



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, January 6, 2021
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 Ed Rush, Chief Jason Catrambone, Chief Rich Cowger, Chief Al Yancey, Chief Norvin Collins, Chief Kevin Hardwick, Chief Jim Cook, Chief Fred Windisch

Absent: Chief Ron Oettel

Guest: IAFC President Richard Carrizzo

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 Catrambone to approve the December meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Use the new 2021 expense report and send to Chief Windisch (and copy Kelly).

The VCOS Chair's report went out in December and focused on 2020 accomplishments.

IAFC President Remarks - Chief Carrizzo

He is trying to virtually attend more meetings since he can't travel and see people in-person. He looks forward to the Virtual Symposium in the Sun. Thanks to VCOS for all their hard work.

Virtual Symposium in the Sun – Chief Windisch

Virtual Sun will be January 12-14. Ms. Ameen sent out a link to the latest schedule. There are about 600 people registered so far. If you haven't registered, please do so.

Chief Windisch reported that there are tech calls this week for presenters and moderators. The goal is to break-even financially or make a little money from the virtual event.

The whole conference will be recorded and available afterwards for about 6 months. There will be a huddle after each section of the conference to fine tune anything needed.

Old Business – Chief Flynn

The VCOS quarterly newsletter will go out this Friday.

New Business

Chief Catrambone: The IAFC board is looking for feedback on the strategic direction document and are will be creating a Moving Forward document that looks at how the IAFC would change with growth at 3%, 5%, and 7%. During the last IAFC board meeting, the 2021 budget was approved. It is a conservative budget.

Chief Carrizzo: We went through a good budget process this year. The budget is based on reality and known revenue. The Recovery/Moving Forward plan will be for 12-18 months or so for the strategic plan that just expired. We are looking for feedback from others. The plan is to release it in the Spring. He is proud of the strong values and foundation of the association.

Chief Rush: With the change in staffing will there be a revised org chart with roles so we understand who is doing what?

Chief Carrizzo: That was part of the 2021 budget process and will be coming out, but I'm not sure of the timeframe. Also, as an FYI we are having issues on some membership invoices and are working to fix that. There is an IAFC team looking into that now and we've communicated with section and division leaderships about it.

Chief Catrambone: There is an upcoming North Dakota virtual conference. Does VCOS want to have a presence during it? We could show the VCOS video and/or have a board member talk about VCOS. The group thought that was a good idea.

Roundtable, Announcement, and Committee Updates

Chief Cowger: He will look at the current VCOS committees list and update as needed. He will also talk to Chief Yancey about the chaplain project and put that through the project management process.

Chief Collins: How are vaccines going in your areas? Chief Flynn stated that Connecticut responders haven't received them yet, unless they got them through another job, etc. So far he's only heard from one or two members that they don't want to get the vaccine. Chief Windisch reported that about 30% of people in his area are agreeing to get vaccines. There is still a fear factor. Chief Carrizzo mentioned that the IAFC is working on a webinar on this. Chief Rush stated that people want others to go first to see how they respond to the vaccine. We need to educate people that it is going well to build trust. Chief Yancey said their department rolled out vaccinations yesterday and they had a 40-45% participation rate. Chief Windisch suggested that we get training out through TargetSolutions or another

avenue to get more information out. Chief Collins will take that to the IAFC COVID Taskforce.

Chief Cowger: Gearing up for wildland season. Rolled out vaccines last week and about 30% took it.

Chief Hardwick: Emergency vehicle project is moving forward with subgroups, etc. He needs the contact information for the NFPA 1901 IAFC/VCOS rep.

Chief Cook: His department did an analysis and only 40% of COVID department cases were work related. 60% are coming from off hours. 3 shifts at 1 station had COVID cases which was challenging since they lost 24 people that were sick or quarantined.

Chief Cowger: Has seen similar numbers for other departments as well.

Chief Rush: The NVFC just announced the application period for the Seavey award. Do we want to nominate someone? Think about it and let him know.

Ms. Ameen: I enjoyed the virtual retirement celebration we had for Jeff Siegrist in December. It was fun chatting, telling stories, and laughing together.

Flynn – All is going well. We did send a retirement gift to Jeff Siegrist – a liberty bell with a plaque on it congratulating him on retirement and his support to VCOS over the years. Stay safe and thanks for being on the call!

The call adjourned at 3:48 PM.