

Todd Allen, Candidate for East Central Regional Director

Fire Chief, City of DeLand, Florida

My name is Todd Allen, the Fire Chief for the City of DeLand, and I am asking for your support as the next East Central Regional Director for the Florida Fire Chief's Association (FFCA). As a dedicated fire service professional with over 33 years of experience, my career has been defined by a commitment to excellence, leadership, and service to my community and colleagues. I couldn't be more excited to have this opportunity to serve our members in East Central Florida.

For almost six years I have had the honor of serving as Fire Chief for the City of DeLand, where I've worked to enhance operational efficiency, improve firefighter safety, and strengthen relationships with the community. This has been evidenced by our recent improvement to our public protection classification from an ISO 2 to an ISO 1, and on April 1st our department became accredited through the CFAI to become the first accredited fire agency in Volusia County. In addition, for the past 4 years I have been in the role of President for the Volusia County Fire Chiefs Association, advocating for collaboration and regional solutions to improve fire service delivery. Our association represents 13 fire agencies and Volusia County EMS. We have a very diverse county with differing needs, but I feel we have been able to come together to provide solutions and innovative ways to work together and improve our services collectively for our communities.

My career has also included nearly every role within the fire department, providing me with a well-rounded perspective on the challenges and opportunities our profession faces. Although not as naive as my younger years, I still hold the same passion I had when I was hired as a firefighter/paramedic in the early '90s. From serving as union president, giving me valuable insight into fostering cooperation and understanding between labor and management, to managing regional special operations teams in the post-9/11 funding era, I have learned what it means to communicate effectively and gain consensus to accomplish a larger mission.

Beyond local service, I have contributed to state committees outside Florida, helping to shape policies and strategies that benefit fire services statewide. Growing up in the Midwest and spending 27 years in the municipal fire service in Illinois, I have had the opportunity to serve in many areas. From serving on state EMS and SUSAR committees with the Illinois Association of Fire Chiefs to local charitable and education committees, I know what it takes to represent a constituency. More recently, I served on the FFCA's elections committee, where I gained a deeper appreciation for our organization's commitment to professional development and strong leadership.

If elected as East Central Regional Director, my mission will be twofold: to ensure the voices of Central Florida fire service leaders are effectively communicated to the FFCA Executive Board and to provide our membership with timely updates on legislative changes, statewide initiatives, and critical information that impacts our region. I believe that clear communication and active engagement are the cornerstones of effective leadership.

I am passionate about fostering collaboration and building relationships to move our profession forward. The Central Florida district deserves strong, experienced leadership, and I am committed to continuing the legacy of excellence established by our past leaders. Together, we can navigate the challenges ahead and ensure our fire service remains prepared, innovative, and impactful.

Together, let's continue to advance the fire service mission, honor our profession, and protect the communities we proudly serve. **I humbly ask for your support as East Central Director.**

Todd Allen