



Illinois Fire Chiefs Association

Dedicated to Excellence in the Fire Service

P.O. Box 7

Skokie, Illinois 60076

www.illinoisfirechiefs.org

An invitation to the 2017 VCOC Conference

On behalf of the IFCA Executive Board, and the Volunteer and Combination Officer Committee members, I extend an invitation to volunteer and combination fire chiefs and officers from around Illinois to join the VCOC in our renewed annual Conference. On September 16 & 17, 2017, IN OUR NEW LOCATION at the Marriott in Bloomington/Normal.

The IFCA-VCOC hosts the only conference in the Midwest tailored for the education of volunteer and combination fire officers. There are many great conferences out there; however, very few focus on the specific topics important to the officer who is leading the very dynamic structure of a volunteer and combination department. Our VCOC Conference Committee has carefully designed educational tracks with topics that are important and interesting to the officer of a volunteer and combination department.

When you arrive at the hotel on Friday night, explore many of the great restaurants of Bloomington/Normal. On Saturday morning join us for a light breakfast and because we are firefighters, plenty of coffee. The conference kicks off at 8:45 am on Saturday morning.

We are excited to be joined this year by Tiger Schmittendorf who will deliver our keynote presentation on Saturday morning. Tiger will present his highly acclaimed discussion on "**X-Box to Box Alarm – Understanding the next generation of firefighter**". *"My goal for this class is to take you away from the perception that today's firefighters are unmotivated slackers to the reality that what most of them are, young people truly starved for strong, effective leadership. Unfortunately, many of them were never exposed to that style of leadership at home, in school, or in the workplace yet."* – Chief Schmittendorf. You will not want to miss the presentation that continues to pack room at FDIC and other national conferences.

As a normal feature in our conference, we will present the "Small Town – Big Incident" series Saturday afternoon. This year we will be joined by Deputy Chief Steve DeJong of Homewood FD to discuss lessons learned from an incident with a mayday firefighter down and line of duty death.

On Sunday morning we will start with a hearty breakfast at the hotel. Our first presentation on Sunday is Chief Norvin Collins, representing the International Association of Fire Chiefs – Volunteer and Combination Officer Section. Chief Collins will present the concepts of *Fire and Rescue Organizational Guidance – A leadership workshop focuses on analyzing and understanding the fire department's people, processes and culture.*

Chief Craig Haigh of the Hanover Park, Illinois Fire Department will close out our day discussing succession planning and the importance of having a vision for the organizations leadership challenges that will come in the future.

I believe you are going to find this conference to provide a very nice flow of information for today's volunteer and combination leader. How to successfully address the incoming generation, structure your organization and drive it's culture, and plan for the future so that leaders are effectively developed to meet the challenges of today's fire service.

Don't be the one wishing you attended when all your peers are talking about the great conference they just attended. Also, remember "each one bring one"; if you are attending, bring your neighboring department chief or assistant chief and carpool.

Sign up today – register at www.illinoisfirechiefs.org

Sincerely,

Al Yancey

Al Yancey, Jr., Chairman
Volunteer and Combination Officer Committee

Illinois Fire Chiefs Volunteer & Combination Officer Conference September 16-17, 2017

Bloomington-Normal Marriott Hotel & Conference Center

Saturday, September 16, 2017

7:30-8:45am

Registration and Continental Breakfast

8:45-9:00am

Welcome

Chief Al Yancey, Minooka FPD, VCOC Chairperson

9:00am-Noon

Keynote Address: "The Xbox to the Box Alarm"

Deputy Fire Coordinator Tiger Schmittendorf, Erie County, NY

10:15-10:30am Break

12:00-1:00pm Lunch (included in registration)

1:00-2:30pm

Keynote Continues "The Xbox to the Box Alarm"

Deputy Fire Coordinator Tiger Schmittendorf

2:30-2:45pm Break

2:45-4:00pm

"Small Department-Big Incident -- Firefighter Fatality

Deputy Chief Steve DeJong, Homewood FD

4:15-4:30pm

Questions & Answers

8:00pm

"Open Round Table Discussion"

First Day Presenters and Invited Organizations

Network and share ideas with your peers

Sunday, September 17, 2017

7:30-8:50am Breakfast (included with registration)

8:50-9:00am

Opening Remarks

Chief Dave Weiss, Westmont FD, Vice Chair VCOC

D/C Rudy Horist, McHenry Twp FPD, Conference Chair

9:00-Noon

"Navigating and Guiding your Fire Department's Culture"

Chief Norvin Collins, Sauvie Island FD, Portland, OR

10:15-10:30am Break

10:30-noon

"Navigating and Guiding your Fire Department's Culture"

Chief Norvin Collins, Sauvie Island FD, Portland, OR continues

12:00-1:00pm Lunch (included with registration)

1:00-3:00pm

"Organizational Destiny Rests with You: the role of Succession Planning"

Chief Craig Haigh, Hanover Park FD, Hanover Park IL

3:00-3:30pm

"Q & A"

Questions & answers, survey, final wrap up

VCOC Seminar Concludes



. . . .Our Presenter's



Tiger Schmittendorf is an author, instructor, proven emergency manager and a frequent presenter on the subjects of leadership, safety, command, training, and volunteer firefighter recruitment and retention. He serves the County of Erie (Buffalo NY) Department of Homeland Security & Emergency Services as Deputy Fire Coordinator, managing three

training academies and 50 fire instructors in coordinating the recruitment, training and response of 97 fire departments and 6,000+ firefighters.

He created a recruitment effort that doubled his own fire department's membership and most recently helped net nearly 2,000 new volunteers countywide. He is a Nationally Certified Fire Instructor and serves on the editorial board of FireRescue Magazine. He has been a firefighter since 1980.



Deputy Chief Steven DeJong is no stranger to firefights or fire fighting. He honorably retired from the United States Army National Guard (USANG) after 23 years of service and currently is in his 17th year of service with Homewood (IL) Fire Department.

DeJong has made recommendations to the United States Congress during his assignment to the Department of Defense's Recovering Warrior Task Force.

DeJong is currently in his 15th year as a hazardous materials incident advisor and holds a Bachelor's of Science in Fire Service Administration. He is a certified paramedic, Fire Officer II, Hazardous Materials Technician, and Fire Service Instructor III. He is currently pursuing his Masters of Emergency Management as well as the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer designation.

DeJong joined USANG as a Stinger missile gunner but quickly progressed in rank and responsibilities. For 13 years he served by request in the Long Range Surveillance Detachment receiving the designations of Recon Team Leader, Ranger, Long Range Surveillance Leadership, Pathfinder, basic Airborne, and honor graduate of his Jumpmaster class.

DeJong, an embedded tactical trainer, performed training of more than 1,200 Afghan National Army soldiers in tactics, techniques, and military procedures. DeJong led these and American troops on special operations deployments within the country. During his support of Operation Enduring Freedom, DeJong was severely wounded in central Afghanistan. Upon his recovery and return to theater, DeJong served in Iraq as a First Sergeant responsible for a 135 person infantry company. At the time of his retirement, DeJong was a Command Sergeant Major who had received the Purple Heart, two Bronze Star Medals, Legion of Merit, and multiple other awards.

DeJong draws upon his extensive military training and experiences to support and improve his firefighters. He emphasizes the need for common sense and accountability. His experience performing northern Iraq convoy security operations sustains his passion to prevent complacency in the fire house and on the fire ground. His active combat involvement reinforces the need for fire ground psychology and stress management. With physical scars from war and having witnessed a fire ground line of duty death, DeJong emphasizes the need for self-care and the recognition and management of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Deputy Chief DeJong fosters the tenants of mentorship, development, leadership, and education.



Norvin Collins serves as chief of Sauvie Island Fire District, a 40-member combination department covering 26 square miles of predominantly rural Oregon state land. He previously served as firefighter/paramedic, lieutenant, captain, battalion chief and division chief at Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue, Oregon's second-largest fire department.

Chief Collins presents nationally on a variety of leadership and development topics including "Beyond Hoses and Helmets" and "FROG (Fire Rescue Organization Guidance) Leadership Program." A consultant for recruitment, retention and generational leadership, Chief Collins serves in various roles for the VCOS Symposium in the Sun, Summit on Combination and Volunteer Department Future Development, National Fallen Firefighters Foundation and Tampa II, the 10-year review of the 16 life safety initiatives.

Chief Collins holds a master's in psychology with a specialization in organizational leader development, a bachelor's in fire service administration and executive fire officer credentials through the National Fire Academy. He holds numerous fire operations certifications and has published papers on various fire service topics as well as an article on application of survey data in *Firehouse Magazine*.



Craig A. Haigh, is a 33-year veteran of the fire service, is Chief of the Hanover Park (IL) Fire Department and a Field Staff Instructor with the University of Illinois Fire Service Institute. Chief Haigh was a finalist for the 2012 International Association of Fire Chiefs – Fire Chief of the Year, and was named the 2012 Illinois Career Fire Chief of the Year. He has managed volunteer, combination and career departments, served as Interim Village Manager, implemented intermediate and paramedic services and is a frequent partner with the University of Illinois Fire Service Institute's Firefighter Life Safety Research Center and the Skidmore College First Responder Health and Safety Laboratory. He is a published author and has developed a variety of courses for the fire service. He presents and speaks internationally and is an FDIC International H.O.T. instructor. He has a Masters in Executive Fire Service Leadership, and a Bachelors in Fire and Safety Engineering. He is a graduate of the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program, is a nationally registered paramedic, an accredited Chief Fire Officer and a Member of the Institute of Fire Engineers.

VCOC Mission

To represent the leadership of the volunteer and combination fire departments in the State of Illinois; to assist officers in the development of professional leadership skills, representation on important issues affecting the volunteer services of the State, and enhance local capabilities of our volunteer organizations.

VCOC Happenings

SAFER Grant:

After four years of hard work and great success, the VCOC SAFER Grant has concluded. Our final workshop was held on February 18 & 19 in Centralia where twenty-eight fire service leaders learned about more effective ways to recruit and retain volunteer firefighters.

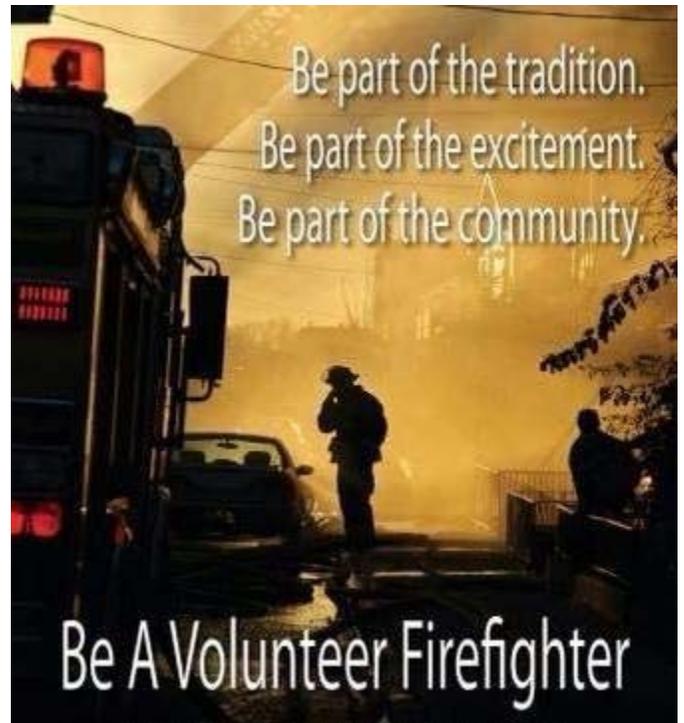
The SAFER grant provided education, and marketing assistance to more than 280 departments and fire districts around Illinois. Marketing materials ranged from pamphlets and brochures to banners over main street, LED signs in major intersections and booths for local festivals and fairs.

Several recruitment and retention toolboxes remain available and can be obtained by contacting the Illinois Fire Chiefs Assn or emailing vcoc@illinoisfirechief.org. The VCOC is evaluating the availability of funding from other sources to continue the Recruitment and Retention Workshops in Illinois. If we are able to secure funding to deliver the program we will be able to deliver the program without cost to local volunteer and combination departments. If a department or mutual aid association is interested in hosting a Recruitment and Retention workshop and interested in exploring the costs associated with time and travel of instructors, please contact VCOC.

VCOC is on Twitter:

The Volunteer and Combination Officers Committee has a Twitter page. You can find us [@IFCAVCOC](https://twitter.com/IFCAVCOC).

Our Twitter account posts regular information on subject matter important to the leadership of volunteer and combination fire departments, including research findings on firefighter safety, health and wellness, opportunities for education and training for volunteers and of course breaking news that we think you need to know about. We do not Tweet anything commercial (sales, ads, etc.), and we do not advertise local events, only statewide offering of education and programs from IFCA partner organizations.



Bloomington-Normal Marriott Hotel & Conference Center

The conference will be held at the Bloomington-Normal Marriott Hotel & Conference Center, 201 Broadway Avenue, Normal IL. A block of hotel rooms has been reserved for conference attendees. Please contact the hotel directly by calling 309.862.9000. The room rate is \$111.00/night + tax. **This special rate is only in effect until August 25, 2017.** Please mention the **Illinois Fire Chiefs Association** to obtain the conference rate.

The Bloomington-Normal Marriott Hotel & Conference Center is a comfortable drive from all areas of the state. Bloomington-Normal offers easy access via major Interstate, U.S. and Illinois highways. The immediate area offers numerous sightseeing, shopping, dining and entertainment opportunities. Attendees are encouraged to consider bringing their spouses and families.



**Illinois Fire Chiefs Association
8th Annual
Volunteer & Combination Officer Conference**

September 16-17, 2017

Bloomington-Normal Marriott Hotel & Conference Center

201 Broadway Avenue, Normal IL 61761

REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete the form below and fax to **847/966-0782**, email to **mgriseto@illinoisfirechiefs.org** or make check payable and mail to: IFCA, PO Box 352, Mundelein IL 60060

Name _____

Department _____

Mailing Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

My department is: Volunteer Combination Volunteer with paid chief

Population of Area Served _____

Cost: \$75.00 per person (includes conference registration & lunch on both days)

Check Enclosed PO Number _____ Bill Department Credit Card (provide info below)

Charge Credit Card (Visa, Mastercard or Discover) _____ (4% service charge added)

Exp Date _____ (MM/YYYY)

If cardholder information is different that registration information please complete info below

Cardholder Name _____

Cardholder Address, City, Zip _____

Cardholder Phone Number _____

Mail To: Illinois Fire Chiefs Assn, PO Box 352, Mundelein IL 60060 or

Fax To: 847.966.0782; Email to: mgriseto@illinoisfirechiefs.org

PLEASE CONTACT THE HOTEL DIRECTLY: Bloomington/Normal Marriott 309-862-9000

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Marriott at \$111.00/nt+tax Please mention the **Illinois Fire Chiefs Association** to obtain the conference rate. **Block rate in effect until August 25, 2017**



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**Illinois Fire Chiefs Association
Volunteer Combination Officer Committee
*8th Annual Conference***

***Bloomington-Normal Marriott Hotel & Conference Center
Normal, Illinois
September 16-17, 2017***