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VCOS Board Telecon Meeting Minutes February 11, 2025

Participants:

VCOS Board Members Present:

Chief Rich Cowger, Chair
Chief Al Yancey, Vice Chair
Chief Fred Windisch, Secretary/Treasurer
Chief Jason Catrambone, International Director
Chief Shawn Stokes, Director at Large
Chief Jordan Cramer, Director at Large
Chief Jason Caughey, Director at Large
Chief Kevin Cooney, Director at Large

VCOS Board Members Not Present:

Chief Spencer Cheatham, Director at Large
Chief Tim Sendelbach, Director at Large

IAFC Guests/Staff:

Kevin McGee, Staff Liaison
Mikel Robinson, Staff Support Contractor

Call to Order

Chief Rich Cowger called the meeting to order at 1405 hrs ET.

Approval of January 14, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes

Chief Rich Cowger, Chair

MOTION: February 11, 2025-01

Motion made and seconded to approve the January 14, 2025 Board meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Catrambone/Stokes

Chair Report

Chief Rich Cowger, Chair

Chief Cowger reported that the Executive Committee reviewed and discussed the February 11, 2025 Board meeting agenda in preparation for the Board meeting.

Chief Cowger reported that he received edits from the USFA as well as a letter from US Fire Administrator Lori Moore-Merrill to be inserted into the Gold Ribbon Report. Once Chief Cowger submits his letter the document will be complete. Chief Cowger forwarded the Gold (Data) Ribbon Report to Ms. Robinson for final preparation. Once the report is formatted it will be sent to the IAFC Board for their review and approval. A goal is to have it ready to submit to CEO Rob Brown before the March IAFC Board meeting.

Chief Cowger informed the Board that the three 2025 contracts for VCOS services are approved. Chief Cowger will appoint several Board members to review the contract to report back to the Board on any recommendations for 2026.

Vice Chair Report Chief Al Yancey

Chief Yancey discussed the Critical Thinking Academy pilot to be held in Pittsburgh area. Chief Yancey is coordinating the time for the Board to observe during the time the Board is there for the in-person Board meeting. So far there are 16 attendees registered.

Chief Yancey is compiling the SWOT input from the Board. He received input from half the Board. He set a deadline for this week for remaining Board members to submit. Chief Cheatham will assist him in using the input and preparing for the Strategic Plan discussion at the March Board meeting.

International Director Report Chief Jason Catrambone

Chief Catrambone reminded the Board that the IAFC has a legislative Hot Sheet that is accessible to all IAFC members. The next IAFC Board meeting is in Kansas City during the WUI Conference.

Secretary Treasurer Report Chief Fred Windisch

Chief Windisch reviewed the annual budget that was submitted to IAFC. There was a quick turnaround requirement as the process began later than in past budget cycles.

Chief Windisch sent the 2025 Expense Report to the Board by email. The only change is mileage is increased to 70 cents per mile.

Election Committee Chief Kevin Cooney

Chief Cooney stated that Chief Jim Cook and Chief Brian Biggs were appointed to serve on the 2025 Election Committee. The Call for Candidate announcement was distributed to members by eblast and is posted on the VCOS website. There are three at-large Board seats open.

Support Position Report

Mikel Robinson

The call for presentation for 2025 SITS opened. Ms. Robinson is doing social media on behalf of the Section. The SITS Hotel Search Committee process is underway.

Staff Liaison Report

Kevin McGee

IAFC is preparing the RFP for the Webinar provider contract.

Old Business

After discussion of scheduling conflicts, the Board settled on May 15, 16, 17 in the Houston TX area for the Spring in-person Board meeting. Chief Catrambone and Chief Windisch will coordinate the meeting location.

New Business

MOTION: February 11, 2025-02

Motion made and seconded to endorse Chief Ernie Malone for IAFC 2nd Vice President.

Motion carried.

Windisch/Catrambone

The telecon ended at 1507 hrs ET.

Minutes submitted by:

Mr. Kevin McGee
VCOS Staff Liaison

Fire Chief Fred Windisch
Secretary/Treasurer

Chief Rich Cowger
Chair

Because electronic mail can be altered, the integrity of this communication cannot be guaranteed.