



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

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VCOS Board Teleconference Thursday, March 12, 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 Jason Catrambone, Chief Norvin Collins, Chief Shane Crutcher, Chief Dan Eggleston, Chief Charles Flynn, Chief Randy Larson, Chief Ed Rush, Chief Jim Seavey, Chief Timothy Wall, Chief Fred Windisch

Absent: None

IAFC Staff: Ms. Kelly Ameen

The call started at 4:03pm.

Welcome and Agenda Overview - Chief Wall

Welcome new board member, Chief Rush. He is the Chief of Hartsdale Fire District, a combination department. He also has 39 years of volunteer fire service experience with Elmsford. He was the Chief there and is currently now Deputy Chief. In addition, he serves as an elected official on the Elmsford village board.

An updated board roster with Chief Rush's information was sent to the group. Double check the roster and send any changes to Ms. Ameen.

Motion by Chief Flynn and seconded by Chief Windisch to approve the minutes from the February board meeting. Motion carried.

Chief Chris Christopoulos was appointed to the CPSE CPC Committee to represent VCOS. The former VCOS representative stepped down. We submitted Chief Crutcher last year, but he was not selected for appointment. We did reach out to a few other VCOS members before selecting Chief Christopoulos. Some VCOS board members were concerned with the cost of having a representative on this committee. Chief Wall spoke to Mark Light and he thought it was important to have someone representing VCOS. Chief Wall then talked to Chief Christopoulos and we will try this for a year and see how it goes. There is potential for Chief Christopoulos to do some cost sharing with his department like for the FRI meeting.

The National Fire Heritage Center Board of Directors has opened nominations for the Fire and

Emergency Services Hall of Legends, Legacies and Leaders (HLLL). Nominations will be accepted from April 15 through June 1, 2015. The HLLL provides individual recognition of significant contributions and distinguished service to the Fire and Emergency Services mission.

NVFC SAFER Update – Chief Flynn

Minutes and other material from the last call were attached to the VCOS board agenda. Chief Seavey was on the call in place of Chief Flynn since he was on a flight. Chief Flynn reported that there was a call yesterday. The same information as was shared with the VCOS board in the call agenda attachments were discussed on that call.

IAFC Strategic Direction – Chief Eggleston

The IAFC Strategic Direction draft plan was sent to the VCOS board for review. This was started at the IAFC Board meeting in Oklahoma City. People were broken up into groups to discuss this. The IAFC needs to be viewed as a leadership organization and not just a chiefs' organization. There should be more of a company officer focus. In addition, effective training should be a priority. The board wants to see the IAFC have more of an international presence and be more inclusive. We need to aim for new leaders. Our current membership is made up of many members/leaders that have been in the fire service for a long time.

Action item: Chief Wall suggested that Chief Eggleston mention to the IAFC board that VCOS plans to have a presence at the Interschutz Conference in Germany.

CFSI – Chief Wall

So far the following people have expressed interest in sitting at the VCOS table for the CFSI dinner: Chiefs Crutcher + 2 guests, Eggleston, Flynn, Oprandy, LaBelle, Wall + 2 guests, and Mr. Evan Davis. There are a total of 10 seats available.

Chief Seavey is sitting with the Maryland group. Usually Pierce and some of our partners like VFIS have tables and may have extra tickets if needed.

VCOS does not have any official meetings planned, but VCOS board members in town may get together for breakfast. You are on your own with setting up meetings with your local representatives and senators.

May Board Meeting – Chief Wall

The next board meeting will be May 1-2 in Emmitsburg, MD. On May 1 there will be a presentation of the #22 Shell-Pennzoil NASCAR deck lid to the Fire Heritage Museum. We will then meet in the afternoon after the presentation and then all day on May 2. Board members should come in on April 30 and leave on May 3. We plan to stay at the Courtyard Marriott in Gettysburg, about 20 minutes from Emmitsburg. **Action item: Book your flights ASAP and send Ms. Ameen your flight itinerary and hotel needs.** The closest airports are BWI and Harrisburg. We need to get personal information from each board member to get cleared to go through NFA security and get on campus.

Action item: Chief Seavey is working to set-up department visits in the area for Sunday after the board meeting.

Should we make a donation to the NFFF while we are there? We already did a raffle and walk/stair climb at the Symposium for NFFF. **Action item: Chief Windisch will find out how much was raised so we can mention that there.**

Motion by Chief Windisch and seconded by Chief Flynn to donate \$500 to the National Fire Heritage Museum to be presented on May 1. Motion carried.

Action item: Ms. Ameen will bring the check up with her.

Action item: Chief Collins will send an email invitation out to the NAFTD to come to the board meeting.

Symposium in the Sun – Symposium Committee

The Hilton room block is now open. King rooms are already sold out.

The Symposium Committee has had a couple of calls. They have nailed down the keynote speakers for opening and closing sessions. They also have confirmed some other presenters for the break-outs. Chief Holman is handling the pre-conference speakers. The next committee call in a few weeks will include IAFC staff. This year's theme is "Leadership, the force of the future starting today."

Is the committee looking for additional presenters? They might have some room for additional presenters, but they already have a lot. Send any interested speakers to Chiefs Collins and Windisch.

Labor & Management Collaboration Project – Chief Larson

The second draft is finished. The committee is working to get another conference call together at the beginning of next week. There will be a small roll-out at FRI. They are still working to get the labor side done. **Action item: Chief Larson will touch base with Chief Buckman.** Chief Randy Novak might be able to help with rooms in Indiana. Chief Larson explained that some of the original wording that some people wanted edited/changed will stay in the document since it is more of an internal document and it will be cleaned up later before use as a public document. They will put the goals and outcomes at the front of the report and have the direct quotes at the end as supplemental information.

Communications Committee – Chiefs Crutcher, Larson, Catrambone

Chief Crutcher reported that we need articles for the next newsletter. He continues to post VCOS information on social media like for the ISO class, etc.

In the future he'd like to do a social media campaign for about \$100 to grow VCOS' presence. The board thought that was a good idea and agreed there is budget to do that. **Action item: Chief Crutcher will move forward with social media ads.**

BH&H should be highlighted in the next newsletter to get more classes scheduled.

Chief Rush reported that he just organized a BH&H class in his area and he could send photos, quotes, an article, etc. for the newsletter. **Action item: Chief Rush with work with Chief Larson on a BH&H article for the next VCOS newsletter.**

Chief Catrambone is trying to get a You and ISO class in his region.

We should push educational opportunities through our marketing pilot program with iamresponding and Ward Diesel. **Action item: Chief Crutcher will invite them to the May meeting.**

Exhibiting Booth

We had a call with Firehouse to work on an informal partnership agreement. We are finalizing those details which will include a free booth at Firehouse Expo. We will not do the Pennsylvania Fire Expo in Harrisburg this year. Chief Rush suggested exhibiting at the New York Chiefs show. Chief Flynn suggested going to the New England conference in Portland.

Chief Seavey reported that the Exhibiting Taskforce is working on recommendations to the board by May. Chief Wall asked if they could make the recommendations on the April call. They will try.

Roundtable and Committee/Project Updates

Chief Eggleston: He will be presenting at Firehouse Expo and could help with the booth. The NVFC will review and hopefully approve the POV Response paper in April. **Action item: Chief Eggleston will send the latest version to Ms. Ameen so she can forward it to the new Safety Health and Survival liaison, Mr. Richard Miller.**

Chief Windisch: The You and ISO class in KY went well. We might need to delay the CT class due to lack of attendance. We will do one last marketing push for that class.

Chief Crutcher: He testified before the KY General Assembly recently. He also attended the You and ISO class in KY. VCOS picked up 2 new members from Owensboro during the class. Two people also joined the IAFC from the San Diego area department visits in February.

Ms. Ameen: We need to submit nominations for AFG SAFER reviewers by March 20. They must be IAFC members. Send any names ASAP.

Chief Seavey: Welcome Chief Rush to the board. **Action item: Ms. Ameen will send a membership list to Chiefs Seavey and Rush sorted by state.**

Chief Wall: Keep an eye out for an email from Ms. Ameen regarding travel for the May board meeting. The next call will be April 9 at 4pm ET.

The call ended at 5:06pm ET.