



8251 Greensboro Drive, Suite 650 • McLean, VA 22102
Tel: 703.273.0911 • Fax: 703.273.9363 • IAFC.org

VCOS Board Telecon May 9, 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

VCOS Board Members Not Present:

Chief Brita Horn, Board Member at Large
Chief Paul Sterling, Board Member at Large

IAFC Guests/Staff:

Ms. Kelly Walsh, Chief Programs Officer
David Dobbs, Program Director, Workforce Solutions
Ms. Mikel Robinson, Staff Support Contractor

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 1400 hrs ET.

Chief Cowger held a moment of silence in honor and remembrance of Chief Chuck Flynn, former VCOS Chair.

Approval of March 12, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Chief Rich Cowger, Chair

MOTION: April 9, 2024-01

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

Caughey/Catrambone

Chair Report

Chief Rich Cowger, Chair

Chief Cowger provided the topics covered during the Executive Committee meeting that included discussion of the Second Vice President endorsement that will be addressed by the full Board.

Vice Chair Report

No report.

International Director Report

Chief Jason Catrambone, International Director

Chief Catrambone informed the Board that the IAFC Board will hold an in person meeting in a week and a half.

Secretary Treasurer Report

No report

IAFC Workforce Solutions

Kelly Walsh, Chief Programs Officer, David Dobis, Program Director

Ms. Walsh and Mr. Dobis provided an overview of the Workforce Solutions program with the following points;

- Online mentoring training (how to start mentoring program within their departments). Posted on webpage under events.
- SAFER Grant (submitting this week) – larger national campaign on awareness and needs, IAFC will take the lead.
- SAFER Grant – online tools and tech assistance program.
 - Community comp, workforce comp, planning tool to bring that all together to support R&R.
 - Multi-tiered tech assistance program. Help desk.

Ms. Walsh and Mr. Dobis suggested that it would be helpful to get VCOS feedback. Workforce Solutions will also be establishing a coalition.

Election Report

Chief Jim Cook

Chief Cook reported that VCOS election ballot will open to members the end of May. Election information is on the VCOS website under the election tab to provide the nine candidates with their statements.

IAFC 2nd Vice President Endorsement

Chief Rich Cowger

Chief Cowger requests each Board member to provide several questions for the candidates by COB on Friday (send to Cowger, Kevin and Mikel, cc the board).

We will then compile and send to the candidates, then share their answers with the VCOS membership as a basis for the Board to determine which 2nd Vice President to endorse.

Communications Strategy

Chief Spenser Cheatham

Chief Cheatham met with Ms. Robinson to address the communications plan to include a robust social media effort.

Training Program Update

Chief Buckman

Chief Buckman provided a training program report to the Board by email.

Chief Buckman is interested in receiving input for webinar topics and presenters.

The Symposium in the Sun planning is standing by for the IAFC to finalize the process for calls for presentations. Chief Buckman is developing the Critical Thinking call and reviewing state convention presentations for topics.

Data Ribbon Report

Chief Rich Cowger

Chief Cowger informed the board of the activity that had happened since the last board meeting, including the communications with USFA. He also reported that Chief Windisch had been in touch with the editor and after he had made edits the report would go back to the data ribbon report committee and then to the board for final review.

Health, Wellness and Safety Committee Report

Chief Caughey

The Committee created a cancer versus wellness subcommittee.

Board Policies and Procedures Report

Chief Shawn Stokes

Chief Stokes reported that drafts will be shared before the May Board meeting.

OSHA Emergency Response Regulations

Chief Jason Caughey

After today's meeting, Chief Caughey will have a list of bullet points to share with the VCOS members.

Old Business

Ms. Robinson and Chief Cowger provided logistical information in preparation of the May 2024 Board meeting to be held in Charleston, SC. Arrangements are in the final stages.

New Business

No new business

Good of the Order

Chief Stokes alerted the Board that there are changes coming to medication management for EMS agencies from the federal level that likely will have a major impact on all EMS agencies that do any form of fire based EMS, especially ALS. Chief Stokes sent an email to the Board with further information.

The telecon ended at 1501 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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