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## **VCOS Board Meeting Minutes Washington DC 20 March 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 Fred Windisch, Director at Large (Via Zoom)  
Chief Jason Caughey, Director at Large (Via Zoom)  
Chief Jordan Cramer, Director at Large  
Chief Spencer Cheatham, Director at Large

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

Chief Tim Sendelbach, Director at Large

#### *IAFC Guests/Staff:*

Chief Mike Snider, Lee's Summit Fire Department, candidate for IAFC 2<sup>nd</sup> VP  
Chief Corey Smedley, Montgomery County Fire/Rescue Department, candidate for IAFC 2<sup>nd</sup> VP  
Scott Beecher, Ward Diesel  
Joe Giorgi, VFIS  
Matt Stronts, Vector Solutions  
Robbi King, Vector Solutions  
Eric Weigman, VFIS  
Kevin McGee, Staff Liaison  
Mikel Robinson, Staff Support Contractor  
Chief John M. Buckman III, Education Coordinator (Via Zoom)

### **Call to Order**

Chief Cowger called the meeting to order at 0905 hrs ET. A roll call was made and a quorum was present.

### **Approval of February 10, 2026 Meeting Minutes**

Chief Rich Cowger

**MOTION: March 20, 2026-01**

**Motion made and seconded to approve the February 10, 2026 Board meeting minutes.**

**Motion carried.**

**Stokes/Catrambone**

#### **Chair Report**

Chief Rich Cowger

Chief Cowger reported on the joint meeting hosted by Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association that was a forum to open discussion on issues of the general fire service to include the fire service role in the federal government.

Chief Cowger announced the passing of former VCOS Board member Brett Waters.

**MOTION: March 20, 2026-02**

**Motion made and seconded to authorize a purchase or donation that will serve as a fitting tribute to and recognition of former VCOS Board member Brett Waters. Motion carried.**

**Yancey/Catrambone**

#### **Vice Chair Report**

Chief Al Yancey

Chief Yancey stated that the Section should do research to outline actions needed to address the federal regulations for EMS medication storage and control.

Chief Yancey provided an update on the Critical Thinking Academy.

#### **International Director Report**

Chief Jason Catrambone

Chief Catrambone informed the Board that IAFC CEO/Executive Director Donna Black begins on Monday March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Also, COO Tom Murphy resigned to accept a new opportunity.

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

Chief Shawn P. Stokes

Chief Stokes presented the December 2025 financial report. Chief Stokes informed the Board that he and other section treasurers are exploring with the IAFC Treasurer about how financial reports can be done in a timelier way. Chief Stokes also informed the board of concerns he has about the financial reporting, including inconsistencies in how things are reported. He will be working with IAFC Treasurer Chief Jim Silvernail to get them addressed.

## Candidates for IAFC Second Vice President

Chief Mike Snider and Chief Corey Smedley who are candidates for the 2026 Second Vice President election each presented to the Board. The Board were impressed and complementary of each candidate. After lengthy discussion the Board endorsed a candidate.

**MOTION: March 20, 2026-03**

**Motion made and seconded to endorse Chief Mike Snider for the 2026 IAFC Second Vice President election. Motion carried.**

### **Stokes/Cooney**

Chief Cowger will notify each candidate of the Board's endorsement decision.

## Symposium in the Sun Venue Committee Report

Chief John M Buckman III

Chief Buckman facilitated a discussion on the selection of a SITS hotel venue.

**MOTION: March 20, 2026-04**

**Motion made and seconded to pursue a contract with Tradewinds Hotel as the venue for the Symposium in the Sun Conference beginning 2027. The Symposium in the Sun Hotel Venue Committee is directed to pursue development of a three-year contract to be submitted to the Board. Motion carried.**

### **Cooney/Stokes**

## Strategic Plan Work Session

Chief Spencer Cheatham

Chief Cheatham conducted an update of the Strategic Plan process and facilitated finalizing discussion. Strategic Plan goals will be presented at the April meeting.

## Partnership Update

Updates were provided on IamResponding, VFIS, Ward Diesel, and Target Solutions.

Scott Beecher shared that he was appointed as the Ex-Officio member of the EVMS Board of Directors.

## Education Coordinator Report

Chief John M Buckman III

Chief Buckman III gave a Critical Thinking Academy report, and a 2026 SITS progress report.

Chief Buckman also presented a proposal for an air track fire suppression

management course that will be held in Martinsville, VA if approved. Chief Buckman will coordinate with Kevin McGee to assure that the IAFC will approve a VCOS live fire container class and that coordination of marketing should be done with the Company Officers Section. This proposal will be brought back to the board after input is received by the IAFC.

### **At-Large Directors Updates**

Chief Caughey shared a VCOS Hall of Fame report.

Chief Cooney reported on the status of the National Volunteer Recruiting Campaign.

### **Support Position Report**

Mikel Robinson

Ms. Robinson provided an update on tasks she is performing to include planning for the June Board meetings.

### **Staff Liaison**

Kevin McGee

### **Old Business**

No old business.

### **New Business**

The meeting adjourned at 1425 hrs ET.

#### **Minutes submitted by:**

Chief Shawn P. Stokes  
Secretary/Treasurer

Chief Rich Cowger  
Chair

Mr. Kevin McGee  
VCOS Staff Liaison

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