



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

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VCOS Board Telecon September 10, 2014

Minutes

Called to order: 4:04 p.m.

Present: Chief Norvin Collins, Chief Shane Crutcher, Chief Charles Flynn, Chief Randy Larson, Chief Jim Seavey, Chief Mike Vaughn, Chief Timothy Wall, Chief Fred Windisch

Absent: Chief Jason Catrambone, Chief Dan Eggleston

Guests: Chief Jim Wilson, Chief Ken Richards

Staff: Ms. Kelly Ameen

Welcome and Agenda Overview - Chief Wall

Thank you notes were received after FRI from Chief Tim Morrissey, FRI Scholarship Recipient, and also Chief William Metcalf, IAFC Past President.

The minutes from the July and August calls were reviewed.

Motion by Chief Windisch and seconded by Chief Crutcher to approve minutes from the July and August board calls as submitted. Motion carried.

FRI 2015 Atlanta – Chief Wall and Chief Crutcher

Chief Richards announced there is an upcoming FRI Program Planning Council meeting October 23-25 and asked the VCOS board for any comments and/or considerations for FRI 2015.

Chief Seavey said traffic on the show floor on Friday was great, but Saturday was not good as many people left to go home that day. Chief Richards agreed that many people left on Saturday. Chief Collins asked if there are any specific classes VCOS should submit. Chief Richards mentioned that there were not a lot of submissions last year for volunteer and combination themed sessions. Most submission were geared towards career departments. Chief Richards will put in for the same program he did this year which focused on overcoming obstacles in volunteer and combination departments. Chief Wall suggested that section meetings be spread out more so people could attend multiple section meetings and not be forced to choose between which to attend when they were at the same time. Chief Richards mentioned that the number of educational classes was cut in half this year. They received positive feedback on that; there were fewer classes, but they were higher caliber. Chief Seavey commented that more consideration should be given to room size and making

sure it is adequate for meetings/classes (The SHS section meeting needed a bigger room for the unveiling of the ISFSI video). Chief Richards stated that issue was already brought up at the FRI post-meeting. He will bring that up again at the meeting in October.

Submissions of the FRI 2015 call for papers are due September 29. Chief Wall encouraged board member to send this out to their contacts.

The VCOS booth will be inside the IAFC Pavilion again next year. IAFC staff will work to incorporate the feedback received recently on how to improve the flow of the area.

VCOS 2015 Budget – Chief Windisch

The VCOS budget is due by October 3. Chief Windisch requested that any financial needs for any projects or committees be sent to him so he can include them in the submitted budget. He will be working on this over the next five days and will then send it out to the executive committee for review. Reply directly to him with feedback. The budget will need to be approved before the end of September. There will be an executive committee call to discuss and approve it.

Chief Windisch will be out September 19-29.

Volunteer POV Response Best Practices – Chief Eggleston

Chief Eggleston is working on the Volunteer POV Best Practices document. The goal is to have it ready by Symposium. He received verbal support from the SHS section and NVFC to co-sponsor the report. His goal is to get the second draft out by the end of the month.

Shell Pipeline Partnership – Chief Windisch

Seven people will be attending the NASCAR race on October 26 in Martinsville, VA to represent VCOS. Chief Windisch has been working on the trunk lid with Ms. Gweneyette Broussard. He has also confirmed that the Fire Heritage Museum has room for the trunk lid.

VCOS needs to decide what to do with the \$5,000 monetary donation Shell Pipeline will make to VCOS at the Symposium. The preliminary thought is to donate it to the Firefighter Cancer Support Network. However, some people have also mentioned the NFFF and the IAFC Foundation.

Motion by Chief Collins and seconded by Chief Windisch to give the \$5,000 donation from Shell Pipeline to the Firefighter Cancer Support Network and then give any additional money raised to the NFFF. Motion carried.

Chief Wall stated that we need to make sure to provide a letter to the Firefighter Cancer Support Network explaining the donation is from Shell Pipeline.

Special shirts will be made for those going to NASCAR race and for the VCOS board to wear at Symposium. Chief Crutcher is working with Chief Curl on this. Chief Windisch will touch base with Ms. Gweneyette Broussard to make sure there are no copyright issues, etc. He suggested putting the Shell logo and #22 on the shirt sleeve. The 20th anniversary logo

could go on the left chest. We could include the tag line and also "become a volunteer firefighter."

We can present a shirt to Ms. Broussard and Mr. Logano.

Symposium Update

Everyone should have booked their flights by now. If you have not done so, please send your flight itinerary and hotel room needs to Ms. Ameen.

Chief Crutcher reported that two winners have been selected for the Symposium scholarships - Chief Jennifer Williams and Chief Ken Ranalli. They have worked out the logistics with Ms. Ameen. Their checks will be presented on Sunday during the closing session. Make sure they know to wear Class A uniforms for the presentation.

Updates on the Symposium awards were given.

- Buckman Award: A winner has been selected and the nominator will be notified this week. The person chosen does not know he was nominated. The award will be presented on Friday morning during the opening session.
- Retention and Recruitment Award: The winner is Chief Kevin Nunn from Seymour, TN. Kevin Nunn. He was very excited when he learned he has won. We need to ensure he knows the award presentation is Friday morning and to wear his dress uniform.
- Safe Driving Award: The award deadline is going to be extended until September 22 so the award can be marketed more. Ms. Ameen will add Chief Flynn and Dr. Jenaway's contact information to the application.

There are currently 440 registered for Symposium compared to 366 at this time last year. There are 289 full conference, 151 conference only, and 1 pre-conference only. The cap for registration is 525.

Chief Collins has contacted all presenters. Their bios went to Chief Crutcher for the app. There have been a few additions to the Symposium schedule.

Board members will be assigned to introduce presenters. If you have someone that you want to introduce, let Chiefs Crutcher and Wilson know. Board members should contact their assigned presenters ahead of time so they can learn more about them and not simply read their bio. There will also be some extra information about VCOS, exhibitors, etc. to include in your introductions.

Chief Collins suggested that people sit up front if they are introducing anyone during the opening or closing sessions. They are shortening introductions and will refer people to the app for more information in order to maximize time.

Chief Wall went over VCOS board expectations at Symposium. Keep your cell phone with you at all times so people can get in touch with you if needed. Be visible and interact with attendees. Get attendee business cards and get them involved with VCOS. There will be breakout meetings that VCOS board members will need to attend. The breakout meetings

will be spread out between board members so that the same people aren't in all of the meetings.

Communications Committee – Chief Crutcher and Chief Larson

The Fall 2014 newsletter has been sent to the printer and should be distributed in the next few weeks.

The 20th anniversary publication is coming together and should be ready in time for the Symposium. We still need quotes, memories, and photos from VCOS members and friends to include. An email will be sent shortly about this and the VCOS board is asked to distribute it to your contacts.

VCOS continues to use social media and the website to distribute information.

The Symposium app is almost complete and continues to be updated. Chief Crutcher will need people to help review it.

The November issue of On Scene will focus on volunteer and combination department issues. Four to six articles are needed for this issue and are due by the end of September.

Volunteer Transition Labor Management – Chief Vaughn

Chief Buckman is also helping with this effort. There will be a meeting on Thursday at Symposium that Chief Struble will facilitate with about 20 people to develop this program. Mr. Mike MacDonald will capture notes.

2015 VCOS Board Meetings – Chief Wall

Board members should hold February 5-8, 2015 for a board meeting potentially in San Diego hosted by TargetSolutions. In addition, we are looking to have a board meeting April 30-May 3 and are in discussions with where to have it. Some potential options include Reno, Connecticut, or Maine.

Firehouse Roundtable – Chief Wall

Chief Wall sent the needed information to the contact at Firehouse. He has not heard anything back yet.

Explorer Program – Chief Wall

An email was sent to the board about the Explorer program. Chief Nyles Zikmund came to annual meeting asking for VCOS' assistance. He is looking for advocates in many states. He will be at the Symposium. Please contact him if you can be of assistance in your state.

Training

The next VCOS webinar will be tomorrow at 2 PM with Chief Thomas LaBelle on *Communicating Your Passion*. Contact Chief Oprandy if you have any future topics or would like to be a presenter.

Roundtable and Committee/Project Updates

Chief Wall: The Bereavement Uniform Program (BUP) was discussed at our annual meeting. We received clarification from the IAFC that we can put a link to the BUP on the VCOS website with a disclaimer that we aren't endorsing it, but rather just making the fire service aware of the program. Ms. Ameen will work on the correct language with IAFC staff and post the link on the VCOS website.

Chief Seavey: He had a meeting with the NVFC today. They discussed the Interschutz conference and the Volunteer POV Best Practices effort.

Chief Collins: He asked about the next steps for the exhibiting booth taskforce that was discussed at the annual meeting. Chief Wall reached out to Chief Seavey to get clarification on the purpose of the taskforce and they are working on it. It will be discussed in more detail at the meeting at Symposium. Chief Windisch will put money in the 2015 budget for this effort. Chief Seavey mentioned that the goal of the taskforce is to look at where VCOS exhibits, the VCOS mission, and who VCOS is trying to reach. The second focus is to look at what we are showing and providing (giveaways, booth display and configuration, etc.).

Chief Collins mentioned the RESCUES breakout sessions that will occur at the Symposium. The RESCUES team would like to meet with the VCOS board and also have another session with some attendees on Saturday. It will be mentioned during the opening session.

Chief Flynn: He will attend a meeting next week in Louisiana for the NVFC's SAFER grant.

The next call will be on October 9 at 4pm ET.

Adjourned: 5:02 pm