Volunteer & Combination Officers Section
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VCOS Board Telecon Meeting Minutes
12 May 2026

Participants:

VCOS Board Members Present:

Chief Rich Cowger, Chair
Chief Al Yancey, Vice Chair
Chief Shawn P. Stokes, Secretary/Treasurer
Chief Jason Catrambone, International Director
Chief Kevin Cooney, Director at Large
Chief Jason Caughey, Director at Large
Chief Fred Windisch, Director at Large
Chief Jordan Cramer, Director at Large
Chief Spencer Cheatham, Director at Large

VCOS Board Members Not Present:
Chief Tim Sendelbach, Director at Large

IAFC Guests/Staff:
Kevin McGee, Staff Liaison
Mikel Robinson, Staff Support Contractor
Chief John M. Buckman III, Education Coordinator

Call to Order

Chief Cowger called the meeting to order at 1403 hrs ET. A roll call was made and a quorum was present.

Approval of April 14, 2026 Meeting Minutes
Chief Rich Cowger, Chair

MOTION: May 12, 2026-01
Motion made and seconded to approve the April 14, 2026 Board meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Cooney/Stokes

Chair Report
Chief Rich Cowger

Chief Cowger deferred the June Board meeting planning discussion to Staff Contractor time.

Vice Chair Report
Chief Al Yancey

Chief Yancey discussed the National Framework Summit topic. Chief Yancey and other members of the Board will attend the NVFC Training Summit to be held in Arlington VA to suggest that IAFC/VCOS and NVFC collaborate on identifying fire service issues. Chief Catrambone will also alert the IAFC Board to ensure that there is support for such collaborative input into the National Framework.

International Director Report
Chief Jason Catrambone

Chief Catrambone informed the Board that the IAFC Board will meet next Monday. CEO/Executive Director Black has had one-on-one discussions with each member of the IAFC Board. Chief Catrambone has expressed his interest in serving as an Ad-Hoc member of the IAFC Executive committee.

Secretary/Treasurer Report
Chief Shawn P. Stokes

Chief Stokes presented the financial report. He has been working with the IAFC Treasurer to address financial questions that were submitted to staff.

Election Committee Report
Chief Shawn P. Stokes

Chief Stokes informed the Board that the election is in progress, and no issues have been brought forward. Chief Stokes also briefed the Board on the candidate vetting process conducted by the committee.

Strategic Plan Report
Chief Spencer Cheatham

Chief Cheatham presented the strategic plan goals for the Board's consideration.

Education Coordinator Report
Chief John M Buckman III

Chief Buckman III informed the Board that SUN 2026 will include Officer Development Program (ODP) 2 to which $50 of the fees per student will be returned to VCOS. Chief Buckman also provided a general SUN 2026 update. The Education Report was sent to the Board by email.

Chief Buckman and Chief Caughey provided an analysis of options for the Advanced Fire Behavior proposal that mitigates live fire risk. The program title needs to be revised.

MOTION: May 12, 2026-02
Motion made and seconded to authorize the Education Committee to proceed with the next steps in the development process for the proposed fire behavior program that will be a component of the Critical Thinking Academy. Motion carried.

Cramer/Stokes

Chief Catrambone will share this development with the IAFC Board at their Monday meeting.

Support Position Report
Mikel Robinson

Ms. Robinson discussed the logistics for the June Board meeting. Mikel sent the eblast newsletter to members. A discussion on the need for give away items for VOCS tables at conferences. Chief Windisch will provide materials he still has from SUN.

MOTION: May 12, 2026-03
Motion made and seconded to approve a limit of $1,000 for marketing items that will be give aways at NVFS conference and FRI. Motion carried.

Yancey/Caughey

Staff Liaison
Kevin McGee

Kevin McGee requested the Board to provide their arrival and departure dates for FRI so that the hotel block can be reserved.

Old Business

None

New Business

None.

The telecon ended at 1529 hrs ET.

Minutes submitted by:

Mr. Kevin McGee

VCOS Staff Liaison

Chief Shawn P. Stokes
Secretary/Treasurer

Chief Rich Cowger
Chair

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