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VCOS Board Telecon Meeting Minutes 14 April 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 Tim Sendelbach, 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:

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 1402 hrs ET. A roll call was made and a quorum was present.

Approval of March 20, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Chief Rich Cowger, Chair

MOTION: April 14, 2026-01

Motion made and seconded to approve the March 20, 2026 Board meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Stokes/Yancey

Chair Report
Chief Rich Cowger

Chief Cowger thanked the members of the Board and guests for attending the Board meeting in Washington DC.

Chief Cowger announced that he appointed Chief Jordan Cramer to the TED Committee.

Chief Cowger mentioned that he had the opportunity to speak with Chief Donna Black on her first day as CEO/Executive Director and she expressed her interest to reach out to the sections.

Vice Chair Report
Chief Al Yancey, Vice Chair

Chief Yancey shared information on the revision process for the ISO Grading Schedule and that Verisk. Chief Yancey will serve as representative to Verisk and is seeking input from section members.

International Director Report
Chief Jason Catrambone

Chief Catrambone informed the Board that the IAFC Board will be receiving a 30 day report from CEO/Executive Director Black.

Secretary/Treasurer Report
Chief Shawn P. Stokes

Chief Stokes informed the Board that he has raised accounting questions to the IAFC Treasurer that are now being addressed by staff.

Election Committee Report
Chief Shawn P. Stokes

The Election Committee will be vetting At-Large Director candidates who have submitted for the 2026 ballot. The application period is not yet closed.

Strategic Plan Report
Chief Spencer Cheatham

Chief Cheatham presented the strategic plan goals that resulted from the March Board work session. Chief Cheatham will present the final version for Board endorsement at next month's meeting.

Education Coordinator Report
Chief John M Buckman III

Chief Buckman III stated that the Education Committee intends to rename the

Workforce Solutions courses to the Chief Chuck Flynn Leadership Academy.

The Training Committee is dissatisfied with low webinar attendance and will suspend webinars for three quarters as the committee addresses improving marketing.

Symposium in the Sun presentation proposals are in and the review process is underway.

The Clearwater Hilton was informed of the decision to move the SITS venue and that a letter from CEO/Executive Director Black is forthcoming.

Support Position Report

Mikel Robinson

Ms. Robinson provided an update on tasks she is performing to include preparing the newsletter, planning for the June Board meeting, and beginning the process to announce acceptance of VCOS awards and scholarship nominations.

Staff Liaison

Kevin McGee

Kevin McGee mentioned the email he sent regarding the FRI access pass available to the Board using the VCOS pass code.

Old Business

None

New Business

Please make your travel arrangements for the Board meeting in Montana and forward your airline itinerary to Mikel and Kevin so that we can schedule ground transportation.

The telecon ended at 1508 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.