



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

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**VCOS Board Teleconference  
Wednesday, June 12, 2019  
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 Jim Cook, Chief Fred Windisch, Chief Rich Cowger, Chief Timothy Wall, Chief Ron Oettel, Chief Donna Black, Chief Jason Catrambone, Chief Norvin Collins

Guests: Chief Tim Whitham

Absent: Chief Ed Rush

Staff: Ms. Jenny Bragiel Cozad, Leanne Shroeder, Terri Crowder, Jason Nauman

The call started at 4:02 PM.

### **Welcome - Chief Flynn**

Chief Flynn welcomed the VCOS board to the call.

### **Consent Agenda**

**Motion by Chief Windisch and seconded by Chief Black to approve the VCOS April 2019 Minutes and the May 2019 Minutes. Motion carried.**

### **FRI 2019 and 2020 – Chief Whitham and IAFC Staff**

Chief Whitham updated the VCOS Board on Fire Rescue International (FRI) 2019 and 2020. The IAFC staff provided a brief presentation and explanation of the changes taking place for FRI 2020. The VCOS board asked several questions about the new schedule and how it will impact the section's annual meeting. The VCOS Annual Meeting should not be impacted by the changes.

*Chief Whitham, Ms. Shroeder, Ms. Crowder and Mr. Nauman signed off from the meeting.*

### **Symposium in the West and Symposium in the Spring Update – Chief Collins**

Information on Symposium in the West will be provided later, as the committee meeting to go over the details is following this teleconference.

Symposium in the Spring is tentatively scheduled for April 30 – May 2, the committee is waiting on hotel confirmation for the new dates.

### **Symposium in the Sun – Chief Windisch**

Already has over 260 registrants. The speakers have been selected, and the schedule is now being created. This year the schedule will have Thursday ending at about 3pm with the networking reception that evening. Friday will again be a half day, and Saturday will consist of break outs. A slight change from years past is the VCOS will have two all day tracks the retention and recruitment track and the combination departments track. Symposium in the Sun will end at 11am on Sunday.

#### **FRI – Chief Flynn**

Chief Flynn reviewed the FRI schedule and updated the VCOS board on key information. He reminded board members that they are on their own for the Presidential Celebration and Luncheon.

**Action Item: Send any FRI meeting requests to Chief Flynn and Ms. Jenny Bragiel Cozad.**

**Action Item: VCOS Board is to book their flights for FRI; plan to fly in on Wednesday, August 7 and fly out late on Saturday, August 10 or anytime on Sunday, August 11.**

**Action Item: Let Ms. Bragiel Cozad know if you are interested in attending the diversity breakfast.**

**Action Item: VCOS Board Members need to register themselves for FRI. The recommended pass is the free Expo Hall pass.**

#### **New & Interim Chief Guide – Chief Yancey**

The draft document is being voted on by the IAFC Board on June 20. The document is on track to be completed by FRI and is currently being designed by the IAFC. The committee is searching for a sponsor to cover printing costs. It was advised that Pierce could potentially cover some printing costs.

**Action Item: Send draft designed version to Chief Windisch to be shared with Pierce for approval for usage of the Pierce Fund in its printing.**

**Action Item: Chief Yancey to send the draft of the document to the VCOS Board.**

#### **Behavioral Wellness Summit**

Chief Flynn provided the update on behalf of Chief Rush. The group is coming together and will be specifically looking at a legislative component to PTSD.

#### **Education Update**

Chief Buckman is continuing to work on the VCOS education offerings. For Beyond Hoses and Helmets the group is waiting on documents from LEAD to review. Goal is to have the course launched sometime in September or October.

#### **Lavender Ribbon Report and Yellow Ribbon Report**

Classes are being scheduled and delivered.

There was a discussion on Chief Buckman and Chief Kenny attending a meeting on behavioral health in Denver. It was recommended they not attend due to the cost and it being unbudgeted.

### **Old Business**

- 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
  - Silver Challenge Coin
    - They will not be numbered
    - Looking at ordering 1,000 or 1,500 for FRI

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

Many expressed gratitude and excitement to see everyone at FRI.

Chief Flynn: We will have to start on next year's budget very soon.

Chief Black: The IAFC Board Meeting was moved. We [Chief Cowger and Chief Black] have reached out to Sweetie, and she has her marching orders. For our previous discussion on Chief Buckman and Chief Kenny attending the meeting, the template should be able to help us answer this question and similar questions. The bullying pre-con did not get enough registrants, so it was dropped. The Safety, Health and Survival Section is attempting to put it on offsite on their own.

Chief Wall: Good afternoon everyone. Thank you to everyone for reaching out with condolences and sympathies, I really appreciate the sisterhood and brother hood. I spoke with Chair Flynn about being unable to attend the NVFC meeting this weekend. We are holding a webinar with NVFC on the Lavender Ribbon Report and are working on confirming the date for it. I will be attending the New England Chiefs Association Meeting and representing the VCOS.

Chief Yancey: Illinois is going to host the Lavender Ribbon Report and the Yellow Ribbon Report train-the-trainer in September. This is our first time doing a pre-conference. We are having a sponsor for it, so it will be free to all attendees. I mentioned last meeting that we were in a legislative battle; we were able to remove most of it. The bill was left with a mandate that exposures have to be reported to the career department. Illinois just passed recreational marijuana, I would appreciate sample policies on marijuana use and drug testing. The last thing I have is that on July 8, I was invited to participate in a podcast on the New Chief Guidance. Thank you.

Chief Wall: Has the IAFC Board talked about recreational marijuana?

Chief Black: Not officially, but it has come up in side conversations and during networking.

Chief Wall: Can we suggest a committee be put together on the topic?

Chief Black: Will mention it at our next meeting and see how the IAFC Board would like to move forward on the topic.

Chief Yancey: Can we put sample policies on the website?

Chief Flynn: Yes, we can add them to the website. Medicinal marijuana is another topic to be looked into and discussed, it is being prescribed for PTS.

Ms. Bragiel Cozad: The newsletter is coming out next week, and it is full of some really great articles on the election, Symposium in the West, CFSI and open scholarships and awards.

Chief Flynn: New England has two different chiefs organizations and they are looking at possibly joining the two.

Chief Flynn thanked everyone for attending the call.

The call adjourned at 5:16 PM.

The next teleconference will be July 10 at 4 PM ET.