



WFCA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The Board of the Washington Fire Commissioners Association held a regular meeting on Saturday, July 13, 2019 at the state association office in Olympia, Washington.

PRESENT

Members: President Gerry Gustafson, Vice President Brad Lothspeich, Secretary-Treasurer Dan Rankin, Region 1 Director Jack Hensley, Region 2 Director Brad Langdell, Region 3 Director Dwight Vander Vorste (via telephone), Region 5 Director Larry Kibbee, Region 6 Director Chris Elwell, Region 7 Director Gene Dobry and Region 9 Director Gene Carmody.

Guests: Dale Mitchell (East Pierce Fire & Rescue) and Ryan Spiller (Capitol Connection).

Staff: Roger Ferris, Sandy Babcock, Anne Marvin and Nora Eylenfeldt.

CALL TO ORDER

President Gustafson called the meeting to order at 12:30 pm and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA & INTRODUCTIONS

Commissioner Rankin moved and it was seconded to approve the agenda as presented. **Motion carried.** Board members and guests proceeded with introductions.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Lothspeich moved and it was seconded to approve the April 27, 2019 regular Board meeting minutes. **Motion carried.**

TREASURER'S REPORT

Commissioner Rankin reviewed second quarter finances. He referred to the report prepared by Precisely Right Accounting (CPA firm) which recently completed the annual financial review of the association's regular operating, health care and building accounts for 2018. The firm concluded that the cash basis accounting was presented fairly in all material respects. Commissioner Lothspeich moved and it was seconded to approve the WFCA's April-June 2019 disbursements, check numbers 26670 through 26760, totaling \$177,398.73. **Motion carried.** Commissioner Bloemke moved and it was seconded to approve the second quarter operating statement. **Motion carried.** Commissioner Rankin noted that the WFCA will now be doing business with Timberland Bank, which is in the process of completing its merger with South Sound Bank.

HEALTH CARE REPORT

Committee Chair: Commissioner Hensley stated the committee met yesterday to review the January through June claims experience and discuss its recommendations to the Board regarding the 2020 Health Care Program.

Program Manager: Ms. Marvin reported that the medical program's loss ratio through June 30th was 98.8% and the dental was 95.5%.

Ms. Marvin stated the committee made the following recommendations for Board approval regarding the 2020 Health Care Program:

- **Self-funded medical plans**...no premium increase.
- **Self-funded dental plan**...no premium increase.
- **Insured medical plans**...no premium increase for Kaiser of Washington and seven percent premium increase for Kaiser of Oregon.
- **Standard Life and AD&D Insurance**...2020 is the second of a two-year contract.
- **Switch to Vision Service Plan (VSP)**, a nationwide vision care provider that offers more benefits at a better value. Commissioner Langdell moved and it was seconded to switch to VSP effective January 1, 2020. **Motion carried.**
- **Switch the Pharmacy Benefit Manager (PBM) to CVS/Caremark from MaxorPlus**, which is expected to save the Plan a considerable amount of money, primarily through rebates. Commissioner Lothspeich moved and it was seconded to switch the program's PBM to CVS/Caremark effective January 1, 2020. **Motion carried.**
- **Increase out-of-pocket maximum to \$20,000 for out-of-network coverage for chemical dependency and mental health treatment.** It was noted that the self-funded plans are not subject to the Mental Health Parity Act. Discussion followed. Commissioner Elwell stated he has heard about the lack of beds for specific types of treatment (e.g., for opioid addiction) and he wants to be careful to avoid restricting access to those in need of immediate resources; he also expressed concern for those whose best interests may be served by seeking treatment outside their local communities. Ms. Marvin responded that in-network providers cover a fairly wide geographic area and if there is no in-network treatment immediately available, the Plan will waive the out-of-network cost. Commissioner Langdell moved and it was seconded to increase to \$20,000 the out-of-pocket maximum for out-of-network coverage for chemical dependency and mental health treatment, effective January 1, 2020; further, that the Health Care Committee monitor this for one year and report back to the Board. **Motion carried.**

Ms. Marvin announced that registration information was distributed for the fall Health Care Workshops; programs will be held in Olympia, Spokane and Tulalip. The committee continues to discuss the issue of firefighter physicals and Gene Carmody will talk to Dr. Guy Earle about specifics to bring back to the committee for further consideration. Ms. Marvin noted that districts are welcome to submit claims for firefighter physicals through the Program; anything that "falls out" will be billed back to the districts.

Investment Officer: Mr. Ferris stated he will meet with the bond broker next week; current interest rates through LGIP are as good as bond rates, so he will likely liquidate bonds. Commissioner Lothspeich moved and it was seconded to approve second quarter health care (\$8,043,288.84) and dental (\$578,829.54) claims payments, and expenditures in the amount of \$91,114.58, check numbers 5111 through 5154. **Motion carried.**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Correspondence: Mark Thompson, King County Fire Commissioners Association President, sent a letter to President Gustafson expressing concerns with a panelist at the legislative program during the Chelan Seminar. Mr. Ferris emailed Commissioner Thompson to let him know that the Board would be discussing his letter. Commissioner Elwell stated that although the letter is not one he would have sent, he and several other people in King County felt very strongly that the seminar discussion digressed into a conversation about one state representative who was not there to defend himself. Further, he and others found certain comments made by one WFCFA member in such poor taste that

they “got up and walked out.” Mr. Spiller stated he was running the meeting and he didn’t believe it was up to WFCOA officers, Legislative or Education Committee members to stand up and stop anything, as was suggested by Commissioner Thompson. At the same time, he understood Commissioner Thompson saw something he believed to be wrong and wanted the association to do something about it. Discussion followed. It was the general consensus that the WFCOA must urge its speakers to be sensitive to cultural, racial, political and religious issues when addressing our membership.

Leadership Forum Report: Commissioner Mitchell reported that the Forum is scheduled to meet in September and he will provide a full report at the October Board meeting.

The Board recessed at 1:42 pm and reconvened at 1:52 pm.

Board Participation at Conference Registration Desk: Mr. Ferris requested that the Board continue its practice of registering conference attendees as they arrive on Wednesday afternoon (October 23rd). It was the consensus of the Board to participate at the registration desk this year.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive: Commissioner Lothspeich stated the committee has been very involved in the succession planning process.

Staff noted that resumes are rolling in for the Communications Specialist position and we hope to have the new hire on staff by October 1st.

Bylaws: Mr. Ferris announced that no bylaws amendments were submitted to the association office.

Education: Mr. Ferris presented the Education Committee’s proposed conference classes, as follows:

- *Hot Button Legal Issues;*
- *Firefighter Wellness;*
- *Protecting Your Agency from Cyber Intrusion;*
- *Surviving a Lawsuit;*
- *Successful Tax Measures & Bond Market Update;*
- *What’s New? State Agency Panel;*
- *Effective Leadership (Saturday morning general session to wrap up conference).*

Commissioner Lothspeich moved and it was seconded to approve the proposed conference class schedule as presented. **Motion carried.**

Legislative: Mr. Spiller reviewed the bills that passed during session. The WFCOA will continue working on the volunteer firefighter pension bill next session.

Firefighter Technical Review: Commissioner Ellingson sent an email stating he had nothing to report.

NAEFO: President Gustafson announced the convention will be held September 16 & 17, 2019 in Las Vegas. The association’s name has been changed to National Association of Emergency & Fire Officials and now counts retired fire commissioners among its members.

JAMES R. LARSON FORUM BUILDING REPORT

Mr. Ferris announced that there are several vacancies in the building; in addition to Suite 101, AEG (Suite 201) is moving out in August, and it appears the Coalition (Suite 102) will default on its lease (the organization is insolvent). He plans to meet with the Coalition's former president next week to discuss the disposition of their limited assets and he is working with a commercial real estate agent to assist in filling the vacancies. Mr. Ferris has updated the three-year building maintenance and repair schedule.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Lothspeich stated he is seeking donations for the PAC.

Election Rules at Conference: Commissioner Rankin moved and it was seconded to re-adopt the standing conference rules for election of officers and regional directors. **Motion carried.**

E-911 Advisory Committee: It was noted that Judy Wilson is retiring from the committee. Commissioner Elwell moved and it was seconded to appoint Dave Pethia, Thurston 13, as the new WFCRA representative to the committee. **Motion carried.**

REGIONAL DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Regional directors reported on activities within their respective regions.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Commissioner Langdell stated that a man who restored Franklin 3's first fire engine donated it back to the district.

Sandy Babcock asked Region Directors to encourage districts to submit their entries for the management excellence award competition—all entrants will get reserved seating at the conference banquet!

Commissioner Kibbee announced that in addition to Snohomish, Skagit and Whatcom, Pierce and Thurston Counties have contributed financially to the Welcome to Conference hospitality suite this year. Commissioner Elwell stated that King County has contributed money as well.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, President Gustafson adjourned the meeting at 2:48 pm.

Submitted by:

Gerald Gustafson, President

Nora Eyllenfeldt, Recording Secretary