



VOLUNTEER & COMBINATION OFFICER SECTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS



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2009 BOARD MEMBER CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

Running for At-Large Board Member:

Bryan J. Adams, Fire Chief, Terrytown Fifth District Vol Fire Dept, LA (SW Division)

I have been an active member in our department since 1982. During that time I was employed as a paid operator for nine years. This gave me a unique opportunity to serve our department as a paid employee and later a member. Before becoming Fire Chief in 2005 I was fortunate enough to be elected to serve the department in a number of administrative areas. As Chief I oversee all operations, twenty three paid personnel and eighty four volunteers. I'm state certified in many areas related to the fire service. I currently hold an elected position of Chairman of a Presidents and Chiefs Association which represents members from over twenty combination/volunteer departments. The VCOS would have my total commitment in helping accomplishing its goals.

Frederick C. Crosby, II, Fire Chief, Hanover County Fire & EMS, VA (SE Division)

John Kennedy said that to whom much is given, much is expected. It is that thought that is the reason I want to serve on the VCOS Board. I know it sounds corny, but it is the truth. Being a volunteer started me on a road 32 years ago that I have joyfully walked since. Being involved with a successful combination system is what has given me all that I have today. The plain fact of the matter is that I owe something back, and I am actively seeking ways to pay that debt. You see, I am a true believer, in volunteerism and in what we do everyday. To me it is all not just words, it is a vocation, and I believe I can contribute. I hope that you will give me the opportunity to serve you and our shared cause.

Joseph E. Florentino, Fire Chief, Little Elm Fire Department, TX (SW Division)

My name is Joe Florentino and I have served on the VCOS board for the last five years. I am currently the Fire Chief of the Little Elm Fire Department in Texas which is a combination department. Our department has successfully brought together volunteer and career personnel and together we face the challenges that lay ahead for today's fire service. I started my career as a volunteer firefighter in Greenlawn New York, in the Eastern Division, and I have served as both a volunteer and career firefighter. I have been extremely active on this board as well as in my local area serving on numerous boards and associations. I can devote the time necessary to continue to serve on this board and to obtain the VCOS goals. I kindly ask you for your support of my re-election to the VCOS Board of Directors and I thank you for your consideration.

William Gulbrandsen, Fire Chief, Sumter County Fire & Rescue, FL (SE Division)

My name is Bill Gulbrandsen and I wish to serve as a Board Member – At Large of the VCOS. Currently I serve as Fire Chief for Sumter County Fire Rescue – Florida, with over 34 years of experience in the Fire Service. Commissioners of Sumter County decided in 2002 to consolidate the 10 individual volunteer departments serving them. I accepted the challenge as the first Fire Chief of this unified system, and since then have had the opportunity to learn from the volunteers and help to establish one of the finest fire departments in our State. Now, we can share these experiences with my peers; speaking frankly on what works and doesn't work in a volunteer/combo system. My desire is to improve the delivery of Fire Services nationwide, as over 70% of our nation's population receives fire rescue services from a volunteer or combination department.

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Michael Jaffa, Deputy Chief of Operations, Tijeras Fire Department, Tijeras, NM (SW Division)

I have been a volunteer member of the Fire Service for 23 years, the past 16 of which at the Chief Officer level. I currently serve as the Volunteer Deputy Chief of the Tijeras (NM) Volunteer Fire Department and as a paid Captain for the Santa Fe County Fire Department (a large combination department). My experience as a "two-hatter" has allowed me to see Fire Service from different perspectives and the importance of working together. My main objectives as a member of the Board will be:

- Work with IAFC leadership to ensure the "two-hatter" issue does not affect the volunteer fire service in a negative way.
- Improve Firefighter Safety with special attention on the safety of our Junior Members.
- Improve membership involvement and utilization on projects and committees within VCOS.

Please visit my web site for more information: www.mjaffa.com. Be Safe – Lead With Passion, Mike Jaffa

Gregory L. Render, Fire Chief, Signal Hill Fire Department, Belleville, IL (GL Division)

My name is Greg L. Render, the Administrator/Chief of the Signal Hill Fire Department, Belleville, Illinois. I have an A.A. degree in Fire Science and B.S. degree in Organizational Leadership. I am an Executive Fire Officer graduate of the National Fire Academy. I am past President of the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association and I represent the IAFC on the NFPA 1720 Committee. Since 2000, I have been an instructor for the VCOS's "Beyond Hoses & Helmets" (formerly the "21st Century") Leadership course. This opportunity has allowed me to interrelate with thousands of volunteer and combination fire officers from across the United States. I have listened and learned about the challenges and concerns impacting their departments on a daily basis. Utilizing my life, professional and academic experiences, I pledge to represent the largest segment of America's fire service to the best of my abilities as a member of the VCOS Board.

David B. See, Chief of Safety, Delmar Fire Department, Delmar, DE (EA Division)

I currently serve as the career Fire Chief for the City of Salisbury Fire Department, a combination municipal organization comprised of 64 career and 120 volunteer professionals. Although I am retiring from this position in July 2009 I will continue to function as the Chief Safety Officer for my hometown volunteer fire department located a few miles north of Salisbury in Delmar, Delaware. I started my fire service career in Delmar where I formulated most of my fire service ideologies and beliefs. I was elected to the VCOS Board in 2006 and am seeking re-election to continue to support and promote the VCOS goals and my personal interests in promoting firefighter safety, resolving volunteer member recruitment and retention issues, and helping to prepare tomorrow's fire service leaders for the challenges of the future. Thank you for supporting VCOS and for your vote in my bid for re-election.

Timothy S. Wall, Fire Chief, North Farms Volunteer Fire Dept., Wallingford, CT (NE Division)

I am asking for your support as I seek re-election to the Board of Directors of the Volunteer Combination Officers Section of the International Association of Fire Chiefs. I am an officer on the VCOS Board and have been a charter member since its inception. I have been a member of the IAFC since 1990. I currently serve as District Volunteer Fire Chief of North Farms Volunteer Fire Department in Wallingford, CT. I am an active member in several different Connecticut Fire Service organizations and served as President of the CT Fire Chiefs and the NEDIAFC. I am committed to making improvements and expanding the services for volunteers in the fire service on all levels. Again, I ask for your support to my re-election to the VCOS Board of Director's and I look forward to serving this dynamic organization in the future. *Stay Safe out there.*

May 15, 2009