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VCOS Annual Meeting

August 15, 2024
Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center
Dallas Texas

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 Spencer, Cheatham, Director at Large
Chief Brita Horn, Director at Large
Chief Shawn Stokes, Director at Large
Chief Paul Sterling, Director at Large
Chief Jason Caughey, Director at Large

VCOS Board Members Not Present:

IAFC Guests/Staff:

Chief Kevin Cooney, Director at Large Elect
Chief Jordan Cramer, Director at Large Elect
Kevin McGee, Staff Liaison
Ms. Mikel Robinson, Staff Support Contractor
Steven Alanzo, IAFC Government Relations and Policy
Mr. Robbie King, Vector Solutions
Chief Tom Jenkins
VCOS Membership

Call to Order

Chief Rich Cowger chaired the meeting. A roll call was taken and a quorum was present. The meeting came to order at 1301 hrs CT.

Approval of July 9, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Chief Rich Cowger, Chair

MOTION: August 15, 2024-01

Motion made and seconded to approve the July 9, 2024 Board meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Yancey/Windisch

Chair Report

Chief Rich Cowger, Chair

Chief Cowger recognized the VCOS partners and the IAFC Board members who were present.

Chief Cowger held a moment of silence for the late immediate past chair Chuck Flynn.

Vice Chair Report

Chief Al Yancey

Chief Yancey presented the Strategic Direction to the membership.

Secretary Treasurer Report

Chief Fred Windisch

Chief Windisch reported the following;

General Fund

Carryover from 2023 \$238,904
Total Revenue \$61,251
Total Expenses \$89,113
Ending Balance \$211,042

Chief Windisch noted that the net assets decrease for this fund was predicted showing a reduction of \$27,862.

Pierce Initiative Fund

Carryover from 2023 \$235,267
Total Revenues \$52,700
Total Expenses \$18,413
Ending Balance \$269,554

Chief Windisch noted that net assets increased for this fund by \$34,287 and that several projects are underway that will reduce the net assets this year.

Chief Windisch informed membership that the economic conditions negatively affected all VCOS operations with all costs increased substantially. Spending is monitored closely. Symposium in the Sun 2023 had a \$67,204 profit. Future revenues are expected to be flat without investment in more partnerships. Efforts are underway to address VCOS marketing, branding and sponsorships.

International Director Report

Chief Jason Catrambone, International Director

Chief Catrambone discussed the progress with the IAFC Strategic Initiatives to include the progress with the Officer Development Program and expansion of the IAFC's International presence.

Election Committee Report

Chief Shawn Stokes

Chief Stokes reported that three members were elected to the Board for three-year terms and one member elected to a two year term to fill the vacancy due to the untimely passing of Chief Chuck Flynn.

Chief Al Yancey – term 2024-2027

Chief Tim Sendlebach – term 2024-2027

Chief Jordan Cramer – term 2024-2027

Chief Kevin Cooney – term 2024-2026

Installation of Newly Elected Directors

Presided by Incoming IAFC President Josh Waldo

Chief Kevin Cooney, Chief Jordan Cramer and Chief Al Yancey took the oath of office presided by incoming IAFC President Josh Waldo.

Recognition of Outgoing Directors

Chief Rich Cowger

Chief Cowger recognized Chief Brita Horn and Chief Paul Sterling as they conclude their term as Director at Large. Chief Cowger thanked Chief Horn and Chief Sterling for their service and shared their contributions while serving on the Board with the membership.

Training Office of the Year Award

Chief Al Yancey and Mr. Robbie King

Chief Al Yancey and Mr. Robbie King presented the Training Officer of the Year Award to Division Chief Robert Barring, Flower Mound (TX) Fire Department.

FRI Scholarship

Chief Al Yancey

Chief Al Yancey presented the \$1,500 FRI Scholarship to Lt. Steven Mandragos, Prince George's County (MD) Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department. In addition to the \$1,500 scholarship, VCOS provides a complementary FRI registration to Lt. Mandragos.

Education Report

Chief John Buckman

Chief Buckman reported on the progress with the 2024 Symposium in the Sun Conference preparations. There are 400 registered attendees. Registration will be capped at 550. Nomination for awards deadlines were extended by two weeks.

Webinars are held on Tuesdays. So far this year there have been 612 webinar attendees. The Critical Thinking education program is progressing with a Critical Thinking curriculum development session that was held in McLean VA in June.

Legislative Update Mr. Steven Alanzo

Mr. Alanzo presented a legislative report to the membership to include what was accomplished and all that the IAFC Government Relations and Policy staff are pursuing. Among other legislative efforts, Mr. Alanzo reported on the passing of the FIRE Act and Safer Act, the FAA reauthorization, and Next Gen 9-1-1.

National Emergency Response Information System (NERIS) Update Chief Tom Jenkins

Chief Tom Jenkins provided an update on the USFA National Emergency Response Information System (NERIS) project. Chief Jenkins discussed key features of the system, why it's needed and emphasized that there is a need to reach out to all fire departments across the country to inform them of this impending new national incident reporting system.

Director Updates

Chief Jason Caughey reported that the NFA Superintendent is developing a volunteer Recruitment and Retention program.

Chief Cheatham encouraged all members to follow VCOS on social media. Facebook views are substantially increased this year. The Communications Committee is revising the Red Ribbon Report.

Chief Horn expressed thanks to all for their support of the VCOS during her term on the Board.

Chief Sterling congratulated the incoming 2024 directors.

Staff Liaison Report Kevin McGee

The updated 2024 Bylaws are now posted on the VCOS website.

Old Business

No old business.

New Business

Chief Cowger informed the membership that on behalf of VCOS, he will present President John Butler with a certificate that places a brick at the National Fire Academy walk in support of the National Fallen Firefighters Association for recognition of his service as IAFC president.

Good of the Order

None

The telecon ended at 1446 hrs CT.

Minutes submitted by:

Mr. Kevin McGee
VCOS Staff Liaison

Fire Chief Fred Windisch
Secretary/Treasurer

Chief Rich Cowger
Chair

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