



Association Members,

Your Association takes great pride in working to address issues at the local, regional, state, and federal levels. Listening to members across our state, we recognize that the volunteers in our state are critically low, and this issue is not only plaguing our state but the fire service nationally. That is why on Saturday, November 5, 2022, we hosted the Volunteer Criticality Summit—a structured, interactive dialogue by participants from around the state to discuss and identify trends and needs in addressing the maintenance of our volunteer firefighter numbers, thus giving us the information to positively affect change.

As I walked into the room last Saturday, I was motivated to see the number of participants from across our state. Knowing that we had representatives from volunteer departments to help discuss the issues at hand allowed us to have frank and direct conversations. I was also pleased with the contribution of our members during the discussion.

After spending the day discussing hurdles, action items and opportunities were identified to bring about change within our state. It is my goal moving forward that we digest everything that was identified and break out three main areas to start moving forward. I would like to see us get together again after the first of the year and have further discussion. In the short-term, I have asked our NVFC representatives Keith Minick and Jack Kirlin to work with staff to share information with our members from the NVFC to address volunteer criticality.

In closing, I cannot thank each of you enough for making the trek to Columbia last Saturday to better our states fire service. We are better together and together we can accomplish anything.

Yours in service,

Joshua M. Holzheimer,
President