

## CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

*The mission of the Conference Committee is to provide leadership and direction to the Executive Director, who has the responsibility to manage the annual conference in October of each year. The chairman of this committee is the immediate Past President of the Minnesota State Fire Chiefs Association, who may call a meeting at any time. This committee exists to make sure the needs of the membership, as it pertains to the conference, are met. This committee interfaces with the Education Committee, the Marketing Committee and vendor representatives to ensure that a quality conference is offered at an affordable cost. Every effort is made to ensure exceptional educational offerings for all attendees.*

During the summer of 2016, I was asked about my interest in assisting the MSFCA as the Chair of the Conference Committee. Having some past experience with conference management, I was happy to join this very important endeavor. As an organization, the fall conference provides professional development, networking with peers, exposure to technology and equipment, and various other opportunities. Our goal is for the conference to provide quality development for both the experienced fire service professional, as well as, our up and coming leadership.

The committee members' responsibilities vary but include; awards ceremony coordination, banquet preparation and coordination, memorial ceremony coordination, honor guard details, marketing and attire, vendor registration and floor arrangements, and registration and check in for attendees and vendors. The conference committee also works closely with the Education Committee for education tracts and classroom needs.

As a new member of this committee, I am extremely impressed with the inner workings of this committee and the preparation that goes into making the attendee experience the best it can be. Much of the conference preparation falls on this committee and our executive agents, FSC. We have all worked hard to ensure you, the attendee, find value in supporting the conference.

You will notice a change with the overall schedule this year. On Thursday, we encourage you to interact with the vendors by attending scheduled technology demonstrations and hands on demonstrations. We have also added round table discussions on current fire service hot topics. These are brief presentations and should allow the attendee several learning options without having to sacrifice attending the education tracks.

If you have any feedback while in attendance, look for a committee member or use the conference survey tools. We look forward to seeing you in Rochester.

### **Conference Committee Members:**

Don Johnson, Conference Chair, Chanhassen Fire Chief  
John Cunningham, Memorial Service, Elk River Chief  
Dale Specken, MSFCA Education Committee Chair, Hopkins Fire Chief  
Jerry Streich, Memorial Service Honor Guard, Andover Fire Chief  
Joel Hewitt, Awards, White Bear Lake Fire Department  
Andrew Heger, Awards, Victoria Fire Chief  
Shannon Ryder, Marketing, DPS  
Tim Farmer, MSFCA Past President, General Administrative Assistance  
Madison Zikmund, Vendor and Conference App Mgmt., SBM FD  
Jena Noah, Vendors, Editor, Minnesota Fire Chief Magazine/FSC  
(Nyle, Theresa, Sherrill, Monica, Gia, Arlene, Ashley) MSFCA  
Executive Agent: Conference Planning, Registration, Conference Management, App Management, Problem Solving