



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

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VCOS Board Teleconference Wednesday, June 8, 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 Charles Flynn, Chief Randy Larson, Chief Ed Rush, Chief Jim Seavey, Chief Timothy Wall

Absent: Chief Norvin Collins, Chief Dan Eggleston, Chief Fred Windisch

Staff: Ms. Kelly Ameen

The call started at 4pm ET.

Welcome and Agenda Overview - Chief Wall

Chief Wall started the meeting.

Motion by Chief Flynn and seconded by Chief Larson to approve the minutes from the May board meeting. Motion carried. Chief Rush abstained since he wasn't there.

Chief Chris Christopoulos (career) and Chief Byron Andrews (volunteer) were submitted as the VCOS nominees for Fire Chief of the Year.

Kidde Program – Chief Flynn

We are looking at the following locations for the media events with Craig Morgan. Lake George is a definite and is this Saturday. We are working on the others.

- June 11 - Lake George, NY (Rush)
- July 16 – MN (working on contacts)
- September – CT (9/5) or Ohio (9/12)?
- November 4 – San Diego?

If we do San Diego, we could reach out to the departments we visited last year during the board meeting.

Voting for the five finalists is open. The 1 grand prize winner will receive comped registration to Symposium in the Sun.

Symposium in the West Recap – Chief Collins

Chief Collins was not on the call and will get results to the board later. Chief Seavey stated that it was a great first conference out west. Board members received good feedback overall. We are working on the contract for next year at the Peppermill again.

Election –Chief Wall

Voting ends June 20 and a reminder email goes out June 13. As of now, 276 people have voted so far (12% return).

Communications Committee – Chiefs Black, Rush, Larson

The newsletter was mailed in May. A potential theme for the next newsletter is health to talk about cancer and behavioral health issues. The goal is to have the next newsletter out before Symposium in the Sun. Chief Rush will set up a conference call with the committee.

One idea was to have Chief Crutcher do some international themed articles.

We need to get article for Praetorian. The committee will talk about it on their conference call. Some Symposium speakers can do articles.

Awards and Scholarships

The FRI Scholarship Winners are Chief Ryan Pierson, Highland Chemical Engine Company (N.J.) and Captain Andrew DeVries, Bayside (Alaska) Fire Department.

The Training Officer Award closed May 31. There is an upcoming call to select the winners. We received about 20 nominations.

All Symposium awards/scholarships are open until August 31.

Should we make posters or marketing material for scholarships/awards to display at upcoming conferences? Ask Provident or VFIS to help advertise? Chief Seavey will coordinate.

FRI – Chief Wall

FRI will be in San Antonio from August 17-20. Exhibiting is Friday and Saturday. Start thinking about flights. It is recommended to come in by Wednesday and depart Saturday afternoon/evening or Sunday.

The VCOS Annual Meeting is Thursday, August 18 from 1-3:00 PM followed by a board meeting from 3-4 PM (wear Class A uniform). There will be a VCOS board dinner on Thursday night. Chief Seavey sent out a booth schedule survey. Board members will do two shifts.

There will be TED Talks on the expo floor. We have helped to coordinate the following ones on Friday, August 19.

- Reputation Management (Tobia) - 2:40-2:55 PM
- LEC Program (LaBelle and Larson) -3-3:15 PM
- Recruitment and Retention Tips (VWS staff, Wall, Flynn)- 3:20 – 3:35 PM

We will try to coordinate breakfast with Dr. Onieal again.

For the Annual Meeting, we will make it more of an annual report format to speed things up. There will be handouts. The executive committee is working on the agenda.

Old Business

The revised bylaws have been posted to the VCOS website and were emailed to the board.

- Cancer initiatives – Chief Seavey reported that the NVFC has their annual training summit where they talked about cancer issues. An idea was brought up to have a national conference on cancer in the workplace. After further investigation, the NVFC found out that is part of the cancer alliance’s plan already. Another idea is to have the younger generation speak to the younger generation through short videos about cancer prevention. There is a request for \$1,000 for video equipment to do these videos to ship to different departments. Chief Buckman will then edit videos. He will coordinate shipping the equipment to several board members.

Motion by Chief Seavey and seconded by Chief Flynn to have the executive committee move forward with the cancer video project and funding request. Motion carried.

- Chief Black will send the latest version of the New Board Member Packet to the board. There will be a motion to approve it on the July call. Board members should review the packet and send any feedback to Chief Black ahead of time.

New Business

- Yellow Ribbon Report on Mental Health Issues and Concerns – Chief Flynn
 - Chiefs Wall and Flynn are coordinating authors. Potential 1-day meeting at Symposium.
 - Treasurer Collins working with the IAFC for funding from VCOS assets – estimate \$25K
 - There will be a call in the next week or so. People involved may include Pat Kenny, Steve and Scott who presented at Symposium in the West, etc.

Motion by Chief Rush and seconded by Chief Black to move forward with the mental/behavioral health initiative and for Chief Collins to approach the IAFC for VCOS assets of \$25K. Motion carried.

- Attached letter from Chief Render – Chief Wall
 - No action needed. Chief Wall spoke to him.
- Fire Department Donated Resources (attached email from Chief Siarnicki) – Chief Wall
 - The email was sent to the IAFC’s Government Relations department. Dave Finger from the NVFC is working on it with Ken from the IAFC. They will keep us posted.

Roundtable, Announcements, Committee/Project Updates

Rush: NFFF Heart to Heart – maybe something at Symposium in the Sun? He will email Chief Windisch. Nothing new with Near Miss.

Seavey: Getting ready for the NY Fire Show. Chiefs Wall, Rush, and Seavey will be there.

Larson: He is now the acting chief of his department. No assistant chief until after new year. Chief Struble will be the chair of the LEC project. There is a call on the 21st. The goal is for the rollout to be at Symposium in the Sun. They are working on an FRI Ted Talk.

Flynn: Had a FROG class and Chief 101 in CT for the VWS program.

Black: She will finish the New Board Member Packet. There was an FRI Planning call last week. Working on NC conference and VCOS opportunities.

Wall: He is attending the New England meeting and will promote VCOS. He had good chat with Chief Quinn recently. He summarized Chief Windisch's email about Symposium in the Sun. 139 registrations so far. The Hilton is sold out. We can start a waiting list for the Hilton in case some rooms free up. Jennifer Cooke and Kate Ruhe are leaving the IAFC. The board will be updated with who will take over their responsibilities at a later date. Jennifer leaves July 1. This is Kate's last week. Gift cards went to staff for Symposium in the West.

The next call is July 13 at 4 PM ET.

The call ended at 5pm ET.