



## Safety, Health and Survival Section of The International Association of Fire Chiefs

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### 2010 SHS Section Elections Candidate Bios/Platforms

#### Officers:

**Chair: Billy Goldfeder (Loveland, OH)** – *1- Relationships:* Continue to build up the strength of the alliances we currently have with our partnering fire organizations; *2-IAFC internal issues:* To continue to work with the IAFC board, executive directors and staff in developing a better understanding of roles and responsibilities; *3-Firefighter Cancer:* To continue to aggressively work on this issues related to firefighter cancer; *4-NIOSH LODD investigations:* While we have an excellent report and recommendations for improvement to NIOSH's Fire Fighter Fatality Investigation and Prevention Program (FFFIPP) with respect to LODD investigations, the report sits dormant due to lack of agency funding; *5-Radio Communications:* We have worked with the Communications Committee on dealing with reported problems; *6-Structural Firefighting:* Finishing the revisions to the Rules of Engagement; *7-Medical/Health:* Implemented the Health & Wellness Pavilion at FRI and co-established the new IAFC Medical Evaluation Task Force; *8-Section Communications:* Lead developer of resources for Safety Week, established/manage the section's website and developed a strategic plan; *9- Assistance:* Assisted fire chiefs in dealing with critical firefighter injuries and LODDs; *10. Ambulance Standard:* Worked within the NFPA process to establish a technical committee to create an ambulance vehicle safety standard; *11. Revenue:* Our members worked hard in 2009 and established a successful revenue-generating project. There are some new projects on the horizon that will assure our fiscal growth. It is my intent as chair, this coming term, to ensure that the IAFC board understands the importance of fiscal fairness in relation to their support of all sections equally.

**Vice Chair: Matthew Tobia (Anne Arundel County, MD)** – Being a firefighter is a gift. The fact that I get to put on a uniform every day and do what I love to do is almost beyond belief. This is a dangerous calling and when one of us loses our life in the line of duty, it should only be because we were attempting to put our hands on someone we swore an oath to protect. Too often, our firefighters are losing their lives under circumstances that could have, and should have, been prevented. Our biggest challenge is to overcome the part of our culture that keeps us from dramatically and permanently reducing the number of deaths and serious injuries – and I see this as the primary mission of the SHS Section. That is why I am a member of this section, serve as your current Vice Chair, and ask for your support to continue to serve in that capacity. We have realized significant goals and helped many of you directly by providing valuable solutions to the challenges you face. I am not comfortable taking credit for any of our collective accomplishments, but I am a part of an incredibly gifted group of talented leaders who are deeply committed to action! It is my personal promise to you to continue that work by testing the status quo and pushing the envelope to promote constructive solutions to the challenges we face. Please consider giving me your vote in the upcoming IAFC SHS Section election as your Vice Chair.

**Secretary: Robert Dubé (Louisa County, VA)** – I respectfully request your support for my election to the position of Secretary for the Board of Directors of the IAFC SHS Section. I have had the privilege of serving on the board for the past five years and I look forward to continuing our progress in making our profession healthier and safer. In my nearly 35 years

in fire and EMS, I have been a part of small volunteer companies, large combination departments and currently serve as the chief of a growing combination department in central Virginia. I have been a part of several projects in the section, including participation on a task force to review the NIOSH Fire Fighter Fatality Investigation and Prevention Program, the Rules of Engagement update and I am currently the lead for the section's strategic plan, which guides our annual operations. I am committed to improving fire and EMS health, safety and survival and through my involvement in this section; I can continue to assist in our progress to reduce line of duty injuries and deaths. I appreciate your support.

**Treasurer: Scott Kerwood, PhD (Hutto, TX)** – I am your Treasurer for the section. I ask for your vote again as I seek the position of Treasurer. I have served in this capacity since you elected me to fill an unexpired term for the first SHS Section Board of Directors, and then you re-elected me to continue in this position. I have been involved with the SHS Section since its inception and with the Health & Safety Committee for 15 years prior to that. I have been actively involved in all of the major decisions coming from both the section and the committee. One of my key issues with the committee was its visibility during each IAFC annual conference. I have worked to get a booth space each year in order to meet your needs and answer your questions regarding health and safety issues and have continued this process with the SHS Section. As a section board member in general, and your Treasurer in particular, I first proposed and have been working with the rest of the board on the development of a funding plan in order to help better finance the mission of the section. I also serve as your representative on the NFPA 1500 technical committee as the IAFC's principle representative and as the Validation Committee Vice Chairman on the new IFSTA training manual on firefighter occupational health and safety. I would appreciate your vote to continue to fight for your fire department when it comes to firefighter health, wellness, safety, and survival. Thank you.

**Directors-at-Large:** Three of these candidates will be elected to the board of directors this year.

**Ronald Blackwell (Wichita, KS)** – My name is Ronald D. Blackwell and I am a candidate for a director-at-large seat in the Safety, Health and Survival Section. I am a candidate because I believe firefighter safety, health and survival are among the most important issues facing today's fire service. I have experience as a member of the fire service in municipal, combination (career and volunteer) and military fire departments. Currently, I am the Fire Chief in Wichita, Kansas, where I have made safety a priority for our more than 400 member metropolitan fire department. I have been active in the fire service since 1970 serving our country as a Fire Protection Specialist in the United States Air Force, a public safety officer at a municipal airport, fire chief in two combination metropolitan fire departments and a career department here in Kansas. I am a graduate of the National Fire Academy Executive Fire Officer Program and possess a bachelor's degree in education and master's degree in public administration. I am a member of the International Association of Fire Chiefs Foundation Board of Directors, active in the Kansas fire service and have served in other statewide roles. I would most sincerely appreciate your VOTE!

**John Eisel (Violet Township, OH)** – I am respectfully requesting your support in the election of director-at-large to the Safety, Health and Survival Section. I believe my passion, dedication and commitment to firefighter health and safety will provide a positive and productive member to the board of directors. During my 28 year career, I have had the fortunate experience of working in all positions of the organization, currently serving as the Chief of a full service, combination fire department providing ALS transport. My experience

and passion with firefighter health, wellness and safety can be invaluable in reducing and eliminating industry line of duty deaths and injuries. As Vice President of the Central Ohio Fire Chiefs, I am positioned to advocate and formulate life saving skill-sets for a large portion of Ohio's fire service. Our organization has aggressively pursued non-punitive investigations of accidents and firefighter injuries in an effort to identify root cause. Using this information, we implement proactive measures and safeguards to prevent these injuries or accidents from recurring with documented success. Predictable is preventable. Firefighter accidents and injuries as an inherent risk for our profession can no longer be tolerated. Enhanced leadership and dynamic cultural changes are required at all levels of our profession to meet this challenge. I hope to have the honor and privilege to serve our profession in this position so that we can work together to initiate and represent the changes that will improve and lengthen the lives of firefighters and build upon the mission of this section.

**Danny Kistner (Lufkin, TX)** – It is often said that the fire service is one of the most dangerous occupations in the world today. With an average of 100 (±) line of duty deaths and 80-100,000 injuries annually, corroborating evidence is not difficult to find. However, these numbers can be reduced significantly through concerted and cooperative efforts of the fire service leadership. A significant percentage of firefighter casualties remain predictable and preventable. No doubt efforts of the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, the International Association of Firefighters and other stakeholders have spared the lives and livelihoods of an indeterminate number of firefighters. The Safety Health and Survival Section championed a great number of initiatives towards this end. I am proud to have been a part of this Section as a Board member for the past several years and involved with projects involving best practice, communications and awareness, and most recently as a team member for a vulnerability assessment project. Progress is being made but we still have work to do. Greater insight is being gleaned on organizational behavior and individual identify that can be used to further influence safety and survival. I believe that it is through this type of research and partnerships with academia that we will have lasting impact. Through efforts of organizations such as the IAFC's SHS Section, equipment is engineered better and firefighters are more protected now than ever before. Behaviors still need to change.

**Todd LeDuc (Broward County, FL)** – Deputy Chief of Department Todd LeDuc is with the Broward Sheriff (FL) Office Department of Fire & Rescue, a career metro department, which serves a population of 1.8 million including an international airport and seaport. Operating in the complex metro all ALS fire based EMS system has provided Chief LeDuc with the experience and insight necessary to represent the numerous safety, health and survival issues facing today's fire service. Chief LeDuc holds a Master's degree in Fire Service Leadership and is a designated Chief Fire Officer and certified Emergency Manager. Chief LeDuc publishes and lectures frequently on topics of fire service safety and leadership, including his sought after "How to Read the Tea Leaves: Situation Awareness" presentation. He also serves as a consultant for Emergency Services Consulting International and has worked on master and strategic planning, department evaluations, consolidation and staffing studies in over a dozen states. Chief LeDuc has worked in the service since 1986 and will, if elected, work diligently to assure that the section continues to serve the membership and advocate for safety at the local, state and national levels.

**Keith Padgett (Fulton County, GA)** – I would like to start by saying that it has been a great honor to serve as your director-at-large for the IAFC Safety Health and Survival Section for the past three years. During that time I have had the privilege to work on several projects that have directly impacted the section in a positive manner. As the point of contact for Safety Week, I have had the opportunity to develop and work with some of the

best fire and EMS safety members in the business, improving and growing the week every year. I have also been the website coordinator for our own section's website, [www.iafcsafety.org](http://www.iafcsafety.org), for the past three years and was recently assigned as the first liaison for the section to sit on the newly formed Program Planning Council for Fire-Rescue International (FRI). This council will bring some of the FRI presentations closer in line with the goals and objectives of our section. To give you a little background on my career, I am a 28-year member of the fire service and currently serve as the Chief-Fire Marshal with the Fulton County Fire & Rescue Department. I would like the opportunity to continue to represent YOU and the entire safety community to ensure our fire and EMS members can live a long, safe and enjoyable life. So if you would, please allow me to serve another three years as your director at large. Thanks for your time.