



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

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### VCOS Board Teleconference

**Wednesday, June 13, 2018**

**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 Norvin Collins, Chief Rich Cowger, Chief Charles Flynn, Chief Ed Rush, Chief Timothy Wall, Chief Jim Cook, Chief Fred Windisch

Guests: Chief Tim Whitham, Chief John Whisenant, Chief John Mohler, Chief Ron Oettel, Chief Al Yancey, Chief Michael Mulligan

Absent: Chief Jason Catrambone, Chief James Seavey

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

The call started at 4:02pm.

#### Welcome and Agenda Overview - Chief Wall

Chief Wall welcomed the board and guests to the call. He explained that having VCOS board candidates on the call was new, but he hoped they find it helpful in learning more about the VCOS board.

#### Motion by Chief Cowger and seconded by Chief Collins to approve the minutes from the May meeting. Motion carried.

#### Small Department Pilots – Chief Cowger, Chief Black and Chief Wall

Chief Wall mentioned that he brought up the VCOS effort with the small department program on the Division Secretary call and asked the divisions to partner with VCOS and offer reduced or waived dues. He has not heard from any divisions but had received a call from the IAFC.

#### Awards and Scholarships

Chief Black provided an update on the closed FRI Scholarships. There were 6 applications this year.

#### FRI 2018

Chief Wall reviewed the update FRI schedule and provided information to the candidates about their role with FRI if they are elected to the VCOS board.

**Action Item: All board members need to sign up to work the booth. Please email Chief Rush to sign up.**

**Action Item: Please schedule your flights for FRI and send to Ms. Bragiel Cozad.**

**25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration- Chief Windisch**

Chief Windisch explained he is working on possible February 2020 dates for a celebration cruise. The 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Committee has several other ideas to celebrate but have not acted on them. He recommended holding off on reaching out to Shell until the celebration committee had a clear plan of action. The board agreed.

**Lavender Ribbon Report- Chief Collins**

Chief Collins provided an update on the report. It is on track for being printed for FRI, and the committee is working on getting sponsors for it. Currently the designer is working on the cover and it should be going to the IAFC editor very soon. The committee is working hard to get the report to the IAFC Board for their July call. The plan is to print 1,000 for NVFC, 1,000 for VCOS and 500 for others to handout. This means the report will not be mailed to all VCOS members. The board discussed whether it should be sent to all members. While members value receiving the report, it can generate a lot of waste. The board decided to wait until the size of the report is known, so the cost to send it to all members can be calculated.

There will be a Learning Lab Session on the report at FRI, all board members are encouraged to attend.

**Symposium in the Sun- Chief Windisch**

Symposium in the Sun as of the call had 226 full conference paid attendees this is significantly higher than the same time a year ago. Chief Windisch believes this is a result of having to register prior to getting a hotel at the negotiated rate.

Symposium in the Sun has several speakers in the process of being finalized, and the next step will be to work with the committee on figuring out where all of the speakers fit into the schedule.

**Invitation to the IAFC Board to attend Symposium in the Sun- Chief Black**

The IAFC Board has been invited to attend Symposium in the Sun with a complimentary registration. So far, the director of the Eastern Division has accepted the offer. The board has until September 28 to decide.

**Facilitation and Presentation with Kelly Walsh of 1Smartcareer - Chief Black**

Ms. Kelly Walsh is working with Chief Windisch for her presentation at Symposium in the Sun, and has a call scheduled with Chief Black to go over questions for the mini interviews and the goal of them. A contract with Ms. Walsh is being finalized.

**National VWS Summit - Chief Wall**

The board reviewed who will be attending the summit. Chief Wall asked the board to consider additional invites, as Ms. Monica Willemssen has approved the VCOS Board to invite up to 4 additional attendees.

**Action Item: Send recommended additional attendees to Chief Wall.**

**20th Anniversary of FireFighterCloseCalls.com: The Secret List - Chief Wall**

The FirefighterCloseCalls.com reached out for support of their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *The Secret List* charity t-shirt fundraiser that will donate 100% of the profits split 50/50 between the Firefighter Cancer Support Network and the Ray Pfeifer Memorial Foundation. The VCOS

Executive Committee recommended a donation of \$200. There was discussion by the board of possibly donating more.

**Motion by Chief Windisch and seconded by Chief Cowger to donate \$200 to FirefighterCloseCalls.com in support of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *The Secret List*. Motion carried.**

**Action Item: Place an announcement of the fundraiser in the next VCOS newsletter.**

**NACo Board - Chief Collins**

Chief Collins provided a brief overview of the committee and how it came to be. He emphasized that Chief Singer has done an excellent job and has been extremely active with the committee. The concern with the committee is that it is taking up most of the committee budget line. Chief Collins recommended that VCOS continue to fully fund the VCOS NACo representative. He explained that if the section partnered with the IAFC, he would be influenced by the IAFC and would need to push the IAFC as a whole's agenda. Currently, the VCOS NACo representative is able to focus on solely representing the VCOS.

**Motion by Chief Cowger and seconded by Chief Black to reappoint Chief Singer to NACo with full funding from the VCOS. Motion carried.**

**Booth Update – Chief Collins and Chief Rush**

Chief Collins updated the board on the progress on the new VCOS booth. The new design will be sent to the board once received from Mr. Scott Beecher and Mr. Dan Seidberg.

The VCOS will have a presence at the New York Chiefs Association's meeting with Chief Rush, and at the New England Chiefs Association's meeting with Chief Wall.

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

Chief Wall: Thank you to the candidates for attending this call. This is something new we are trying this year, to help candidates gain a better understanding of the board.

Ms. Ameen: Dreams come true. I went to the Capitals' parade yesterday. Has been an amazing journey so happy to have won the cup. Thank you to the board for the donation to Langley.

Ms. Bragiel Cozad: Thank you everyone for your hard work and flexibility as we try some new things with the scholarships and awards.

Chief Windisch: The current Pierce agreement is with the IAFC, I hope they let it stand.

Ms. Ameen: The agreement meets Ms. Leslie Distler's needs, it should be all set.

Chief Windisch: Pierce doesn't want anything more, please tell Ms. Distler not to worry about it. We will have a presence in Peoria, Illinois on August 23 and will be speaking. May want some VCOS items, but not sure yet.

Chief Wall: We appreciate all the support from Pierce, VFIS and Provident. We reward them for this by using their logos even sometimes when they do not donate money for an initiative, as a way of saying thank you to them for their many years of support.

Chief Cook: I had a brief conversation with the Leading the Transition group. I couldn't attend their class in June and am planning on attending the August class. Will report back the board following attending it. We will be starting the next newsletter and be inclusive poster very soon.

Chief Black: I was at the iWomen conference, where we did a presentation with Monica. Had a meeting with the iWomen board and the Women Fire Chiefs Council. It went really well. We did a panel at the conference as well and received good feedback from it. iWomen want us to do a webinar vlog with them.

I am also working with Ken Stuebing and his admin Donna to schedule a talk. We have both been very busy, just trying to find time.

Chief Collins: Have 3 FROG classes this month and am working on getting instructors for them. Looking forward to seeing everyone at FRI.

Chief Wall: First weekend in June attended NVFC's recruitment and retention conference. Had several speaking opportunities, and it was really great. They have requested to meet with the VCOS board members on Friday at FRI, I am trying to coordinate the exact time. Want to bring attention to the Learning Lab Session about the Lavender Ribbon Report headed up by Chief Collins and Chief Seavey on Saturday and one on the Yellow Ribbon Report headed up by Chief Flynn.

I will send bylaws to everyone including those seeking to be elected. In Section 8, please read the 2 paragraphs. Have a bylaw on how to elect the chair, vice-chair and secretary/treasurer.

Chief Wall thanked everyone for attending the call and for their hard work.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, July 11 at 4pm ET.