



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



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## VCOS Board of Directors Annual Meeting

**August 9, 2018  
Dallas, Texas**

### MINUTES

**Thursday, August 9** (at the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center, 650 S. Griffin St. Dallas, Texas)

Present: Chair Timothy Wall, Chief Donna Black, Chief Jason Catrambone, Chief Norvin Collins, Chief Charles Flynn, Chief Fred Windisch, Chief Jim Cook, Chief Ed Rush, Chief Rich Cowger

Guests: Chief Ron Oettel, Chief Al Yancey, President Thomas Jenkins

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

The meeting started at 1:30 pm.

#### **Introduction and Welcome – Chair Wall**

Chair Wall called the meeting to order and welcomed those attending the VCOS Annual Meeting. The Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer was conducted. He reviewed the agenda and had the VCOS Board provide short introductions.

#### **Election Committee Report – Chief Rush**

Chief Florentino was unable to attend the meeting, so Chief Rush reviewed the results of the 2018 VCOS election. The VCOS Board discussed their concern about the low number of votes (615 VCOS members voted, 25.94% of eligible voters. 2017 was 620 voters, 26.38%) and encouraged VCOS members to vote in the next election.

**Motion by Chief Flynn and seconded by Chief Catrambone to accept the election results. Motion carried.**

#### **Swearing-in of VCOS Positions**

IAFC President Thomas Jenkins swore in as VCOS Board of Directors At-Large Members for a 3-year term Chief Ron Oettel, Jr. and Chief Al Yancey, Jr. President Jenkins also swore-in Chief Donna Black for a 2-year term as the VCOS International Director.

### **Candidate Announcements**

IAFC Secretary-Treasurer Candidate Chief Marion Blackwell and Chief Steven Locke addressed the meeting about their candidacy for the 2019 IAFC Election. Chief Dan Eggleston spoke to the section and thanked them for their support.

**Motion by Chief Flynn and seconded by Chief Cowger to bestow the title Chair Emeritus to Chief Timothy S. Wall. Motion carried.**

### **Training Officer Award**

Deputy Fire Chief Josh Blum of Loveland-Symmes (Ohio) Fire Department was introduced by Chief Collins and presented the Training Officer Award by Mr. Andrew Lynch and Mr. Phil Coons of TargetSolutions. Chief Blum thanked Chief Goldfeder, his department and his family and friends for their support. He was humbled and honored to receive the award.

### **VCOS FRI Scholarships – Chief Black**

Firefighter/EMT George Bradt, Beaver Lake (Ark.) Fire Department was introduced and presented a \$1,500 scholarship to attend Fire-Rescue International (FRI).

Deputy Fire Chief Gary Hendrickson, City of Brooklyn Center (Minn.) Fire Department was introduced and presented a \$1,500 scholarship to attend Fire-Rescue International (FRI).

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

The IAFC Board approved the Lavender Ribbon Report and is excited to have it released here at FRI. An update was provided on the IAFC Board meeting and creating a strategic plan for the organization.

An update on the Women Fire Chiefs Council was provided. They are having great discussions on how to get more people involved.

Chief Black concluded with an update on the National Volunteer Workforce Solutions SAFER Grant, and explained that many great minds will be brought together in September to discuss the state of the volunteer fire service.

### **VCOS Supporters – Chief Cowger**

The VCOS Board thanked friends, supporters and sponsors for all they do for VCOS throughout the year. Those in the room were asked to stand. Their support makes it possible for the VCOS to fulfill its mission and vision.

### **Lavender Ribbon Report – Chief Collins**

Chief Collins introduced the Lavender Ribbon Report a joint project between the VCOS and the National Volunteer Fire Council and encouraged people to download or get a physical copy and read the report.

He explained that the color lavender was selected as it represents all cancer awareness. Attendees were invited to come to the learning lab session the next day.

He concluded by recognizing all the individuals that worked on the cancer ribbon report, and providing a special thanks to Chief James P. Seavey, Sr., Chief Brian McQueen and the NVFC for their efforts with the project.

#### **Be Inclusive Initiative – Chief Cook**

Chief Cook emphasized the importance of having a dialogue and taking actions to create an inclusive environment. He encouraged all present to stop by the booth or go to the website and get all 4 posters. The posters were a joint effort between VCOS, VWS and the Human Relations Committee to help departments create an inclusive environment. He thanked the Be Inclusive Committee, Chief Manuel Fonseca, Chief Susan Tamme, Chief Rich Cowger and IAFC Staff for their work developing the posters.

#### **Yellow Ribbon Report – Chief Flynn**

The Yellow Ribbon Committee heard from stakeholders at Symposium in the Sun in 2017 and spoke with other fire service leaders throughout the year. From these discussions the committee is working on developing 3 training programs. The committee is currently seeking instructors, please contact Chief Flynn or Chief John M. Buckman III for more information.

The committee is also working with other organizations to form a health and wellness alliance.

#### **Accomplishments 2017-2018 – Chief Catrambone**

Chief Catrambone reviewed VCOS accomplishments since the 2017 annual meeting including a new website, the release of an e-newsletter, expansion of social media, and engaging members outside the US. He encouraged those present to get involved with the VCOS.

#### **Treasurer/Secretary's Report – Chief Collins**

Chief Collins reviewed the finances of the VCOS. Funds have been growing and currently the VCOS is in a strong place financially. He thanked Pierce for their contributions to the education fund, and explained the importance of having strong funds. The VCOS uses these funds to create reports and materials and to provide educational courses to departments at little to no costs to members.

#### **VCOS Educational Opportunities – Chief Windisch**

Chief Windisch spoke at Symposium in the Sun and explained that they will be mixing things up this year. This year will again have amazing speakers and encouraged those present to attend.

Symposium in the West was successful, it grew a little bit this year. He encouraged everyone to attend it in Phoenix, Arizona in 2019.

Chief Windisch reviewed the available educational courses and webinars. He encouraged those present to host a course.

#### **VCOS Recognitions – Chief Flynn**

Chief Flynn thanked Chief Rush for all his hard work on the VCOS Board. He emphasized the importance of Chief Rush to stay involved in new ways with the VCOS. Chief Rush thanked the VCOS Board for the plaque and recognition and stated his service has been a great honor.

Chief Flynn recognized Chief Wall for his years of dedication to the VCOS and everything he has done. Chief Wall thanked the VCOS Board and stated he was honored and humbled to have worked with these great people.

#### **Awards and Scholarships – Chief Wall**

The open awards and scholarships were reviewed. Attendees were encouraged to apply at VCOS.org.

#### **Connect with VCOS – Chief Wall and Jenny Bragiel Cozad**

Ms. Bragiel Cozad reviewed the website and the various ways members can stay up to date with the VCOS. She also encouraged members to reach out through social media and via email to share articles, videos and stories.

The VCOS Board recognized Ms. Bragiel Cozad for her efforts with the VCOS and congratulated on buying a house. She thanked the VCOS Board for their kindness.

#### **VCOS Business – Chief Wall**

Updates were provided on the future of the VCOS, Small Department Recruitment and the VCOS plans to review the VCOS election processes and bylaws.

Chief Wall reviewed the status of the Labor Employee Collaboration project led by Chief Peter Struble. He informed those in attendance the Federal Regulator Toolkit should be released by Symposium in the Sun 2018. He explained that the VCOS is reviewing educational programs for content and their deliverables to ensure continual success.

He invited those present to share any ideas they have for the VCOS 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, by emailing VCOS at vcos.org. Currently there is a committee led by Chief Windisch working on it.

#### **Motion by Chief Chris Christopoulos and seconded by Chief Peter Starkel to endorse Chief Locke for IAFC Secretary-Treasurer 2019-2020. Motion Passed.**

There was discussion on how the VCOS Board and section could increase the number of voters and improve engagement in general.

#### **Motion by Chief Windisch and seconded by Chief Catrambone to expend the necessary funds to print and mail the Lavender Ribbon Report to all VCOS members using the Pierce Fund. Motion Passed.**

#### **Good of the Order**

Chief Wall: Thank you to everyone here for your support of the VCOS. Please connect with us. The future of the VCOS is very strong. I am and have been a proud member of the VCOS for a very long time now. It has been a challenge, but it has also been rewarding and it has always been worthwhile. I am not going away, but it is an opportunity for somebody else to step up. Stay Safe.

We will now be doing our meet and greet. A special thank you to our sponsor Siddons-Martin Emergency Group. Please thank them for sponsoring our meet and greet.

**Motion by Chief Flynn and seconded by Chief Rush to adjourn the meeting. Motion Passed.**

The meeting adjourned at 2:28pm.