



Volunteer & Combination Officers Section of The International Association of Fire Chiefs

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VCOS Board Telecon Thursday, September 12, 2013

Minutes

Called to order: 4:03pm

Present: Chief Timothy Wall, Chief Jim Wilson, Chief Dan Eggleston, Chief Randy Larson, Chief Fred Windisch, Chief Shane Crutcher, Chief Mike Vaughn, Chief Dave Fulmer, Chief Jim Seavey

Absent: Chief Ted Lowden

Staff: Joelle Fishkin, Kelly Ameen, Evan Davis

Approval of Minutes – Chief Timothy Wall

Motion by Fred Windisch and seconded by Jim Wilson to approve minutes of June 13, June 20, July 11 and August 8, 2013 as submitted. Motion carried.

Update on Affordable Health Care Act – Mr. Evan Davis, IAFC Government Relations Manager

The IAFC submitted a comment to the IRS on September 10 to IRS; they've also been communicating with Congressional members on the Hill, including the co-chairs of fire services caucuses asking them to address this issue with the IRS.

The Republicans are not interested in appealing the smaller issues because they want to just repeal the whole bill. The Democrats don't want to make small fixes because they don't want to open the bill up to discussion. The IAFC is recommending administrative changes to the bill. Chief Windisch suggests we refer to it as a "Rule-Making Change," not "administrative Change."

The Government Relations department is drafting an announcement to all members but is not yet firm in what the "ask" will be. It will be posted on the website and serve as a template for a letter to be sent to your congressional representative and to the IRS. The comment period closes on November 8.

IAFC has been conducting joint meetings with Dave Finger of the NVFC. We're generally on the same page regarding solutions except for the issue of part-time firefighters who work 20 hours/week making about \$20,000/year. NVFC wasn't comfortable with the language we proposed as they don't have part-time firefighters; their members are all volunteers.

Another huge consideration is the effect on the combination fire service (possibly a greater effect than the all-volunteer service). Many combination departments are on the edge of the FTE definition and it may affect them dramatically. Davis states that they are taking this into account when they communicate with the IRS and the White House.

The IRS may stick with the classification of volunteers as employees after the September 30 deadline; however, since the enforcement of penalties has been pushed back to 2015, it doesn't seem likely that the fire service definition will come out on September 30. This incentivizes fire departments to eliminate volunteers and eliminate training hours for volunteers, and this may have dramatic consequences for the volunteer fire service.

Appointment to RECEPI Committee – Chief Timothy Wall

The IAFC is seeking an active volunteer chief or chief with majority volunteers in the system to be appointed to the Fire Service Research Center and Policy Institute (RECEPI). Please reach out to your contacts and submit names of interested VCOS members to Chief Wall by Monday, September 16.

There will be no travel required; business will be conducted through teleconferences and a face-to-face meeting at FRI.

Chief Crutcher will submit a name after checking on the person's eligibility. Chief Seavey may forward a name. Chief Fulmer will check with an Illinois chief he knows.

Symposium update – Chief Fred Windisch & Chief Jim Wilson

Chief Windisch and Wilson report as follows:

- Current total attendance stands at 405
- Exhibitor space is sold out and over budget
- Pier 60 hotel is now full; conference staff have booked additional rooms at Sheraton Sand Key and Marriott. Some rooms at Hilton may open up after rooms are reconciled.
- Estimated income is \$161,595
- Luther Fincher dropped out as speaker, John Buckman will replace him
- Mark Light is doing the active shooter presentation instead of Shawn Kelley.
- Vendor Venue is being organized by Dan Seidberg of IamResponding
- Fire Rescue GPO is interested in coming back as a vendor this year and may be at a table with another vendor.
- There will be a Thursday night dinner which will only include board members and wives
- We will go over speaker introductions in October
- EMS Executive Committee will be meeting Saturday and Sunday
- The VCOS board will meet with President Metcalf and Mark Light either Friday or Saturday.

Board members don't need a car for this venue; there will be a shuttle from the airport. Information on super shuttle will be sent out by Alyssa. Board members should book their travel soon.

Update on Symposium Awards

Retention & Recruitment Award – Chief Dave Fulmer

- Five departments submitted; documents were forwarded to Bill Jenaway. A determination of the winner will be made on conference call Monday.
- Chief Windisch asks Chief Fulmer to verify that they'll be able to attend Symposium.

Safe Driving Initiative – Chief Jim Seavey

- Only two submissions were received. This really demonstrates that additional marketing needs to be done in the future.
- Both were good submissions but one clearly stood above the other. The winner is from Oshtemo Township, Michigan.
- Chief Seavey will verify that someone will be at Symposium.

Buckman Award – Chief Mike Vaughn and Chief Jim Seavey

- Six valid nominations were received and one ineligible nomination (neither nominator nor nominee were IAFC members).
- Applications are being reviewed now.

Roundtable

Eggleston: Will be emailing out Human Resource Committee document on human dignity. IAFC is looking for feedback; forward to Ann Davison.

Bill Metcalf is going to put together a Task Force to serve as a watchdog group for the Affordable Health Care Act. They are discussing Chief Bruce Moeller as chair.

Wall: We need to remain very closely involved in this and submit a name to serve on the Task Force.

Seavey: Apologies for not being at FRI and congratulations to the new board members. Will not be able to come to Symposium on the requested date due to scheduling issues but will arrive on Thursday Nov 7 and can stay an extra day to provide any assistance required.

Windisch: Expressed his gratitude for the card he received for his mother. He will be on vacation next week.

Wilson: Will be sending out assignments to board members for on-stage introductions at Symposium. Let him know asap if there is any date/time that is not good for you.

Adjourned: 4:45pm