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VCOS Board Telecon Meeting Minutes January 14, 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 Tim Sendelbach, 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

IAFC Guests/Staff:

Kevin McGee, Staff Liaison
Mikel Robinson, Staff Support Contractor
Chief John Buckman, Education Coordinator
Chief Ernie Malone

Call to Order

Chief Al Yancey chaired the meeting although Chief Rich Cowger is on the call, he has poor reception and is traveling. A roll call was taken and a quorum was present. The meeting came to order at 1402 hrs ET.

Approval of December 10, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes

Chief Rich Cowger, Chair

MOTION: January 14, 2025-01

Motion made and seconded to approve the December 10, 2024 Board meeting minutes.

Motion carried.

Catrambone/Sendelbach

Chair Report

Chief Al Yancey, Vice Chair

Chief Yancey yielded to Chief Ernie Malone who is a candidate for IAFC 2nd Vice President. Chief Malone shared his personal values and his experience to include his position on the IAFC Board. Chief Yancey mentioned that the Board will take his candidacy under consideration for a possible endorsement after they deliberate consistent with VCOS policy.

Chief Yancey informed the Board that a review of the Board agenda and a discussion about the education program was discussed at the Executive Committee meeting.

Chief Cowger reported that having received no feedback from Board members, the Gold (Data) Ribbon Report was ready for the Board to act on and that he will prepare his letter to be added to the document, further he is awaiting a letter from US Fire Administrator Lori Moore-Merrill for inclusion. Once approved by the Board, the report will be forwarded to the IAFC Board for approval.

MOTION: January 14, 2025-02

Motion made and seconded to approve the Gold (Data) Ribbon Report and that the document is to be forwarded to the IAFC Board for their approval. Motion carried.

Stokes/Caughey

Chief Cowger and Chief Yancey recognized the exceptional work done by Eddie Buchanan, chair, and his committee. Chief Cowger will send a letter of appreciation to the Gold Ribbon Report Committee.

Vice Chair Report

Chief Al Yancey

Chief Yancey reported that he continues to prepare the Strategic Plan for Board discussion at the March meeting. He also reminded members to submit their SWAT input to him by February 1.

Chief Yancey's Health, Wellness and Safety Committee report was prior to the Board meeting by email.

International Director Report

Chief Jason Catrambone

Chief Catrambone informed the Board that the next IAFC Board meeting is scheduled for later in the month in which the Board will review draft revisions to IAFC policies.

Secretary Treasurer Report

Chief Fred Windisch

Chief Windisch will send the Treasurer's Report to the Board by email. He is focused on the review of 2024 Symposium in the Sun financials to determine the profit.

Education Coordinator Report

Chief John Buckman

Chief Buckman presented the Critical Thinking Academy budget for the pilot offering to be held in Pittsburgh (PA).

MOTION: January 14, 2025-03

Motion made and seconded to approve the Critical Thinking Academy pilot program budget. Motion carried.

Stokes/Cooney

The SUN Committee is getting organized to begin work on the 2025 Symposium in the Sun. The Hotel Search Committee is seeking prospectus for the future SUN venue. The VCOS email will now be sent to Chief Buckman, Kevin McGee, and Mikel Robinson.

Workforce Solutions

Chief Jordan Cramer

Chief Cramer informed the Board that Workforce Solutions intends to use current grant funds for CTA since the program aligns well with recruitment and retention.

Support Position Report

Mikel Robinson

Ms. Robinson is reviewing marketing material. Mikel encourages Board members to provide her with information that she can eblast to members so that we send emails more frequently to members.

Staff Liaison Report

Kevin McGee

The contract for the Pittsburgh/Southpointe Board meeting is set. The Board discussed topics for the meeting to include the Strategic Plan, Partner discussion and the marketing plan.

Kevin McGee will provide information and timing on the 2025 election to the Board.

Old Business

No Old Business

New Business

Please let Chief Cowger know if you will be attending CFSI. Chief Cowger is attending representing several fire service affiliations.

The telecon ended at 1524 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.