

## **Fire Chaplains Conference – April 30, 2007-Day 1**

The conference began with devotions at New York State Academy of Fire Science under the direction of Chief Chaplain William Miles. Following the devotions, the conference began its training courses by breaking into two morning sessions.

Session 1 consisted of 15 chaplains attending the “New Chaplain” Workshop which was taught by Director James Hanly and Ex-Chief Tom Tobin.

Session 2 began with Past Chief Ed Billia who guided us in a discussion of “Preparing Services: Memorial & Wake Services, Prayers; Invocations and Benedictions, and Prayers for Meetings.” Terrorism.

The afternoon began with greetings from Dick Nagel of the Fire Academy followed by a session called “Protocol for Death Notification by Chaplains” presented by Ex-Chief Tom Tobin.

Following a banquet at the Academy, the Memorial Service was held at the First Baptist Church of Montour Falls. The memorial list included:

- |   |                            |                  |
|---|----------------------------|------------------|
| 1 | Mr. John T. Milliman, Sr.  | East Avon        |
| 2 | Rev. Arthur W. Geidel      | Pine Hill        |
| 3 | Mr. Jack J. Veach          | Gratwick Hose #6 |
| 4 | Deacon Herman I. Rodenburg | Farmingdale      |
| 5 | Mr. Harry Burr             | Centerport *     |
| 6 | Father Gary Bagley         | Eggertsville *   |

\* = non-members

## **Fire Chaplains Conference-May 1, 2007-Day 2**

The day began with devotions lead by Chief Chaplain William Miles.

The session began with greeting from Tom Labelle, Executive Director of the New York State Association of Fire Chiefs.

Training continued with an all day presentation by Director James Hanly entitled “Preparing our Departments for Line of Duty Deaths and Funerals of Members.”

The evening program was a chaplain swap lead by Chaplain Ken Banks, while the Board of Directors held their spring meeting.

## **Fire Chaplains Conference – May 2, 2007-Day 3 - Business Meeting**

The 41<sup>st</sup> annual business meeting was called to order at 9:15 a.m. with 50 members in attendance by Chief Chaplain Bill Miles. 1<sup>st</sup> Deputy Chief Rich Holst opened with prayer and 2<sup>nd</sup> Deputy Chief Barrie Lyn Foster the members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

A Certificate of Appreciation was given to Mr. Dick Nagel, director of the Fire Academy, for his support to the Chaplain's Association during his years at the Academy.

The Nominating Committee report was presented by Past Chief Ed Billia. The committee's slate of nominations are:

Mr. William Miles	Chief Chaplain
Mr. Richard Holst	1 <sup>st</sup> Deputy Chief
Rev. Barrie Lyn Foster	2 <sup>nd</sup> Deputy Chief

and for a three year term on the Board of Directors (ending 2010):

Rev. Hugh Connaghan  
Mr. Frank Knower  
Mr. Tim Newman.

The elections were held as follows:

Motion was made by Past Chief Tom Tobin and seconded by Chaplain Cynthia Huling Hummel to close the nominations. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Chaplain Sonny Cohen and seconded by Chaplain Don Elthrop to have the Secretary cast one ballot for the full slate of candidates. Motion carried.

Following the election, Executive Secretary Hessel installed the officers and directors for their respective terms.

A motion was made by Chaplain Steve Keller and seconded by Chaplain Steve Braungart to accept the minutes of the 2006 Conference and Meeting.

## **Reports**

**Chief Report:** Chief Miles gave a report of the his last year's activities which included the renewal of wedding vows after last year's conference, John Fuerst's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner, and Chaplain John Milliman's funeral.

**1<sup>st</sup> Deputy Chief Report:** 1<sup>st</sup> Deputy Chief Holst thanked everyone who worked on the conference, reviewed his activities, and thanked the association for their support.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Deputy Chief Report:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Deputy Chief Foster reported for the Membership committee that the membership is presently 483 members and 391 members have paid their 2007 dues.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Gary Hunt provided a written report of the organizations finances (report is attached to Secretary's copy). He also gave of note of thanks to the association for allowing him to be treasurer for the last 10 years as he now plans on retiring.

Motion was made by Chaplain Thomas Margrave and seconded by Chaplain Ted Duesler to accept the Treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Secretary's Report: Secretary Hessel updated the membership on Good and Welfare.

**Committee Reports:**

- A. Memorial – Thanks to Past Chief Billia for organizing the service.
- B. Training – Director Jim Hanly will be presenting the “Role of the Chaplain in the Fire Service” at the Fire Chiefs Convention in Lake George.
- C. Program –It was good to work with the Academy. Next year's conference will be at Huntington Manor.
- D. Publicity – Discussion was held regarding the table displays for upcoming conferences.
- E. Nominating - No report
- F. Supplies – Chaplain Newman reported that orders for the black shirts are only being taken at the conference.
- G. By-Laws – see new business

**Old Business:**

None

**New Business:**

- A. The following by-law change was presented:

Article VIII – Meetings

Section III – add

- D. Minutes

(All present letter headings will be increased by one.)

The change was passed unanimously.

- B. The following By-Law changes were presented:

Article III – Membership and Regions

Add:

Section VIII – There are six (6) regions covering all of New York State. These regions with their respective counties are:

- A. Region 1 – South  
Bronx, New York, Kings, Queens, Richmond, Nassau, Suffolk
- B. Region 2 – East

- Schenectady, Schoharie, Albany, Rensselaer, Greene, Columbia, Sullivan, Ulster, Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Westchester, Rockland
- C. Region 3 – North  
St. Lawrence, Franklin, Clinton, Jefferson, Lewis, Oneida, Herkimer, Hamilton, Fulton, Montgomery, Warren, Essex, Saratoga, Washington
  - D. Region 4 – Central  
Oswego, Cayuga, Onondaga, Madison, Tompkins, Cortland, Chenango, Otsego, Tioga, Broome, Delaware
  - E. Region 5 – West Central  
Monroe, Wayne, Livingston, Ontario, Yates, Seneca, Schuyler, Steuben, Chemung
  - F. Region 6 – Western  
Niagara, Orleans, Erie, Genesee, Wyoming, Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Allegany

Section IX – Members are by virtue of their county of Chaplaincy, members of one of the six regions.

#### Article V – Officers

Add:

Section II – Of the nine (9) directors, three (3) will be at-large, with one being elected each year, and the remaining six (6) will be elected to represent their home county region.

(All other present Sections will be increased by one.)

#### Article VI – Duties of Officers

Add:

#### Section IV

- a. leave as present
- b. The six regional directors shall be responsible for:
  - a. Regional meetings of the association
  - b. In consultation with the Training Committee, arrange training programs for their respective regions.
  - c. Organize a regional committee for carrying out meetings and training with one member from each county, if possible.

The by-law changes were accepted by a vote of 48 to 2.

## Notes

A thank you was given by Past Chief Tom Tobin for the cards received during his illness and he informed us that Anita Billia will be having surgery.

An update was given regarding Chaplains and PSOB. Senator Schumer is aware of the concerns.

At the National Fallen Firefighters service, Chief Miles will be doing the Invocation and/or Benediction.

Past Chief Bill Michatek moved and Chaplain Margrave seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was closed at with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Kenneth N. Hessel,  
Executive Secretary