



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

4025 Fair Ridge Drive • Fairfax, VA 22033-2868 • Tel: 703/273-0911 • www.iafc.org



VCOS Board Teleconference Wednesday, March 8, 2017

4 p.m. Eastern/3 p.m. Central/2 p.m. Mountain/1 p.m. Pacific

1-866-809-4014

Passcode: 4230611

Minutes

Present: Chief Donna Black, Chief Norvin Collins, Chief Dan Eggleston, Chief Charles Flynn, Chief Randy Larson, Chief Ed Rush, Chief Timothy Wall, Chief Fred Windisch

Absent: Chief Jason Catrambone, Chief James Seavey

Guests: Chief Joe Florentino

Staff: Ms. Kelly Ameen

The meeting started at 4:03pm.

Welcome and Agenda Overview - Chief Wall

Chief Black was asked to lead the call. The board reviewed the February board meeting minutes.

Motion by Chief Larson and seconded by Chief Flynn to approve the minutes from the February board meeting. Motion carried. Chief Wall abstained since he was not at the meeting.

Chief Greg Render recently retired, but he still wants to be the BH&H coordinator. A congratulations letter from the VCOS board was sent to him for his retirement.

Chief Wall received a written request from Chief Olsson regarding the United in Service Report. Chief Wall has talked with Mark Light and Chief Eggleston. Once there is more information, the VCOS board will be briefed.

Chief Wade Buckner from Alabama was selected as the primary VCOS recommendation for a FEMA SAFER peer reviewer. VCOS also submitted a few other alternates to FEMA.

2017 VCOS Election – Chiefs Florentino and Rush

Chief Florentino reported that there are 17 eligible candidates for the 3 open at-large director seats. Everyone was vetted. The committee is working on compiling the candidate statements for the official ballot. This is the first year of a consolidated election with the IAFC. The winners may not necessarily be the top 3 vote getters as it depends on the

division rule. Thanks to Chiefs Florentino and Rush on this committee. Voting will be April 27 – June 8. Results will be released June 12.

Symposium in the West – Chief Collins

The conference is May 4-6 with a theme of “Be the Change. Create. Engage. Inspire.” Registration is about the same pace as last year. The brochure recently went out which should increase registration. Chief Collins went through the schedule each day. Thursday is opening session. Friday is the all-day workshop. The VCOS board meeting will be Friday. Saturday is closing session. Book your flights and send them to Kelly. Fly in Wednesday and leave late Saturday or on Sunday.

CFSI – Chief Wall

CFSI is April 5-6. Dinner is Thursday, April 6. The following people have expressed interest: Chiefs Black, Catrambone, Collins, Wall and Eggleston. Chief Rush will be there with another group. We need to finalize the VCOS table list in the next week or so.

Fire-Rescue International

The Annual meeting will be Thursday, July 27 from 2-3pm. We are working on a possible meet and greet since there are many volunteer/combo departments in North Carolina. Hotel sleeping rooms have not been assigned yet. Chief Black may have a sponsor for the meeting and greet if the board is interested.

Federal Regulators Toolkit

The call for this week was cancelled and is rescheduled for April. More information will be shared after that call.

Communications Committee – Chiefs Black, Rush, Larson

The committee had a recent call. Joelle will be able to help with the next newsletter. We are looking to add a member profile section featuring a department and how VCOS has helped them. Send any potential candidates to Chief Rush. We need articles by April 7 for the next newsletter. Some suggestions for future articles include FirstNet, CPSE, NFFF. Chief Bob Love who won the Step Up and Stand Out campaign last year might be a good first member profile. The Communications committee is aiming to have more regular calls.

Chief Collins mentioned that TargetSolutions wants to do a webinar in April. What does the Communications committee think? Any topic suggestion? None were given.

Can we have a Symposium in the West speaker do an article for the next newsletter? Chief Collins has some ideas.

The Communications committee needs more people. Email any suggested names to Chiefs Rush and Wall. A suggestion was made to engage people running for the board after the election.

Old Business

Chief Wall talked to Chief Buckman about the Future of VCOS project. Chief Buckman was waiting on information from a few people and has it now. A report should be ready for the April call.

New Business

Is anyone going to FDIC? Chief Black may go last minute. No one else stated that they are going.

Roundtable, Announcements, Committee/Project Updates

Flynn: The board was sent a revised Yellow Ribbon Report position statement. It will be put into the correct IAFC format and submitted to the IAFC board.

Collins: There will be a BH&H class in Maryland at the end of the month. He is working on FROG class scheduling. There is interest in a few states and he will be reaching out to Canada. On a personal note, Annika passed the EMT test and will be going through the firefighter process in Williston, ND.

Windisch: The Yellow Ribbon Report is now in an almost final draft form. It still needs to go through the IAFC process. No later than Monday, the VCOS board should see it and then it will go through the IAFC process.

Larson: The LEC steering committee had a recent call. They also set up a tactical committee. There is a beta program set in FL and maybe in NY which will happen later this year. There will be a townhall meeting at Symposium in the Sun. They will be adding resources to the VCOS website. They have asked for funds to train Chief Struble to do the presentations. There will also be a townhall presentation at FRI. The Bullying in the Fire Service committee received more responses to the survey so thanks to VCOS for sending it out. They will create a toolbox on the IAFC website.

Rush: He is going to work on a conferences list for exhibiting. Chief Collins mentioned there is already an exhibiting taskforce and committee that worked on a recommended list of conference to attend. He will resend that report to the board. Chief Eggleston will be at the NY Show and can help Chief Rush. Send your conference priorities to Chief Wall and he will work with the committee.

Eggleston: The IAFC board is preparing for the IAFC board meeting in Reno. They will discuss the division/section taskforces. The IAFC is gearing up for CFSI by updating hot sheets and scheduling elected officials meetings. Only VCOS and Metro have permanent seats on the IAFC board. Some sections are growing quickly and may end up with a seat. Chief Windisch asked if there can be a section advocate and not an additional board seat? This was an alternative in the past. Some committees have a liaison to the board through an existing board member.

Black: The Women Fire Chiefs Council (WFCC) will be meeting in May. Invitations for that meeting went out and overall the group is getting positive feedback.

Ameen: Please book your Symposium in the West flights and send me your itinerary. Chief Larson, please confirm that LEC is set with their FRI presentation. I wasn't aware of it so I what to make sure it is good to go.

Wall: Thanks to Chief Black for running the call today. As part of succession planning, different people will run calls, etc. We need to continue to help Chief Eggleston on his election. Start thinking of Fire Chief of the Year nominations. The Combination Chief of Year idea is not moving forward now, but it isn't off the table. Perhaps instead we could do a leadership award at Symposium in the West for a combination chief?

The next call will be Wednesday, April 12 at 4pm ET. The call ended at 4:52pm.