



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

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VCOS Board Teleconference

Wednesday, July 15, 2020

2:00 p.m. Eastern/1:00 p.m. Central/12:00 p.m. Mountain/11:00 a.m. Pacific

Attendees dialed-in via Teams Meeting

MINUTES

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

Staff: Ms. Kelly Ameen, Ms. Catherine Lugo

The call started at 2:04 PM.

Welcome – Chief Flynn

Chief Flynn welcomed everyone to the call.

Minutes – Chief Flynn

Motion carried to approve April, May, and June 2020 minutes as presented.

Treasurer’s Report – Chief Windisch

Chief Windisch sent the VCOS board an update on the 2020 expenditures. Next time he will add the revised budget in as well.

International Director Report – Chief Black

During weekly meetings, the IAFC Executive Board continues to review the IAFC’s finances and staffing changes. The Executive Board continues to develop a plan for the organization moving forward. Chief Black will provide an Executive Summary about the upcoming year at the IAFC to help explain expectations for a new International Director.

Symposium in the Sun – Chief Windisch

Symposium in the Sun is currently moving forward with caution. The Committee has reached out to different partners to gauge their travel restrictions. Chief Flynn polled the VCOS Board to determine if anyone had travel restrictions. Most board members do not have restrictions.

160 attendees have registered for the conference so far. There will be a three-question survey sent to current registrants to help provide more direction for planning purposes.

The contracts for two speakers are being developed with flexibility to potentially have them speak at the conference in 2021 if this year's conference doesn't happen.

Fire-Rescue International – Chief Black

In-person FRI has been cancelled and will be a virtual event. Ms. Ameen shared that the IAFC Conferences team will further develop the FRI schedule once Virtual Hazmat concludes.

Communications Committee – Chief Rush

Preparation for the newsletter will begin the following week. There are currently a couple articles related to post-COVID recovery.

Training Officer Award – Chief Collins

The Training Officer Award recipient was selected and notified. Since FRI will be a virtual event, the presentation of this award will be moved to Symposium in the Sun.

Education Programs Update – Chief Flynn

The next session of the Surviving the Job webinar series will be August 11. Chief Yancey provided an update on the Red Ribbon Report, which will include a template that departments can use as they transition to a combination model. The Yellow Ribbon Report will have more information on PTSD and PTSI among other topics. The report will also include definitions of key mental health terms to ensure consistency.

VCOS Officers – Chief Flynn

Chief Rush will send an email asking if anyone from the VCOS Board is interested in running for an officer position. The election of Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary/Treasurer will take place at the conclusion of the annual meeting. The International Director must be chosen within 2 weeks after FRI.

Symposium in the Spring 2021 – Chief Flynn

Due to COVID-19 and the civil unrest in Minneapolis, the Committee is considering new options for Symposium in the Spring. Lisa Yonkers is looking into what is in the current 2021 contract.

Roundtable, Announcement, and Committee Updates

Many expressed gratitude and provided an overview of the COVID-19 situation in their state and jurisdiction.

Chief Black: There are a couple bills addressing ways to get more funding for volunteer departments so I will forward Chief Yancey to Ken LaSala for more information on that.

Ms. Lugo: This is my last call with VCOS since my last day with the IAFC is this Friday. It was nice meeting you all, at least virtually. This is bittersweet, so thank you for everything you do.

Kelly: Kudos to the conferences team for putting on Virtual HazMat that had over 2,000 people registered. Thank you to Catherine for her time and work with VCOS. She did a lot in the background and was very helpful.

Chief Flynn thanked everyone for attending the call.

The call adjourned at 2:52 PM.