



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

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Officers Section

VCOS Board Teleconference Wednesday, April 10, 2019 4 p.m. Eastern/3 p.m. Central/2 p.m. Mountain/1 p.m. Pacific Attendees dialed-in via WebEx Meetings

MINUTES

Present: Chief Charles Flynn, Chief Al Yancey, Chief Jim Cook, Chief Fred Windisch, Chief Rich Cowger, Chief Norvin Collins, Chief Timothy Wall, Chief Ed Rush, Chief Ron Oettel

Absent: Chief Donna Black, Chief Jason Catrambone

Guests: Chief Chris Christopoulos

Staff: Ms. Jenny Bragiel Cozad, Kelly Ameen

The call started at 4:02 pm.

Welcome - Chief Flynn

Chief Flynn welcomed the VCOS board to the call.

Consent Agenda

Motion by Chief Rush and seconded by Chief Yancey to approve the VCOS January 2019 Minutes. Motion carried.

Motion by Chief Collins and seconded by Chief Cook to approve the VCOS February 2019 Minutes. Motion carried.

Motion by Chief Cowger and seconded by Chief Windisch to approve the VCOS March 2019 Minutes. Motion carried.

CPSE Update – Chief Chris Christopoulos

Chief Flynn asked Chief Christopoulos to connect with Chief David Emmanuel who had reached out to the VCOS for some guidance.

Action Item: Chief Christopoulos to reach out to Chief Emmanuel.

Chief Christopoulos provided an update on the progress of CPSE. CPSE is seeing an uptick in fire officer designations. They are also working on accreditation for volunteer departments. They are hoping to have a face to face meeting in May or June to discuss the accreditation further. He asked VCOS to help promote this when it is ready.

Chief Flynn thanked Chief Christopoulos for his efforts on behalf of the VCOS.

Chief Christopoulos signed off the call.

Education Coordinator – Chief Buckman

Chief Buckman was unable to sign in, so Chief Flynn provided the update. Chief Buckman had requested travel to the IAFC to meet with Ms. Bragiel Cozad about the educational courses. It was requested that she reduce her staff time with Chief Buckman as much as possible, while maintaining optimal productivity.

There was discussion on officially hiring an education coordinator using a contract, agreement or memorandum of understanding. The VCOS board also discussed due diligence and the selection process for the education coordinator.

Motion by Chief Windisch and seconded by Chief Cowger to hire Chief John M. Buckman III as an Educational Coordinator. Motion carried.

A question of the pricing for Member and Leadership Collaboration (MLC) was discussed. It was decided that it is best to leave the courses pricing alone for now, and re-address it in a year. It was agreed that in the future the cost should be higher for non-VCOS members and non-IAFC members.

Action Item: The Executive Committee to talk with Mr. Terry Monroe and Chief Buckman to create a plan and then bring it to the VCOS board.

CFSI

An update on CFSI, April 24-26, was provided. The joint presentation with NVFC and the VCOS on the Yellow Ribbon Report and the Lavender Ribbon Report will be April 24 at 2pm. The memorial service for Chief James P. Seavey, Sr. will be April 24 from 6-8pm. Those attending will be presenting the signed Lavender Ribbon Report. Chief Flynn is double checking the attire for the event, but plan to wear a VCOS collared shirt and slacks.

Action Item: Let Ms. Bragiel Cozad know if you will be attending the memorial service and she will register you.

Chief Flynn reviewed the list of people at the table. Chief Wall provided an update on his work with the IAFC Government Relations team to set up meeting for April 24 and 25.

Symposium in the West

The schedule for board members was reviewed. Board were requested to plan on flying-in on Wednesday, May 1 to Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport (PHX) and to plan on flying out after Symposium in the West concludes May 4 (Events are scheduled to end at approximately 5pm) or anytime May 5.

Action Item: VCOS board to make their flight arrangements and send them to Ms. Bragiel Cozad

Chief Collins provided an update on Symposium in the West, which has lower numbers compared to previous years. This is attributed to the lack of National VWS pilots attending. In general, the symposium is expected to have great content and do well.

Symposium in the Sun

Chief Windisch updated the board that registration is open for past attendees. A concern was raised about being able to book a hotel room prior to registering, this is being investigated by Ms. Sara Stehle. The process has not changed from last year, and attendees are required to register first.

This year Symposium in the Sun will be doing 2 special interest tracks. One will be on Retention and Recruitment and the other will be a track for Combination Departments. The latter will primarily focus on leading a combination department.

Microsoft Teams

This topic was moved for discussion during the board meeting at Symposium in the West.

FRI

Board members were asked to save the dates of August 7-10 for FRI at Georgia World Congress Center, Atlanta, Georgia. The VCOS Annual Meeting will be Thursday, August 8 at 2pm. VCOS has requested the IAFC Headquarter hotel for board members. The VCOS has requested two Learning Lab Sessions. One will be with Chief Yancey and an EFO representative on the New and Interim Chief Guidance. The other will be with Chief Flynn and VWS's Ms. Abena Bonso-Bruce on the Top 10 Retention and Recruitment Tips. Chief Rush is working on developing the booth schedule this year.

New and Interim Chief Guidance

Chief Yancey updated the board on the progress of the report. It is being edited and will be sent to the IAFC editors by Monday. Once it is approved it will be sent to the IAFC Board for review and approval.

Action Item: Ms. Bragiel Cozad to get printing quotes.

There was discussion on a catchy title and a recommendation that the 25th anniversary be tied into the document.

Old Business

- 25th Anniversary
 - Silver Challenge Coin
 - Dye cut coin, would have VCOS logo on front and the back would have lavender colors along with the VCOS words around it.
 - Also looking at a traditional coin
 - Looking at ordering 1,000 or 1,500 for FRI
 - Giveaway 4 Education Courses
 - The board reviewed the logistics plan for the giveaway.
 - The estimated cost is \$22,000 - \$23,840 (includes 40 hours staff time at \$2,000)
 - The selected are required to provide the location and help get people together for the class.
 - There was discussion on how the cost would impact the budget.
 - It was explained that there was potential for sponsors such as Shell and Pierce

Motion by Chief Yancey and seconded by Chief Cook to approve the giveaway as proposed. Motion carried.

Roundtable, Announcement, and Committee Updates

Many expressed gratitude and excitement to see everyone at CFSI and Symposium in the West.

Chief Flynn: I asked Chief Rush to again represent us for the National Alliance for Suicide Prevention. He previously represented us at a meeting. Their next meeting will be a summit in DC. This would be minimal costs, because Chief Rush will be staying with his son. Any opposition?

No opposition was expressed.

Chief Wall: Chris Christopoulos was elected to the IAFC Board for the New England Division. We had a meeting for cancer prevention with NVFC. Also had a meeting with Leslie Distler on how to work with other sponsorships. There will be an NVFC meeting in June. I will be attending and building on our partnership. While at the meeting, I will be providing information about VCOS. Also will be attending their meeting on Friday at CFSI.

Chief Flynn: Lets check the budget and see if we have funding for you to attend the June meeting. We will have an answer for the May meeting.

Chief Collins: It will probably cost around \$1,500. I could check my schedule and go for us. I would be local so it would significantly reduce costs.

Motion by Chief Collins and seconded by Chief Oettel to approve to send Chief Wall in June to the NVFC Meeting as the VCOS representative with cost not to exceed \$1,500. Motion carried.

Chief Windisch: We need to reduce staff time. Jenny Bragiel Cozad does a good job, but we need to take on more ourselves. We really need to consider how we are using Jenny Bragiel Cozad's time.

Chief Flynn: We are working on the LION agreement. We have had a few conversations internally and with NVFC. We spoke with Chief Quinn, and they are looking forward to seeing us at Chief Seavey's ceremony. Chief Quinn will be remaining the face of the NVFC, but is moving to the first chair position and allowing another to run the internal day to day for the NVFC.

Chief Flynn thanked everyone for attending the call.

The call adjourned at 5:09pm.

The next meeting will be at Symposium in the West Friday, May 3.