



NEW HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS, INC.

Working Together to Make a Difference

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Meeting Minutes of the Board of Directors – March 4, 2026

Meeting held virtually on a Go To Meeting platform.

The meeting was called to order by Chief Watkins at 0831 hours.

Members present: Chiefs Watkins, LaRoche, D. Chamberlain, Fraitzl, Carrier, J. Chamberlain, Buxton, Cotreau, Wheatley, Murray, Sitar, and ED Lemire. Adam Schmidt and Marshal Toomey joined us also.

Minutes of previous meetings: A MOTION (Sitar/Fraitzl) to approve the February minutes carried unanimously.

Financial Reports: The February reports were presented. A MOTION (D. Chamberlain/Fraitzl) to approve carried unanimously.

Correspondence: n/a

Life Membership: A MOTION (Sitar/Fraitzl) to approve Life Membership for Chief Mark Howard (ret.) of Keene, carried unanimously.

A MOTION (Fraitzl/Chamberlain) to approve Life Membership for Chief Jason Lyon of New London who will retire on March 31, carried unanimously.

Government Relations: (Schmidt)

For the Board Call on Wednesday, I have attached an updated legislative chart. I have highlighted HB 1555. The link should bring you to the updated text. NHMA has asked if, now that the bill has been amended, if NHAFC has a new position. The board will not oppose it now that it has been amended.

Also, I have attached an amendment to HB 1109. The bill has not yet gone to the House floor, but it has an ought to pass with amendment recommendation from the committee. The bill will likely appear in the House calendar this week. Rep. Steve Pearson is strongly supporting the amendment and bill.

- **NHMA Request/HB 1555** – NHMA reached out to Brent and me earlier this week to ask if NHAFC had a position on [HB 1555](#) now that the bill has been amended. The link I provided includes the new language for the bill. The Fiscal

Note is no longer accurate so please do not focus on that portion of the bill. Since there is a Board meeting next Wednesday, I thought it would be worth sending the link and asking the question now so that we can follow up with them next week.

- **NHMA Bills (HB 1359/HB 1360)**- These were the two bills which focused NHMA dues and creating a commission to oversee their operations. Earlier this week, the House Legislative Administration committee voted to kill both of the bills. The committee reports do not appear in this week's calendar, but should be before too long.
- **Legislative Calendar** – We have included an updated legislative calendar below. As you can see, most of the meetings are executive sessions and work sessions. There are several deadlines approaching in the House by which the committees must vote. Next week's House calendar should include many committee reports.
- **House and Senate sessions** – Both bodies have a session scheduled for Thursday. We have included a number of committee reports for bills we have been following for the Association at the end of the email.

Scholarship Committee: (Toomey) The new proposal will be presented next month

Report of the President: (Watkins)

- He attended the Traffic Safety Committee meeting and will be working on a phlebotomy course for the committee.

Report of the Executive Director: (Lemire)

- The March 12 meeting will be hosted by the Barnstead Fire Department and feature a home-cooked corned beef and cabbage dinner.
- The April Annual Meeting will be at the Common Man in Plymouth on the 9th. Our guest speaker is Chief Darryl Jones of the Pittsburg Bureau of Fire.
- The May 14 meeting will be virtual.
- The June 11 meeting will be a breakfast meeting at the NH Fire Academy.
- The July meeting will be virtual
- In August, we will again be at the Town and Country Inn in Gorham/Shelburne. The Professional Development Committee has plans for a seminar for that meeting.
- We've deposited the proceeds from our time at the Nash Casino. **(\$140,340.25)**
- Ad book proceeds to date: Total: \$32,815.00 ; Vendor: \$22,970.00; Assn: \$9,844.00.

1st Vice President's Report (LaRoche) –

- He responded to the data collection process and is waiting to hear back.
- He mentioned the productive Professional Development Committee meeting and will report out under new business.

2nd Vice President's Report – (D. Chamberlain) –

- No report

Sgt. At Arms Report – (Fraitzl) –

IAFC – NED – (Jones/S. Murray) –

- His term at the NEDIAFC will end in August and he suggests that we seek a replacement before then.
- Over the past couple of years he and ED Lemire want to overhaul the website and/or change. He asked if the board would place \$5,000 as a placeholder to update the website.
- The NE Division President and Secretary/Treasurer will attend our Annual Meeting.

New Business –

- Request for funding from Professional Development Committee. Chief LaRoche presented that but will refer it to the Budget Committee.
- Request for funds from Chief Hank Thomas for HazMat seminar. The request has been tabled until grant information comes forward.

Old Business –

- Marshal Toomey gave an update on the legislation that Adam reported on.

Good and Welfare –

- Chief Buxton reported that the Cancer Screening informational sessions went well and the Spring appointments are totally booked. Additional sessions will take place in the Fall. There is a small wrinkle with getting information from the NH Retirement System.

Chief Watkins appointed Chiefs LaRoche, D. Chamberlain, Fraitzl, Carrier and Lemire to work on the 2027 budget.

Motion to adjourn carried at 0923 hours.

Respectfully submitted,
Brent T. Lemire, MPA
Executive Director

March 4, 2026

