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Officers Section

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## **VCOS Annual Meeting Minutes 13 August 2025 Orange County Convention Center Orlando, FL**

### **Participants:**

*VCOS Board Members Present:*

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

*VCOS Board Members Not Present:*

Chief Spencer Cheatham, Director at Large

*IAFC Guests/Staff:*

Kevin McGee, Staff Liaison  
Mikel Robinson, VCOS Staff Support Contractor  
Chief John Buckman III, Education Coordinator  
Mr. Ken LaSala, IAFC Government and Policy Director  
VCOS Members

### **Call to Order**

Chief Rich Cowger called the meeting to order at 1531 hrs ET and welcomed the membership, partners, and all others in attendance. Chief Cowger recognized Chief Donna Black, Acting US Fire Administrator who was able to make a brief appearance at the meeting.

### **Approval of July 8, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes**

Chief Rich Cowger, Chair

**MOTION: August 13, 2025-01**

**Motion made and seconded to approve the July 8, 2025 Board meeting minutes. Motion carried.**

**Stokes/Caughey**

**Chair Report**

Chief Rich Cowger, Chair

Chief Cowger informed the membership of the accomplishments of the Section over the past year. He also recognized VCOS partners and their contributions.

**Vice Chair Report**

Chief Al Yancey

Chief Yancey reported on the results of the updated VCOS Strategic Plan that covers the three overarching strategies: legislative, leadership, and education.

**International Director Report**

Chief Jason Catrambone

Chief Catrambone reported that the IAFC financial status was declared to be in a healthy position.

**Secretary/Treasurer Report**

Chief Fred Windisch

Chief Windisch presented the 2024 General Fund results, the Pierce Initiative fund results, and the Symposium in the Sun financial results.

**Election Committee**

Chief Kevin Cooney

Chief Cooney reported that the IAFC Election Committee declared the 2025 VCOS Board election results to be official. Chief Cooney recognized those who assisted to achieve a successful election. Chief Cooney reported to the membership that all three incumbents were reelected to the Board: Chief Rich Cowger, Chief Shawn Stokes, and Chief Fred Windisch

**2025 – 2028 VCOS Board Oath of Office**

Chief Josh Waldo, IAFC President

Chief Waldo, IAFC President administered the IAFC Oath of Office to Chief Rich Cowger, Chief Shawn Stokes, and Chief Fred Windisch.

**Training Officer of the Year Award**

Chief Al Yancey, Mr. Robbie King, Vector Solutions

Chief Yancey and Mr. King presented the 2025 Training Officer of the Year Award to

Deputy Chief Paul Wilson, Shelton (CT) Fire Department.

#### **National Firefighter Cancer Registry**

Chief Eric Tade

Chief Tade requested that all firefighters to register on the federally funded National Cancer Registry who have not yet done so. The program needs all firefighters to register, not just those who have been diagnosed with cancer.

#### **At-Large Directors Reports**

- Chief Jason Caughey reported on an overview of the Chief-to-Chief Program and its status.
- Chief Kevin Cooney informed the membership of the IAFC's FEMA Input Committee and their work that is expected to be complete in September.
- Chief Jordan Cramer reported that the Critical Thinking Academy Cohort I will graduate in September. CTA Cohort II will be held next year in the Houston area in 2026, hosted by Klien (TX) Fire Department. Chief Cramer also informed the membership on the status of the Workforce Solutions Grant.

#### **Legislative Update**

Mr. Ken LaSala

Mr. LaSala provided a legislative and Administration report.

#### **Education Coordinator Report**

Chief John M Buckman III

Chief Buckman III provided an update on the 2025 Symposium in the Sun Conference. This year spouses/significant others will be required to register and there will be no on-site registration. He provided an update on CTA, the Red Ribbon Report, and the reinstitution of VCOS webinars using a new platform.

#### **Old Business**

No old business.

#### **New Business**

No new business.

The Annual Meeting ended at 1634 hrs ET.

#### **Minutes submitted by:**

Mr. Kevin McGee  
VCOS Staff Liaison

Chief Rich Cowger

Chair

Chief Shawn Stokes  
Secretary/Treasurer

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