



Good day all,

My Name is Stephen W Goho Jr, and I am a 5<sup>th</sup> generation fireman, I joined the Fire Service in 1988, I currently am the 2<sup>nd</sup> Asst Fire Chief for Hampden Twp Volunteer Fire Co. I have served as President and several other leadership roles.

Today I would like to touch on a few items I personally think should be considered critical for assisting the Volunteer service.

It is easy to say just go recruit, recruit, and recruit. Where this is easy to use as a cop out to what the problems are. This world has become a technology driven society and well let's face it, the fire service seems to be lacking the forward movement to use technology to help us attract members. Look at what happened last year with COVID, it drove the world to rely on this technology, the Government, schools and businesses thrived on it, but the fire service all but halted in every aspect except the fact 911 being dialed. Online training could have been a harder push and useful tool for continuing education, but that was not done, classes got canceled and fire schools closed. So, my question to you all is WHY?????? I personally have tried over the past year to obtain certifications and due to closures, class size or no one to teach the classes they were canceled.... I understand Skills need to be done in person but all the other in class teaching and testing could have been done via technology and then the skills could have been scheduled at the facilities. I know this is not easy but is able to be accomplished.

Also, to go along with these training items is the fact of how long/how many hours are required to be in the classroom setting. No one wants to give up their whole summer or every weekend to sit in a classroom, offer these items online and you could see a jump of interest.

The next item is about the use of simulator training aids in the fire service, simulators are use for military, and police training, so why not a bigger push for us to use them. There are so many of these tools that can teach the young, new fireman/firewoman. There are driver training ones, pump operator ones, incident command/front seat rider ones, smoke reading, and fire spread and progression ones. I know they are not cheap to get but think about what keeps these younger men and woman occupied, Cell phones, gaming systems, computers. Simulators can work as recruiting tools and retention tools. There are also other types of programs to addon to these as recreation tools as well to compete against the computer world. We are doing a bad job as a whole attracting new members, the day of "oh let's go hang at the fire house" are over. Now we need to offer more exciting features. I really wish I had all the answers but as a team I think we all can come up with great ideas career and volunteer. We are all one team and need to attack this together.

In closing, I want to thank you for allowing me to send this to you all. And if there are any questions or request of my assistance with any topic or item, please let me know

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