Battalion Chief Matt Aalto

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IAFC Western Division

I am excited to submit my name for consideration for one of the At-large board positions. I am the current acting career Battalion Chief of Volunteer Recruitment & Retention and Training for the Estacada Fire District in Estacada, Oregon. I am also the co-founder of the Oregon Fire Recruitment Network and Fire-Up Bootcamp and have instructed the IAFC’s Recruitment and Retention Certification Course along with the Building Collaborative Team course. I have acted as a SME for the IAFC, NVFC, IAFF, and actively instruct across the US supporting volunteer recruitment. I have instructed at and attended the Symposium in the Sun several times and was recently awarded the Chief Rich Gassaway Emerging Leader Award and will be instructing this year at FDIC.

It has been a privilege to impact the residents across my community, the State of Oregon, and nationally advocating for the volunteer and combination fire service. I began volunteering in 2008 and have since worked through several combination systems learning the benefits and pitfalls and how to maximize their potential. I have been in a direct recruitment and retention position in the service since 2011.

I’d like to be a part of the VCOS Board as it has had a tremendous impact on me personally and professionally, and impacts a national audience. Through living the job, and teaching the job, I hope to apply some of those experiences to the board to help continue to improve volunteer involvement across the US to increase community safety.