

My name is Greg L. Render, the Administrator/Chief of the Signal Hill Fire Department, Belleville, Illinois. I have earned an Associates degree in fire science and B.S. degree in Organizational Leadership and an Executive Fire Officer graduate from the National Fire Academy. I am past President of the Illinois Fire Chiefs and 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.

"No matter how big and powerful government gets, and the many services it provides, it can never take the place of volunteers." *Ronald Reagan*. No greater example of this statement is the 700,000 plus members of volunteer and combination fire departments across the United States. These are dedicated citizens proudly serving their respective communities in order to sustain and enhance the quality of life in our rural counties, small towns and large cities -- the very same organizations that the VCOS best represents.

The VCOS should continue to remain at the forefront of the issues that threaten the safety and security of our firefighters and the citizens we protect. This could be accomplished through the development and/or expansion of interactive outreach programs and other initiatives to educate our current and future leaders of our fire departments.

Please exercise your VCOS membership right and VOTE for the candidate of your choosing.