



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

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### **VCOS Board Teleconference Wednesday, September 14, 2016**

**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 Dan Eggleston, Chief Charles Flynn, Chief Randy Larson, Chief Ed Rush, Chief Jim Seavey, Chief Timothy Wall, Chief Fred Windisch

Absent: None

Staff: Ms. Kelly Ameen

The call started at 4pm ET.

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

Chairman Wall thanked everyone for joining the call. We express sympathy to Chief Flynn with the passing of his father, Stephen Flynn. VCOS made a \$200 donation to the Wethersfield Firefighters Association in his memory. Chief Flynn thanked the board for their support during this time.

#### **2017 VCOS Budget – Chief Collins**

Chief Collins, Ginger (IAFC Controller) and Kelly met with Chief Carrizzo at FRI to go through some budgeting questions and discuss the 2017 budget.

Chief Collins reviewed the 2017 budget with the board. The Paratech money for the newsletter is not reflected in income anymore and is instead a credit to the printing expense line. He is budgeting conservatively for Symposium revenue. Travel is all in one travel line item and not separated for flights, hotel, etc. He has added in some money for the yellow ribbon report, new booth, LEC, etc.

Chief Windisch asked plans for the Diversity Report and LEC. Chief Wall reached out to Mike Macdonald about the Diversity Report and there will be more information coming later in November. Chief Larson reported that the LEC program is moving forward. They are working on a pilot location for a 1 day pre-conference class and they also want to do a 2-day onsite facilitation. Chief Struble sent the LEC group some financial figures to review. Chief Larson will go through that and get more information from Chief Struble to report back to the board. Chief Collins thinks the financial numbers in Chief Struble's proposal are too high. There is nothing to be published for LEC. The classes/consulting would be self-supporting. Is Chief Struble coming to Symposium in the Sun for 2 days for one-on-one meetings? We need to

figure that out soon. Chief Larson will look into that and talk to Chief Struble about the plan for Symposium in the Sun.

Is there need to budget money for the Step Up and Stand Out campaign for 2017? We can probably pull from the travel money.

The SHS Bullying project could relate to diversity. Should there be funds in the VCOS budget for the Diversity Report?

Chief Seavey mentioned NFFF Cancer meeting travel will include 1 alliance meeting per year (2 people) and 1 steering committee meeting (1 person). We need to make sure there are funds for that.

Chief Rush noted that new projects always come up. Should we add \$5,000 in organizational projects? Chief Collins explained that we can't just put in general money, we need to be specific with the actual project since it comes out of net assets.

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

Chief Windisch sent an email update with registration numbers and updates to the board. We are a little bit behind from last year due to timing of promotions, but he is not concerned since the hotels are selling out. There is now a block of rooms at the new Hampton Inn. Exhibitor slots have sold out. Speakers have been confirmed. Room assignments are being worked on now. Chief Wilson is working on the speaker introduction assignments.

There is a call at the end of the month to discuss winners for the VFIS awards. Chief Collins and Rush are working on the Buckman Award and will get on a call with Jeff Siegrist. Chief Collins will send an email to schedule that call. Scholarship winners have been notified. It was good the committee picked an alternate because one of the original winners is unable to attend.

Book your flight if you haven't already. Get hotel room dates to Kelly ASAP. Board members will introduce speakers. We may have some meetings on Thursday and Friday, but we will leave Saturday open. The board will be introduced during Friday's opening session. The board meeting will be Sunday from noon-5pm.

### **Communications Committee – Chiefs Black, Rush, Larson**

The committee had a conference before FRI in August. The newsletter was sent to the printer and is being mailed soon. Chief Larson is working on a timeline for 2017 newsletters. Chief Black will be helping with the Symposium app. The November issue of IAFC On Scene will focus on volunteer issues. Chiefs Black and Eggleston have written articles. VWS staff also has written some articles.

### **Old Business**

Chief Flynn: The Yellow Ribbon Report is moving forward. There will be a meeting at Symposium in the Sun on Wednesday for it. He will be sending an invitation letter out to stakeholders this week.

### **New Business**

Chief Eggleston reported that his IAFC 2<sup>nd</sup> VP campaign is going well. He has written some articles, is using social media, and trying to get endorsements from various groups. He requested time to address the audience at Symposium in the Sun. Chief Windisch stated that there is time on the schedule. Voting is April-May.

Chief Eggleston also reported on a new program in conjunction with IAFC where they have reviewed 40 applications of responders injured on the job that will receive financial support. The announcement of awardees will be coming out soon.

The Company Officers Section and the Executive Fire Officers Section are starting a partnership on an ethics project. Chief Sinclair is now officially IAFC President. There is a lot going on at the IAFC and it will be a busy year.

Chief Eggleston left the call so the board could have further discussion.

Chief Wall checked with Mark Light and VCOS can contribute to Chief Eggleston's campaign if we want. Can we do an in-kind donation instead of a cash donation? Many on the board felt that an in-kind donation was more appropriate and would be perceived better by VCOS members. We could establish an in-kind donation amount and ask how Chief Eggleston would want to use it.

**Motion by Chief Windisch and seconded by Chief Flynn to authorize a \$1,000 in-kind donation for our endorsed 2<sup>nd</sup> VP candidate, Chief Eggleston's campaign, in conjunction with discussion with the VCOS Chair on the desired use for the funds. Motion carried.**

Chief Larson will be the VCOS rep on the first Bullying in the Fire Service call. He will send a summary of the call to the board prior to the October call. Chief Larson also has a few other people in mind that could help with this initiative.

Chief Black had a call with Chris Reilly from FSTAR who talked about physicals and the physician guide at the FRI board meeting. They brainstormed some ideas to move the effort forward. They are trying to get the message out of the importance of getting regular physicals and getting checked (not necessarily having to be NFPA 1582 compliant physicals). Chris Reilly has 15 minutes to speak on Sunday during closing session at Symposium in the Sun. They also had the idea of gathering some testimonials for a video to support getting checked. Can we give out t-shirts at Symposium in the Sun about getting checked? Chief Black has a vendor willing to do graphic design for free and give a rate of \$5/shirt. She may also be able to get some sponsors. The board agreed that she can gather more information and bring back a proposal to get this done. We need to encourage firefighters to have a relationship with their doctor and go regularly. Should we reach out to SHS and NVFC?

The EMS Section will be at Symposium in the Sun. They have a meeting Friday with the CEO of AMR. Does VCOS want to send a rep? They are establishing a reimbursement taskforce for transporting with ambulances. Chief Larson suggested Chief Noonan. Chief Seavey will send a name too. Chief Black has someone in mind. Chief Andrews from Sterling could be a possibility. EMS may pay for travel for this. Chief Wall will reach out to Chief Becker for clarification

The IAFC received another 3-year SAFER recruitment and retention grant for about \$1.7 million to create an online volunteer officer development training program and make it more flexible for volunteers. More details coming later. The IAFC will also be doing program management and support for the Tennessee Fire Chiefs Association SAFER grant and also the

Connecticut Fire Chiefs Association SAFER grant. These were all awarded in the last few weeks.

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

Black: The National VWS pilots and Council are coming down to Symposium in the Sun. The FRI Program Planning Committee will be reviewing session applications and doing a site visit in Charlotte.

Flynn: Thanks for the letters of support for his current situation in his fire department. Also thanks for the care and concern regarding the passing of his father.

Larson: He will work on the proposed costs for LEC and Symposium logistics for that program.

Seavey: Chief Catrambone may be able to help with the cancer initiatives since Chief Eggleston is busy with his campaign. He will send names to Chief Wall of people interested in the cancer committee. This will be an agenda item for November.

Wall: Chiefs Flynn, Rush, and Wall will go to Firehouse Expo in Nashville in October. He will also be coming to the NFFF Memorial weekend in October.

The next call is Wednesday, October 12, 2016 at 4pm ET.

The call ended at 5:32pm.