

## **The Florida Executive Fire Officer's Association**

### **Historical Context**

The Florida Executive Fire Officer's Association (FEFOA) was established in 1998 as a networking forum for graduates and participants of the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program (EFOP). The organization's original goals, not listed in any specific order, were to:

1. Provide an opportunity for EFOP graduates and participants to communicate and network with each other and with individuals and organizations of interest to FEFOA members.
2. To promote and encourage participation in the Executive Fire Officer Program and to assist fire officers in submitting their application to the National Fire Academy.
3. To monitor and support the Executive Fire Officer Program. This support includes constructive suggestions for meeting the needs of Florida-based fire officers, and to lobby for improvements and changes designed to make the program more responsive to the needs of the Florida Fire Service.
4. To not compete with any other fire-based organization, but rather to encourage cooperation with all other organizations while providing an economical outlet for the FEFOA members to meet and communicate.

### **Moving forward**

FEFOA, a Section of the Florida Fire Chief's Association (FFCA) since July, 2010, will remain the premier Florida chief fire officer organization. The Florida Fire Chief's Association and the Florida Fire and Emergency Services Foundation enjoys a reciprocal support relationship with FEFOA, which continues to support the educational programming offered at various conferences, as well as offering support to the Emergency Services Leadership Institute, a chief officer development program, and serving as an advocate of the National Society of Executive Fire Officers. As this relationship grows, the voice of FEFOA will remain a welcome participant in the activities of the FFCA, while maintaining the role of representing those who are participating in, or who have graduated from the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program (EFOP). With this in mind, FEFOA wholeheartedly subscribes to the following Vision, Mission, Philosophy, and Guiding Principles.

## **Vision Statement**

The Florida Executive Fire Officer's Association is dedicated to enhancing the academic achievement of Florida Fire Chiefs by working cooperatively as the executive section of the Florida Fire Chief's Association. By using time honored experience, innovative ideology, networking opportunities and personal relationships, members serve to benefit Florida's chief fire officers by using education acquired from the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program, with the provision of real-world learning opportunities, while allowing the integration of higher education in all aspects of their lives.

## **Mission Statement**

The mission of the Florida Executive Fire Officer's Association is to provide a forum for sharing, communicating, educating, and networking dedicated to graduates and participants of the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program, and to support sustained quality educational programming of the Executive Fire Officer Program, the Florida Fire Chief's Association, and the Florida Fire and Emergency Services Foundation.

## **Philosophy**

FEFOA members believe that, in this fast-paced, rapidly changing world, fire service professionals need convenient, accessible, and superior-value educational opportunities. Only by joining forces with institutions that possess scholarly and professional qualifications, and providing a method of personal interaction, networking, and mentoring with today's leaders can we prepare tomorrow's leaders for success.

We can only realize our vision if we work together with the common goal of improving Florida Fire Service by becoming a recognized, committed, and reputable force among Florida's current and future Chief Fire Officers

Our success is contingent upon the ability of our members to apply their life skills, experiences and academic accomplishments to create or enhance value in their respective organizations.

## Guiding Principles

We have identified the following Guiding Principles for FEFOA:

1. Be committed to FEFOA's vision, mission, and guiding principles and conduct all of our affairs with professionalism and integrity, which will bring respect and credit to our organization.
2. Demonstrate support and encouragement for the academic offerings of the Executive Fire Officer's Program, and serve as the Florida Fire Chief's Association's liaison in the areas of education and leadership, whether serving as internal consultants or in the actual as a sponsor or speakers bureau for FFCA conferences, meetings, programs and other activities that support continued opportunities for professional development of FEFOA members, present and future.
3. Treat each other, and those with whom we work and serve, with dignity, respect, and sensitivity so as to create a caring environment that allows those who come behind us to reach his or her greatest potential.
4. Anticipate and remain focused on the needs of our constituents so we can prepare our current and future members to be key leaders and "shapers", and not mere "reactors" of our society. This level of dedication is critical in demonstrating our support for the Executive Fire Officer Program and the Florida Fire Chief's Association.
5. Set high expectations for ourselves and demonstrate initiative, judgment, flexibility, and teamwork so we may fulfill our mission and vision.
6. Facilitate communication among FEFOA members, FFCA, FFESF, and the NFA, and apply this synergistic knowledge-base to develop creative solutions to issues addressed by FEFOA.
7. Have the vision, creativity, openness, and receptivity to challenge the status quo, to create change, and view our role in the FEFOA as part of a dynamic process. Be able to identify opportunities, and turn challenges into advantages.
8. Constantly strive to actively contribute to the vision and mission of the FEFOA where there is opportunity and advantage, and cooperate with other local, state, and national organizations that support Executive Fire Officers' professional development.
9. Enable and encourage lifelong learning and enrichment opportunities for all members of FEFOA, understanding that lifelong learning, and the application and sharing of that learning, greatly enhances the fire service and society.
10. Be culturally mature and demonstrate a strong appreciation for diversity and the richness it brings to our lives and to our careers and to the careers of those we serve.