



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

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VCOS Monthly Board Meeting via Microsoft Teams

Wednesday, April 14, 2021

3:00 p.m. Eastern/2:00 p.m. Central/1:00 p.m. Mountain/12:00 p.m. Pacific

MINUTES

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

Absent: Chief Jason Catrambone, Chief Norvin Collins, Chief Kevin Hardwick

Staff: Ms. Kelly Ameen

The call started at 3:01 PM.

Welcome/Chair's Report – Chief Flynn

Chief Flynn welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Motion by Chief Cowger and seconded by Chief Rush to approve the March meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

He has been on the Membership Taskforce calls about cleaning up member billing and contacting people in arrears. A question was raised about section rosters being ready for elections, and Ms. Ameen mentioned that Ms. Cathy Meadows is back on a contract with the IAFC and was able to pull the latest rosters through the Salesforce database.

Vice Chair's Report – Chief Cowger

Chief Cowger is working on the VCOS committees. Some projects have been completed and others are ongoing. He will provide more information at next week's in-person Board meeting.

International Director's Report – Chief Catrambone

Chief Catrambone was unable to be on the call. He sent an email to the VCOS board prior to the call letting them know that Mr. Rob Brown is no longer "interim/acting" and now has an official contract through 2022 as IAFC Executive Director and CEO.

Treasurer's Report – Chief Cowger

Chief Windisch will have an update for next week's in-person meeting. Ms. Ameen did send him the latest financials for his report.

VCOS Florida Meeting – Chief Flynn

Dates are April 21-25. A draft itinerary, logistics document, and Saturday board meeting agenda was sent to the board prior to the call. Chief Flynn did an overview of those documents and encouraged the VCOS Board to review them in more detail. We are still working on the Chiefs Roundtable. Ms. Kaitlin Lutz will be attending as IAFC staff (Kaitlin has been helping VCOS in the background since June 2020 with VCOS website updates, eblasts, scheduling webinars, social media, etc.).

FRI 2021 – Chief Flynn

The in-person event is on! FRI will be in Charlotte July 28-30. We are working to schedule the VCOS Annual meeting. We are aiming for Wednesday or Thursday afternoon. The IAFC is currently collecting all meeting requests and will then assign dates/times. It will be more difficult compared to previous years since social distancing is required which makes for less room availability. The Training Officer Award Committee has a call tomorrow to discuss the award. We plan to present it at FRI during the VCOS Annual Meeting. The VCOS Board does want to move forward with FRI scholarships. Chiefs Rush and Yancey will work on the FRI Scholarships.

Communications Committee – Chief Rush

The newsletter is on track to come out later this month. We received a good amount of articles so it should be a great newsletter. We have two newsletter sponsors, Paratech and IamResponding.

Educational Programs Update

The next webinar will be: April 29 at 6pm ET *"The Truth About Recruiting and Retaining Volunteer Members."*

Symposium in the Sun is November 11-14. The SITS committee will be meeting next week in Florida to work on more details. The theme is "Moving Forward Together."

Mr. Mike MacDonald is editing the Yellow Ribbon Report content before it goes to the graphic designer.

Work continues on the Lavender, Red, and White Ribbon Reports.

VCOS Election

There are 12 candidates and their statements are posted on the VCOS Elections webpage. The election is open April 18 through May 17. Chief Flynn noted that as VCOS Chair, he will not endorse any candidates because he does not think it would be right/fair.

Old Business

None

New Business

The VCOS board approved sending a donation in memory of Chief Catrambone's dad. Ms. Ameen will reach out to his wife to get a suggested organization to donation towards.

There was discussion on a leave of absence at the IAFC board level. The VCOS board found out from others and would rather have found out from the IAFC Board. The VCOS Board will pass this feedback onto Chief Catrambone as the VCOS International Director.

Chiefs Butler, Waldo and Wolford have created a "Members First" initiative. Each of them plans to run for IAFC Second Vice President. Chief Butler in 2021, Chief Waldo in 2022, and Chief Wolford in 2023. The VCOS Board wondered what Chief Black thought of this and will reach out to her.

Roundtable, Announcement, and Committee Updates

Rush: Unfortunately, will be attending another LODD funeral for someone from his new department in Delaware.

Oettel: Is up for re-election and would appreciate the VCOS Board's support.

Call ended at 3:37 PM