

Ohio Fire Chiefs Association

Volunteer Committee Report

July 5, 2018

Mission:

The Volunteer Committee is an advocate of the Ohio Volunteer Fire Service to the OFCA by being:

- Active with the legislature, especially with those in leadership roles
- A clearing house for information
- A resource to all of Ohio's volunteer community
- A common voice for Ohio's volunteer fire service
- Active in developing training, officer and leadership growth
- Enhancing the integrity and image of the volunteer fire service

Activities:

The Volunteer Committee meets bi-monthly and has been working over the last year on the following issues of concern to Ohio's volunteer fire service:

- **Training.** The committee, working in partnership with the Ohio Fire Academy, continues to offer the National Fire Academy Leadership 1 course at no cost to volunteer departments. We are working to add Leadership 2 & 3 to our offerings.
- **Needs assessment.** Last year, the committee decided to embark on a "listening tour" to attend county Chiefs Association meetings around the state. This quickly proved to be logistically difficult, given member time commitments. Instead, we have decided to hold our bi-monthly meetings at different locations around the state to encourage participation so that we can learn what issues affect volunteer fire departments. We have met so far in the western side of the state, in Miami and Allen Counties. Additionally, we have participated in a volunteer issues forum in Athens County as well as in the Northwest Ohio Fire Association annual fire school in Wood County. During the fire school, we had a booth set up on both days of their trade show; I met with their planning committee and participated in a conversation regarding local issues.
- **Advocacy.** The committee has been actively involved in supporting proposed HB 575, the volunteer firefighter/EMT income tax credit. Two committee members and I provided testimony before a House committee in support of the bill. Additionally, we provided support to Marshal Hussey in filling the long vacant volunteer fire service seat on the State Fire Council. Committee member Chief Robert Stillion has been appointed by the Governor to the council.

Please feel free to contact me should you require further information.

Respectfully,



Chief Colin Altman
Chair