



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

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Officers Section

VCOS Board Teleconference

Wednesday, April 7, 2018

4 p.m. Eastern/3 p.m. Central/2 p.m. Mountain/1 p.m. Pacific

1-866-809-4014

Passcode: 4230611

MINUTES

Present: Chief Jim Cook, Chief Timothy Wall, Chief Fred Windisch, Chief Donna Black, Chief Norvin Collins, Chief Rich Cowger

Staff: Jenny Bragiel Cozad, Kelly Ameen

Absent: Chief James Seavey, Chief Ed Rush, Chief Chuck Flynn, Chief Jason Catrambone

The call started at 4:04pm ET.

Welcome and Agenda Overview - Chief Wall

Chief Wall welcomed the board to the call. The VCOS board reviewed the March minutes.

Motion by Chief Windisch and seconded by Chief Black to approve the minutes from the March meeting. Motion carried.

The VCOS board was updated that the NFFF received a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator.

2018 IAFC and VCOS Election - Chief Wall and Chief Collins

The board was updated on the 2018 IAFC and VCOS election. Board members were encouraged to read the candidate statements that are [now available online](#). It was emphasized that all candidates were thoroughly and appropriately vetted.

Small Department Pilot Update – Chief Black, Chief Cowger, Chief Wall

The group had an initial positive call with IAFC staff. On the call who the VCOS wants to target to become members was discussed. The conclusion was to try the program again in Montana but use different tactics and explore targeting small and medium size combination departments in Tennessee. The IAFC staff have been working on gathering more information and have reached out a couple of times with additional questions. Hope to have more information following the next meeting with IAFC staff.

Following the update, a discussion took place about initial concerns with logistics and execution, resulting in suggestions for improvements that could be made to the program moving forward. Simplifying the dues process and partnering with state associations was one recommendation.

Action Item: Send any suggestions to Chief Cowger, Chief Black or Chief Wall.

VCOS 25th Anniversary Cruise – Chief Windisch

Chief Windisch updated the board on the idea of doing a joint VCOS 25th anniversary cruise and board meeting. He explained one major concern is the need to be careful about perceptions. The board discussed other possible challenges and concerns with the cruise, including time constraints and travel logistics.

Action Item: Chief Windisch to continue to investigate the cruise option for further discussion at the May board meeting, please send any concerns, recommendations or questions to him.

Action Item: Chief Wall to reach out to President Jenkins and the IAFC leadership for guidance.

TargetSolutions and VCOS Joint Educational Project – Chief Collins

The board was updated on the progress made towards the TargetSolutions and VCOS joint educational project. The topic for the course will be *how to conduct an effective open house*. The IAFC has many resources for this topic, so this made sense for an initial topic to see how the partnership works out. It was explained that TargetSolutions is providing limited money for this effort, but there is a lot of in-kind support. Chief Collins acknowledged the hard work of Ms. Leslie Distler and the IAFC staff in accomplishing a compromise that allows each organization to fulfill its interests. The hope that this will lead to additional projects was expressed.

Booth Update – Chief Seavey and Chief Collins

The booth has not been ordered, it is the hope to have it before FRI. Currently, waiting on the final format and layout to send to production.

Booth Schedule – Chief Rush

In Chief Rush's absence Ms. Kelly Ameen provided an update on FDIC. The board had been hoping to have someone at FDIC, but it looks like the VCOS won't have anyone there.

FRI 2018 – Chief Wall

The board discussed hosting a reception/meet and greet at FRI this year. There was a general agreement that it went over well last year and is worth investigating the feasibility for this year. It was recommended to explore finding an annual sponsor for the event.

Action Item: Chief Wall to work with Ms. Leslie Distler and investigate possible sponsors for a VCOS reception/meet and greet at FRI 2018.

The VCOS board discussed meeting with nearby volunteer and combination departments while at FRI. The importance and value of the board going to the department over the department coming to FRI was discussed. One concern raised was the distance and logistics of traveling to the department, given the many responsibilities the board has at FRI. One recommendation was having the department come to the board and providing them with an exhibit day pass.

Action Item: Chief Wall is to reach out to Chief Florentino, Chief Barron and Chief Windisch and discuss meeting with local volunteer and combination departments while at FRI.

Company Officers Section Mentoring Program – Chief Cowger

Chief Cowger updated the VCOS board that he reached out for more information and is waiting to hear back.

VCOS Member Survey Results – Chief Collins and Chief Buckman

The VCOS Member Survey results were discussed. It was stated that it contains a lot of interesting and good information. A summary and report will be provided at the May board meeting.

Action Item: Ms. Jenny Bragiel Cozad to resend link to the VCOS Member Survey.

Tactical Health and Wellness Meeting – Chief Wall

The board was informed of a possible health and wellness conference happening in the fall. Chief Wall is exploring it further to learn what the conference actually will be covering. More information will be shared as it becomes known. The board discussed possibly changing this committee's focus based on the additional information.

Symposium in the West – Chief Collins

Chief Collins provided an update on registration numbers and explained some of the reasons it is slightly behind last year's numbers. All VCOS board members are requested to be at the front of the room for the opening ceremony for introductions. All VCOS board members should also be present and interacting with attendees.

The VCOS board discussed and agreed to split the board meeting between Friday and Saturday at Symposium in the West to accommodate schedules and to work better with Symposium in the West activities.

Action Item: Chief Wall to work with the executive committee and IAFC staff on the coordination and logistics of dividing the board meeting between Friday and Saturday.

Chief Otto Drozd contacted Chief Wall to request time to address VCOS attendees May 3 or May 4. This is the only request that has been received. Questions were raised about time availability if in the future many candidates request time to speak. Parameters for candidate speeches were recommended for further discussion in May.

Action Item: Chief Wall to investigate the IAFC and VCOS policies on the matter.

Update of Endorsing the 2018 IAFC 2nd VP – Chief Catrambone, Chief Cook, Chief Windisch

Received questionnaires filled out by four of the candidates, only two of the candidates are VCOS members. The board decided to review the questions and have a dedicated teleconference for the discussion to ensure as many as possible board members participate.

Action Item: Ms. Bragiel Cozad to send all submissions in one email as a single PDF per person.

Roundtable, Announcement, Committee/Project Updates

Chief Wall: Everyone knows there is transitioning within the IAFC staff and I have been working with the IAFC on the right time and proper way to do it. The official transition will be completed at the board meeting in May. Following Symposium in the West Ms. Bragiel Cozad will be the staff liaison. Congratulations to both.

Chief Windisch: Chief John Buckman and I have worked this week on Symposium in the Sun. Business cards are being produced, will be available for Symposium in the West. The theme is *Lead. Influence. Create.* Continuing to build speakers and all the work we do around those 3 words. We will be changing the Saturday format to have an R&R track all day. Thanks to the survey feedback. Have a rough outline already, will have various speakers.

Ms. Ameen: Excited for all of you to be working with Jenny. Will have two giant cancer prevention posters at Symposium in the West to be signed and will present it to the President at FRI and send one to NVFC after getting all board signatures.

Chief Black: In March, we had the strategic direction and leadership forum. It went well. ESCI is putting together a summary and report. They will be presenting it to the IAFC board to review. We also had a board meeting, I will send out the minutes. We updated 2 position statements, they are on the website. There was a section board seat taskforce that put together how you get on the IAFC board. They came up with a good policy, it is a rigorous process. I will talk more on it at our May meeting.

I had a brief conversation with Chief Wall on bringing in a 3rd neutral party facilitator to build on what we have been doing with Chief Buckman. This individual did a facilitated discussion with WFCC and it was super helpful. The idea is it would be someone to guide us moving forward. She could build upon our work, I think it could be helpful.

Chief Wall: Thank you, we will research further.

Chief Cowger: Thanks for being accommodating for my schedule. The Be Inclusive posters will be ready for Symposium in the West. They are in production. FRI will be our last poster.

Ms. Bragiel Cozad: Chief Rush asked me to provide an update on our first e-Newsletter, which will be going out April 27. We have already started putting it together and are excited for it to launch. Chief Cook would you like to add anything?

Chief Cook: Very excited to release the first one, most of the content is ready. Can't wait to see the results and feedback.

Chief Wall: I reached out to Paratech. Maybe we can go out to them or bring them into Symposium in the Sun as a thank you for their years of support.

Ms. Bragiel Cozad: I can't wait to see everyone at Symposium in the West. I am looking forward to being the VCOS staff liaison. I just hope I can do as good of job as Kelly. Thank you.

Chief Wall: I was inducted into the Connecticut Firefighters Association's Hall of Fame. Chief Rush came up. I can tell you I have never met more dedicated people than I have met through the VCOS. A Chief's salute from me to all of you. Thank you for your help and guidance.

The meeting ended at 5:23 PM Eastern Time.

The next meeting will be at Symposium in the West May 4 and May 5.