



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 workforce limitations is an issue not only plaguing our state but the fire service nationally. That is why on Wednesday, November 2, 2022, we hosted the Workforce Limitations Summit—a structured, interactive dialogue by participants from around the state to discuss and identify trends and needs in addressing paid staffing shortages, thus giving us the information to positively affect change.

As I walked into the room last Wednesday, I was motivated to see the number of participants from across our state. Knowing that we had representatives from career and combination 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 Association staff to work to develop a recruitment/hype video for the fire service. We will also provide ideas on how to produce a video for your agency on the local level.

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

Yours in service,

Joshua M. Holzheimer,
President