

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

'Tis the Season . . .

The long wait is over. Last Wednesday, the 2008 Colorado General Assembly convened and for the next 120 days after that, the Colorado Capitol will be filled with lawmakers, lobbyists, media and members of the public.

As most of you are aware, the Colorado State Fire Chiefs' Association follows legislative activity in the Colorado General Assembly very closely.

Prior to each legislative session, the Board of Directors establishes its legislative agenda that identifies the specific issues that the Association will either promote or support. The CSFCA legislative agenda is consistent with the Association's Strategic Plan, Goals and Objectives.

The Board of Directors will also try to anticipate other issues affecting the Colorado fire service that may be brought forth during the legislative session, and will make general policy decisions on these issues.

During the session, the CSFCA Executive Director and Legislative Liaison will review and analyze bills introduced in the Colorado General Assembly to determine if they have potential impact on the Colorado fire service. Any bill with potential impact will be referred to the Board for an official position. All bills of interest to the fire service will be made known to the CSFCA membership by way of legislative updates and the Legislative Page on the Association's website.

When there are bills that require the Association to take a position, the CSFCA Executive Director will make contact with members that have subject matter expertise on the topic. These individuals will help frame the Association's position as well as its



Chief Douglas P. Forsman

testimony. Bills may be amended after the Board has taken an official position, and as a result, the Board may alter its position on a bill.

The Association's success in advancing its legislative agenda and in minimizing the impact from other bills is dependent upon participation. Several of your peers serve as CSFCA representatives to other allied organizations, such as the Special District's Association, the Colorado Municipal League, and the Trauma Care Preservation Coalition, to name just a few. These individuals help carry our message to these other groups and seek consensus on issues of mutual concern.

How Can You Help?

It is absolutely necessary that legislators hear from their fire chiefs on issues that affect the Colorado fire service. For this reason, members will periodically be asked to contact their House or Senate member(s) and express their views on a particular bill. When asked to contact your legislator, please do so. Oftentimes, one vote will make the difference between an initiative passing or failing. Your phone call may be the one that locks in that needed vote.

Also, in order for the CSFCA to effectively represent you on legislative issues, we must have your input. If you have input on any piece of legislation please contact the Association's Executive Director, your regional representative on the CSFCA Board of Directors, or myself and express it.

Be safe.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Douglas P. Forsman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Douglas P. Forsman, President
Fire Chief, Union Colony Fire Rescue Authority