



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

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**VCOS Board Teleconference  
Wednesday, January 9, 2019  
4 p.m. Eastern/3 p.m. Central/2 p.m. Mountain/1 p.m. Pacific  
Attendees dialed-in via WebEx Meetings**

## MINUTES

Present: Chief Donna Black, Chief Charles Flynn, Chief Timothy Wall, Chief Al Yancey, Chief Ed Rush, Chief Ron Oettel, Chief Jim Cook, Chief Fred Windisch

Absent: Chief Rich Cowger, Chief Jason Catrambone, Chief Norvin Collins

Staff: Ms. Jenny Bragiel Cozad

The call started at 4:03pm.

### Welcome - Chief Flynn

Chief Flynn welcomed the VCOS board to the call.

### Bylaw Changes

The VCOS board discussed several areas in the bylaws that could use further clarification.

**Action Item: Chair Flynn and Chief Wall to discuss potential changes to the bylaws with Chief Joe Florentino.**

**Action Item: Discuss the bylaws further during the February board meeting.**

### Breakout Groups

Chair Flynn reminded everybody that they will be expected to report on their progress during the February board meeting. Currently the groups did not have any new updates.

### Breakout Group Update

The VCOS Board reviewed the group assignments and reminded everyone they will be reporting out at the February board meeting.

### February Board Meeting

Chair Flynn reviewed the schedule and logistics for the board meeting in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee.

**Action Item: All VCOS Board Members to book their flights and send the information to Ms. Bragiel Cozad.**

Chief Black updated the group on the progress and agenda for the session with Ms. Kelly Walsh.

### CFSI

Chair Flynn and Chief Collins will be representing the VCOS in a joint presentation with NVFC at 2:00pm ET on April 24 at CFSI. The presentation will be on the Yellow Ribbon Report on mental wellness and the Lavender Ribbon Report on cancer prevention.

Chief Wall provided an update on his work with the IAFC's government relations team on planning meetings for VCOS board members during CFSI.

Chief Flynn reviewed the list of seats taken at the CFSI VCOS table. There were 3 openings remaining.

**Action Item: Email Ms. Bragiel Cozad if you would like a seat at the VCOS table at CFSI.**

Chief Wall is working with the NVFC on the details of their business meeting that is usually after CFSI. Chief Wall will be the VCOS liaison for this meeting.

The VCOS board is also working on a celebration of Chief James P. Seavey, Sr. in April, which will include a presentation of the Lavender Ribbon Report.

### **Symposium in the Sun**

Chief Windisch provided an update on Symposium in the Sun.

**Action Item: Send Chief Windisch speaker recommendations.**

### **Symposium in the West**

The VCOS board discussed how they measure success, and posed the question what should Symposium in the West be or look like moving forward.

**Action Item: Discussion on the future of Symposium in the West to be added to the February board meeting agenda.**

### **FRI**

FRI will be in Atlanta, Georgia August 7 – 10, 2019. The VCOS Annual Meeting will be Thursday, August 8.

**Action Item: Save the date.**

### **New Business**

- Printing Reports
  - Discussion took place on the value of having and giving away print copies of reports versus cost
  - Alternative handouts were discussed including USBs and promotional wallet cards

### **Old Business**

- New/Interim Fire Chief Guide
  - A draft will be submitted to the VCOS board for review before the February meeting
  - The committee plans to have the guide ready for Symposium in the West, even if it is initially a digital release

- Mentoring and Generational Guidance Report
  - Many groups in the IAFC and outside of the IAFC are looking at this topic. It was recommended that the VCOS works with others on this project or forms a committee with the various groups to prevent duplication.

**Action Item: Discuss further during the February board meeting.**

- Bullying Taskforce Request
  - More clarification for the request is needed. It was recommended the Bullying Taskforce do a presentation at Symposium in the Sun or Symposium in the West

**Action Item: Chief Flynn to reach out to Chief Larson for more information.**

- 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
  - Working on a proposal for the 2020 Calendar for the February Board Meeting
  - Several ideas were recommended including:
    - Giving away or raffling off a set number of educational courses to members
    - A silver commemorative challenge coin

### **Roundtable, Announcement, and Committee Updates**

Many on the call expressed their excitement for the February meeting in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee and gratitude for everybody's hard work.

Chief Yancey: Any update on the educational work on BH&H and FROG?

Chief Flynn: Chief Buckman will be giving an update in February, they are meeting January 25-27. He created the Lavender Ribbon Report course in New York and will be presenting the course to us in February.

Chief Black: Had a joint call with Women Chiefs Council and iDELP recently. We are trying to do a joint meeting and are looking to co-locate at Symposium in the West. The meeting won't really impact Symposium in the West. The meeting's attendees may attend the opening ceremony keynote presentation. I will be doing double duty if the meeting takes place. The two groups will take advantage of the hotel block but will be meeting most likely off site. Attendees may want to attend sessions on Saturday. I will report more in February.

Chief Flynn thanked everyone for attending the call.

The call adjourned at 4:58pm.

The next meeting will be February 8-9, 2019 in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee.