



## VCOS Board Telecon Minutes

Thursday, September 13, 2012

### Participants:

#### VCOS Board Members:

Chief Timothy Wall, Chair  
Chief Shane Ray, International Director  
Chief Fred Windisch, Secretary-Treasurer  
Chief Fred Crosby  
Chief Dan Eggleston  
Chief Jim Wilson

#### Not on Call:

Chief Dave Fulmer, Vice Chair  
Chief Ted Lowden  
Chief Jim Seavey  
Chief Mike Vaughn

#### Staff:

Ann Davison, IAFC Strategic Information Manager  
Joelle Fishkin, VCOS Staff Liaison

Chief Wall brought the teleconference to order at approximately 4:00pm ET.

### IAFC Image Task Force - Ann Davison

- Ann Davison is the staff liaison for a Task Force put together by Chief Gillespie to conduct research on social media, budget, generational differences, and fire service behavior.
- The Task Force is developing a report on "image in the fire service" and hopes to have VCOS board members review it. It should be ready for review by the end of September or beginning October.
- The Task Force plans to compare notes with the VCOS Vision Project "reputation management" group. They also looked at the document put out by the Cumberland Fire Association.
- Feedback already received points out that the language used in the working document will not resonate well with the volunteer community. The Task Force is working with Tim Holcombe on language issues.
- The Task Force is not expecting an in-depth review, just guidance or comments. They would also appreciate receiving case studies if anyone has them.
- Once the document is forwarded to the board, you will be given ten days for review. Any board member who will not have the time to comment is welcome to forward out to another reviewer from the volunteer/combination community.

### **Program Planning Council Representative - Chief Timothy Wall**

- We're still looking for names of members to represent us on the Program Planning Council to replace Chief Dan Eggleston, who has moved to the full Program Planning Committee.
- Chief Timothy Wall recommends the selection of Chief Ken Richards of Connecticut.
- Whoever is selected must be able to travel to Chicago Nov 1 - Nov 4. The site visit will be November 2-3, so appointee could depart the evening of November 3.

#### **Action:**

As there was no quorum on the call, Chief Wall will appoint Chief Richards. If Chief Richards cannot serve, Chief Fred Crosby will take the spot.

### **Insurance Paper - Chief Fred Crosby & Chief Timothy Wall**

- The board discussed mailing the insurance paper to our members and to state chiefs associations, as follows:
  - The paper will be produced, saddle-stitched, with glossy front and back covers.
  - The bound report will include all 13 pages of checklists (Appendix I through IV, excluding the state list).
  - The full document will be made available on the VCOS website after (or concurrent with) Symposium
  - The document could also be presented as a webinar program.
  - The VCOS newsletter designer has been hired to reformat the document
- There was some discussion among board members who disagreed on the usefulness of printing the checklist. Chief Windisch felt that the checklist would be discarded by many recipients while Chief Eggleston liked the idea of a summary and the checklist. Chief Wilson agreed that everyone is overloaded with things to read and it's often best to make reports brief. Since there was no quorum, Chief Wall made an executive decision to print an Executive Summary and include it in the booklet along with the checklists.
- A letter will be sent along with the booklet, to include:
  - Thanking VCOS members for their support ("because you're a member, you're receiving this first")
  - Marketing the Symposium, if timing permits
  - Announcing the availability of the full report on the website
  - Listing all VCOS educational opportunities

#### **Actions:**

Chief Crosby will write an Executive Summary and send to the staff liaison.  
Staff will check on sending the paper out using "book rate."

\*Response from staff: Advised that sending items out "book rate" is not a good idea as it takes a very long time, there's no forwarding, and it's often considered "junk mail."

### **Volunteer Company Officer Leadership Course Development – Chief Fred Windisch**

- First meeting of the committee will take place October 4-7, at St. Louis Marriott
- The committee currently consists of Chief Fred Windisch, Chief John Buckman, Chief Timothy Wall, Chief Tom Kuntz, Chief Larry Curl, Chief Jim Seavey, Chief Eddie Buchanan, Chief Ken Farmer, and John MacPhee and/or Randy Novak from the Iowa Fire Academy.

- There is a need for one or two more members from outside of the board. If any board member has suggested names, send them to Chief Windisch.
- Pilot testing of the program will occur in March 2013 at the Oregon Fire Academy.

### **Leading the Transition Course (LTC) – Chief Fred Windisch**

**Discussion:** The course is several years old now but has not been presented frequently. There is support from the instructors for paying an instructor stipend; there is also agreement that VCOS should be charging for the course. Any income from the course would be applied to the instructor stipend and other course expenses. It is envisioned that the host department would work directly with the instructors and would pay them directly. In other words, payment of honorariums would come from host, not us. Chief Ron Cheves, Ret. is the course manager.

- Chief Dan Eggleston and Chief Fred Crosby are in favor of paying stipends
- Chief Fred Windisch stated that VCOS should be flexible in cases where there are financial issues because the course provides a good marketing opportunity.
- Marketing information should be placed on the VCOS website, on Facebook, in the VCOS newsletter and in electronic announcements. It should also be forwarded to state and local fire organizations.
- Instructor stipends are allocated at:
  - \$200 for lead instructor
  - \$150 for co-instructor
  - \$100 for shadow instructor

### **Retention & Recruitment Award – Chief Fred Windisch**

- Judging has been received from most of the judges. The winner should be known by Monday, September 17.
- Beginning in 2013, a new ruling will go into effect restricting nominations to fire departments only; associations will not be permitted to apply for this award.
- Also beginning in 2013, all award submissions must be electronic.

### **Safe Driving Award – Chief Dave Fulmer**

- All applications received are currently being reviewed for selection of the winner.

### **John M. Buckman III Award – Chief Tim Wall**

- Reviews have been received from 3 of the 5 judges. Expect to have the winner's name by Tuesday, September 18.

### **Articles for OnScene, Fire Chief and Fire Rescue – Chief Dave Fulmer**

- Chief Fulmer seeks volunteers to write articles for OnScene and the VCOS newsletter. Please contact him if you have a story idea.

## Roundtable

Shane Ray: Nothing to report from the IAFC teleconference. South Carolina is initiating a new modular firefighter I training program. The IAFC took a stand against the medical portion of the module. There was discussion of NFPA 1582 not being "fire-service friendly." It establishes requirements which are at a level which may be too restrictive.

Fred Windisch: NFPA 1582 is designed for the full-time firefighter who performs those functions on a daily basis.

Jim Wilson: Chief Wilson's department dedicated their 9/11 Memorial this week and all went well. Chief Wilson is making assignments for introductions of speakers at Symposium; if there's someone in particular you want to introduce, send the speaker's name to him. As of 9 weeks out, we're down substantially on conference registrations.

Fred Windisch: Several chiefs told him that they're going but they haven't registered yet so perhaps that's partly and explanation of the low number.

Tim Wall: Larry Curl is presenting two ISO seminars this Fall. One is with the Florida Fire Chiefs Association. Chief Wall is trying to communicate with Greg Redden based on direction from board on 8/30/2012.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 4:50pm ET