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I am running to help guide the section as I want to give back to the section that has given me many tools to do my job effectively. In my 18 years serving as a Fire Chief of combination fire departments, and having also served as a chief and chief officer of volunteer organizations.  I have always been able to reach out and rely upon VCOS to identify and provide training, education and guidance on a variety of topics that affect the volunteer and combination officer, especially the chief officer. My experience has given me an understanding of the complex issues we are facing in the volunteer and combination agencies.

I have represented the VCOS section numerous times, serving as a peer reviewer for AFG grants, the Affordable Care Act task force, VCOS Toolkit for Chiefs Dealing with Federal Regulators committee, as well as serving as your VCOS representative to the Fire Rescue International program planning committee. I have heard a variety of issues that are affecting the combination and volunteer fire departments through my years of contacts and experiences.

As a member of the VCOS board I will push for more interaction of VCOS representation to the state chief’s associations, not only as a recruitment tool for more members, but to educate what VCOS/IAFC can do for them. We can make the voice of us heard; we can make the necessary change to make our organizations better, by being proactive in our pursuit to highlight the needs and concerns of the volunteer and combination fire departments in the United States. I intend to work within a unified approach from the VCOS board, not self-serving interests.  We must take every opportunity to highlight our needs and concerns at every level from the local level to the federal level.