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VCOS Board Telecon Meeting Minutes 13 January 2026

Participants:

VCOS Board Members Present:

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

VCOS Board Members Not Present:

Chief Jason Caughey, Director at Large
Chief Jordan Cramer, Director at Large
Chief Spencer Cheatham, Director at Large

IAFC Guests/Staff:

Kevin McGee, Staff Liaison
Mikel Robinson, Staff Support Contractor
Chief John Buckman III, Education Coordinator

Call to Order

Chief Rich Cowger called the meeting to order at 1415 hrs ET. A roll call was made and a quorum was present.

Approval of December 16, 2025 Annual Meeting Minutes

Chief Rich Cowger, Chair

MOTION: January 13, 2026-01

Motion made and seconded to approve the December 16, 2025 Board meeting minutes.

Motion carried.

Sendelbach/Windisch

Chair Report

Chief Rich Cowger, Chair

Chief Stokes reported that the Executive Committee reviewed agenda and the updated 2026 expense report.

Chief Cowger stated that he was invited as VCOS chair to attend the Metro Chiefs meeting in Orlando as they prepare the Wildfire Impact on Rural Communities position paper.

MOTION: January 13, 2026-02

Motion made and seconded to approve attendance of Chief Cowger at the Metro Chiefs meeting in Orlando. Motion carried.

Sendelbach/Stokes

Vice Chair Report

Chief Al Yancey, Vice Chair

No report.

International Director Report

Chief Jason Catrambone

Chief Catrambone informed the Board that the IAFC Board held a meeting in Fairfax, VA to interview the three finalists for IAFC CEO/Executive Director.

Secretary/Treasurer Report

Chief Shawn P. Stokes

Chief Stokes presented the VCOS financial statement that now includes financials for Symposium in the Sun.

Chief Stokes reviewed proposed bylaws revision submitted by Chief Yancey for consideration in the 2026 VCOS ballot.

The proposed revision is as follows;

- Wording that is not changed is in black font.
- New wording is underlined and yellow font.
- Deleted wording is ~~strikethrough and red font~~.

Article III, Section 3: Board of Directors

The Board of Directors shall consist of nine (9) members at-large, and the VCOS IAFC Director. At-large members shall have a term of three (3) years with three (3) to be elected each year. Not more than two (2) members at-large shall be elected from any single division of the IAFC. ~~The immediate past chair will be appointed for a one-year term~~ Should the immediate past chair and/or the immediate past secretary/treasurer not be reelected or not seek reelection to the board, the board may act to appoint said past chair and past secretary/treasurer ~~will be appointed~~ for a six-month term as a non-voting member but may be extended until the following year's annual meeting by action of the Board of Directors upon

~~which time the term shall terminate to terminate at the following year's annual meeting.~~ No member of the board can serve in more than one position on the VCOS Board at the same time. The VCOS Board of Directors, by a simple majority vote may suspend this to allow an existing VCOS Board member to compete in another elected office within the IAFC. A VCOS Board member will not serve on two or more IAFC Section Boards of Directors and has the option to vacate the VCOS Board position or the additional position of serving on more than one IAFC Section's Board of Directors.

MOTION: January 13, 2026-03

Motion made and seconded to endorse the Article III, Section 3: Board of Directors revised bylaws wording to be submitted for consideration in the VCOS 2026 ballot. Motion carried.

Windisch/Catrambone

Article V, Section 4: Eligibility for Office

Any member of the Section seeking election to ~~any office~~ **the VCOS Board of Directors** shall be a regular member of the Association and an active chief officer of a volunteer or combination Fire-Rescue or fire-based EMS agency. A combination agency consists of an active fire department with active emergency response volunteer firefighters. **To be eligible to run for election, the chief officer seeking election shall provide a letter of support from the fire chief, or in the case that the fire chief is seeking election, the fire chief shall provide a letter of support from their direct supervisor (mayor, city/village manager, county administrator, fire district/association/department president). Candidates without a verified letter of support will be rendered ineligible for the election.**

MOTION: January 13, 2026-04

Motion made and seconded to endorse the Article V, Section 4: Eligibility for Office revised bylaws wording to be submitted for consideration in the VCOS 2026 ballot. Motion carried.

Yancey/Windisch

Chief Stokes will submit the endorsed revised bylaws proposal to Tom Murphy Acting CEO/Executive Director as the next step for consideration in the 2026 VCOS ballot.

VCOS Hall of Fame

The Board expressed support for the VCOS Hall of Fame.

Education Coordinator Report

Chief John M Buckman III

Chief Buckman III informed the Board that Ms. Robinson is working on the CTA marketing plan for the next cohort scheduled to begin in March as well as general VCOS education marketing. The Education Committee is scheduled to meet in February. Chief Buckman also expressed high satisfaction with the webinar contractor and success of webinars since the contractor began work with the IAFC.

Support Position Report

Mikel Robinson

Ms. Robinson is preparing a strategic plan tracking system. Mikel is also preparing a VCOS annual report. Further, Mikel is conducting logistics planning for the June Board meeting.

A discussion was conducted on Vector Solutions services. A follow-up meeting will be requested with Leslie Distler, Corporate Relations to address Vector Solutions contract topics.

Staff Liaison

Kevin McGee

Kevin secured a table for the Board at the CFSI Dinner. Please let Mikel know if you want to join the VCOS table as names must be sent to CFSI in advance of the dinner.

The 2026 expense report form will be sent to the Board. The mileage reimbursement was increased per the federal rate.

Old Business

No old business.

New Business

Chief Windisch brought to the Board's attention a project that the EVMS to pursue the completion of the Emergency Vehicle Safety Initiatives report that was submitted to the US Fire Administration but not released. Chief Windisch suggested that the VCOS participate in the project.

The telecon ended at 1534 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.