individual Director At-Large
2. The following Administration Staff were recognized to be in attendance:
  - Monte Olsen, Executive Director
  - Jeanne Ernst, Administrative Assistant
3. Bob moved to approve the minutes from December 12, 2020 meeting and the motion passed.
4. Remarks and Reports
  - Candy stated that there is a need to have individuals step up to chair committees.
  - Monte submitted a written Executive Director's Report and verbally reported that the three-member Board of Directors joined from the Tightwad Fire Protection District in Tightwad, Missouri had joined NAEFO and is also taking advantage of the Streamline partnership for their website—saving that district hundreds of dollars per year.
  - Jeanne provided a year-to-date financial report that was reviewed and filled for audit. There was discussion on the \$3,040 outstanding balance owed to the Local Government Law Group (LGLG) for the legal work to form NAEFO in 2009. Cliff moved to start paying LGLG \$150 per month from cash reserves and the motion passed. The financial report is going to start to be sent out monthly.
5. Remarks in Addition to Reports at Membership Meeting
  - Ken reported that legislation in Missouri to eliminate real estate and real property taxes was defeated; however, the Fire Service Alliance will continue to watch so that the legislation does not show as an amendment on a future bill. Ken reminded everyone that sometimes legislation in one state often shows up in other states. Monte reported that

Missouri House Bill 1160 that he helped author would disqualify a director from filing for re-election if he or she had not taken the statutorily required board training. Monte also reported that the Missouri State Fire Marshal is also drafting rules that fire protection districts will not be eligible any grants administered by the State Fire Marshal's office if the district's directors have not taken the required board training. Orlanda mentioned that there is a Missouri bill that is being monitored that would deal with modification of sales taxes for fire protection. Orlanda also mentioned that there is a Missouri bill that would create wards for particular fire protection districts (currently directors of all Missouri fire protection district boards of directors are at large).

- Bruce reported that for the first time in a long time, all state-wide elected officials in Montana are Republicans and Republicans hold a majority in both houses of the Missouri state legislature. Bruce reported that there is legislation that would remove the prohibition on flying fireworks in Montana. Bruce also reported that there is a bill to prohibit requirements to install residential sprinkler systems. Bob suggested that the Washington Fire Sprinkler Coalition might be able to help the Montana fire service defeat the residential sprinkler system prohibition legislation. Candy and Monte stated respectively that the Washington State Association of Fire Marshals and the National Fire Sprinkler Association also might be similarly helpful.
- Cliff reported that the tenor of the Texas legislature has changed to focus on how to keep the natural gas and water flowing during cold weather. Cliff stated that there is a bill that would enable Texas emergency services districts to provide mobile integrated health and community medicine. Cliff also said that there is a bill that would allow governing bodies of Texas municipalities to vote leave a voter-approved emergency services district. Cliff announced that there probably will be a special legislative session in Texas to discuss redistricting. And finally, Cliff mentioned that there is a bill for Texas to succeed from the United States, although that bill may not get a hearing.
- David reported that there is a bill in the Oregon legislature that would require health benefit plans to pay emergency medical services and transporters that is expected to pass.
- Gerry and Candy reported that the Washington legislative process is more difficult than usual this year due to the capitol being closed to visitors and due to the use of video conferencing. Candy reported that there is legislation in Washington to change funding for park districts that could get further amended, e.g., funding changes for hospital districts. Candy said that there is also legislation to eliminate penalties for Washingtonians that are delinquent on payment of taxes. And Candy announced that the bill to ban on fireworks in Washington was defeated. Bob stated that there is a bill that would allow Washington cities and counties to enter into interlocal agreements that would affect the boundaries of fire districts, but amendments were successfully added to require boundary review boards had to be involved to prevent "no man's lands" from being created by resetting boundaries to avoid areas that provide little income or require higher levels of service. Candy shared that a bill was passed that requires Washington employers to give a leave of absence for volunteer firefighters mobilized under the state mobilization.
- Monte mentioned that a bill has been re-introduced in Pennsylvania that would enable the establishments of emergency services districts and that he will follow up to see if NAEFO can support those efforts.

## 6. Unfinished Business

- a. The topic on how to welcome new members was postponed to the next regular meeting of the Board of Directors.
- b. Bob moved that the proposed revision of *Credentials Policy #4* be adopted as attached and the motion passed.
- c. Candy moved that the proposed revision of *Protection of Records Policy #6* be adopted as attached and the motion passed.
- d. Bob moved and Cliff later moved that the proposed revision of *Event Cancellation Policy #8* be adopted as attached but that the words in Section 8.11, "via phone or email," be substituted with the words "in writing" and that a revised policy be presented at the next regular meeting of the Board of Directors with methods for extraordinary circumstances. The said motion passed.
- e. The attached proposed new *Website Privacy Policy* was postponed to the next regular meeting of the Board of Directors.

## 7. There was no new business.

## 8. Standing Committee Reports

- a. The Bylaws Committee moved that the Board of Directors recommend approval of amending Section 1 of Article II of the Bylaws by striking the words "four (4)" and adding new subsection e:

*Honorary Membership.* Any individual who renders distinguished service to emergency services of the United States of America or to the Corporation may be designated by the Board of Directors as an Honorary Member without payment of dues. The Honorary Member shall be entitled to such privileges, except holding of elective office or voting, as the Board of Directors may determine.

The said motion passed.

- b. Monte reported that NAEFO website will be live on the Streamline platform early next week. Monte also reported that with the webinars, NAEFO's Facebook page has been kept up to date with a 76% increase in "likes" in the last six months. Monte will also work with Ken to finalize new tri-fold brochures. A proposal for display banners for conferences will be provided to the Board of Directors at its next meeting.
- c. Monte shared that NAEFO has conducted or promoted eight free webinars so far and there was no objection from the Board to continue webinars; however, it was decided that a special meeting of the Board of Directors will be held to discuss charging for webinars.
- d. Candy reminded everyone that the conference will be held on September 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>, 2021 and she announced that Bill Webb, Sara Jahnke, and George Dunkel have agreed to be presenters. Cliff recommended that Cole Karr be contacted to be a presenter.
- e. Monte reported that aspects of the proposed Special Districts Provide Essential Services Act were incorporated into the recently signed American Rescue Plan Act. Monte explained that states have been enabled to transfer money authorized in the American Rescue Plan Act to special districts.

- f. Candy reported that there is new federal legislation for the Assistance for Firefighter and Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (AFG and SAFER); funding the US Fire Administration; Urban Search and Rescue; a national firefighter registry; Volunteer Firefighter Assistance in the form of a tax credit; smoke and carbon monoxide detectors; and tax retirement proposals.
  - g. Monte reported that names and emails are being collected from the webinars to for prospective membership; however, he echoed Candy's comments about the need for a Chair of the Membership Committee.
9. Monte announced that he is scheduled to present on inexpensive corporate risk management tools for community risk reduction at the International Association of Fire Chief's Community Risk Reduction Leadership Conference on May 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>, 2021.
10. The date and time of next regular Board of Directors meeting will be June 5, 2021, at 9:00 am Pacific Time and a special meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on April 10, 2021, at 10:00 am Pacific Time to discuss charging for webinars.
11. The meeting was adjourned at 11:22 am Pacific Time.