



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



4025 Fair Ridge Drive • Fairfax, VA 22033-2868 • Tel: 703/273-0911 • www.iafc.org

VCOS Board of Directors Meeting

May 12, 2016
Peppermill Resort – Executive Boardroom 1735
Reno, Nevada

Minutes

Present: Chief Donna Black, Chief Norvin Collins, Chief Dan Eggleston, Chief Charles Flynn, Chief Randy Larson, Chief James Seavey, Chief Timothy Wall, Chief Fred Windisch

Absent: Chief Ed Rush

Guests: Mr. Barry Balliet, Mr. Jeff Siegrist, Mr. Ron Oettel, Mr. Joe Giorgi, Mr. Dan Naylor, Mr. Skip Gibson, Mr. Michael Varney, Mr. Mike Worrell

Staff: Ms. Kelly Ameen, Ms. Kayla Duff, Ms. Tina Thirakounh

Introduction and Welcome of Guests – Chief Timothy Wall

Chief Wall welcomed everyone to the meeting which started at 9am with the Pledge of Allegiance.

VCOS Executive Committee Reports

The VCOS board reviewed the April call minutes.

Motion by Chief Flynn and seconded by Chief Collins to approve the minutes from the April board call. Motion carried.

Chief Rush is now head of the Communications Committee. Chief Wall attended CFSI activities and the NVFC annual dinner last week. Congress was not in session during CFSI. Connecticut chiefs did meet with some of their Congress people and staffers. Chief Wall spoke at a briefing on Capitol Hill. VCOS donated a Symposium in the Sun registration and 2 nights of hotel to the NVFC raffle.

A copy of the Fire Police and PSOB Legislation was given to the board to review.

Motion by Chief Seavey and seconded by Chief Windisch to support the Fire Police and PSOB Legislation. Motion carried.

Action item: Kelly will let Ken LaSala know that VCOS voted to support it.

The new VCOS bylaws have been signed by Mark Light. **Action item: Kelly will send them to the board and post on the VCOS website.**

Leigh Hubbard from ISFSI contacted Chief Wall about a grant that are submitting on basement fire research and tactics. VCOS supported their last grant on fire dynamics. It has synergies with IAFC's FSTAR program. Chief Windisch reported that Houston Fire was used in the FSTAR video. Leigh

Hubbard called in to the board meeting. She reported that 12,000 firefighters have been trained to date through their grant and they are now in the process of submitting the next phase of grant funding. This next grant will focus on basement fires. ISFSI wants VCOS to be part of the development process and to be part of the oversight committee. ISFSI has a fall instructor conference. VCOS can send a representative if it wants. ISFSI hopes to attend Symposium in the Sun as an exhibitor.

Action item: Follow up with ISFSI about fall conference and/or Symposium in the Sun.

Chief Flynn gave his Vice Chair Report. There is no update on Helix. Suffield did sign on as pilot. The NVFC SAFER grant is still ongoing. He will continue to forward minutes from the calls.

Chief Eggleston gave the International Director's Report. VCOS is getting a lot of discussion on IAFC board calls – Bylaws, diversity report, cancer position paper, etc. An outcome from the Governance Structure meeting was to have a Division Taskforce and a Section Taskforce. Chief Zikmund is heading the Division Taskforce. Chief Croom is chairing the Section Taskforce. They are looking to enhance the IAFC structure not change it. Chief Eggleston was reappointed to the IAFC executive committee. The IAFC executive committee did talk about the comment received on the cancer position statement and he explained the reasoning for not changing it. The IAFC executive committee is supporting that.

Chief Collins went through the VCOS Treasurer-Secretary Report. All board members received two pages in their packet on the budget. VCOS financials are in good shape. They are still waiting on the official close and audit on 2015. All educational classes are shown together on the budget report. Pierce support is going well. There was a suggestion to separate out net assets to make it easier to read. Some credit card charges have not hit financials yet.

Symposium in the West – Chief Collins

There are 111 registrations of which 77 are paid attendees. 8 are IAFC members but not VCOS, 22 are neither. We will have Cathy Feyh work to convert them. Thanks to the sponsors that stepped up to make this successful. Typically, it takes 2-3 years to get the word out about new conferences. We will be here next year May 5-6 and the contract is being routed through the IAFC for signatures. There will be a Kidde filming crew here on Friday to get more video submissions.

Kidde Volunteer “Step Up and Stand Out” Campaign - Chief Flynn

We are low on video submissions. The first submission was hard to live up to. We received 4-5 from CFSI and are hoping to get more tomorrow. Neal has asked that board members get their departments to submit nominations, but Chief Flynn explained the conflict of interest. The nomination deadline is May 21. Kidde wants to do it again next year. We gave Kidde 6 suggested locations for the media events, but we still need to finalize them. We will definitely do an event in Lake George, NY on June 11 (Rush and LaBelle recommended a host department for the media event) and also in Detroit Lakes, MN on July 16 (working on contacts to host media event).

FirstNet – Chief Michael Varney and Mike Worrell

FirstNet started in 2012. They have a 15-member board. There is \$7 billion to build the FirstNet network. 20MHz of bandwidth has been dedicated to public safety in the prime upper 700MHz frequency range. The RFP closes at end of the month and the award will be made by the end of 2016. Then they will do the build out and state plans. They recognize some of the volunteer fire service challenges and are keeping those in mind. **Action item: Do an article on this for VCOS.**

Fire-Rescue International 2016 – Chief Wall (attached schedule pg. 30)

FRI is August 17-20, 2016 with exhibits August 19-20 in San Antonio. SHS is holding a Physicals Conference Wednesday morning and their board meeting is in the afternoon. **Action item: Chief Black will attend to represent VCOS.** The IAFC Business Meeting is Thursday, August 18 from 11-noon. Division Luncheons are on Thursday from noon-1:30 PM. The VCOS Annual Meeting is Thursday, August 18 from 2-3:30 PM (Class A uniform). There was discussion on whether we should have a longer separate board meeting. Chief Wall will consider this and talk to the Executive Committee.

Note: After discussion with the VCOS Executive Committee, the VCOS annual meeting was changed to 1:30 – 3 PM with a board meeting after from 3 – 4 PM.

There will be short sessions on the expo floor on Friday, August 19. They are the following and we are working to assign presenters:

- VCOS – Leadership & Employee Collaboration 3-3:15 PM (LaBelle, Larson?)
- IAFC VWS Staff - Recruitment and Retention Tips 3:20 – 3:35 PM (IAFC staff, Wall, Flynn)
- 1 more TBD (Maybe on Codes of Conduct, harassment) 2:40-2:55 PM (discuss session name and possible presenters). If anyone has ideas for this, please give them to Chief Wall.

There will be a new layout for the IAFC Pavilion on the show floor at FRI. There will be topical areas such as Health and Safety, Volunteers, Wildland, etc. **Action item: Chief Seavey will send a survey monkey by June 1 to sign up for the VCOS booth at FRI.**

Motion by Chief Black and seconded by Chief Larson to give \$200 to the IAFC Foundation in the President's honor each year as their gift at the FRI Presidential Celebration. Motion carried.

Chief Black reported on the FRI Planning Committee/Council. There will be live training this year which is new. We need to encourage volunteers to put in for presentations for FRI in the future.

5 VCOS FRI scholarship applications were received this year. Chiefs Black and Larson are working on choosing the winners. **Action item: Chief Larson will reach out to the winners and other applicants.** We may want to add more questions to the application for next year to get a fuller picture of the applicants and their departments.

Elections – Chief Florentino

There are 6 candidates this year: Donna Black (NC), Jason Catrambone (ND), Thomas Maloney (WA), John Mohler (NM), Steven Singer (VA), and Fred Windisch (TX). Voting will open by June 1.

The IAFC Election Taskforce is looking to streamline the voting process so all sections run at the same time and members receive one online ballot. Chief Florentino is in favor of this unless others have concerns. The VCOS board agreed to support one ballot.

Symposium in the Sun – Chief Windisch

As of May 2nd, the Hilton is sold out. The overflow hotels are the Marriott Sand Key, Holiday Inn, and Pier 60. They are on the website. Currently there are 102 people registered. Last year it was 32 at this time. No theme yet. They are working on choosing presenters and have several submissions. No formal call for papers is done.

Awards and Scholarships

We have the following awards and scholarships:

- Training Officer Award – Norvin Collins, Ken Sedlak, Dan Eggleston (due May 31)
- FRI Scholarships - Randy Larson, Donna Black (discussed under FRI)
- Buckman Award –Ed Rush, Norvin Collins (due August 31)
- Retention & Recruitment Award – Fred Windisch, Chuck Flynn (due August 31)
- Illness & Injury Prevention Award - Fred Windisch, Chuck Flynn (due August 31). This award is new this year.
- Symposium Scholarships - Jim Seavey (due August 31)
- Emerging Leader Scholarship - Tim Wall (due August 31)

Communications Committee – Chiefs Rush, Black, Larson

Chief Rush was appointed Chair of the Communications Committee. Chief Black is in charge of the Symposium in the Sun app. Chief Larson will do social media. Chief Rush will work on coordinating the newsletter and articles. We need more articles for other publications. Chief Wall encouraged the Communications committee to find experts on topics and then they can work with Joelle or Mike Macdonald on articles.

Membership Report

- VCOS membership numbers as of January 2016: 2,511 total members, 1995 regular members, 71 associate members, 58 departmental members, 142 affiliate members, 16 past president members, 223 life members, 6 electronic members
- Working with iamResponding and Ward Diesel to promote VCOS – **Action item: Have them on the next conference call**

Exhibiting Taskforce – Chiefs Collins and Seavey

The 2016 booth schedule is as follows:

- Annual Pierce Dealer Meeting: February 19 in Green Bay, WI (Render)
- iWomen Conference: March 3-5 in Sacramento (sent materials)
- FDIC: April 18-23 in Indianapolis (VCOS presence at IAFC booth – Seavey)
- New England Division: April 5-6 in Quincy, MA (Wall, Flynn – materials only)
- Southeastern Association of Fire Chiefs in Biloxi, LA: June 14-17 (Cheves)
- New York Chiefs: June 15-18 in Verona, NY (Rush, Seavey, maybe Wall if needed)
- New England Fire Chiefs Association: June 22-25 in CT (Wall, Flynn - materials and presentation at annual meeting; share space with New England Division table)
- NC Association of Firefighters in Charlotte: August 11-13 (Chief Black, Cheves?)
- FRI: August 17-20 in San Antonio, TX (all – Seavey to make schedule)
- Firehouse Expo: Oct 18-22 in Nashville, TN (Wall). Exhibiting days are Oct 20-22
- Symposium in the Sun: Nov 9-12 in Clearwater Beach, FL (all)

Action item: Chief Larson mentioned a conference in Colorado on October 19-21 and will get more details.

Chiefs Seavey and Collins are working to order two go-packs as smaller exhibits so that items can be sent to two conferences at the same time. Exhibiting at FDIC went well overall. VCOS was part of the IAFC booth. Chief Seavey suggested that the IAFC look for a better booth space there.

Cancer Initiatives

Chief Seavey passed out two documents for the board to look at including an Action Plan on Cancer. The tagline is **KNOW FIREFIGHTER CANCER**. The alliance is made up of 60 people. VCOS has 2 representatives. The NVFC has 3. Chief Eggleston and Seavey are very engaged in this. We should mention cancer priorities in all VCOS educational opportunities. **Action item: On the next conference call, Chief Seavey would like a motion for VCOS to support the action plan.** The NFFF doesn't have continued funding for alliance meetings. We may want to see if VCOS can help support it. Chief Seavey will be writing a column on cancer issues.

Thanks to all for help in the position statement that was submitted. It was also approved by the IAFC board today.

VCOS Educational Opportunities

The VCOS board reviewed the submitted reports from the educational program managers.

BH&H per diem request – We need consistently through all courses on meal reimbursement. **Action item: Chief Windisch and Collins will work with educational coordinators on this.** They will run it by Chief Carrizzo and Ginger.

LTC – Should it be a chapter in BH&H eventually? There were mixed feelings on that. Some thought it was better to be included in LEC.

ISO - 55 attendees in WI class. There are feelers out in RI, and maybe TX.

Motion by Chief Eggleston and seconded by Chief Flynn to go into Executive Session. Motion carried.

Motion by Chief Flynn and seconded by Chief Collins to end Executive Session. Motion carried.

New Board Member Packet – Chiefs Black and Windisch

Chief Black took comments from the last time and made it easier to read. **Action item: VCOS board members should review the packet and the goal is to approve its layout by June and have updates ready for August.** There was a suggestion to assign a board mentor for new board members. The board agreed that would be beneficial.

IAFC National SAFER Grant – Chiefs Wall and Black

There was a Council meeting at IAFC in March. There is good, broad representation on the Council. Chief Black was elected Vice Chair of the Council. The 10 pilot departments are meeting here and will attend the Symposium sessions and events. We have a dinner tonight with them and you are encouraged to network with them.

Information Only Items

The following reports were also submitted as information-only to the board:

- IAFC Section Workgroup – Chief Wall
 - Action item: Task for May is to identify key issues and recommended changes, Please review with your board. Deadline for feedback is May 27.
- Near Miss Reporting System – Chief Rush, Kerrigan and Russ
- IAFC Terrorism & Homeland Security Committee – Chief Ed Richards
- NFORS – Chief Oprandy
- NFFF Heart to Heart Initiative – Chief Rush
- IAFC Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Task Force – Chief Mohler
- iWomen – Chiefs Larson and Black
 - iWomen reps are Chief Sue Tamme and FF Kim Cox
- Commission on Professional Credentialing - Chief Christopoulos
- Assistance for Local Emergency Response Training (ALERT) – Chief Catrambone

IAFC Section Workgroup – Chief Croom is the head. There was a lot of discussion on term limits during the last call. The VCOS board felt that the election process takes care of term limits and there is no need to set term limits.

Action item: Kelly should clarify what “action needed from the board” is on the board report template. Don’t put continue to market it, etc. Only include decisions that the board needs to make.

Old Business

LEC – Chief Mike Morgan took a new position and stepped down as chair. Chief Pete Struble is considering stepping up and they will have a conference call with him. There will be a Ted Talk at FRI. **Action item: They will have new chair by June call. The working document was finalized and Chief Larson will check with Chief Struble to get it.**

We are trying to get a conference call with some Canadian partnerships. More to come on that.

We need to nominate a career and volunteer Fire Chief of the year. Chief Chris Christopoulos was suggested as career chief.

Motion by Chief Windisch and seconded by Chief Eggleston to support and nominate Chief Chris Christopoulos as the VCOS nominee for Career Fire Chief of the Year. Motion carried.

Chief Byron Andrews was nominated by VCOS last year for Volunteer Fire Chief of the Year.

Motion by Chief Seavey and seconded by Chief Collins to support and nominate Chief Byron Andrews as the VCOS nominee for Volunteer Fire Chief of the Year. Motion carried.

New Business

Bereavement Uniform Program – A proposal was sent to the VCOS board for information only now. The board should review. There has been some skepticism with BUP according to some of the VCOS partners. How often was the program used? How many uniforms have been distributed? The NVFC is discussing the proposal later. The program is for any active or retired firefighter not only LODD. What about NFFF getting involved? **Action item: We need more details on cost, tasks, etc. so we can determine ROI. Chief Seavey will work on that.**

Joint Committee on Professional Development – VCOS offered to host a webinar. Notes from the call were in the board packet.

An idea for the theme for the next newsletter is health which could include cancer, mental health, etc.

Action item: Invite ISFSI to come to Symposium in the Sun and figure out the best way to continue the partnership.

Cancer committee – NVFC has a taskforce. Does VCOS want to create a committee? What would be the charter for that? **Action item: Chiefs Eggleston and Seavey will put together a framework for a charter.** Maybe a joint NVFC/VCOS committee

Vision 20/20 has been invited to our June call.

Roundtable

Wall: Update content on the VCOS website. **Action item: Tina will reach out to get educational coordinators to update content.** We should make sure our educational presentations are gender neutral, using correct language, no swearing, etc.

Collins: Chief Render was in Canada and they want to bring in the FROG program and refresh BH&H.

Balliet: Provident has been working with Barletta's office on some legislative issues. Evan from IAFC and the NVFC have been involved.

Gibson: It is exciting to see the first Symposium in the West and be part of it.

Giorgi: He is very interested to see how this event goes.

Black: We need to look at our marketing and the best way to reach people.

Larson: He suggested an endorsement of Chief Curmode for IAFC 2nd VP.

Motion by Chief Larson and seconded by Chief Seavey to endorse Chief Gary Curmode for IAFC Second Vice President. Motion carried.

Siegrist: He appreciates being here for the inaugural Symposium in the West. He applauds VCOS for reaching out to the western states.

Eggleston: He is working with ISO on POV responses. He was re-appointed Director At-Large on the IAFC Executive Committee. He is headed to Germany soon and will see Chief Crutcher.

Oettel: Congrats on Symposium in the West. He is moving on from Provident. He appreciates all VCOS does so thanks and he will stay in touch.

Motion by Chief Flynn and seconded by Chief Windisch to go into Executive Session. Motion carried.

Motion by Chief Collins and seconded by Chief Flynn to come out of Executive Session. Motion carried.

Motion by Chief Black and seconded by Chief Flynn to accept all reports. Motion carried.

Motion by Chief Wall and seconded by Chief Flynn to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 4:13pm.