## Rhade Island Association of Fire Chiefs, Inc.









Incorporated Nov. 6, 1967

#### HISTORY

At the Annual Ball of the East Greenwich Fire Department on the evening of November 10, 1966 held at the Civic Center (Swift Gym) in East Greenwich, R.I., Fire Chief Frederick Miller the host Chief of East Greenwich, Fire Chief Thomas Duckworth of Warwick, Fire Chief Arthur Selley of North Kingstown, Fire Chief James Pryor of West Warwick and Fire Chief John Sullivan of the Naval Air Station, Quonset Point discussed the possibility of forming a new group or association of permanent Fire Chiefs in the State of Rhode Island. Before the evening of dancing with their wives was over, it was mutually agreed that an informal lunch and meeting of this group would be held at the Valley Country Club in West Warwick on November 17, 1966.

November 17, 1966. Valley Country Club, West Warwick, R.I. 1200 Noon

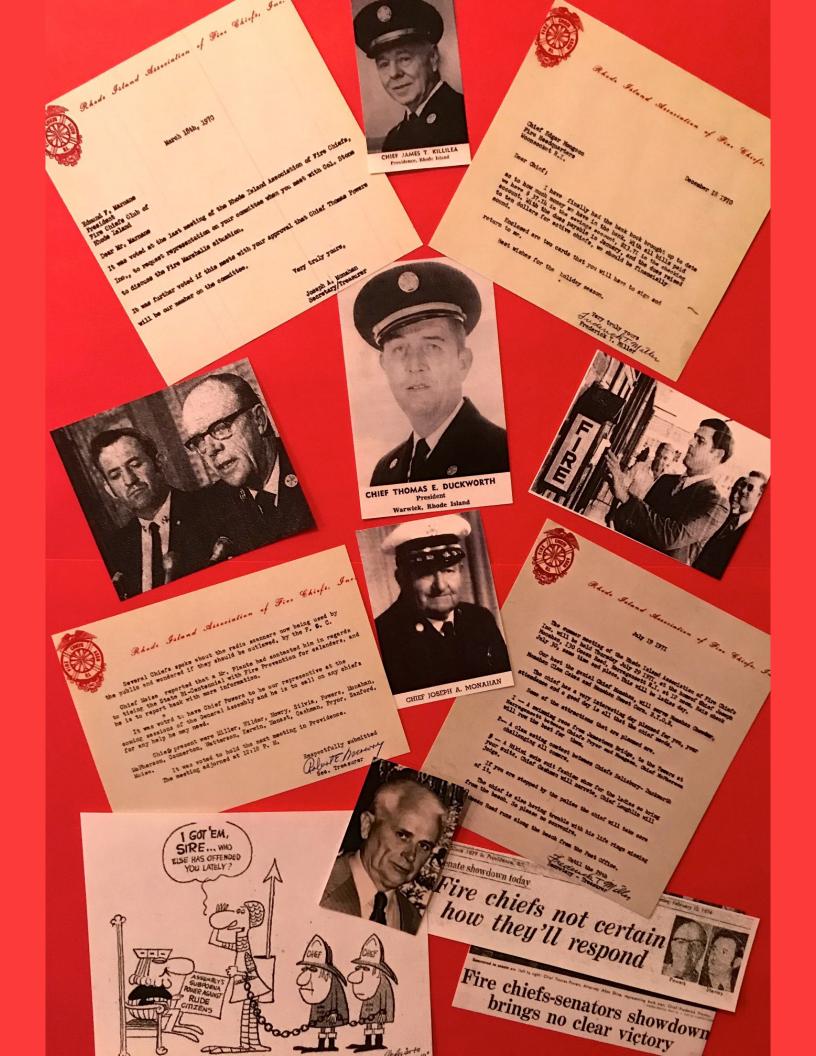
Fire Chief Thomas Powers of Cranston, R.I. joined Chiefs Duckworth,

Pryor, Miller, Sullivan and Selley at noon for a light lunch and

discussion on the relative merits of a new organization of Fire Chiefs. The strength and unity of purpose of a new group; mutual aid and inter-departmental policies of their respective departments. It was decided to further explore this discussion and Chief Sullivan invited the group to the Naval Air Station, Quonset Point for the next meeting.

December 15, 1966. Naval Air Station, Quonset Point 1200 Noon.

The attendance at this meeting included Fire Chiefs Sullivan (Host),
Duckworth, Selley, Miller, Pryor, Powers in addition to Fire Chief George
Salisbury of Central Falls, Fire Chief Romeo Monast of Pawtucket and Fire
Chief Edgar Mongeon who were invited and also interested in forming a new
organization of Fire Chiefs. The discussion at this meeting was informal,
however; emphasis was placed on Mutual Aid Agreements in the event of a



serious fire or disaster in any of the representative cities or towns.

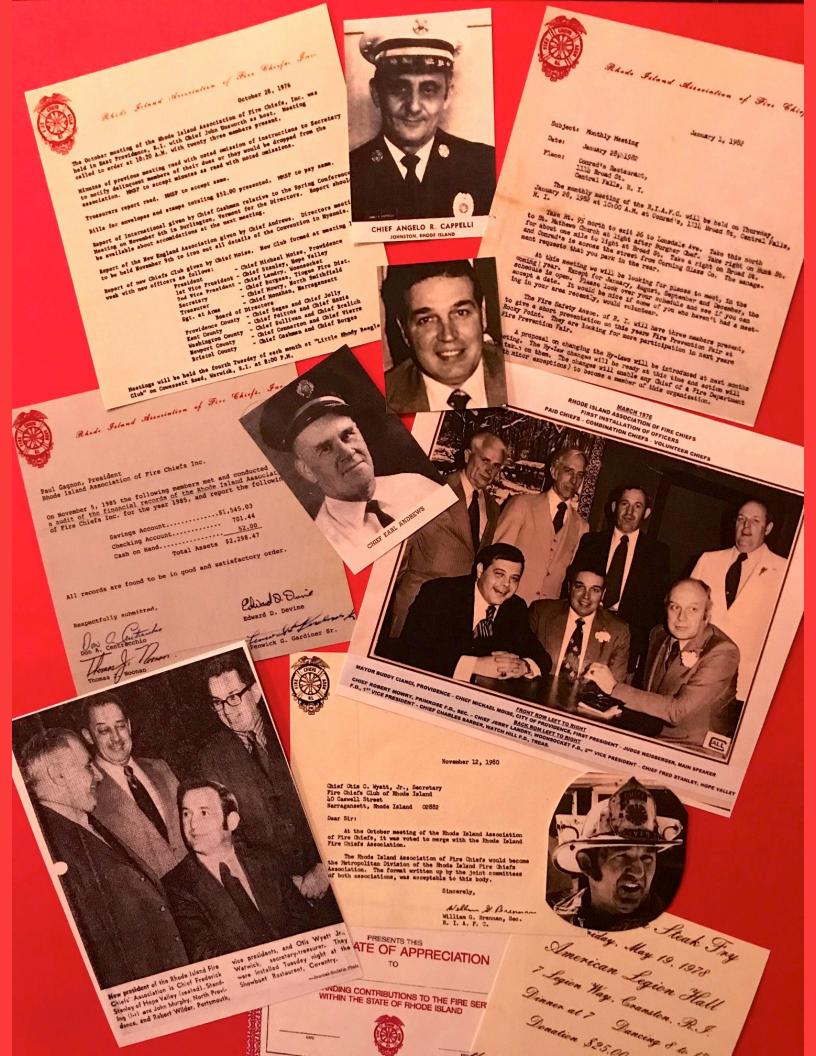
Chief Duckworth proposed a listing of all apparatus and equipment as well as the salary scale of each of the representative departments. It was also suggested by Chief Powers of Cranston that a copy of the Union Agreements of each town be submitted for information and guidance in future negotations. Chief Duckworth invited the group to Warwick for the next meeting.

## January 19, 1967. Holland House, Warwick 1200 Noon

Our host, Chief Duckworth, presented Fire Chief James Killilea of
Providence, Fire Chief Michael Fox of East Providence and Fire Chief Stanley
Mruk of Coventry to the group. The meeting was informal and consisted of
discussion of Mutual Aid, Union Agreements and Contracts, Pay Scale and intercity communications via private line telephones and radio. Considerable
time was spent on discussion of union agreements and contracts with Chief
Powers and Chief Fox leading the group. Chief Powers invited the group to
hold the next meeting in the City of Cranston.

#### February 16, 1967. Driftwood Restaurant, Cranston, 1200 Noon

Chief Powers, our host, had as our guest Fire Alarm Supt. A. Mello of Providence and also introduced to the group Fire Chief John Watterson of Newport and Fire Chief M. O'Brien of the Naval Base, Newport. Mr. Mello spoke on the adviseability of all departments purchasing bay station radios (receiver - transmitter) on frequency 154.28 m.c. with approval requested from the Federal Communication Commission for operation. He was quite enthusiastic about the possibilities of this Inter City Radio and the need to strenghten the ties between the various cities and towns in the State of Rhode Island through this communication set-up. Chief Mongeon invited the group to Woonsocket for the next meeting.



## March 16, 1967. Big Joe's Steak House, Woonsocket, 1200 Noon

Due to poor driving conditions because of a snow storm many of the chiefs were unable to make this meeting in Woonsocket. An informal meeting was conducted by Chief Mongeon, our host, and mutual aid equipment and union contracts were the main subjects discussed. Chief Pryor invited the group to West Warwick for the next meeting.

#### April 28, 1967. Show Boat, Coventry R.I. 1200 Noon

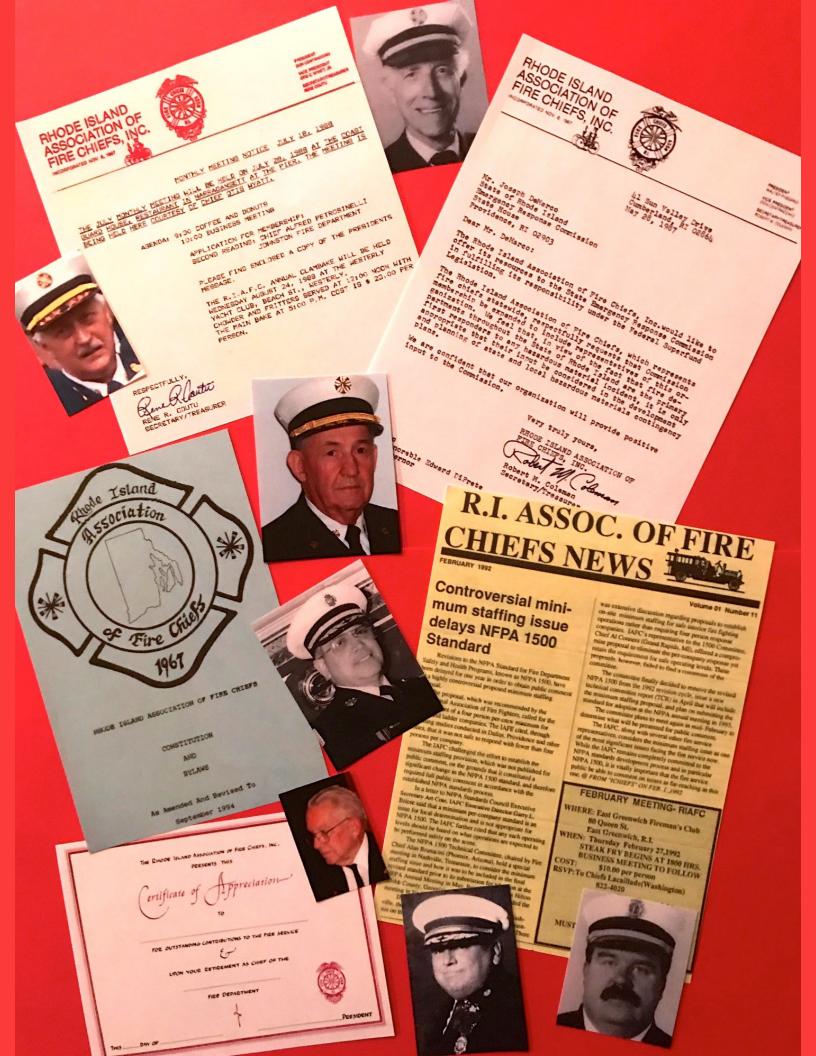
Chief Pryor and Chief Mruk were hosts for this meeting. A summary listing of apparatus and equipment of the representative cities and towns was presented at this meeting for review and discussion by the chiefs. Chief Duckworth was particularly interested in the radio communications tie-up between the towns especially now that US Route 95 was now a reality. The time and distance factor was no longer a major problem. It was proposed at this meeting by Chief Powers of Cranston that a study committee be formed on the adviseability of getting the group to formerly organize as a recognized association and if necessary, to seek a charter from the office of The Secretary of State.

Chief Killilea, Fox, Sullivan and Powers were appointed to meet on this matter and report back at the next meeting. Chief Killilea suggested that this meeting take place in his office at Providence Fire Headquarters on May 11th at 1100.

#### May 18, 1967. Metacomet Golf Club, East Providence, 1200 Noon

Chief Fox, our host, had Fire Alarm Supt. Mello as our guest and again
he spoke to us about Inter City Radio Communications. Most of the members
appear to look with favor on this addition to their communications systems.

Chief Powers reported on the Committee Meeting held in Providence on May 11th
that it was the unanimous recommendation of the committee that henceforth all
meetings of the Fire Chiefs be conducted in a formal manner and that arrangement



be made in due time to receive a charter and prepare by-laws. Chief Sullivan proposed that consideration be given to naming our group and submitted for discussion four (4) names anyone of which he thought might be acceptable. This opened an avenue of wide opinions and after full discussion by all present Chief Fox appointed the following committee to recommend an appropriate official name for the organization and report at the next meeting; Chiefs Miller, Selley, Duckworth and Sullivan. Chief Watterson invited the members to meet in Newport during the month of June.

## June 15, 1967. Shamrock Cliff House, Newport 1200 Noon

Chief Watterson, our host, conducted the meeting and the first item on his agenda was the report of Chief Sullivan and his Committee on the Official Name Chosen for the group. Chief Sullivan reported that his committee could not agree on an official name and that correspondence to each of the Chiefs present could not determine an official name. However, two names appeared more prominent than others and they were (1) Rhode Island Professionial Fire Chiefs Association and (2) Rhode Island Association of Fire Chiefs, Inc. It was recommended by Chief Sullivan that a ballot vote should be taken on these two names and in so doing the name selected by a two to one count of those present was "Rhode Island Association of Fire Chiefs, Inc." Temporary officers were selected at this meeting as follows: President - Chief Duckworth, Vice President - Chief Powers and Sec-Treas. Chief Sullivan. Informal discussion of the by-laws and charter were discussed by Chief Selley and Chief Powers leading the group. The host appointed Chiefs Duckworth, Powers and Sullivan to prepare the By-laws of the Association and to report back at the next meeting. It was mutually agreed that no meetings would be conducted during the summer months. The meeting adjourned at 3 P.M.



### RHODE ISLAND ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS INC.

## Original Members

Chief Thomas Duckworth Warwick, R.I.

Chief Thomas Powers Cranston, R.I.

Chief John Sullivan Quonset Point, R.I.

Chief Fredrick Miller East Greenwich, R.I.

Chief Arthur Sælley North Kingstown, R.I.

Chief James Pryor . West Warwick, R.I.

Chief Stanley Mruk Coventry, R.I.

Chief James Killelea Providence, R.I.

Chief Michael Fox East Providence, R.I.

Chief Romeo Monast Pawtucket, R.I.

Chief George Salisbury Central Falls, R.I.

Chief Edgar Mongeon Woonsocket, R.I.

Chief Mathew O'Brien Naval Base, Newport, R.I.

Chief John Watterson Newport, R.I.

Temporary Officers Elected June 15, 1967 At Newport, R.I.

Chief Thomas Duckworth President

Chief Thomas Powers Vice President

Chief John Sullivan Sec. - Trea.



# Rhode Island Association of Fire Chiefs Roll Call of Presidents 1967 - 2018

1967-68	Chief Thomas Duckworth	<i>1993</i>	Chief Frank Sylvester
1968-69	Chief Thomas Powers	1994	Chief David Sylvaria
1969-70	Chief John Sullivan	1995	Chief David Sylvaria
1970-71	Chief Edgar Mungeon	1996	Chief Gerald Bessette
1971-72	Chief Joseph Monahan	1997	Chief Gerald Bessette
1972-73	Chief Joseph Monahan	1998	Chief Donald Campbell
1973-74	Chief Frederick Miller	1999	Chief Donald Campbell
1974 -75	Chief Robert Wilder	2000	Chief Kenneth Venables
1975-76	Chief Robert Mowry	2001	Chief Kenneth Venables
1976-77	Chief Robert Mackay	2002	Chief E. Craig Beausoleil
1977-78	Chief John Unsworth	2003	Chief E. Craig Beausoleil
1978-79	Chief William Connerton	2004	Chief Brian Hoxsie
1979-80	Chief Angelo Cappelli	2005	Chief Richard A. Susi
1980-81	Chief Charles Schwarz	2006	Chief Robert Seltzer
1981-82	Chief Thomas Bonn	2007	Chief Stuart Pearson
1982-83	Chief Ernest Currier	2008	Chief Timothy McLaughlin
1983-84	Chief Ernest Currier	2009	Chief George Farrell
1984-85	Chief Gerald Landry	2010	Chief George Farrell
1986	Chief Paul Gagne	2011	Chief David Sayles
1987	Chief Walter Passano	2012	Chief David Sayles
1988	Chief Donald Centracchio	2013	Chief Brian Jackvony
1989	Chief Donald Centracchio	2014	Chief Ronald Doire
1990	Chief Frederick Stanley	2015	Chief Michael Frink
1991	Chief Richard Keene	2016	Chief Richard Petrin
1992	Chief Russell Lacaillade	2017	Chief Richard Petrin
		2018	Chief Frank Brown