



# WFCFA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The Board of the Washington Fire Commissioners Association held a regular meeting on Saturday, April 18, 2020 via conference call.

## **PRESENT**

**Members:** President Brad Lothspeich, Vice President Dan Rankin, Region 1 Director Jack Hensley, Region 2 Director Brad Langdell, Region 3 Director Dwight Vander Vorste, Region 4 Director Les Riel, Region 5 Director Larry Kibbee, Region 6 Director Chris Elwell, Region 7 Director Mike Cathey, Region 8 Director Larry Bartel, Region 9 Director Gene Carmody and Immediate Past President Gerry Gustafson.

**Guests:** Candy McCullough (Vashon Island Fire & Rescue) and Ryan Spiller (Capitol Connection).

**Staff:** Roger Ferris, Anne Marvin, Wendi Hill and Tori Pettis.

## **CALL TO ORDER**

President Lothspeich called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm.

## **SWEARING-IN FOR REGION EIGHT DIRECTOR**

President Lothspeich swore in Larry Bartel as the WFCFA Region 8 Director, over the phone.

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

There being no additions, the agenda was approved as presented.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Riel moved and it was seconded to approve the January 25, 2020 regular board meeting minutes as submitted. **Motion carried.**

## **APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

The consent agenda was presented by President Lothspeich and approved with no objections. The consent agenda included the following:

- **Disbursements:** January-March 2020 disbursements, check numbers 26960 through 27068
- **First Quarter 2020 Health Care & Dental Claims Payments and Expenditures**
- **Membership Report**
- **James R. Larson Forum Building Report**

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Roger Ferris stated the association is in excellent financial shape despite the COVID-19 pandemic, running under budget by 3% for the quarter. The WFCFA has already surpassed its dues revenue expectation for the year. With the high market volatility that accompanies the uncertain times, the association is continuing to pull back from investing in government bonds and shifting to the Local Government Investment Pool.

## **HEALTH CARE REPORT**

**Committee Chair:** Commissioner Hensley reviewed the Health Care Committee meeting from the day before. The WFCFA Health Care Program is performing well during the pandemic and the committee is looking at improvements to be addressed at their next meeting.

**Program Manager:** Anne Marvin stated the experience ratio for the first quarter of 2020 ran below budget at 92.8% for all self-funded plans combined. The next couple months will be difficult to predict with the impact of COVID-19. The WFCFA Health Care Program is supporting its members during this pandemic

with no cost sharing for COVID-19 testing and treatment. Mrs. Marvin has been working diligently with Parker, Smith & Feek and TPSC to educate members on special plan benefits and offerings.

**Investment Officer:** Roger Ferris reiterated the association's cautious investment strategy during these volatile times, pulling back from investing in government bonds and shifting to the Local Government Investment Pool.

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**Correspondence:** Roger Ferris discussed correspondence from past employees Nora Eylenfeldt and Sandy Babcock thanking the board and wishing them well. Mr. Ferris has concentrated on educating commissioners and fire service staff on government compliance during the COVID-19 pandemic with legal analysis from Attorney Brian Snure.

**2020 Seminar Series Report:** Due to the pandemic, the WFCAs Chelan Seminar in June will have to be canceled to protect member welfare and to comply with public health recommendations. Fortunately, the association can postpone the seminar till next year without financial impact, leaving the WFCAs in good fiscal shape despite the canceled events.

**Website Redesign & Member Management Software:** Mr. Ferris introduced capabilities of the software affecting the member experience, website redesign and event management. The member management software will upgrade the association's offerings, ease of use, and visual aesthetic for both members and WFCAs staff. Commissioner Riel moved and it was seconded to move \$15,000 into the Operational Reserve for the Website Redesign & Member Management Software. **Motion carried.**

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Executive:** Vice President Rankin summarized the executive committee meeting regarding the Chelan Seminar and the details Mr. Ferris spoke of earlier in the Seminar Series Report.

**Legislative:** Ryan Spiller reviewed the legislative priorities for the association this year. The WFCAs was successful in passing the Volunteer Firefighters Pension Enhancements, EHB 1912/SSB 5829, but was unable to pass the FMLA Exemption for Fire Commissioners, SB 6216. The WFCAs will push for this issue again with their own bill in the upcoming 2021 session.

### **NAEFO REPORT**

Candy McCullough spoke about NAEFO rescheduling their conference due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Gerry Gustafson will remain WFCAs representative with NAEFO for another year.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**2020 Committee Appointments:** President Lothspeich announced his appointments, as follows:

**BUDGET:** Chair Lee Boling (Spokane 8). Members TBD.

**BYLAWS & RESOLUTIONS:** TBD.

**CONFERENCE STEERING:** TBD.

**EDUCATION:** Chair Les Riel (Yakima 4), Candy McCullough (King 13), Mike Creighton (Mason 3), Ed Egan (East Pierce Fire & Rescue), Milt Harper (Thurston 8), Meredith Hutchins (Thurston 13), Robert Muhleman (Central Kitsap Fire & Rescue), Socorro Ruiz (Whatcom 18), Roy Waugh (Snohomish 7).

ENHANCED 911: Dave Pethia (West Thurston RFA), Alternate Gillian Gregory (North Kitsap Fire & Rescue).

EXECUTIVE: Chair Dan Rankin (West Pierce Fire & Rescue), Brad Lothspeich (Clark 6), Lee Boling (Spokane 8).

FIRE SERVICE LEADERSHIP FORUM: Chair Dale Mitchell (East Pierce Fire & Rescue), Jack Hensley (Spokane 4).

FIREFIGHTER TECHNICAL REVIEW (L & I): David Ellingson (Poulsbo Fire Department), Tom Sutich (Gig Harbor Fire & Medic One).

HEALTH CARE: Chair Jack Hensley (Spokane 4), Gene Carmody (Port Ludlow Fire & Rescue), Ken Eakin (Yakima 12), Jim Farrell (Mountain View Fire & Rescue), Brad Langdell (Walla Walla 5).

LEGISLATIVE: Chair & Region 7 Rep. Dale Mitchell (East Pierce Fire & Rescue), Region 1 Rep. Jack Hensley (Spokane 4), Region 2 Rep. Todd Blackman (Franklin 3), Region 3 Rep. Mike Moore (Grant 10), Region 4 Rep. Bill Dickinson (Kittitas 7), Region 5 Rep. Jerry Evans (Camano Island F&R), Region 6 Rep. Dominic Barrera (North Highline Fire District), Region 8 Rep. Roy Rhine (Clark 5), Region 9 Rep. Gerald Preuss (South Kitsap Fire & Rescue).

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF EMERGENCY & FIRE OFFICIALS: WFC A Rep. Gerry Gustafson (Graham Fire & Rescue).

NOMINATING: WFC A Rep. Gerry Gustafson (Graham Fire & Rescue), Members TBD.

PARLIAMENTARIAN: Brian Snure.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Jerry Bragg.

### **REGIONAL DIRECTORS' REPORTS**

Regional directors spoke about notable news and activities in their respective regions, with special focus on the challenging times and the strategies they are taking to adapt.

### **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

None.

### **ADJOURN**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:52 pm.

Submitted by:

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Brad Lothspeich, President

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Tori Pettis, Recording Secretary