



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

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VCOS Board Telecon Thursday, June 13, 2013

MINUTES

VCOS Board Members Present: Chief Timothy Wall, Director Shane Ray, Chief Fred Windisch, Chief Jim Wilson, Chief Dan Eggleston, Chief Ted Lowden,

VCOS Board Members Absent: Chief Dave Fulmer, Chief Fred Crosby, Chief Jim Seavey, Chief Mike Vaughn

Guest: Hank Clemmensen, IAFC President and Chairman of the Board

Staff: Mark Light, Ken LaSala, Evan Davis

4:02pm

Affordable Health Care Act

President Hank Clemmensen and the IAFC's Executive Director Mark Light came on the call to explain what they know, to date, of the situation regarding the provisions of the Affordable Health Care Act as it affects the volunteer fire service workforce. Ken LaSala, Director of the IAFC's Government Relations and Evan Davis, Government Relations Program Manager provided additional details.

Mr. Light stressed that it's important to deal with the known facts, not rumors. The IRS requires fire departments to issue W2s to every compensated firefighter. If you look at the questions the IRS asks to determine whether the firefighter is an employee or a volunteer, the response to the questions will determine whether they are an employee or a volunteer. What is not known is whether these questions will be used to determine whether the same definition will apply for the Affordable Health Care Act. Most national organizations are proceeding on the assumption that the same definition will be used which means that fire departments need to be prepared. All agencies who will be complying with the law must notify their employees by October 1st, 2013. We will need to educate our members and let them know how to prepare.

It was agreed upon by all parties on the call that we need a major push to inform all IAFC/VCOS members. This will be done through webinars, OnScene, email announcements, and educational sessions at FRI and Symposium. An education "blitz" is needed, particularly regarding the W2s.

Ken LaSala and Evan Davis will send some news items to VCOS so we can point to credible information, backed up with data. (attached)

Chief Wall asked Chief Eggleston to speak with the Program Planning Committee to see if something can happen at FRI this year.

Chief Windisch stated that the 1099 – W2 issue is a major challenge. There are many combination Fire Departments which are still using 1099 forms instead of W2. We need to focus on this.

Vision Project Transition and New Appointments

It was reported that Chief Tim Tharp has stepped aside for Randy Parr to take over as the VISION Project Manager. Chief Tharp will assist on the project as time permits. Chief Parr is advising the lane leaders of the transition.

Chief Parr is still looking for a replacement for the EMS lane. Chief Windisch spoke with Chief Tharp about the possibility of leading a presentation on social media at Symposium.

Target Solution Proposal

At the February 2013 board meeting, a proposal was brought forward from Target Solutions. The proposal was voted down at that meeting and was sent back to Target Solutions for the removal of language which granted them "sole source" status.

A new proposal was received for the June teleconference, however, this proposal still contained the word "preferred" provider and this is not acceptable within the parameters of the IAFC that the association does not endorse one corporate entity over another.

Chief Wall and Mr. Thomas Woodward of TS are continuing their discussions and hope to develop an acceptable proposal. TS is an IAFC corporate partner and the board is confident that a proposal can also be worked out for a relationship with VCOS.

Motion by Fred Windisch and seconded by Dan Eggleston to accept the proposal as presented by Target Solution after removing the word "preferred" from the proposal. Motion carried.

Symposium Scholarship

Chief Ted Lowden reported that:

- The Symposium scholarship information and application is uploaded to new VCOS website
- The scholarship message will be included in tomorrow's "Report from the Chair"
- The scholarship information has been sent to OnScene for June 15 electronic issue
- The scholarship information has been sent to Daily Dispatch
- The deadline August 1

Election Update

Chief Joe Florentino, the Elections Committee chair reported, as follows:

- Number of voters:
 - 2013 election: 448 out of 2102 for 21.30% return

- 2012 election: 435 out of 2145 for 20.28% return
- Reminder went out from election company June 4
- Reminder went out from staff liaison June 7
 - 10 responses were received from people who didn't get or lost their ballot. All were sent voting instructions individually from staff liaison.
- Election closes Friday, June 14

Roundtable Discussion

Windisch: States that Pierce is celebrating their 100th anniversary party on July 13 in Appleton Wisconsin and it would be good for someone for the board to attend. VCOS will pick up travel expenses.

Vaughn: Chief Vaughn states that he will be able to attend.

Windisch: Expresses his concern about the impact of the Affordable Care Act. The paperwork alone will be a real burden; he states that the IAFC, VCOS, and NVFC all need to work together on this.

Wilson: States that the ACA will have an enormous impact on his fire department. He adds that it is disturbing to realize that the IRS won't make a determination until September 30 and compliance is required on October 1!

Wall: Instructs board members to arrive on Wednesday, August 14, the VCOS meeting and dinner is on Thursday, the 15th. Booth hours are much shorter this year.

Eggleston: Reports that he's coming to the IAFC headquarters on July 1 and 2 for new board member orientation.

Call adjourned 4:50pm