

2023 First Vice Presidents Report

With Covid squarely behind us now, we have been able to meet in person again and this is a good thing. The networking that happens when a group of talented professionals gather, is very productive and amazing.

This past year the “Public Education Committee” and the “Cross Organization Committee” met to move educational initiatives forward. The updating of the Getting to Know Fire is close to completion and is looking so good. The updating of all the FPOA brochures is also wrapping up with the streamlining aligning with the Getting to Know Fire curriculum. This will allow fire departments to use the new curriculum and brochures together as well as stand alone items.

We have had another successful year of bursary and Public Educator of the Year applications with the winners being announced at our annual banquet. I would like to thank those on the two committees for their time and effort to make this happen.

2022/2023 is my last year as First Vice President as I retired in July 2022. I would like to thank everyone that has helped me advance in the fire service. I have learned so much from this organization and those people who have stepped up to help, volunteer and take on tasks that needed doing. I truly believe in this organization as a way to grow in your career and knowledge base. For those new in the fire service and this association I encourage you to seek positions in the organization by networking or helping out wherever and whenever you can. The knowledge you gain from your zone directors, executive and senior executive is invaluable. This organization is only as strong as its membership and to do this it needs people to step up and continue to grow the association.

In closing I would like to thank several people (I am sorry if I miss anyone) Chief Josephson who initially suggested I join the executive as a zone director. Mark Smitten and Brad Perrie who helped me in the early years as a zone director. Gayanne Pacholzuk when I moved to the executive and started doing the conference organization. Connie Hol as I took on the role of 1st Vice President and the banking stuff that needed doing. Finally, the current senior executive for the past few years with all of the turmoil involving the online learning platform. This group of extraordinary individuals navigated everything with grace and strength.

I will miss all of you as I have always said this was and is the “Best Job in the World” and I was blessed to be a part of it.

Blessings and Much Gratitude to you all.

Lisa Axelson