



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 of Directors

May 2, 2014

Crystal Gateway Marriott
1700 Jefferson Davis Hwy, Arlington, VA 22202
Phone: (703) 920-3230
Jefferson Meeting Room

MINUTES

Board Members Present:

Chief Timothy Wall, Chair
Chief Fred Windisch, Secretary/Treasurer
Chief Dan Eggleston, International Director
Chief Ted Lowden, At-Large Board Member
Chief Shane Crutcher, At-Large Board Member

Board Members Absent:

Chief Jim Wilson, Vice Chair
Chief Jim Seavey, At-Large Board Member
Chief Randy Larson, At-Large Board Member
Chief Dave Fulmer, At-Large Board Member
Chief Mike Vaughn, At-Large Board Member

Guests and IAFC Staff:

Chief David Becker, EMS Section Chair
Mr. Joe Giorgi, VFIS
Mr. Troy Markel, VFIS
Mr. Ron Oettel, Provident
Mr. Skip Gibson, ISO
Mr. Mark Light, IAFC
Mr. Richard Miller, IAFC
Ms. Kelly Ameen, IAFC

The meeting was called to order at 12:32 p.m.

Introduction and Welcome – Chief Wall

Chief Wall called the meeting to order and welcomed the group. He reviewed the overall schedule for the next two days and discussed logistics for the NVFC meeting and dinner. Several VCOS board members could not make the meeting due to illness or other conflicts. The VCOS board will keep them in our thoughts and wish they could have been here with us.

IAFC Update - Mr. Mark Light, IAFC's CEO and Executive Director

Mr. Mark Light thanked the VCOS board for everything they do. VCOS produces so much and is a shining example for other sections. IAFC staff talks about how to replicate things that VCOS is doing.

Mr. Light stated that the IAFC does have money; the organization is not going broke despite any rumors you may have heard. He explained that shrinking budgets in departments has a major effect on the IAFC. When money gets tight in departments and jurisdictions that impacts dues, conference attendance, training, etc. When there are fewer people attending conferences then that affects exhibitors. National Programs is affected by sequestration. Chicago wasn't the best location for FRI as the IAFC lost \$400,000. The IAFC had to eliminate five staff positions this past year. However, recently the IAFC was able to balance the budget. The IAFC board wants to put \$200,000 a year in reserves. In order to do this, some changes have been made to FRI. Changing the Presidential Dinner to a luncheon will save \$50,000. Having only one general session this year instead of two will save \$40,000. The IAFC is currently evaluating the future model for conferences. Are big conferences the way forward or should another model be used? There are no plans to change the overall structure of FRI in the immediate future. The IAFC continues to aim to diversify its revenue streams.

Chief Windisch asked a question about last year's FRI revenue. Mr. Light explained that revenue was down \$400,000 from the expected amount.

Chief Windisch also asked if the VCOS cash balance helps the IAFC. Mr. Light responded that it does, however, sections are now separated out.

Mr. Light mentioned that the IAFC is changing its bank to a regional bank which will save \$40,000.

Chief Windisch stressed the importance of having exhibitors at FRI.

The future FRI location rotation includes: Dallas, Atlanta, San Antonio, Charlotte, Salt Lake City, Atlanta, and then Phoenix.

The IAFC met with the Secretaries of Homeland Security and also Transportation earlier this week. There is potential for additional mutual aid projects through the IAFC as FEMA region 3 is looking for a mutual aid program. Only Pennsylvania has completed a plan in that region. The IAFC has successfully helped states to create mutual aid plans in 40 states, and hopes to use that expertise for future mutual aid projects.

Crude oil transportation is on the rise. Training needs to be made more available for responders. There needs to be blended learning that includes online and live training.

The Executive Fire Officers Section will become official as the ninth IAFC section. There is one more active group that wants to be a section. Sections continue to grow.

The EMS and SHSS participated in an NFPA 1917 committee to review ambulance standards. The standard that was produced drew a large number of comments and concerns. The Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services (CAAS) is looking to create its own standard which would be similar to NFPA 1917 and would compete for states to adopt different standards. The recommendation to the IAFC board is for the IAFC not to participate in the CAAS standard development. No other fire groups will be involved. Chief Windisch inquired why CAAS is looking to create a different standard. What was their concern with NFPA 1917? Mr. Light explained that part of the NFPA standard states that the maximum speed for ambulances would be 80 mph. Also, many people felt that the new safety standards would cost too much for ambulances. Chief Crutcher expressed concern that the fire service wouldn't be represented in that new group. Mr. Light explained that if the IAFC participates then the standard would still list IAFC's name even if we disagreed with some of the decisions.

The IAFC is currently going through its NFPA committee appointments to determine if they are all current and active members and are the best people for the committees. VCOS is keeping the same representatives for NFPA 1720. Their IAFC/VCOS membership has been verified that it is current. They include: Greg Render, Committee Chair (rural), Nicholas Sohyda (urban), Chris Barron (suburban), Greg Jakubowski (Alternate-rural), Ron Cheves (alternate-suburban), and Joe Davis (alternate-urban).

The IAFC board will have six new board members this year which means one-third of the board will be new.

The IAFC board is reviewing some position papers. The first deals with private alarm companies and their quest to become an official public safety user of the FirstNet network. There seems to be support for this, but there is still a question on how much bandwidth would be used. The other IAFC position deals with unmanned drones and generally has support as long as they follow established policies. Mr. Markel mentioned that some state statutes may exclude their use like in California.

Mr. Markel asked how FRI in Dallas is looking. Mr. Light stated that typically Dallas has the best revenue and attendance. There is good early registration so far as registration is already at 25% of the goal this far out. Hotel rooms are selling quickly. Revenue is looking good.

Chief Wall passed along his thanks to the IAFC staff for all of their hard work. There has been a lot of transition with staff and VCOS, but they have performed well to ease the transition. Chief Wall thanked Mr. Light for coming to address the VCOS board.

IAFC National Programs Update - Mr. Richard Miller, IAFC Program Manager

Mr. Richard Miller gave a presentation about the IAFC's National Programs Department. National Programs works on federal grants and other contracts to support the fire and emergency services. More information is available on the National Programs webpage at:

<http://www.iafc.org/Programs/content.cfm?ItemNumber=1115>

A summary of the presentation is below:

- Near Miss: The new website went live earlier this year. The program has partnered with AlphaTrac. The Near Miss program appreciates the support VCOS has shown when the program was unfunded.
- IAFC Academy: It is now operational. The IAFC Academy is a new learning management system being offered by the IAFC. You can track training, print certificates, etc. It can be used for free or fee-based programs/training. Some of the VCOS courses could potentially use the system. The goal is to bring the functionality of many existing IAFC systems into one platform through the IAFC Academy. Right now there are many separate systems being used: WebEx, Eventbrite, etc.
- Hazmat Fusion Center – The Hazmat Committee has been working to get this program funded. The current website is being updated now and put onto the new IAFC platform. There will be a demo of the new site at the IAFC's Hazmat Conference.
- TransCanada- This program focuses on marketing and outreach for pipeline emergencies working with API/AOPL, NASFM, and other organizations.
- Hazmat Committee – Testified on Capitol Hill and NTSB on crude oil and hazmat incidents. They also issued briefs on crude oil and explosive cargo trucks response.
- Propane: Working on distance learning training for propane through the Propane Gas Association. They will be promoting existing training as well. This is a two year program.
- Hydrogen Electronic Learning Community - 7,500 people have taken the class so far. VCOS has helped to promote this and their efforts are appreciated.
- National Safety Culture Initiative – This is a new program which supports the NFFF Life Safety Initiative #1, culture change.
- FSTAR – The goal is to disseminate information about new firefighter tactics and findings from the UL/NIST studies. Fact sheets have been developed. Webinars have been conducted. The FSTAR website will be a central place that houses the various trainings and resources available on this topic.
- RESCUES – This project looks at other FEMA funded research projects to help disseminate information to firefighters in a way that is digestible and easy to understand.
- Traffic Incident Management – Outreach to responders on managing traffic incidents. There is an instructor-led training class. This is in partnership with the Federal Highway Administration.

- Ready, Set, Go! – This is a program to help communities prepare for wildland fires.
- Whole Communities – This is a comprehensive, blended-learning training course being developed for FEMA-NTED to enhance the ability of all community stakeholders to work together toward preparedness by understanding their roles and responsibilities in emergency planning.
- MutualAidNet – This is an all-hazards resource database and dispatch system used by states. They are adding a GIS aspect.
- Volunteer Workforce Solutions - VWS provides marketing material, training and support to participating departments to ensure the success of their recruitment and retention campaigns. VWS programs have been implemented in Connecticut and Virginia.
- LMI – The IAFC and IAFF developed the Labor-Management Initiative (LMI) to help fire chiefs and union presidents improve cooperative and collaborative relationships to avoid critical labor-management issues, disputes and costly arbitrations.

Chief Windisch stated that law enforcement should be included in the Traffic Incident Management program as they are a vital stakeholder in those types of incidents.

Chief Wall mentioned that VCOS is looking to do something with LMI to help volunteer and combination departments.

Chief Eggleston is excited about the IAFC Academy being a one-stop-shop for training.

EMS Section – Chief David Becker

Chief Becker welcomed the VCOS board to Fire-Rescue Med. He appreciates VCOS' support and looks forward to working more with VCOS. This is the first year Fire-Rescue Med has been in the Washington DC area so there has been a learning curve. They will evaluate the feedback they receive from this year's conference. He told the VCOS board to let him know if they need anything else while attending FRM.

Chief Wall invited the EMS section out to dinner with VCOS on Saturday night.

ISO Partnership Update – Mr. Skip Gibson

The You and ISO class registration is going well for the upcoming class in KY on May 17. Over 60 people have registered for the class. They have received several more requests for classes and will work to get those scheduled.

ISO changed the schedule last year. They plan to revise the schedule on a similar cycle to that which NFPA uses. They want to make sure data matches the schedule. Starting on July 1, there will be a revised split class. A summary of changes can be found in the article that Mr. Gibson wrote in the VCOS Newsletter located here: http://www.iafc.org/files/1VCOS/VCOS_NewsSpring2014_FINAL.pdf.

There is a new unit in the organization called Commercial Analytics which offers performance/benchmarking for communities. It is different than ISO's core service. This will be a fee-based service. It will provide risk analysis for a community and will compare the community to 20 other similar communities. In November, the gentleman heading up this unit will be at the Symposium in the Sun.

NVFC-VCOS Meeting Prep/Discussion

The fire service would benefit from a united voice between the NVFC and VCOS. More could be accomplished for volunteer and combination departments with both organizations working together.

The board reviewed the agenda provided by the NVFC. It was suggested that there could be a VCOS webinar on the Tampa 2 Life Safety Initiatives updates. However, this will be done after more information is released from NFFF about outcomes from the meeting.

VCOS recommends creating a best practices matrix for volunteer POV responses.

One agenda item listed is about data in the fire service. The new data standard could be very expensive for departments to comply with.

Interschutz 2015 will be in Germany from June 8-13, 2015. VCOS needs to find out who from the IAFC plans to attend. Interschutz is an international exhibition for rescue, fire prevention, disaster relief, safety and security.

Motion by Chief Windisch and seconded by Chief Crutcher to go into executive session. Motion carried.

Executive Session

The VCOS board went into Executive Session.

Motion by Chief Windisch and seconded by Chief Crutcher to come out of executive session. Motion carried.

Reconvene VCOS Board Meeting

The VCOS Board Meeting was reconvened after Executive Session.

Motion by Chief Windisch and seconded by Chief Crutcher to accept the resignation letters from Chief Fulmer and Chief Lowden and thank them for their service to the VCOS board. Motion carried.

Wrap-up and Adjourn

Chief Wall reminded everyone to meet in the lobby to go to the NVFC meeting and dinner. Tomorrow the VCOS board will attend the EMS Section business meeting at 8 a.m. and start the VCOS board meeting after that at 9:30 a.m.

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.



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Chief Randy Larson, At-Large Board Member
Chief Dave Fulmer, At-Large Board Member
Chief Mike Vaughn, At-Large Board Member

Guests and IAFC Staff:

Mr. Ken Willette, NFPA
Mr. Bill Webb, CFSI
Mr. Barry Balliet, Provident
Mr. Joe Giorgi, VFIS
Mr. Troy Markel, VFIS
Mr. Ron Oettel, Provident
Ms. Jennifer Cooke, IAFC
Mr. Evan Davis, IAFC
Mr. Shawn Kelley, IAFC
Mr. Richard Miller, IAFC
Ms. Kelly Ameen, IAFC

The meeting was called to order at 9:20 a.m.

Introduction and Welcome – Chief Wall

Chief Wall welcomed the group and reviewed the agenda.

Executive Committee Reports

Report from the Chair: Chief Wall said that the CFSI activities went well and there were several people attending for the first time. Chief Crutcher enjoyed the CFSI dinner and hearing elected officials speak. He learned a lot from being on Capitol Hill. Chief Eggleston suggested that VCOS could potentially do a session at CFSI. Mr. Sean Carroll was appreciative of VCOS allowing them to write an article in the VCOS newsletter. Mr. Giorgi stated the importance of integrating new folks into CFSI activities. Chief Windisch mentioned that VCOS paid \$2,500 for the table, but the benefits outweigh the costs. Chief Eggleston agreed and said that VCOS needs to stay connected on the legislative end. Mr. Balliet stated that he is excited to see VCOS and the NVFC work together as the mission is easier accomplished when people are working together. A united message is very important.

Chief Wall referenced the thank you letter received from the NFFF and Chief Siarnicki for VCOS' support of Tampa 2. Everyone agreed that it was an important effort for VCOS to be involved in. VCOS will have the NFFF stairclimb at the symposium again this year. Two speakers from Tampa 2 will come to speak at the symposium, Chief Sendelbach and also Dr. David Griffin from Charleston who gave a very emotional presentation about the Charleston fire incident.

Motion by Chief Windisch and seconded by Chief Eggleston to accept the minutes from April's VCOS board call. Motion carried.

Report from the Vice Chair: Chief Wall explained that Chief Wilson could not attend due to health reasons and that the VCOS board wishes him a speedy recovery. No other report was provided.

Report from the Secretary-Treasurer: Chief Windisch reported that VCOS is financially sound and on budget so far. He had a productive call with Ms. Laura Sieders to improve budget tracking of LTC, ISO, and the other VCOS training courses. There will be two new budget categories for specific projects. The symposium made a profit of about \$60,000-\$70,000.

Report from the International Director: Chief Eggleston noted that Mr. Light covered a lot of what he had to report yesterday. Budget cutbacks have been at the forefront of many discussions. The IAFC is looking at the value of membership. National Programs offers new revenue streams. The IAFC may look at smaller conferences and programs in future. There will be many future discussions about new ideas and best practices for associations. There are going to be six new IAFC board members.

Chief Windisch suggested that ESCI's services could be marketed through VCOS. Chief Eggleston will look into this.

Chief Eggleston talked to Chief Goldfeder with the Safety Health and Survival Section about the volunteer POV response best practices project. It was decided it should be some type of matrix so that it can be related to different types of departments. Chief Eggleston will draw up a rough draft and work with SHS and the NVFC to get their input. The goal is to have a draft by FRI.

Chief Windisch noted that the first step is to convince departments to have some type of SOP for this. Chief Lowden mentioned that in his department it typically takes at least a year before a member can get a siren and light in their POV. Overall the board thought the matrix idea was great and that is should be kept short and simple. Chief Crutcher mentioned that Tampa 2 really opened his eyes about this issue and he is changing his department's policies. He has put in institutional changes to help with safety. The matrix structure is important because communities are different. He noted that it is not an easy decision to make institutional changes, but what is most important is doing what is right. You need to get to incidents safely.

Chief Eggleston reiterated that the goal is to have a draft by FRI. He will put an outline together and send it out to others involved like SHS and the NVFC. Chief Windisch mentioned this project fits into VISION. Chief Wall said an update on this should be given at FRI at the IAFC business meeting as well

as the VCOS annual meeting. Chief Eggleston should get a commitment from the other groups by the next VCOS conference call. Chiefs Crutcher and Larson are interested in helping.

Mr. Balliet suggested getting national input from different regions. Mr. Markel said that VFIS is willing to look at the draft matrix and provide feedback. Chief Windisch suggested that the group include a VCOS member that is a certified safety professional. This will be a great tool for chiefs and to provide awareness. Mr. Oettel stated that everyone across the country probably deals with this differently. He agreed with the importance of this project.

VCOS Partners – Chief Wall

Chief Wall thanked the VCOS partners for their support and commitment. Chief Crutcher said he'd be willing to distribute company bios through social media and other forms of communications. There will be sponsorship opportunities on the new symposium app. Chief Wall stated the importance of the various partnerships. If you have ideas on how VCOS can help your company, let us know. It was suggested that VCOS should have more cross communication with the NVFC. VCOS could tie in the various awards on its webinars.

Mr. Oettel explained that the awards aren't about promoting the companies, but rather what the award stands for. He said it would be nice to have more candidates apply for the awards.

Mr. Balliet said that VCOS always shows its appreciation. He agreed that there needs to be more applications for awards.

Chief Wall stated that VCOS appreciates its partners' time. It is not all about the financial support. The partners are truly friends of VCOS.

Mr. Oettel suggested that the award applications be revisited. There may be too many questions and high qualifications. Chief Eggleston will look at the application and help improve it. Mr. Markel admitted that VFIS could be advertising more too and will promote the awards more this year.

Action item for the next VCOS call: Establish new award liaisons since Chiefs Lowden and Fulmer are leaving the board.

Legislative Update – Mr. Evan Davis

Mr. Davis provided a legislative update to the group. He thanked VCOS for their work on the ACA issues. VCOS was instrumental in getting the exemption for volunteers. Chief Windisch asked for clarification on the term "bonafide." Mr. Davis explained that they are currently working to find out more on that. Mr. Davis reported that Representative Barletta's bill was the first unanimously passing bipartisan bill dealing with the ACA.

Mr. Davis reviewed the legislative issues as outlined on the latest IAFC Legislative Hot Sheet found here: http://www.iafc.org/files/gr_legHotSheet.pdf. The IAFC is asking that the FIRE and SAFER grants be bumped up to \$340 million each. IAFC is also asking to get USFA's funding back to \$44 million. The Volunteer Responder Incentive Protection Reauthorization Act picked up some more co-sponsors recently. Mr. Davis encouraged VCOS to keep on contacting members to cosponsor bills. Mr. Davis will send out a list of who has cosponsored bills. He noted there are sample letters online that can be used to contact representatives. Mr. Davis can arrange meetings with elected officials as needed. He encouraged VCOS members to invite representatives and elected officials to come to fire stations and meet volunteers.

A successful live-in program in Montana was discussed. However, DOL has a problem with defining who supervises them. There is a duty officer, but DOL may still have concerns. Mr. Davis has heard about this issue before in Oregon but not in Montana. He made note of it.

Chief Crutcher mentioned that Congressman Barr in KY could be a great advocate for fire service volunteers. He is a big proponent of the volunteer fire service. Is Barr a member of the CFSI caucus? Mr. Davis can send a link of members. Chief Crutcher then discussed a few cases of PSOB claims taking a while to be paid out. He will talk to Mr. Davis one-on-one. Mr. Balliet said he is aware that work is being done to streamline the PSOB process and improve it. The NFFF and NVFC are also pushing to improve this issue.

Other Partnerships

Safety and Health Week is June 15-21 this year. VCOS will help promote it in conjunction with the Safety Health and Survival Section. Chief Larson will provide an iWomen update on the next VCOS conference call. The TargetSolutions agreement was included in the board packet. They may host the VCOS board meeting in February of 2015.

Mr. Shawn Kelley stopped by the meeting to represent IAFC strategic services and the conferences department. If VCOS needs anything, please let him know. VCOS mentioned to him that they can help promote ESCI's services. Mr. Kelley said he would help write an article about ESCI for the VCOS newsletter.

2014 VCOS Elections

There are currently four terms expiring this year and up for election: Wilson, Fulmer, Larson, and Lowden. There are three seats for three-year terms and one seat for a one-year term.

Unofficially VCOS received three applications. Those three will get the 3-year terms. The three that submitted were: Chief Charles Flynn from CT, Chief Norvin Collins from Oregon, and Chief Randy Larson from Colorado. The Elections Committee and Board will most likely appoint someone for the 1-year term. There will be a more official update on the call on Thursday.

NFPA Update – Mr. Ken Willette, Division Manager, Public Fire Protection, National Fire Protection Association

Chief Wall thanked Mr. Willette for coming to address the VCOS board. Mr. Willette manages the fire protection division at NFPA. They develop standards for all types of responders. They support over 100 documents. He has a staff of eight and six have emergency response experience. Many documents have become legacy documents. They are coming out with more EMS standards. NFPA 1917 is receiving strong opposition from EMS groups. EMS groups have a concern that NFPA is a strong fire based organization. Dealing with EMS on the regulatory side will be a challenge for the NFPA. There seems to be a disconnect between fire-based EMS and non-fire EMS. Mr. Willette wanted to make sure that the VCOS leadership was aware of this issue in case they hear anything about it. NFPA supports the work that VCOS does. Mr. Willette mentioned the possibility of doing a panel discussion on ACA at the Symposium. The NFPA also does sponsorships or could provide speakers. The NFPA would be willing to host a board meeting. Chief Wall mentioned that the NFPA could send a representative to the VCOS board meetings.

Chief Crutcher asked if there has been any consideration to create a combination department standard separate from NFPA 1710 and 1720. Mr. Willette says nothing has been submitted on that. If that is something VCOS wants to do, you have to submit a new project request and then it goes through the standard review process.

CFSI – Mr. Bill Webb

Mr. Bill Webb stopped by the meeting. He won the VCOS Chairman's award two years ago. He thanked VCOS for coming to the CFSI activities. Chief Wall complimented Mr. Webb's staff on the

CFSI program, dinner, etc. Mr. Webb said they are always looking for new ideas for seminars. VCOS thanked Mr. Webb for contributing an article to the VCOS newsletter. Chief Crutcher mentioned that he really enjoyed the CFSI activities and felt that the past few days on Capitol Hill and at the dinner were very productive. He also suggested that Mr. Webb reach out to Congressman Barr from Kentucky to get involved with CFSI.

Communications Committee – Chiefs Crutcher, Larson, and Fulmer

- App: A demonstration via webinar was conducted by the app company to show how to load content into the app. The app is ready for content to be added. Chief Crutcher is working on gathering the content. The IAFC is looking to see how this app goes for VCOS and Symposium. This could become an app for the section not just for symposium. There will be a QR code for the app to include in marketing material so people can scan it and download the app. The app will include information on sponsors, speakers, bios, schedule, etc. VCOS is currently looking into prices for internet connection at the hotel where the symposium is held. The option of bringing in an outside company to provide internet access should be considered since it could be cheaper. Ask the app company what bandwidth is needed for the app. People will be needed to help test the app before it is rolled out. The cost of the app was \$2,500.
- Newsletter: The spring newsletter has been completed and will hit mailboxes within the next week or so. The next issue will focus on VCOS' 20th anniversary and will provide some historical perspective.
- Website and Social Media: A lot of progress has been made. There was a suggestion to come up with a schedule.
- Articles for other publications: An article about VISION/VCOS 20th anniversary is needed by June 15th for the August 1 issue of On Scene. Chief Windisch will work on this. The November issues of On Scene will focus on volunteer and combination department hot topics. Four or five articles are needed by September 15 for this. Board members should find people to write articles.
- Board Bios: They are being featured on the VCOS Facebook page and the VCOS KnowledgeNet.
- Promotional items: VCOS should consider getting additional promotional items that are of high quality. Perhaps better pens with the 20th anniversary information?
- Mr. Mike MacDonald had an idea about creating a larger 20th anniversary publication. He provided an email with ideas and costs to Chief Wall. This could be done in addition to the 20th anniversary newsletter. Overall, the VCOS board really liked this idea.

Motion by Chief Windisch and seconded by Chief Eggleston to move forward with producing the 20th anniversary book for up to \$20,000 with at least 5,000 copies. Motion carried.

Training

- Beyond Hoses and Helmets – Chief Render: A written update was attached to the agenda. Three courses have been delivered so far this year with 128 students total. Eleven other classes are currently scheduled. Three classes are being funded by the VFCA's SAFER grant. The course content is being updated and that work is nearing completion.
- FROG – Chief Collins: A written report was submitted. One class has been conducted this year so far and there are other possibilities for classes later this year. The class completed this year was in Virginia Beach and funded through the VFCA's SAFER grant with no cost to VCOS.
- Leading the Transition – Chief Cheves: A report was submitted with the agenda. A class was conducted in January in Daytona Beach, FL. No other classes have been confirmed yet. He continues to send proposals for presentations at major conference. Chief Cheves requested extra funding to help Idaho. The board decided not to fulfill that request as it is out of the

scope of what VCOS does and should be handled by other more local resources. Chief Windisch will talk to Chief Cheves about that. Marketing efforts for LTC need to be expanded.

- You and ISO – Chief Curl: See the attached report. The next class is May 17 in Kentucky, Chief Crutcher will be there to greet the group. 62 people are currently registered. They are hoping to have a class in South Carolina, Wyoming, and Massachusetts. KnowledgeNet helped to generate some interest for this class. Eventbrite is working out well.
- Webinars – Chief Eggleston/Chief Oprandy: VCOS is now using the IAFC’s WebEx platform and that transition has gone smoothly. The next webinar will be presented by Chief Ray, Chief LaBelle, and Chief Eggleston about the burns in Spartanburg.

VCOS 20th Anniversary – Chief Wall

20th anniversary ideas include:

- Commemorative Coins
- Tag line: “Here to stay. Stronger than ever.”
- FRI activities: give out coins at annual meeting, display a 20th anniversary banner at the booth
- Symposium activities: special members-only reception (give coins out there) and have cake with the VCOS logo, 20th anniversary banner at booth
- Publicity: *On Scene* article, Facebook and website announcements, newsletter on VCOS history for the 20th anniversary

There could be a cake at the VCOS annual meeting at FRI. VCOS board members are encouraged to go to the division luncheons and talk about it then. Try to get on their agendas. A 20th anniversary banner needs to be ordered. On the next conference call we will create an outline for the 20th anniversary activities at FRI. Ms. Ameen will find out if the convention center will allow us to bring in a cake from an outside bakery.

Symposium Update from IAFC Staff - Ms. Jennifer Cooke

Ms. Cooke gave an update about the 2014 Symposium in the Sun. Registration opened on Wednesday and there are already 42 people registered without the agenda even up yet! 19 exhibit spaces have been sold and there are 15 left to sell. About \$21,000 has been brought in for exhibit space. 60 rooms are being held for speakers, VIPs, etc. at the Hilton. A total of 242 hotel rooms have already been booked. Pier House can potentially be opened up before the Hilton is full. It received great reviews. There should be a simpler on-site guide to push people to use the app. Ms. Cooke will inquire about options for internet access for the app. The current hotel contract goes through 2015. An RFP needs to be sent out this year for the next hotel contract. The VCOS board want to keep the Symposium in the same area. It should continue to be the second weekend in November. Having the VCOS board meeting Sunday afternoon worked well so members can fly out Monday morning. An online survey was distributed to past attendees to gauge interest on a SLICERS hands-on course and also a 2 day FROG class for this year. The survey did not produce very definitive results. The Symposium Committee is still evaluating this decision.

Membership Update

The current VCOS membership numbers are:

- 2,375 Total members
- 1,923 Regular members
- 81 Associate members
- 64 Departmental members
- 100 Affiliate members
- 15 Past President members

- 191 Life members

VCOS membership continues to be relatively steady. Chief Wall encouraged board members to seek opportunities to advertise VCOS membership.

2014 VCOS Booth Schedule

The events that VCOS plans to attend and exhibit at in 2014 include:

- February 26-28: iWomen Conference – Tucson, AZ (Larson)
- April 7-12: FDIC - Indianapolis, IN (Seavey, Crutcher)
- May 16-18: Pennsylvania Fire Expo - Harrisburg, PA (Seavey)
- June 19 - 20: SEAFIC Conference - Knoxville, TN (Eggleston, Cheves)
- June 20-22: New England Fire Chiefs Conference - Springfield, MA (Wall with NE Division)
- 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 Fire Leadership Challenge? (Larson)

VCOS board members are encouraged to attend their division conference. If you are exhibiting anywhere, make sure to know how many attendees go and the type of audience. The IAFC often has a booth at various conference, offer to help out at the IAFC booth if you are there.

VISION Project – Ms. Ameen

The VISION website is now live and available through the VCOS website (tab on the right in the top navigation bar). Almost all of the initiatives have resources up on the site. Chief Parr and Ms. Ameen need to work out how to organize Challenge 6 in the most effective way. Ms. Ameen loaded all of the resources sent to her by the lane leaders. She also added some additional resources. After this VCOS board meeting, the current site will be sent to the lane leaders so they can review their lanes and make any changes needed. After the lanes leaders do their thorough review, Ms. Ameen will have the VCOS board take a closer look at the site and then they can send it out to a few contacts to get their feedback and input. The national launch will be done at FRI in August in Dallas.

How should VISION be promoted at FRI and Symposium? The marketing department could put together a business card or postcard sized announcement to hand out or put in all attendee bags. A slide could be shown during the opening session. A laptop could be set-up at the VCOS booth with the VISION site. A demo should be done at the annual meeting at FRI.

It was suggested that a thank you gift be sent to the lane leaders for their hard work on this project. Maybe a 20th anniversary coin in an acrylic holder? Chief Wall will look into some ideas.

VCOS Labor Management Project for Volunteer/Combination Departments – Chief Wall

The project committee consists of Chiefs Vaughn, Larson, Buckman, Morgan, and Wall. The concept for this came from Chief Buckman. There was a conference call about a month ago. The group needs to work on an outline. Mr. Light mentioned this idea to the IAFF, and they want to meet with VCOS for further discussions. As departments evolve and change there needs to be a volunteer voice. Chief Eggleston mentioned that Chief Tom LaBelle could potentially help with this project.

FRI 2014

- IAFC Business Meeting: Thursday, August 14 from 11 a.m. - noon
- Division Luncheons: Thursday, August 14 from 12 - 1:30 p.m.
- Annual Meeting: Thursday, August 14 from 2 – 3:30 p.m.

- VCOS Scholarships - accepting applications now. Winners notified in June.
- 20th Anniversary
- Booth
- Sessions

Chief Florentino wants to host VCOS for dinner and he can also help with transportation. Board members have to pay the FRI registration fee. Should new board members have pay for their travel costs? The group agreed to stay with the past practice of new board members having to pay on their own.

IAFC 2nd Vice President Election (pg. 34)

The VCOS board decided last month to endorse Chief John Sinclair. Attached to the agenda is an email from him with the link to his campaign website and other information. He requested assistance in reaching out to other IAFC members on his behalf.

Other Projects

- Chief Buckman's Concept Proposals
 - White Paper on New Fire Suppression Tactics – Chief Crutcher is touching base with Chief Buckman. It will focus on limited staffing as well as suppression tactics. Chief Crutcher will lead the project with 3-4 others. Chief Eggleston has some information to help. The goal is to have a handout at symposium and to keep it simple.
 - TED Video Presentations – Five were done in KY. They are working to edit the videos now. Once ready, the videos will go on the VCOS website, FB page, and maybe a You Tube channel. There is no associated cost at this point. Later a camera may need to be purchased to ship to others so they can create their own video. Instructions would need to be created. By the June call, there should be an outline/timeline/schedule of video topics, people to film, etc. These videos are 4-5 minutes in length.
- ISFSI Grant - VCOS committed to \$5,000 for the ISFSI video. Chief Windisch will check on the payment.
- Strategic Plan – See Chief Water's report. He will have something more at FRI.

Additional Committee/Project Reports

- NFPA 950/951: Data Exchange for the Fire Service - Chief Middleton submitted a report. The board discussed that the potential ramifications could be substantial and VCOS needs to keep an eye on this. It comes out to comment this fall so that is when we will need to take action and review. Chief Eggleston might need to mention this to IAFC board. The cost associated with meeting the standard is the concern. Chief Windisch will ask Chief Middleton to give VCOS a brief no longer than two pages.
- Chief Water's Report– He mentioned a bereavement program to get uniforms. VCOS should help market this.
- IAFC Terrorism and Homeland Security Committee Report - Chief Ed Richards submitted a report.
- NFPA 350: Confined Space Safe Work Practices - Chief Ed Boring submitted a report.

Fire Chief of the Year – Chief Windisch recommends supporting Chief Addington from Texas. Board members should think of other potential nominees.

Chief Wall mentioned that a token of appreciation should be given to previous and outgoing board members including Chiefs Ray, Crosby, Wilson, Fulmer, and Lowden. Chief Wall with work with Chief Curl to get something made.

Roundtable

Chief Windisch - On October 1 he will be participating on a chiefs panel for FAMA/FEMSA. He will also be attending the Illinois volunteer officers committee in October.

Chief Crutcher - He will attend the SEAFC conference in June and also the You and ISO class on May 17. In addition, he will go to the June BH&H class in KY.

Chief Eggleston - He thought the NVFC meeting went really well. He was proud of VCOS' presence.

Chief Wall - He thanked everyone for attending the meeting and all that they do for VCOS.

Wrap-Up and Adjourn

There will still be a VCOS board call this Thursday. The next live meeting will be August 14 at FRI in Dallas, TX.

The meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.