

CONFERENCE OF NATIONAL FIRE SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

Williamsburg '70

**Williamsburg, Virginia
August 31 and September 1, 1970**

National Goals of the Fire Service

**NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
60 Batterymarch Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02110**

Early in 1970, it became apparent that the problems of the Fire Service were of such magnitude that it was desirable for the major national Fire Service organizations to engage in an informal, frank exchange of viewpoints with the following purpose and objectives:

Purpose

To follow the national organizations serving the Fire Service of the United States to get together informally to exchange ideas, improve mutual understanding and to coordinate their efforts so far as may be practicable for maximum effectiveness.

Objectives

1. Establishment of goals and priorities based on the needs of the Fire Service.
2. Development of a unified policy on the national goals of the Fire Service.
3. Coordination of the efforts of the national organizations so they will pull together to obtain solutions to national fire problems.
4. Development and implementation of an action program to attain the agreed goals.

Organizations Participating in Williamsburg '70

Fire Marshals Association of North America
Fire Protection Research International
International Association of Arson Investigators
International Association of Fire Chiefs
International Association of Fire Fighters
International Fire Administration Institute
International Fire Service Training Association
International Society of Fire Service Instructors
Metropolitan Committee of the IAFC
National Fire Protection Association

*Problems Facing the Fire Service as Identified by
the Wingspread Conference of 1966*

Unprecedented demands are being imposed on the Fire Service by rapid social and technological change.

The public is complacent toward the rising trend of life and property loss by fire.

There is a serious lack of communication between the public and the Fire Service.

Behavior patterns of the public have a direct influence on the fire problem.

The insurance interest has exerted a strong influence on the organization of the Fire Service. This dominance seems to be waning. The Fire Service must provide the leadership in establishing realistic criteria for determining proper levels of fire protection.

Professional status begins with education. The scope, degree and depth of education requirements for efficient functioning of the Fire Service must be examined.

Increased mobility at the executive level of the Fire Service will be important to the achievement of professional status.

The career development of the fire executive must be systematic and deliberate.

Governing bodies and municipal administrators generally do not recognize the need for executive development of the fire officer.

Fire Service labor and management, municipal officers and administrators must join together if professionalism is to become a reality.

The traditional concept that fire protection is strictly a responsibility of local government must be re-examined.

WINGSPREAD, 1966

Prologue

It has been four and a half years since the Wingspread Conference on Fire Service Administration Education and Research. The problems identified by the Ad Hoc Committee of Fire Service administrators and educators are as real today as in 1966. Ironically, it can be observed that most have increased in scope and magnitude.

Problems do not solve themselves, but require the establishment of problem-solving implementation programs based on realistic action-oriented goals. With this in mind, the National Fire Protection Association invited the chief executives of those associations serving the Fire Service on a nationwide scale to sit down together to discuss how the needs of the Fire Service can be met on a national basis.

It was the hope of the NFPA that such a group representing virtually the total Fire Service of the United States – paid, volunteer, rural, metropolitan, suburban, fireman, fire fighter, fire officer and fire chief – could develop a set of national goals, determine priorities, and develop action programs to implement them.

At the National Academy of Science's Symposium on Training and Education in the Fire Service in April, 1970, the NFPA announced the Williamsburg Conference of National Fire Service Organizations.

The Williamsburg Conference was held at the Cascades Meeting Center on August 31 and September 1, 1970 with the chief executives of all ten national organizations present.

Dr. John L. Bryan, Professor and Head of the Fire Protection Curriculum of the University of Maryland, served as Moderator for the Conference. He developed a Conference agenda from the topics submitted in advance of the meeting by each organization. The agenda included the broad subject areas of training and education, coordination among the national Fire Service organizations, research needs of the Fire Service and Federal activities in fire protection.

At Williamsburg for the first time in the history of the United States Fire Service, all of the organizations representing it on a national level sat down together. A spirit of cooperation, a willingness to listen, a frankness and a sense of responsibility prevailed. As Dr. Bryan put it in his summary, "This meeting was true democracy in action, as no one person or organization dominated the discussion and the conclusions reached. I would not have predicted the outcome of the meeting, but a significant step forward has been made for the Fire Service because of the efforts at Williamsburg."

During the course of discussion, it became evident that it would be most fruitful to concentrate on the goals and implementation phases of the Conference. True group action altered the course of the Conference in a very significant and historic way.

There were two extremely important outcomes of the Williamsburg Conference:

- Formation of the Joint Council of National Fire Service Organizations
- Development of National Goals for the United States Fire Service

These actions are a beginning and the FMA, FPRI, IAAI, IAFC, IAFF, IFAI, IFSTA, ISFSI, MC and the NFPA are dedicated to working together toward the improvement of the United States Fire Service.

Statement of purpose

JOINT COUNCIL OF NATIONAL FIRE SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

As representatives of the major Fire Service organizations in the United States meeting in Williamsburg, Virginia, on Tuesday, September 1, 1970, we hereby constitute ourselves as the Joint Council of National Fire Service Organizations for the purpose of cooperating informally in the definition and achievement of goals in which we share a common interest.

The necessity for such an organization has been brought about by the changing character of the Fire Service reacting to rapid technological advances and sociological changes within the environment of the American community.

In order to meet the challenges now facing the fire services, we propose the following goals:

1. Redefinition of public fire protection to recognize new technology and the changing character of community life.
2. Develop programs designed to increase public appreciation of the Fire Service as a vital community agency.
3. Broaden and stimulate channels of communication with local, state and Federal government officials.
4. Promote national standards for performance and education leading to greater professionalization of the paid and volunteer Fire Service.
5. Development of a nationwide fire information system and the dissemination of valid data which will result in greater support for research, leading toward solutions of many national fire protection problems.
6. Promotion and development of research efforts directed toward increased efficiency and safety for the American fire fighter.

The organizations committed to working together to promote the best interests of the public and the Fire Service through coordination and cooperation are:

Fire Marshals Association of North America
Fire Protection Research International
International Association of Arson Investigators
International Association of Fire Chiefs
International Association of Fire Fighters
International Fire Administration Institute
International Fire Service Training Association
International Society of Fire Service Instructors

Metropolitan Chiefs Committee of the International Association of Fire Chiefs
National Fire Protection Association

The above organizations represent the 25,000 fire departments which protect the lives
and property of the American public.

Williamsburg, Virginia
September 1, 1970

**THE JOINT COUNCIL OF NATIONAL FIRE SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS
IDENTIFIES THE FOLLOWING AS THE NATIONAL GOALS
OF THE FIRE SERVICE**

1. To develop nationally recognized standards for competency and achievement of skills development, technical proficiency and academic knowledge appropriate to every level of the Fire Service career ladder.
2. To make the public aware of the significant contributions made by the Fire Service of this nation in protecting life and property from fire, and the contribution made to the standard of living to which all citizens are entitled.
3. To make public officials at every level of government more aware of their responsibilities in providing increased financial and moral support to aid the Fire Service in carrying out their mission.
4. To reassess public fire protection in light of contemporary demands, assuring appropriate fire protection for all communities at a reasonable cost.
5. To establish realistic standards of educational achievement, and provide to every member of the Fire Service equal educational opportunities commensurate with professional requirements.
6. To identify and establish nationwide information systems that will enable improved analysis of the fire problem with particular emphasis on the life and safety factors for the public and the fire fighter.
7. To encourage and undertake the research and development necessary for the prompt and successful implementation of the goals stated above.

Williamsburg, Virginia
September 1, 1970

Williamsburg Conference Participants

FIRE MARSHAL ASSOCIATION OF NORTH AMERICA:

Samuel T. Sides, President, FMANA
State Fire Marshal
366 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Robert W. Grant, Executive Secretary, FMANA
Assistant to the General Manager
National Fire Protection Association
60 Batterymarch Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02110

FIRE PROTECTION RESEARCH INTERNATIONAL:

Anthony R. Granito, Vice President, FPRI
Assistant Director, Division of Fire Safety
155 Washington Avenue
Albany, New York 12210

Martin E. Grimes, Executive Director, FPRI
Senior Fire Prevention Specialist
National Fire Protection Association
60 Batterymarch Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02110

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ARSON INVESTIGATORS:

W. Robert Wetherington, Secretary-Treasurer, IAAI
Chief Investigator
State Fire Marshal's Office
P.O. Box 1157
Richmond, Virginia 23209

Capt. Samuel S. Cobb, Past President, IAAI
Officer-in-Charge, Fire and Arson Investigation
Norfolk Department of Fire
442 East Plume Street
Norfolk, Virginia 23510

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS:

Matthew Jimenez, President, IAFC
Chief of Department
22700 Main Street
Hayward, California 94541

Donald M. O'Brien, General Manager
International Association of Fire Chiefs
232 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10016

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS:

W. H. McClennan, President
IAFF
905 16th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

Albert E. Albertoni, Secretary-Treasurer
IAFF
905 16th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

INTERNATIONAL FIRE ADMINISTRATION INSTITUTE:

David B. Gratz, Chairman, Board of Trustees, IFAI
Chief of Department
P.O. Box 69
Silver Spring, Maryland 20907

Donald F. Favreau, Executive Director
International Fire Administration Institute
State University of New York
Albany, New York 12103

INTERNATIONAL FIRE SERVICE TRAINING ASSOCIATION:

Emmett T. Cox, Chairman
International Fire Service Training Association
17439 2nd Street, East
Reddington Shores, Florida 33708

Everett Hudiburg, Editor
Fire Protection Publications
IFSTA
Oklahoma State University
Stillwater, Oklahoma 74074

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF FIRE SERVICE INSTRUCTORS:

Harold Richman, President ISFSI
Rte 2, Box 85A
Mt. Jackson, Virginia 22842

John Hogle, Secretary, ISFSI
Director of Fire Service Extension
University of Maryland
College Park, Maryland 20740

METROPOLITAN COMMITTEE OF THE IAFC:

Lawrence L. Kenney, Chairman, Metropolitan Committee of IAFC
Chief of Department
P.O. Box 708, Coconut Grove Station
Miami, Florida 33133

Robert B. Howard, Jr., Executive Committee, Metropolitan Committee of IAFC
Commissioner of Fire
2401 City Hall
Buffalo, New York

NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION:

Charles S. Morgan, General Manager
National Fire Protection Association
60 Batterymarch Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02110

Warren Y. Kimball, Chief Fire Service Specialist
National Fire Protection Association
60 Batterymarch Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02110

MODERATOR:

Dr. John L. Bryan
Professor and Head of the Fire Protection Curriculum
College of Engineering
University of Maryland
College Park, Maryland 20742