



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

4025 Fair Ridge Drive • Fairfax, VA 22033-2868 • Tel: 703/273-0911 • www.iafc.org



### **VCOS Board Teleconference Wednesday, April 13, 2016**

**4 p.m. Eastern/3 p.m. Central/2 p.m. Mountain/1 p.m. Pacific**

**1-866-809-4014**

**Passcode: 4230611**

### **Minutes**

Present: Chief Donna Black, Chief Norvin Collins, Chief Shane Crutcher, Chief Charles Flynn, Chief Randy Larson, Chief Ed Rush, Chief Timothy Wall, and Chief Fred Windisch

Absent: Chief Dan Eggleston, Chief Jim Seavey

Guests: Chief Gary Curmode

Staff: Ms. Kelly Ameen

The call started at 4:00pm.

#### **Welcome and Agenda Overview - Chief Wall**

The new VCOS Vice Chair is Chief Chuck Flynn until the VCOS Annual Meeting at FRI.

#### **Motion by Chief Windisch and seconded by Chief Crutcher to approve the minutes from the March board call. Motion carried.**

We have 8 people at the VCOS CFSI table so far and Chief Wall is reaching out to others to fill the table. He suggested that those going to CFSI read the Government Relations Hot Sheet ahead of time. Chief Rush will be at the NY State Chiefs table and will be there for activities.

Chief Wall is attending the NVFC annual meeting. VCOS and the NVFC have been doing more work together and sharing information. NVFC President Quinn attended the CT Summit a few weeks ago.

There is a new Section Taskforce being headed by Chief Croom from the EMS Section. If you want to work on that, let Chief Wall know. There are periodic conference calls discussing the role of sections at the IAFC, etc.

#### **IAFC 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Candidate – Chief Gary Curmode**

Chief Curmode joined the call to discuss his candidacy for IAFC 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. He stated that he is privileged and honored to talk to the VCOS board today. Voting starts at the end of Ma and he would appreciate VCOS' support. Chief Curmode is currently the fire chief in

Cooper Mountain Fire Department in Colorado. He has over 40 years of experience in the fire service. He has served in a variety of types of departments including metro, a fire district, volunteer, and combination in Kansas and Colorado. Cooper Mountain is a combination department.

He is active with the Missouri Valley Division and is a member of VCOS.

He has 7 main priorities for his campaign:

1. Increase cancer awareness and prevention, safety and physical fitness for all firefighters.
2. Continue to strive for more diversity in the fire service ranks
3. Recruit and increase the opportunities for women in the fire service
4. Pursue legislation which will benefit the emergency services on local, regional, national and international levels
5. Encourage professional development through mentoring and succession planning
6. Accreditation and Professional Credentialing
7. Addressing challenges specific to the volunteer/combination fire departments and their personnel.

One idea he has is to conduct national open forums to encourage dialogue among different departments in each state. This would be done by having 10 a year over 5 years. He also wants to create a template for strategic planning, standards of cover, and risk assessments that would be free to departments.

Chief Larson gave a strong recommendation for him as he has spent time with him before.

The board had a chance to ask any questions.

Chief Curmode thanked the VCOS board for their time and consideration.

#### **Kidde Program – Chiefs Crutcher, Flynn, Larson**

The program webinar on March 29 at 2pm went well. 118 registered were registered. We are working to finalize the media event schedule for what tour stops involve firehouse visits from Craig Morgan. Craig Morgan is adding a few more locations to his tour so we are waiting for those to come out. Lake George, NY on June 11 is a definite though.

We need people to apply for the contest. There is only 1 entry so far. Should we have a video crew at Symposium in the West or CFSI? Can we put information in the attendee update? Should we work with Ken Riddle to get Nevada departments to apply? Action item: Chiefs Flynn and Collins will discuss possibilities to get entries at Symposium in the West.

#### **Symposium in the West – Chief Collins**

- Reno, Nevada at the Peppermill Resort
  - Conference: May 13-14, 2016
  - Board Meeting on Thursday, May 12
    - Get any reports to Kelly by May 1
  - See attached DRAFT board schedule. There was a suggestion to look into lunch options for the board ahead of time so they aren't so rushed. Action item: Chiefs Wall, Collins, and Kelly will examine that more and work with

Conferences staff for their suggestions. Kelly will be sending calendar appointments for the various activities so board members can have them directly on their calendars.

- Book your flight if you haven't already and send to Kelly
- Registration – There were 93 as of Monday.
- Discuss inaugural gift/thank you – Sponsorships are at about \$19K and \$5K was budgeted. We are already close to break-even. Should we do some type of thank you to attendees for attending our first Symposium in the West? Some ideas included a t-shirt, padfolio, etc. Chief Wall suggested getting enough for IAFC board members too (and for IAFC staff that helped with the event – like Sara Stehle who won't be there). Make sure to include the board, pilots, etc. in the gift number.

### **Elections – Chief Windisch and Chief Wall**

Chief Florentino is still elections chair. All bylaws changes passed. Chief Eggleston will report that on the next IAFC board call. We will make the changes in the bylaws and then they'll be signed by Mark Light and posted on the VCOS website. We need a motion to accept the bylaws changes.

**Motion by Chief Windisch and seconded by Chief Flynn to accept the bylaws changes that were voted and approved by the VCOS membership on March 31. Motion carried.**

The VCOS board of directors nomination period is open now through May 1. Details are on the VCOS elections page. There are 3 at-large positions open. The following seats are up: Chiefs Black, Crutcher, Windisch, Eggleston (as International Director). Once the candidate list is finalized, typically voting goes from the end of May to mid-June.

The VCOS International Director is appointed by the VCOS Board of Directors within 2 weeks after the VCOS Annual Meeting. The new board will select that position. Chief Eggleston is in that position until the VCOS annual meeting and then the next term for whomever is selected starts after that.

### **Communications Committee – Chiefs Crutcher, Black, Rush, Larson**

A potential Symposium in the Sun app company contract was sent to the IAFC and the VCOS Communications committee. We need articles for the next newsletter. Chiefs Larson and Black reached out to iWomen for articles and sharing more information. Chief Black has an article that can be used for the newsletter.

We should designate a chair of this committee with Chief Crutcher leaving. The Communication Committee members will select someone.

We did not receive any articles when we emailed the various VCOS project/committee liaisons. Chief Rush did send in 1 article and Chief Crutcher sent a few articles from Chief Whitham.

### **Awards and Scholarships**

We had to switch a few people around below with Chief Crutcher leaving. Dr. Gasaway has agreed to do the Emerging Leader Scholarship again.

- Buckman Award –Ed Rush, Norvin Collins

- Retention & Recruitment Award – Fred Windisch, Chuck Flynn
- Illness & Injury Prevention Award- Fred Windisch, Chuck Flynn
- Training Officer Award – Norvin Collins, Ken Sedlak, Dan Eggleston
  - Open now through May 31. Press release went out
- FRI Scholarship - Randy Larson, Donna Black
  - Open now through April 30
- Symposium Scholarship - Jim Seavey
- Emerging Leader Scholarship - Tim Wall

Make sure you have a timeline for these awards and scholarships.

### **Fire Chief of the Year – Chief Wall**

The due date for award submissions is May 27. Think of potential nominees.

### **FRI – Chief Wall**

- San Antonio – August 17-20; Exhibiting Friday and Saturday
- VCOS Annual Meeting is Thursday, August 18 from 2-3:30 PM
- TED Talks (expo floor) Friday, August 19
  - Recruitment Camps (iWomen) - 2:40-2:55 PM
  - LEC Program (VCOS) –3-3:15 PM
  - Recruitment and Retention Tips from the VWS Program – 3:20 – 3:35 PM

We have not assigned speakers yet for the TED Talks, but will need someone for the LEC Program.

### **Diversity Report- Chief Wall**

Janet Wilmoth revised the draft and the IAFC Communications team made edits. The report was sent to the IAFC Executive Committee first for review and comment. Once they are comfortable with it, then it will be sent to VCOS and the IAFC board. The initial goal was to have copies available at Symposium in the West and we are still hoping to do that.

### **Booth Schedule**

- FDIC: April 18-23 in Indianapolis (Sending VCOS materials. Email Chief Seavey to see if he is planning to attend.)
- Northwest Expo: May 5 & 6 in Portland, OR (we will do this in 2017 and not this year)
- New York Chiefs: June 15-18 in Verona, NY (Chiefs Rush and Wall will split time there)
- Firehouse Expo: Oct 18-22 in Nashville, TN (Chief Wall is working on confirmation)

We will put the Northwest Expo on the agenda for next year. We should have a recommended list for 2017 at the November board meeting. NY Chiefs – Chiefs Wall and Rush is splitting time there.

### **Roundtable and Committee/Project Updates**

Black: FRI Planning Committee- They had a call last week to finalize the FRI schedule. There is a hands-on training this year which will be a nice addition. IAFC National SAFER grant – The volunteer Council for the project met in the DC area in March. That meeting was productive. She is also working on a condensed new board member packet that should be ready by the May board meeting.

Crutcher: Thanks to everyone for everything including the brick at the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial in Emmitsburg. We will cross paths again and please come visit in Germany! Use his [shane.crutcher@gmail.com](mailto:shane.crutcher@gmail.com) email from now on.

Larson – There was an LEC committee call yesterday. More updates at the May meeting.

Rush – There is no update on Near Miss. He had a conference call with the professional development group. No action items yet from that.

Windisch – He attended a joint meeting for pipeline companies discussing response trainings. Chief Quinn from the NVFC was there too. The meeting went well. He has almost all of the needed information from the various education program managers and is compiling that information. Mr. Dodge will doing a webinar on FLSA on May 26. It is costing \$2,000 but we will own it.

Wall - Thanks to all and good luck to Chief Crutcher with his job in Germany. The VCOS board appreciates Chief Crutcher's loyalty, support and friendship.

The next meeting is May 12 in Reno.

The call ended at 5:26 PM.