



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

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**VCOS Board Teleconference  
Wednesday, November 17, 2020  
2 PM Eastern/1 PM Central/12 PM Mountain/11:00 AM Pacific  
Attendees dialed-in via Teams Meeting**

### **MINUTES**

Present: Chief Charles Flynn, Chief Ron Oettel, Chief Ed Rush, Chief Jason Catrambone, Chief Jim Cook, Chief Rich Cowger, Chief Fred Windisch, Chief Yancey

Absent: Chief Norvin Collins, Chief Kevin Hardwick

Staff: Ms. Kelly Ameen

The call started at 3:04 PM.

#### **Welcome/Chair's Report – Chief Cowger on behalf of Chief Flynn**

Chief Cowger welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Motion by Chief Rush and seconded by Chief Windisch to approve the October meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.**

#### **Vice Chair's Report – Chief Cowger**

No update.

#### **International Director Report – Chief Catrambone**

The IAFC received a clean audit report. The BLUF reports are coming out weekly again. Some divisions are sending them out and others aren't. Chief Catrambone will send them to the VCOS Board each Sunday when he gets them. You can also access them on the IAFC website by logging-in.

#### **Secretary/Treasurer's Report – Chief Windisch**

Chief Windisch reported that VCOS will have additional net assets this year due to reduced spending. We are still getting revenue from membership dues, Pierce, and other sponsors.

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

The Virtual Symposium in the Sun schedule is sketched out and Chief Windisch will send the draft to the VCOS Board to review. There will be no registration fee to attend. We are looking at using Teams Live since there is no fee. Sessions will be recorded so you can go back and watch them.

### **Education Programs Update**

The next Surviving the Job webinar is December 8 at 2pm ET.

The plan for the updated Yellow Ribbon Report is to release smaller updates in four smaller reports bi-monthly to quarterly next year. Having smaller reports will be more “digestible” and less overwhelming to implement. A Request for Quote has been sent out to a few graphic designers to help layout the report series.

Chief Windisch reported that a Lavender Ribbon Report addendum is being worked on as well.

Chief Buckman created a document about rebranding BH&H and enhanced marketing - he will get together with Chief Oettel on this.

### **Old Business – Chief Flynn**

The MOU between VCOS and On the Job and Off was signed for the C.A.R.E.S. project. VCOS will help promote the course. VCOS board members are encouraged to take the training.

### **New Business – Chief Flynn**

CFSI 20201 presentations are due by November 20. Chief Rush submitted a session proposal on behalf of VCOS about how fire chiefs can more effectively work with elected officials, federal and local. It will be a panel discussion and he is trying to get a legislative chief of staff, as well as a volunteer fire chief and a career chief.

FRI 2021 presentations are due by December 8. Chief Flynn and Mr. Spencer Cheatham are resubmitting their presentation from this year that didn't happen due to the pandemic. That presentation focuses on volunteer retention. If anyone else has presentation ideas, let us know and we can consider those for submittal.

The IAFC's Technology Council has invited VCOS Board members to attend a presentation on December 16. Ms. Ameen will send out the information via email to the VCOS Board.

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

Yancey: Missing the continuity and momentum of the group. He suggested having smaller meetings to continue to implement new projects. He is willing to help lead a group to create a chaplain guidance document. It would be great if we could at least tentatively schedule an in-person meeting for April/May.

Windisch: Agrees that we should get together as soon as we are able. We get more done in-person. There are 2 in-person meetings budgeted for next year.

Chiefs Cowger and Yancey will look at the master VCOS project list and see what we can still be working on to keep momentum going.

Rush: We are aiming to have a Communications committee call next week to start working on the next newsletter. Send any ideas to him for theme or articles.

Windisch: Emergency Ministries chaplain group will be ending later this year which is sad. Skip Straus has helped VCOS with the Yellow Ribbon Report efforts.

Flynn: Reached out to Chief Dan Eggleston about representing VCOS on NACo. We will work with him and NACo to move that forward.

Cook: Has been working with Mr. Spencer Cheatham on the transitioning training through the SAFER grant. They have hired a training development company. The working group has most of the content for the training compiled. Putting this training together first will help with the Red Ribbon Report updates.

Cowger: Several unfortunate events in his area lately. They will be focusing on a "Move Over, Slow Down" campaign as two tow truck drivers were killed on the interstate recently.

The call ended at 2:53 PM.