



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

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### VCOS Board Teleconference Thursday, October 8, 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 Shane Crutcher, Chief Norvin Collins, Chief Dan Eggleston, Chief Charles Flynn, Chief Randy Larson, Chief Ed Rush, Chief Jim Seavey, Chief Timothy Wall, and Chief Fred Windisch

Absent: None

Staff: Ms. Kelly Ameen

The call started at 4pm ET.

#### Welcome and Agenda Overview - Chief Wall

Chief Wall thanked everyone for joining the call. The board reviewed the minutes from FRI and the September call.

**Motion by Chief Larson and seconded by Chief Flynn to approve the minutes from the FRI Annual Meeting, FRI Board Meeting, and the September call. Motion carried.**

Chief Windisch sent bylaw changes for the board to review. **Action item: Please take a look at them and send any comments back to Chief Windisch.** We will review it at the November board meeting.

#### 2016 Budget Overview – Chief Collins

A copy of the budget as submitted to the IAFC was sent to the board for review. **Action item: Any questions or comments should be sent to Chief Collins prior to the November board meeting so they can be discussed then.** Chief Collins stated that just because line items are budgeted doesn't mean we have to spend them. In addition, there are some placeholders for potential funding needs.

#### Cancer Position Statements – Chief Seavey

Chief Seavey will refine the position statements based on feedback from FRI. He will then send them out to the board for review. This will be an agenda item for November. The goal will be to finalize them and then have the IAFC adopt them.

## Symposium in the Sun – Chief Windisch

- Registration update – sold out
- Vendors/sponsors - sold out
- Marketing – done. NFFF Walk/climb marketing coming
- Division and Section Reps Meeting at Symposium – Chiefs Crutcher and Flynn
- Near Miss – Chief Rush
- App – Chief Crutcher
- Transportation to/from airport – anyone planning to rent a car on your own?
- Board/Project/Committee reports due Oct 31 for board meeting packet
- Other meetings at Symposium:
  - VCOS board with IAFC Leadership – 10am Thurs (tentative)
  - LEC – 1pm Thurs
  - VCOS Executive Committee with Chief Carrizzo - 3:30pm on Thurs (tentative)
  - Meeting with Provident and VFIS - 4pm on Thurs (tentative)
- Board Meeting – Noon to 6pm on Sunday
- Board Dinner (with significant others and IAFC staff) – Thurs at 6:30pm

The Symposium in the Sun is sold out for attendees and vendors/sponsors. There will be a meeting on Friday afternoon with representatives from most of the IAFC divisions and sections to discuss how VCOS can better work with them and market the various VCOS resources. Chief Crutcher is working on the presentation for that meeting. General session will go to about 12:30 so we need to let those meeting participants know it will start later than initially stated. Lunch is being provided for that meeting and there will be enough for the board to have as well.

Chiefs Rush and Black have extra hotel rooms in their names. **Action item: Chief Rush should put his room in Chief Wall's name so he can give it to someone who needs it. Chief Black will touch base with Chief Seavey to see if he wants her extra room. If not, she will let Ms. Jennifer Cooke know there is an extra room.**

The app company VCOS has used for the Symposium app was bought out. Chief Crutcher will have to redo some of the initial work he already has done. However, it will still be ready on time. We are looking into putting a QR code for the app on attendee badges to encourage them to download it. We can also market the app and QR code on the attendee update e-blast. Chief Crutcher is arranging a tutorial with the app company and the Communications Committee so everyone can learn about how to use it.

Near Miss has an exhibiting table. They are working on the t-shirts. They will need 5-6 minutes in the opening session to show a video.

We need to rethink the Safe Driving award. Maybe do a safety and health education award instead? Something specific to cancer prevention? The board thought it was better to keep it broader. We will flush this out at the Provident/VFIS meeting before the board meeting at Symposium. **Action item: Chief Wall will contact Provident and VFIS to set this meeting up.**

We will have lunch on Sunday at noon and then do the board meeting.

**Action item: Send Chief Windisch your transportation needs and let him know if you plan to have a rental car or not.** We have two other folks from the area that will help out with transportation.

Chief Kerr is not attending Symposium in the Sun due to another commitment. However, some of the IAFC Executive Committee will be there.

### **Awards and Scholarships**

The award and scholarship winners for the 2015 Symposium in the Sun are:

- Symposium Scholarships – Chief Crutcher
  - Winners: Chiefs Corinne Piccardi (MD) and Tim Stuckey (AR)
- Emerging Leader Scholarship
  - Winner: Captain Adam Farrar, Scott Township (IN) Fire Dept.
- Buckman Award – Chief Seavey
  - Winner: Chief Joe Florentino (TX)
- R&R Award – Chief Larson
  - Winner: Chief Larson will announce
- Safe Driving Award – Chief Flynn
  - No applications received so not being awarded this year

### **Symposium in the West – Chief Collins**

- Reno, Nevada at the Peppermill Resort
  - Conference: May 13-14, 2016
  - Board Meeting: May 14-15 (half days)

A survey went out to VCOS members asking about the theme and types of presentations desired. The committee is reviewing responses now. Iamresponding will donate \$5K which was what was budgeted for sponsor revenue. No exhibitors at Symposium in the West, there will just be 4 or 5 sponsors. Registration is open. They will do more marketing once the presenters are solidified. Any interested sponsors should be sent to Ms. Sara Stehle (IAFC) and copy Chief Collins. Chief Windisch mentioned that Enbridge Pipeline might want to do a sponsorship.

### **SAFER Recruitment and Retention Grants**

Chief Flynn continues to participate on the NVFC SAFER grant committee. Minutes from their last call were attached.

Ms. Ameen gave an overview of the national SAFER grant the IAFC received for 3 years for about \$2.8 million. VCOS and iWomen will be very involved. The grant will focus on the “volunteer of the future” and will develop a diversity campaign to be piloted in 10 communities as well as other tools and resources for the recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters nationally.

The IAFC will also be contracted to manage a SAFER grant on behalf of the Virginia Fire Chiefs Association.

Chief Eggleston will send the board the minutes from the last IAFC board meeting which highlights all of the new grants received by the IAFC.

### **Old Business – Chief Wall**

The following appointments were recently made to represent VCOS:

- NFORS Committee –Deputy Chief John Oprandy (VA)
- Unmanned Aircraft Systems Taskforce –John Mohler (NM)
- PPACA –Tim Whitham (KS)

We are still working on details with Kidde for a media campaign. We had a conference call earlier today with Ms. Leslie Distler (IAFC), Ms. Ameen, Chief Wall, and Mr. Neal Zipser from Kidde. The IAFC initially said it would cost \$20K to do a full scale version and manage most of the program, but that can be reduced based on how much Kidde picks up. The campaign would launch at the Country Music Awards in November 2015. There will be some type of award program or online contest. NFPA and Firehouse may also be involved with this campaign. Ms. Distler is briefing Mr. Mark Light on the last conference call to get his approval to move forward. There will be a call next week to finalize whether IAFC/VCOS will participate.

There is \$10,000 set aside in the VCOS budget for this. This should fund VCOS member travel and not other IAFC travel. Kidde will pay for 1 IAFC leadership representative and 1 VCOS representative to attend the Country Music Awards.

The VCOS board is supportive of moving forward and excited about the potential of this campaign.

**Motion by Chief Flynn and seconded by Chief Seavey to allow the VCOS executive committee to move forward with finalizing the agreement with Kidde and the IAFC. Motion carried.**

**New Business – Chief Wall**

Chief John Harkness from VA and Chief Dan Kerrigan from PA will be attending the NFFF Fire Service Research Agenda Symposium to represent VCOS and volunteer/combination departments. Nov 16-18. VCOS will pay for travel and registration.

**Roundtable and Committee/Project Updates**

Ms. Ameen: She is now overseeing all 3 SAFER grants the IAFC is managing. The IAFC recently received 2 new SAFER grants and they are in the process of hiring staff for those. There may be someone else helping with more of the administrative functions of VCOS so that Ms. Ameen can spend time on all 3 grants. However, she will still be very involved with VCOS and remain the main VCOS staff liaison.

Chief Larson: He is cancer-free! He plans to run again for the board. LEC has a call next Tuesday to finalize items for the Symposium. Chief Wall will try to be on the call. There is no presentation at the Symposium this year, just a committee meeting. He will be advertising Symposium in the West at an upcoming meeting he's attending.

Chief Wall: A volunteer station is in danger of closing in his area. It is not his station, but has still been very busy dealing with that. It got some press coverage recently.

Chief Black: The FRI Planning Committee meeting is Oct 22 in San Antonio. They will go through session proposals and do a site visit.

Chief Seavey: An individual he knows is looking into the filing of an IRS federal opinion letter dealing with LOSAP and volunteer benefits. The group working on this needs \$40K to file and is looking for funding. We should get the IAFC Government Relations department involved. Chief Seavey will follow up and get more information and send an email to the group. The

NVFC will be helping too. Chief Seavey also mentioned he and Chief Eggleston are attending a Cancer Summit Oct 21-23 with about 60 attendees. He will also finalize the cancer position statements.

Chief Eggleston: There will be an IAFC governance summit in Reno next spring with the IAFC board of directors to discuss the roles of divisions and structure of the IAFC.

The next call will be Thursday, November 5 at 4pm ET. This is 1 week earlier than the normally scheduled call.

The call ended at 5:25pm.