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VCOS Board Telecon Meeting Minutes 14 July 2026

Participants:

VCOS Board Members Present:

Chief Al Yancey, Vice Chair
Chief Shawn P. Stokes, Secretary/Treasurer
Chief Jason Catrambone, International Director
Chief Kevin Cooney, Director at Large
Chief Fred Windisch, Director at Large
Chief Spencer Cheatham, Director at Large

VCOS Board Members Not Present:

Chief Rich Cowger, Chair
Chief Jordan Cramer, Director at Large
Chief Jason Caughey, Director at Large
Chief Tim Sendelbach, Director at Large

IAFC Guests/Staff:

Kevin McGee, Staff Liaison
Mikel Robinson, Staff Support Contractor
Chief John M. Buckman III, Education Coordinator
Anna Carrera, A Hustle Worth Having

Call to Order

Chief Yancey called the meeting to order at 1401 hrs ET. A roll call was made and a quorum was present.

Approval of June 19-20, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Chief Al Yancey, Vice Chair

MOTION: July 14, 2026-01

Motion made and seconded to approve the June 19-20, 2026 Board meeting minutes with the correction to the number of VCOS members. Motion carried.

Windisch/Stokes

Chair Report
Chief Al Yancey

Chief Yancey welcomed Chief Hoefle as At-Large Board member elect and gave him the opportunity to introduce himself.

Chief Yancey informed the Board that the Executive Committee discussed the July Board agenda in advance of the Board meeting.

MOTION: July 14, 2026-02

Motion made and seconded to authorize up to \$250 for a gift for outgoing IAFC president Welford that will consist of a bottle of wine and gift basket. Motion carried.

Stokes/Catrambone

Vice Chair Report
Chief Al Yancey

Chief Yancey reported on the meeting at the NVFC Training Summit held in Arlington, VA that Chief Stokes and he attended. Many NVFC members expressed interest in the programs offered by the VCOS. National Framework Summit topic.

International Director Report
Chief Jason Catrambone

Chief Catrambone informed the Board that CEO Donna Black has completed 6 completing a review of internal operations practices and programs. She's directed staff to document core business practices. Cathy Patterson has been hired for National Global Programs. CEO Black has also hired an outside council.

Secretary/Treasurer Report
Chief Shawn P. Stokes

Chief Stokes informed the Board that he has not yet received an updated financial report from IAFC.

Election Committee Report
Chief Shawn P. Stokes

As a follow-up to his email to the Board, Chief Stokes reminded the Board that nominations of officers is open. The election of officers will occur immediately after the Annual Meeting.

A Hustle Worth Having Initiative
Anna Cabrera

Anna Cabrarra presented an overview of the Hustle Worth Having (HWH) program that is a recruitment initiative for volunteer firefighters. The HWH team will be at FRI and plan to be at Symposium in the Sun.

Strategic Plan Report Chief Spencer Cheatham

Chief Cheatham presented the strategic plan goals for the Board's consideration.

Education Coordinator Report Chief John M Buckman III

Chief John Buckman III informed the Board of the instructor selection process. The Education and Training Committee will interview all instructor applicants.

Support Position Report Mikel Robinson

The 2026 awards and scholarship application period is closed with the applications forwarded to the selection committees.

Ms. Robinson discussed logistics points for FRI.

Staff Liaison Kevin McGee

Kevin McGee informed the Board of the proposal to revise the IAFC membership types that was briefed to the IAFC section chairs. Membership types will be proposed to the IAFC Board as a pilot program using fire service rank terminology. There will be two new membership types.

The August Board telecon meeting will be cancelled.

Old Business

Chief Windisch requested that the Partner program policy be added to the Annual Meeting Agenda.

New Business

None.

The telecon ended at 1553 hrs ET.

Minutes submitted by:

Mr. Kevin McGee
VCOS Staff Liaison

Chief Shawn P. Stokes
Secretary/Treasurer

Chief Rich Cowger
Chair

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