

## **VCOS 2020 Elections**

**Charles M. (Chuck) Flynn**

Fire Chief

Suffield Fire Department, Suffield CT

New England Division

I currently serve as your Chair on the VCOS and wish to continue to serve and share my forty years of leadership experience with the fire service community and continue to enhance professional development among volunteer and combination fire officers.

Serving as Chief of both a large volunteer department and currently as Chief of a combination department, I have a vast amount of knowledge and experience regarding the concerns that affect each type of operation.

My commitment to training, promoting firefighter health and safety, supporting the volunteer/combination fire department operating models, demonstrates my personal firefighting philosophy aligns closely with the VCOS mission.

In terms of firefighter education and professional development of fire officers, I encourage training and education for all firefighters. As a Connecticut State Fire Academy, adjunct instructor I am able maintain a focus on training while simultaneously ascertaining ways to drive innovation in our educational process.

I believe the skills that will serve me well on the VCOS board are that same as those which, support me as an effective Chief. I have assembled a successful team of Officers who effectively address the Department's need to meet today's emerging challenges. Our partnership with the Town's elected officials resulted in the implementation of a retention stipend for firefighters & fire officers, the procurement of new apparatus, and a significant increase in training funds. The Department's strategy for recruitment and retention resulted in a department totaling more than thirty-five active members.

I welcome the opportunity to continue to serve the members of the VCOS and look at my prospective tenure as an opportunity to pay it forward, by identify and implement best practices in areas of firefighting, which I am most passionate about, including promoting firefighter health & safety, professional development and recruitment and retention.