



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

4025 Fair Ridge Drive • Fairfax, VA 22033-2868 • Tel: 703/273-0911 • www.iafc.org



VCOS Board Teleconference
Wednesday, December 13, 2017
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 Jason Catrambone, Chief Norvin Collins, Chief Jim Cook, Chief Rich Cowger, Chief Charles Flynn, Chief Ed Rush, Chief Timothy Wall, Chief Fred Windisch

Absent: Chief James Seavey

Staff: Ms. Kelly Ameen, Ms. Jenny Bragiel Cozad

The call started at 4pm.

Welcome and Agenda Overview - Chief Wall

Chief Wall informed the board that a donation was made to the AZ Burn Center in memory of Chief Brunacini.

The VCOS board reviewed the November minutes.

Motion by Chief Flynn and seconded by Chief Cowger to approve the minutes from the November meeting. Motion carried.

Chief Wall reminded the board that the CFSI hotel block is open. VCOS purchases a table of 10 seats. CFSI will be April 18-19, 2018 in Washington, DC.

Ms. Kelly Ameen informed the committee that thank you notes were received from the Buckman Award winner (Chief Judy Thill) and from the chief of Gilford Fire Department, 1 of the scholarship winners.

Chief Wall updated the board that he plans to announce the VCOS committees on the January call. All except one sponsor have been consulted on changing the committees, and have not expressed any concerns with it. Chief Wall is working on contacting the last sponsor.

Symposium in the Sun – Chief Windisch

Chief Windisch updated the board on the results of Symposium in the Sun. The hotel removed the additional charges for the room block. Chief Windisch explained that going forward attendees will need to register prior to getting access to book their room, this is to ensure that the room block is met moving forward.

Chief Windisch informed the board for Symposium in the Sun 2018 the vendor tables will be moved around. The registration area will be the location for complimentary booths in 2018. The new configuration may allow for a few additional tables.

Chief Wall congratulated Chief Windisch and the IAFC staff for their hard work and a successful conference.

Symposium in the West- Chief Collins

Chief Collins updated the board that registration for Symposium in the West opened at Symposium in the Sun, and there were 5 registrants at the time of this meeting.

Chief Collins informed the board that Friday's schedule will be something new. He also updated them that speakers are being finalized, and sponsors are being engaged. Currently, AT&T will not be a sponsor at Symposium in the West in 2018, all other sponsors appear to be returning. Target Solutions is looking to have a larger sponsorship at Symposium in the West in 2018, which will help make up some of the loss with AT&T.

Chief Collins updated the board on the Symposium in the West scholarship. Ms. Sarah Stehle is continuing to work with Dr. Pat Lynch on the scholarship, which will include transportation.

February Board Meeting- Chief Wall

Chief Wall reminded everyone to ensure they have valid passports for the February VCOS board meeting, which is taking place in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.

Chief Wall updated the board that the host chief, Chief Ken Stuebing, is very excited to host the VCOS Board of Directors. Chief Wall emphasized the importance of building the relationship and partnership with Canada and Chief Stuebing, who is an IAFC Board of Directors, At-Large Member.

Chief Wall asked the board to plan to fly to Halifax, Nova Scotia on February 8 and to plan on leaving on February 11.

Action Item: Ms. Kelly Ameen to email the board the name of the Halifax airport.

Chief Wall informed the board that Ms. Jenny Bragiel Cozad will be joining the VCOS Board of Directors in Canada to take notes and get to know the board better.

Communications Committee- Chief Rush and Chief Cook

Chief Rush explained the new webinar process to the board. He explained that the Communications Committee will be assisting with the webinars, but needs the help of the entire board in generating ideas and finding presenters. Chief Michael Lambert will be running the webinars. He ran his first webinar on December 7, which was on the 10 Cancer Commandments. This webinar went well.

Chief Rush transitioned in to discussing the newsletter. He explained that the Symposium in the Sun edition of the newsletter will be Ms. Joelle Fishkin's last newsletter, making it an optimal time to make changes to it. The Communication Committee received initial costs for doing 4 electronic newsletters and 2 print newsletters. The estimated cost is about the same as the current cost, but the committee is considering doing a new format for the print version. This would raise the overall cost.

Chief Rush explained that the electronic version of the newsletter offers new capabilities, including videos. Chief Cook emphasized the improvement in the ability to communicate to members through the usage of videos. The Communications Committee would like to invite Paratech to put videos into the electronic newsletters. Chief Rush also emphasized that due to these expanded abilities and opportunities, the Communications Committee would like to ask Paratech to increase their sponsorship to cover the new costs or to allow a second sponsor.

Motion by Chief Rush and seconded by Chief Cowger to create 4 electronic newsletters and 2 print newsletters, with the print newsletters being summaries of the prior 2 electronic newsletters and the most recent Symposium. Motion carried.

Action Item: Chief Wall to work with Chief Rush on making the initial contact with Paratech.

Ms. Kelly Ameen recommended including Ms. Leslie Distler, IAFC Corporate Relations Executive, in the sponsorship conversations.

Chief Rush updated the board on the VCOS social media and website. He recognized Ms. Jenny Bragiel Cozad for doing a fantastic job, and informed the board that the entire Communications Committee now can post on the accounts.

Old Business

Chief Wall updated the board that Chief Buckman will be unable to travel to Canada for the February board meeting, but will be joining the meeting virtually to discuss the Future of VCOS project.

Chief Windisch inquired about hiring a part-time position. Chief Wall explained that this discussion was put on hold until the February board meeting.

New Business:

Joint Mental Health Seminar – Chief Flynn

Chief Flynn updated the board on his initial findings for the Joint Mental Health Seminar. He recommended the seminar be more than mental health, and include cancer and firefighter physicals.

Chief Flynn explained that he worked on the seminar in Florida with Chief Buckman, and recommended waiting to see the response on the Yellow Ribbon Report and Cancer Ribbon Report. Chief Flynn elaborated that the idea would be to have the seminar in 2018 as a single day event at an easy to fly-in location. Currently, Chief Flynn is investigating the September to October timeframe. He emphasized that this undertaking would be done with the help of various other organizations.

Chief Flynn provided an initial estimate of \$43,250, which included plans to have 20 facilitators and for the conference to be held at a fire department or state fire academy. This estimate was created prior to talking to the Safety, Health and Survival section and the EMS section.

Chief Flynn emphasized the importance of having the event at a volunteer and combination friendly and focused location. To find the best location for the event, Chief Flynn will work with the IAFC staff and use GIS mapping.

Chief Wall shared that he was assigned to discuss the seminar with Mr. Mark Light, Chief Thomas Jenkins, Chief Scott Kerwood (Chair of the SHS section) and Chief Michael McEvoy

(Chair of the EMS section). His conversations with Mr. Light and Chief Jenkins were very positive; they approved of the seminar and strongly encouraged it. Chief Kerwood and Chief McEvoy expressed interest in the seminar during their conversations with Chief Wall. Chief Wall informed the board, what he discussed during the conversations. He explained to all if they were to participate in the seminar, they would be expected to help financially.

Chief Flynn inquired if the board wanted him to continue to investigate the health seminar. Many board members expressed concern about taking on a new project without finishing any current projects.

Action Item: Chief Flynn to continue researching the seminar and to continue working with Chief Wall and Chief Buckman to create an official proposal.

Chief Windisch inquired about the outcome from the Mental Wellness Sessions at Symposium in the Sun. Chief Flynn explained that they are working on getting the information out to the membership in 15-minute trainings. The idea is to create a kind of advocacy group.

10 Cancer Commandments and Cancer Committee Update – Chief Wall

Chief Wall began by expressing well wishes for Chief Seavey, who was unable to attend the call.

Chief Wall updated the board that he is waiting for the committee to report out on how many attendees the webinar had, along with any feedback on the webinar.

Chief Wall discussed the joint report with the National Volunteer Fire Council. He explained that the report needs to be reviewed and approved by the VCOS board then it will need to be approved by the IAFC Board of Directors. Chief Wall concluded by asking the board on their thoughts of the report.

Many of the board members expressed that the report was very good, but needed the verbiage to be cleaned up and needed to be made more succinct in certain areas.

Action Item: Chief Black is to update the IAFC Board of Directors on the report, and share back the board's thoughts and ideas about the report.

Action Item: Chief Wall is to reach out to Chief Seavey and Scott Beecher and share where the board is with the report and their comments on it.

Roundtable, Announcements, Committee/Project Updates

Many of the board members expressed excitement for the February board meeting, and wished everyone happy holidays.

Chief Catrambone: I am hoping Angie can work magic for the Canada Trip.

Chief Wall: We will work it out even, if you need to come in an extra day. Chief Catrambone, please work with Chief Collins on any special needs for your travel.

Chief Cowger: Thank you to Chief Collins and Chief Seavey for doing the third FROG course. We have received very positive feedback on it.

Chief Wall: Kelly, please email the board Chief Seavey's address, so they can send get-well cards to him. Chief Black, please buy a get-well card and get everyone to sign it. I will reimburse you for it.

Chief Collins: Please submit all reimbursements within the next couple of weeks for the year's end. Happy Holidays!

Kelly: Would you like me to send a card to Chief Seavey from the VCOS board?

Chief Wall: Maybe from the IAFC staff. Chief Black can do the card from the VCOS board, and we can all send individual cards.

Chief Flynn: I just sent everyone a document on reducing cancer risks. I have a new commission without a chairman. It is getting better. Please let me know if you are in Connecticut for New Year's Day and would like to join us for brunch.

Chief Black: The IAFC Board of Directors meeting starts tomorrow. I will be reporting back on our next call. We have a packed 2 days. I will also be getting back in touch with Chief Wall and Ms. Ameen on the February meeting logistics.

Chief Wall: Thank you for your time and dedication. I wish you all a blessed Christmas and a happy and healthy 2018.

The call ended at 4:47 pm ET.

The next call will be January 10 at 4 PM Eastern Time/1 PM Pacific.