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## **VCOS Board Telecon Meeting Minutes 14 October 2025**

### **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 Jason Caughey, Director at Large  
Chief Jordan Cramer, Director at Large  
Chief Kevin Cooney, Director at Large  
Chief Spencer Cheatham, Director at Large  
Chief Tim Sendelbach, Director at Large

#### *VCOS Board Members Not Present:*

Chief Fred Windisch, 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 1402 hrs ET.

### **Approval of September 9, 2025 Annual Meeting Minutes**

Chief Rich Cowger, Chair

#### **MOTION: October 14, 2025-01**

**Motion made and seconded to approve the September 9, 2025 Board meeting minutes.  
Motion carried.**

#### **Sendelbach/Cooney**

### **Chair Report**

Chief Rich Cowger, Chair

Chief Cowger reported that the Executive Committee reviewed the Board agenda and informed the Board that the Executive Committee had a separate discussion earlier to discuss a range of topics that will be coming forward at the November in-person meeting.

Chief Cowger had a request from Chief Dan Eggleston for consideration for up to \$3,100 in travel expense coverage for one meeting per year. Chief Cowger will follow up with Chief Eggleston to determine more precisely his commitment and wants from the Board. Further discussion will continue at the November Board meeting.

#### **Vice Chair Report**

Chief Al Yancey, Vice Chair

Chief Yancey deferred to Chief Spencer Cheatham who presented a strategic plan initiative tracking form to manage the progression and reporting of strategic plan accomplishments. The form will be sent by email to all Board members.

#### **International Director Report**

Chief Jason Catrambone

Chief Catrambone informed the Board that the IAFC Board hired an executive search firm for the CEO/Executive Director hiring process. He also reported on several grants that were applied for to FEMA that were not funded. These grants will not adversely impact the IAFC financial conditions as they are pass through grants.

#### **Secretary/Treasurer Report**

Chief Shawn P. Stokes

Chief Stokes informed the Board that he met with finance staff, including Tom Murphy and Cam Knight and staff liaison Kevin McGee at IAFC HQ that was productive in understanding the timing and steps for the release of section financial statements. Ten years of financial statements and membership rosters to measure financial and membership trends that will inform decision making going forward. Tom Murphy shared the SITS dashboard that he will pursue making available to designated SITS team members and Secretary/Treasurer

#### **Partnerships and Sponsorships**

Chief Jason Caughet

Chief Caughey informed the Board that a draft partnership and sponsorship plan will be presented at the November Board meeting.

#### **Education Coordinator Report**

Chief John M Buckman III

Chief Buckman III stated that there are over 800 paid registrations for Symposium

in the Sun (SUN). The presenters are set and Chief Buckman will be meeting with each in the next two weeks. The hotel is ready for SITS, and the NFFF fundraiser plan is set.

Chief Buckman III informed the Board that Critical Thinking Academy Cohort 1 graduated 12 students. The pilot was highly successful. The next cohort will be held in the Houston (TX) and held at the Klien Fire Department.

#### **Support Position Report** Mikel Robinson

Ms. Robinson shared the draft VCOS Marketing plan.

**MOTION: October 14, 2025-02**

**Motion made and seconded to approve the VCOS Marketing Plan. Motion carried.**

**Yancey/Cheatham**

#### **Old Business**

No old business.

#### **New Business**

A discussion of logistics for the November Board meeting and SITS was held.

The telecon ended at 1456 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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