



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

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VCOS Board Teleconference Wednesday, July 13, 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 Norvin Collins, Chief Dan Eggleston, Chief Charles Flynn, Chief Randy Larson, Chief Ed Rush, Chief Jim Seavey, Chief Timothy Wall, Chief Fred Windisch

Absent: None

Guests: Mr. Jim Broman

Staff: Ms. Kelly Ameen

The call started at 4pm ET.

Welcome and Agenda Overview - Chief Wall

The VCOS board reviewed the June meeting minutes.

Motion by Chief Rush and seconded by Chief Collins to approve the minutes from the June call. Motion carried.

The NFFF Annual Report is available here: www.firehero.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/2015-annual-report.pdf

We received a thank you note from Learning for Life for the \$1,200 donation for the conference bags.

VISION 20/20 – Jim Broman

Mr. Jim Broman gave an update on VISION 20/20. They'd like to be a contributor to Symposium in the Sun and West. They have many free resources and tools that would be valuable to VCOS members. They are funded by AFG grants. They are interested in doing presentations at both conferences. Most of their materials focus on community risk reduction. Chief Eggleston noted that they are very helpful and Albemarle has used them.

VISION 20/20 has been around since 2006 and they've received almost \$6 million in grants to develop resources. The VISION 20/20 website is strategicfire.org/.

Chief Wall suggested they submit an article for the VCOS newsletter. We can also share materials on the VCOS website. Chief Windisch stated that sessions are full for this year's Symposium in the Sun but perhaps in 2017 they could do something. They could potentially have an exhibiting table at this year's Symposium in the Sun though. Mr. Broman can send Kelly and Chief Wall information on what they'd like to present and then those materials will be shared with the Chairs of the conferences.

Election –Chief Wall

Congratulations to Chiefs Black, Catrambone, and Windisch on their new 3-year terms. 389 ballots were returned (16.44% voter turnout)

Kidde Program – Chief Flynn

Craig Morgan's son died in a boating/tubing accident recently. This may affect his tour and the planned media events/open houses for the Step Up and Stand Out campaign. Initially we had planned to do the following events:

- June 11 - Lake George, NY (Rush attended)
- July 16 – MN (Catrambone attending but may be cancelled due to Craig Morgan's family emergency)
- September 4 – Bristol, CT
- October 6 – Denver, CO

The 5 finalists will be announced at FRI.

Should we post anything about condolences to Craig Morgan on social media? Kelly will talk to Leslie and Jim about it.

Communications Committee – Chiefs Black, Rush, Larson

The next newsletter will be done in mid-September. The Communications Committee will have a conference call soon with Kelly and Joelle. They will work to get an article from VISION 20/20. Chief Rush noted that VFIS has good articles and we could reach out to them to reprint something. Chief Crutcher is willing to help as well. Chief Rush will reach out to him.

FRI – Chief Wall

- San Antonio – August 17-20; Exhibiting Friday and Saturday
- Book flights. Recommend come in by Wednesday and depart Saturday afternoon/evening or Sunday.
- Send flight itinerary and hotel needs to Kelly by TODAY.
- VCOS Annual Meeting is Thursday, August 18 from 1-3:00 PM followed by a board meeting from 3-4 PM (Class A uniform; Room 205)
- Thursday night – VCOS dinner at Salt Grass at 6:30pm - www.saltgrass.com/
- Booth schedule – Chief Seavey made the schedule and Kelly sent it out to the board. It will be included in your FRI logistics document.
- Working with IAFC marketing to get more people to the VCOS table by advertising resources ahead of time.
- IAFC showcase area in IAFC Pavilion – VCOS Board Meet & Greet on Saturday from 10-10:20am

- IAFC TV
 - VCOS Update – Chief Wall (Friday)
 - Step Up and Stand Out – Chief Flynn (Wednesday)
- TED Talks (expo floor) 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

Symposium in the Sun – Chief Windisch

Registration is at 187. All speakers have been selected. The Hilton is sold out. There are 24 exhibitors registered and 4 spots are currently still open. The conference brochure is in progress. Chief Catrambone stated that Pier 60 is booked as of today. Chief Windisch stated that the Holiday Inn may be an option too.

Membership Update – Chief Wall

Total Section Membership as of 6/30/16

	Actual Count*	Free	Total Roster
VCOS	2,422	60	2,482
EMS	1,661	19	1,680
FLSS	1,265	14	1,279
SHS	1,151	50	1,201
EFO	1,025	9	1,034
EVMS	378	5	383
COS	373	53	426
METRO	208	0	208
INDUSTRIAL	196	2	198
FED-MIL	165	0	165

* Actual Count includes paid members, section life members and those members in the grace period (haven't yet renewed)

Old Business

- United in Service/Diversity Report
 - HRC working on draft and goal is to get it to VCOS board by August 1.
- Cancer initiatives – Chiefs Seavey and Eggleston
 - Thanks for input on the cancer registry. Ken LaSala did a good summary and is working with NVFC on this. They are optimistic this will go through later in the year. There is a Cancer Symposium in Spring 2017. Viking turnout gear email that was sent around is an example of the market responding to the cancer

issue – it is an alternative to having to buy 2 sets of gear. Some pushback from a few folks on it. Chief Eggleston is not asking to promote it, he is just providing information to the group.

- The NaCo appointment is Chief Steven Singer (Powhatan County, VA) and he was approved by Chief Kerr. The nomination letter was sent in.
- NVFC SAFER Workgroup – Chief Flynn (last call notes attached)
 - They are finding the same issues that we find with recruitment and retention. Chief Flynn continues to participate in the monthly conference calls.

New Business

Chief Flynn is chairing the Yellow Ribbon Report. There will be a meeting at FRI and then conference calls after that. The goal is to have it completed by Symposium in the West. The cost is estimated at about \$15K but is budgeted for \$25K.

The board was sent an email from Mr. David Donahue from NFA. He is looking for ideas for volunteer training. We need to make sure we aren't duplicating efforts or making training too complex. It needs to be basic information and not too intensive. There are New Chief classes that the NFA is offering already. The Joint Committee on Professional Development is also talking about this. Chief Rush is willing to talk to Mr. David Donahue. Chief Wall will work with Mr. Donahue to get more information.

Chief Windisch is working on the Pierce ISO Project. They had a very successful recent meeting regarding this project. Chief Windisch sent an attachment to the board outlining the project. The Pierce local salesforce will be at FRI and they will do a meeting/course while at FRI. There is a lot of energy on this right now. Hopefully we can get more dealer engagement at Beyond Hoses and Helmets and ISO classes. Pierce funding has been increased in last few payments.

Roundtable, Announcements, Committee/Project Updates

Windisch – He is on vacation July 22 - August 1.

Black – She sent the New Board Member packet to Kelly for revisions and updates. We will put everything into a dropbox file and update it as needed so it is a living document. Chief Black still suggests having committees write down more information on what their tasks and responsibilities include. Chief Black will be busy at FRI with the Planning Committee. The NC Safer Conference is right before FRI and she will attend and pass out VCOS information. Kelly will send her materials. On July 27 there will be a National SAFER grant council meeting. She will attend the Physicals Summit at FRI.

Larson – LEC had a call and Pete Struble is leading the project. There will be a TED Talk at FRI on this topic. Chief Larson was recently promoted to Chief so he needs new business cards. Kelly will order those.

Rush – The Joint Committee on Professional Development had a call recently. The NY Show went well and lots of current members visited the booth. Chief Seavey said he was able to talk to people about cancer issues and other VCOS projects while at the NY show. Traffic was off and on. Chief Seavey thought the show was worthwhile. Saturday was slower. Chief Rush is available for Firehouse Expo. Chief Wall said then he will go.

Collins – Has been to CT a lot recently for classes. We need to describe FROG better and not as a graduate level of BH&H. Kelly will reach out to Chief Collins to get revised language.

Seavey - He asked if the vendor that was at Symposium in the Sun last year with the cancer preventive turnout gear was coming again. Chief Windisch said he assumes so. Chief Seavey mentioned that several organizations have helped with the West Virginia flooding relief efforts. Does VCOS want to do anything? He mentioned NVFC has done some things. Chief Wall said we could promote that.

Catrambone – He is looking forward to being back on the board and being engaged.

Eggleston – The IAFC’s Saudi Aramco project has its first group that is working with the San Diego Fire Department. Albemarle just finished a hazmat grant with IAFC staff and the template could potentially be used for other departments. The Southeastern Conference had a good turnout.

Ameen – There will be a wall at FRI to bring awareness to the cancer issue in the fire service. People can write messages or post a ribbon to honor someone battling cancer. Melissa Knight is leaving IAFC to move back to Boston closer to her family.

Wall – If you are interested in a VCOS executive committee position, please email Chief Eggleston. At the November meeting we should talk about succession planning. We received a thank you from Chief Curmode for endorsing him in the IAFC election. He unofficially has won as IAFC Second Vice President.

The next meeting is Thursday, August 18 from 1:30-3pm (annual meeting) and 3-4pm (board meeting) at FRI in San Antonio.

The call ended at 5:26pm.