



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

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### **VCOS Monthly Board Meeting via Microsoft Teams**

**Wednesday, May 12, 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 Al Yancey, Chief Jim Cook, Chief Fred Windisch, Chief Ron Oettel, Chief Jason Catrambone, Chief Norvin Collins, Chief Kevin Hardwick

Absent: Chief Charles Flynn

Staff: Ms. Kelly Ameen

The call started at 3:05 PM.

#### **Welcome/Chair's Report – Chief Cowger on behalf of Chief Flynn**

Chief Cowger welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Motion by Chief Catrambone and seconded by Chief Collins to approve the April call minutes as presented. Motion carried.**

Chief Yancey suggested that the in-person April Board meeting minutes be amended to strike the details about the strategic discussion and rather just state that a strategic planning session/discussion was held.

**Motion by Chief Yancey and seconded by Chief Cook to approve the April in-person board meeting minutes with the amendment listed above. Motion carried. Chief Collins abstained since he was not at the meeting.**

The VCOS Report from the Chair went out last week.

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

Chief Cowger is working on the VCOS committees list and will send that to the board for review.

### **International Director's Report – Chief Catrambone**

A lot of work is being done on FRI. The IAFC office space was recently reduced. We still have the Executive Conference Center across the lobby, but half of it will be used for storage.

### **Treasurer's Report – Chief Windisch**

Send in your expense reports from the Florida meeting if you haven't already. Chief Windisch had a call with Rob Brown and Chief Locke about getting more timely financial data. They are working on this. It was a very positive conversation.

### **FRI 2021 – Chief Flynn**

FRI will be in Charlotte from July 28-30. The VCOS Annual meeting is Thursday, July 29 from 2-3:30PM ET. The Lavender Ribbon Report meeting is directly after (invite only for 12 people) from 3:30-4:30PM ET. Don't book flights yet, but please block off your calendar for coming in on Tuesday and leaving late Friday or on Saturday. The Training Officer Award application period is open now through June 4. It will be presented at FRI during the VCOS Annual Meeting. VCOS FRI Scholarships are now open through June 11. Please encourage people to apply.

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

The next newsletter will be released after FRI in August. Chief Rush will set up a committee meeting in the next few weeks.

### **Educational Programs Update**

April's webinar "*The Truth About Recruiting and Retaining Volunteer Members*" was postponed and will be rescheduled.

The next webinar is May 27 at 4pm ET: *What's Your Attitude?* Webinar with Chiefs Buchanan and Hardwick. Chief Rush noted that the NFFF and Provident have webinars the same day. He asked if there was a way to try to avoid scheduling webinars the same day as other related organizations.

Symposium in the Sun is November 11-14. The theme is "Moving Forward Together." Around June 1, registration will open. We will be using the parking garage for vendor displays. Chief Windisch will send a video of how this will be done. We are looking into the cost and other details. Currently the scheduled is 90% full with speakers. We have been getting good sponsorships to offset some of the increased vendor space costs. We might be able to have 50 vendors now where in the past we had 35 or so. We are currently planning for 350 attendees but hope for 500 as restrictions are hopefully lifted or lessened.

Work continues on the Yellow, Lavender, Red, and White Ribbon Reports.

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

## **VCOS Election**

There are 12 candidates and their statements are posted on the VCOS Elections webpage. The election closes May 17.

## **Old Business**

Chief Windisch reported that Pierce cannot do June or July for the marketing/branding meeting. They are now looking at August. 10-11 people from VCOS would go to this meeting. Currently looking at a Wed-Sat trip schedule.

Chief Yancey gave an update on the Strategic Plan. He went over a draft with the VCOS Executive Committee yesterday. He is now working to edit it based on their feedback and will then send it to the full board next week for review. The goal is to adopt it at the June VCOS board meeting.

Chief Oettel is working to compile information on the marketing plan. It will likely not happen before FRI since the Pierce meeting is being delayed.

## **New Business**

No new business to report.

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

Hardwick: Great trip to Hawaii. The Emergency Vehicle group he represents VCOS on hasn't met in a month.

Catrambone: Leaving Williston, North Dakota and going to Escambia County, Florida for the chief's job there. He gave an overview of the department.

Call ended at 3:46 PM