

May 7, 2020

I would like to submit my letter for consideration for the 1st VP position of the Fire and Life Safety Educators. I believe that my experience both working and volunteering with fire departments will allow me to fulfill my responsibilities and offer valuable insight as we look at the issues facing today's fire service and communities.

I have had an interest in the fire service all my life and I would bring over twenty-three years of firefighting experience to the position, twenty of which have been as a full-time career firefighter. Throughout my career, I have always looked to improve my knowledge and abilities as well as those around me. I constantly seek out ways to make more effective decisions by collecting and analyzing data that is available to us. I feel that this is crucial to the fire and life safety aspect of the fire service as we look to identify the problems that are specific to each one of our agencies.

I have served in roles ranging from firefighter to an assistant chief of a volunteer fire department, and in career departments as a firefighter, company officer, shift officer, department training officer and currently as the deputy fire marshal for the City of Greenville. I'm a graduate of the South Carolina State Firefighter's Leadership Institute, been credentialed as a Fire Officer by the Commission on Public Safety Excellence, hold a bachelor's degree in Fire Service Administration, graduate June 2020 with a Master's in Public Administration and am currently in the Executive Fire Officer program at the National Fire Academy. Each of these has given me opportunities to network and discuss the challenges that each of us face daily, not only within our state but on a national level as well. We know that community risk is more than smoke alarms and fire safety messages. It is looking at our agencies to identify our trends and problems and finding answers to address those problems. Recognizing that each agency within this state are unique and face unique challenges, I would be honored to serve on this committee and be a part of finding solutions. I joined the fire service because I enjoyed being able to make a difference in other peoples lives, and I feel that with your vote and support this position will allow me the opportunity to continue making positive impacts within the fire service and our communities. Thank you for your support and consideration.

Respectfully,

W. David Hindman