



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

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### **VCOS Monthly Board Meeting via Microsoft Teams**

**Tuesday, August 17, 2021**

**2:00 p.m. Eastern/1:00 p.m. Central/12:00 p.m. Mountain/11:00 a.m. Pacific**

### **MINUTES**

Present: Chief Rich Cowger, Chief Jim Cook, Chief Fred Windisch, Chief Kevin Hardwick, Chief Brita Horn, Chief Paul Sterling, Chief Al Yancey, Chief Charles Flynn, Chief Norvin Collins

Absent: Chief Jason Catrambone

Staff: Ms. Kelly Ameen

The call started at 2:02 PM.

#### **Welcome/Chair's Report – Chief Flynn**

Chief Flynn welcomed everyone to the meeting. He congratulated Chiefs Horn and Collins on their great news interview about the volunteer fire service.

**Motion by Chief Horn and seconded by Chief Sterling to approve the July meeting minutes and FRI Annual Meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.**

#### **Vice Chair's Report – Chief Cowger**

Chief Cowger is working on the committees list. The wildland fire assignments delayed him in getting this completed.

#### **International Director's Report – Chief Catrambone**

Chief Catrambone was not on the call, so no report given.

#### **Treasurer's Report – Chief Windisch**

No update at this time.

#### **FRI 2021 – Chief Flynn**

The VCOS board met with the IAFC's VWS team while at FRI. Two follow up emails were sent to the VCOS board with diversity/inclusion resources, dates of upcoming Recruitment

and Retention Certification Courses, and the call for instructors for the transitioning class. Please submit your expense report if you haven't already. A press release about the swearing-in of new VCOS officers is posted on the VCOS website.

### **Communications Committee – Chief Rush**

The next newsletter will be released by the end of August. We have received many articles and are working to get them edited and put into the newsletter format.

### **August Pierce Marketing Meeting – Chief Windisch**

Chief Windisch has been coordinating this meeting and sending information out to the group. There are outside marketing experts coming in that Pierce has arranged. 10 people are going to this meeting. Chief Windisch will send more info later this week.

### **Symposium in the Sun – Chief Windisch**

The conference is November 11-14 in Clearwater, Florida. We will start booking flights in September. Awards and scholarships are now open. Encourage people to apply! Scholarships were posted last week on social media and an eblast went out. Awards will be promoted this week. There is a conference call on Thursday with IAFC conference staff to get updates. The Hilton may be sold out and Chief Windisch will get more info. He will send registration numbers once he has them.

### **Educational Programs Update**

The Lavender Ribbon Report Update is in the final stages with the graphic designer. VCOS will have 1,000 copies printed – 500 will go to Symposium in the Sun. The goal for the Yellow Ribbon Report is to launch it at Symposium in the Sun.

BH&H has a few classes scheduled for later this year.

Chief Collins is representing VCOS with a FirstNet project.

### **Old Business**

Chief Yancey went through some of the upcoming deadlines/high priorities listed in the Strategic Direction document:

- 1) New Member Taskforce – need to work on a new on-boarding process. We should find a few VCOS members that have joined in the last 3 years and select a few to join the taskforce. We won't have a formal plan by Symposium in the Sun. However, we can cross reference a list of new members with Symposium in the Sun attendees and identify a few people to join the committee and meet at Symposium in the Sun. Chief Brita Horn will head this effort and Chief Yancey will help.
- 2) Communications and member engagement- we need to develop a communications strategy. We can ask Chief Rush to head this. Chief Cook can help too. We need to work with the original roundtable chiefs to identify gaps in membership communication and come up with solutions.
- 3) Formalize the VCOS brand, mission, values, logo by Symposium in the Sun. We can put those up on the large screen in between sessions and on the rotating housekeeping slides. We may need to update the VCOS bylaws with these changes

and should add them to the VCOS website. Bylaw changes are due February 1. These changes are technical in nature and likely don't require a vote by membership. However, we may have some other changes that will require a vote like VCOS board candidate requirements, membership types that are eligible to vote, etc.

- 4) Marketing VCOS – This will ramp up at the Pierce meeting later this month.

Chief Yancey commented that it is exciting that we are already using the Strategic Direction document and moving it forward. He appreciates everyone's work on implementing it.

### **New Business**

No new business to report.

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

Collins: Enjoyed doing the tv interview. Good to see everyone at FRI. In Oregon, healthcare providers must be vaccinated including responders and this must be verified. A FROG class has been requested in Virginia by April 2022.

Sterling: Great to meet everyone at FRI. Let us pause to remember fallen firefighter, Captain Joshua Laird of the Frederick County Division of the Fire and Rescue, who was killed in the Line of Duty on Wednesday August 8, 2021. Captain Laird was also an active volunteer firefighter at the Fairfield (PA) Volunteer Fire Company. Funeral services are being held at this time in Emmitsburg, MD. Captain Laird was a 21-year veteran, leaving behind a wife and 2 daughters.

Since FRI in Charlotte, he has been working with Kelly Ameen and Spencer Cheatham, Program Manager for Volunteer Workforce Solutions - IAFC to bring the Recruitment and Retention Coordinator Certification Course (RRCCC) to the State of Delaware. Preliminarily, we are looking to offer this training to Delaware the weekend of November 6 and 7 at the Delaware State Fire School in Dover. More information will be provided once details are finalized.

He has transmitted the request for ***Symposium in the Sun Awards*** as well as the Scholarship Opportunities to over 2,000 email recipients within the Eastern Division.

Horn: Enjoyed FRI and meeting everyone. She was excited that the interview opportunity came through and was happy with how it went. She sent them the press release from FRI and that is how the interview came about. There will be more opportunities in the future. She is happy to help with the Strategic Direction.

Cook: He reminded everyone to look at the Recruitment and Retention Coordinator Certification Course class schedule that was sent out to the VCOS board. He encouraged people to attend. The grant could potentially pay for their travel. He also encouraged the board to look at the instructor opportunity through the VWS grant.

Hardwick: Emergency Vehicle Safety Initiative is ongoing. It will be wrapped up by the end of the year or early next year.

Windisch: EMS transport service being replaced in his area and starts September 1. He has been very busy with this. Many people have left and now they are doing a lot more EMS response in his department.

Ameen: Please promote the VCOS awards and scholarships!

Flynn: He has been in touch with Chief Catrambone who is busy with his new chief's job in Florida. There was a LODD last week in Connecticut.

The call ended at 2:48PM.