



## WFCA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The Board of the Washington Fire Commissioners Association held a regular meeting on Saturday, July 9, 2016 at the state association office in Olympia, Washington.

### **PRESENT**

**Members:** President David Ellingson, Vice President Gerry Gustafson, Secretary-Treasurer Brad Lothspeich, Region 1 Director Jack Hensley, Region 2 Director Brad Langdell, Region 3 Director Dwight Vander Vorste, Region 4 Director Les Riel, Region 5 Alternate Steve Lich, Region 6 Director Chris Elwell, Region 7 Director Dan Rankin, Region 8 Alternate Dean Bloemke and Region 9 Director Gene Carmody.

**Guests:** Dale Mitchell (East Pierce Fire & Rescue), Gerald Preuss (South Kitsap Fire & Rescue) and Ryan Spiller (Capitol Connection).

**Staff:** Roger Ferris, Sandy Babcock, Jim Lux and Nora Eylenfeldt.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

President Ellingson called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Following introductions, Commissioner Rankin moved and it was seconded to approve the agenda as presented. **Motion carried.**

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Riel moved and it was seconded to approve the April 16, 2016 regular Board meeting minutes. **Motion carried.**

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Commissioner Lothspeich reviewed second quarter finances, noting the budget is in very good condition; the quarterly report will be emailed to members next week. Mr. Ferris discussed health care funds, noting a \$1 million bond was called last week which was subsequently reissued; bond interest earnings are expected to exceed \$100,000 for the year. The WFCA exceeded projected dues revenue for 2016 by picking up several non-member districts. Mr. Ferris stated he has received positive feedback regarding the quarterly financial report being emailed to the membership. Commissioner Bloemke moved and it was seconded to approve the WFCA's April-June 2016 disbursements, check numbers 25477 through 25579, totaling \$175,383.18. **Motion carried unanimously.**

### **HEALTH CARE REPORT**

**Committee Chair:** Commissioner Hensley stated the committee met yesterday; he deferred to the Health Care Manager to review information for the 2017 renewal.

**Program Manager:** Mr. Lux distributed information outlining the committee's recommendations for renewal of the 2017 health care plan, as follows:

- **Self-funded medical plans**...zero increase in premiums.

- **Insured medical plans**...Group Health Cooperative, 5% premium increase; Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, 3% premium increase.
- **WDS Dental Plan**...zero increase in premiums (the proposed 3.7% increase was offset using available reserves).
- **Standard Life and AD&D Insurance**...zero increase in premiums on a two-year contract.

Commissioner Riel moved and it was seconded to approve the Health Care Committee's recommended rates for the 2017 self-funded and insured programs as outlined. **Motion carried.**

After discussion, Commissioner Langdell moved and it was seconded to approve the Health Care Committee's recommendation to expand coverage for Autism Spectrum Disorder effective January 1, 2017. **Motion carried.**

After discussion, Commissioner Rankin moved and it was seconded to approve the Health Care Committee's recommendation to consolidate the provider network in Southwest Washington effective January 1, 2017. **Motion carried.** It was noted that affected members will be notified of the change well in advance of the effective date.

**Investment Officer:** Mr. Ferris noted that health care finances, including bond investments, were reviewed during the WFCOA Treasurer's report.

#### **EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT**

**Correspondence:** None.

**State Auditor Meeting:** Mr. Ferris is scheduled to meet with the State Auditor's Office in early August to discuss a number of issues, among them the mechanism to allow small districts to hire private CPAs to perform audits.

**Regular Operating Audit:** The State Auditor will conduct a three-year audit of WFCOA regular operating funds and operations later this year.

**Health Care Audit:** The Health Care Program's annual audit is scheduled to begin in late July.

**Board Participation at Conference Registration Desk:** Mr. Ferris asked that the Board register conference attendees as they arrive in Yakima on Wednesday afternoon, October 26. It was the consensus of the Board to participate at the registration desk this year.

**Board Nominations:** Mr. Ferris asked that Board members wishing to run for office to please submit nominations to the state office by August 9.

**Executive Secretary Travel:** Mr. Ferris reported that he has been traveling around the state over the past several weeks.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Executive:** Commissioner Gustafson stated the Forum roofing project has been completed; there was very little structural damage, so only a few sheets of plywood needed to be replaced. The committee is in the process of reviewing staff salaries.

**Education:** Commissioner Riel presented the Education Committee's proposed conference classes, as follows:

- **Fire Service Roundtable Discussions.** Three roundtables (one each for career, transitional and volunteer) will be held with a variety of subjects in this 3-hour program on Thursday afternoon.
- **Social Media Update.** One-and-a-half-hour class on Friday morning with Brian Snure.
- **Grant Writing.** One-and-a-half-hour program on Friday morning presented by Michelle Mazzola.
- **GEMT.** One-and-a-half-hour program on Friday morning, instructor TBA.
- **Creative Fundraising for Fire Districts.** One-and-a-half-hour program on Friday morning presented by Michelle Mazzola.
- **Oso, All Risk Mob, Emergency Preparedness.** Three hour program on Saturday morning featuring Travis Hots for the Oso section, a presenter to talk about Cascadia Rising and a person to talk about "how to prepare".

Commissioner Riel thanked Education Committee members and WFCA staff for their work, noting the next committee meeting will be held December 3 to set the 2017 Saturday Seminar Series class schedule. Commissioner Elwell moved and it was seconded to approve the proposed conference class schedule. **Motion carried.**

**Bylaws:** Mr. Ferris stated the association received no proposed bylaws amendments.

**Legislative:** Mr. Spiller reviewed issues that are being discussed for the 2017 session, among them funding for the Training Academy, funding for wildfires, public records requests, volunteer benefits, budget inflation. The Legislative Committee will meet August 11.

**Leadership Forum:** Commissioner Mitchell reported the Forum is scheduled to meet later this month. They are looking to work with media outlets to get the word out about funding for the Academy.

**Firefighter Technical Review:** Commissioner Ellingson stated there were three inspections this month, but there were no significant findings.

**E-911 Advisory:** Mr. Ferris stated that Commissioner Wilson emailed to say the committee will meet later this month.

**NAEFO:** Commissioner Gustafson announced the next meeting will be July 30 in Olympia. The convention will be held September 19-20 in Las Vegas at The Orleans Hotel.

### **JAMES R. LARSON FORUM BUILDING REPORT**

Mr. Ferris stated now that the roof project has been completed, all the stained ceiling tiles will be replaced. He will begin seeking bids to replace the common area carpet, a project that is slated for 2017.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**L&I Initiative Status:** President Ellingson and Mr. Ferris have a meeting scheduled with L&I on July 26 to continue discussing areas of common interest (reducing costs by getting injured workers immediate care for injuries and getting employees back to work in a timely manner, even if that means

light duty jobs). They are also working to get premiums to districts by October in order to help with budgeting.

**Best Practices.** President Ellingson announced that the Best Practices feature is up and running on the website and he encouraged Board members to submit items for inclusion.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

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

### **REGIONAL DIRECTORS' REPORTS**

Regional directors reported on activities within their respective regions.

### **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

A moment of silence was held to reflect on the Dallas police officer shootings.

Mr. Ferris requested that Board members provide him with topics for conference roundtables. There will be at least one attorney, Board and Legislative Committee member at each of the three Roundtables.

Commissioner Lothspeich made another appeal for donations to the PAC that can be raffled off at conference; any items would be appreciated.

President Ellingson stated that he spoke at the Firefighters' Memorial Service held last month in Olympia; it was difficult to address the families of the fallen, who remain heartbroken by their loss.

### **ADJOURN**

There being no further business, President Ellingson adjourned the meeting at 2:20 p.m.