



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

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VCOS Board Teleconference

Wednesday, May 13, 2020

4:00 p.m. Eastern/3:00 p.m. Central/2:00 p.m. Mountain/1:00 p.m. Pacific

Attendees dialed-in via Teams Meeting

MINUTES

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

Staff: Ms. Kelly Ameen, Ms. Catherine Lugo

Absent: Chief Donna Black

The call started at 4:06 PM.

Welcome - Chief Flynn

Chief Flynn welcomed the VCOS board to the call.

Treasurer Update – Chief Windisch

The submitted revised VCOS 2020 budget was approved by the VCOS Board and sent to IAFC Treasurer Locke. Chief Windisch will update the 2019 Treasurer's report after speaking with Ms. Ameen and Ms. Yonkers about the final 2019 VCOS conferences numbers. Symposium in the West 2019 lost approximately \$16,000 and Symposium in the Sun 2019 made about \$74,000. Ms. Ameen addressed the processing issue of when staff time charges were applied which caused changes from expected numbers. Chief Windisch and Ms. Ameen will continue to work together to closely track the financials. 2020 detailed financials are not currently available, but hopefully will be soon.

Fire-Rescue International – Ms. Ameen

FRI is currently still moving forward with the potential for a virtual option. The VCOS Annual Meeting is scheduled for August 20 from noon-1PM with a possible Meet and Greet following from 1:00-2:30. Ms. Distler is conducting outreach for sponsors. Ms. Ameen shared the communications plan for the Training Officer Award. Target Solutions is supportive of a virtual award option for FRI if needed. Chief Flynn reached out to a potential sponsor and will keep the VCOS board informed of updates.

Symposium in the Sun – Chief Windisch

Registration for Symposium in the Sun is now open. The responses to a recent survey indicated a 50/50 split in people potentially attending. There is still strong support for the conference. The Symposium in the Sun Committee is planning for 400 attendees.

VCOS Election – Chief Rush

The election opens May 18 and closes June 17. There are five candidates including three incumbents.

Communications Committee – Chief Rush

The spring newsletter was released and includes articles related to COVID-19. The next newsletter will potentially concentrate on recovery following the effects of the pandemic. Chief Rush and Chief Cooney recently presented on the impact of COVID-19 on volunteer departments in the latest iCHIEFS podcast episode.

VCOS and Shurr – Chief Flynn

The online courses are going forward with the first 6-part course starting June 2. One of the IAFC SAFER grants had included scholarships for Symposium in the Spring, so to ensure the money will be applied before the year ends, there will be scholarships for the online leadership class. Ms. Ameen confirmed with Mr. Shurr and Chief Buckman that there is an application in place for the scholarships.

Education Update – Chief Flynn

Yellow Ribbon Report

The committee is reviewing the survey results.

Beyond Hoses & Helmets: Putting the Pieces Together

The classes are going forward while being mindful of potential travel restrictions.

Lavender Ribbon Initiative

Four webinars remain.

AFG Grant Application Periods – Chief Flynn

Several AFG grants are currently open including one specifically for COVID PPE. See the agenda or AFG website for grant deadlines.

Roundtable, Announcement, and Committee Updates

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

Chief Cook: I am continuing to work with Spencer on the grant to develop a class about the Red Ribbon Report, which will essentially be a class about leading the transition. We are about halfway done with content before sending everything to the editors/curriculum development company. Sometime late summer we will have a draft ready to show the entire board. There has been a lot of good work and ideas.

Chief Flynn thanked everyone for attending the call.

The call adjourned at 4:48 PM.