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VCOS Board Meeting North Charleston SC Embassy Suites May 17-18, 2024

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, Board Member at Large
Chief Jason Caughey, Board Member at Large
Chief Shawn Stokes, Board Member at Large
Chief Paul Sterling, Board Member at Large

VCOS Board Members Not Present:

Chief Brita Horn, Board Member at Large

IAFC Guests/Staff:

Chief John Buckman, VCOS Education Coordinator
Dan Seidberg, President, IamResponding
Ms. Mikel Robinson, VCOS Support Position
Mr. Kevin McGee, IAFC Liaison
Ken LaSala, Director, IAFC Policy and Government Relations
Danea Griffin, Jackson Lewis Law
Eddie Buchanan, Deccan International

Call to Order

Chief Cowger chaired the meeting. A roll call was taken and a quorum was present. The meeting came to order at 08:08 hrs ET.

Approval of April 9, 202 Meeting Minutes

Chief Rich Cowger, Chair

MOTION: 17 May 2024-01

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

Catrambone/Stokes

Approval of May 9, 2024 Special Meeting Minutes

Chief Rich Cowger, Chair

MOTION: 17 May 2024-02

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

Caughey/Catrambone

Chair Report

Chief Rich Cowger, Chair

Chief Cowger accepted Chief Horn's resignation as chair of the Gold Ribbon Report and appointed Eddie Buchannan to serve in the vacant chair position. Chief Cowger provided direction that Chief Buchannan contact the members of the Gold Ribbon Report who submitted resignations to assure that their names will be removed from the report and to determine any further requests from those committee members. Chief Cowger added Dan Seidberg as a member of the Gold Ribbon Report committee. Mike McDonald is still in the editing process.

MOTION: 17 May 2024-03

Motion made and seconded to support Chief Cowger's position to accept Chief Horn's resignation as chair of the Gold Ribbon Report, to appoint Eddie Buchannan as the Gold Ribbon Report chair, and to add Dan Seidberg to the Gold Ribbon Report committee.

Motion carried.

Catrambone/Stokes

Chief Cowger deferred to Chief Stokes who reported that there are eight candidates for four open Board positions and that balloting of members is underway.

Vice Chair Report

Chief Al Yancey, Vice Chair

Chief Yancey informed the Board that the nomination period is open for the Training Officer of the Year Award sponsored by Vector Solutions. The Training Officer of the Year Award is open to all IAFC members who are training officers.

Chief Yancey shared the Vector Solutions proposal to offer a 10% discount and no set up fees to new accounts who are VCOS members. Chief Cheatham will obtain a statement from Vector Solutions to be placed in the next Newsletter. Ms. Robinson will validate VCOS memberships for Vector Solutions and promote the program on social media.

International Director's Report

Chief Jason Catrambone, International Director

Chief Catrambone reported that the IAFC is in a healthy and continuously improving financial position to a level that funds are once again being transferred to reserves.

The newly revised Company Officer Leadership Series program is now available through Columbia Southern University.

Chief Catrambone recommended that the Board view IAFC attorney's video Duties of Board Members video.

The One Voice meeting hosted by the USFA was successful. Attendance was by invitation.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report

Chief Fred Windisch, Secretary Treasurer

Chief Windisch reported that VCOS is in a good financial position. Chief Windisch is seeking to have higher clarity as to where past year Symposium in the Sun funds were assigned to through a planned call with the IAFC CEO and Treasurer.

A discussion on the internal budget development process was conducted from questions asked by Board members.

Legislative Report

Mr. Ken LaSala

Mr. LaSala introduced Ms. Dana Griffin, Jackson Lewis Law Firm. Jackson Lewis Law is being retained by the IAFC to provide services in preparing the IAFC position to submit to OSHA regarding the draft OSHA Emergency Response Standard regulations.

Mr. LaSala provided an update on the IAFC process to provide input into the OSHA Emergency Response Standard regulations comment period and acknowledged Chief Caughey's work on the IAFC document.

Board members provided examples that OSHA should consider before promulgating the new regulations to understand the large numbers of fire departments, especially rural departments will not be able to viably meet the proposed regulations to a degree that they may not be able to continue service to their communities. Each Board member is asked to submit 1 or 2 stories about the consequences for if and when the OSHA Emergency Response Standard is implemented through Chief Caughey who will compile them for Ms. Griffin and Mr. LaSala. Stories need to be submitted by May 24th.

Mr. LaSala gave a legislative report on the House budget that includes cuts to FIRE and SAFER grants. Mr. LaSala informed the Board that member calls to their representatives are needed to prevent the budget cuts. The Firefighter Cancer Registry reauthorization needs to pass through the Senate. The USFA budget was increased.

Strategic Initiatives Work Session

Chief Al Yancey

Chief Yancey reviewed the mission, core values and Venn diagram and core focus from the February meeting before going through the 2024 strategic initiatives captured from the February Board meeting.

Chief Yancey will facilitate a work session to complete the 2024 strategic initiatives later in the meeting.

Partners Update

Dan Seidberg, Eddie Buchanan

The Board discussed creating a definition statement of Legacy Partners and Partners to differentiate the two. Legacy partners are VFIS, Provident, Ward Diesel, and IamResponding.

Chief Caughey, Chief Windisch, Eddie Buchanan, Dan Seidberg, and Scott Beecher will serve on a newly formed Section Sponsorship and Partnership committee.

Dan Seidberg, IamResponding provided a briefing on the Rapid SOS rail and Haz Mat program. Dan requested a letter addressing the fire service need for rapid IA supported rail information for railroad incidents that require a fire service response. Chief Caughey and Chief Yancey agreed to prepare a letter in support of having rapid fire service access to rail information.

MOTION: 17 May 2024-04

Motion made and seconded to provide a letter of support for Rapid SOS. Motion carried.

Caughey/Yancey

Eddie Buchanan provided an update on the Deccan award and the need for further vetting to assure that the department selected has the needed access to CAD data to support the grant award. A Board member is needed for the evaluation panel. The application period ends August 8th and announced September.

Education Report

Chief John Buckman

Chief John Buckman requested a two day in person meeting to develop the Critical Thinking curriculum development at IAFC HQ. Pierce funds will be used to cover the costs.

Chief Buckman informed the Board that webinars continue to be successful, however the IAFC webinar contractor costs are expensive and that he is exploring a lower cost option.

The Chief Academy has 11 virtual sessions.

Chief Buckman stated that Symposium in the Sun (SITS) planning is in the initial early phase. Calls for presentations resulted in many new proposals. The SITS Committee is seeking a different type of keynote speaker such as a motivational speaker who is on the national circuit.

The Board discussed the interest for 30 year anniversary consideration, ideas were provided and Chief Windisch will make the order.

The survey of members regarding the ribbon reports has not yet been done.

A VCOS booth will be requested for the 2024 FRI to be staffed by Board members.

May 17, 2024 Board Meeting Recess

Chief Rich Cowger, Chair

Chief Cowger recessed the meeting at 15:28 hours ET.

May 18, 2024 Reconvening of Board Meeting

Chief Rich Cowger Chair

Chief Cowger reconvened the Board meeting May 18, 2024 at 08:07 hours ET

Strategic Initiatives Work Session Continued

Facilitated by Chief Al Yancey

Chief Yancey reviewed the draft strategic initiatives compiled from the February 2024 meeting and facilitated the finalization of the plan through a Board work session assigning leads to each initiative.

Policies and Procedures

Chief Shawn Stokes

A discussion of draft policies and procedures was conducted to seek approval.

Guide for Expense Reimbursements

MOTION: 18 May 2024-01

Motion made and seconded to Guide for Expense Reimbursement. Motion carried.

Yancey/Cheatham

Procedure for Electing Board Officers

MOTION: 18 May 2024-02

Motion made and seconded to approve the Procedure for Electing Board Officers. Motion carried.

Windisch/Caughey

Recording Meeting Minutes Procedure

MOTION: 18 May 2024-03

Motion made and seconded to approve the Recording Meeting Minutes Procedure. Motion carried.

Stokes/Cheatham

Process for Working with the IAFC Staff Liaison

MOTION: 18 May 2024-04

Motion made and seconded to approve the Process for Working with the IAFC Staff Liaison. Motion carried.

Yancey/Stokes

IAFC Candidate Endorsement Policy – After discussion this draft will be tabled for further Board input.

Staff Liaison

Kevin McGee

The Fire Chief of the Year Award nomination period is closed. There were three nominations for Volunteer Fire Chief of the Year.

The FRI Scholarships are now open through June 14. There are no applications yet.

VCOS Staff Support Coordinator

Mikel Robinson

Ms. Robinson reported that she has access to all VCOS social media and established a VCOS LinkedIn account. The website was updated for Symposium in the Sun.

MOTION: 18 May 2024-05

Motion made and seconded to approve a \$150 donation to the North Charleston Fire Museum. Motion carried.

Windisch/Caughey

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Good of the Order

None

The meeting adjourned at 1102 hrs ET.

Minutes submitted by:

Mr. Kevin McGee
VCOS Staff Liaison

Fire Chief Fred Windisch
Secretary/Treasurer

Chief Rich Cowger
Chair

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