



Volunteer & Combination Officers Section of The International Association of Fire Chiefs

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VCOS Board Telecon Thursday, October 10, 2013

Minutes

Board Members Present: Chief Timothy Wall, Chief Jim Wilson, Chief Fred Windisch, Chief Dan Eggleston, Chief Ted Lowden, Chief Shane Crutcher, Chief Mike Vaughn, Chief Randy Larson, Chief Dave Fulmer

VCOS members: Chief Norvin Collins

Board Members Absent: Chief Jim Seavey

Staff: Joelle Fishkin, Kelly Ameen

Called to order: 4:02pm

Approval of Minutes – Chief Timothy Wall

Motion by Fred Windisch and seconded by Jim Wilson to approve minutes of September 12, 2013 as submitted. Motion carried.

Symposium update – Chief Jim Wilson, Chief Fred Windisch

- Registration: As of today's date, there are 489 registered attendees; we're cutting off at 515. This is an increase of 75 more than 2012.
- Presenters: Tim Tharp cannot attend due to his work schedule. He's being replaced by Pete Piringer, who will give the social media presentation for the pre-conference.
- Saturday Entertainment: There's been a change to the Saturday night event. The band will start at 5:30 instead of 4:30. Hors d'oeuvres will be served and there will be a cash bar from 6:30 on. The conference committee is still negotiating drink prices so the cash bar won't be so expensive.
- Special Event: NFFF is sponsoring a run/walk on the beach and a beach walk as a NFFF fund-raiser. They are managing the whole event.
- Board Responsibilities: Chief Wilson will send out assignments for introducing presenters next week.
- There was a discussion of the date/time of all award and scholarship presentations. A board member will be assigned to find and bring each award/scholarship winner to the stage area, including:
 - Buckman Award (Friday, 8:15am)
 - Safe Driving Award (Friday, 8:20am)

- Retention-Recruitment Award (Friday, 8:20am)
- 2 VCOS Scholarships (Sunday 8:00 – 8:15am)
- Gasaway Scholarship (Sunday 8:00 – 8:15am)

<p>Board Responsibilities at Symposium – Chief Timothy Wall, Chief Norvin Collins</p>
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- Introduction of presenters. We encourage you to introduce presenters. Contact Jim Wilson if you would like to do that. If you are assigned, try to get to know the presenter so you're not reading straight off a piece of paper.
- Norvin has a schedule of presenters and times. There is a very tight schedule so we ask that you be ready to go when we're ready for you. Try not to be at the back of the room but be at the front of the room and ready to get on stage, if necessary.
- You will have a board ribbon identifying you so that attendees can find you
- Board member engagement with attendees. We really need the board members to be engaged, to participate in networking and get good conversations going.
- Roundtable night discussion. This has been very successful over the years. Having board presence there will be great for the conversations.
- We're sensitive to the number of awards back-to-back and we're trying to schedule it so that we don't bore the audience.
- We should have a spot for award winners to sit up near the front of the room. Same with board introducers. Make sure they're sitting up front.
- Critical to have all board members there on time and ready to assist.
- Chief Wall thanks Norvin Collins for all his work.

<p>Schedule of Additional Meetings – Chief Timothy Wall</p>
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The following meetings and other activities are anticipated:

- Mark Light & President Metcalf (TBD but probably Friday as they're not arriving until Thursday evening).
- Friday Night dinner will need to be walking distance from hotel and scheduled for 5:15 so we're back by 7:30 for networking session at 8pm on Friday. This dinner includes board, Symposium committee and staff.
- EMS Executive Committee and VCOS board (TBD)
- Captain Susan Tamme, IWomen Trustee (International Association of Women in Fire & Emergency Services) (TBD)
- Shell Pipeline (VCOS Executive Committee only) (TBD)
- Group Meeting with VCOS sponsors (TBD). Chief Wilson states that we haven't had that meeting before but it sounds like a good idea. He will speak with Dan Seidberg about it. It will probably have to be on Saturday morning, perhaps after the mid-morning break. Norvin agrees this is a good idea, especially since this is the first year at the Hilton and we need their perspective and feedback.
- Meeting to review marketing and contracts for Symposium 2014-2015 with Norvin Collins, VCOS Executive Committee & IAFC conference staff (TBD). We have signed contracts to 2015.

Committee Assignments – Timothy Wall

- The appointment of Chief Richard Lieder (Texas) as the VCOS Rep to the Fire Service Research Center and Policy Institute (RECEPI) will be reviewed on tomorrow's IAFC Board of Directors teleconference.
- Chief Wall submitted the names of Chief Dave Fulmer (Ohio) and Chief Dan Noonan (Colorado) to the IAFC for appointment to the newly-formed Task Force on the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. We have not heard back on that.

Volunteer Fire Service Representation on IAFC Program Planning Committee – Timothy Wall, Dan Eggleston, Joelle Fishkin

- Dan Eggleston has resigned from Program Planning Committee
- Ken Richards is currently on the Program Planning Council as the VCOS representative (we pay his travel expenses)
- A blast email will be sent to all IAFC members next week asking for applicants for Chief Eggleston's vacant seat
- Chief Richards will apply for the vacant seat although he is not assured of being selected
- If Chief Richards is selected to move up to the Program Planning Committee, we will need to nominate a replacement for him on the Program Planning Council
- Wilson states that Richards will be a great replacement for Eggleston. Eggleston agrees.
- If he is not appointed to the Program Planning Committee, then the board wants to keep him on the Council.
- All applicants must be an IAFC/VCOS member.
- Eggleston explains that after the call for papers for Fire-Rescue International, this committee meets onsite and goes thru all the papers and scores them and then determines what shall be the educational opportunities for the next FRI. It's a lot of work but gives an excellent opportunity to see what people are interested in presenting and attending.

Motion by Jim Wilson and seconded by Fred Windisch that Chief Wall should send a letter of recommendation on behalf of Ken Richards to be appointed to the Program Planning Committee. Motion carried.

Roundtable

Fulmer: Looking forward to Symposium and working hard for the group. Tom Woodward from TargetSolutions would like to be on the agenda for the board meeting.

Wall: The last information we have is that Target Solutions is still looking for exclusivity wording from VCOS.

Crutcher: Mentions that his paycheck comes from the federal government so if the government shutdown is still ongoing when Symposium takes place, he might not be able to attend as he was planning to use annual leave but would not be able to do that.

Larson: looking forward to being at Symposium and happy to help, including making introductions.

Lowden: Congressman Jon Runyon (3rd district of N.J.) came by his fire station. Chief Lowden spoke with his staffers and brought up Obamacare and how it affected the volunteer fire service. He gave them a lot of information and they seemed receptive.

Eggleston: The County Executive wants to have a retreat right before Symposium which will affect his arrival at the conference. He reports that NACo called him with some questions about the Affordable Care Act as they're planning an article. He assisted them with their questions.

Eggleston: Due to necessary IAFC budget cuts, several IAFC staff were laid off. There are also concerns expressed that some grant-funded positions may have to be terminated if the government shutdown continues much longer.

Eggleston: Tom LaBelle, formerly Executive Director of the New York States Fire Chiefs, has joined Albemarle County as his Division Chief. He started reporting for work this week.

Wall: thanks to everyone for their good work; the Symposium committee is doing a great job. We were concerned about moving to a new venue and it looks like our concerns were misplaced.

Windisch: I want to have a discussion of the phrase "zero tolerance" as it is used in the Human Dignity paper.

Larson: We recently had the same conversation at my department; the phrase "zero tolerance" causes much trouble.

Eggleston: At the end of the day, you have to adopt a policy that your governing board is comfortable with.

Call adjourned: 4:48