



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

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VCOS Board Meeting Teleconference Wednesday, January 8, 2020 4 p.m. Eastern/3 p.m. Central/2 p.m. Mountain/1 p.m. Pacific Attendees dialed-in via Teams Meeting

MINUTES

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

Absent: Chief Jim Cook, Chief Fred Windisch

Guest: Chief John M. Buckman III, Mr. Tim Shurr

Staff: Ms. Jenny Bragiel

The call started at 4:00 PM.

Welcome - Chief Flynn

Chief Flynn welcomed the VCOS board to the call.

NACo Representative

The VCOS needed a new NACo Representative the current one has stepped down. Would like to have one in place by January 29 to work with the IAFC Government Relations team to put together resolutions.

Action Item: Reach out to Chief Dan Eggleston to see if he is willing to represent the VCOS with NACo.

VRIPA Promotion

VRIPA received a 1 year reauthorization for 2020. The board discussed the importance of pushing the information out. Chief Rush is to work with the IAFC Government Relations team to create an article. They also discussed doing a webinar with NVFC, National Association of EMTs and NACo about the importance of VRIPA and getting it reauthorized for the future.

VCOS Leadership Development Proposal

Mr. Tim Shurr reviewed the online training he would like to offer in partnership with the VCOS. The board reviewed the plan for the February board meeting and who would be invited to join the meeting. He outlined the setup and structure of the class. He explained that he priced the current class extremely low and will increase it slowly over time. Class is live online. There will be a classroom where recordings will be uploaded for review or in case they must run out during the class.

Education Update – Chief John M. Buckman III

Chief Buckman updated the board on the BH&H: Putting the Pieces Together class, efforts with the Lavender Ribbon Initiative, You're the Fire Chief; Now What?, Yellow Ribbon Report and the Red Ribbon Report. There are currently 10 scheduled webinars, four for the You're the Fire Chief; Now What? and six for the Lavender Ribbon Report. There are four BH&H classes on the books.

Symposium in the Spring – Chief Collins

The planning is on track, and that there is one spot left to fill with a presentation. Chief Collins informed the board that Ms. Sara Stehle is back from maternity leave.

Symposium in the Sun – Chief Windisch

The committee is working on the speakers. They have about 19 speaking spots to fill and have about 35 potential speakers. These 35 are a good sampling. The committee is working to make the next conference more uplifting and motivational.

The 2019 profits are still being figured out, but so far it is looking quite profitable for the section.

February Board Meeting – Rogers, Arkansas

The board reviewed the schedule for the February board meeting.

Action Item: Book flights flying in on Thursday, February 6 and flying out on Sunday, February 9 to Northwest Arkansas Regional Airport (XNA).

Project Guidance Update – Chief Black and Chief Cowger

The committee is finalizing the project for the February board meeting.

Secretary-Treasurer Update – Chief Windisch

The end of year was discussed. The section's budget is looking positive for 2019, and there will be some changes for 2020 to improve finance tracking.

Action Item: All 2019 Invoices/Reimbursements must be in by January 30, 2020

Highway Incidents Awareness

The board discussed the numerous highway incidents that have already taken place in 2020.

Roundtable, Announcement, and Committee Updates

Many expressed gratitude.

Chief Collins: Happy New Year. Looking forward to seeing everyone.

Chief Rush: Sitting on the beach in Florida. On my retirement vacation. The newsletter is out. Hopefully will see everyone out at Rogers.

Chief Black: Happy New Year. Sent out the BLUF Reports. Have a meeting tomorrow. We have approved the budget, but they needed to cut some money to be balanced. It is a realistic budget. The application period has closed for the new Director/CEO position. There were a lot of applicants both fire service and association; it was a good mix. I will be sitting on the selection panel. Looking forward to Rogers.

Ms. Bragiel: Working on ideas for SAFER grants, so we are ready when it opens. Let us know if you have any ideas.

Chief Black: Did anyone reach out to Chief Cunningham?

Chief Collins: We will be reaching out to him. We are also having two local people sit on the committee to help with local outreach.

Chief Flynn: We have a retirement gift for Barry Balliett and Bill Jenaway. We also got each a brick. We will be presenting Barry's on Friday to him.

Chief Flynn thanked everyone for attending the call.

The call adjourned at 4:56 PM.

The next meeting will be February 7 and 8 in Rogers, Arkansas.