Fire Chief Kenneth W. Richards, Jr.

Old Mystic Fire Department

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IAFC New England Division

As the Chief of a combination department with over 48 years in the fire service, my experience and knowledge are well suited for the VCOS Board of Directors, its members, and Symposium in the Sun attendees.

I feel that my breadth of experience from serving on various boards would lend itself to VCOS. Such experience includes serving as a representative for VCOS on the FRI Planning Council, serving as a member of the Strategic Plan (Vision Project Team), and chairing the Initiative #1 Capabilities & Competencies. Additionally, I have successfully served on the International Association of Fire Chiefs New England Division (past President) as well as the National Fire Protection Agency Technical Committee on Fire Service Training (current Chair) and the NFPA Standards Council. Considering my active participation in these and several other special projects over the years, I know that I will contribute greatly to your forum.

Starting at fourteen as a volunteer junior member, I worked my way up the ranks of the Old Mystic Fire Department to become the second career member at twenty-six. This experience has granted me the opportunity to understand and advocate for the volunteer and combination system. Furthermore, as an attendee of Symposium in The Sun for over 20 years, I have been able to implement the knowledge and ideas gained to improve the Old Mystic Fire Department’s ability to serve its community and support its members. Should I be elected, my experience and knowledge would benefit the VCOS Board of Directors, its members, and Symposium in the Sun attendees.

Thank you for your consideration