



Volunteer & Combination Officers Section of The International Association of Fire Chiefs

4025 Fair Ridge Drive • Fairfax, VA 22033-2868 • Tel: 703/273-0911 • www.iafc.org



Officers Section

VCOS Board Telecon May 8, 2014

Minutes

Called to order: 4:02 p.m.

Present: Chief Timothy Wall, Chief Dan Eggleston, Chief Jim Wilson, Chief Shane Crutcher, Chief Randy Larson, Chief Fred Windisch, Chief Jim Seavey, Chief Mike Vaughn

Absent: Chief Ted Lowden

Guests: Chief Joe Florentino, Chief Byron Smith

Staff: Ms. Kelly Ameen, Mr. Tommy Hicks

Welcome and Agenda Overview - Chief Wall and Chief Wilson

At the board meeting last week, the board accepted the resignation letters of Chiefs Fulmer and Lowden. Fulmer's resignation was effective as of May 3. Lowden's resignation will be effective as of May 11.

Shell Oil Opportunity – Mr. Tommy Hicks

Mr. Hicks had a conversation with Shell Oil recently. They would like to sponsor VCOS on a racecar at an event in Richmond, Virginia this fall. There would be no cost to VCOS. It is a contribution from Shell Oil to VCOS. It would include several tickets to the race and the VCOS logo and name on the back of the racecar. The board said it sounded like a great opportunity and thanked Mr. Hicks for arranging this. Chief Wall will be the main VCOS point of contact for this. Mr. Hicks will do an email introduction to Chief Wall and Shell Oil so they can move forward with the details.

VCOS Elections Committee – Chief Florentino

The Elections Committee received three applications from Chiefs Norvin Collins (OR), Randy Larson (CO), and Charles Flynn (CT). The committee recommends that they get the 3-year terms that are currently up. The committee verified that all three are members in good standing with the IAFC and VCOS. They have also talked to their supervisors. An e-blast will go out next week announcing the new selections for the board. Chief Florentino will send Ms. Ameen language for the e-blast.

Only two board members can be from the same division. There was a question whether or not the International Director position counted towards that. Chief Windisch reviewed the

by-laws and said that the International Director does not count toward that rule. Therefore, the 1-year term that is currently open can be filled by someone from any division except for New England. Chief Seavey questioned why the International Director doesn't apply to that rule and suggested that be looked at in the future for a potential by-law change.

The VCOS board will appoint someone for the open 1-year term. The board is encouraged to seek good candidates to fill this position. They need to submit the same information as was previously required for the election process. They must send that information to Chief Wall and Chief Florentino by May 23.

Motion by Chief Wilson and seconded by Chief Crutcher to accept the election committee report and fill the three 3-year open terms with Chiefs Collins, Larson, and Flynn. Motion carried. Chief Larson abstained.

Chief Wall thanked Chief Florentino and the Elections Committee for their work on this.

NVFC Meeting Recap – Chief Eggleston

The VCOS board met with the NVFC's Executive Committee on Friday, May 2. It was very productive. There were ten people there from the NVFC's Executive Committee. Chief Kevin Quinn and Chief Wall ran meeting. Tampa 2, partnering on various projects, swapping newsletters, training opportunities, Interschutz 2015, and the VISION project were discussed. Since the meeting, there have been email exchanges with Chief Quinn about the volunteer POV response project. VCOS was represented very well. Emails have also been sent to the NVFC about the VCOS FRI scholarships. The VCOS awards information will be sent later once they are finalized.

Chief Crutcher asked if there was any further information about the IAFC's attendance at Interschutz 2015 in Germany. Chief Wall said he has a call into Mr. Mark Light to find out more details.

The NVFC has a summit in SC in mid-June. They are offering one complimentary registration to VCOS. Who should VCOS send? It was recommended that sending someone from SC would keep costs lower. Chief Crutcher suggested that it may be beneficial to have a board member attend. Chief Seavey stated that many NVFC directors and alternates attend the summit. Chief Wall suggested sending Chief Oprandy or Chief LaBelle. Chief Eggleston will mention it to them. If you are interested in going or have another recommendation, send an email to Chief Wall.

20th Anniversary Activities at FRI – Chief Wall

Ideas for the 20th anniversary at FRI include a new banner at the VCOS booth, coins and cake at the annual meeting, pens with the 20th anniversary slogan, and a housekeeping slide during the opening general session for VCOS and VISION.

The 20th anniversary coins came out great. Mr. Mike MacDonald will work on creating a special 20th anniversary edition VCOS book. This will not replace the newsletter. Ms. Ameen will work to get a 20th anniversary banner made for FRI and Symposium. Chief Windisch is working with Chief Curl to get higher quality pens with the 20th anniversary information on them. He should have a quote in the next day or two.

As a reminder, the VCOS annual meeting at FRI will be Thursday, August 14. Keep an eye out for an email from Ms. Ameen about booking flights and hotel. It was agreed upon at the live board meeting that people coming on the VCOS board need to pay for their own travel and registration costs for FRI. Also, VCOS board members are on their own for the FRI registration fee. Chief Larson believes he can now make the VCOS meeting at FRI since it is on Thursday.

Chief Florentino will help with transportation and arrange a board dinner.

Fire Chief of the Year – Chief Wall

VCOS can nominate someone for career and volunteer Fire Chief of the Year. Chief Windisch recommends that VCOS nominate Chief Charles Addington from Texas who won the Buckman award this past year. June 6 is the deadline for nominations.

Motion by Chief Windisch and seconded by Chief Eggleston to nominate Chief Addington for volunteer Fire Chief of the Year. Motion carried.

If anyone has a nominee suggestion for career Fire Chief of the Year, please send them to Chief Wall.

Awards – Chief Wall

- Liaisons for awards:
 - Buckman Award – Vaughn, Seavey
 - Retention and Recruitment Award – Larson (new appointment)
 - Safe Driving Award – Wilson (new appointment)
- Application Deadline - August 31, 2014
- Revising applications (see attached applications from 2013)

VFIS said they would advertise the awards more this year. We need to look at revising the application for the Buckman award and not make it too complicated or require too many qualifications. Award liaisons should review the current applications and change the contact information, dates, etc. Send revised applications to Ms. Ameen.

iWomen – Chief Larson

VCOS needs to pick a VCOS member to receive the free iWomen membership. Chief Larson will have a nomination by the next conference call.

VCOS Labor Management Initiative – Chief Vaughn and Chief Larson

The project committee will have a call next week. Mr. Mike MacDonald should be added to the project committee. Chief Vaughn sent an email out today to the committee. They will continue to move forward.

IAFC 2nd Vice President Election – Chief Wall

VCOS endorsed Chief John Sinclair. The election will be open from May 15 – June 26. The VCOS board is encouraged to reach out to their divisions and other groups to support Chief Sinclair.

Roundtable and Committee/Project Updates

Chief Vaughn was awarded a medal of valor on Tuesday for his heroism and bravery for his efforts with the tornados from November that hit his community. The VCOS board congratulated him on this achievement.

Chief Wilson is feeling better and apologized for missing the board meeting. There will be a Near Miss taskforce call in the next few weeks that he will participate on.

Chief Crutcher suggested that the 20th anniversary slogan be put on the racecar that Shell is offering. When all of the awards information is ready, he will advertise them on social media, etc.

Chief Seavey apologized for not being at board meeting due to illness. He is currently at the Eastern division meeting. He will be at the Harrisburg Expo next week.

Chief Larson also apologized for missing the last board meeting.

Chief Vaughn was sorry to miss the last meeting. He thanked the group for their recognition of his recent medal.

Chief Windisch has completed many of his follow-up items from the last meeting. He sent a note to Chief Cheves about not providing additional support to Idaho. Chief Parr is looking into a Lucite holder with the 20th anniversary challenge coin as a gift to VISION challenge leaders. He asked Chief Buchanan about whether VCOS paid the \$5,000 for the ISFSI video. He also followed up with Chief Middleton to get a one or two page brief about the NFPA 950/951 Data Exchange for the Fire Service and the implications for volunteer and combination departments. Chief Windisch's article in this past newsletter has received support and positive comments so far.

Chief Byron Smith gave an update on the NFORS meeting he attended at CFSI on behalf of VCOS. He thanked the board for the opportunity to represent VCOS. It was important that he was there to provide the volunteer fire service perspective. They reviewed several hundred data points collected through the system. Currently the project is in its second year. The third year starts in the summer and they are awaiting to see if they get grant funding. The next part of the project is developing software, reports, and a sustainability plan. There is great promise in this program. However, it will require more data collection by the boots on the ground. Chief Smith wants to make sure they properly align the data points and that it is reasonable for the fire service. This project is not in competition with NFIRS. The difference is that this project is more outcome based. They are looking more at the operations piece. Chief Windisch expressed concern that it will be hard to get people to fill out even more data reports; it will be an uphill battle. Chief Smith explained that it will be a web-based interface and admitted that the double entry issue could be a big hurdle. They are looking to partner with vendors so that double entry could be avoided. Groups such as Firehouse and Zoll participated in the meeting. Chief Smith was able to attend at no cost to VCOS. There will be two or three more meetings, but there aren't definitive dates yet. Chief Wall encouraged Chief Smith to continue to provide updates on this project to the VCOS board. He can submit a written update for the quarterly board meetings. If any

information needs to be disseminated about this project, he can use the VCOS website, Facebook page, newsletter, e-blasts, etc. Chief Smith said that the roll out is planned for mid-2015 and that would be the time to distribute information about the project.

Ms. Ameen said the VISION website is now live; however it is not being advertised yet. Challenge leaders are reviewing their sections and will provide any feedback by May 23. Then the VCOS board will be asked to review the site. The national launch will be done at FRI. The next VCOS webinar is scheduled for May 21 at 7 p.m. Chiefs Eggleston, Oprandy, and LaBelle will be the presenters. There will be an e-blast distributed early next week about the VCOS election and other updates.

Chief Wall thanked everyone for a productive live meeting a few days ago. The EMS section was supportive in having the VCOS meeting at FRM. Overall CFSI went very well.

Adjourned: 4:58 p.m.