



U.F.B.A

UNITED FIRE BRIGADES'
ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND

MINUTES

Official opening of the 141st Annual Conference of the United Fire Brigades' Association (Inc) held at the Horncastle Arena in Christchurch on Friday 8th November 2019

Following a Mihi and Karakia by Past President Manihera, at 10:30 hours, President Williams officially declared open the 141st AGM and Conference of the United Fire Brigades' Association. The delegates stood for the national anthem.

The President welcomed the delegates to the AGM, including Past Presidents, Life Honorary Members, Board Chair Richie Smith, UFBA Board of Directors, Chief Executive Officer Bill Butzbach, FRFANZ Chair Kevin Ihaka, members of the FRFANZ Executive and representatives from Fire and Emergency NZ.

Obituaries

Vice President James Walker read the official obituary list:

Rank	First Name	Surname	Brigade
	Mark	Andrews	Whangarei
	Laurence	Baker	New Plymouth
Senior Station Officer	Wayne	Bedford	Hutt Wairarapa
Retired Deputy Chief Fire Officer	Keith	Betty	Foxton
Non-Operational Support	Alesha	Boon	Dunsandel
Retired Officer-in-Charge Operational Support	Ian	Bowater	Taupo
	Roy	Bowditch	Rotorua
Retired Chief Fire Officer	John	Braidwood QFSM	Alexandra
Operational Support	Trevor	Brieske	Dannevirke
Retired Senior Station Officer	Edward	Brown	Auckland City
Retired Deputy Chief Fire Officer	Ray	Butcher	Ruawai
Retired Senior Firefighter	John	Calder	Fairlie
Retired Station Officer	Wharepapa	Chase	Foxton
Retired Firefighter	John	Chettleburg	Dunedin
Retired Senior Firefighter	Wayne	Clark	Hawkes Bay Area
	John	Collings QSM	Taihape
Retired Fire Commander	Len	Corner QFSM	Christchurch
	James	Cosgrove	Bluff
	Kevin	Cotterill	Paparoa

Retired Firefighter	Kevin	Croasdale	North Shore Area
Retired Deputy Chief Fire Officer	George	Crow	Waitara
Retired Chief Fire Officer	Roger	Curragh	Brooklands
Retired Chief Fire Officer	Len	Dabinette	Culverden
Retired Firefighter	Cheryl	Davies	Thames
Retired Senior Firefighter	Barry	Dawson	Cromwell
Retired Station Officer	Colin	Dodd	Petone
Station Officer	Robert	Donnelly	Counties Manukau Area
Retired Senior Station Officer	Ian	Duckett	Waipawa
	Owen	Dunkin	Masterton
Retired Chief Fire Officer	Donald	Dunlea	Rakaia
Retired Qualified Firefighter	Mike	Dunn	Oakura
	Stephen	Fifield	Matamata
Operational Support Senior Firefighter	Graham	Gabbott	Feilding
Foundation Member	Morrie	Geenty	FRFANZ
Retired Senior Firefighter	Darcey	Gilbert	Browns
Retired Firefighter	Ted	Gimblett	Otaki
Retired Fire Police	Wilfred	Goodwin	Patea Brigade
Retired Divisional Commander	George	Grey	Auckland City
Brigade Support	Beverley	Groome	Feilding
Retired Chief Executive and National Commander	Michael	Hall	New Zealand Fire Service
Senior Firefighter	Garry	Jackson	Martinborough
Retired Firefighter	Kevin	Johnston	Fairlie
Retired Firefighter	Jill	Jamieson	Turua
Retired Senior Firefighter	Dave	Kaye	Napier
Retired Senior Firefighter	Laurie	Keach	Owaka
Brigade Support	Sharon	Kent	Riverton
Firefighter	Keri-John	Kerrigan-Crawford	Shelly Beach
	John	King	Tuatapere
Retired Station Officer	Barry	Kirwan	Christchurch Airport
Retired Officer-in-Charge	John	Leighton	Porirua
Retired Firefighter	Maurice John	Lenihan	Rotorua
Senior Station Officer Operational Support	Bryce	Louden	Turua
Brigade Support	Brent	Lynn	Hikurangi
Retired Firefighter	Tony	Madgwick	Hawera
Retired Chief Fire Officer	Douglas	McArthur	Sumner
Crew Member	Donald	McCullough	Peel Forest
Retired Chief Fire Officer	Donald	McErlich Snr	Silverdale
Retired 3rd Officer	Les	McGillen	Temuka
Operational Support	Trevor	McKenzie	Waipu
Retired Officer-in-Charge	William	McLean	Johnsonville
Firefighter	Philip	McLennan	Ikamatua
	Noel	McMillan	Greymouth
Senior Firefighter	William	Metherell	Queenstown
Retired Firefighter	Ray	Meyer ONZM	Hikurangi
	Neil	Michelle	Thames
Retired Senior Firefighter	Gavin	Mills	Palmerston North
	Roland	Moffatt	Waikaia

Senior Firefighter Operational Support	Russell	Molloy	Colac Bay
Retired Station Officer	Kenneth	Moroney	Napier
Retired Chief Fire Officer	Gordon	Murray	Ruawai
	Earle	Nicholson	Tapu
Retired 4th Officer	John	Nieper	Cromwell
Firefighter	Cody	Nixon	Dargaville
Firefighter	Nathan	Paikea	Kaingaroa
Retired Senior Firefighter	Melvyn	Pearson	Christchurch
Retired Deputy Chief Fire Officer	Trevor	Penn	Shannon
Retired Chief Fire Officer	Fraser	Perkins	Warkworth
Firefighter	James	Peters	Te Kauwhata
Retired Officer-in-Charge	Arthur	Plummer	Sumner
Retired Chief Fire Officer	Dene	Preston	Omapere
Retired Chief Fire Officer	Peter	Radovanovich	Okaihau
Retired Chief Fire Officer	Phillip	Raven	Katikati
Retired 4th Officer	John	Richardson	Otaki
	Ronald	Sage	Waikaia
Senior Firefighter	Patrick	Sarjeant	Hamilton
Retired Station Officer	Bernard	Shearsby	Woodville
Firefighter	Keith	Smit	National Park
Retired Firefighter	Russell	Somers-Edgar	Balfour
Retired Station Officer	Brian	Stephens	New Plymouth
Senior Firefighter	Troy	Stewart	Greymouth
Retired Senior Station Officer	Peter	Stockdale	Auckland
	Roger	Tapper	Auckland
Firefighter	Daniel	Taylor	Porangahau
Retired Chief Fire Officer	Bruce	Taylor	Whakatane
	Cameron	Te Maari-Cumming	Lake Ferry
Retired Senior Station Officer	Kenneth	Timms	Wairau
Retired 3rd Officer	Gerald	Timms	Picton
	Bruce	Turner JP	Levin
Retired Senior Station Officer	Andrew	Voss	Palmerston North
Retired Station Officer	Don	Woodward	Wellington
Senior Station Officer	John	Woolley	Hamilton
Retired Fire Commander	Selwyn	Wright	Whangarei
Retired Member	Ivan	Young	Napier

New Zealand Honours 2019

Vice President Walker congratulated those mentioned in the list of recent Royal Honours.

The Queen's Service Medal Recipients – September 2018

Hatete Joe Manukau, Katikati
 Russell Anderson, Alexandra
 Maera Maki-Anderson, Murupara

Keith Nixon, Lower Hutt
 Howard Cole, Pokeno
 Rochelle Martin, Auckland

New Zealand Order of Merit Office (ONZM) – New Year's Honours – January 2019

Thomas Dawson Thomson

The Queen's Service Medal Recipients – Queens Birthday Honours - April 2019

Alan Tapp, Milton
Bronwyn Dobson, Matata
David Findon Wright, Whitianga

Garth Cowley, Auckland
Gary Aiken, Warkworth
Bryan Styles, Carterton

Introduction of UFBA Officers and Board

President Williams introduced the UFBA Officers as follows:

Chair Richie Smith
Director Daryl Sayer
Vice President James Walker
Chief Executive Officer Bill Butzbach

Deputy Chair Russell Anderson
Director Warren Maslin
FRFANZ Executive Chair Kevin Ihaka

Apologies

The President called for apologies. The following apologies were noted:

Director Brenda Pilott
LHM Peter Drummond
Past President Don Hallett
Past President Brian Hunter
Don Roper

Patron Dame Margaret Bazley
LHM Peter Lockery
Past President Richard Davidson
Past President Max Robinson
Pat Fitzell

MOTION: That the apologies be accepted.

Moved: P Hannagan, Twizel
Seconded: K Lapwood, Ngaruawahia

The motion was **CARRIED**.

Confirmation of the 2018 AGM minutes

MOTION: That the minutes of the 2018 Annual General Meeting are confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

Moved: B Schimanski, Pleasant Point
Seconded: D Cain, Whanganui

The motion was **CARRIED**.

Selection of Scrutineers

MOTION: That Past Presidents Bryan Styles, Daryl Forrest, Ross Ditmer, Merv George and Peter Guard be selected as scrutineers for the duration of the AGM and their decisions to be taken as final.

Moved: L Robb, Balfour
Seconded: M Adie, Hastings

The motion was **CARRIED**.

Assistance with collection of ballot papers

MOTION: Due to the seating configuration, Past Presidents are able to assist in picking up the ballot papers for scrutineers.

The motion was **CARRIED** by show of hands from the floor.

2018/19 Annual Report

All Brigades have received a copy of the 2018/19 Annual Report. Reporting on the years activities has been provided in the annual report as required by constitution and financial statements have been audited.

MOTION: That the following reports have been dealt with in the annual report:

- 17.4.1 – Presidents Report
- 17.4.3 – Board Report
- 17.4.4 – Presentation of the Financial Statements
- 17.4.7 – Benevolent Fund Trust Reports

Moved: C New, Tairua
Seconded: C Meads, Hamilton

The motion was **CARRIED**.

Appointment of UFBA Auditors

MOTION: That Grant Thornton be appointed as the UFBA Auditor for the 2019/20 financial year.

Moved: P New, Te Kuiti
Seconded: I Lindsay, Browns

The motion was **CARRIED**.

Confirmation of Membership Subscriptions

MOTION: That UFBA membership subscription fees remain the same for the 2019/20 financial year.

Moved: N Moore, Gore
Seconded: E Taylor, Titirangi

The motion was **CARRIED**.

Appointment of UFBA Patron

MOTION: That Dame Margaret Bazley continue as Patron of the UFBA.

Moved: G Williams, UFBA President
Seconded: K Austin, Kaingaroa

The motion was **CARRIED**.

Provincial Association Update

Mike Allen, President of the Canterbury Provincial Association provided an update to the delegates on behalf of all Provincial Associations on activities from the last year.

Acknowledgement of Patron Dame Margaret Bazley

Chair Richie Smith acknowledged the support provided by Dame Margaret to the UFBA in her role as Patron and thanked her for her continued support.

Conference adjourned for a break at 11:17 hours and reconvened at 11:45 hours.

NZ Firefighters Welfare Society

Stephen Clarke, Sales and Marketing, addressed the delegates and provided an update from the New Zealand Firefighters Welfare Society.

General Business

The President opened the floor for items of general business:

UFBA ADMINISTRATION COSTS

Matthew Lauder

Plimmerton Volunteer Fire Brigade

Mr Lauder asked the Board to explain the increased expenditure the administration budget and requested a detailed itemised budget of the administration costs distributed to all member brigades.

Director Warren Maslin responded on behalf of the Board. The UFBA financials were prepared by FENZ to a set standard. UFBA is recognised as a tier 2 entity, so financials do not need to be itemised down to a project level. Director Maslin explained the increase primarily relates to an increase in contractor costs. UFBA is run by a small office team, so at times it is appropriate to contract in specialised services – i.e. project management services for the Xero project, Cadet Scheme, website and database development and the merger project with FRFANZ. Director Maslin said that further information and data will be provided in the minutes.

The following has been provided by Director Maslin:

Director Maslin talked to the below information and confirmed that the information provided meet Audit and reporting requirements and that they were prepared by FENZ. He confirmed that the numbers were all budgeted and that going forward the UFBA would have our own financial in house accountant (fully funded) and that the Xero system is used to provide independent accurate reporting.

1. Administration costs increased \$399k compared to 2018 due to increased contractor costs (\$296k higher), additional contractors hired to work on FENZ funded projects:

All expenditure was budgeted and funded by FENZ.

- Xero project – getting Xero Cloud accounting package out to the Brigades \$199k (Grant Thornton)
 - UFBA / FRFANZ merger \$49k (independent contractor)
 - Pathways Project \$55k (independent contractor)
 - Website and database project \$8k (independent contractor)
 - Increased administration costs include Brigade Xero subscription costs (increase \$31k) funded by FENZ.
2. As a registered charity based on financial size UFBA is a Tier 2 financial reporting entity. Financial reporting standards for a Tier 2 entities do not require financial information to be disclosed to a project level.

PROPOSED CONSTITUTION

Phil Woolf

Takaka Volunteer Fire Brigade

Mr Woolf took to the mic to speak about the proposed constitution that delegates will be voting on at today's Conference. Mr Woolf pledged his support towards the remit, and encouraged delegates to adopt the proposed constitution, as we work towards being one emergency response organisation.

ADVOCACY AND SUPPORT SERVICES

Margaret Smith

Porirua Volunteer Fire Brigade

Ms Smith first provided a comment that including a footnote to the financial statements regarding significant increase to spend vs budget would help provide explanation to members. Director Maslin

responded by saying that Management works with the Board to discuss the financial commentary, and that UFBA has recently employed an accountant to gain independence from FENZ.

Ms Smith then asked the Board about advocacy and support services. Ms Smith understood that UFBA members were provided with support for advocacy and legal matters, yet she understood a member approached UFBA for legal support and was denied and sought explanation around this.

CEO Bill Butzbach responded by saying that FENZ are required to provide advocacy and support to all volunteers at no cost, and UFBA is funded to provide a full-time advocate to support members. Mr Butzbach said that UFBA is however not funded for litigation – the role of UFBA is for advocacy and support. There are occasions where discretion can be used, and legal support can be funded to a certain cap, however to provide privacy to members Mr Butzbach is unable to discuss individual cases.

CONFERENCE LOCATION

Ray Brokenshire

Past President

Past President Brokenshire asked the Board to consider holding Conference further south than Christchurch.

PROPOSED UFBA REGULATIONS

Margaret Smith

Porirua Volunteer Fire Brigade

Ms Smith asked the Board about the status of the proposed regulations to go with the new constitution if the remit is passed at today's AGM.

Project Manager David Crispin responded saying that the regulations are currently being drafted. The outcome of today's vote will inform the detail in the new regulations, and that there will be consultation with members.

PRESENTATION OF HONOURS AND AWARDS

John Grenfell

Past President

Past President Grenfell raised concern that UFBA Service Awards are being presented by the incorrect people and commented that there have been instances where the UFBA Office has not been provided with adequate notice of honours evenings.

President Williams agreed and endorsed Past Presidents Grenfell's comments, and said that more education is required on who can present UFBA service honours and remarked that the UFBA Office work hard to accommodate the appropriate presenters at all honour evenings.

ACC FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS

Brent Rawlinson

Stratford Volunteer Fire Brigade

Mr Rawlinson asked the Board about what progress has been made with ACC in regard to covering injuries sustained by volunteer firefighters.

CEO Mr Buzbach responded, saying that UFBA has been working closely with ACC and MBIE on this, and has full support from the Minister. It is expected that presumptive legislation is set to be before the house in December this year. UFBA will continue to lobby on members behalf.

PRESENTATION OF HONOURS AND AWARDS

Mike Allen

Rolleston Volunteer Fire Brigade

Mr Allen said that protocol and procedures for presenting UFBA service awards is required, and asked whether the Board would consider a budget towards travel to these events for Provincial Representatives

Mr Butzbach responded, he agreed with and endorsed Mr Allen's comments. He advised that Service Honours Coordinator Tearo Kelemete had tendered her resignation, so the process around service honours may be reviewed with the induction of a new staff member, and revision of UFBA regulations depending on whether the remit passes. He concluded by saying that there is an issue in general communicating with brigades but building up the brigade representatives and new membership database will assist and further work on improving communication lines remains ongoing.

Confirmation of Voting Numbers

The voting numbers were confirmed as:

Delegates	284
Proxies	23
TOTAL	307

Required to elect 154

Conference adjourned for a lunch break at 12:24 hours and reconvened at 13:32 hours.

UFBA Elections

President Williams advised delegates of the election process for the positions available.

Election of Board Director

The two candidates addressed the delegates, then the election took place.

The candidates:

Karl Lapwood, Ngaruawahia Volunteer Fire Brigade

Warren Maslin, Ashburton Volunteer Fire Brigade

Delegates marked their ballot papers and the scrutineers having collected them retired to count them.

Election of Vice President

Jason Prendergast, Greymouth Volunteer Fire Brigade addressed the delegates as the sole nominee as Vice President.

DECLARATION: Jason Prendergast was declared Vice President-elect, uncontested.

Election of Technical Panel Member

Ces Pacey, Amberley Volunteer Fire Brigade addressed the delegates as the sole nominee as Technical Panel Member.

DECLARATION: Ces Pacey was declared Technical Panel Member, uncontested.

Benevolent Fund

Past President and Chair of the Benevolent Fund Alan Cockburn provided an update on the last years activities. This year saw a double in claims received by the trustees, with 30 claims submitted and 26 of these approved totalling \$77,220 in ex gratia payments for members in extreme financial hardship.

This was the first year that more funds were expended than received via subscriptions. Mr Cockburn reminded delegates that the Benevolent Fund should not be regarded as a funeral fund, but applications toward funeral costs in tragic circumstances are reviewed on a case by case basis. The Benevolent Fund portfolio is managed by Craig Investments. LHM George Verry was appointed as an advisor in the past year to liaise with Craig Investments on the Benevolent Fund portfolio. Mr Cockburn concluded by acknowledging the support provided to the Benevolent Fund by the trustees, UFBA management, and in particular the support provided administering the fund by Jane Davie.

MOTION: That the Benevolent Fund report and financial statements be adopted as circulated.

Moved: A Cockburn, Past President
Seconded: K Lapwood, Ngaruawahia

Marketing and Communications Update

Marketing and Communications Manager Nick Cottrell provided an overview of services that UFBA provides. Mr Cottrell spoke of the UFBA brigade representatives initiative and urged members to join and get involved. He encouraged brigades to register on the UFBA website to receive monthly updates. More information about the services UFBA provides are available online – refer to www.ufba.org.nz.

Institute of Fire Engineers (IFE)

Trent Fearnley, Director IFE International provided an update. The IFE has signed an MOU with UFBA, and the NZFBI (NZ Fire Brigades Institute) to work together to increase the level of fire safety knowledge for firefighters and the wider community.

The IFE has agreed with the NZFBI to replace their current examinations with the IFE examinations. The IFE examinations are approved by OFQual (NZQA 's equivalent) in the United Kingdom and are taken in many other countries around the world. The IFE has also committed to working with UFBA and NZFBI to conduct and promote Continued Professional Development courses for all firefighters. To find out more information please go to www.ife.org.nz and for past papers and syllabus go to www.ife.org.uk.

Announcement of Successful Candidate Board Director

The scrutineers returned and announced the result of the election:

Karl Lapwood	115
Warren Maslin	188
TOTAL	303
Invalid	Nil

DECLARATION: The President announced that Warren Maslin was duly re-elected as Director of the UFBA at the 141st Conference.

The announcement was met with applause.

Voting Papers

MOTION: That the voting papers be destroyed

Moved: J Hartman, Akaroa
Seconded: P Hannagan, Twizel

The motion was **CARRIED**.

Notice of Motion

Remit #1 – The current Challenge Gold Medals be presented retrospectively

Reason for Remit: The current challenge Gold Medals remit was passed at the 2004 UFBA Conference. Up until then the only national challenge event that had a Gold Medal presented was the 4-person Waterway Challenge. The new medal was adopted to allow all UFBA national challenges to be recognised on the one challenge medal for all the different challenges that were starting to be held. However, the winners of the UFBA national Road Crash Rescue championships held in 1997, 1999, 2000, 2002 and 2004, and the UFBA national 2 Person Waterway championships in 2001 and 2003 were never recognised retrospectively with a medal and/or bar. There were trophies presented and engraved, these been returned to be used at the following challenge. A certificate was also presented to the winners, these been display at the fire station from which the team belonged to. But no medals were presented to the team members until Challenges held after the 2004 Conference. This is the chance to celebrate and recognise the achievements of those who achieved these championships by the awarding of well and truly deserved medals and/or bars.

MOTION: The current Challenge Gold Medals be presented retrospectively to the winners of all Association recognised national championships between 1997 and 2004 (inclusive) for the Road Crash Rescue Challenges and between 2001 and 2003 (inclusive) for the two-person Waterway Challenges. They will incorporate a clasp depicting the Challenge and the year won. Where a recipient has already won this medal, or won more than one Challenge, additional clasps only will be awarded.

Moved: Morrinsville Volunteer Fire Brigade
Seconded: Whitianga Volunteer Fire Brigade

Following the reading of the motion, the following discussion took place:

Past President Brian Watters, CFO Morrinsville took to the mic to speak in support of this remit.

Deputy Board Chair Russell Anderson responded on behalf of the Board. The Board considered this remit and agree it should be brought forward for a democratic decision. The same remit was brought to the Board in 2012, and to remain consistent with that decision the Board do not support this remit. The Board expressed concern that there could be an associated cost of approximately \$40k with producing the medals which is not budgeted for.

Matthew Bannister, Gisborne Voluntary Rural Fire Force

Mr Bannister said he applauds the remit and said that if the Board are only concerned about the financial implications whether they would support brigades themselves paying for the medals.

The Deputy Board Chair responded saying that the Board considered all aspects of this remit and noted that competitors were not competing for the medal at that time, as the medal was not struck until 2004.

Ian Lindsay, Past President

Past President Lindsay commented that to remain consistent with the 40 year certificates brought in only a few years ago, the competitors were not competing for a medal at the time.

Trevor Vaile, Waipu Volunteer Fire Brigade

Mr Vaile said that the estimated \$40k was a large sum and asked how many medals and bars the Board took into consideration when determining this sum.

Past President Watters said he estimated a lower figure of around \$21k (24 bars @ \$245+GST and 16 medals @ \$980+GST). The Board based the \$40k estimation on the actual medal costs for the whole team, whereas the smaller figure is based on individual competitors.

Sandy Lawson, Life Honorary Member

Mr Lawson remarked that this remit is not comprehensive, and that there were other competitions that were in the period prior to the medal being introduced (i.e. BA competition) so to be aware that if this remit passes there would be other competitions that would be in the same situation.

Alan Kittelty, Past President/Challenges Committee Chair

Past President Kittelty suggested delegates look beyond the financial aspect and consider the standard this remit could set going forward. While the financial implication is important, delegates should be mindful of the precedence this may set in the future.

Brian Watters, Past President

Past President Watters suggested that the cost could be fully funded by UFBA as a one-off payment, or by application for a community funding grant. Alternatively, payment could be made by the brigades or individuals themselves. He stressed that this remit is about recognising and acknowledging achievement.

Following discussion, the vote took place.

The motion was **DENIED** by raise of hands by the delegates.

Remit #2 – Adoption of new Constitution and Rules

Reason for Remit

To align and modernise the Constitution such that it:

1. reflects current and proposed legislation affecting Incorporated Societies and Charities;
2. enables modern governance practices relevant for an Association of the size, complexity and range of Members (including Associates) within the UFBA;
3. ensures Members' interests are represented through democratic processes;
4. incorporates a clear governance model where Members hold the Board accountable for meeting Members' interests through the AGM; and the Board holds the Chief Executive accountable for managing the Association;
5. provides the Board with the ability to undertake its governance role on behalf of Members in a relevant timeframe in keeping with their fiscal, legal and Member responsibilities and duties; and
6. enables the introduction of a democratically elected Members Committee to:
 - a. provide an additional means to connect, communicate and consult with, to hear from, and to represent the views of all Members (with administrative support provided by UFBA staff); and
 - b. provide additional surety that the Board's decisions reflect Member expectations when exercising their governance responsibilities by requiring it to consult with the Members Committee before making decisions that are of specific importance to Members

AMENDED MOTION: That the United Fire Brigades' Association (UFBA) Constitution and Rules be replaced in their entirety with a new Constitution in the form published on the UFBA website on or before 8 October 2019, except for clause 6.10(e), that shall be amended to read as follows: 6.10(e) At least one month prior to a Members' Meeting, each Voting Member must notify the Chief Executive of the name of its appointed Delegate.

Moved: UFBA Board

Seconded: F Buckendahl, Wakefield

Following the reading of the motion, the following discussion took place:

Joe Manihera, Past President

Past President Manihera gave his support of this remit and commented that there is risk associated with any change but felt that the membership had been widely consulted which resulted in the rewrite of the proposed constitution.

Graeme Booth, Past President

Past President Booth said he was supportive of the proposed constitution and believes rural firefighters should be entitled to the same benefits as urban firefighters. He concluded by saying "let us walk together into the future"

Pete Douglas, Dunedin Fire Brigade

Mr Douglas said he was supportive of change but asked whether the same Board will remain in place. He also asked about the status of the new regulations. He raised concern that the members were 'voting blind' as the proposed regulations had not been circulated.

Chair Richie Smith responded by confirming that the current UFBA Board will remain in place. He said that there will be some changes required to the current regulations to allow for the proposed constitution, and they are currently in a draft format. Project Manager David Crispin said that the establishment of the Membership Advisory Panel will create some checkpoints when it comes time to consider changes to regulations.

Dale Lindsay, Te Puke Volunteer Fire Brigade

Mr Lindsay expressed his support towards the remit. He remarked that it incorporates a modern governance model and allows for democratic process.

Karl Lapwood, Ngaruawahia Volunteer Fire Brigade

Mr Lapwood said that he provided feedback on the proposed constitution and commended the Board for considering the feedback from members. Mr Lapwood supports the remit, and said change is required to remain future focused.

Margaret Smith, Porirua Volunteer Fire Brigade

Ms Smith said it would be good to see a way forward for brigades who were not in attendance at the AGM to vote electronically. The Board responded by saying the new regulations would allow for electronic voting in future.

Stephen Hansen, Whangarei-Kaipara Operational Support Unit

Mr Hansen asked whether someone can become a brigade proxy without consent of the brigade.

Mr Crispin responded by saying no. The process for proxies will remain as it currently does, the current process is very sensible and will sit in a regulation.

Following discussion, the delegates voted by raise of hand.

The motion was **CARRIED** by overwhelming majority. This was met with applause.

Conference adjourned for a break at 15:17 hours and reconvened at 15:35 hours.

Installation of Officers

President Williams addressed the delegates, and then inducted Vice President James Walker as President. Newly appointed President Walker was presented with the Presidential chains, and then made an address to the delegates. Past President Williams was presented with a lapel badge and was thanked for his service to the UFBA during his term. Mrs Williams, and Ben Williams were welcomed to the stage and were thanked for their support to Past President Williams during his term.

President Walker presented newly appointed Vice President Jason Prendergast with a lapel badge. Vice President Prendergast addressed the delegates.

President Walker congratulated Warren Maslin on his reappointment to the Board of Directors. Ces Pacey was welcomed back to his position on the Technical Panel.

Life Honorary Membership of the UFBA

President Walker announced the Board's desire to confer one new Life Honorary Membership to the UFBA. As per rule 5 of the UFBA Constitution and Rules, the person shall be nominated by the President at the Annual Conference and if passed by 95% majority the person shall be elected.

MOTION: That Past President Glenn Williams be nominated to receive the Life Honorary Membership to the UFBA.

The motion was **CARRIED** by acclamation.

President Walker presented Past President Glenn Williams with a Life Honorary Membership Medal. Past President Williams addressed the delegates.

Acknowledgement of Service to UFBA – Tearo Kelemete

President Walker took the opportunity to acknowledge Tearo's contribution to the UFBA as she had tendered her resignation. Tearo addressed the delegates, who then thanked her for her contribution by way of standing ovation.

President Walker declared the 2019 Annual Conference closed at 16:00 hours