

Congressional Fire Services Institute National Advisory Committee Meeting

Virtual Via Zoom

May 19, 2021

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order on May 19, 2021 at 1:00 pm.

Bill Jenaway, CFSI Board of Directors

- Thanks to all who participated in CFSI's symposium.

Presentation on COVID-19 vaccination - Dr. Wesley R. Attwood, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

- U.S. has administered more than 266 million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine as of 5/14/2021.
- CDC Vaccine Task Force focuses on vaccine implementation for essential workers (including first responders) by disseminating information and supporting jurisdictions as they implement vaccine strategies.
- Vaccine distribution sites have expanded with increased vaccine supply.
- Now we have enough vaccine supply, the next focus is on vaccine confidence.
- There is greater vaccine confidence when departments have opted to use EMS personnel to administer vaccines to department members, because people know and trust those they work with.
- There are concerns still about the vaccine, including:
 - The vaccine and COVID are too political and COVID isn't as severe as the media claims;
 - Wanting to see what side effects are; and
 - People have concerns that the vaccine was rushed and isn't safe.
- CDC recommends employers encourage vaccination and establish policies to make it as easy as possible for employees.
- Anecdotal estimates that 50-60 percent of fire and EMS personnel are vaccinated as of 5/19/2021.
- First line supervisors are key trusted messengers for vaccination.
- Departments should also try to encourage junior members to get vaccinated.

Chair's Report

- Chief Ron Siarnicki delivered the Chair's report.
- As of this week, NFFF has 176 fire and EMS deaths from COVID; 123 fire and 53 EMS.

Vice-Chair's Report

- Craig Hannan delivered the Vice-Chair's report.
- Thanks to all who participated in the 2021 virtual symposium.

Executive Director's Report

- Bill Webb, CFSI's Executive Director, delivered a report.
- The 2021 symposium was successful and we appreciate all those who participated as a speaker or attendee.

- CFSI has been conducting webinars for the fire service outside of the symposium, putting together a quarterly newsletter, and presenting at outside events.
- CFSI is hoping to have an in-person reception in the fall.

Legislative Report

- Michaela Campbell, CFSI's Director of Government Affairs, delivered a report.
- Talked about the need for caucus recruitment and changes in caucus leadership in 2021 -- including new co-chair Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (PA).
- Discussed legislative issues including the American Rescue Plan Act, fiscal year 2022 appropriations, and several standalone bills that CFSI supports.

Subcommittee Reports

- **Ethics** – No report
- **Programmatic** – Included in Vice Chair's report
- **Fundraising** – Vickie Pritchett
 - Please join the Associates Club and continue to support CFSI.
- **Membership** – No report.
- **Resolutions** – One resolution was considered by the National Advisory Committee:
 - *A resolution expressing concern about the need to educate and equip first responders with the information and tools needed to address safety challenges posed by emerging technologies such as electrical vehicles*
 - Offered by the National Fire Protection Association, International Association of Fire Chiefs, International Code Council, and National Volunteer Fire Council.
 - Motion: NFPA
 - Second: NVFC
 - Unanimously approved

New Business

- Seth Statler, NFPA discussed an issue pertaining to codes and standards and copyrights.
- NFFF presented its 2020 Arthur J. Glatfelter Distinguished Service Award to Chief Dennis Compton.

Adjournment

- Upon motion made and duly seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 1:54 p.m.