



## 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, September 13, 2017**  
**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 Jason Catrambone, Chief Norvin Collins, Chief Jim Cook, Chief Rich Cowger, Chief Charles Flynn, Chief Ed Rush, Chief James Seavey, Chief Timothy Wall

Absent: Chief Fred Windisch

Staff: Ms. Kelly Ameen

The call started at 4pm.

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

The VCOS board reviewed the August minutes.

**Motion by Chief Rush and seconded by Chief Flynn to approve the minutes from the August call. Motion carried.**

#### **Symposium in the Sun – Chief Windisch**

The theme is "Building Leaders from the Ground Up."

- Registration Update = 340 which is about the same this time last year.
- Tentative Schedule (You will get a detailed schedule like usual before the conference)
  - Dinner Wednesday 6 or 6:30pm, location TBD (significant others welcome, no other invited guests)
  - Thursday, 3:30pm – VCOS board and IAFC leadership meeting
  - Follow general Symposium schedule for Thurs-Sun
  - Board Meeting, Sunday 12:30-5pm
  - Sunday dinner 6:30pm, location TBD– friends/supporters, significant others
  - Monday travel back

The hotel did not sustain any major damage and is currently open for business. There will be a few other meetings on Friday afternoon like the Mental Health group, CPSE, VCOS educational programs, vendor venue, etc.

#### **Awards and Scholarship Updates**

- Buckman Award – Chiefs Rush and Collins. The committee has tentatively selected a winner. They had many very good candidates and it was a challenging choice with so many good applications. They are currently vetting the person and will announce the winner soon.
- R&R/Illness-Injury Prevention Awards – Chiefs Windisch and Black. They have all the applications, but have not had a call to choose a winner yet. That will happen soon.
- Symposium Scholarships – Chiefs Flynn and Seavey
  - Winner = Chief William Jones Roanoke Island (NC) Volunteer Fire Department
  - Winner = Captain Richard Andrews Gilford (NH) Fire Rescue
- Emerging Leader Scholarship – Chief Wall
  - Winner = Chief Joseph Bartos (West Point, VA)

Chief Wall asked each award/scholarship committee to let the VCOS board know once you have officially selected the winner so we can announce it, etc.

### **VCOS Committees**

- New appointments
  - Cowger – At-Large VCOS Director
  - Whitham – Program Planning Council
- Webinars: Division Chief Scott Lambert, Albemarle County Fire Rescue, [slambert2@albemarle.org](mailto:slambert2@albemarle.org). Send any webinar topics/presenters to him. Thanks to Chief Oprandy for doing this the past few years.
- Will have updated list for Symposium in the Sun meeting

Chiefs Wall and Black worked together on determining the Program Planning Council appointment and also kept the executive committee in the loop.

### **Communications Committee – Chief Rush**

- The newsletters went out recently so everyone should have received it (or it will arrive soon).
- IAFC On Scene – November edition focuses on volunteer/combo department issues. Chief Rush and Seavey will each send 1 more article.
- Social Media – seeing an uptick over this past year with help from Jenny on IAFC staff.

### **Old Business**

The VCOS 2018 budget was submitted. The VCOS Executive Committee reviewed it and made suggestions prior to it being submitted. Chief Collins tried to be conservative with the budget. We can make additional project requests later if needed for special/organizational projects from net assets if the project meets the requirements.

### **New Business – Chief Wall**

The board was sent the Division Policy Manual as an FYI.

The Yellow Ribbon Report working group has a meeting on Friday afternoon at Symposium in the Sun. They are using Pierce funds for 6 people to come in. Chief Flynn asked that each board member go through the list of conference attendees and select two people they know each to participate in this.

Chief Wall is still working on the Feb 2018 VCOS board meeting in Canada. Make sure you have proper documentation to cross the border. We are aiming for February 8-11.

Chief Seavey will be sending out a cancer report to the board soon as an FYI.

### **Roundtable, Announcements, Committee/Project Updates**

Ameen: Let me know if you are planning to bring a significant other to dinners at Symposium in the Sun.

Black: There is an IAFC Board meeting tomorrow. The WFCC is working on the date/location for their next meeting. They may do it in conjunction with the IAFC meeting in March 2018 in northern Virginia.

Catrambone: He will be deployed for a wildland fire soon and may be out of communication for a bit.

Collins: There are several FROG classes coming up in Illinois, two in Alaska, and one in Montana. He just got back from the Eagle Creek wildfire.

Cowger: He is excited and appreciative to be on the VCOS board. He is currently on his 4<sup>th</sup> deployment since July 11<sup>th</sup>. About 1.1 million acres have burned so far in Montana.

Cook: He is glad it has been pretty quiet in his area compared to everyone else.

Flynn: It has been very busy up in Connecticut, doing lots of volunteer fire recruitment/retention work.

Seavey: He was unable to go to the Cancer Symposium due to a family issue. Someone from MT stepped in to represent on his behalf.

Wall: He worked with IAFC leadership and TX contacts to identify organizations to donate towards in order to help with Harvey relief efforts. We may also collect donations at Symposium in the Sun, but this is to be determined.

Rush: NY state passed a bill to support payments to firefighters that contract cancer. It does not include everything they wanted, but it is a step in the right direction. They need the governor to sign it so they are doing some press conferences around it. He will attend Firehouse Expo in Nashville in October and work the VCOS booth.

The call ended at 4:40pm

The next call will be October 11 at 4pm ET.