



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 Telecon December 11, 2014

Minutes

Called to order: 4:03 p.m.

Present: Chief Shane Crutcher, Chief Dan Eggleston, Chief Charles Flynn, Chief Jim Seavey, Chief Timothy Wall, Chief Fred Windisch

Absent: Chief Jason Catrambone, Chief Norvin Collins, Chief Randy Larson, and Chief Mike Vaughn

Staff: Ms. Kelly Ameen

Welcome and Agenda Overview - Chief Wall

The minutes from the board meeting at the Symposium were reviewed.

Motion by Chief Seavey and seconded by Chief Crutcher to approve the minutes from the board meeting at Symposium in November as submitted. Motion carried.

20th Anniversary Publication – Chief Wall

Copies will be mailed to all VCOS members soon. Who else should we send them to? Some ideas include: IAFC past presidents, Joelle, Dr. Onieal, State association presidents, state fire marshal offices, IAFF office, NVFC, authors of articles

Chief Windisch requested that Ms. Ameen try to get all of the invoices associated with the publication before the end of the year so that they hit the 2014 financials. **Ms. Ameen will reach out to Mr. Mike Macdonald to get those invoices.**

New Project/Committee Assignments Update – Chief Wall

Chief Tim Whitman is the VCOS representative on the NVFC Emergent Issues Group. He was a peer reviewer for AFG in the past.

Chief Middleton is retiring and has stepped down as the VCOS appointee to the NFPA 950 committee. He has updated Chief Melby, the alternate to the committee. We need to verify if Chief Melby is a VCOS and IAFC member. The appointee would need to attend a week-long meeting most likely in 2016 and some conference calls during 2015. **Ms. Ameen will**

reach out to Chief Melby about his membership status. Send any other candidates to Chief Wall.

Chiefs Seavey and Eggleston are attending the NFFF Cancer Prevention Strategy Meeting on January 13-15 in the DC area. VCOS is responsible for paying for this. The hotel is about \$165/night.

Chief Windisch inquired whether IAFC had received the \$5,000 donation from Shell. Ms. Ameen hasn't received it. **Chief Windisch will follow up with Shell.**

NVFC SAFER R&R Grant – Chief Flynn

Notes and a powerpoint from the last call were attached to the agenda. Chief Flynn mentioned there was some concern from the IAFC about the ad with a pole that references dancing. Some IAFC staff did not feel that it was an appropriate ad. The VCOS board overall agreed.

FRI 2015 – Chief Wall

The next FRI will be in Atlanta, GA from August 25-29.

There is currently a 45 minute speed session topic under Chief Richards' name and we need to finalize the topic by Christmas. One idea was the transition labor management topic. Chief Buckman could potentially do it. Chief Seavey stated that there needs to be more volunteer specific programs. At FRI 2016, they are looking into doing a volunteer track or day. **Chief Wall will ask Chief Richards what topics are already bring presented so that we can determine the best use of the 45 minute speed session. He may invite Chief Richards to be on the January call. This will be an agenda item for the next call.**

IAFC 2nd Vice President – Chief Windisch

There are two candidates for IAFC second vice president, Chief Niles Ford and Chief Tom Jenkins. Who does VCOS want to endorse? They both presented to VCOS at the Symposium and at FRI. Chief Windisch stated that he believes the Chief Jenkins has more alignment with volunteer and combination departments and that VCOS should endorse sooner rather than later.

Motion by Chief Windisch and seconded by Chief Flynn to endorse Chief Tom Jenkins for the IAFC second vice president. Motion carried

Chief Windisch will reach out to Chief Jenkins to let him know that VCOS will endorse him.

Diversity Report – Chief Wall

Chief Shane Ray was supposed to get the outline to Mr. Mike Macdonald, but at the Symposium Mr. Macdonald said he had not received it. **Chief Wall will follow up with Chief Ray.**

Interschutz Conference – Chiefs Windisch and Seavey

Chief Seavey stated he is willing to attend and represent VCOS. He is able to get complimentary conference registration.

Motion by Chief Flynn and seconded by Chief Crutcher to provide Chief Seavey with up to \$2,000 reimbursement for airfare and \$100/day for seven days to cover meal/hotel costs. Motion carried. Chief Seavey abstained.

Chief Seavey will work with Ms. Ameen to figure out the easiest way to submit his expense report so that it follows all IAFC policies.

Transition/Labor Management Project – Chief Wall

A conference call was held with Mr. Mark Light, Chief Wall, and some of the project committee members. Mr. Light suggested that the name of the project be revised to not include labor management since that name is too close to the already existing LMI program. He also suggested that the IAFF could attend part of the class, but should not be there the entire time so that there could be more open discussions. He said VCOS needs to consider right to work states versus labor states. Mark Light and President Bryant have a meeting December 15 with the IAFF General President and will mention this initiative. **Chief Windisch suggested mailing a 20th anniversary publication ASAP to the IAFF President and Ms. Ameen will do so.**

The committee will have another conference call soon. **Chief Wall will follow up with Chief Larson to find out when their call is. This will be an agenda item on the next VCOS board call.** We need to determine if the IAFF will be involved and the best way to work with them. They may expect us to fund their costs. Some VCOS board members felt that VCOS should not have to pay for them to attend.

There was talk about doing two pilot classes next year in different states – one which is a right to work state and one that is a labor state.

As for a potential new name, Chief Windisch suggested *Labor and Management Collaboration in Combination Staffed Organizations*. Chief Buckman also came up with a name that was longer. Chief Eggleston liked the name Chief Windisch came up with. Send any feedback on this initiative to Chief Larson.

VCOS Member Survey – Chief Wall

There have been 113 responses so far and there will be one last push this week and next to get more responses. Chief Windisch commented that we need to consider the amount of effort that goes into developing the survey and having such a low response rate. Is it worth it?

Symposium Update - Chiefs Windisch, Crutcher

There were 97 responses to the attendee survey. As always there was a mix of feelings about the speakers. Overall, feedback was excellent. The Symposium Committee is accepting ideas and presenters now. Chief Windisch is cataloging them.

The feedback portion of the app worked well. **Chief Crutcher will send out a full report and analytics to the board.** Overall, people used and enjoyed it. It was nice to have the ability to send out updates on the spot. In 2015 we can advertise it more. There was a lot of buzz about it at the Symposium and a lot of people learned about the app through word of mouth.

Communications Committee – Chiefs Crutcher

Work on the next VCOS newsletter is underway. Chief Crutcher talked to Ms. Joelle Fishkin and it will go out in January and focus on the Symposium. Mr. Mike Macdonald gathered quotes and wrote stories while at the Symposium. Chief Buckman will do a leadership article. The November issue of *On Scene* featured many articles from VCOS. Copies were sent to Shell since photos of the NASCAR race were included. VCOS has 629 likes on the Facebook page (up from 366 in September 2013). People from ten different countries follow VCOS on Facebook. Chief Crutcher mentioned the idea of doing some Facebook ads or boosts to posts next year since they are relatively inexpensive.

2015 Board Meetings – Chief Wall

The next live board meeting will be February 5-8 and will be hosted by TargetSolutions in San Diego. **Chief Wall is going to call the TargetSolutions contact, Mr. Mike Butler, and start the coordination.** Keep an eye out soon for an email about making flights arrangements, etc. **Chief Eggleston will reach out to Chief Metcalf about visiting local fire departments out there.**

For the May board meeting, we are looking into having the meeting in Maryland so we can go to NFA to tie in the Shell decklid presentation to the Fire Heritage Museum. We could potentially meet at NFA or a local Maryland firehouse. It would be best for Shell to do it mid-week because they have a race that weekend and would have to leave Thursday. Everyone on the call said they could do a mid-week meeting. The VCOS Executive Committee will discuss the best dates. Thanks to Chief Seavey for reaching out to his Maryland contacts. Keep an eye out for revised meeting dates.

Growing Membership

In an effort to continue to grow VCOS membership and awareness, we are starting a VCOS Partner Pilot Program. VCOS is working with Mr. Dan Siedberg from iamresponding and Mr. Scott Beecher from Ward Diesel to form ideas of how they can help promote VCOS. This pilot program will be done during the first six months of 2015. Chief Seavey mentioned that both of them are on the VCOS exhibiting taskforce.

VCOS will also consider the information gained for the VCOS member survey when formulating plans for membership marketing in 2015.

Roundtable and Committee/Project Updates

Chief Wall: The VCOS Executive Committee talked to Dr. Onieal at NFA about the Volunteer Incentive Program and the recent issues of getting those classes filled. Dr. Onieal wanted to

seek VCOS' input before finalizing courses for next year. Nothing has been officially decided yet. Chief Wall also mentioned that there is a call tomorrow to talk about the Firehouse survey.

Chief Eggleston: The IAFC board adopted the 2015 budget today. The numbers looked good and the budget is balanced. Membership was up in 2014.

Chief Seavey: He has kept in touch with Mr. Richard Miller of the IAFC about the Pipeline project. API/APOL is interested in presenting next year at Symposium and they have some topics in mind which he sent to Chief Windisch. There will be a meeting in January to discuss it further.

Ms. Ameen: She reminded everyone to turn in any outstanding expense reports as they will not be processed the last two weeks in December due to the holidays. She apologized for the delay in some of the Symposium expense reports since checks were not cut during the week of Thanksgiving. 70 at Fri night roundtable.

Chief Crutcher: Assistant Chief Byron Smith from Rineyville will be attending the NFORS meeting in mid-March in Florida. Expenses are covered by NFORS.

The next call will be on January 8 at 4pm ET.

Adjourned: 5:10 pm