



Ellsworth Fire Department

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To: Chief Kevin Cooney
From: Scott Guillerault, Fire Chief
Re: At- Large Board Position-IAFC VCOS
Date: February 4, 2025

Dear Chief Cooney,

I am writing to express my strong interest in serving on the Volunteer & Combination Officers Section (VCOS) Board of Directors. As Fire Chief/Emergency Manager for the City of Ellsworth, Maine, with over 30 years of active fire service experience, I am deeply committed to supporting and advocating for the unique needs of volunteer and combination fire departments.

My 34 years in the fire service, exclusively within the volunteer and combination model, have provided me with invaluable insight into the challenges we face, including resource limitations, recruitment and retention difficulties, and ever-evolving training requirements. This extensive experience gives me a unique understanding of the current fire service landscape and the specific needs of our members.

I am particularly passionate about several key areas: improving firefighter safety in volunteer departments, enhancing leadership development opportunities for officers, strengthening community engagement, and, critically, addressing the persistent challenges of recruitment and retention. I believe my experience in these areas will allow me to contribute significantly to the VCOS mission.

I am eager to collaborate with fellow board members and IAFC leadership to develop practical solutions and resources that empower volunteer and combination departments to better serve their communities. I am also excited by the opportunity to learn from the diverse experiences of VCOS members and contribute to the continued growth and success of the section. My ultimate goal is to ensure that volunteer and combination firefighters receive the support they need to effectively protect lives and property.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted