

VCOS Board Teleconference Minutes

Thursday, August 30, 2012

Present: Timothy Wall, Dave Fulmer, Jim Wilson, Jim Seavey, Ted Lowden, Mike Vaughn, Fred Windisch

Guest: Joe Florentino

Absent: Shane Ray, Fred Crosby, Dan Eggleston,

Quorum: 6

Motion by Dave Fulmer and seconded by Ted Lowden to appoint Joe Florentino as Secretary to handle officer election. Motion carried.

Motion by Dave Fulmer and seconded by Fred Windisch nominate Tim Wall for Chair. Motion by Fred Windisch and seconded by Jim Wilson nominate Dave Fulmer for Vice Chair. Motion by Tim Wall and seconded by Jim Wilson to nominate Fred Windisch for Secretary/Treasurer. All motions carried unanimously.

Partnership/working relationship with Redden Group

Background: The Redden Group develops grants for public safety organizations, both helping to write the grant, then helping administer the grant. They have worked with VCOS and attended Symposium for several years. During the past 2 years, they have conducted recruiting and retention workshops and hired several of the VCOS BH&H instructors to teach their courses.

Discussion: Recently, the Redden Group removed Dave Fulmer from their roster of instructors. This has led to several discussions among Chief Fulmer, Chief Wall and Chief Greg Render, who serves as the point person for the Redden Group instructors. Chief Fulmer states that the Redden Group has been using the BH&H course materials for their courses and have not acknowledged that the materials were developed and refined by VCOS.

Chief Fulmer was supposed to teach in Florida in September 2012 but was taken off the assignment in July. The explanation was that it was due to his administrative leave. Chief Fulmer told the Redden Group that he did not appreciate the way they handled the situation. He explained to the board that he had experienced problems with the way in which the Redden group handled a few of his previous assignments and he had expressed reservations to them before.

Chief Windisch expressed his desire to back Chief Fulmer rather than Redden Group; he felt that Greg Redden handled the situation in an unprofessional manner.

Chief Wall spoke with Chief Render regarding the situation; Chief Render confirmed that his allegiance was with VCOS. Chief Wall then spoke with Ed Plaughter, IAFC Deputy Executive Director, regarding the situation as Mr. Plaughter's staff offer similar grant services.

Chief Wall stated that the Redden Group is planning on being a sponsor at Symposium during the evening roundtable event (open forum format).

Chief Lowden stated that the Redden Group should not have been so quick to drop Chief Fulmer considering how frequently this type of administrative issue happens.

Chief Wilson stated that two people in his dept who went to a Redden Group seminar were not impressed with the education provided.

Chief Seavey expressed the opinion that Chief Fulmer's removal was a very premature action by the Redden Group.

Chief Fulmer is not asking VCOS to terminate relationship with Redden Group but just wants VCOS to know that he is terminating his relationship with Redden Group

Chief Windisch recommends that the board write a letter to Redden Group stating that we are disappointed in how the situation was handled, verbalizing the concept that "we're watching you."

Chief Wilson added that we should include the idea that fire chiefs are "innocent until proven guilty" since this type of administrative leave occurs often enough that we should apply that principal in all cases which have not been proven.

Action: Chief Wall and Chief Wilson will draft the letter and submit to the Executive Committee for concurrence.

VCOS Website

Corporate Partner Webpage

The board discussed reviewing and updating the Corporate Partner Webpage on the VCOS website.

Action: Chief Vaughn, Chief Lowden, Chief Wilson and Chief Fulmer will take on this project and will give a preliminary report on the October teleconference. A full report will be given at Symposium.

VCOS Bylaws

The VCOS Bylaws have been updated and posted to the website.

VCOS Website

The staff liaison is working with the IAFC Web Manager regarding an update to WordPress, which is the website's software program.

Committee Updates

Symposium Scholarship

This scholarship program received 27 applications. The scholarship winners are Chief Donna Black from Duck, N.C. and Chief Jason Catrambrone from Trinidad, Colorado.

Gasaway Scholarship

This scholarship program received 10 applications. No winner selected at this time.

Recruitment & Retention Award

This award received 9 applications. Chief Windisch states that for 2013, we'll need to make it clear that we will only accept electronic applications. This year he received two binders full of printed materials. Chief Windisch intends to get 4 reviewers and to have the winner selected by Mid-September.

Alternate to NFPA 950

Chief Windisch expressed the opinion that Chief Nate Melby from Wisconsin (the only applicant) showed an excellent background for the development of this standard.

Motion by Jim Wilson and seconded by Fred Windisch to nominate Nate Melby from Wisconsin to serve as Alternate on NFPA 950.

Symposium Information

- Staff will make hotel arrangements – if you have already made your own, please send dates to Joelle.
- Book your flights now with Angie's Travel:
 - Board members must arrive by Wednesday, November 7
 - Board members must stay through Monday, November 11, flight departure after 2:30pm
- Committee members arrive on Tuesday, depart same as board.

Roundtable

Seavey – is feeling much better and is looking forward to helping out in October at the meeting in St. Louis for the Volunteer Company Officer Leadership Seminar.

Windisch – all Symposium committee members need to arrive on Tuesday, Nov 6 to visit the Hilton Hotel.

Windisch – eleven people are meeting in St. Louis to develop the new Volunteer Company Officer Leadership Seminar course over a weekend. It will be developed as an "adult education" type course rather than power-point course. Unfortunately, this is the same weekend as the National Fallen Firefighters Weekend.

Fishkin – will be taking a long vacation the first 2 weeks of October and will not be available to take minutes on October telecom.

Wall – We need to nominate someone for the Program Planning Council; this will be at our cost.

Action: Nominate a candidate for the Program Planning Council to replace Dan Eggleston.