IDAHO FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

CHIEFS’ ROUNDTABLE

APRIL 24, 2016

SUN VALLEY, IDAHO

Fire chief 101: IFCA would like to initiate this training program for new chiefs. Topics would include (but not be limited to)

* The law
* State statutes
* Purchasing requirements/budgeting
* Taxation 101 – how taxing works in idaho
* Labor management issues

Jason Blubaum has 2/3 of the framework put together and is willing to share.

Action item: acquire a copy of the framework that already exists as a starting point

Initially we could include a half-day session before, during or after the annual conference. Later, it would be a 2-day course. International puts together a symposium in phoenix each year, we should look at their curriculum.

Action item: review iafc symposium

More topics could include:

* Fire codes – the fire chief is fire code official, what does that mean?
* How do you deal with elected officials? What is your role, their role? There are some requirements for each, what are they?
* Where are the resources? Where can you go for answers?
* What is the code – and how do you get to it?
* What friends can you phone to get the right answer?
* Mutual aid agreements, working with other governmental partners
* A section of boilerpate agreements – how do you write up an MOU or a mutual aid agreement?

Bart Lassman – on the website let’s put a link and put together a resource list – for instance Jason Blubaum for the resource handbook. What do people have, what resource and where do you go to get it, just to hold us until we put a class or a manual together. A bullet list of who we go to for various resources.

Action item: begin to develop resource bullet list for website

David gates – he would like to put a list of topics together, hand it out and pick a lead on that topic, then have others review.

Action item: distribute potential list of topics and determine lead individual for each

Jason Blubaum would like to see it on our website, free, for whoever needs it. We want to make it available to any chief regardless of whether they are a member or not.

International puts together every available handbook, the handbook is going to go away – nobody reads them. It’s too broad. What they are looking at doing at IAFC is developing a Fire 101 that is an app or web-based with a training aid (power point) that assists the mentor in helping the new fire chief, and together with the app they are creating you can develop your timeline checklist. The content is ala carte, you create and work on your customized menu. Your menu includes what is important in the first year of a chief’s tenure, specific to your needs in your department, customized. The app format is where we should be headed in the future.

Andy cater – we will be updating the website re: fire prevention code changes, etc. We want to make sure that the codes are addressed; they are going to be looking to the FPO’s for these answers.

Action item: develop FPO resource area of website

How do we get new fire chiefs to our conference? A brand new chief should get a discounted package to the conference for instance. There needs to be funding – our annual dues could include funds, donations, etc.

Brad Trosky – suggests writing a FFLP grant for scholarships for training and education? Each district director could complete a grant form for one scholarship in their district. Great idea – patty will facilitate.

Do we want to consider supplementing new chiefs with a dues increase?

Could a vendor possibly sponsor new chiefs to attend?

The group would prefer to have district directors write grant applications instead of pursuing a dues increase.

Action item: district directors to write conference scholarship grants

Travis Myklebust – he would like to see a donation component on the website. Where the money is earmarked for new fire chief training. We have about 12 new fire chiefs a year coming aboard.

Chief officer 101 – we could do modules throughout the state in various academies.

Action item: tbd

Larry Naccarato is trying to find a contact in each county to assist the volunteer division, that may be too broad. At the very least he would like to have one or two contacts per district.

Action item: solicit volunteer division contacts by county, by district

What is the process when the State Fire Marshal’s office sees a new chief on board somewhere? IFCA could offer up that scholarship then and there – Patty should be part of that process with district directors – be in the loop to learn about a new chief on board.

Knute Sandahl – we should share both ways, if IFCA hears of a new chief we should share.

Andrew Stevens – he likes the idea of a checklist /app and being paired up with another chief of similar department size and makeup. Randy Sutton will be his mentor

Juan Bonilla discussed membership strategic planning. Some of the plan components included:

* Explore opportunities to increase sponsorship from corporate sponsors
* Ensuring viability – conduct an annual survey of members, build a membership ambassador program to sell the program at the grassroots level (the mentorship program) program to include fringe groups – millennials, women and minorities, wildland fire chiefs
* Succession planning and leadership training for board members, as well as job descriptions.
* Develop board training materials, training webinars, etc.
* Advocacy, outreach, enhance collaboration with relevant state and federal agencies. Evaluate code standards
* Provide education and training in person or virtually for all fire types, personnel and ems and rescue community provided funding is available.
* Offer accredited ce hours with any training we offer (contact fst for details)

Action item: contact fst for ce accreditation requirements

Juan is working on this project with us fire administration, they are helping him build the model thus far.

This list is a great framework for a strategic plan, a lot of components are already on our radar. Right on track.

Action item: get a chief officer’s tract in each of the fire academies

Welcome packet for new chiefs – include benefits, welcome letter, list of directors, contacts, initial introductory package and then follow with phone call.

Action item: patty will create. District reps should be the ones to distribute when a new chief comes on board

How do we increase our legislative presence? Chief doan created a legislative group including the presidents of the various associations, prior to the legislature coming in. We need to have a meeting, a night when the legislature is in session to discuss current issues, let them know what our position is as an association. To help fund part of that perhaps we could put together a mini pac, we could put that link also on our website where we could create a fund set up specifically for that purpose. As chiefs we have to be careful about our politics.

Pat – we may be duplicating efforts; north idaho chiefs meet just prior to the session and wine and dine legislators, they hold the meeting in the fall, sw idaho fire chiefs is doing the same thing. Focusing on issues that pertain to us but also back up ifca’s initiatives, there has got to be an opportunity for us to get together and speak in a united voice. On the issues that we are all united on, we meet and bring it to their turf like pffi does it. We don’t need to reinvent the wheel we can meet on their terms. The legislators want to know what we are up to. We need to keep them up to date – share newsletters, during the session, every 2 weeks.

Action item: create legislative committee to facilitate group events with partner organizations

Dave Hanneman – it would be great if we could do something at the aic meeting (june and winter). For instance, aic discussed the presumptive illness bill and there was negative talk. We have to be prepared to talk to that group to be able to sway aic one way or another.

Warren Merritt - in the Washington fire chiefs association they had a mini pac, each chief put in 5 or 10 bucks a month. Warren can get us more info.

Action item: review for possible inclusion on IFCA’s website

David Gates –At any given time we should always have our top 3, 4 or 5 focal areas the association is concentrating on. Everyone with the same info and a united voice in terms of IFCA’s position. We always must be very careful, the capitol may at times conflict with your community.

Action item: develop a forum and process for development, agreement and sharing of IFCA’s current position paper

Knute Sandahl – as idaho chiefs do it in boise, also do the outreach with regional chief groups. Share IFCA’s position internally throughout the state.

Juan Bonilla – typically during the session the only guys that respond to his requests for feedback and participation are chiefs Gabriel and Gates. Juan needs more input as IFCA’s legislative liaison.

FST program funding – David Gates: we need to help raise funding for FST, we need to find out how much they need.

Action item: set up mini PAC donation area on website

Legislative communication - we want to encourage pizza and politics format

Mark Niemeyer – Every year Chief Doan mostly wanted to get the associations together to share what their issues were, are they bringing issues forward, etc. He called it the legislative summit, Chief Niemeyer assumes he will do that again this year, inviting the presidents and legislative folks for each of the associations. What are we proposing in the upcoming legislature, and can we react to it, iron out our differences?

Do we want to meet with PFFI before the session begins, November or December? Yes – December. Maybe we should tie the legislative summit along with PFFI meeting.

PFFI picks reps from each district to talk to local legislative reps and maintain contact with them, they have a point of contact for each legislator. Individual legislators know who to call.

Action item: name one or two contacts for each legislative distrct if we can.

Proposed special conference sessions – consider a dual track next year – fire chief 101, and retiring “retirement’s a beach” presentation. They could be standing topics at our conference, consider breakout sessions.

We could do a pre-conference day or half day for new chiefs. A lot of the chiefs we’re looking at are volunteers, and the only problem with that would be mid-week. It’s important enough that perhaps we will get more attendance at the conference.

Lets not lose sight of professional development for the working chiefs, we could do a lunch and learn or a session during breaks for chiefs on the fringe of retiremement. Don’t want to eat up networking time.

Action item: contact persi to present ‘retirement’s a breach’ during conference

State fire chief’s leadership forum – what does it mean to be a leader of the association.

Action item: create a leadership handbook with board and committee position job descriptions

Care and feeding of vendors – back them up a day so the volunteers are here maybe, all day friday and half of saturday maybe? Part of our issue was budget in sun valley, part was fdic.

Action item: rework agenda to move tradeshow to friday/saturday in 2017, coeur d’alene.

Membership growth and sponsorship growth will go hand in hand – when membership increases more vendors will come.

Knute sandahl – he would like to see the chiefs roundtable earlier.

Action item: plan chiefs roundtable and then golf on preconference day, thursday.

Maybe do two roundtables one at the beginning and one at the end.

Travis already has 5 new vendors committed for next year, there were vendors he had not thought of. 1 or 2 will be sponsors as well. He was surprised how easy it was.

Action item: create sponsorship committee for 2017, begin contacting potential sponsors this summer.

Action item: create a survey of members to see how much they spent, what they bought, who the vendors were. Each member needs to take a leadership role in that.

Board committee succession planning – it is essential for the district directors to become aware of who is in your district and network with them throughout the year to vet future leaders. Try to keep a balance on the board – combo, career and volunteer. That’s how we get more membership.

Wildland only training – what organizations are wildland only? BLM is kind of transitioning into CalFire format where they have battalion chiefs, acting chiefs, it’s valuable from a membership standpoint to go after them for membership. BLM and Forest Service are very active in Eastern Idaho Chiefs Association; they should be able to become members of iChiefs. The same goes with IDL - they have a lot to offer regarding operating agreements, etc.

Action item: contact Julia Sullens with inland firefighter’s association. Everyone reach out to BLM and Forest Service for membership solicitation.

Action item: We should also consider EMS departments as members – we do need to revisit the express addition of EMS to our bylaws, but ems chiefs are appropriate for IFCA membership now.

Constitution and bylaws updates for next year – Include agencies that should be expressly added such as wildland, EMS, BLM, Forest Service, rangeland, etc.

Does IDL have one membership spot? The Bureau chief is a member but they can add others. We need to get the fire wardens on as members, but this is a bad time of year. They are talking about creating new wardens in areas that don’t have them, like Southern Idaho.

Action item: contact Wendy Walters about adding IDL memberships

Alternative ways of sharing resources and solutions – we are opening slack (mobile communications app) up to everybody starting with committee and division representatives, and then the entire membership will be invited.

Alternative revenue sources – what creative ways have departments found to add revenue to their budgets? Put signage on side of fire trucks, advertising?

Medicaid reimbursement - David Gates and Dave Hanneman are going to meet with IAC and AIC to discuss looking at bringing the contract vendor back out, some places think we should do this internally but David Gates disagrees. This vendor has tremendous experience and success. State Medicaid recommended we use a vendor, it’s complicated. Could you send out talking points? David will try to get that out to everybody

Action item: gates to distribute talking points from vendor

Paramedicine – Donnelly is looking at it for those folks that don’t fit anywhere else, those patients then quit utilizing the emergency medicine system. They are monitoring progress and tracking patients as they move along through their system hopefully to graduation to the next level, outside of the gap.

Top issues of focus – regional fire authorities (Warren Merritt, lead) FST funding (Jason Blubaum, lead) communications (David gates, lead) Medicaid reimbursement (Dave Hanneman, lead) presumptive volunteers pension program and LODD and LOSAP- talking points to support IVFESA (Juan Bonilla, Jason Blubaum and Warren Merritt, leads)

Pay for education – there is a great need in our state to increase training and provide certification. EMS dispatch needs standardized training and certification statewide. Who takes the lead? Can IFCA take the lead or combine with other dispatch users such as law enforcement to support this initiative?

There has been some talk about compensation based on education, no movement in Idaho yet. Charlie Butterfield will get Dave Hanneman copies of the law from Florida where firefighters get compensated for any higher education degrees they earn.

Make sure your district info is in the WebEOC resource tracker. This resource is invaluable. You don’t have to say your resources are available just list them.

Juan Bonilla – encourages everyone to get with karl de hart for instructions and a link to WebEOC – so it’s easy. We need to have a step through process.