



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

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VCOS Board Telecon Thursday, February 14, 2013

Present:

Chief Tim Wall
Chief Jim Wilson
Chief Dan Eggleston
Chief Ted Lowden
Chief Mike Vaughn
Chief Jim Seavey
Chief Fred Windisch

Guests:

Chief Stephen Dean
Chief Kenn Fontenot

Absent:

Chief Dave Fulmer
Chief Fred Crosby
Director Shane Ray

Staff:

Joelle Fishkin

Introduction of Chief Stephen Dean (Mobile AL Fire-Rescue Dept), IAFC 2nd Vice President Elect – Chief Timothy Wall

- Chief Wall congratulates Chief Dean on his election to the IAFC board and states that he has lots of supporters in the VCOS. Chief Dean enjoyed his time at Symposium 2012.
- Chief Windisch states that Chief Dean should know that the VCOS is different; we push the envelope and sometimes raise eyebrows but we're very sincere in wanting to help the volunteers in the fire service.
- Chief Dean will be at CFSI and will look forward to speaking with the VCOS board at any time. He was the national firefighter deployment strategy meeting recently and was introduced to other organizations which work with the volunteer fire service.
- Chief Seavey confirmed that the NVFC represents other volunteer fire departments which are not able to participate in the IAFC, often due to financial considerations. However, there is no reason why IAFC/VCOS and NVFC shouldn't be able to work together more regularly on the same issues.
- Chief Dean stated that the Metro Chiefs board meets regularly with the board of the IAFF and they have found much common ground. Chief Wall encourages Dean to reach out and have those kinds of conversations with VCOS and NVFC.

Introduction of Chief Kenn Fontenot, NVFC Representative on NFPA 1001 Committee - Chief Jim Seavey

- Chief Seavey stated that following a VCOS teleconference on NFPA 1001 on Friday last week, it was recommended that the VCOS board invite on our call a representative from this group.
- Chief Fontenot explained that NFPA wanted to give more flexibility to NFPA 1001; NFPA is not sure why there are so many concerns about changing the standard as NFPA 1001 is a minimum standard; it doesn't preclude any organization from increasing the requirement of the standard. He also stated that when you look at deaths which occur during firefighter training, the number of deaths is miniscule as compared with the LODDs ever year.
- Chief Seavey asked whether the NVFC will take as their position that there needs to be more latitude given to the AHJ as far as the medical requirements? Chief Fontenot doesn't know at this time what the final stance will be.
- Chief Windisch stated that the issue for him is he doesn't see a correlation between 1001 and 1582; 1001 refers to professional qualifications and 1582 concerns health and safety. He foresees a significant burden if each firefighter training class has to meet the requirements of 1582. It makes small departments non-compliant right from the beginning. Chief Windisch feels that it's a maximum standard for small volunteer departments because they don't have the financial means to comply.
- Chief Fontenot agreed with this statement. He's from a small volunteer fire department as well; but he feels that this new version of 1001 is attainable.
- Chief Windisch stated that Texas just went to firefighter I and II for volunteers and the manuals went from 40 pages to 200 pages just to lay out all the requirements of 1001. It's just becoming more of a burden to comply with NFPA standards.
- Chief Eggleston asked if you tie 1582 to 1001 for state training academies, you have to make sure that the candidate complies with 1582 and that makes it very difficult for small and rural fire departments.
- Chief Wall stated that this matter came from the Safety, Health & Survival Section which encouraged its members to support the change. VCOS did not take a position but did ask their members to submit comments. We felt that we could not ask our members to vote against the IAFC's position.

Update on June VCOS board meeting – Chief Timothy Wall

- We need to confirm location/dates for all the different groups of people traveling in
- The meeting is in St. Louis Missouri at the Marriott Hotel next to the airport. There is shuttle bus service to/from airport.
- Chief Greg Render will host Saturday night dinner at his fire department
- Board members should block out May 30 - June 2. Board meeting all day Saturday and half day Sunday

- FROG, BH&H, LTC and BH&H instructors will report out to the board
- Chief Render reported that BH&H needs to be updated

Spring Newsletter Issue on Risk Management – Chief Dave Fulmer

- Joe Giorgi from VFIS will write an article on physical damage “agreed value” provision (replacement cost).
- Provident will write an article on subject TBD.
- Edward Holohan, President of Penflex will write a LOSAP article.
- Chief Shawn Stokes regarding incident in Bailey’s Crossroads, Virginia.

Firefighter Cancer Network Program Update – Chief Mike Vaughn

- Date/location of meeting has not been set yet. Garry Briese will report back to Chief Vaughn in about 2 weeks after their board meeting in San Diego

Diversity Report Update – State Fire Marshal Shane Ray

- Chief Windisch requests that we title this a “Human Relations Report” not “Diversity Report.”

CFSI attendance – Chief Timothy Wall

- Chief Wall asks all board members to email him confirm if they need a seat at the CFSI dinner. VCOS has purchased a table with 10 seats.
- VCOS will not be sponsoring board travel to CFSI; this will not be a board activity.
- Chief Wall has had some requests from friends/supporters and possibly staff so he needs to know how many seats the board needs asap.

Roundtable Discussion

Wall: Would like Chief Wilson to work with Dan Seidberg on some new marketing strategies to get Iamresponding on our website. In-Kind contributions can be counted as part of their contribution to VCOS.

Wilson: Received a large Fire Act grant for recruitment.

Seavey: Asks who will be going to FDIC and could they help out with VCOS materials at the VFIS booth which opens on Thursday. Chief Eggleston will be there Monday & Tuesday morning.

Wall: Provident and VFIS said they will put up a poster at their booths and will put out materials at their booth. Seavey should coordinate with them.

Windisch: We need to pay attention to our deficit spending. If we don’t get additional people signing up for FROG, we may cancel the class in Oregon and may not have the FROG instructors come to St Louis.

Wall: Send out another announcement speaking about FROG only.

Eggleston: Thanks everyone for their support after the passing of his mother. Chief Eggleston announced that he will be running for International Director during the VCOS election. He asks VCOS board members to reach out to their contacts as well.