



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

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### VCOS Board Teleconference

**Wednesday, July 11, 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 Donna Black, Chief Norvin Collins, Chief Charles Flynn, Chief James Seavey, Chief Ed Rush, Chief Timothy Wall, Chief Fred Windisch

Guest: Chief Ron Oettel

Absent: Chief Rich Cowger, Chief Jason Catrambone, Chief Jim Cook

Staff: Ms. Jenny Bragiel Cozad

The call started at 4:02pm.

#### **Welcome and Agenda Overview - Chief Wall**

Chief Wall welcomed the board and Chief Ron Oettel to the call.

**Motion by Chief Windisch and seconded by Chief Black to approve the minutes from the June meeting with the correction submitted by Chief Windisch. Motion carried.**

#### **Lavender Ribbon Report**

Chief Wall provided an update on the Lavender Ribbon Report to the VCOS board. He explained that everything is on schedule. The plan for the release of the report is to have President Jenkins announce it at general session and to send out a press release announcing it the same day.

There was a discussion on potential opportunities to get the information to members including possible future educational offerings and having it at sun.

**Action Item: Chief Windisch to add a 30 - 60 minute session on the Lavender Ribbon Report.**

Some errors and changes were pointed out in the report that had gone unaddressed. It was addressed that the current draft was going to the IAFC Board for approval, and that caution needed to be exercised when making changes moving forward.

**Action Item: Chief Seavey to discuss moving the last 2 paragraphs and form in best practice 1 to best practice 11 with the Cancer Committee.**

**Action Item: Chief Black to inform the IAFC Board of the above change if approved by the Cancer Committee.**

There was a discussion on possibly sending the report to all VCOS members.

**Action Item: Ms. Bragiel Cozad to get cost for an additional 2400 copies to be mailed out to all members.**

#### **VCOS 2019 Budget Update – Chief Collins**

Chief Collins encouraged the VCOS board to send requests and information as soon as possible for the FY19 Budget. Chief Collins recommended having a discussion on staff time as the amount of time they are being used keeps increasing. He also recommended not budgeting anything for the committees that did not submit a request. The active and engaged committees all submitted requests.

#### **FRI Schedule – Chief Wall**

The FRI schedule was reviewed as provided in the agenda. The VCOS board dinner will be Friday, August 10 at 7pm.

#### **Awards and Scholarships**

Awards and scholarships are currently open. Chief Collins updated the VCOS Board on the recipient of the Training Officer Recognition Award sponsored by TargetSolutions. The recipient was selected out of approximately 28 applications and was nominated by Chief Billy Goldfeder. The recipient is Deputy Chief Joshua Blum, please take a moment to speak with him and congratulate him.

A discussion took place on how to promote the award recipients further and show others their great work. It was recommended that the winner could write a short article about what they did to get recognized or make a video on it for the VCOS newsletter.

#### **ConneXions – Chief Wall**

The VCOS Board was informed that at a recent ConneXions meeting there was a lot of discussion on the Yellow and Lavender Ribbon Reports.

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

Chief Windisch shared that Symposium in the Sun is beginning to come together and that a draft session list was sent to the Symposium in the Sun Committee. Registrations for Symposium in the Sun are currently up; the increase can be attributed to the requirement to register to get the room block. The Sheraton and the Hilton are currently full, and Ms. Sara Stehle is working on making additional room blocks.

#### **Symposium in the West – Chief Collins**

Initial reports show that Symposium in the West 2018 turned a small profit. Surveys from Symposium in the West 2018 are very positive. Overall the number of attendees and paid registrations were slightly up from the prior year. The symposium in the West Committee plan to have a theme selected by FRI.

Ms. Theresa Knops was recommended to put together a short summary about Symposium in the West.

**Action Item: Chief Wall to send Chief Rush Ms. Knops' contact information.**

**Action Item: Chief Collins to send Chief Rush contact information for individuals he would also recommend writing an article on Symposium in the West.**

### **National Summit**

The VCOS board reviewed who will be attending the National Summit, and were asked to standby for more information from Ms. Lexie Coulson.

### **Future Board Meetings**

The recommended VCOS Board meetings were reviewed, and the VCOS Board was asked to look at and mark the dates. The Instructor Meeting for the new Yellow Ribbon and Labor Employee Collaboration Instructors is scheduled for October 4-7. There may be potential for board members to come in for this meeting. Chief Wall explained he is currently discussing with Mr. Ken LaSala about having some meetings on Capitol Hill.

### **Roundtable, Announcements, Project/Committee Updates**

Chief Wall: Chief Rush thank you very much for all you continue to do for the VCOS. Don't go away, I'm sure the VCOS board will continue to utilize you.

Chief Rush, would you like to discuss the officer positions?

Chief Rush: Already heard from a bunch of people. Once the deadline comes and goes I will send it out to the VCOS Board. If we have multiple people, we will have an election.

Chief Wall: The Executive Committee discussed getting an additional sponsor for the meet and greet at FRI. We reached out to Ms. Stehle to see if we could keep the price like last year. She responded we would be able to have the meet and greet for a similar price.

Chief Black: Where are we with the budget?

Chief Collins: We are slightly under budget so far this year, but still need to be reserved with our spending.

Chief Windisch: Recommend sticking with the one sponsor, they have been very good to my department.

The VCOS Board agreed to not seek an additional sponsor for the VCOS Meet and Greet at FRI 2018.

The VCOS Board reviewed FRI registration. VCOS covers hotel, flight and diversity breakfast. It was recommended that the VCOS board register for the expo pass only, because they will not have time to attend FRI sessions.

Chief Black: The IAFC Board meeting is tomorrow, we will be pushing through the Lavender Ribbon Report.

Chief Seavey: Welcome Chiefs Yancey and Oettel to the VCOS board. I would also like to thank Chief Rush for his work and diligence on the board. Once we get some of the quirks on the Lavender Ribbon Report cleaned up you will find it one of the best and most important reports we have put out. Scott Beecher really stepped up to the plate for us and has done a great job working with the committee.

Chief Wall thanked everyone for attending the call and for their hard work.

The next meeting will be Thursday, August 9 at 1:30pm CT at Fire-Rescue International in Dallas.