



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



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VCOS Board Telecon 11 July 2023

Participants:

VCOS Board Members Present:

Chief Rich Cowger, Vice Chair
Chief Fred Windisch, Secretary/Treasurer
Chief Jason Catrambone, Board Member at Large
Chief Jim Cook, Board Member at Large
Chief Paul Sterling, Board Member at Large
Chief Brita Horn, Board Member at Large
Chief Kevin Hardwick, Board Member at Large
Chief Shawn Stokes, Board Member at Large

VCOS Board Members Not Present:

Chief Chuck Flynn, Chair
Chief Al Yancey, Board Member at Large

IAFC Guests/Staff:

Chief John Buckman
Mr. Kevin McGee, IAFC Liaison

Call to Order

Chief Cowger chaired the meeting. A roll call was taken and a quorum was present. The meeting came to order at 1401 hrs ET.

Approval of 13 June, 2023 Minutes

Chief Rich Cowger, Vice Chair

MOTION: 11 July 2023-01

Motion made and seconded to approve the June 13, 2023 Board meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Hardwick/Horn

Chair Report

Chief Rich Cowger, Vice Chair in the absence of Chuck Flynn, Chair

Chief Cowger reported on behalf of Chief Flynn that Chief Sterling is serving on the Ben Franklin Award Evaluation Team.

Chief Cowger noted that VCOS is requested to put forward a name of a member who can be considered to serve on the OSHA Heat Injury and Illness Prevention Small Business Panel.

The Annual Meeting will be held August 17, 2023 at 13:30 hours CT in Room 2103 A at the Kansas City Convention Center. All Board members are to wear Class A uniforms (no cover).

Chief Donna Black will be presented a letter from VCOS to inform her of the NFFF brick purchased in her honor and that will be placed at the NFA in the walkway that leads to the National Firefighter Memorial.

Vice Chair Report

Chief Rich Cowger, Vice Chair

No Report.

International Director Report

Chief Jason Catrambone, International Director

The IAFC Board of Directors is meeting later today (11 July, 2023). The Amber Ribbon Report will be presented to the IAFC Board of Directors for their information and approval.

Secretary Treasurer Report

Chief Fred Windisch, Secretary/Treasurer

Chief Windisch has no financial update since the last Board meeting. He anticipates that the IAFC Board will approve the financial reports at today's meeting.

FRI Scholarships/Training Officer Award Update

Chief Sterling in the Absence of Chief Yancey

Chief Sterling reported that nine applications were received for the two FRI scholarships. Lt Steve Claucherty and Chief Brant Yochum were selected on July 6 to receive the FRI scholarships. The Training Officer Award Selection Committee will convene later this day to select this year's recipient.

Election Committee Update

Chief Rich Cowger in the Absence of Chief Joe Florentino

Chief Cowger reported the unofficial election results that Jason Caughey, Spencer Cheatham and Chuck Flynn won a three-year term on the Board of Directors. The election results will be made official at FRI.

Chief Sterling and Chief Horn informed the Board that they were not contacted by the Election Committee chair during the election cycle, and they individually stated their dissatisfaction of this year's election committee process including not being notified of the unofficial results prior to this meeting.

A chair will be appointed by Chief Flynn to seek interested candidates to run for chair, vice chair and secretary treasurer consistent with the requirements on the VCOS bylaws.

Training Program Update

Chief John Buckman

Chief Buckman commented on the high-quality graphics used in the Amber Ribbon Report.

Chief Buckman reported that the Metropolis BH&H in person class was cancelled. All speakers for SITS have been invited and they have all accepted. Sits planning is progressing well. The New Palestine Fire Chief will present on the New Palestine Train Derailment incident. The work is beginning to update the Blue Ribbon Report. The webinars have been highly successful this year.

Communications Committee Update

Chief Cook

Chief Cook encouraged Board members to send content to him and Kevin McGee that should be shared on social media platforms with the membership.

Chief Cook informed the Board that he is addressing the need for Newsletter advertisers.

Service Dog Program

Chief Kevin Harwick

Chief Harwick recognized all who contributed to the content compilation of the Service Dog Amber Ribbon Report and thanked the IAFC staff who helped with the publication.

MOTION: 11 July 2023-02

Motion made and seconded to approve the Service Dog Amber Ribbon Report. Motion carried.

Sterling/Catrambone

Chief Harwick will present the report to the IAFC Board of Directors for their approval at their 1500 hrs meeting. The printing order will be submitted immediately after the IAFC Board approval.

IAFC Staff Liaison

Kevin McGee

The August 8, 2023 Board meeting is cancelled.

Old Business

No Old Business

New Business

No New Business

Good of the Order

Chief Stokes informed the Board that there is continuing development of the Northern Virginia Volunteer Leadership Program.

Chief Cowger informed the Board that he and his agency have been actively engaged in the rail bridge collapse and derailment over the Yellowstone River.

The telecon ended at 1449 hrs ET.

Minutes submitted by:

Mr. Kevin McGee
Interim VCOS Staff Liaison

Fire Chief Fred Windisch
Secretary/Treasurer

Because electronic mail can be altered, the integrity of this communication cannot be guaranteed.