



Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association of Illinois

Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 17, 2020
Aurelio's Pizza; 1455 Lake St., Addison, IL



1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Styczynski at 11:35 hours.

2. Roll Call – (*8 Voting Members Needed for Quorum)

Members	Departments	Present
President Thomas Styczynski*	Alsip	X
1 st Vice President Bob Wilson*	Frankfort	X
2 nd Vice President Mike Kuryla*	Berkeley	X
Secretary Steve Riley*	Westmont	
Treasurer Tom Deegan*	Retired Chief	X
Immediate Past President Tracy Kenny*	Broadview	X
Sergeant-At-Arms Jim Jackson	Retired Chief	
Sergeant-At-Arms Alan Wax	Retired Chief	X
Director John Christian*	Grayslake	X
Director Randy Deicke*	Batavia	X
Director Steve Evans*	Winfield	
Director Fred Friedl*	Beach Park	X
Director Brad Liggett*	Freeport	X
Director Gordon J. Nord, Jr.*	Lyons	X
Director Dick Swanson*	Retired Chief	X
Director Jim Walters*	Schaumburg	

3. Secretary's Report – Approval of 5/20/2020 Meeting Minutes

A vote approved the minutes from the May 20, 2020 Executive Board virtual meeting, as presented.

- Motion – 1st Vice President Wilson
- Second – Director Swanson
- Voice Vote – Unanimous (11-0)

4. Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Deegan

A. Financial Statements – Treasurer Deegan distributed the June 15, 2020 Statement, reporting as follows:

Account Balances as of June 15, 2020

MB Financial Bank Account –	\$59,606.83	(from 5/19-6/15: \$180 dues deposits, \$0.59 credit card fees)
Paypal –	\$154.76	
Petty Cash –	\$50.00	
Total as of 6/15/2020 –	\$59,811.59	

B. Budget Status – Treasurer Deegan distributed the budget status report as of June 15, 2020. Through 45.63% of the year, revenues were at 37.51% of the full-year 2020 budget (\$24,455 out of \$65,200) and expenditures were at 12.41% of the full-year 2020 budget (\$10,319.13 out of \$83,185), creating a \$10,319.13 net income position. Treasurer Deegan identified that this situation is not expected to change much since 2020 activities and events are cancelled. Treasurer Deegan noted that he will begin to follow-up with non-paying members in the near future.

A vote approved the Treasurer's Report as of June 15, 2020, as presented.

Motion – Director Friedl
Second – Past President Kenny
Voice Vote – Unanimous (11-0)

5. President's Report – President Styczynski

A. Future Events in Light of Shut-Downs Due to Pandemic – President Styczynski provided an update on the status of the pandemic and the Governor's stages for "re-opening." A lengthy discussion was held, which included recognition that most events of other organizations – including the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association (IFCA), Illinois Municipal League, International Association of Fire Chiefs, and others – have been cancelled for the remainder of 2020. The discussion included recognition of the Board's desire to "set the example" and to prioritize on safety in the decision. Following the discussion, a vote determined that all remaining Metro Fire Chiefs member events for 2020 will be cancelled. This includes the September Symposium, monthly general membership meetings, and the December Holiday/Installation luncheon. This does not include the Board's monthly meetings – which will continue in a social-distancing format in compliance with the Governor's orders so that the organization's business may continue, decisions be made, and bills be approved and paid.

Motion – 1st Vice President Wilson
Second – Director Kuryla
Voice Vote – Unanimous (11-0)

B. Other Coronavirus-Related Issues – Discussion continued and other decisions were made, as follows:

i. Information sessions replacing general membership meetings. It was recognized that it is desirable for the organization to continue to provide necessary service and useful information to the members during the pandemic even though events for 2020 are cancelled. By consensus, it was determined that ten-to-fifteen minute computer-based informational sessions will be held on "hot topics" in place of the monthly general membership meetings. It will be determined if these will be in "webinar" format or simply individual videos posted on the Metro Chiefs website that can be viewed by the members at any time. The first session will be President Styczynski advising members of the decisions made by the Board for 2020, including the event cancellations and the information sessions. In this first session, President Styczynski will also launch a survey to solicit potential topics for the future informational sessions.

ii. 2021 Membership Dues. The discussion turned to recognition that, with less Metro Chiefs programming in 2020, with many departments experiencing reduced revenue due to the pandemic, and with adequate funds in the organization's bank account, it would be of benefit to reduce 2021 membership dues. A vote determined the following:

- 2021 dues for Active Members will be half of the current dues amount
- 2021 dues for Affiliate Members will be half of the current dues amount
- There will be no 2021 dues for Associate Members (vendors)
- There will be no 2021 dues for Retired Members

The above 2021 dues deductions apply only to such members in each category that have paid the applicable dues in 2020.

Motion – Director Nord
Second – 1st Vice President Wilson
Voice Vote – Unanimous (11-0)

iii. Retaining Current Officers Through 2021. Given that the organization's activities are greatly reduced in 2020, coupled with the fact that there will be neither a meeting to hold the annual election nor a Holiday/Installation luncheon in December, there was discussion on retaining the current officers for another year - through 2021. Following a brief discussion, President Styczynski asked Executive Board members to consider this option and plan for additional discussion and a possible vote on this at the Executive Board's July meeting. Prior to that meeting, research will be conducted to determine if it is better to implement this option

at an Executive Board meeting or by having the Nominating Committee recommend a "slate" that consists of the current officers in their current positions and then having the Active Members vote on-line.

C. **Presidential Award** – President Styczynski followed-up on this item from a previous discussion. This involved creating an award to present to those who provide unusual and/or outstanding service or assistance to the Association. It is President Styczynski's intent to give the first such award to Paul Darley for ALL of his work on Home Day during the past seven years. President Styczynski sought confirmation that this was okay with the Board members. By consensus, the creation of this award will go forward – President Styczynski will develop the award and advise the Board when it's done.

D. **Scholarship Thank-You Letter** – President Styczynski presented the attached letter of thanks from Hoffman Estates Deputy Fire Chief Tom Mackie. D/C Mackie was the recipient of the Metro Fire Chiefs Association Scholarship through the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association Foundation, and the letter expressed his appreciation. D/C Mackie is using the scholarship to assist in the completion of his coursework for a Bachelor of Science Degree in Fire Administration from Columbia Southern University.

6. **Committee Reports**

A. **Administrative Professionals Recognition Luncheon** – Committee Chairperson Kenny reported that she is waiting for the Illinois Fire Service Administrative Professionals organization to meet, at which meeting she will present the area reps with the gifts for the members. The gifts were not distributed because the Luncheon was cancelled due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

B. **Bylaws** – Committee Chairperson Kuryla revisited the discussion about the possibility of discontinuing the retirement gift (\$100 gift card or clock/plaque), with an associated discontinuation of the Retiree Member annual dues (\$10). Following a brief discussion, he withdrew the topic and will revisit it in 2021.

C. **Directory/Website** – No Report. Committee Chairperson Deicke will work on getting the informational sessions (per Item 5.B.i., above) on the website.

D. **Fundraising** – Committee Chairperson Deegan reported that all IFCA fundraising events (including the golf outing) have been cancelled for 2020 with the exception of the fall clay-shooting event. He advised that the Foundation is selling t-shirts to raise funds, so please get the word out and order shirts online at the IFCA Foundation website.

E. **Home Day** – President Styczynski reported that this year's event was a success, despite having to utilize a webinar format due to the pandemic, and despite some technical difficulties with Congressman Bost's and Fire Marshal Perez's computers. President Styczynski thanked Committee Chairperson Deegan for his work on the event, and also thanked Paul Darley and some of Paul's staff. 200 registered for the on-line event, and 160 attended, including 15 congressional staff-members.

F. **IFCA/Legislation** – No Report. Committee Chairperson Christian indicated that there is not much current activity in Springfield.

G. **Programs** – No report.

H. **Symposium** – See Item 5.A., above.

I. **Sick & Welfare** – Committee Chairperson Kenny led the Board in congratulating Chief Christian for his retirement from the Grayslake Fire Protection District and his appointment as the new Barrington Fire Department Chief.

J. **Metro Fire Chiefs History** – No Report. Committee Chairperson Swanson reported that he will be retrieving the hard-copy historical files from Chief Maloy (Bedford Park) now that the documents have been digitized and placed on storage devices.

7. **Unfinished Business** – None.

8. **Open Discussion** – Sergeant-at-Arms Wax reported that the main Operation North Pole (ONP) event (Train Ride and Winter Wonderland) is cancelled for 2020 due to the pandemic. ONP has already made contributions to charities whose resources are reduced during the pandemic (including food pantries), and will be looking for other opportunities to provide benefit to needy children and families this year, especially during the holiday season. He will provide more information when such is known.

9. **Adjournment**

Motion: Director Christian
Seconded: Director Friedl
Voice Vote: Unanimous (11-0)
Time Adjourned: 12:40 hours

10. **Future 2020 Meeting Dates**

- Executive Board Meeting: July 15, 2020 – Aurelio's Pizza
- Executive Board Meeting: August 19, 2020 – Aurelio's Pizza
- Executive Board Meeting: September 16, 2020 – Aurelio's Pizza
- Executive Board Meeting: October 21, 2020 – To Be Determined
- Executive Board Meeting: November 18, 2020 – To Be Determined
- Executive Board Meeting: December 16, 2020 – To Be Determined

Respectfully submitted,

Alan S Wax

Alan Wax, on behalf of Secretary Steve Riley