



**David Nelson,**

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*"Be the Difference"*

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Hello, my name is David Nelson,

I am a member of the southeastern division of the IAFC. I have been involved in the IAFC for the last 4 years and have been a member for the last ten years. I have been a fire chief for the last ten years and have been in the fire service for the last 37 years starting as a volunteer firefighter and working in a large metropolitan combination department.

I feel with my vast knowledge of both volunteer and career departments that I could help be an asset to the board. I am the type of individual that feels you can leave things better than when you came in. The fire service has had a lot of changes over the last decade.

I feel we are in a crisis with volunteers. We need to find a way to bring younger firefighters into the mix. Currently we have plans to bring all types of volunteers into the fold and this is good but what we truly need are interior firefighters.

My last department we had over 150 volunteers in the department in the 1980's. Currently there are 85 volunteers, and most of the volunteers are between the ages of 48 and 56, where we are going to be in 10 years, in 20 years. In Pennsylvania there were 300,000 volunteers in the 80's and 30,000 currently. This is not just a Pennsylvania issues it's a nationwide issue. By being elected on to the VCOS board I feel I can help to address some of these issues and other issues and collaborate with other members of the board as well as network, to discover some way to assist with this problem as well as other VCOS issues. I appreciate this opportunity, and I am looking forward to assisting in any way possible. Thank you for the opportunity.

David Nelson