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VCOS Board Telecon 12 September 2023

Participants:

VCOS Board Members Present:

Chief Chuck Flynn, Chair
Chief Rich Cowger, Vice Chair
Chief Fred Windisch, Secretary/Treasurer
Chief Jason Catrambone, Board Member at Large
Chief Spencer Cheatham, Board Member at Large
Chief Jason Caughey, Board Member at Large
Chief Shawn Stokes, Board Member at Large
Chief Al Yancey, Board Member at Large

VCOS Board Members Not Present:

Chief Brita Horn, Board Member at Large
Chief Paul Sterling, Board Member at Large

IAFC Guests/Staff:

Chief Donna Black, IAFC Immediate Past President
Chief John Buckman
Mr. Kevin McGee, IAFC Liaison

Call to Order

Chief Flynn chaired the meeting. A roll call was taken and a quorum was present. The meeting came to order at 1402 hrs ET.

Approval of 11 July 2023 Minutes and 17 August 2023 Minutes

Chief Chuck Flynn, Chair

MOTION: 12 September 2023-01

Motion made and seconded to approve the July 11, 2023 Board meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Stokes/Cowger

MOTION: 12 September 2023-02

Motion made and seconded to approve the August 17, 2023 Annual Meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Catrambone/Stokes

Oath of Office

Chief Donna Black, IAFC Immediate Past President Presiding

Chief Chuck Flynn and Chief Spencer Cheatham took the Oath of Office for their Board of Directors 2023-2026 term, administered by Chief Donna Black.

At the conclusion of the Swearing-in ceremony, Chief Black thanked the Board for their support during her term as President and asked for their continued support by contributing to the IAFC Strategic Initiative implementation.

Chair Report

Chief Chuck Flynn, Chair

Chief Flynn appointed Chief Cowger, Chief Caughey and Chief Yancey to serve as a review committee of the statement submitted by Chief Sullivan at the Annual Meeting. The chiefs will report back on their findings and recommendations in November 2023.

Vice Chair Report

Chief Rich Cowger, Vice Chair

Chief Cowger reminded the Board that the scholarships application and award nomination processes are open for Symposium in the Sun and close September 27. Please encourage submissions so that we have multiple candidates.

International Director Report

Chief Jason Catrambone, International Director

The 150th IAFC Anniversary book is being prepared, members still have time to submit to the content with your bios.

Chief Catrambone stated that COLS will not be completely on-line offerings. A key benefit of some in-class attendance is the value that networking offers to students.

The IAFC Board will be focusing on implementation of the Strategic Initiatives Plan.

Secretary Treasurer Report

Chief Fred Windisch, Secretary/Treasurer

Chief Windisch informed the Board that he will submit a financial report by email within the next few days.

Recording Board Meeting Proposal

Chief Horn sent an email to the Board with information on recording Board meetings for Board consideration.

MOTION: 12 September 2023-03

Motion made and seconded to table consideration of the proposal to record Board meeting minutes until the October 2023 meeting. Motion carried.

Yancey/Stokes

Officer Election Report

Chief Cook conducted the Officer Election with Chief Kevin Hardwick and Kevin McGee present to count the votes. Kevin McGee reported that Chief Chuck Flynn was elected chair, Chief Rich Cowger was elected vice chair and Chief Fred Windisch is Secretary/Treasurer by acclamation. The election was conducted on August 17 after the annual report in accordance with the VCOS by-laws.

Training Program Update

Chief John Buckman

Chief Buckman informed the Board that all Ribbon Reports are in some form of review. The Data Ribbon report still needs the final steps of completion to include graphic design. He stated the material for the report is done.

Webinars continue to be highly successful with large numbers of attendees. Chief Buckman acknowledged Nann Phillips who provides Webinar support for the IAFC for her work. commented on the high-quality graphics used in the Amber Ribbon Report.

Chief Buckman informed the Board that the look of the Symposium in the Sun stage will have an improved look next year citing that it is advisable to work changes in from year to year.

Chief Buckman sent his Education Coordinator report by email.

Communications Committee Update

Chief Flynn requested Chief Cheatham to serve as liaison to the Communications Committee. Chief Cheatham will reach out to Chief Cook and Kevin McGee for Communications Committee orientation.

Kevin McGee informed the Board that the Newsletter is expected to be released next week. Chief Flynn will have the Board review and approve the newsletter immediately after the editing is done and produced.

Strategic Plan

Chief Al Yancey

Chief Yancey requested Board meeting time set at Symposium in the Sun for the

Board to develop the 2024 Strategic Directions Plan.

IAFC Staff Liaison
Kevin McGee

The Board of Directors web page has been updated to reflect the 2023 Board of Directors. Kevin McGee requests that all Board members submit their Symposium in the Sun travel information at their earliest convenience.

Old Business

Chief Stokes reported that two proposals for the VCOS Resource Coordinator position have been received with a possible third submission anticipated. The two proposals exceed the amount that was budgeted.

New Business

Chief Yancey discussed the NIOSH Firefighter Cancer Registry suggesting that VCOS pursue a partnership with NIOSH that would further benefit firefighters' reporting.

Chief Yancey requested that the Board consider developing operational procedures guidelines that can firm up Board practices that are too detailed to be placed in the By Laws.

Good of the Order

None

The telecon ended at 1318 hrs ET.

Minutes submitted by:

Mr. Kevin McGee
VCOS Staff Liaison

Fire Chief Fred Windisch
Secretary/Treasurer

Chief Chuck Flynn
Chair

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