



VCOS Vision Project

We had a dream....

1999

The VCOS Board of Directors discusses the idea of holding a Volunteer Summit in Washington D.C. with the leadership of the IAFC. The response is positive.

2004

Publication of the Blue Ribbon Report – *A Call for Action: Preserving and Improving the Future of the Volunteer Fire Service*

July 2010

Summit Steering Team meets in Frisco, Texas to identify various challenges and potential initiatives to address the challenges. The intent is to produce a launch pad for the upcoming Summit

November 2010

Summit Steering Team meets at VCOS Symposium to continue planning efforts for Spring 2011 Summit.

March 2011

One-hundred fifty IAFC/VCOS members attend the Summit in Washington D.C. The two-day summit featured a series of highly-regarded speakers from government, policy, and fire and emergency service arenas. Participants addressed issues and concerns about volunteerism critical to the emergency response community as well as to our nation as a whole. While drawing on the knowledge and experience of volunteer leaders, the summit also reaches out to emerging leaders, so that we would have their input, so critical for shaping the future. The meeting is called "*Constructing a National Blueprint for Expanding the Future of Volunteerism in the Emergency Service Community.*"

July 2011

The Summit Steering Team meets in Ponderosa, Texas to refine challenges/initiatives and move toward the creation of the strategic plan.

August 2011

Two members of the Summit Steering Team present the challenges/initiatives on the show floor at Fire-Rescue International in Atlanta, Georgia.

October 2011

Emergency Services Consulting International (ESCI) hosts several members of the Summit Steering Team to further refine the existing strategic plan. The next few months are spent reviewing and refining the plan.

November 2011

The strategic plan is presented at VCOS Symposium in the Sun in Clearwater Beach, Florida.

January 2012

Chief Timothy Wall, VCOS Chair, Chief Tim Tharp, VCOS Summit Chair, Chief Fred Windisch and Chief John Buckman, VCOS Summit Steering Committee members present the strategic plan to the IAFC Board of Directors, who approve the plan.

February 10, 2012

Summit Lane Leaders meet in Clearwater Beach, Florida to continue work on the operational plan and to prepare a briefing to the VCOS board of directors. At this meeting, the group devises vision and mission statements, and the operational plan name, as follows:

Vision: *Thriving volunteer and combination fire and emergency services organizations*

Mission: *To produce a comprehensive framework to assist communities and their fire and emergency service leaders to create and maintain dynamic organizations.*

Operational Plan Name: VCOS VISION Project: Resources for Success

February 11, 2012

Chief Tim Tharp makes a presentation before the board of directors and guests, including the U.S. Fire Administrator.