



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

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VCOS Board Annual Meeting Thursday, July 27, 2017 Charlotte, North Carolina

2 p.m. Eastern

MINUTES

Present: Chief Donna Black, Chief Norvin Collins, Chief Jim Cook, Chief Dan Eggleston, Chief Charles Flynn, Chief Randy Larson, Chief Ed Rush, Chief James Seavey, Chief Timothy Wall

Staff: Ms. Kelly Ameen, Ms. Monica Willemssen, Ms. Abena Bonso-Bruce, Ms. Rhiannon Bogoz

The meeting started at 2:00 pm.

Welcome and Agenda Overview - Chief Wall

Chief Wall welcomed the board and VCOS members to the annual meeting. The Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer was conducted.

2017 IAFC & VCOS Election – Swearing-in of newly elected board members

The election committee shared the results of the 2017 Board of Directors and Executive Committee elections: 620 VCOS members voted, 26.38% of eligible voter. (Of note: 2016 was 389 voters, 16.44% of eligible voters).

Chief Rush explained the VCOS bylaws prior to swearing the newly elected chiefs.

The following 3 chiefs were sworn-in to the VCOS board for 3-year terms by President Sinclair:

- Chief Norvin Collins, Sauvie Island Fire District (Oregon)
- Chief Charles Flynn, Suffield Fire Dept (Connecticut)
- Chief James Cook, Leesburg Volunteer Fire Company (Virginia)

A motion was made by Chief Ed Richards to accept the election results. Seconded by Mr. Ed Mann. Motion passed.

The following 4 chiefs were sworn-in to the VCOS Executive Committee by President Sinclair:

- Chief Timothy Wall, North Farms Volunteer Fire Department (Connecticut) as Chair
- Chief Charles Flynn, Suffield Fire Dept (Connecticut) as Vice Chair
- Chief Donna Black, Duck Fire Department (North Carolina) as International Director
- Chief Norvin Collins, Sauvie Island Fire District (Oregon) as Secretary-Treasurer

A motion was made by Chief Dave Fisher to accept the proposed VCOS executive committee. Seconded by Dr. Bill Jenaway. Motion passed.

Chief Sinclair acknowledged the hard work put forth by VCOS to produce the Yellow Ribbon Report highlighting the importance of mental and behavioral health in the fire service.

Former members of the board were also recognized by Chief Wall.

International Directors Report- Chief Dan Eggleston

Chief Eggleston spoke on current and future membership, revenue and member services. He thanked VCOS for their support and gave his goodbye to the VCOS board as he transitions into 2nd Vice President of the IAFC.

Training Officer of the Year Award - Chief

Congratulations to Chief Michael Accardo III of St. Tammany Fire District 9 (Alabama) for winning the Training Officer of the Year Award. This award was presented by Chief Norvin Collins, Chief Dan Eggleston and Mr. Andy Lynch of TargetSolutions.

Chief Gary Ludwig introduced himself and announced his candidacy for 2nd Vice President in 2018 and asked for endorsement from the VCOS Board.

Fire-Rescue International Scholarship Award - Chief Larson

Chief Larson spoke on the FRI Scholarship application and voting processes.

Chief Larson announced the scholarship recipients:

- Operations Chief Michael Blackwill, Windsor Severance Fire Department (Colorado)
- Chief Jonathon Mills, Olympia Volunteer Fire Department (North Carolina)

Chief Larson spoke on the Leadership and Employee Collaboration project. There will be two pilot programs in Florida and another TBA. This will roll out at Symposium in the Sun in November.

Chief Larson also spoke on the "Bullying in the Fire Service" project. They are currently working on phase II of this initiative.

Chief Wall presented Chief Larson with an award from the IAFC-VCOS for his years of service and commitment to the board.

VCOS Supporters - Chief Eggleston

Chief Eggleston gave thanks to all the VCOS supporters including: VFIS, Provident, Pierce, ISO, Shell, TargetSolutions, IamResponding, Ward Diesel, Gasaway Consulting, Paratech and Kidde

Chief Richard Carrizzo introduced himself and announced his intent to campaign for 2nd Vice President in the 2019 IAFC Board elections.

Step Up & Stand Out and the Yellow Ribbon Report – Chief Flynn

Chief Flynn spoke about the Step Up & Stand Out Award. This award is for recognition of exemplary volunteer fire departments. There will be one grand prize winner and five finalists. Video nominations are due no later than August 11, 2017 and public voting will be held from August 28, 2017-September 30, 2017.

Chief Flynn also announced the release of the Yellow Ribbon Report, Under the Helmet: Performing an Internal Size-Up- A Proactive Approach to Ensuring Mental Wellness. Special

thanks was extended to the committee members that created the report and IAFC staff. The report was released here at FRI 2017 and is available in print version or online.

Be Inclusive and Get Checked – Chief Black

Chief Donna Black shared the latest “Be Inclusive” poster. The Human Relations Committee and VCOS partnered to create a poster aimed at unifying the fire service and promoting inclusivity throughout. These can be downloaded online.

Chief Black also discussed the “Get Checked” campaign. This launched in 2016 at Symposium in the Sun and was also available at FRI 2017. Also discussed was “A Healthcare Provider’s Guide to Firefighter Physicals.” Chief Black shared the importance of getting physicals completed yearly and sharing all possible work hazard information with your healthcare provider.

Cancer Initiatives - Chief Seavey

Chief James Seavey discussed VCOS cancer initiatives and the epidemic of cancer in the fire service. He announced the Cancer Committee which consists of Chiefs Seavey, Catrambone, Beecher, Bullock, Barker, Logan and Coschignano.

This committee will be working with NVFC on:

- article writing and review,
- adding cancer instruction to VCOS courses,
- creating cancer related webinars,
- presentations and review of successful firefighter cancer education programs.

Delegates will be attending the Fire Service Occupational Cancer Symposium in Arizona in September. Initiatives to start using clean helmets and gear have already started. The committee is requesting a session at the National Volunteer Fire Service summit and intends to work with Safety, Health and Survival on more research.

Immediate goals were identified as: collaboration with NVFC, a cancer speakers’ bureau, a meeting in May funded by FASNY and a new ribbon report regarding cancer in the fire service to be released next year.

Long-term goals were identified as: obtaining grant funding, philanthropic interest, working with the Cancer Alliance to publish a magazine, continued dialogue, attending the meeting in May, distribution of posters to groups. Also, working with other fire service groups to implement one hour of cancer instruction to leadership courses and training across the country. Papers will also be presented at national fire and EMS conferences.

Communication Committee - Chief Ed Rush

Chief Rush spoke on behalf of the Communications Committee and expressed that VCOS wants to be able to share important information with members and encouraged members to email important updates and information that can be released to the public. He and Chief Black encouraged everyone to participate in information sharing.

Treasurer and Secretary Report- Chief Norvin Collins

Chief Norvin Collins gave the treasurer and secretary reports. He stated the section came in under budget last year and there was an increase in revenue. Educational programs were also acknowledged for bringing in additional funding.

- 2016 Section total income was \$392,699
- 2016 Section total expenses was \$121,554
- Remaining funds was \$271,145

- 2016 Educational total income was \$522,371
- 2016 Educational total expenses was \$280,020
- Remaining funds was \$242,351

Chief Pete Mellits made a motion to approve the CY2016 treasury report. Seconded by Chief Jim Yates.

Symposium In the Sun, Symposium in the West, Awards and Scholarships

Chief Collins reminded everyone of Symposium in the Sun:

- November 9-12 in Clearwater Beach, Florida

Symposium in the West

- May 3-5 in Phoenix, Arizona

Scholarship opportunities are available for both conferences. Stand Up and Stand Out and the Emerging Leader scholarship, the Buckman Award, the Recruitment & Retention Award, and the Injury/Illness Prevention award are also still open for nominations as well as next year's Training Officer Award to be presented at FRI 2018 in Dallas, Texas.

The Symposium in the Sun scholarship and award deadline is August 31, 2017. The applications are available online.

Resources and Education

Chief Cook discussed the access to educational tools, social media outlets and the VCOS website. He encouraged everyone to take advantage of them.

Old Business

None

New Business- Chief Wall

Chief James Seavey made a motion to endorse Chief Ludwig in his campaign for 2nd Vice President in the 2018 election. This was seconded by Ed Richards. Motion passed.

Chief Norvin Collins made a motion to endorse Chief Carrizzo for 2nd Vice President in the 2019 election. This was seconded by Chief Chuck Flynn. Motion passed.

Chief Ed Richards made a motion to accept all of the presented reports. Seconded by Chief Pete Mellits. Motion passed.

IAFC/VCOS are working with small departments in Montana, Missouri and Michigan to discount IAFC membership and provide a one-year complementary VCOS membership.

We are still working on recruitment to the section.

We have a new at-large board of director position open as Chief Black is moving to International Director for VCOS. This will be filled soon.

There is a need for FROG instructors and the Program Planning Committee. See a board member if you are interested.

Additional Information/Comments

Chief Mellits thanked VCOS for the reports released this year and stated he was able to receive additional funding for his station/department because of the reports.

Chief Timothy Wall thanked everyone for their continued support and encouraged social media following.

Chief Donna Black reminded everyone of the VCOS Meet and Greet reception immediately following the annual meeting. This is sponsored by Atlantic Emergency Solutions.

A motion was made by Chief Seavey to adjourn. Seconded by Dr. Jenaway. Motion passed.

The meeting ended at 3:05 pm.