



# Volunteer & Combination Officers Section of the International Association of Fire Chiefs

4795 Meadow Wood Lane, Suite 100 • Chantilly, VA 20151 • Tel: 703.273.0911 • IAFC.org



## VCOS Board of Directors Annual Meeting

**August 11, 2018  
Dallas, Texas**

### MINUTES

**Saturday, August 11** (at the Omni Dallas Hotel, 555 S Lamar St. Dallas, Texas)

Present: Chair Timothy Wall, Chief Donna Black, Chief Jason Catrambone, Chief Norvin Collins, Chief Charles Flynn, Chief Fred Windisch, Chief Jim Cook, Chief Rich Cowger, Chief Ron Oettel, Chief Al Yancey

Staff: Ms. Jennifer Bragiel Cozad

The meeting started at 9:06 am.

#### **Call to Order – Chair Wall**

Chief Wall called the meeting to order.

#### **VCOS Financials and Staff Time**

An update on staff hours was provided. There was a discussion on the VCOS's strong amount of net assets. It was emphasized that this is the result of having board members and VCOS members do as much of the work as possible, which helps limit unnecessary staff time. The VCOS also has worked hard to diversify their revenue and has a great audience.

There was discussion on what the IAFC is doing, and how well diversified the IAFC's revenue is. They discussed the IAFC's hard work to bring in new partnerships, and to reduce reliance on dues and conferences.

#### **Exhaust Removal Systems**

There was discussion on a new study about exhaust removal systems. It was emphasized that more studies need to be conducted.

#### **Education Initiatives – Chief Black**

The IAFC is looking to get classes and the IAFC accredited. To help them get accredited they brought in an outside company to evaluate courses. This company looked at BH&H and FROG. Chief John M. Buckman III is currently acting as the main point of contact and the subject matter expert for this review. It will take approximately 6-8 months to review and redo the courses. The IAFC currently has some money that can absorb some to most of the costs. The courses will remain VCOS courses sponsored by Pierce. A discussion took place on the timeline and how long to continue offering the current programs.

It was emphasized that the revamp of the BH&H and FROG courses would be the first accredited classes at the IAFC and would be instrumental in the IAFC becoming accredited. It was recommended that the current program for BH&H and FROG would only be offered until the end of 2018, and no 2019 courses would be scheduled until the new courses were released.

**Motion by Chief Catrambone and seconded by Chief Collins to approve up to \$25,000 to help support the updating of the BH&H and FROG courses and to assign Chief John M. Buckman as the point of contact for this project. Motion carried.**

## **Roundtable**

All board members were encouraged to arrive no later than 1pm on Thursday, September 13. The VCOS Board will have a working lunch and board meeting followed by a legislative update by Mr. Evan Davis, an update from Mr. Spencer Cheatham on his program, and updates on the National VWS grant by Ms. Monica Willemsen.

There was discussion on moving the Symposium in the Sun board meeting to the Monday following Symposium in the Sun. One concern was the impact on friends and supporters the additional day would have. It was recommended to change how dinner is planned, so the meeting does not have a hard stop at 5pm. It was also recommended to change the agenda to make it more future action oriented and less review of progress.

Chief Wall: The membership team created lists of small departments for each board member to reach out to about becoming a VCOS member. We have a meeting with the membership team today and will share more information following the meeting. I had an idea on how to really make an impact with small departments. Let's put the VCOS on the road, we would work with Pierce and go out to small rural departments. We would rotate 2 board members every 3 days or so and hand off the vehicle. We would end at Symposium in the West and raffle off the vehicle we used.

Chief Cowger: Did something similar when we kicked off RSG in 2011. Those we visited are now leaders within RSG, we also did presentations multiple times a day.

Chief Wall: May be a 2020 action, and we could tie some of our education courses into it.

Chief Black: Chief Buckman had a good idea of identifying state advocates and utilizing them to spread the word and have a more personal touch.

Chief Cowger: We keep talking to the same people, we are preaching to the choir. We need to reach out to the dirt floors and get new people. It shouldn't be about money; these people are the foundation of the fire service.

Chief Oettel: This is a good idea but may be hard to do. Would need some time to plan it out.

Chief Collins: If we want to do this, we would need a set goal that clearly defines what being successful means. We will want to know success or failure.

Chief Flynn: During the FRI opening session there were 2 videos about the IAFC, I recommend we look into creating one for the section.

Chief Yancey: Thanks for making me feel welcome. You have made me feel like a part of the family. I appreciate it, it made me feel very comfortable. I feel like I have been a part of this group. I appreciate the partnership Illinois has with VCOS. I just wanted to say thank you.

Many of those present expressed their thanks and commitment to the VCOS.

**Motion by Chief Catrambone and seconded by Chief Black to adjourn. Motion carried.**

The meeting adjourned at 10:06am. The next meeting is scheduled for September 13 at 1pm ET.