



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

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### **VCOS Monthly Board Meeting via Microsoft Teams Wednesday, March 10, 2021**

**3:00 p.m. Eastern/2:00 p.m. Central/1:00 p.m. Mountain/12:00 p.m. Pacific**

#### **MINUTES**

Present: Chief Charles Flynn, Chief Ed Rush, Chief Rich Cowger, Chief Al Yancey, Chief Kevin Hardwick, Chief Jim Cook, Chief Fred Windisch, Chief Ron Oettel, Chief Norvin Collins

Absent: Chief Jason Catrambone

Staff: Ms. Kelly Ameen

The call started at 3:02 PM.

#### **Welcome/Chair's Report – Chief Flynn**

Chief Flynn welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Motion by Chief Windisch and seconded by Chief Oettel to approve the February meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.**

NFIRS week was a success. The panel VCOS members participated in went well.

The Chair's Report came out today.

He has been on the Membership Taskforce calls about cleaning up member billing and contacting people in arrears.

#### **Vice Chair's Report – Chief Cowger**

Chief Cowger is working on the VCOS committees. Some projects have been completed and others are ongoing. He will touch base with Chief Yancey on the Chaplain Guide project.

#### **Communications Committee – Chief Rush**

The next newsletter will come out mid-April. Send any articles by the end of March. The committee is already working on several articles. Ms. Jenny Bragiel will be helping with the newsletter.

## **Educational Programs Update**

The next webinar will be March 16 at 6 PM ET on Coaching Tips for Chiefs.

April VCOS Board Meeting: Travel in on April 21 and return April 25. Attendees will include the VCOS Board, Sun Committee, and a few friends/supporters. Tentative Schedule: Thursday will be some Board training and virtual meetings. Friday the VCOS Board will meet with the Sun Committee. COVID-19 precautions will be in place. Chief Hardwick said he cannot attend the meeting due to a prior commitment.

For November Symposium in the Sun, the committee is still moving forward with the in-person conference and possibly some virtual sessions as well. We may be limited to 400 attendees in-person, but we will have to see what it is looking like closer to the event date. Registration will open soon. The Committee is looking at adding opportunities for 1-on-1 chief meetings on certain topics to have peer-to-peer help and advice.

## **VCOS Election**

The candidate submission deadline has passed. Chief Florentino is vetting 12 candidates. The election is open April 18 through May 17.

## **Old Business**

Chief Oettel reported he has been in a few meetings with the marketing group and they are making progress. They will have more information at the April Board meeting.

## **New Business**

**Motion by Chief Cowger and seconded by Chief Oettel to approve getting a \$250 gift card for Chief Scott Lambert, VCOS Webinar Coordinator. Motion carried.**

Ms. Ameen gave an overview of the recent IAFC SAFER and FP&S grants there were submitted.

The Hazmat Conference will be virtual from June 22-24. FRI will be decided by early April.

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

Hardwick: Still participating on the Emergency Vehicle Safety Initiative. They are halfway through the manual and it is going well.

Collins: There were new CDC guidelines released Monday. The 4<sup>th</sup> vaccine is finishing trials and should be on the market soon. The various variances of COVID are doing well with the existing vaccines. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine is being used on homeless populations since it is only a single dose. There have been recent Ebola warnings as well. The graphic designer is working on layout for the Yellow Ribbon Report updates.

Rush: He is currently doing AFG reviews. He participated in the NFFF Research Symposium which went well. There was a recent cardiac arrest incident during recruit training in New York and more information will likely come out of this.

Cowger: Montana recently removed the mask mandate. Vaccination rate is going up.

Cook: Mentioned awareness of the Ebola warnings especially since Dulles Airport is so close by. He is still assisting with the Transitioning Course project with Mr. Spencer Cheatham. The content is almost done, and it is a great project.

Call ended at 3:54 PM