



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

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VCOS Board Teleconference Thursday, September 10, 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 Jim Seavey, Chief Timothy Wall, and Chief Fred Windisch

Absent: Chief Shane Crutcher

Staff: Ms. Kelly Ameen

The call started at 4:01pm ET.

Welcome and Agenda Overview - Chief Wall

New committee/project appointments will be made soon. If you have other people interested in getting more involved, let Chief Wall know. In most cases we will have at least two people per committee. On the October conference call we will review the minutes from FRI and also talk about the cancer position statements.

FRI 2015 – Chief Wall

The board felt that the set-up of the IAFC pavilion at FRI was better this year and more conducive to networking. The seating areas worked well and this was the best layout ever. The area felt bigger.

The Helix focus group went well. There have been several improvements since last time. It was well received during the focus group. They are being very sensitive to not stepping on our partners' toes. Mr. Hicks seemed happy with the feedback provided. What else does VCOS need to be doing for this? Eventually, IAFC wants VCOS' endorsement and help with spreading the word about it. **Action item: Chief Flynn will send an email to Mr. Hicks for any specific next steps and find out exactly what he needs from us.** We need a summary sheet on the advantages of the system to a volunteer/combination department. We can hand that out at Symposium in the Sun or put it in the attendee bags. We can meet with Mr. Hicks while at Symposium.

The board was reminded to submit any expenses from FRI to Chief Collins.

Symposium in the Sun – Chief Windisch

Registration is down a little compared to this time last year, but that could be due to different early bird pricing dates. We should see a surge next week when there will be a price change. We have about 400 registrations now.

The Sheraton and Holiday Inn are still open, but all other hotels are sold out.

There will be shuttles to/from the other hotels to the Hilton like last year.

The NVFC will have a comped booth. Two vendors are waiting to see if there is still exhibit space available. Chief Windisch sent the board a sponsor/exhibitor report.

An e-blast went out yesterday and another is scheduled in a few weeks.

All is good with presenters.

The Maryland SAFER grant is offering 22 scholarships to Symposium in the Sun. The Connecticut SAFER grant is sending 16 people.

Chief Flynn reported that 7 people have RSVPed for the division/section representatives meeting at Symposium in the Sun.

Near Miss will have a booth at Symposium. Chief Rush attended a Near Miss session at FRI. They showed a 5 minute video that may be good to show at the Symposium in the Sun too. Chief Windisch said that would be fine. They are working on the design for the Near Miss t-shirt.

Chief Wall is reaching out to Paratech to get them to come to Symposium. They have contributed thousands of dollars to the newsletter. **Action item: Chief Windisch will get a plaque made for them.**

Air One and Task Force Tips are donating raffle prizes again this year.

Awards and Scholarships

- Symposium Scholarships – Chief Crutcher
 - There were 20 applicants. Winners are Battalion Chief Corinne Piccardi and Chief Tim Stuckey.
- Emerging Leader Scholarship
 - Winner: Captain Adam Farrar, Scott Township (IN) Fire Dept.
- Buckman Award – Chief Seavey
 - 5 nominations. He will report back later this month with the winner.
- R&R Award – Chief Larson
 - 4 nominations. He is reviewing them tomorrow with VFIS. A winner will be announced next week.
- Safe Driving Award – Chief Flynn
 - No applications. 3 partial applications came in and Chief Flynn reached out to them but those people never completed them. Maybe we need to change this award. Can we extend the deadline? **Action item: Chief Flynn will ask Dr. Jenaway.** Maybe next year do an award for a cadet/youth program instead? Another idea is to have departments submit their overall safety programs.

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 conference call with the committee is coming up. They are aiming for 200-250 attendees. An e-blast went out to VCOS members. Online registration and hotel information is on the website.

In the past, presentation selection has been through word of mouth or they have been seen at other conferences. We have an opportunity to create a more formal process. We might be missing some good presentations. However, we need to be careful that we don't get too many with a formal call for papers.

Cancer Position Statements – Chief Wall and Seavey

This will be discussed in more detail on the October call. **Action items: Chief Seavey will send out cleaned up versions within the next few weeks.** After they are finalized, Chief Eggleston will work with other sections and the IAFC board for their feedback and endorsement.

NVFC SAFER Project – Chief Flynn

He missed the last call due to a fire. He spoke with Chief Quinn and the NVFC is happy with the program's progress thus far. More information will be available at the Symposium in the Sun.

Kidde Partnership – Chief Wall

The VCOS Executive Committee met with Neal from Kidde at FRI about a potential special partnership opportunity. The IAFC is working with Kidde on putting together a proposed agreement. VCOS may need to fund some travel associated with 4-5 press events and bringing the winner to the Symposium in the Sun. The final agreement will be funneled through the VCOS Executive Committee and the VCOS board will be kept updated.

Old Business

Send any 2016 budget items to Chief Collins by Friday. He must turn in the VCOS budget to IAFC very soon.

New Business

- VCOS Executive Committee Meeting/Strategic Planning at the IAFC
 - Tentatively October 2015 at IAFC headquarters. A facilitator that the IAFC has used in the past will help with strategic planning, etc. This is needed after VCOS' 20 years of existence. The facilitator will hopefully come to VCOS West and give feedback to the full board and also be a presenter for a session. Mr. Mark Light suggested we do this. The Executive Committee can meet with IAFC staff while they are at IAFC headquarters.
- November's On-Scene focuses on Volunteer and Combination Issues. **Action item: We need 2-4 articles by end of September.**

Roundtable and Committee/Project Updates

Wall: 2016 budget requests needed ASAP.

Rush: **Action item: He will write an article for On Scene** and has agreed to be on the Communications Committee now.

Seavey: There will be a cancer summit in October in Arlington, VA. **Action item: He will submit a budget to Chief Collins for 2016 on cancer initiatives.**

Eggleston: The relationship with divisions and the IAFC and state chiefs associations is being discussed in the future. **Action item: There will be a LTC meeting in 2016 with instructors to restructure/enhance the program and he will get budget information to Chief Collins.** Chief Cheves did request some money to rewrite the course. Are LEC and LTC working together? They should be. **Action item: Chief Eggleston will reach out to Chief Larson about meshing these.**

Black: On October 22 there is a program planning meeting and they are going to San Antonio to review presentation submissions and conduct a site visit. They had a good meeting Saturday of FRI. If you have any feedback from FRI, please provide it to Chief Black. She reached out to iWomen to talk about their 2016 conference and this should be included in the 2016 VCOS budget. Is there going to be a volunteer/combo track at FRI 2016? Chief Black brought that up and it will be discussed at the October meeting in San Antonio. There was a suggestion to have volunteer related classes on Friday and Saturday. FRI will be in Charlotte in 2017. She also suggested that VCOS have a booth at the NC show in Charlotte in 2016. There wouldn't be too many costs associated with it.

Larson: No LEC update for now. He will have one in October. The Communication Committee continues posting information on social media. The newsletter is almost done. They will start working on the next one. **Action item: He will call Chief Black tomorrow about iWomen and the 2016 budget needs.**

Windisch: He sent out suggested change to the VCOS bylaws. He received some feedback from Chief Crutcher. The changes proposed by Chief Windisch clarify that the International Director does not count towards the rule of having a maximum of two board members per division. The election process is clarified based on some questions that came up in May during the last election. These are more procedural in nature. Take a look at it and get back to Chief Windisch. Changes to the bylaws must be submitted to the CBR Committee by February.

Ameen: VCOS received a thank you note from the Dolphin Research Center for the donation in memory of Ms. Laura Sieders' daughter, Holly. Ms. Ameen thanked the board for their very generous donation to Langley Residential Support Services (LRSS). It truly means a lot to her, and she is very thankful to work with VCOS. VCOS also received a thank you letter from LRSS.

The next call is October 8 at 4pm ET.

The call ended at 4:52 PM.