



Colorado State Fire Chiefs' Association

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CSFCA Volunteer Chief Officers Section

Minutes of the 2nd Organizational Meeting Glenwood Springs, Colorado June 2, 2007

The 2nd organizational meeting of the Volunteer Chief Officers Section of the CSFCA was held on Saturday, June 2, 2007 in Glenwood Springs.

Participants

Don Chapman	Alamosa Fire Department	drchap@my.amigo.net
Dave Ury	Black Forest Fire Rescue	bffrpd@qwest.net
David DeTray	La Veta Fire Department	lavetafirechief@yahoo.com
Kevin Klein	Colo Division of Fire Safety	Kevin.klein@cdps.state.co.us
D.J. Himstedt	Indian Hills Fire/Rescue	chief@indianhillsfirerescue.org
Bob Gordanier	Lakeside FD	bgordanier@town.lakeside.co.us
Sean McCauley	Milliken Fire Protection District	smccauley@millikenfire.com
Kelly Pearson	Milliken Fire Protection District	kpearson@millikenfire.com
Paul Cooke	Colorado State Fire Chiefs Assn.	paul@coloradofirechiefs.org
Mike Morgan	Rifle Fire Protection District	mimorgan@riflefiredept.org

Minutes of Meeting of March 24, 2007. Motion by DeTray, 2nd by Chapman to approve the minutes of the meeting of March 24, 2007. Motion **APPROVED**.

Review of Proposed Section Bylaws. Cooke led a review of the proposed bylaws for the Volunteer Chief Officers Section that were drafted from the input received at the March 24th meeting. Following is a summary of the discussion on the draft bylaws:

Membership categories. There was significant discussion concerning who should be eligible for regular (versus associate) membership in the Section. Following the discussion it was the consensus to allow any regular member of the CSFCA to be a member of the section, with the recognition that few, if any career or combination chiefs will join the Section.

Dues. The need for Section dues was discussed. Cooke expressed his concern that by enacting dues for the Section that it might be a deterrent to membership. He expressed that some volunteer fire departments have indicated they cannot afford the \$70 annual CSFCA dues, thus the reason he has been soliciting corporate sponsorship of volunteer fire departments. It was the consensus that dues might be necessary at some point to defray expenses, but this should be reevaluated at the Annual meeting of the Section.

Regional directors. Following up on the discussions held at the March 24th meeting, there was significant discussion concerning whether or not the Section needed its own regional representatives or if this need could be addressed by the current CSFCA regional reps. Following discussion it was the

consensus that in order to reach out to volunteer chiefs, the regional representatives should probably be volunteer chiefs themselves, but they should work closely with the CSFCA Regional Representative. It was felt that the existing CSFCA Regional Representatives could be of great assistance by identifying active volunteer fire chiefs in their region who could server in the capacity of regional representative for the Section.

Eligibility for Office. Section 3 of Article V of the proposed bylaws was amended to read that any active chief officer of a fire department that utilizes volunteer firefighters, who is also a regular member of the CSFCA can serve as Board member in the Section.

Appointment of Initial Officers and Board. It was the consensus of those present that the initial officers of the Section and Regional Representatives, who shall serve until elections are held at the annual meeting, would be:

- Chairman:** Don Chapman, Alamosa Fire Department
- Vice-Chair:** David DeTray, La Veta Fire Department
- Secretary/Treasurer:** Bob Gordanier, Lakeside Fire Department
- Northwest Region:** Mike Morgan will assist in identifying volunteer chief from this region to serve as the Regional Representative
- Northcentral Region:** D.J. Himstedt, Indian Hills Fire/Rescue
- Northeastern Region:** Sean McCauley, Milliken Fire Protection District
- Southwestern Region:** Don Chapman will contact volunteer chiefs in the Southwestern Region to solicit interest in serving as the Regional Rep for the Section
- Southeastern Region:** David DeTray will contact Aaron Eveatt, CSFCA Southeastern Rep to assist in identifying a volunteer chief to serve as the Regional Rep for the Section
- Southcentral Region:** Dave Ury will assist in identifying volunteer chief from this region to serve as the Regional Representative
- South Region:** David DeTray will contact Chris Riley, CSFCA South Region Rep to assist in identifying a volunteer chief to serve as the Regional Rep for the Section
- San Luis Region:** Don Chapman will contact volunteer chiefs in the San Luis Region to solicit interest in serving as the Regional Rep for the Section
- West Region:** Don Chapman will contact Bob Pistor, CSFCA West Region Rep to assist in identifying a volunteer chief to serve as the Regional Rep for the Section

IAFC's VCOS Educational Workshop "Beyond Helmets and Hoses". Cooke reported that he has had preliminary conversations with VCOS about the CSFCA hosting deliveries of the workshop. Both Chief Chapman and Chief Eveatt agreed to host deliveries. Chief Eveatt recommended that one delivery should be done in conjunction with the CSFCA General Membership meeting in La Junta in September. However, we need to nail down dates for the Alamosa delivery. Chief Chapman indicated that he would look at his schedule and get back with Cooke. [Note: Chief Chapman subsequently selected the dates of November 17th and 18th].

“New Fire Chiefs Workshop”. Due to the sparse attendance at this meeting and the fact that some participants could not stay beyond noon, it was decided to postpone the “New Fire Chiefs Workshop” that was planned for this meeting. Instead, Cooke and Klein would seek to put it on as a pre-conference workshop at the Leadership Challenge. Both Cooke and Klein agreed that it could be done on a regional basis, with advance notice. It was the consensus that the name of the workshop should be changed, as the information presented is just as relevant for the volunteer chief who has been in his or her position for 10 years, as it is for the new chief.

In lieu of the workshop, it was decided to have a roundtable discussion of issues.

Role of CSFCA Volunteer Chief Officers Section versus the Colorado State Fire Fighters Association.

There was discussion concerning the role of CSFCA Volunteer Chief Officers Section versus the Colorado State Fire Fighters Association (CSFFA). Cooke suggested that the mission statement of the Section summed up what the Section was being created for, “to provide information, education, services and representation to the Chief Officers of volunteer fire and emergency services organizations in Colorado to enhance their capability and professionalism.” It was the consensus that the CSFFA was created to serve the volunteer firefighter and does not focus on the leadership development or needs of the volunteer chief officer.

How to Structure a Volunteer Firefighter Academy. There was discussion and the sharing of ideas concerning how to structure a Firefighter I/II academy for volunteer firefighters. Chief DeTray indicated that he was looking at bringing out instructors to his department to teach an academy, and was willing to pay them, but he was having difficulty finding instructors. There was discussion about on-line didactic programs and the sharing of training resources via the CSFCA website. Cooke reported that the NFA’s Training Resource and Data Exchange (TRADE) virtual repository contained a wealth of resources that could be used for training. The website is: <http://feti.lsu.edu/municipal/NFA/TRADE/>.

It was suggested that the Colorado Fire Training Officers should be consulted on this topic as it might be possible to resurrect the “Academies on the Road”. Cooke and Klein will follow up with the CFTOA.

800MHZ Radio Systems. Chief DeTray discussed his lower cost alternative to 800 MHZ radios purchased through Motorola. La Veta purchases their radios, which he reports to be comparable to Motorola’s in functionality, through Communications Solutions in Colorado Springs. He indicates that the department realizes significant savings by doing so. Chief DeTray also discussed his problems with the service provided by his communications center and it was suggested that he explore a contract with CSP. Klein indicated that he would get CSP in contact with him.

Next Meeting

Cooke will seek to have the VCOS Educational Workshop “Beyond Helmets and Hoses presented in conjunction with the September General Membership meeting in LaJunta (on the Saturday/Sunday following the meeting. The General membership meeting is scheduled for Friday, September 7th. It was discussed that a short Volunteer Chiefs Section meeting could be held prior to starting the workshop.

[Note: It is likely that the September General Membership meeting will be moved to September 14th. If this happens, Cooke will be seeking to hold the VCOS Workshop on Saturday/Sunday, September 15th & 16th].

Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned, by consensus at 12:00 noon.