

**WISCONSIN FIRE INSPECTORS ASSOCIATION**

**QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING**

**Tuesday, 20 March, 2007**

**The Plaza Hotel & Suites, Eau Claire, WI**

**Call to Order at 1100 hours**

**Roll Call**

President	Tod Doebler	present
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Ron Omernick	present
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Guy Santelli	present
Exec. Sec. Treasurer	Gil Hucek	present
Recording Secretary	Kevin T. Erdmann	present
Past President	Steve Koback	present
Parliamentarian	Jeff Pollard	present
Area 1	Bob Gower	absent
Area 2	Tom Weber	absent
Area 3	Vacant	
Area 4	Tom Clark	excused
Area 5	Gordy Jepsen	alternate
Area 6	Tom Wendt	present
Area 7	Randy Pinchard	present
Area 8	Bill Becker	absent
Area 9	Dale Garski	absent
Area 10	Jon Petroskey	absent
Area 11	Jerry Paulson	absent
Area 12	Josef Eklund	present
Area 13	Dave Krupich	present
Area 14	Vacant	
Area 15	Arthur Gil de Lamadrid	absent
Area 16	Mark Hoppenjan	present
Dept. of Commerce	Joe Hertel	present
Guests:	Dave Lind, Thea Cox	

1. Secretaries Report: Minutes from last meeting were approved at the fall conference
2. Treasurers Report: Checking \$107.37, Savings \$34,577.27, Total \$34684.64  
Motion: By Mark Hoppenjan to approve treasures report and seconded by Dale Garski  
Motion: Carried
3. Department of Commerce: Joe Hertel Stated that the Dept. of Commerce was going through an audit of the 2% dues. The concern is what the Tech. Colleges are doing with the monies. The NFPA Wisconsin enrolled codes will no longer exist. The State is looking at Licensing electrical contractors. Thursday 22, March the Comm 14 committee will be meeting and hopes are for a summer adoption of the updated codes. There was further discussion on review boards. The department will be seeing a lot of retirements in the near future.
4. **Old Business:** The Wisconsin Firefighters Memorial is having an audit done. Steve Koback stated that there was some problems with the raffle and the totals for the memorial. Guy Santelli had some discussion and stated that the firefighters association was not going to give the memorial any more donations.

Guy then made a motion that the Wisconsin Fire Inspectors Association not donate funds to the Firefighters memorial until a copy of the audit from the memorial was received. Second by Gil Hucek. Motion carried. Steve Koback will follow up on the audit.

5. **New Business**

- A. NFPA 1 UFC training plans: The Association along with the Chiefs and the Dept of Comm. Will be conducting UFC Training for NFPA 1. It will be a two day class. Locations and dates are: May, 16-17 Green Bay  
May, 23-24 Eau Claire  
June 13-14 Wausau  
June 20-21 Milwaukee Area
- B. Regional training classes: More training in the areas in addition to the conference is possible. (Public Education) Areas should get feedback to see what training might of interest.
- C. Basic fire inspector class: There was discussion on doing the class other than the conference. Jeff Pollard stated that the class could be done in other venues and that he would be willing to travel if needed. The class could also be put on CD and distributed to whom ever needed it.
- D. Notification of Area meetings: Letters are to be sent out to the Chief's Association about attendance to the area meetings and encouraging them to send persons from their department to the meetings.
- E. Area training concerns: Dave Lind stated that the International Fire Marshall's Association would be willing to sponsor one training a year. More to follow.
- F. **Association name change:** There was discussion to maybe change the name of the association to include education to the name, by Tod Doebler, Guy Santelli and Thea Cox. Gil Hucek brought up the fact that there were two conferences before. Joe Ekland

stated he thought maybe Wisconsin Fire Prevention association. Also that we have been doing inspections and education for years. There was discussion on how to get more public education personnel to meetings and the conference. Gil Hucek commented that we should survey the membership on a name change. Joe Ekland stated we all thought we know what we do. Mark Hoppenjan stated that we should not just drop it off on to the membership. Tod Doebler stated to Thea Cox to come up with a survey and that it should go the areas first. Dave Lind spoke on public education vs inspections. Also that there might be an alternative to a name change. Thea Cox stated that some at the conference had expressed feelings as to us vs them meaning the public education vs inspections. Dave Lind thought another possible name Wisconsin Fire/Educators Association. Jeff Pollard will check on legal obligations on the name change.

- G. IBC book purchase group: Tod Doebler polled the room on who has IBC code books. Also talked about groups buying books, ex. Chiefs, Inspectors, Building inspectors, etc. Area Chairs should poll their area on how many books are needed and let him know. Jeff Pollard questioned in regards to small departments, small townships, etc. Ron Omernick stated that the IBC is on the internet. Discussion on books vs internet. Dave Lind asked the Dept. of Comm. About supplying books and or CD's. Also combining a purchase with other associations. Jeff Pollard stated that we do not need the whole suite of codes. Joe Hertel stated that IFC and IBC might be bought under the 2% dues, and that monies would be saved if bought in mass. Guy Santelli asked who will the dollars go threw. Tod Doebler said that another association will take the monies. Joe Hertel will bring this up at the code council meeting.

Break for lunch 1247-1319

#### 6. Closing Combined Conference Comments

- A. Over view of attendance: Tod Doebler talked about 2006 conference, hand out from Sue Phillips. Thea Cox has the comments from the conference and will e-mail them out.
- B. P & L for conference: Gil Hucek presented profits and losses for the 2006 convention.
- C. Pros and cons – round table – suggestions for 2007: Gil Hucek presented the 2007 conference budget. Discussion on same. Thea Cox stated that she has a problem with spending more than half for the spouse program rather than for speakers. Guy Santelli stated that the board needs to be the finance director for the conference committee. Gil Hucek stated that he had assistance in doing the budget. Joe Hertel suggested that we check the costs of the spouse program and update fees.

#### 7. 2007 Conference Committee Update and planning:

- A. Evaluation of spouses program: There was much discussion of the program. Guy Santelli stated that he has a problem with the spouse program, doesn't like taking the bodies money for the program and not using it for training. Steve Koback stated the someone from the spouse program should be from the area of the conference as to have contacts and save money. Ron Omernick thought the spouse program should not go over \$1000. Also was against a keynote speaker. Gil Hucek stated the spouse program took in \$900. \$500 was for children and we did receive a donation for same. Joe Hertel stated that the Electrical conference has a spouse program and works at a loss, however it does good will for the conference. Jeff Pollard asked if we can get copies from Joe Hertel to him and we might be able to save monies.
- B. 2007 conference budget: Tod Doebler doesn't think \$25,000 for the 2007 conference is enough. Gil Hucek stated that we should not dive into membership monies that the

conference should break even. Tod Doebler suggested that not spending money on key note speakers would leave more for instructors. Ron Omernick suggested that the Dept. of Comm. do more to help decrease the costs. Gil Hucek suggested we look for donations for printing costs. Discussion on copies. Tod Doebler stated that the proposed budget was so close.

Motion was made by Mark Hoppenjan to expand and not to exceed \$30,000, Second by Gordy Jepsen. Discussion that it is not a line item budget. Motion carried. Tod Doebler thanked all for work on the conference.

- C. Key note speakers: See above.
8. Fire and EMS Coalition: Mark Hoppenjan reported on ASSY BILL 123 Frequency of wage payments for volunteer firefighters. Also fallen firefighter families been able to keep firefighter license plates. ASSY BILL 57 Disciplinary actions against law enforcement officers and firefighters. On that bill Mark Hoppenjan read the bill and then talked about a position from the association. Guy Santelli made a motion that the Wisconsin Fire Inspectors Association does not support or disagree with ASB. 57 Rom Omernick second. Motion carried.
9. Commercial Building Code Council: Looking at a min-max code.
10. COMM 14 Committee: Meeting Thursday.
11. Alteration and Change of Occupancy Code Council: May not meet again.
12. Tank Committee: Ron Omernick would like to see the tank class in one day with credentials, and a better round table discussion.
13. Web Page
  - A. Possible new web master: The current master is having personal issues and we might need a new one. Randy Pinchard might be able to take it over.
14. SOG and By-Law Committee: Mark Hoppenjan suggested that the bylaws be checked for name change. Jeff Pollard said that they have been updated and cleaned up.
15. Membership Committee: 2006-623, 2007-440. Suggestion that an e-mail be sent out to the area chairs for membership. Guy Santelli suggested that another mailing be sent out to the members that have not renewed.
16. Awards Committee: At present one for career chief, one for volunteer chief. Need to get out the news that we still need one for prevention and Inspection. Suggestion made to move the forms to the web page. Dave Lind suggested that in stead of waiting the board should nominate from the board,
17. Fire Fighter Memorial: Will be Saturday October 6<sup>th</sup> the final bell. Every thing is complete except for the Info/computer center, where persons can do research. 50 stones are to be added this year.

18. Fire Service Joint Advisory Committee: None
19. Inspector Certification Committee: Last minute touches were added to update to the 2006 code references.
20. Fire Service 2% Liaison Committee: None.
21. Wears and Novelties
  - A. Update for internet purchases: Hope to have web site connections soon
22. Finance Committee: Audit now complete, questions were not serious.
23. Education Committee: None
24. Site Selection Committee: Looking at The Plaza Wausau, Paper Valley waiting for tour and bids, Regency Suites.
25. Around the Table:
  - Tod Doebler: Thanked everyone for making the trip and hammering things out and take time when you return.
  - Ron Omernick: Thanked everyone for efforts on this conference.
  - Guy Santelli: Wondered about area chairs not attending the board meetings. Tod Doebler stated that he will check into this issue.
  - Gill Hucek: None
  - Kevin T. Erdmann :None
  - Steve Koback: None
  - Jeff Pollard: Will create CD's for basic fire inspector, 300 pages for whole program. Tod Doebler stated to wait for area feed back.
  - Gordy Jepsen Area 5: None
  - Tom Wendt Area 6: Next meeting at Concordia, combined area 5 & 6 meeting April 18<sup>th</sup>.
  - Randy Pinchard Area 7: None
  - Josef Ekland Area 12: Meeting May 15<sup>th</sup>.
  - Mark Hoppenjan Area 16: None.

Tod Doebler stated that he will be attending on behalf of the IFMA to the NFPA conference in Boston on June 3-7. Gil Hucek and Ron Omernick are also interested. Guy Santelli made a motion to approve 2 members to attend the NFPA Conference in conjunction with IFMA. Second by Gordy Jepsen. Motion Carried.

Motion to adjourn at 1506, motion carried, meeting adjourned.  
Respectfully submitted,

Kevin T. Erdmann  
Recording Secretary