

# Congressional Fire Services Institute National Advisory Committee Meeting

Washington Hilton  
Jefferson Room  
May 24, 2023 - 9:00 AM

## Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 9:03 AM

## Opening Remarks - Jim Estepp, CFSI President

- Thanks to all for an excellent dinner and symposium program.
- Thanks to the Board of Directors for what you do and welcome to our new Board members, Keith Brandstedter and Nicole Forziati.
- We have had great growth in the organization and we thank you all for your support of CFSI.
- CFSI continues to work up on Capitol Hill and in the executive agencies, as well as with all of you on priorities that are of vital importance to the fire and emergency services, including AFG, SAFER, and USFA reauthorization.

## Presentation - FirstNet: Mike Varney and Chief Richard Carrizzo

- We are working hard to implement your vision at FirstNet.
- We are partnered with AT&T and working hard to meet the needs of the states as we continue to roll out our services.
- We have made a lot of progress in the first 5 years of a 25-year project and we look forward to more.
- We continue to work to enhance coverage both inside and outside of buildings.
- Network evolution is important as we move toward 5G. We continue to work to ensure that we are able to evolve moving forward as technologies continue to improve and change.
- We're working very hard on your request for location services for equipment and firefighters.
- The 5x5 conference is coming up and we hope to see you there.
- We are also working to reauthorize FirstNet. FirstNet sunsets in 2027, so we need to be reauthorized before then. We'd like to end the sunset and push the reauthorization as far as possible in the 20-year remaining period.

## Presentation - Vision 20/20: Steve Hrustich

- Vision 20/20 is a product of IFE-USA and works to incorporate principles of Community Risk Reduction (CRR).
- We are led by a 25-member advisory council and are built around a collaborative framework.
- We are proud to work to advance six strategies, including advocacy, outreach and education, culture, technology, codes and standards, and model performance and evaluation.
- CRR is increasingly important in the 21st century to address a variety of challenges that we face, both directly related to fire and also larger societal challenges that fire departments face in their communities. The answers lie in solutions that are focused on data and data-driven strategies.
- CRR is not just prevention, it is best practice in fire service improvement. Smoke alarms are byproducts of good CRR.
- Please join us at Symposium 8.
- Thanks to our ELA participants who are here as future leaders to help move the fire service forward.

## Presentation - National Firefighter Registry

- We have knowledge gaps in the cancer risks that firefighters face and our hope is that the registry will help address many of these questions, including the cancer risk for volunteer firefighters, the cancer risk for various sub-specialties of the fire service, how cancer risk varies for demographic groups and regionally, the prevalence of rare forms of cancer among firefighters, cancer risk fluctuations with varying exposures, other risk factors for cancer, and much more.
- The NFR has made a lot of progress over the last year including finishing the enrollment questionnaire, finalizing technical items, conducting a soft rollout, creating a Help Desk, and building awareness among the fire and emergency services.
- The NFR is now open for enrollment.
- Current registration is around 3,300 completed with more having started the consent form. The goal is to enroll 200,000 firefighters.
- Future work includes targeted enrollment, messaging and marketing, follow-up questionnaires, dashboards with data visualizations, data sharing and linkages, and much more.

## Reports

- Chair's Report – Craig Hannan
  - Great work on this year's dinner and symposium.
  - Thanks to the programmatic Subcommittee.
  - Please take a moment to remember three NAC members that we lost in the last year: Dave Finger, Chief Bobby Halton, and Ed Stauffer.
  - Thanks to Chief Ron Siarnicki for all he has done for the fire service. He is a past Vice Chair and Chair of the NAC and we are grateful for his work.
- Vice Chair's Report – Preet Bassi
  - Thanks to the Programmatic Subcommittee for a great program.
  - We worked on a new approach this year by soliciting for presentations on important issues while also compiling some panels ourselves on other vital issues.
  - We look forward to building on the success of this year's program in 2024.

## Legislative Report – Michaela Campbell

- Thanks to everyone who participated in the seminars, to the various organizations who provided panelists, and to everyone who sent in a submission. This was all critical to helping us build a great program.
- On the appropriations front, CFSI continues to push to support funding for AFG and SAFER, USFA, Urban Search & Rescue teams, the National Firefighter Registry, fire sprinklers in HUD housing, carbon monoxide grants, and the state and volunteer fire assistance programs.
- On the standalone side, we have been excited to see forward motion on a number of critical issues, including fire station construction, the HERO Act, NFR Reauthorization, sprinkler bills, cancer and PSOB, and many more.
- On AFG, SAFER, and USFA reauthorization, we are very pleased that the bill passed the Senate by a vote of 95-2. While it was great to see such widespread support in the Senate, it must be made clear that the journey to get there was very complicated and required significant effort from CFSI and our partner organizations working with our Hill champions. Such widespread efforts will continue to be critical to get this bill done, so please stay ready to support reauthorization efforts in the coming months.
- The Fire Services caucus is also in the process of being built back up following the start of the new Congress and we have over 200 bipartisan, bicameral members.

## Executive Director's Report – Bill Webb

- Thanks to everyone for your support of CFSI and this year's dinner and symposium.
- We welcome feedback on the seminars and the dinner program.
- As a reminder, we will be moving in 2025 to the Marriott Marquis, but we look forward to our final year at the Hilton in 2024.
- Many organizations conduct their events in conjunction with ours and we are happy to help support that as we move to the Marriott. Please let us know if you need room space and we can try to accommodate you.
- The Fall NAC meeting will be held in Washington DC on October 12th at Washington Gas with a reception to follow. We will send additional information closer to the event.

## Subcommittee Reports

- Fundraising – Vickie Pritchett
  - Thanks to Emily and the fundraising subcommittee for all their work and engagement.
  - If you or your colleagues are not members of the Associate's Club, please join. If you are a member, consider upping your game and increasing your level of support.
  - It was great to have some new fundraising events this year:
    - The fire and water mixer was a great success
    - The silent auction was a great start and we look forward to doing more in future years
  - We look forward to building on our success.
  - We welcome anyone to join the fundraising committee to help support CFSI.
- Resolutions – Chief Dennis Compton
  - Thanks to the subcommittee members.
  - We have one resolution in support of cancer presumption and PSOB that has unanimously passed the subcommittee.
  - Sean Carroll introduced the resolution and talked about the prevalence of cancer in the fire service and the importance of ensuring that those afflicted and their families are able to access presumptive PSOB benefits.
  - NVFC made the motion and FEMSA seconded. The resolution passed by UC.
- Membership - Sean Carroll
  - We have three great organizations that have been considered by the Membership Subcommittee: Women in Fire; the Fire Equipment Manufacturers' Association; and the International Municipal Signal Association Educational Foundation.
  - The subcommittee recommends they be approved as members.
  - Women in Fire: NFFF made the motion and CPSE seconded. The motion passed by UC.
  - FEMA: NFFF made the motion and Johnson Controls seconded. The motion passed by UC.
  - IMSA Educational Foundation: NFFF made the motion and ISFTA seconded. The motion passed by UC.

## Election of Officers - Vickie Pritchett

- Our NAC Chair and Vice Chair have the opportunity to serve two, one-year terms. They have both just completed the first year of their terms.
- NFSA made a motion for Craig to remain Chair of the NAC for a second one-year term. IFSTA seconded. The motion passed by UC.

- NFSA made a motion for Preet to remain Vice Chair of the NAC for a second one-year term. ICC seconded. The motion passed by UC.

#### New Business

- FSRI: FSRI has been contracted for NERIS, the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) replacement. The plan is for it to be operational in 2025. It will take some time and we will all need to work together to make the transition successful. We look forward to working with everyone.
- NFPA: As an update on the Pro Codes Act, the bill has been reintroduced. We are excited to be working with several Hill leaders in the IP space who may not be traditional fire service supporters but are learning more about the space and we have an opportunity to build relationships. We appreciate everyone's support for this bill.

A motion was made to adjourn at 10:43 AM. There was a second and the motion was passed by UC. The meeting was adjourned.