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## Why Do I want to serve as a VCOS Board Member?

I have spent my thirty plus year fire service career, both volunteer and paid, working, however I can make the fire service a better place. I have done this at both the local level and state levels by serving as the Montana State Fire Chief's Association President for fifteen years. I'm not satisfied with the status quo, or the attitude of doing things because we have always done things this way. I respect history and tradition in the fire service, but I also believe that if we aren't looking into and working for the future, then we are going to stay in the past.

I was appointed to serve on the VCOS Board in August 2017 filling a vacant board seat. I served as Vice Chair under Chief Flynn and am serving as the VCOS Chair since his untimely passing in 2024. I believe that there are significant challenges that face the volunteer fire service in the years ahead, and there are challenges to migrating to, and managing successful combination departments as well. My experience in managing that change from volunteer to combination in a positive way can help the VCOS stay strong. I bring to the Board an understanding of what it takes to make a combination department a success as well as understanding the role that EMS and wildfire response can create unique challenges and issues.

The VCOS is a premier organization with huge potential and it's a privilege and honor to serve on the VCOS board. I want to continue to work hard for the volunteer and combination systems and the VCOS members today to make an even more successful tomorrow. I would be honored for you to give me that chance!