

VCOS 2020 Elections

Kevin D. Harwick

Fire Chief

Glendale Fire Department, Glendale OH

Great Lakes Division

I would like to offer my name for consideration for the At-Large Director position with the Board of Directors.

I am interested in taking this position to help lead the fire service into the next level of the vocation. This job is hazardous every day and we must continue to mitigate the risks as much as possible. We have to guide the elected officials to providing support where it is needed. PTSD and cancer issues are two of the top topics that departments are struggling with right now. Budgets continue to be a challenge moving forward.

Simply getting people into the position of firefighter has been a challenge. My department has been going against the norm as we have maintained a constant group of people and constantly have people applying for the position. We use different tactics to get them to be a part of the fire department.

I organized the Ohio FACE (Firefighters Against the Cancer Epidemic) Team to help address the cancer concerns of firefighters. We have based our charter on what the Florida team had done before with great success. We must push for protection of our people by awareness, training, research, policy development and resource availability. We partnered with Cancer Centers in Ohio and have secured some testing at no cost to the departments for cancer. Currently there are no standards saying what is the best way to manage the issues, but they are in development now. We can be a part of the groups leading that change.

I want to be a part of the IAFC VCOS section leadership team. I can bring another point of view based on my experience. I hold the Association in high regard and will continue the tradition of great leaders.

Thank you for the opportunity.