



NEW HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS, INC.

Working Together to Make a Difference

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Meeting Minutes of the Board of Directors – August 6, 2025

Bristol, NH Public Safety Building.

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

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

Minutes of previous meetings: A MOTION (J. Chamberlain/Fraitzl) approve the July minutes carried unanimously.

Financial Reports: A MOTION (LaRoche/D. Chamberlain) to approve the July financial reports, carried unanimously.

Correspondence: Crotched Mountain Foundation requesting donation (Action item under Old Business).

Marshal Toomey submitted a request for the NHAFC to participate in a Falls Prevention seminar in September. (Action item under Old Business)

Request from NHMA to sign on to a letter of support reauthorizing FirstNet. (Action item under New Business).

Chief Thomas has requested that the board charge an Audit Committee and have them conduct the 2025 audit. He also requested to stay on the committee and appoint a replacement for Chief DeAngelis. He also wished to confirm that all reimbursements have been received from the HazMat grants.

Life Membership: n/a

Government Relations: (Schmidt)

Adam reported that the bill signing for SB 245 went well. Chief Sitar spoke on behalf of the Association. We were well represented at the event.

He noted that the date for Veto Day is to be determined. He described the vetoes and indicated that we may be asked to support them when the time comes.

He shared that the Legislative Office Building will be shut down next year for renovations and that the Speaker has asked that members limit the amount of bills filed as committees will be meeting 1.5 miles from the State House.

Chief Carrier's request to look into legislation that would codify the ability of Chiefs to determine proper staffing of fire personnel during public events. Discussion ensued and Adam suggested that he bring a proposal back to the board.

Chief Fratizl expressed concern at the fact that companies are buying up private homes and turning them into residential care facilities exempt from zoning, etc. He mentioned that HB 457 was passed limiting two to a room in these cases. Discussion ensued

Report of the President: (Watkins)

- He and Marshal Toomey met with contractors, etc. to discuss a proposal for single access egress. The contractors were against it. Another meeting will be held in October.
- He and ED Lemire met with the Governor two weeks ago for a brief time, just to serve as an introduction and to thank her for her support.
- He is concerned that the "On My Time" program from the NHFA is not working the way it was intended. He will speak to Director Wholey about testing time frames, etc.
- He attended a meeting of the "5 families" and brought up the issue of the size of the vests. He was told it was an issue for the IAFF and IAFC. Discussion ensued and it was determined that we should send a letter to the IAFC and inform the PFFNH of our intentions.
- He mentioned that the date of our September meeting (11th) conflicts with 9/11 remembrance ceremonies. It was determined to change the meeting date to the 10th and notify everyone. The Board will meet at 0800 hours and the regular meeting at 0900.

Report of the Executive Director: (Lemire)

- The August regular meeting will be on the 14 at the Town and Country Inn in Gorham. The seminar will be presented by Commissioner John Steere of Nashua. Please sign up ASAP if you are attending.
- The September 10 BOD meeting and the September 11 Association meeting will be virtual.
- We advertised the BCRB position for a second time and got two candidates. (Action item under New Business).
- Our Charity Gaming slot netted the Association \$64,761.13. (I'm speechless). We will try to maintain our position next year also.
- I will be reserving our table at the North Country Public Safety Awards dinner on November 14. It is a budgeted item.
- Ad book proceeds to date: Total: \$23,565.50 ; Vendor: \$16,495.50; Assn: \$7,069.50.

1st Vice President's Report (LaRoche) –

- He reported that he had reconnected with Steve Sherman of Forests and Lands. ED Lemire found that his email address was incomplete in his profile and corrected it. He will reconnect with us accordingly.

2nd Vice President's Report – (D. Chamberlain) – No report

Sgt. At Arms Report – (Fraitzl) – No report

IAFC – NED – (Jones/S. Murray) –

- Chiefs Jones and Murray discussed FRI and the NE luncheon.
- They also reiterated the plans for the NED conference in October at Mohegan Sun.
- They mentioned that the Division applied for a regional SAFER grant and will be seeking Congressional support for the application.

New Business –

- Vacant position on the Building Code Review Board. Chiefs James Reinert of Alton and Thomas Blanchette of Loudon applied. An original motion was withdrawn and a second MOTION (J. Chamberlain/Fraitzl) to support naming Chief James Reinert of Alton to the board carried unanimously.
- Request from NHMA to be a signatory to a letter they are sending on FirstNet reauthorization. Discussion ensued. Chief Emanuel reminded the group that the IAFC supports this and Chief Sitar spoke on their behalf also. There was concern in the coverage for Grafton, Sullivan and Cheshire counties, but apparently it is being worked out. A MOTION (Sitar/LaRoche) to support the reauthorization carried 8-1.
- ED Lemire will research eligibility for Life Membership for Chief DeAngelis and also the ability of Life members to serve on committees.
- Chief LaRoche asked to check for Chief Steve Heath's eligibility also.

Old Business –

- Request for donation from Crotched Mountain Foundation. ED Lemire will research a bit more.
- ED Lemire suggested that we increase the amounts of our scholarship grants.
- Request from Marshal Toomey to participate in Falls Prevention seminar. ED Lemire stated that he is only requesting our help to advertise the program.
- Chief Sitar stated that 3 members will be given their CFO designation at the October meeting.

Good and Welfare –

- The 2025 Golf Tournament will be held at Lochmere CC in Tilton on August 11. Chief Carrier asked for help spreading the word.
- The 100 Club banquet will be held at the Manchester Country Club on September 4.

- Chief Emanuel shared an observation that the reeducation of state funding for the University System of NH is shaking UNH. Concern with impacts to the State related to stifling research, higher education, tuition costs, and NH losing the high tech tax base and economic advantage.
- Chief Emanuel attending and speaking at FRI 2025 next week in Orlando.
- SHS Presentation: Bullying effects your SHS on Thursday August 14 from 1330-1430. <https://www.iafc.org/events/event/2025/08/13/default-calendar/fire-rescue-international-2025>
- **Chief Emanuel will not be in attendance for the August golf event and membership meeting**
- Leadership change in the IAFC SHSS - chair person stepping down after FRI. Billy Goldfeder has endorsed Emanuel to move up to an executive position on the BOD. I have not been interested in leading national sections, but will be discussing it with SHS leadership at FRI. <https://www.iafc.org/about-iafc/sections/shss>
- Chief Emanuel represented the SHSS for the FY 2022 FEMA Fire Prevention and Safety Award Grants managed by Women in Fire which include the Study of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Fire and EMS, and the USFA Safety Culture Change Initiative: Firefighter and EMS Behavioral Health Study. Emanuel will be attending the closeout stakeholder meeting in the Austin, Texas area September 8-9, 2025.
- **Chief Emanuel will not be in attendance for the September 10th BOD or membership meeting**
- He will be attending the SCIENCE TO THE STATION: NERDSTOCK 2025 - program November 3-5, 2025, in Loveland, CO. The *Science to the Station* Conference is three days packed with cutting-edge research, real-world solutions, and unforgettable connections between fire service professionals and scientific minds. From hot topics to hands-on learning, this conference turns big ideas into action for health, safety, and performance in the fire service.
- https://www.science2station.org/buy-cool-stuff/p/science-to-the-station-nerdstock-2025?utm_medium=email&utm_source=customer_notification

Motion to adjourn at 1036 hours.

Respectfully submitted,
Brent T. Lemire, MPA
Executive Director

August 6, 2025