



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

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Officers Section

**VCOS Board Teleconference**  
**Wednesday, March 11, 2020**  
**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 Charles Flynn, Chief Al Yancey, Chief Rich Cowger, Chief Ron Oettel, Chief Donna Black, Chief Norvin Collins, Chief Fred Windisch, Chief Ed Rush, Chief Jason Catrambone

Absent: Chief Jim Cook

Staff: Ms. Kelly Ameen, Ms. Catherine Lugo, Mr. Terry Monroe

The call started at 4:00 PM.

#### **Welcome - Chief Flynn**

Chief Flynn welcomed the VCOS board to the call.

Ms. Ameen reported that she will return as the VCOS staff liaison with Ms. Lugo's support in selected tasks. Ms. Ameen will communicate with Ms. Bragiel about continuing to write the VCOS newsletters. Ms. Ameen introduced Ms. Lugo to the VCOS board.

#### **Symposium in the Spring - Chief Collins**

Chief Collins reported that the World Health Organization has declared COVID-19 a worldwide pandemic. He provided an update that plans for Symposium in the Spring are still moving forward, but with caution watching the pandemic development. Mr. Monroe shared that the marketing flyers are ready and will include a marketing code for a registration discount. Chief Flynn explained that a final decision for the hotel needs to be made by March 29. Chief Collins responded that the hotel may be willing to reschedule, and the board should be proactive in their approach.

#### **COVID Task Force - Chief Collins**

Chief Collins shared that the Johns Hopkins University site is a useful resource for updates and recommendations regarding the COVID-19 outbreak. Chief Collins will report any future updates from the task force. Chief Oettel shared the main objective of the subcommittee is to discuss how to handle responders who have been infected with coronavirus, as this presents a unique challenge from a volunteer perspective.

### **Symposium in the Sun – Chief Windisch**

Chief Windisch stated plans are on track for Symposium in the Sun for November 12-15, 2020.

### **VCOS Leadership Development Proposal**

Ms. Ameen reported that Mr. Rob Brown signed off on a contract for Tim Shurr. Ms. Ameen is waiting on marketing language to post on social media to promote registration.

### **CFSI – Chief Flynn**

Chief Wall will be attending dinner. Chief Rush will be attending CFSI but will leave for Symposium in the Spring before dinner. Chief Flynn will leave Saturday evening. He stated the importance of having a good showing of board members in the classroom at Symposium in the Spring. Members attending the lobbying would still serve the mission of VCOS even if potentially missing the board meeting on April 29.

### **Education Update**

#### **Lavender Ribbon Initiative**

Chief Buckman is reaching out about the LION agreement.

#### **You're the Fire Chief; Now What? Webinar Series**

Chief Yancey reported the webinar series finished in February. He was able to partner with Chief Pulvermacher from EFO. Chief Yancey estimates there were 40 total attendees. There were eight attendees in January and the numbers increased in February.

### **Elections – Chief Flynn**

Chief Flynn provided an update on the VCOS elections. There are currently five validated applicants confirming with their supervisors they can run. One application came in late after the deadline and was rejected.

### **Roundtable, Announcement, and Committee Updates**

Many expressed gratitude.

Chief Cowger: I will reach out to Chief Yancey and Chief Oettel shortly to get the low down on where everything is to give a better update for Spring.

Chief Oettel: We met on Capitol Hill for work on the T-Band bill. Progress was made yesterday and there was activity generated in a positive direction. There are still some miles to go. Chief Cook, Ms. Ameen, and I had a good meeting with Ms. Leslie Distler. There is a lot to think about and I think we'll have good recommendations moving forward. We will need more of a framework and structure with sponsorships.

Chief Jason Catrambone: Thanks to everyone for the response. We'll be back to full operation after the truck incident.

Chief Rush: The coronavirus is right in my backyard so I'm keeping my fingers crossed. It was an interesting day on the Hill. Let me know if anyone has any good fire service contacts in Mississippi. I participated in a panel for the National League of Cities on PTSD. It's good

to know city leadership is getting involved. We might skip the newsletter this quarter and I will give Ms. Ameen a call.

Chief Black: I am here at headquarters for the IAFC Board meeting. I talked with Ms. Lisa Yonkers about Spring and potentially moving it as long as it's in 2020. I anticipate we will talk again soon and will let you know what we decide to do. Final interviews for the CEO position are on Friday.

Chief Flynn: Please be on standby. We will likely have another call this month.

Chief Flynn thanked everyone for attending the call.

The call adjourned at 4:36 PM.