



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

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Officers Section

**VCOS Board Teleconference**  
**Wednesday, October 18, 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 Jason Catrambone, Chief Norvin Collins, Chief Jim Cook, Chief Rich Cowger, Chief Charles Flynn, Chief Ed Rush, Chief Timothy Wall, Chief Fred Windisch

Absent: Chief James Seavey

Staff: Ms. Kelly Ameen, Ms. Jenny Bragiel Cozad

The call started at 4pm.

#### **Welcome and Agenda Overview - Chief Wall**

The VCOS board reviewed the September minutes.

**Motion by Chief Windisch and seconded by Chief Flynn to approve the minutes from the September call. Motion carried.**

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

The theme is "Building Leaders from the Ground Up."

- Registration Update
  - Registration is now sold out
  - Vendors are also sold out
- Tentative Schedule (You will get a detailed schedule like usual before the conference)
  - Dinner Wednesday 6:30pm, Bob Heilman's Beachcomber (significant others welcome, no other invited guests)
  - Thursday, 3:30pm – VCOS board and IAFC leadership meeting
  - Follow general Symposium schedule for Thurs-Sun
  - Board Meeting, Sunday 12:30-5pm
  - Sunday dinner 6:30pm, Marina Cantina– friends/supporters, significant others
  - Monday travel back
- Ms. Kelly Ameen will be sending out a more detailed schedule closer to Symposium in the Sun
- Speaker introductions by VCOS board members
  - Chief Rich Cowger and Chief Heather Burford are assigning the speaker introductions

- Try to meet the speakers and get to know them beforehand, so you are not just reading their biographies. Chief Cowger and Chief Burford will also help guide people on the introductions.
- There will be a Symposium in the Sun Committee call next Thursday, October 26.
  - Ms. Sara Stehle has done an amazing job planning Symposium in the Sun this year.
- For the show shirts, the plan is to do something on a nice, quality material Hawaiian shirt to honor Chief Brunacini.
  - The main plan is to do a caricature of Chief Brunacini on one sleeve with *BE NICE!* written underneath.
  - Chief Larry Curl is working on finding nice, quality material Hawaiian shirts
  - We are still deciding on the VCOS logo placement.
  - For the walk shirts, the plan is to have the same logo as the show shirts

### **Awards and Scholarship Updates- Chief Collins**

- Buckman Award – Chiefs Rush and Collins
  - Winner = Chief Judy Thill (MN). Will be officially announced after the 20<sup>th</sup>. Don't say anything until then.
- R&R/Illness-Injury Prevention Awards – Chiefs Windisch and Black
  - R&R Winner = Washington County Volunteer Fire & Rescue (MD)
  - Illness-Injury Prevention Winner = Staunton Fire Prevention District (IL)
    - Chief Windisch recused himself from the review of the applications and participation in the selection of this award to prevent bias
- Symposium Scholarships – Chiefs Flynn and Seavey
  - Winners = Chief William Jones (Roanoke Island VFD, NC) and Captain Richard Andrews (Gilford Fire Rescue in NH)
- Emerging Leader Scholarship – Chief Wall
  - Winner = Chief Joseph Bartos (West Point, VA)
- Ms. Ameen will be coordinating with the winners.
  - She will be reminding them that they should dress in Class A Uniforms and sit towards the front, as they will be on stage
  - Please assist Ms. Ameen with their coordination while at Symposium in the Sun
- The winners' names and departments will be run on the slides during breaks

### **Old Business**

Chief Flynn shared that the flash drives with VCOS materials will be ordered this week and should be ready for Symposium in the Sun.

Chief Wall explained that there was an email going around about donations to Florida and Texas, and then other disasters happened. It was decided to draw attention to safe and vetted donation options that would support all of the disasters, instead of only supporting one. The plan is to have a slide and signage with the ways to help at Symposium in the Sun. Ms. Ameen is coordinating with Ms. Stehle on the slide and the creation of the 2 signs.

50 Yellow Ribbon Report meeting invitations were sent out and already we have received back 20 responses.

### **New Business – Chief Collins**

CPSE will be hosting a roundtable luncheon on Friday of Symposium in the Sun. Chief Wall asked the board members for recommendations of individuals to participate in the roundtable. The ideal participant is from a small rural department. Chief Wall also asked for volunteers to assist him with facilitating the meeting. CPSE will be providing the lunch with the meeting taking place 12:30 – 2:30 PM on Friday.

Kidde Step Up and Stand Out will be doing the formal announcement of the winner on October 19 at Firehouse Expo in Nashville, TN. A representative from Kidde was unable to make the presentation, so Chief Flynn will be handling the whole presentation. The winner was Wiggins (MS) Fire Department. The winner will be at Symposium in the Sun, and the winner's video will be shown at Symposium in the Sun. VCOS provides a comp registration to the winner.

### **Roundtable, Announcements, Committee/Project Updates**

Chief Flynn: Chief Seavey wanted everyone to know that the Cancer Alliance is meeting next week.

Chief Black: I will be in Fairfax next week for the International Association of Fire Chiefs Board of Directors orientation. During my visit, I will meet with the VWS team on Monday, and probably will meet about the Women Fire Chiefs Council as well. I am looking forward to being in Fairfax.

Chief Cook: At Chair Wall's request, myself and Chief Cowger are working on the Be Inclusive Initiative. We are working on getting a new poster for Symposium in the Sun.

Chief Cowger: Thank you to the instructors of the FROG presentation. They did a great job.

Kelly: Reminder, if you have a board packet report it is due by Wednesday, October 25.

Chief Collins: Had two FROG courses - both went well, one in Montana and one in Alaska. Word is spreading about FROG. Everything has been submitted for the budget. We only received a couple of questions on it so far. I will send it out to everyone, once I get the all clear from Finance.

Chief Wall: I look forward to seeing everyone in Florida. Let me know if you are interested in participating/facilitating the CPSE meeting or have someone you would recommend participating in it. Chief Catrambone - What was the committee you were working on?

Chief Catrambone: It is the ALERT grant. We haven't had anything new. It is up and operational.

The call ended at 4:34 pm ET.

The next call will be November 12 at Symposium in the Sun.