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VCOS Board Telecon Meeting Minutes 9 September 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 Fred Windisch, 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 Jason Caughey, 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 Al Yancey called the meeting to order at 1403 hrs ET.

Approval of August 13, 2025 Annual Meeting Minutes

Chief Rich Cowger, Chair

MOTION: September 9, 2025-01

Motion made and seconded to approve the August 13, 2025 Annual meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Cramer/Cheatham

Chair Report

Chief Rich Cowger, Chair

Chief Yancey reported on Chief Cowger's behalf due to a poor connection. Chief Yancey reported that the Executive Committee reviewed the Board agenda and added three items as follows; Workforce Solutions, VCOS Newsletter, CEO/Executive Director Rob Brown's retirement.

International Director Report

Chief Jason Catrambone

Chief Catrambone informed the Board that the IAFC Board meeting will be held in two weeks in Tyson's Corner. The IAFC Board will be discussing the CEO/Executive Director position.

Secretary/Treasurer Report

Chief Shawn Stokes

Chief Stokes reported that a check for \$14,200 from Pierce was sent to the IAFC. Chief Stokes will be meeting with IAFC finance staff to discuss financial reports, budgets, and other financial matters. Chief Stokes has been performing transition and orientation work to get proficient on the full range of Secretary and Treasurer duties.

Chief 2 Chief

Chief Tim Sendelbach

Chief Sendelbach provided an update on the Chief 2 Chief program development. A discussion took place about the best way to socialize the concept with the IAFC Board. The committee will do a brief presentation and pilot at Symposium in the Sun. The committee will provide a complete briefing to the Board at the October Board meeting.

VCOS Newsletter

Chief Spencer Cheatham

Chief Cheatham informed the Board that the Summer Newsletter edition was not done. Mikel Robinson provided an overview of what was already decided about the Newsletter and an outline of a transition plan.

MOTION: September 9, 2025-02

Motion made and seconded to approve the VCOS member communications plan proposal.

Motion carried.

Stokes/Cowger

Chief Cowger will contact Jenny Bragiel to inform her of the decision not to continue the Newsletter.

Education Coordinator Report

Chief John M Buckman III

Chief Buckman III stated that a written report to the Board is forthcoming. Symposium in the Sun (SUN) is almost sold out with less than 40 spaces left. Spouses, partners, and significant others will be required to be badged this year to enter all events, necessary to defray costs. The 2025 SUN will be the first year that Company Officer I is being offered. The Critical Thinking Academy (CTA) is graduating 17 students for Session 1 in Pittsburgh later in August. The CTA will be expanding the faculty. CTA Session 2 will be held in the Houston region at Klein (TX) Fire Department.

Support Position Report

Mikel Robinson

Ms. Robinson reported on work she has performed over the past month.

Old Business

Chief Yancey presented the Strategic Plan action steps for each goal and the status for each.

New Business

The Board discussed recognizing CEO Rob Brown on his retirement from the IAFC.

MOTION: September 9, 2025-03

Motion made and seconded to approve for up to \$300 for a recognition gift for CEO Rob Brown for his long-term service to the IAFC on the occasion of his retirement. Motion carried.

Stokes/Catrambone

The telecon ended at 1524 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.