



Fire and Life Safety Section

FLSS Board Meeting

December 9, 2015

Board Members Present:

Chief Michael O'Brian, Chair
Chief Andy King, Vice Chair
Chief Adolf Zubia, International Director
Chief Greg Rogers, Secretary Treasurer
Chief Joe Pierce, Past Chair
Daniel Finnegan, At-Large Board Member
Angie Wiese, At-Large Board Member
Commissioner Derrick Sawyer, At-Large Board Member

Laura Blaul, At-Large Board Member
Ray Reynolds, At-Large Board Member
Stephen Hrustich, At-Large Board Member
George, Public Safety Specialty Rep.
Vickie Pritchett, Ex Officio Board Member
Meri-K Appy, Specialty Rep. Education
Howard Hopper, Industry Rep
Peg Paul, Ex Officio Board Member
Ken Farmer, National Fire Academy

Staff: Russ Chandler & Kevin Scott

Present Absent

Meri-K Appy reported on 20/20:

Thanks were given to the assistance of Board members and the IAFC to get the message out on the upcoming symposium. Both request for presenters and for states (and DC) to choose representatives to attend the event. Each attendee chosen will have specific duties and responsibilities during the event.

In addition there will be open registration for up to about 250 people, so there is a limit to the number of people we can accommodate. This is why it is import to make this symposium known to you the Board is to get this information out to those in the prevention world.

The thing that makes this symposium so special is that the presentations are all about programs not just public education, but inspections, code related issues, etc., essentially whatever we receive from our invitation for presenters. Each presenter will be judged by a panel on what the project has proven to do at the local level. These are not necessarily national programs but programs used by local fire departments used with success. Focus is on peer reviewed, successful models that others can replicate. There will be somewhere in the neighborhood of 12 presentations available.

There will also be TtT workshops with an emphasis on the Vision 20/20 resources to help fire departments with their community risk reduction activities. One that will be presented (by Meri-K) will be on the new fire safety materials generator which she has reported on several times to this group in the past. Essentially this will allow any fire department to create and produce fire safety materials on two topics, smoke alarms and cooking safety in a way that the fire department can select the key messages that they feel are the most important. Then they can select images that reflect their demographics population and they can put their own logo and contact information on these materials. It is very flexible and the messaging they choose has been tested for effectiveness.

If you have a partner, maybe a private sector partner that wants to exhibit, please see Meri-K since she is in charge of that aspect of the event. Exhibitors will be chosen very carefully, by invitation only, not interested in their funds as much as that share the mission in our prevention goals and are relevant to the audience. We welcome you to contact Meri-K if you know someone interested so she can make arrangements to put them through the selection process to exhibit. The dates for the event are March 10-12. Exhibit application deadline is January 22nd, but we encourage to apply sooner, it will be first come, first serve.

This will be an important gathering for the prevention field and she hopes to see many of us there at this worthwhile event.

Kevin Scott gave a report on code updates:

Kevin reported that there is little happening at this moment, we are waiting for ICC on the re-vote info. He has created a draft document which he has sent to Chief O'Brian with regards to the vote. But not knowing what is coming up, he had to include everything, which ended up being a 9 page report. It should be shorter because most of our codes we were concerned about were covered before the voting problem.

With regards to the next cycle, the FLSS has submitted about 75 code changes to the fire code action committee, most have been accepted (maybe all but 5). They are still in process of finalizing that as many of you already know.

The big issue is not knowing how or when the ICC will handle the re-vote.

Some of FLSS proposal are presently still going through the FCAC. He will double check and provide an update which will be sent to the FLSS Board.

Howard reported on update on the Cooktop Safety Group:

There was a conference call on October 30th. Wayne Morris gave an update on coil type cooktops. Another conference call will be in late January.

Peg Paul gave a report on the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition:

Last meeting was difficult because they found out they did not get an expected grant and did lose some sponsorship monies. So they are going into 2016 with some challenges. So HFSC is looking for funding. They are looking for funding or assistance. The biggest thing they will have to cut will be offering their free resources to the fire service. They are converting back to make everything available on their website instead of paper handouts.

HFSC hopes to build up funding to continue to make resources available to the fire departments especially since they are struggling with their own grassroots issues, whether it is an aggressive builder or realtor group. It is so important that the FD to have access to that material. Reprinting will be limited

due to cost, they will still try to provide prevention material which is in demand. All other materials will be digital. If anyone knows someone who has a foundation or resource contact, please let her know.

They will be at the International Builders Show the third week of January. They will be on the main floor, most likely this will be the last time they will be able to do such. Last year they had more and more builders come to the booth to tell us they don't need to be educated so much as they needed product information. They were mostly from California where 13D has already been adopted. In future the HFSC will focus on the big builders.

Peg did share in a recent email about how to talk to realtor groups. They found in the Chicago area that realtor group are more aggressive to get sprinklers than the builders and this has helped out.

In the past they attended the National Association of Realtor National conference thanks to grant funding. The couple of times this took place in California they found that a number of realtors had no clue of the fact that California had mandated sprinklers in new construction. They would ask if it had to be retrofitted when a house was being sold. HFSC staff had to explain it was just mandated for new construction. Realtors would even state it was a good idea and they could suddenly understand the value.

The big block is the national realtors who are anti-sprinkler and want nothing to do with this, but when speaking to individuals they were in favor of sprinklers. A video they created 6 years ago, featured a realtor in the video who spoke up stating she saw no problem and added that it was a selling feature.

She also included the John Hopkins study in a public safety section that showed that once people are educated they have a whole different attitude and appreciation for sprinklers.

*Acting Chair Rogers advised that he will advise both the FLSS Chair and Vice Chair on the issue on funding for them to pass on to the IAFC Board to see if there is something IAFC may be able to do to assist.

Budget:

Coincidentally the full IAFC Board is meeting today on the budget, expect to hear something soon. When released, all info will be sent to the FLSS Board Members.

Conclusion:

Next meeting will January 13th at 1300 hours.
Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:
Russ Chandler

Please report any errors or omissions as soon as practical so we can make sure we are historically accurately.