

Deputy Chief Ted Aroesty  
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**Statement:**

I humbly submit my name as a candidate for an at-large board position for the VCOS Board of Directors. My organization and I have greatly benefited from the programs and initiatives of VCOS over the years. Our ranks have been strengthened by leadership development resources and our operations have become more forward-thinking as we've connected with departments across the country on modern challenges in firefighting. As a forty-year member of a 100-year-old combination organization, I truly believe that one of the major reasons we continue to exist today as a combination department is a direct result of our interactions with VCOS. I would be honored to give back to the organization that has given so much to ours.

I have attended most Symposiums in the Sun and even presented at 2008's Symposium. I have also had the opportunity to work with Spencer Cheathan in the development of the IAFC-funded training class, Leading the *Transitioning in Volunteer Combination Departments*.

As a director, I would champion three key priorities that have been instilled in me from my interactions with VCOS:

- We need to honor our traditions, learn from them, and move forward respectfully.
- We need to keep current pressing issues (i.e lithium ion batteries, OSHA standard changes, and recruitment) on the front burner.
- We need to spread strong messaging to departments that they are not alone in their challenges and there are resources available to them.

I believe that the VCOS board's role in helping organizations successfully implement positive changes is a very important calling. I believe I would be a valuable part of

these efforts, as I have experienced successes from VCOS's resources first-hand. I have reviewed the expectations for board members and am confident I can meet the necessary commitments while bringing a passionate, determined, and empathetic energy to the board.

**Department:**

Brighton Fire Department (District)  
3100 East Avenue  
Rochester, NY 14610  
585-381-3200

**Current title:** Deputy Fire Chief (Also: District Director and Secretary/Treasurer)

**Supervisor:** Chairman Rick Garrett, Brighton Fire Commission  
[rick.garrett@brightonfd.org](mailto:rick.garrett@brightonfd.org)  
585-729-0622

**IAFC Division Division:** Eastern