



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

4795 Meadow Wood Lane, Suite 100 • Chantilly, VA 20151 • Tel: 703.273.0911 • IAFC.org



**VCOS Board Teleconference  
Wednesday, December 9, 2020  
3:00 p.m. Eastern/2:00 p.m. Central/1:00 p.m. Mountain/12:00 p.m. Pacific  
Attendees dialed-in via Teams Meeting**

### **MINUTES**

Present: Chief Charles Flynn, Chief Ron Oettel, Chief Ed Rush, Chief Jason Catrambone, Chief Rich Cowger, Chief Al Yancey, Chief Norvin Collins, Chief Kevin Hardwick

Absent: Chief Jim Cook, Chief Fred Windisch

Staff: Ms. Kelly Ameen

The call started at 3:03 PM.

#### **Welcome/Chair's Report – Chief Flynn**

Chief Flynn welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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

The next VCOS Report from the Chair will go out towards the end of December and wish everyone a happy holiday and list VCOS 2020 accomplishments.

#### **Vice Chair's Report – Chief Cowger**

Chief Cowger mentioned that the Red Ribbon Report will be updated. He stated that Chief Yancey's project idea of a chaplain guide will be reviewed and put through the program management analysis tool/process. He will also look at the latest VCOS Committee list with Chief Flynn and get that updated.

#### **International Director Report – Chief Catrambone**

Chief Catrambone will continue to send out the weekly BLUF reports. There is an IAFC Board meeting next Monday. One item will be the budget. The IAFC is working to try to get firefighters and EMTs in Tier 1A/top tier for vaccinations.

### **Secretary/Treasurer's Report – Chief Flynn on behalf of Chief Windisch**

Chief Flynn said that Chief Windisch continues to monitor financials and we are in good shape.

### **Virtual Symposium in the Sun – Chief Flynn on behalf of Chief Windisch**

Virtual Sun will be January 12-14. Ms. Ameen will send the VCOS Board the latest schedule. Within the first few days of registration being opened, there are already 200 people registered to attend.

### **Communications Committee - Chief Rush**

The Communications Committee had a meeting last week. The next newsletter will go out at the beginning of January right before Virtual Sun. The theme will center around Virtual Sun. Some speakers will write articles. There will also be a part on resolutions for the new year – asking different chiefs about what their new year's resolutions are for 2021 for their departments/fire service. If any Board Member wants to contribute, please send those to Chief Rush.

**Motion by Chief Cowger and seconded by Chief Oettel to move forward with a 2021 contract with Jim Philipps for the VCOS newsletter. Motion carried.**

### **Education Programs Update**

The last Surviving the Job webinar for 2020 was December 8 and there were about 40 attendees. It went well.

We received 3 quotes from graphic designers for the Yellow Ribbon Report updates. We will follow up with each of them to get additional information and then make a selection and create a contract.

### **Old Business – Chief Flynn**

Chief Flynn reported that there would likely be no in-person February VCOS board meeting. We are looking into possibly having a live VCOS board meeting in conjunction with CFSI and meet at IAFC headquarters at the end of April/beginning of May. The VCOS board was in agreement with this plan.

Ali Rothrock sent a thank you note to Chief Flynn/VCOS for supporting the CARES project.

### **New Business – Chief Flynn**

Chief Hardwick is the VCOS representative on the Emergency Vehicle Safety Initiative funded by the USFA. They had a virtual meeting recently. He attended some and Chief Yancey also filled in for the parts he missed. There were about 45 people that attended the meeting, representing various fire service groups and other organizations involved with emergency vehicle safety. There were several 10-minute presentations which were very interesting. They discussed items like using red lights/sirens versus blue lights in POV response. There were also some interesting technology presentations. Chief Collins asked if

NFPA is looped in on this. NFPA is represented on the group. This group is looking to rewrite the 2015 report and there may also be revisions to TIMS.

Chief Ron Oettel brought up revisiting the marketing plan he created a while ago. Chief Render contacted him recently about marketing BH&H. Chief Oettel will resend the marketing plan to the board. Chief Flynn suggested having Chief Oettel come on a VCOS executive committee call to flush this out more in 2021.

Chief Yancey suggested that we continue to receive the educational report from Chief Buckman on a regular basis for our board meetings so we can keep track on the status of the various projects. Chief Flynn agreed and will talk with Chief Buckman about that and get a report for next month and periodically invite him to be on some VCOS board calls.

### **Roundtable, Announcement, and Committee Updates**

Collins: Happy holidays all!

Yancey: A chief in Kentucky that comes to Symposium in the Sun and is involved with VCOS was diagnosed with cancer and then got COVID-19. He is currently on a ventilator. Please send him videos or messages on his social media.

Cowger: Vaccine rolling out in a few weeks. Things are busy.

Catrambone: Tiller went into service this morning.

Hardwick: Ohio moved fire/EMS to the top tier for vaccinations. Happy holidays.

Rush: Virtual happy hour in the new year? Chief Rush will help organize.

Oettel: Happy Holidays!

Flynn: Jeff Siegrist is retiring at the end of the month. Should we try to get on a virtual call with him? How about Friday the 18<sup>th</sup> at 1pm ET or in the evening? The VCOS board agreed it was a great idea. Happy holiday season!

The call adjourned at 3:47 PM.