



International Association of Fire Chiefs

VCOS Board Meeting 17 March 2023

Participants:

IAFC Board Members Present:

Chief Chuck Flynn, Chair
Chief Rich Cowger, Vice Chair
Chief Fred Windisch, Secretary/Treasurer
Chief Jason Catrambone, 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 Jim Cook, Board Member at Large
Chief Shawn Stokes, Board Member at Large
Chief Al Yancey, Board Member at Large

IAFC Board Members Not Present:

IAFC Guests/Staff:

Chief John Buckman, Education Committee Chair
Ms. Cameron Curtis, IAFC Staff

Call to Order

Chief Flynn chaired the meeting. A roll call was taken, and a quorum was present. The meeting came to order at 8:42 CT.

Approval of February 14, 2023 Minutes

Chief Chuck Flynn, Chair

Chief Flynn provided the following amendment to the February 14 minutes:

MOTION:

Motion made and seconded to approve the February 14, 2023 minutes as revised. Motion carried.

Sterling/Cowger

Chair Report

Chief Chuck Flynn, Chair

MOTION:

Motion made and seconded to approve the VCOS technical bylaws revisions. Motion carried.
Sterling/Camtrambone

MOTION:
Motion made and seconded to approve the VCOS Winter Newsletter. Motion carried.
Cowger/Cook

Vice Chair Report

Chief Rich Cowger, Vice Chair

Chief Cowger provided an update on hiring a contractor to support VCOS. Cowger is working with IAFC leadership to finalize the contractor agreement template.

Secretary Treasurer Report

Chief Fred Windisch, Secretary/Treasurer

Chief Windisch reported on the February financial statement.

International Director Report

Chief Jason Catrambone, International Director

Chief Catrambone reported that the top priorities for the IAFC are the Strategic Initiatives Plan (SIP) and plans for the 150th anniversary celebration. Information is forthcoming related to section engagement.

Symposium in the Sun Report

Chief Fred Windisch, Secretary/Treasurer

Chief Windisch reported the committee meets regularly and registration is scheduled to open in mid-May. Chief Yancey is in the process of researching the possibility of an evening networking event at the Aquarium. Ms. Curtis shared the hotel is booked through 2026.

Education Committee Report

Chief John Buckman, Committee Chair

Chief Buckman reviewed the comprehensive report attachment and proposed the following:

- Cancer Reduction Task Force with NVSC and/or a position statement on Cancer Prevention Education.
- Critical Thinking Academy for Volunteer Officers to begin in 2024. Request to create a committee of five people to support the academy planning.
- National Behavioral Wellness Conference in 2024 – The board agreed to put this on hold.

- Create a committee of three to formulate a plan for a National Fire Chiefs Roundtable.

Red Ribbon Report Committee

Chief Jim Cook, Board Member at Large

Chief Cook reported a committee will be formed to start revisions to the Red Ribbon Report.

Canines in the Fire Service Ribbon Report Committee

Chief Kevin Hardwick, Board Member at Large

Chief Hardwick shared the "Fire Service Canines" Ribbon Report will be completed in May. The committee is using the AKC Canine Good Citizen Standard as a resource. He also reported that the PFAS case is currently in the 6th Circuit Court.

Data Ribbon Report Committee

Chief Brita Horn, Board Member at Large

Chief Horn provided an update on the Data Ribbon Report. The report will be released in three parts: July – Data before the wheels start; September – Data while the wheels are turning; and November – Data after the wheels stop. She also shared an update on USFA/NFFF group discussions related to best practices on apprenticeships through the Department of Labor.

New Member Committee Report

Chief Brita Horn and Chief Paul Sterling, Board Member at Large

Chiefs Sterling and Horn shared the materials that are included in the VCOS new member packet. Ms. Curtis confirmed the IAFC membership team can include those materials in the IAFC new member packets for members who also join the VCOS section to reduce duplicative work and added expense. They also reported on planning for the new member breakfast at Symposium in the Sun. Three volunteers are needed to support these efforts.

Strategic Planning Report

Chief Al Yancey, Board Member at Large

Chief Yancey requested additional guidance and support on strategic planning. Chief Cowger will work with Chief Yancey to formulate a plan.

Elections

Chief Paul Sterling, Board Member at Large

Chief Sterling reported the following submitted an application to run for the VCOS Board:

Cortonio (Corey) Beals – Deputy Chief, Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency (Canada)

Jason Caughey – Fire Chief, Laramie County Fire Authority (WY)
Spencer Cheatham – Fire Chief, Town of West Point (VA)
Jordan Cramer – Chief of Emergency Services, South Strabane Township (PA)
Chuck Flynn – Deputy Chief, East Granbury FD, (CT)
Russell Hall – Fire Chief, Holden FD, (MA)
Frank Hand – Chief of Department, Pottstown Borough FD, (PA)
James Sims – Chief of Department, Holiday Park VFD, (PA)
TJ Steck – Fire Chief, Elizabeth Fire Protection District, (CO)
Paul Sullivan – Assistant Fire Chief, Sunnyside FD, (WA)

Chief Florentino is in the process of vetting the applicants for eligibility. Kevin McGee will verify their good standing with IAFC and VCOS.

Voting opens on May 16th and will end on June 20th. We will receive the "unofficial" results around July 14th, and the election will be made official at the VCOS meeting in August at FRI.

New Board Member Committee

Chief Shawn Stokes, Board Member at Large

Chief Stokes shared he is working on transitioning the current new board member book into a briefing.

New Business

Chief Chuck Flynn, Chair

Chief Flynn recapped the need for volunteers from the previous reports:

- Three (3) volunteers for the Cancer Prevention Task Force with NVSC
- Five (5) volunteers for the Critical Thinking Academy committee
- Volunteers needed for the Red Ribbon Report updates
- New Member Committee needs three (3) volunteers

Good of the Order

Nothing further for the good of the order. Meeting adjourned 16:30 CT.

Minutes submitted by:

Ms. Cameron Curtis and Mr. Kevin McGee
Interim COO and VCOS Staff Liaison

Fire Chief Chuck Flynn
VCOS, Chair

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