

Forging a Path for the Future of the Great Lakes Division

by Chief Bill Mund, Minnesota State Representative - IAFC Great Lakes Division

The Board of Directors had a meet-ing August 13, 2008 in Denver. The following items are of interest:

Fire Rescue GPO — A new agreement with the Western Division with regards to Fire Rescue GPO was presented and discussed by the Board. Last year, the Great Lakes Division received \$15,000 from this relationship. The new agreement has been revised and improved. The Board received a presentation from Crosby Grindle about the program and the new agreement. The agreement was approved by the Board. There are significant contracts in place that can save departments money on their purchases. If you have not checked out Fire-Rescue GPO, you should. It is free to register online. Check out what they have to offer. Two of the biggest national contracts are with Sprint and Grainger. The website is: www.firerescue-gpo.com.

Due to the many changes with the Secretary/Treasurer position, the Board voted to pay for a professional audit of the Division's accounts by the end of this year. This is to ensure that we have a good accounting system while we move forward.

Chief Taylor, our Division Director to the IAFC, gave his report. Chief Taylor has been chosen to sit on the IAFC Executive Board. One Division Director is given a seat on the Executive Board of the IAFC. It is good news for the GLD that our Director will have this seat. Chief Taylor also updated the Board on the following IAFC projects:

- Ethanol Video;
- IAFC Motivation Video;
- Sleep Deprivation Report;
- Wildland Update;
- EMAC; and
- IAFC has set up a "for profit" corporation for consulting purposes.

FRI was in Denver this year. It will be held in Dallas in 2009 and then in Chicago in 2010. The GLD will be playing an important role in the 2010 Conference.

A By-Law change was reviewed and was scheduled to be voted on at the annual meeting. See below for a report on this change.

There was discussion about the new electronic version of the Great Lake Division Trumpet. Chief Roamer has gotten two issues out, but due to a job change has been unable to keep up with this task. We decided to continue with the electronic format and Chief Roamer will attempt to get this out every other month or quarterly.

GLD Hospitality Rooms at FRI -The Board discussed this at length. The convention hotels are not allowing the Divisions to bring in their own supplies for the hospital-ity rooms. The costs charged by the hotels are excessive. We decid-ed to proceed as planned for this year's conference and look into a better approach for Dallas. Chief Roamer will be looking for a long term sponsor for the hospitality room.

Room issues at FRI — Approximately 50 Great Lakes Division members were not able to get into the Division hotel. This has been an ongoing problem over the years. Chief Roamer is address-ing the issue with the housing people for FRI 2009 in Dallas. The Division will be requesting the Hilton Anatole Hotel for the Dallas Conference.

Budget - Chief Roamer will have a draft 2009 budget prepared for the fall board meeting, currently scheduled for November 19 in the Chicago area.

Midwest Haz-Mat Conference -This ongoing conference was discussed and it was decided that Forum 2009 will be replaced by this conference. The 2009 State Presidents Round Table will also be held in conjunction with this conference. The GLD will be working to partner with the conference organizers to look into making this an annual event.

Western Book Store and Preuer Book Store — There was a presentation and discussion about partnering with Preuer Book Store. There was a motion to work with this group to establish a relationship. Chiefs Zikmund, Clemmensen, Macko and Roamer will be working on this. If successful, GLD members will have another outlet for books at significantly reduced pricing.

Annual Division Meeting August 14, 2008 - Denver

Chief Roamer gave the Secretary/Treasurer's report. The Division assets are \$97,362, down 2.7 percent from last year at this time.

Elections were held for the Division Director position and the Secretary/Treasurer position. Chief Taylor and Chief Roamer were elected respectively.

By-Law change was discussed and voted on. This change is to keep our Division by-laws consistent with the IAFC in regards to affiliate memberships. The proposed changes passed.

IAFC Election Results

Chief Larry Gorud from Janesville, WI was sworn in as our new IAFC President.

Chief Jack Parrow was elected as the new IAFC Second Vice President.

If anyone has questions about the Great Lakes Division, please contact me at any of the following:

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