



Minutes of the Meeting of the Fire Service Membership Council Governing Committee

**Sunday, October 21, 2018
9:30 a.m. EDT**

**“Founded by Members to Serve our Members . . . Benefitting Communities
Worldwide”**

FSMC Members	Representing	Present
Scott Adams – Chair -- Park City Fire District, UT (Retired)	ICC	X
Gary West --Vice Chair – National Fire Sprinkler Association, Nashville	NASFM	X
Robert Buxton – Hudson Fire Department, NH	IAFC:NE	
Fulton Cochran -- Clark County Building and Fire Prevention, NV	ICC	X
Michael Desrochers – Vermont Fire Marshal’s Office, Barre	NASFM	X
Timothy Diehl -- Rockville Fire Marshal’s Office, MD	ICC	X
Joseph Fahd, Jr. – Cohoes Fire Department, NY	IAFC:E	
Andy King – Franklin Fire Dept. TN	IAFC:SE	X
Joe McElvaney – Phoenix Fire Department, AZ	ICC	
Rick McCullough -- Regina Fire Department, SK (Retired)	IAFC:C	X
James Maxon – Sandoval County Fire Department, NM	IAFC:SW	Called in
Randy Metz – Carlsbad Fire Department, CA	IAFC:W	X
George Michehl -- Buffalo Grove Fire Department, IL (Retired)	IAFC:GL	X
Kelly Nicoletto -- Underwriters Laboratories, TX	NASFM	X
Coy Porter – Utah Fire Marshal’s Office, Salt Lake City	NASFM	Excused
Christine Reed – Central County Fire Department, CA	ICC	Called in
Marc Sampson-- Longmont Fire Department, CO	IAFC:MV	X
Adolf Zubia -- A to Z Fire & Code Consulting LLC, Las Cruces, NM	ICC	X

International Code Council (ICC) Staff and Liaisons	
Dave Nichols – Staff Liaison to the FSMC	X
Sara Yerkes – ICC Senior VP, Government Relations	X
Stuart Tom – ICC Board of Directors, Pasadena, CA	X
Tom Allen – ICC GR Staff	X
Timothy Diehl – BOMC liaison	X

Guests: *(I only listed the people who signed in)*

Dustin Perry
Dennis Lockard
Jessica Power
Travis Dawley
Jay Peters
John Delesandro
Patricia Koch
Rich Soltis
Gregori Anderson
Tonya Hover

1) Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Adams at 9:42 am Eastern time.

2) Openings Remarks from the Chair

Chairman Adams welcomed the attendees and expressed his appreciation for their participation. Recognized Dave Nichols who stepped up and helped in the transition between Rob Neale and the soon to be hired VP of Fire and Disaster Mitigation. Dave Nichols called the roll and a quorum was declared at 9:50 am

3) Additions or Corrections to the Agenda

No changes or additions were made to the agenda.

4) Approval of Minutes

Action: Mr. George Michehl moved, and Mr. Kelly Nicoletto seconded, a motion to accept the minutes of the September 20, 2018 conference call. The motion carried without objection.

5) Reports from Officers or Permanent Committees

- a. Board of Directors liaison (Stuart Tom, ICC Director)
Angie Wiese is unavailable for the meeting she is at the candidates' forum. On behalf of the ICC Board, I want to thank you for your annual report. The report that the membership council gives to the board, sets the bar. The rest of the membership councils will now be expected to provide a report with a lot of the detail that you do. Rob Neale was instrumental in creating the template for your current report. We are recommending this

format since it provides so much information that the rest of the membership councils integrate portions into their reports.

We are continuing to look for a candidate for Rob Neale's position. Thanked Dave Nichols for filling in. The reason it is taking so long is that ICC recognizes the value and importance of the Fire Service; not just in relation to fire, but also in disaster response. The role will be expanded a little bit as we conduct the search for someone that will perform as staff liaison for both of these functions

Chairman Adams

The annual report has been submitted, hopefully everyone has had the chance to review it. Thank you for your service on the committee.

b. Training and Education Chairman Adams

- We are encouraging more individuals to take the ICC exam for Fire Sprinkler and Fire Alarm Certification as this is one ICC may discontinue due to low volume.
- The committee has reported the current ICC will not be able to offer Pro Board accredited Fire Inspector I and II classes. The committee has been working with Michelle Porter to try to develop classes that will add a practical skills element or some type of evaluation to show proficiency. The other option would be to remove the accreditation. The Fire I & II classes would still be available with ICC certification.

c. Membership Outreach (Maxon)

- Mr. Maxon reported that they are working on a project and will get materials together to submit a report at the next meeting.

d. FPW/BSM/FSMC Website (Michehl)

- Mr. Michehl reported that Christine Reed will be taking over the committee at the end of George's term in December.
- One of the things that has been created with Christine's help was a series of tweets for ICC to tweet out daily during Fire Prevention Week and Building Safety Month. The committee put together thirty daily tweets for Building Safety Month with Christine's help and guidance. This year for Fire Prevention week, Christine created the seven tweets which Whitney Doll & staff put them out.
- This time, an article was not written for Fire Prevention Week. We have done that for the past 4 – 5 years. "Look, listen, learn. Be Aware! Fire can happen anywhere." is a lot in a title to try to write an article about, especially when we as a group try to write an article that is not just fire safety or fire prevention. We try to incorporate building safety information which the reader will feel is coming from ICC as a whole,

not just the Fire Service Membership Council.

- As chairman, I decided to forego that, and we are going to follow up with an article this month focusing on UL's fire safety theme "Close Before You Doze" campaign. UL has done a lot of research on that and I think we can incorporate it into both fire safety and building safety as it relates to smoke alarm placement as such that code officials can relate to.
- Christine thanked George for all of his work during his time on the committee. "When I first came on, he was right there willing to help me and to guide me. I can only hope to continue the committee in the direction that George has been going."
- Chairman Adams recognized ICC Board President Jay Elbettar. Good morning everyone. Thank you for allowing me to speak before you. I would like to welcome you on behalf of the ICC Board and Staff to the Annual Business Meeting. I have a special affinity for you folks. I started out as a Building Official in Glendale and we were doing plan review and life safety, and the Fire Department was doing plan review and life safety for fire prevention. After a while, we met and I had a very good relationship with them and I said, "you know what, we are going to stop doing it. Why were we doing it in the first place?" He said no, the reason we were doing it is because you guys were not doing a good job. Now that you do, we can stop fire life safety and just focus on sprinklers and fire alarms. Thank you for what you do.

e. Emerging Issues and Trends (Desrochers)

- Mission of the committee is to scan the environment for new issues or trends that impact the Fire Service and recommend whether the Fire Service Membership Council should do anything about it.
- Changed group leaders in April and have not had the opportunity to really accelerate with this yet. We have a list of 6-7 trending issues. Some are in midstream in the code development process.
 1. Tall wood frame buildings.
 2. Heat system conversions with compressed natural gas which we are seeing in New England states. No standards yet exist for compressed natural gas.
 3. Virtual inspections.
 4. Valet trash – Florida.
 5. Peer storage- renting free space to others (closets, basements, attics).
 6. Fire department access for donut shaped building access.
- Our goal is to take a look at this stuff and see where we can funnel this off to showcase and continue scanning trends.

- f. Sara Yerkes – ICC Senior VP, Government Relations: Good morning! So nice to see so many old friends here. As you know, Rob Neale retired at the end of June. We have received many applications of well qualified applicants. The job description has been expanded to include disaster

mitigation response. Many people have said this is two separate jobs, but I only have one position and we needed to add disaster response as we are doing so much of it. We are working with FEMA on the disaster mitigation teams and our staff is working with the National Disaster Response Alliance as well as other efforts ICC has going on with post-disaster work with jurisdictions. I also want to work with jurisdictions pre-disaster and provide help with applying for Stafford Act. We offered the job to a very qualified candidate, but we lost her to TSA. We made an offer to another candidate and hope to be able to make an announcement after the conference. It is very important to us in our relationship with our fire service members. The position is going to be based in the DC office.

I worked for NFPA for over 20 years and I am very familiar with the fire service. For years I have been working on getting the CFSI to recognize ICC. I was one of the charter members that started CFSI. For over 30 years, I have been attending the CFSI dinners, events, and fundraisers in DC. One of the tasks I am assigning to the new fire person is to get CFSI to recognize ICC for the work we do as a fire service organization. What I am asking is for this Council to please help convince the fire service organizations that ICC is a fire service organization and that we represent the fire service and we want to be part of that inner circle. Firefighters joining the fire service need to recognize the importance of the fire codes because they work in built environment.

The other thing I wanted to tell you all about is President Trump signed the Disaster Recovery Reform Act (DRRA) on October 7th. For the first time there is going to be money for code updates and code enforcement as part of the DRRA. I wanted you to know this because your jurisdictions compete for the funding and I wanted to let you know ICC is happy to assist you in applying for those funds.

Our relationship with NFPA is great now. I co-chaired the Coalition for Current Safety Codes with NFPA. We have worked together to in several states to convince the jurisdictions to stay current on their codes. This coalition does not push for one code over another; it encourages jurisdictions to get current on whatever codes they have in place.

Kelly Nicoletto asked if the expectations for what ICC provides with the fire service liaison are going to change significantly based on the additional workload of having the whole emergency response standpoint added to the job description. VP Yerkes replied I don't think so. Rob Neale provided a lot of training and education which was his passion. I would prefer this position not do so much training and spend more time on public relations and government relations liaison with the fire service making sure we are present and engaged. Not just attending conferences and meetings, but being on the program and interacting with the fire service organizations. One of the reasons that there has been a delay in hiring this person is that I want someone to take this program to the next level or two. We have done

a lot to build it, the foundation, but we need to keep going forward and not let it stagnate or reverse.

VP Yerkes: With disaster mitigation, we even have GR staff working here on disaster mitigation issues. Tom Allen worked with FEMA teams and went to Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands. Mark Roberts and Kelly Sadler have also been participating, so I don't see this role will take away from the fire service.

Adolf Zubia: There is a concern that with the natural attrition of GR staff that fire services is losing representation. I want to make sure that the ICC Board and Membership understands the concern and that we need to not just talk about it but to show it in actions. My hope is that you will replace staff with a fire service background with someone with a fire service background.

VP Yerkes Comments: My department has changed over the years. I think because the adoptions have become more political in so many areas. We tend to look for individuals who are managing those areas to have certain skills. I try to have a good mix of skills. Some technical and some political to work through these issues. The issues have become much more political; we have to deal with legislators, city and county councils. That's where the decisions are being made. I know you are concerned with disaster mitigation being added to the position but there is no intent to reduce fire.

g. BOMC Liaison (Diehl)

- BOMC - They have an addendum that they have added to their charter on how to select members for Governance Committee. They are also looking to expand the liaison program to include all membership councils.

6) Reports from Special Committees

a. Nominating Committee (Desrochers)

- Steven Swarthout was elected to the FSMC Governing Committee representing ICC.
- Tim Deihl was elected to serve a second term on the FSMC Governing Committee (ICC) and to continue serving as BOMC Liaison.
- Andy King was appointed by the IAFC:SE to fill the IAFC:SE vacancy on the Governing Committee.
- Kara Gerczynski was appointed by the IAFC:MV to fill the Missouri Valley Division vacancy opening up on the Governing Committee.

b. Bylaw Committee (Nicoletto)

- The issue is, what do we do with members that do not show up. There is nothing in the charter that allows us to take action. There was a lengthy discussion about the options. Fulton Cochran motioned to withdraw the proposed Bylaws change, Rick McCullough seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

c. Succession Planning (Adams)

Chairman Adams: Reminder that the FSMC GC Chair & Co-Chair are on committee for selecting people to serve on the Fire code development committee – we need to encourage participation.

George Michehl: I just have a comment regarding succession planning. You didn't acknowledge that there is an appointee in the Great Lakes division, he just hasn't been approved yet. To that end; as soon as I get the gentleman's name, I will forward it to the committee. I recommend sending a new members letter welcoming them, and a copy of the annual report & charter.

Chairman Adams: Rob Neale was always searching the new appointments for fire marshals and fire chiefs and sending them a welcome letter including information about the FSMC. We would like Dave Nichols to continue this and the new fire service liaison.

Randy Metz: If you are occupying one of the MOU positions, where you know you are terming out, you should be looking for your replacement to make a recommendation to IAFC.

VP Yerkes: I think the shadow program the Board is doing, is working really well. That may be something you guys want to consider as well. Having your own shadows.

7) Unfinished Business

- Bookmark project (West)

We've spent a long time on this thing and I've been trying to close it out for a while, but I am hoping to do that today. This is just a simple bookmark and it is something that a committee put together. But, it's a promotional thing for our council and basically it has five points. It was reviewed by the committee, ICC staff, and ICC's media department and is now back for final approval from the Council. Motion by Kelly Nicolello to approve the bookmarker, 2nd by Randy Metz, the vote was unanimous.

Christine Reed requested to include a copy of the design with the minutes.

- Chairman Adams recognized and thanked the Crowd Managers who had volunteered service at the Annual Business Meeting. The honorary Crowd Mangers consisted of Chairman Adams, Fulton Cochran, Randy Metz and Mark Sampson.
- Chairman Adams: The ICC Board unanimously approved the addition of two additional members to come from the National Association of State Foresters to the FSMC Governance Committee.

- Dave Nichols: Mr. Nichols reported that he has sent an email to the Executive Director of the National Association of State Foresters and explained what FSMC does, included a link to the website, and explained the ICC Board action approving these two appointments. I'll follow up to see if we can engage that organization's interest.

8) Recognition Awards

- a. Chairman Adams: VP Yerkes and I would like to present recognition awards to those that are going off our council.

Jackie Gibbs

Rick McCullough

George Michehl

Mark Sampson

Scott Adams

9) New Business

- a. VP Yerkes: One of our former employees; Peter Feldman, has been appointed as Commissioner to the Consumer Product Safety Commission and I know how many fire related issues the commission handles, so I just want to put it out for this council that if there are any issues that you would like ICC staff to work on and our fire guy coming in to focus on to let me know. I intend to get more involved with the CPSC and if there are any issues you would like us to advocate for or against, please contact us.

- b. Elections (Desrochers)

The Nominating Committee recommends Gary West for the Chair. Chairman Adams called for nominations from the floor three times, there were no additional nominations. The vote was unanimous.

The Nominating Committee recommends Randy Metz for Vice Chair.

Chairman Adams called for nominations from the floor three times, there were no additional nominations. Michael Desrochers made the motion, Kelly Nicoletto seconded, and the vote was unanimous.

Questions and Comments from the Audience

- Jay Peters requested that ATL refrigerants be added to the trending and emerging issues list for review.
- Randy Metz: FSMC has been requested to participate in an ad hoc committee on building safety and security. Council Members Coy Porter and Randy Metz have been selected to serve on this ad hoc committee.
- Tonya Hoover: USFA is actively involved in the grants process. We have been tasked through legislation to being more involved in the Assistance to Firefighter Grant (AFG) Safer Grant process, so we are hosting it on campus and even bringing in people for peer reviews. It's a brand new day at the NFA and there's a lot going on. Redevelopment of courses; they are eligible for college credit. One of the areas we are reworking is prevention. We are reworking fire administration courses and water-based systems classes. They are looking for subject matter experts for fire prevention to work on these courses. Executive Fire Officer's criteria is being reviewed and the entire EFO program will look more robust.

10) Good of the Order and Emerging Issues

Chairman Adams: The 2019 Innovation in Code Administration will be awarded again next year so if you have any candidates, please present them to the committee.

Dave Nichols: Next meeting, Tele-conference, December 6th

Andy King: As Chairman of the Fire and Life Safety section, we will be having our next conference in Reno Nevada, March 24th thru March 26th 2019.

Chairman Adams: Thanked Tom Allen for taking the minutes, welcomed the new members coming on to the FSMC Governing Council, and thanked those outgoing Council members how have worked with on the FSMC Governing Council.

George Michehl: I was charged at the last meeting to get Rob Neale a thank you plaque and he received it Tuesday.

11) Adjournment.

- a. Action: There being no additional business to come before the Governing Council, George Michehl moved, and Rick McCullough seconded, a motion to adjourn meeting. The motion carried without objection and the meeting was closed at 11:14 a.m.

Scott W. Adams, Chair
FSMC Governing Council

For questions or additional information, contact:

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