

Congressional Fire Services Institute National Advisory Committee Meeting

Washington Hilton - Jefferson Room
April 8, 2022 - 8:00 AM

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order on April 8, 2022 at 8:00 AM

Bill Jenaway, CFSI Board of Directors

- Thanks for being here and being a friend to CFSI
- Without you there is no collective voice

Presentation - Dr. Lori Moore-Merrell, Administrator, U.S. Fire Administration

- USFA plans to host a conference as a follow up to the last Truman conference.
- The Fire and Life Safety Communicators Initiative will also kick off on April 19, 2022.
 - We need to all be on the same page with messaging in order to strengthen our voice in the media.

Chair's Report - Ron Siarnicki

- I'm sorry to report the passing of Nathan Queen who represented the International Association of Black Professional Firefighters on the NAC for many years. We will miss him.
- On the communication side, I encourage you to read the CFSI Dispatch newsletter to see what CFSI has been working on.
- I was pleased to help review CFSI's NAC strategic plan. It is up for renewal again in 2023.
- A collection of CFSI-commissioned paintings of the fire service are now hanging in the Chapel at Emmitsburg so the students can see them.
- Congratulations to all award recipients.
- Thanks to Craig Hannan for his work on the programmatic subcommittee.
- Unfortunately, this will be my last meeting as Chair of the NAC.

Vice-Chair's Report - Craig Hannan

- The Vice-Chair leads the programmatic subcommittee and I would like to recognize all of the members of the subcommittee for their work.
- I thank all of the NAC members who presented at the seminars and I urge everyone to keep attending the seminars and bringing future leaders with them.

Executive Director's Report - Bill Webb

- Thanks to everyone who joined us at the dinner and symposium.
- We had about 1100 people attend this year, fewer than in the past. We are considering how to move forward with the event in future years.

- Congratulations to the award recipients and we have been working to do local award presentations in addition to the national recognition.

Legislative Report - Michaela Campbell

- Thanks to everyone in the room for your partnership on many of our ongoing legislative initiatives.
- For fiscal year 2022, we were pleased to see steady funding for many of our programs, and increases for several programs and agencies.
- For fiscal year 2023, we will continue to advocate for fire service appropriations priorities.
- We are also advocating for several standalone bills on issues like fire sprinklers and firefighter mental health.
- I look forward to continuing to work with our partners in this room on all of CFSI's legislative priorities.

Subcommittee Reports

- Ethics – No report.
- Programmatic – Included in Vice-Chair's report.
- Fundraising – Vickie Pritchett
 - Please join the Associates Club and encourage others to do so.
 - Each and every one of us can play a part in fundraising for CFSI.
 - We need to challenge each other to bring new members into the fold of the Associates Club and CFSI.
- Resolutions - Denny Compton
- One resolution was considered by the National Advisory Committee:
 - A resolution from the International Association of Fire Chiefs recognizing the value of FirstNet to first responder communications and supporting FirstNet's reauthorization.
 - There was a motion and a second.
 - Question: How will this affect future negotiations with AT&T and other carriers?
 - Answer: It lets FirstNet be around to contract in the future, although there is currently a 25-year contract in place with AT&T.
 - Vote: unanimously approved

Presentation - Mike Varney and Chief Richard Carrizzo, FirstNet

- FirstNet's goal is to help the fire service do their jobs better, safer, and more effectively.
- The contract with AT&T is almost five years old now and in the last few years, we have set up a whole network.
- We are continuing to move forward with states that have opted in.
- We also continue to work on location tracking of firefighters and firefighter assets. We are working to track not just on the X&Y axis, but also the Z axis. That technology continues to improve.
- Question: What is the status of voice calls on the fireground?
- Answer: We have several devices and applications to do that.

- Question: Is Verizon trying to build out the same thing?
- Answer: We can't speak to Verizon, but FirstNet is its own unique system.
- Question: Is XYZ tracking going to involve collaboration with other parties?
- Answer: We're leveraging multiple XYZ technologies and options for what that looks like.

New Business

- Election of officers
 - Craig Hannan was nominated to be Chair of the NAC.
 - The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.
 - Preet Bassi was nominated to be Vice-Chair of the NAC.
 - The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Adjournment

- Upon motion made and duly seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 9:14 AM.