



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

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VCOS Board Teleconference Wednesday, December 9, 2015

4 p.m. Eastern/3 p.m. Central/2 p.m. Mountain/1 p.m. Pacific

1-866-809-4014

Passcode: 4230612

MINUTES

Present: Chief Donna Black, Chief Norvin Collins, Chief Dan Eggleston, Chief Charles Flynn, Chief Randy Larson, Chief Ed Rush, Chief Timothy Wall, and Chief Fred Windisch

Absent: Chief Shane Crutcher, Chief Jim Seavey

Staff: Ms. Kelly Ameen

The call started at 4:10pm.

Welcome and Agenda Overview - Chief Wall

The board was sent the November board meeting minutes to review.

Motion by Chief Flynn and seconded by Chief Larson to approve the minutes from the November board meeting. Motion carried.

Volunteer Leadership Academy Distance Learning Project VFIS Manual – Chief Wall

Chief Buckman created an outline for this project which was sent to the board.

Motion by Chief Larson and seconded by Chief Flynn to move forward with the Volunteer Leadership Academy Distance Learning project. Motion carried.

Action item: Chief Wall will contact Chief Buckman letting him know the board approved moving forward with the project.

Cancer Initiatives – Chief Seavey

The cancer position statements were sent to the IAFC Executive Operations team for review by the IAFC board. Chief Eggleston said that the cancer position statements are on the agenda for IAFC Executive Committee meeting and he will update the VCOS board when they get to it.

Chiefs Buckman, Seavey and Eggleston recommended creating a cancer committee while at the Symposium in the Sun. They are still working out the scope of work and details. They want to create a toolkit of how departments can take the recommendations and research and implement them. Chief Wall has received emails of people that are interested in working with

the cancer committee. He should forward those emails to Chiefs Buckman, Eggleston, and Seavey. **Action item: They will get an outline together on the scope of work for the committee by the January board call.**

There was an idea that we should encourage departments to submit for AFG grants to pay for hoods, gear bags, a second set of gear, etc. We should find out what the grant guidance and priorities are first. They might not support a second set of gear especially since many departments need better first sets of gear that are old, etc. Maybe microgrants through AFG could be used since they have less requirements? **Action items: Chief Windisch will check with Mr. Dave Gudinas from FEMA on this. Chief Rush will review the guidance and priorities.**

*Note: These action items were completed after the call and according to FEMA, those are not high priorities and wouldn't get funded. Chiefs Windisch and Rush sent emails to the board with more details.

Symposium in the Sun – Chief Windisch

Certificates are available for download on the Symposium in the Sun website. Chief Windisch reported that it was a huge success. They are waiting for the survey feedback. We will have a general idea of profit by the end of the year, but an official number won't be ready until January. They have not started on plans for next year's Symposium in the Sun yet, but will have a call in January.

Symposium in the West – Chief Collins

Symposium in the West will be in Reno, Nevada at the Peppermill Resort. The conference dates are May 13-14, 2016. The board meeting date is to be determined. The conference theme is "Dare to Lead." Registration is open. The committee has a call tomorrow. The hotel rooming block is open too. They just finalized how sponsorships will work. There is no vendor show. Instead they will be reaching out to 8 existing partners to give them the first opportunities to be involved. These companies are: iamresponding, Ward Diesel, Provident, VFIS, Pierce, ISO, TargetSolutions, and Shell Pipeline. Sponsors' logos will be displayed throughout the conference. Some will have the opportunity to introduce speakers. Others may sponsor networking events/food, etc.

Dragon Fire was excited about the potential of being involved with Symposium in the West. Why did we decide not to have exhibiting? Chief Collins explained that since this is the first year, we want to keep it simple and reduce logistics. In addition, vendors already go to many shows throughout the year and we didn't want to throw in another show to their busy schedules at this point. Should we communicate to other vendors that were interested so they aren't upset? The board felt it was a good idea to reach out to our other partners/sponsors and let them know that Symposium in the West sponsorship was limited for a reason and make sure they understand and still feel valued, etc. Some board members suggested a call from someone on the committee would be beneficial. **Action item: Chief Collins will bring this up on the next Symposium in the West Committee call.**

February Board Meeting

The February board meeting will be in Reno on Friday the 5th and Saturday the 6th; travel on Feb 4 and 7 (or late on the 6th). Send flight itineraries and hotel needs to Kelly by December 28. Note that Sunday is Super Bowl Sunday. We should reach out to other organizations and

encourage them to come meet with us at the hotel. Some ideas include: NFPA, FLSS, Kidde, and Nevada Fire Chiefs Association, the Western Division, etc. We could also use the IAFC member database to get contacts. Chief Larson suggested we invite someone from the Missouri Valley Division as well. He will reach out to them. We may have some other IAFC staff come as well, like Ms. Diana Rothe-Smith for the National SAFER grant.

Kidde Campaign – Chief Wall

The VCOS executive committee had a call to discuss the award criteria and timelines (notes were attached to the agenda). We agreed that individuals should be nominated not entire departments. But departments could create the video nominating the individual. There will be another call to flush out details for the website and nomination process. Kidde will talk to their legal folks to make sure we follow established contest rules. We want to provide a recruitment/open house toolkit for the departments that will host the press events. Chiefs Flynn and Larson will be in charge of this.

Old Business

Chief Windisch sent the bylaws changed to the CBR committee. They did a preliminary evaluation and tentatively have approved the changes. They should be officially approved soon and we can then have an early electronic election for the bylaws after the first of the year. Chief Windisch added the agreed upon change about clarifying that the International Director is not subject to the 2-person division rule.

New Business – Chief Wall

We need to have a VCOS Educational Coordinator to get consistency among the various VCOS programs such as fee schedule of instructors, marketing, instructors, etc. We need to create a job description and scope for this position before we select someone. **Action item: Chief Windisch will take on the initial organization of this.**

Chief Eggleston is working with Chief Cheves to get a meeting together in February with the Leading the Transition group. They will likely meeting in North Carolina.

Roundtable and Committee/Project Updates

Eggleston – He is currently at the IAFC headquarters for an IAFC Executive Committee meeting. They just reviewed the budget and will be voting on it tomorrow. Revenue is up and looking good. He is making progress with ISO and a model policy for POV and incorporating that into their ratings. He will be meeting soon with ISO in Virginia. He invited VFIS too.

Wall- Two volunteer stations are merging in his area. Thanks to everyone for their hard work and happy holidays.

Black – She will get in touch with Chief Windisch to work on the new board member packet prior to the January call. She did a fire-engineering webinar with a few other folks on women in the fire service. She will touch base with iWomen and figure out getting a VCOS representative to their conference coming up in California.

Larson- There will be a LEC call next Wednesday.

Flynn – Does anyone have a policy on out of town travel/meetings as Chief? Please send them to him.

Windisch – They recently had two houses fires within three hours of each other caused by a space heater and candle. The response went very well. The IAFC FSTAR program is coming to his department to conduct interviews about “doing it differently” and using the UL/NIST research and processes that were discussed at Symposium in the Sun.

Rush – He has been busy with hiring and elections.

Collins – There are FROG classes in February and March in South Dakota and Kentucky.

Wall – Mr. Evan Davis is helping to work through an issue regarding states rejecting the A&H policies from one of our insurance partners due to the policies not meeting the mandatory minimums established by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA). There is a plan forward to resolve this.

The next call is Wednesday, January 13 at 4pm ET.

The call adjourned at 5:14pm ET.