



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

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**VCOS Board Teleconference
Wednesday, September 9, 2020
3:00 p.m. Eastern/2:00 p.m. Central/1:00 p.m. Mountain/12:00 p.m. Pacific
Attendees dialed-in via Teams Meeting**

MINUTES

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

Staff: Ms. Kelly Ameen

The call started at 3:07 PM.

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

Chief Cowger started the call.

Motion by Chief Oettel and seconded by Chief Catrambone to approve the July and August (Annual Meeting and also Board Meeting) minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Chief Cowger reviewed the newly appointed VCOS officers and welcomed Chief Collins back as an At-large Director.

Vice Chair's Report – Chief Cowger

No update.

International Director Report – Chief Catrambone

Chief Catrambone will be on his first IAFC board call on Monday.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report – Ms. Ameen on behalf of Chief Windisch

2021 section budgets are due by the end of September to IAFC Treasurer Locke. Chief Windisch will send a draft to the VCOS board for review before it is submitted. He is expecting reduced revenue next year and will need to evaluate which expenses to cut so that we can have a balanced budget.

Symposium in the Sun – Chief Windisch

Symposium in the Sun cancellation notices for the in-person event have gone to registered attendees and exhibitors/sponsors. An email will go to all VCOS members soon as well.

Chief Yancey reported on the call he attended with Chief Buckman, Chief Windisch, Ms. Lisa Yonkers and the National Fire Sprinkler Association (NFSA). NFSA did a conference using Teams Live which worked very well and there is no cost. The live stream system used for FRI would cost about \$9-10K. We want to ensure we have the same quality as was used for Virtual FRI and Hazmat, but we are also being cost conscious. Tentative dates for the virtual Sun event are December 8, 9, 10 with a few hours of education each morning. Chief Buckman is working on the outline/script.

Communications Committee – Chief Rush

The Communications Committee had a call yesterday. The next quarterly e-newsletter will focus on good/success practices volunteer/combo departments have implemented during the pandemic (training, fundraising, recruitment, retention, etc.). We are aiming to get articles and information by September 25 and will release the newsletter at the beginning of October. Chief Collins suggested that the committee reach out to TargetSolutions for information on successful training ideas during the pandemic.

Education Programs Update – Chief Flynn

The next session of the Surviving the Job webinar series will be October 13 at 2PM ET - topic to be determined. Updates are being worked on with the Red Ribbon Report and the Yellow Ribbon Report. There is 1 BH&H class currently scheduled for November in Tennessee. For the Yellow Ribbon report, the writing of the updates is being done now. This report will have actionable, implementable recommendations and not just be awareness level. Chief Buckman will be meeting with Chief Pat Kenny to ensure the report has one voice since it has been written by several people. Mr. Jim Phillips may help with editing. Chief Cook reported that there has not be a Red Ribbon Report Committee call since the last VCOS board meeting. He continues to participate on developing the training content for the VWS grant focused on department transitions with Mr. Spencer Cheatham.

Old Business – Chief Flynn

No old business was discussed.

New Business – Chief Flynn

Ali Rothrock sent a proposal about a training she is putting together and asked for VCOS' support. VCOS would like more information. Chiefs Oettel and Flynn will try to get on the call tomorrow to find out more. We may want to put it through the project management template before making a decision.

Roundtable, Announcement, and Committee Updates

Chief Rush: Recently built a home and had some fire sprinkler issues and would like to share his experience. The group suggested he reach out to NFSA and the FLSS section.

Chief Flynn: He received an email from IAFC President Carrizzo that the current CEO search has been terminated and Mr. Rob Brown will continue as the interim CEO.

Chief Cowger: There are lots of wildland fires out west. He is currently on assignment in Idaho. Unfortunately, a few fires have had shelter deployments with some injuries.

The call adjourned at 3:39 PM.