



2023 Tennessee Public Fire Educators Conference

Sunday, July 23

1300-1700 - Exhibitor and Equipment Display Opens

1500 - 1700 - TPFEA Conference Registration

Monday, July 24

0800-1200 - **AFG Strategies for Success** Brandon Fletcher, Gilt Edge FD, Chief

0930 - **Fire Chief Conference Opening Ceremonies**

1200-1300 - Lunch

1300-1500 - **Essentials of working with the Deaf & Hard of Hearing Community** - Mike Helms, Bridges of Nashville

1530-?? - CPST Seat Check-offs will be offered

1900 - *Cornhole Tournament (depending on interest)*

Tuesday, July 25

0800-1000 - **"Steps to Safety"**, the new and improved Remembering When - Kelly Ransdell, NFPA

1000-1200 - **Including Fire Sprinklers into your Fire Prevention Plan** - Shane Ray, NFSA

1200-1300 - Lunch

1300-1500 - **Community Engagement - Know your Audience to Benefit your Program and Grant Opportunities** - Kimberly Strong, TPFEA President, Memphis Fire Department

Closing Statements - Board elections

INFORMATION ABOUT THE SPEAKERS & TOPICS

Brandon Fletcher is the Chief of Gilt Edge Fire Department, Tennessee and a 22 year student of the fire service. He is a second-generation firefighter with a background in both a volunteer and career firefighter in the rural, suburban, and airport/industrial settings. His topic of AFG Strategies for Success comes from many years of writing and receiving multiple grants. He is not a paid grant writer, simply a fire chief that has been fortunate to fund some amazing projects through the AFG program. Are you frustrated from receiving turndown notices? Is your brain fried from trying to interpret the rules in the Notice of Funding Opportunity (FOFO)? Are you tired of sitting in classes and webinars that repeat the same "helpful hints" over and over but provide no substance as to how to actually improve your AFG application? If you answered yes to any of those questions, then join us for a discussion on real strategies for AFG success.

Mike Helms, Vice President, Adult Education and Outreach, Bridges for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Nashville. Mike was born and raised in Chattanooga, graduated from Lipscomb University with a double major in Accounting and Organization Communications. He joined the staff of Bridges for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in 2012, where he has provided training to thousands of First responders across Tennessee and loves to entertain and to educate while serving as an advocate for the Deaf, Deaf/Blind and Hard of Hearing Communities. Mike will discuss about the essential information for servicing people with varying degrees of hearing loss. The training will include an overview of: Deaf community, Deaf Culture, Modes of communication, tips for working with individuals, working with an interpreter, ADA guide for Government Services, Obtaining Interpreting Services, American Sign Language 101.

Kelly Ransdell, Regional Director - South Central Region at NFPA. Kelly is a self motivated professional who works to save lives through public education, outreach and advocacy. Kelly is a strong support of Safety Education and Community Risk Reduction programs and is always a joy to have. She will introduce the new and improved program of "Steps to Safety". STS pairs fire service/EMS with their community partners to educate, engage and bring key resources to their older adults to reduce the incidence, injuries, and deaths from fire and falls. STS is delivered through group presentations, home visits, and the creation of a network of referral and resources to support older adults to live safely and independently at home. This is the new "Remembering When" program we've been waiting for!

Shane Ray, serves as President of the National Fire Sprinkler Association, an association established in 1905 to be the voice of the fire sprinkler industry. Shane is committed to promoting the mission of protecting lives and property through the widespread acceptance of the fire sprinkler concept. Shane has been in this role for 6 years but has served NFSA for over 10 years. Shane has been blessed to serve over 25 years in the fire service, working his way through the ranks of career and volunteer organizations serving from firefighter to chief. Shane will talk on including fire sprinklers into your Fire Prevention plan, bringing to the table his knowledge and passion for the use of sprinklers