



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

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VCOS Board Teleconference Thursday, April 9, 2015

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

1-866-809-4014

Passcode: 4230612

MINUTES

Present: Chief Norvin Collins, Chief Shane Crutcher, Chief Dan Eggleston, Chief Charles Flynn, Chief Ed Rush, Chief Jim Seavey, Chief Timothy Wall, and Chief Fred Windisch

Absent: Chief Randy Larson and Chief Jason Catrambone

IAFC Staff: Ms. Sonja Palomaki

The call started at 4:05pm.

Welcome and Agenda Overview - Chief Wall

Chief Wall welcomed the board members. Ms. Palomaki is filling in for Ms. Ameen.

Motion by Chief Shane Crutcher and seconded by Chief Norvin Collins to approve the minutes from the March 2015 board meeting. Motion carried.

IAFC Strategic Direction – Mr. Mark Light

Mr. Light is traveling and is not able to be on the call.

NVFC SAFER Update – Chief Flynn

The report was attached with the agenda.

NFFF Strategic Visioning Project – Chiefs Flynn and Catrambone

The report was attached to the agenda. There is no further information or additions.

Fire Chief of the Year Nominations – Chief Wall

- <http://www.iafc.org/chiefoftheyear>
Information is on the website with the qualifications for applicants/nominations. Chief Windisch is recommending Charles Addington from Wolfforth, TX. Chief Seavey put forth Bryon Andrews from Sterling Volunteer Rescue Squad, VA.
- Nominations due June 25.

Action Item: May Board Meeting agenda item - to revisit the Fire Chief of the Year Award.

Volunteer POV Response Paper – Chief Eggleston

- A draft was sent to the Safety, Health and Survival Section (SHSS). Their feedback will be incorporated and then sent on to the IAFC Communications team for review.
- The draft is final. Chief Eggleston is waiting for feedback from Richard Miller (staff liaison for the SHSS) before printing the publication. VCOS would like the SHSS to endorse and participate on this project. However, it was suggested that VCOS continues with publication if the SHSS does not respond within a week. NVFC gave good feedback.

Action item: Chief Eggleston will contact Billy Goldfeder and Mr. Mark Light.

CFSI – Chief Wall

- The following people will be at the VCOS table: Chief Crutcher + 2 guests (Froman Peters and Mike Wolford), Flynn, Eggleston, Oprandy, LaBelle, Wall + one guest, Mr. Evan Davis
- Breakfast with Administrator Mitchell from USFA – meet Friday at 9am in the Hilton lobby by the restaurant. Everyone is welcome to attend.

May Board Meeting – Chief Wall

- Schedule:
 - Friday, May 1: NASCAR deck lid dedication at the National Fire Heritage Center with a tour of the Center and a lunch reception. The board meeting to follow in the afternoon on the NFA campus.
 - Saturday, May 2: Board meeting all day at the Vigilant Hose Company
- Hotel: Courtyard Marriott Gettysburg
- Thursday, Friday, and Saturday night dinners have been arranged.
- Friday – dress is Class A uniforms (no hats).
- Saturday – dress is business casual
- The Sunday fire station tours are optional. Chief Seavey is scheduling and confirming the department visits. They will be announced at the May meeting.

Action item: Board members are to contact Kelly Ameen with their flight or driving schedules.

Symposium in the Sun – Symposium Committee – Chief Norvin Collins

The keynote speakers have been confirmed and the committee is finalizing the breakout sessions. Staff is working on the cards; registration opens soon; hotel rooms with king-sized are all booked. Chief Crutcher is waiting for the QR code for the app.

Action item: Chief Eggleston will inquire about Kelvin Cochran speaking.

Labor & Management Collaboration Project – Chief Larson (not on the call)

There is a lot of confusion about the project. The Board would like information about the meeting. **Action item: At the May Board Meeting, Chief Larson present an overview/outline of the Labor & Management Collaboration Project to be held in Colorado in July.** At the San Diego meeting \$5,000 - 10,000 was allotted. A VCOS committee is working on meeting details and arrangements. Chief Richards' presentation at the July meeting in Denver should be also given at FRI.

Communications Committee - Chiefs Crutcher, Larson, Catrambone

Chief Wall reminded the Board that the elections are coming soon. Chief Rush requested information about a VCOS Board member's role.

Chief Crutcher reported that the ad campaign has increased traffic on the VCOS sites significantly, e.g. Facebook has 2,200 views, up from 1,000.

Ms. Joelle Fishkin has information for the newsletter.

Exhibiting Taskforce – Chief Seavey

A report will be given at the May Board Meeting.

FDIC – Chiefs Wall and Seavey

- Help with the IAFC Booth – VCOS members attending FDIC are encouraged to help at the IAFC booth
- FCSN Comedy Night – participants will include VCOS and the Firefighter Cancer Support Network. It will be April 21st at 6:30pm at the Indianapolis Marriott Downtown.

Partnerships – Chief Wall

- Near Miss – Chief Wall will get clarification on the proposal that was attached to the April agenda. There was a question of rewarding bad behavior. What is the criteria for choosing scholarship recipients? Who will manage the scholarship? What is the application process? Chief Windisch suggested that the scholarship be a one-time only award. (Ms. Laura Bell is the staff manager for Near Miss.) Chief Dan Kerrigan and Chief Eddie Buchanan should have more information. It was suggested that the award be given to the department/person who can provide a tangible program developed to eliminate a near miss issue. The award could be given out at the Symposium General Session or at a breakout session. Chief Collins will find a time in the Symposium schedule. **Action item: Chiefs Wall**

and Rush will explain the Near Miss proposal to the Board in May with clarifications, a proposal, and an administrative work load.

- Firehouse – the IAFC and VCOS are comfortable with the verbal agreement between VCOS and Editor in Chief Tim Sendelbach to provide Firehouse with articles and educational opportunities. It is a one year trial to determine the benefits.

VISION – Chief Wall

- Held a conference call with Chief Parr to reinvigorate this project and keep it going and fresh. Several other chiefs – Waters, Wilson, Larson and Crutcher were identified to work on VISION. More information should be continuously added to VISION.
- **Action item: Add VISION to the May agenda.**

Roundtable and Committee/Project Updates

Chief Windisch – Sent by-law modifications for next year. **Action item: Review VCOS bylaws change (prepared by Chief Windisch) at the May Meeting.**

ISO and You had 60 attendees. Chief Curl did an excellent job. Of the 60, those attendees who are IAFC members, and not VCOS members, will receive a one year complimentary VCOS membership.

Chief Seavey has been selected to serve on the Cancer Strategy Committee that meets in Phoenix, AZ on May 5, 2015.

Kevin Quinn will be the new chair of NVFC after the CFSI dinner.

Chief Rush is attending the Eastern Division Conference at the New York State Fire Chiefs Conference. **Action item: Ask Kelly Ameen to send VCOS material (pens, symposium cards, applications, etc.) to Chief Rush for distribution at the conference.**

Beyond Hoses and Helmet articles for the next newsletter should be sent to Ms. Fishkin.

The next meeting will be May 1 – 2 in Emmitsburg, MD.

The call ended at 5:12pm ET.