



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

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VCOS Monthly Board Meeting via Microsoft Teams

Wednesday, July 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 Ed Rush, Chief Rich Cowger, Chief Jim Cook, Chief Fred Windisch, Chief Kevin Hardwick, Chief Brita Horn, Chief Paul Sterling, Chief Al Yancey, Chief Charles Flynn, Chief Norvin Collins, Chief Ron Oettel

Absent: Chief Jason Catrambone

Staff: Ms. Kelly Ameen

The call started at 3:03 PM.

Welcome/Chair's Report –Chief Flynn

Chief Flynn welcomed everyone to the meeting. Welcome Chiefs Horn and Sterling.

Motion by Chief Cowger and seconded by Chief Hardwick to approve the June meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Vice Chair's Report – Chief Cowger

Now that elections are done, Chief Cowger will finalize the VCOS committee assignments.

International Director's Report – Chief Catrambone

Chief Catrambone was not on the call, so no report given.

Treasurer's Report – Chief Windisch

Chief Collins will be presenting the financial report at FRI.

FRI 2021 – Chief Flynn

Ms. Ameen sent several attachments for the Board to review. A few changes were made to the Annual Meeting slides. Hotel confirmation numbers will be added to the Schedule of Events/Logistics document. A final version of the documents will be sent out closer to FRI.

The VCOS Booth schedule was included in the logistics document. Chief Rush asked for extra help packing up the booth for anyone available at 2PM on Friday. Ms. Ameen added Diversity Breakfast tickets to anyone's registration that didn't come with it. VCOS Board Dinner is Wednesday night at 7:30PM.

Awards and Scholarships – Chief Collins and Chiefs Yancey/Rush

2021 Training Officer Award Winner: Volunteer Training Coordinator Jim Hedrick, Fairfax County (VA) Fire and Rescue Department

FRI Scholarships winners:

- Chief James Baldis, Simsbury (CT) Volunteer Fire Company
- Steven Hoffmann, Director of Fire & Rescue Services, Town of Farmington (CT) Fire Department

Communications Committee – Chief Rush

The committee met last week. The next newsletter will be released by the end of August and focus on coming out of the pandemic and getting back to normal. At FRI, Chief Rush and others will do video interviews with different members around that theme. There will be a department profile piece again. Articles are due by August 12.

Symposium in the Sun – Chief Windisch

Vendors will be in the same area as the past and not the garage like we had talked about. The speakers are mostly set. Registration is open. The VCOS Board Meeting will be a few hours on Wednesday afternoon (day before the conference starts) and then a few hours on Sunday (after the conference is done).

Educational Programs Update

The next VCOS webinar is this Thursday, July 15 at 7 PM ET - *The Truth About Recruiting and Retaining Volunteer Members*.

The Lavender Ribbon Report went to the graphic designer yesterday and he likely needs a few weeks; therefore the report will most likely be released in August. The goal for the Yellow Ribbon Report is to launch it at Symposium in the Sun.

BH&H has a few classes scheduled for later this year.

VCOS Election

The unofficial results are as follows. They become official at the VCOS Annual Meeting when the new board members are sworn in.

- Fire Chief Brita Horn, Rock Creek (Colorado) Volunteer Fire Department
- Assistant Fire Chief Paul Sterling, Jr., Millville (Delaware) Volunteer Fire Company, Inc.
- Fire Chief Al Yancey, Jr., Minooka (Illinois) Fire Protection District

Chief Rush reported that only the existing slate but their names forward for the Executive Committee positions. Since it was uncontested, we can announce it at the VCOS Annual

Meeting. It was suggested that Chief Rush write up the proposed slate and then Chief Flynn approve it.

Old Business

Chief Yancey stated he incorporated the requested changes to the Strategic Direction that he received.

Motion by Chief Yancey and seconded by Chief Cowger to adopt the Strategic Direction as presented. Motion carried.

Chief Flynn thanked Chief Yancey for his hard work on this.

New Business

No new business to report.

Roundtable, Announcement, and Committee Updates

Oettel: Going to the Pierce marketing/branding meeting. He will work on some ideas prior to that meeting.

Rush: Driving to the NY state chiefs' conference. He will promote VCOS.

Hardwick: Meeting with Emergency Vehicle Safety group next week. He is at an Ohio fire conference this week.

Windisch: Working on the logistics for the August 25-28 marketing/branding meeting with Pierce.

Cowger: On a wildland fire assignment in Idaho right now. Getting basic supplies/resources like drinking water has been difficult. This will likely be true for different types of deployments/incidents.

Horn: Has the Colorado State Fire Chiefs board call in a few minutes and will need to jump off.

Sterling: Looking forward to working with everyone on the VCOS Board.

Yancey: There was a recent lithium battery fire with lots of lessons learned. No one was hurt and 5,000 people were evacuated for 3 days.