



**MINUTES (Draft)**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP / ELECTION MEETING**  
**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ELECTED FIRE OFFICIALS**

September 18, 2018

Clark County Fire Department Training Center  
4425 W Tropicana Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada

President McCullough called the meeting to order at 10:50 am

**Attendees**

Dean Bloemke, Bill Eckroth, Gerry Gustafson, Mark Kreutzer, Mike Lyons, Monte Olsen, Barry Orth, LJ Silverman

**Minutes**

Notes from the 2016 Annual Membership Meeting were unanimously approved and accepted as Minutes. (Due to not having a quorum in 2017, approval was not possible at the meeting.)

Motion: Mike Lyons, M/S/A

September 19, 2017 Membership Meeting Minutes approved. Motion: Mark Kreutzer M/S/A

January 20, 2018 Special Membership Meeting Minutes approved. Candy gave a brief explanation of the Bylaw changes that were approved at the meeting. Language was simplified and voting rights as well as the possibility to chair committees is now approved for retired officers and former members. See the Sept.2017 Membership Meeting minutes for detail of all changes. Motion: Mark Kreutzer M/S/A

**Financials & Budget, Review of 2018 Budget vs Actual to date**

- 1- Our printing costs have increased due to Costco closing its printing services. We will look for an alternative.
- 2- In response to a question about unpaid state membership dues, Candy explained that we did our membership billing later this year thinking that sending details about the Annual Conference with the billing would encourage more memberships. The conclusion is that the billing was too late and created confusion for our members.

**Membership Status: 40**

To clarify and correct a substantial difference in the proposed and actual membership income we discussed types of NAEFO members: Individual members are elected or appointed commissioners with jurisdiction over others. Associate members are associated with a department: chiefs, other types of elected officials and people who represent or work for other entities.

Budget M/S/A

**2018 Sponsorships**

Platinum \$1,000: First Net / AT&T

Silver \$500: WFCA, ESCI

Bronze \$250: TCA Architecture

This is an increase over last year. Our website has helped increase sponsorships and Candy welcomes suggestions of other potential sponsors.

## **2019 Proposed Budget**

It can remain the same as 2018 with minor corrections. Candy thinks Sponsorship income can be increased by \$500. The Board will approve the 2019 budget later and welcomes input from the membership.

## **President's Report**

Current officers:

President: Candy McCullough, Secretary/Treasurer: Barry Orth, new Oregon State Rep: Curtis Hoopes was appointed Jan 2018, Washington State Rep: Gerry Gustafson, Director-at-Large: Mark Kreutzer.

New Executive Director: It was agreed at yesterday's Board Meeting that Monte Olsen can be our new volunteer E.D. and will help Candy with some of her responsibilities. He travels extensively and can combine NAEFO work with other travel. He will request expense reimbursements when necessary.

Monte said that our focus is to grow our membership and everything we do should relate to that. He plans to create contacts with state associations and lay the groundwork for good communication and collaboration with organizations even if they don't want to become members.

Monte and Candy met with Ken Riddle, the Executive Director of the Nevada Fire Chiefs Association, which had their conference in Las Vegas Sept 10-12. He would also like to work with Rob Brown of IAFC who addressed our conference yesterday and is eager to help NAEFO grow. Chief Brown posted enthusiastic and very positive comments about NAEFO on Facebook - 'a passionate organization with a great mission'. Candy agrees this can increase our exposure as well as our ability to inform more people, include them in 'calls to action' and make them proactive about legislation. Among other ideas, Monte looks forward to having conversations with organizations to see if they are willing to include information about NAEFO in blasts to their members. These groups have already shared good ideas.

## **Federal Budget 2019**

2018 Federal Funding and tax incentives were the same as 2017. No increases. We're working on growing them for Emergency Services.

## **New Business**

Welcome to Curtis Hoopes our new Oregon State Representative.

### **CFSI Symposium and Congressional Meetings, April 2018**

Mark Kreutzer and Candy both attended.

Mark and 8 others from Oregon attended. They met with all their congressional delegates except for one and had personal meetings with all but one of those. They had scheduled meetings with staffers and when members of Congress would hear them, they'd come in to talk with them personally and discuss issues. Oregon delegates are very supportive and Mark's group likes to see what they can do to help them.

Candy attended with 9 fire chiefs and fire marshalls from Washington State. She was the only commissioner. They had a similar experience and discussed legislation: presumptive illness, cancer registry, homeland security bill for firefighter assistance, the safer act, Wildland fire fighting funding, Expansion of the Nat'l Firefighting academy, Tax deduction on sprinklers for small and medium industry, the Federal income tax on WA volunteer firefighter property tax exemption. If they did not initially support the legislation, once they understood they were

supportive.

Dean asked how the WA group that went to DC was formed and Candy explained the process. She can connect him with the person who helped form the group and told him to contact her.

## **Strategic Plan**

Everyone has a copy. Candy and Monte would like feedback prior to the December 9<sup>th</sup> Board meeting at 9:30. Send thoughts and comments by email. Everyone is encouraged to participate physically or by phone.

## **State Association Reports**

### **Missouri - Monte**

The resignation of the Governor after 2 felony charges affected Missouri's legislative process. MO became the 50<sup>th</sup> state to have a wireless 911 tax. They had been losing revenue because of fewer land lines.

### **OR - Mark**

Legislative session starts in January and is a long session.

Volunteer Incentive Act was passed in Oregon that allows counties to abate the taxes of the estate of a 'line of duty' death.

Bill Webb said this did not pass on a Federal level.

### **WA - Gerry**

WA Firefighters Assn

A lot of their costs are from dealing with opioid problems.

Money is coming in for a training facility in North Bend.

For ambulance costs, Medicaid pays for 90% of a ride to hospital. It can be \$5500 to \$5700. Fire Districts don't do transport but if they do, can they receive this?

GMT money is coming in.

### **CA - LJ Silverman**

They do their own billing.

First Responders - every time an engine rolls they can get money. They bill everyone. Federal money, but State builds the program. GEMT

## **Nominations 2019 Officers**

Pres - Candy

VP - Bill Eckroth

Sec/Treas - Barry Orth

## **Membership Growth, Dues and Billing**

With our increasing dues, some districts reduced their membership to one person. The annual increase for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> years of membership was established to encourage more members to join at a lower rate and then keep them.

Gerry - we should also try to get ambulance groups to join NAEFO.

This could entail changing NAEFO's name. How do we add other groups and keep our identity?

### **Fees**

Should we just set dues at \$50/yr per person? Bill Eckroth talked about an organization that retired commissioner dues were 50% less. All agree it should be a fixed rate per person.

Are we going to send out an option at \$50 per individual member and/or \$50 each for member of a board? A 50% reduction = \$25 for former and retired members.

How do we decide the amount? The Board decides but wants the membership's opinion.

Should we give 5 scholarships to our 2019 conference? Monte says we should go to other State Assn's and offer 5 free registrations.

Any opposition to Monte offering when he thinks it's appropriate? Everyone agreed he should.

## **2 Bylaws Revision Proposals**

1. Article 2 Section 5 (c) – Proxies. Proposal to strike the last sentence of Article 2, Section 5(c) – Proxies, which states, “No Individual or State member may serve as a proxy for more than two (2) members.” striking the last sentence that limits the number to two proxy votes for other members

2. Propose shortening the number of days required to give notice to members for proposed Bylaw revisions from 30 days to 14 days.

**Both passed unanimously.**

## **Committee Reports**

**Communications** – Candy will keep trying. Monte recommended sending an invitation ‘to like’ our Website to your Facebook friends. Bylaw revisions to be put on website.

Bill Eckroth – they have someone who does their website and Bill can speak with him.

**Conference & Workshops** – Mark will continue

Bill – should we move the conference to Boise? Candy – we don't have the money to move at this point.

Can we find a way to work with the Nevada State Fire Chiefs to get cheaper rooms and food for our conference?

### **Suggestions to increase conference attendance:**

LJ – It would help to release dates sooner in order to get his Board to approve travel. He suggests sending a ‘save the date’ 6 months before and resending it 3 times. He sends it to their secretary when it arrives and doesn't have to think about it again.

Fire Shows West has become 600+ people.

**Legislative** – Barry is interested. He will work with Rick Johnson (Retired Clark County Commissioner)

Barry will send JE email list of Tri-County members.

**Sponsorship** – Candy & Monte

Candy phoned past sponsors this year- First Net, ESCI and TCA Architects all agreed.

**Education/workshops** – Bill is interested. We need to decide what we could provide. Lots of classes are local and we are nationwide.

**Next Membership meeting:** Tuesday, next conference, Sept. 17, 2019

Meeting adjourned 12:45

Due to late lunch, we pushed everything on the agenda ahead 30 minutes.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeanne Ernst  
Administrative Assistant