

Oregon Fire District Directors Association
BOARD MEETING
Renaissance Hotel, Keizer

June 21, 2008

Allen Forster called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. A quorum was present.

Members Present:

Allen Forster, President
Kevin Van Dyke, 1st Vice President
Dean Hansell, Past President, Position #1
George Warren, Director Position #2
Connie Barton, Director Position #4
David Jones, Director Position #5

Staff:

Genoa Ingram, OFDDA
Wendy Knodel, OFDDA

Members Not Present:

Fred Baumgartner, Director Position #3
Mark Kruetzer, Director Position #4
Pete Peterson, Director Position #6

Guests:

Nancy Orr, State Fire Marshal
Elaine Parrott, OFSOA
Paulette Oliver, WHA
Burton Weast, Axiom
Tina Greiner, OVFA
Jim Oeder, OVFA

President's Comments

President Allen Forster announced that the Directors Institute would be rolled into the Joint Conference as a "Directors Toolbox".

President Forster also reported that Mark Kreutzer had suggested compensating membership dues of the Three Rivers Fire Department for one year. He suggested development of a policy listing criteria for future similar action. Burton Weast cautioned on including mergers and consolidations in any dues waiver. George Warren questioned whether a formal policy was necessary since formation of new districts is rare and the Board currently has the capability to vote on each case individually. President Forster appointed Kevin VanDyke to work with staff to develop a policy.

President Forster asked that OFDDA promote the surplus program, noting that OVFA had a list of available inventory on its web site.

President Forster recessed the meeting at 10:56 a.m. for the purpose of holding an Executive Session. President Forster reconvened the meeting at 11:04 a.m.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of the April 19, 2008 meeting were approved as amended.

Financial Report

Wendy Knodel reviewed the financial reports for the association, noting the high interest yield on the money market account. The Bruce Williams Fund is at \$1,256. She noted a list of recently paid members, along with open invoices.

Motion: Moved by Barton and seconded by Hansell to accept the financial report as presented. Motion passed.

President's Report

President Allen Forster introduced guests in attendance.

Guest Reports

Grant Update Burton Weast reported that there are three segments to the grant including (1) a search of all applicable literature; (2) Interviews to be conducted by Dr. Hantula of firefighters, chiefs, and fire industry professionals; and (3) Compelling Technologies will sort information, organize it and make it available for download by fire districts and departments.

OFSSOA Elaine Parrott reported that the OFSSOA conference is scheduled for October 15-17 in Bend and the association is working on securing speakers. Information will be out as available. Hot topics include the IRS issue as it relates to volunteer compensation. Elaine reported that she had attended IRS training on the issue in Portland on May 31. She noted that the OFSSOA newsletter would announce conference details. Further, OFDDA is invited to submit newsletter articles. Elaine also suggested opening up OFDDA events to OFSSOA and Chiefs. She concluded her report by noting that Three Rivers Fire District has completed formation and will have its first Board meeting on June 30.

Wilson-Heirgood Associates Paulette Oliver reported that 18 safety training sessions had been held around the state with good attendance, including 67 districts and 768 participants. They have added a module on Safety Committees which are required by statute.

Staff Report

Genoa Ingram reported on the following issues:

- LOSAP: The final transfer is complete and one district has expressed interest in participating.
- Legislative Report: Staff reported that testimony was provided on behalf of SDAO and OFDDA on ethics reform.
- Staff Retreat: The Board Retreat is on track and moving forward.
- Cancer Presumption: Staff reported that since the vote to support SDAO's compromise, letters of support had been received by the OFCA, the OFDDA, and the LOC. OFVA was considering its position based on member feedback at the Conference.

George Warren responded that he had researched cancer issues and found that most of the research was mortality based, adding that the focus should be to prevent cancer rather than to address health issues after the fact. George stated that the OFDDA vote to support the

compromise was unacceptable. Rather, he argued that the focus should have been on combustion results surrounding a fire, including the CDC, State Board of Health, and industrial hygiene experts. George argued that it is unacceptable to send firefighters into situations that might result in cancer. Genetic studies have not been considered.

By consensus, the Board agreed to form a task force to study and make recommendations with regard to safety, training and prevention measures. Connie Barton, Mark Kreutzer and George Warren were appointed by the Chair to serve.

Committee Reports

- DPSST – Chief Orr reported that the Board’s focus had been on Bernie Guisto issues.
- Governor’s Fire Policy Council – George Warren reported that there would be a meeting the following month.
- NAEFO – Burton Weast reported that New York had joined NAEFO and that negotiations with California were underway and progress was being made; next week-end he will meet with the Missouri and will meet with Arizona in August. He added that NAEFO is involved with two issues at the national level: 1) volunteer compensation and 2) ADA rules and fire station design. The NAEFO Conference is scheduled for September 14 and 15 in Las Vegas.
- Joint Conference – Kevin VanDyke reported that the Conference planning was nearing completion and brochures would be ready soon.
- OSFM – Chief Orr reported that there had been a hearing earlier in the week to ban novelty (toy like) lighters and similar efforts were ongoing at the national level. Other issues include Services to Seniors, a “cold zone” study, and local LEPC efforts.

Motion: Moved by Van Dyke and seconded by Barton to support the cold zone study. Motion passed.

Chief Orr referenced a memo to Clackamas Fire District 1 regarding Competencies for Fire inspection and related costs. She verified staff’s comments that the financial impacts on districts would be minimal.

The OSFM has also conducted a review of what is a fire department both for inspections and for mobilization for conflagrations, noting that some loosely organized groups, non-profits, industrial brigades, and non-profits had been vacated, as well as those not in compliance with Secretary of State reporting requirements.


George Warren asked what was needed to get personnel fully certified for inspections. He discussed the process involved in achieving certification for both inspections and combat firefighting. Chief Orr emphasized coordination with other agencies, adding that certification through DPSST had been streamlined.

Other Business

- Staff asked Board members to review the proposed Bylaws change for publication in the Communiqué.
- Connie Barton reported that she had been attending 911 meetings.
- Dean reported that the Boring Fire had held joint meetings with neighboring departments. Boring Fire's extrication team had won second in the national last year and would attempt first place in New York this year.
- George Warren reported that Clackamas Fire and Boring Fire had set up a joint station, resulting in faster response times and the unions were working together. Concerns included vehicle service and education but the two departments were cooperating. Clackamas Fire has a new fire station opening up in Oregon City on July 1. Clackamas had also just completed an academy and all participants had graduated.
- David Jones reported that he continues to promote OFDDA in his State travels to fire districts. Additionally, Jefferson Fire had received the public service award during the Meritorious Awards dinner. Jefferson Expo is September 13.
- Kevin Van Dyke reported that the City of Forrest Grove was still in the process of selecting a Chief. He continues to serve on the Joint Fire Legislative Committee, the SDAO Legislative Committee. He asked for time during the next meeting to discuss the bicycle fundraiser.

Adjourn

There was no additional business and the meeting was adjourned at 1:25 p.m.



Genoa Ingram, OFDDA Executive Director