



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

4025 Fair Ridge Drive • Fairfax, VA 22033-2868 • Tel: 703/273-0911 • www.iafc.org



VCOS Board Teleconference Thursday, July 11, 2013

Minutes

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

Board Members Absent: Chief Dave Fulmer, State Fire Marshal Shane Ray, Chief Fred Crosby, Chief Ted Lowden

Staff: Joelle Fishkin

Time: 4:03pm

Update on Affordable Health Care Act

- Chief Wall asks all board members to review the letter written by Chief Morris and staff member Evan Davis. He asks everyone to modify the letter and submit it to their own congressional representatives. He asks, further, that board members should study this issue and talk about it to members as opportunity is provided.
- Chief Wall reports that Dan Eggleston, Ken LaSala, and Evan Davis will be meeting on Capitol Hill with John Boehner's staff and the Vice President's staff. Eggleston praises the work done by Evan Davis and Ken LaSala on this issue.
- Several board members expressed their concern regarding the turmoil this issue is going to cause.
- Chief Wilson reports that the section regarding the large employer mandate (50 employees or more) has been postponed for one year.

Update on VCOS Activities at FRI

- Chief Wall asks all board members to review the schedule of activities and know what is expected of them. He also asks board members to make their plane reservations as soon as possible and if you are driving to let Joelle know. Note that parking is as high as \$49/day at most hotels.
- Anyone who is not coming to FRI should inform Joelle as hotel reservations have been made.
- Chief Wall reports that Chiefs Vaughn, Larson, Eggleston, and Crutcher will be sworn in during annual meeting.

FRI Booth Schedule – Chief Jim Seavey

- Exhibit floor schedule:
 - Friday, August 16 | 10:30am - 6:30pm
 - Saturday, August 17 | 9:30am - 1:00pm
- Schedule went out to all board members on July 11. There are some double-bookings of some board members.
- 2 people for the booth all day Friday and 3 people at the booth all day Saturday.
- Board members usually wear a VCOS shirt.

Update on New Staff Liaison, Ms. Kelly Ameen

- Chief Wall reports that the transition will begin over the next few months; Kelly will attend the VCOS Meeting at FRI and Symposium. The transition will be complete at Symposium.

FRI Scholarship

- Chief Mike Vaughn reports that he has notified the two scholarship winners: Senior Captain Len Carter of New South Wales, Australia and Chief Steve Pegram of Goshen Ohio and both accepted. Chief Vaughn states that there were 17 applications for this scholarship.
- The board discussed the difficulties inherent in Mr. Carter cashing the check on a US bank. It was suggested that we get him a VISA gift card instead. The staff liaison will ask him which he prefers.

Update on Symposium

- Chief Windisch and Wilson report that 17 weeks out, we have 79 registrations. In 2012 at 17 weeks out, we had 122 registrations. Chief Wilson suggests registration might be lagging because we don't have the sense of urgency due to "not much space" at the hotel.
- They report that 25 companies are confirmed as vendors and there are currently 9 sponsored events. No presenters have withdrawn from an education course.
- Dan Seidberg of IamResponding has been working with staff on vendor venues.
- The Symposium brochure has been printed. It was sent to a BH&H class in Oklahoma City and will be taken to Firehouse in Baltimore.
- The board discussed whether to hold back some time to have a speaker on the Affordable Health Care Act. The board determined that if there is a speaker, s/he should present during the general session so everyone could listen. The other alternative discussed was for this to be a topic for the roundtable discussion.
- Chief Windisch will ask Chief Norvin Collins to reserve a 20-minute time slot for this topic for the Friday general session. Board members should brainstorm the right person to speak on this topic.
- Chief Windisch adds that VCOS needs to pull NVFC into this issue. As a small organization, VCOS cannot fight the IRS and Congress by itself.

- Chief Wall states that he was asked to find someone to participate on a panel discussion on this topic at FRI.

Roundtable Discussion

Eggleston: Was at IAFC last week for board orientation. We went over roles and responsibilities and learned a lot about IAFC programs. Met Kelly Ameen, the soon-to-be VCOS staff liaison. Kelly leads the volunteer workforce program for the IAFC and so knows a lot about volunteers and combination departments.

Wilson: Welcome to the new board members.

Seavey: heard back from Chief Larson and Chief Crutcher that they can both work the booth so that helps with scheduling. Also, the VCOS booth is going to be smaller this year so should be easier to set up and tear down. Has received one submission for Safe Driving Award.

Vaughn: Welcome to the new board members.

Wall: Had several conversations with Tom Woodward of Target Solutions discussing the need to re-write the contract. A new contract should be put together by FRI. He invited Woodward to the VCOS annual meeting at FRI.

Wall: Had a conversation at the New England Fire Chiefs Association meeting with representatives from Globe to discuss a future relationship with them. Roger Bradley and Chris Chistopoulous were involved in this discussion. They're trying to schedule a meeting at with them at FRI.

Wall: Will be exhibiting with Larry Curl and Al Rodriguez at Firehouse Expo in Baltimore. Larry Curl and Skip Gibson are presenting a 4-hour ISO seminar.

Windisch: met with the West TX departments and discussed the "laundry list" we wrote for providing assistance to them. The community is in recovery but they stated they're interested in working with Target Solutions. Larry Curl was up there again recently and that was his last trip on behalf of NFFF.

Vaughn: Going to Appleton WI to attend the Pierce 100 year anniversary. He has a presentation plaque from VCOS.

Larson: Appreciates the support from the current board members and is looking forward to working with all.

Crutcher: Is looking forward to getting involved and helping in any way he can.

Call adjourned: 4:42pm