



International Association of Fire Chiefs

VCOS Board Telecon 13 June 2023

Participants:

VCOS Board Members Present:

Chief Chuck Flynn, Chair
Chief Fred Windisch, Secretary/Treasurer
Chief Jason Catrambone, International Director
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
Chief Al Yancey, Board Member at Large

VCOS Board Members Not Present:

Chief Rich Cowger, Vice Chair

Guests/IAFC Staff:

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 1401 hrs ET.

Approval of May 16, 2023 Minutes

Chief Chuck Flynn, Chair

MOTION: 13 June 2023-01

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

Windisch/Hardwick

Chair Report

Chief Chuck Flynn, Chair

Chief Flynn commented that the Spring/Summer edition of the Newsletter is complete and the Board had previously received the draft for review.

MOTION: 13 June 2023-02

Motion made and seconded to approve the Summer edition of the VCOS Newsletter . Motion carried.

Sterling/Hardwick

Chief Flynn requested that Chief Cook collaborate with Kevin McGee and Leslie Distler to identify Newsletter advertisers and report back progress at the July meeting.

Chief Flynn informed the Board that the State of Connecticut is pursuing legislation for an age limit mandate for volunteer firefighters and that he and others are opposing such legislation. Board members had no knowledge of an age limit for volunteer firefighters in other states.

Vice Chair Report

Chief Rich Cowger, Vice Chair

Chief Cowger was not present, however, Chief Flynn reported on behalf of Chief Cowger that the final wording for the staff position job description regarding how the VCOS staff position will interact with the IAFC liaison. Chief Cowger will distribute this document to the Board for review and feedback.

International Director Report

Chief Jason Catrambone, International Director

Chief Catrambone provided a legislative update that was presented at the IAFC Board meeting.

The IAFC continues to address the supply chain problems with White House staff.

The IAFC sesquicentennial (150th) anniversary will kick off at FRI. There will be multiple events throughout the sesquicentennial year.

AFG grant award approvals are significantly behind with award determinations.

Secretary Treasurer Report

Chief Fred Windisch, Secretary/Treasurer

Chief Windisch stated that the financial report was sent to the Board by email. VCOS financials are stable with the expectation that Symposium in the Sun will be the major driver of expenses for the year.

Education

Chief Buckman informed the Board that he is anticipating quotes from IAFC staff for the Amber Ribbon and Gold Ribbon reports for graphic design. Printing quotes were provided by IAFC staff but they need shipping quotes from the printers. An approval of both reports is needed by the IAFC Board in order to distribute them at FRI in August.

SITS schedule is complete. Formal presenter invitations will be sent next week.

NVFC Training Summit is next week. NVFC has four scheduled in-person training

deliveries. They are standing by for a Nebraska proposal approval.

Chief Buckman is highly satisfied with the high number of webinar attendees, the quality of presenters and how well the sessions were received by attendees. Chief Buckman will provide the Board a six-month attendance with state level demographic information report in July.

Pat Kenny, Scott Beecher and John Buckman are members of the NVFC Behavioral Wellness Task Force.

Communications Committee

Chief Cook requested that Board members provide suggestions for departments that can be illustrated in future newsletter issues in a way that we have diversity of volunteer departments across the nation.

Chief Cook acknowledged Chief Flynn's request that he begin efforts to identify advertisers we can approach to place ads in the newsletter.

Chief Windisch suggested that the Communications Committee should consider monthly newsletters, that there is enough content to have the lengthy issues be shorter monthly issues.

Strategic Plan

Chief Yancey informed the Board that he is standing by for comments from the Board.

Service Dog Amber Ribbon Report

Chief Hardwick reported that edits are finalizing and that he is receiving a lot of positive feedback on the contents of the report. The report is ready to be shared with the IAFC Board and he will contact Chief Catrambone to move the report forward to them.

Data Gold Ribbon Report

Chief Horn reported that there is no new information to share since last month's report.

IAFC Staff Liaison

There are currently seven applications for the FRI Scholarships. Application period ends 30 June.

Old Business

No old business

New Business

No new business

Good of the Order

Nothing further for the good of the order.

The telecon ended at 1439 hrs ET.

Minutes submitted by:

Mr. Kevin McGee
Interim VCOS Staff Liaison

Fire Chief Chuck Flynn
VCOS Chair

Chief Fred Windisch
VCOS Secretary/Treasurer

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