



## 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 June 10, 2014

#### Minutes

Called to order: 4:02 p.m. ET

Present: Chief Jason Catrambone, Chief Norvin Collins, Chief Shane Crutcher, Chief Dan Eggleston, Chief Charles Flynn, Chief Randy Larson, Chief Jim Seavey, Chief Timothy Wall, Chief Jim Wilson, Chief Fred Windisch

Absent: Chief Mike Vaughn

Staff: Ms. Kelly Ameen

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

Chief Wall welcomed the new board members. Chief Catrambone's 1-year term has already begun. Chief Collins and Chief Flynn's 3-year terms will start at FRI.

Chief Flynn explained that he has been in the fire service for 35 years. He is currently a career chief in Suffield, CT which has a combination department.

Chief Collins stated that he is honored to be part of the board. He has been active in many VCOS projects such as the Symposium in the Sun and looks forward to serving as a board member.

Chief Catrambone appreciates this opportunity. He was in CO and is now in ND. He has been there for a month. His background includes experience with the DOD, volunteer, combination, and career departments.

The board was given an updated roster. Any changes should go to Ms. Ameen. Chief Larson has an email and phone number change that he sent earlier today. Ms. Ameen will send out a revised roster.

The IAFC 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President election is open until June 26.

The minutes from the live May meeting and from the two May conference calls were reviewed.

**Motion by Chief Crutcher and seconded by Chief Windisch to approve the minutes from the live May board meeting and the two May conference calls as submitted. Motion carried.**

### **Budget Update – Chief Windisch**

Chief Windisch reviewed the final 2013 budget numbers in his attached report. Overall VCOS is in great financial shape. He told Chief Render to schedule an addition two or three Beyond Hoses and Helmets classes for this year. He also told Chief Collins there is room to do another FROG class.

Chief Windisch explained to the new board members that the goal is to carry over at least \$100K in the Pierce fund and the general fund each year.

Chief Wilson asked about the \$24K decline in the general account and warned that continued deficit spending could have negative long-term effects. Chief Windisch explained that deficit spending was planned for last year and that he is comfortable with where VCOS ended 2013. Deficit spending was budgeted for. In addition there were some extra expenses such as the \$10,000 contribution to Near Miss, etc.

With the new 2014 budget there are separate cost codes for LTC, FROG, and You and ISO.

Chief Wall verified that the \$5,000 video sponsorship was paid to ISFSI.

### **FRI – Chief Wall**

- FRI is August 13-16, 2014 in Dallas, TX. VCOS board members should attend the following:
  - IAFC Business Meeting: Thursday 11 a.m. - noon
  - Division Luncheons: Thursday 12-1:30 p.m.
  - VCOS Annual Meeting: Thursday from 2-3:30 p.m. (wear jacket and a tie)
  - VCOS Board Dinner: Thursday evening – Chief Florentino is arranging
  - Exhibiting Hours: Friday 10 a.m.–5 p.m.; Saturday 9 a.m.–2 p.m.
- Board members should book their flights. Thanks to everyone for sending Ms. Ameen your hotel needs.
- Booth Schedule – Chief Seavey is coordinating this. Please send him your availability to staff the booth.
- The VCOS 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary will be celebrated at FRI. The following will be done to recognize it:
  - We have ordered commemorative coins and ordered pens. We will have a slide during the opening session about VISION and the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We will also try to get a cake for the annual meeting.
  - There will be a special publication that Chief MacDonald is helping to create. It will include a pullout of the 16 life safety initiatives as well as the history of VCOS, etc.
- TargetSolutions is sponsoring the Training Officer Award which will be given out during the VCOS annual meeting at FRI. The application period is currently open. The application deadline is June 30. Chief Collins and Captain Sedlak are the VCOS liaisons for this. They will help to review the applications with the contacts at TargetSolutions.

- Applications for FRI scholarships are due by June 13. So far four applications have been received.

### **VISION – Ms. Ameen**

The VISION challenge leaders reviewed their respective challenges on the current “soft launch” VISION website located at [www.vcos.org/vision](http://www.vcos.org/vision). VCOS board members are encouraged to review each of the challenges/initiatives and provide any feedback or additional resources. Send any feedback to Ms. Ameen and Chief Parr by June 30. If you have additional resources, use the “submit a resource” link on the website: <http://www.iafc.org/Applications/Forms/FormDisplay.cfm?FormID=46570>.

The national launch of VISION will be conducted at FRI. Business cards about VISION will be handed out.

### **Communications Committee – Chiefs Crutcher and Larson**

The next newsletter will be done in August and focus on VCOS’ 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary and give historical perspective. It will also mention the VISION website launch as well as Symposium scholarships and awards.

Chief Crutcher is working to load information into the Symposium app. This includes exhibitor and speaker profiles as well as course descriptions.

Chief Crutcher is reaching out to the cartoonist, Mr. Paul Combs, to do a VCOS 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary cartoon that could be auctioned off with proceeding going to the NFFF or another worthy cause.

### **Partnerships**

- iWomen – Chief Larson: We need to choose 1 VCOS member for a free iWomen membership and to help facilitate the partnership with Chief Larson.
- TargetSolutions – Chief Collins (with Capt. Sedlak): TargetSolutions is offering VCOS members a discount on their training products. They are also sponsoring the Training Officer Award. See the website for more details.
- Shell - Chief Wall: Mr. Tommy Hicks spoke with Shell about having the VCOS logo on a racecar at a race in Richmond in September. We have reached out to the Shell contact twice, but have not heard back yet.

### **Symposium Update**

Chief Windisch reported that the Symposium website is updated with the educational program. The brochure is under development. Registration is now open.

The Symposium scholarships have already been advertised via social media, the website, and in the e-blast. Chiefs Crutcher and Catrambone will finalize the winners while at FRI if not before.

Chief Eggleston left a message with Mr. Jeff Siegrist about updating the Buckman award application.

Chief Larson reported that the Retention and Recruitment award application is up on the website and the application period is open. The same is true for the Safe Driving award. Chief Wilson talked to Dr. Jenaway and VFIS will advertise these award via their networks.

### **Training**

The next VCOS webinar is on Near Miss and will be on Thursday, June 26 at 7 p.m.

Chiefs Eggleston and Collins reported that the Beyond Hoses and Helmets class in Oregon was very well received. They may be interested in a FROG class or another Beyond Hoses and Helmets class next year.

Chief Crutcher stated that the You and ISO class in Kentucky was outstanding. There were about 90 attendees. Great feedback was received.

### **CPSE Appointment – Chief Wall**

The Center for Public Safety Excellence, Inc., is currently seeking nominations to fill the vacant Commission on Professional Credentialing (CPC) Commissioner position for *“agency head representing a volunteer emergency services department.”* The selected nominee will serve an initial term of three-years.

A letter with more details was provided to the group. Chief Wall encouraged board members to think of someone and send him an email.

### **Volunteer POV Response Project – Chief Eggleston**

Based on conversations at Tampa 2, it was decided that a best practices document was needed to help minimize injuries and deaths while using POVs for fire department responses. Many LODDs last year involved volunteers responding in POVs.

Chief Eggleston finished a draft outline and sent it to Chiefs Crutcher and Larson to review. He will then will send it to the Safety, Health, and Survival Section and to the NVFC. He confirmed with Chief Wall that he could send it to the NVFC.

### **Near Miss Task Force – Chief Wilson**

Chief Wilson participated in a Near Miss Task Force call last week. They need to focus on long-term sustainability. Only forty near miss reports have been submitted since the re-launch. The program needs to work more with training organizations to emphasize the importance of near miss reporting. People are visiting the website and are using the resources, but they are not reporting.

Chief Wall suggested that we help advertise Near Miss at the Symposium.

Chief Wilson mentioned that the Near Miss team and their SMEs are meeting for a full day at FRI. VCOS board members could stop by.

### **Exhibiting Booth**

- Chief Seavey exhibited recently at FDIC and Pennsylvania Expo.
- The upcoming exhibiting schedule is as follows:
  - June 19 - 20: SEAFIC Conference - Knoxville, TN (Eggleston, Cheves)
  - June 20-22: New England Fire Chiefs Conference - Springfield, MA (Wall)
  - July 15-19: Firehouse Expo - Baltimore, MD (Wall and IAFC staff)
  - August 13 - 16: Fire-Rescue International - Dallas, TX (All)
  - October 20-24: Colorado State Fire Chief's Leadership Challenge (Larson)
  - November 6-9: Symposium in the Sun (All)

### **FEMA Reimbursement Policy Change Initiative – Chief Wall**

The board was sent a draft proposal on FEMA reimbursement policy changes created by the Wildland Fire Policy Committee. Comments are due with track changes by June 19 to Chief Wall and Mr. Ken LaSala.

Chiefs Windisch and Crutcher have commented. Chief Larson will review it this afternoon. Chief Catrambone is putting questions together.

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

Ms. Ameen stated that the IAFC staff was restructured last week to create more strategic departments. No layoffs were involved. More details will be provided to the IAFC board on their call on Thursday. Ms. Ameen will be out at the end of this week and the beginning of next week, but will check email periodically. Call her cell phone if you need anything immediately.

Chief Collins will send a revised Oregon 360 report out to the group.

Chief Wall mentioned he is working on a partnership with Firehouse Expo which would include a discount for VCOS members to attend the conference and/or exhibits. VCOS will be exhibiting there.

The next VCOS teleconference will be July 10, 2014 at 4 p.m. ET.

Call ended: 4:44 p.m. ET