



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

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VCOS Board Teleconference Thursday, July 10, 2014

Minutes

Called to order: 4:03 p.m. ET

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

Absent: Chief Charles Flynn, Chief Jim Seavey

Staff: Ms. Kelly Ameen

Welcome and Agenda Overview - Chief Wall

Chief Wall thanked everyone for joining the call.

Chief Vaughn reported that his fire chief contract was not renewed, but things are looking up. There has been tremendous support from the public and the IAFC. Chief Vaughn appreciates all of the calls and emails he has received. Chief Wall stated that VCOS will support him in any way possible and wishes him the best in getting everything resolved.

Chief Crutcher was nominated for the CPSE's CPC commissioner position. He hasn't heard anything back yet.

The minutes from the June call were reviewed.

Motion by Chief Larson and seconded by Chief Wilson to approve the minutes from the June call as submitted. Motion carried.

Budget/Treasurer Call Update – Chief Windisch

A call was conducted with section treasurers a few weeks ago. VCOS is being used as a model for the other sections. Budgets for 2015 are due October 3, 2014. Chief Windisch will get this submitted on time with the best estimates he can.

Chief Windisch stated that VCOS needs to formalize its financial reserve amounts and document them for the record. This was last done in 2007.

Motion by Chief Windisch and seconded by Chief Wilson to adopt the policy of having \$100,000 minimum balance at the end of each calendar/fiscal year for the General Fund and the Pierce Initiative Fund for a total of \$200,000.

Chief Windisch reminded the group that expense reports must have itemized receipts showing exactly what was ordered/purchased (not just the total amount).

International Director Update – Chief Eggleston

The IAFC Board had a conference call this afternoon. FRI is looking good. Over 300 more people are registered compared to last year. The Dallas Fire Department has been very supportive and helpful.

Two programs that allow local fire departments to obtain excess U.S. Department of Defense equipment to help them fight wildland fire have been shut down. Through the Federal Excess Personal Property (FEPP) and Firefighter Property Program (FPP), fire departments obtained decommissioned DoD apparatus and equipment. Most of this equipment went to rural volunteer fire departments, which typically lack financial resources and yet provide 80 percent of the initial attack on wildland fires in the U.S. The FEPP and FPP have been suspended apparently because the used equipment do not meet federal emissions standards. The IAFC is monitoring this issue. VCOS has been in touch with the IAFC's GR Department to ask what VCOS can do to help.

The EMS section is going to put out an RFP for their conference.

The IAFC election results will be "official" at FRI.

FRI – Chief Wall

- VCOS Schedule for FRI August 13-16, 2014 in Dallas, TX
 - IAFC Business Meeting: Thursday 11 a.m. - noon
 - Division Luncheons: Thursday 12-1:30 p.m.
 - **IFSFI Video Unveiling at SHS Meeting: Thursday 1:30-2 p.m.**
 - Preview: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KwIRSDAKgl&feature=youtu.be>
 - VCOS Annual Meeting: Thursday 2-3:30 p.m.
 - 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.
- Travel Logistics: Book your flight if you haven't done so yet. Chief Florentino will help with transportation between the airport and the hotel/convention center. Attire for the VCOS Annual Meeting is jacket and tie.
- Booth schedule: Chief Seavey is putting together a schedule for staffing the VCOS booth at FRI.
- VCOS' 20th anniversary will be celebrated at FRI. There will be 20th anniversary pens, commemorative coins, and a new banner. The board decided not to have a cake at the VCOS Annual Meeting.
- A special 20th anniversary publication is being created and will be distributed at the Symposium in the Sun. Board members are encouraged to submit quotes, memories,

stories, and photos for this. We are also working to update the VCOS History spreadsheet. Board members may be asked to review the 20th anniversary publication.

- Training Officer Award with TargetSolutions: Captain Chip Everett of Oshtemo (Mich.) Fire and Rescue won the award. He didn't even know he had been nominated and was pleasantly surprised. There were 22 total nominations. TargetSolutions will also name two runners-up who will receive gift cards. All nominees will be given a certificate acknowledging their nomination. The winner will be invited to the VCOS dinner on Thursday night. Find out if the runners-up will be at FRI.
- FRI scholarship winners are Lieutenant Charles Bailey, Rineyville (Ky.) Fire Department and Chief Timothy Morrissey, Sherborn (Mass.) Fire Department. There were four total applicants. The winners will be at the VCOS Annual Meeting. They are invited to Thursday's dinner.
- President Metcalf will be presented a \$100 donation to the IAFC Foundation as a gift from VCOS at the Presidential Luncheon at FRI. Another section asked about forming a new type of scholarship for the President, but VCOS decided to continue what has been done in the past and not participate in the new scholarship.
- VISION: The national launch of VISION will be advertised at FRI. A demonstration will be given during the VCOS Annual Meeting. Board members should review the website at www.vcos.org/vision and send any changes/updates to Ms. Ameen.

Communications Committee – Chiefs Crutcher and Larson

- The next newsletter will go out sometime after FRI.
- Social media and the website are being used to promote VCOS scholarships and awards. We are working to update the homepage graphic to include information on the 20th anniversary and the Symposium.
- The Symposium App is about 85% complete. A QR code will be created so people can easily download it.
- Chief Wall mentioned he received Chief Crutcher's email about a VCOS gift/award idea, but stated that this year we will be using the 20th anniversary coins instead.

Partnerships

- iWomen – Chief Larson stated that VCOS needs to choose one VCOS member for a free iWomen membership and to help facilitate the partnership with Chief Larson. He clarified that this doesn't have to be a woman. If you know anyone that would be interested, please send a name to Chief Larson. Chief Catrambone has someone in mind.
- TargetSolutions is offering a VCOS member discount and is sponsoring the Training Officer Award (mentioned earlier).
- Shell has offered to sponsor a racecar at a Richmond race in September with the VCOS logo. We have reached out to them, but have not heard back with further details.

Symposium Update

The VCOS Executive Committee had a call with Ms. Cooke earlier today. The Hilton is sold out on two nights. If you won't be at Symposium, let us know so we can open up any rooms.

Room blocks at Pier 60 and Marriott will be available soon. Speaker agreements are being worked on. The stair climb and walk planning is underway and there will be more marketing done this year in the local community. Everything with the Symposium is on schedule. The stair climb/walk will start at 6:45 a.m. This is an earlier start than last year. The first session that day starts at 8:15 a.m. which is a little later than last year.

Four or five applications have been submitted so far for symposium scholarships. The deadline is August 1.

Chief Eggleston will reach out to Provident to revise the Buckman Award application.

There have been no nominations yet for the Recruitment and Retention award. Chief Larson asked Ms. Ameen to make sure his new email address is on the application.

Training

The next VCOS webinar is on Motivating Millennials. It will be conducted on Thursday, July 17 at 2 p.m. The last two webinars had sparse attendance so we are trying a different start time. It was suggested that Tampa 2 be a future topic.

There is room for a few more Beyond Hoses and Helmets classes to be conducted this year.

Other VCOS course offerings include FROG, You and ISO, and LTC.

Volunteer POV Response Project – Chief Eggleston

Chief Eggleston is working on the second draft now. He is seeking department policies that prohibit POV response. He posted that request on KnowledgeNet. He mentioned that 35% of those killed during POV responses were under 21 years old.

Exhibiting Booth

VCOS exhibited recently at the Southeastern Association of Fire Chiefs Conference (Eggleston, Cheves, Crutcher) and the New England Fire Chiefs Conference (Wall). The SEAFCC was a good conference, but there was not much traffic at the booth. There were about 100 total attendees. Chief Wall attended the New England Conference. He promoted VCOS and the Symposium there.

The upcoming booth schedule is as follows:

- 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)

Supporting Research at the NFA - Chief Eggleston

While in South Carolina, Chief Eggleston had lunch with Dr. Burt Clark of the National Fire Academy. He mentioned that currently there aren't a lot of awards/recognition for research.

This is something for VCOS to think about in the future as it is important to promote research in the fire service. He will gather more information to discuss at FRI. One idea is to give an award to the best research paper supporting one of the VISION goals.

Roundtable and Committee/Project Updates

Wall: He is working with the IAFC Membership Department on a promotion at FRI to get VCOS members. He has asked IAFC staff to update the contact list for volunteer and combination departments. He was a judge for the Fire Chief of the Year awards this year. He asked if VCOS should offer nominees a free VCOS membership. The Board thought it was a good idea. If you need a VCOS shirt, contact Chief Larry Curl.

Windisch: He asked when the Fire Chief of Year winners would be announced. Chief Wall mentioned that judging will be done by July 11. Chief Windisch suggested that the winners be notified earlier in order to make travel arrangements.

Crutcher: The Symposium app is about 85% done. He received some information for the QR code used to download the app. He will need people to review the app before it is finalized. The app is currently available by searching for "IAFC VCOS," but is not complete yet.

Larson: The Amarillo Fire Department recently lost a member to cancer. He is not sure if it will be listed as a LODD or not. The Dallas Fire Department has been very supportive and helpful to the family.

Catrambone: He is dealing with a lawsuit from the union. He may be reaching out to the VCOS board for some help and advice. He requested contact information for anyone that has experience dealing with this. Chief Windisch has a contact. Chief Wall suggested that Mr. Mark Light, IAFC CEO and Executive Director, could be helpful as well.

There may be a quick VCOS Board call before FRI.

The call ended at 4:57 p.m. ET.