

Announcement of Candidacy – IAFF 7th District Vice President

Brothers and Sisters,

As many of you have seen, District Vice President Ricky Walsh has announced his retirement effective September 30, 2026. Ricky's service to the members of the 7th District and to the broader IAFF has been nothing short of extraordinary. His leadership, integrity, and unwavering commitment to firefighters and paramedics have shaped our district for more than two decades.

With Ricky's planned retirement, I am officially announcing my candidacy for IAFF 7th District Vice President.

This decision follows many years of preparation and reflection. Over my 30-year career as a firefighter/paramedic, I have been honored to serve our members in various roles: as a local union officer, an IAFF State Representative, a WSCFF Executive Board member, a Secretary appointed Washington State Department of Health Trauma Steering Committee member, an IAFF Standing EMS committee member, and, for the past four years, as a District Field Service Representative (DFSR). In that role, I have had the privilege of working directly with DVP Walsh, assisting locals across our district with contract negotiations, organizing efforts, mediations, arbitrations, Unfair Labor Practices, and leadership development. I share this because these experiences have given me a front-row seat to the challenges and opportunities our locals face every day, from small to large.

Being an IAFF State Representative and, most recently, one of two IAFF 7th District DFSRs has provided me with in-person experience working in the field with locals across the entire 7th District. I have sat with locals at the bargaining table, fighting to preserve members' benefits. I have collaborated with locals to build a stronger labor-management relationship. I have navigated state systems to file Unfair Labor Practices. And, I have experienced the pressure and responsibility of representing locals in Fact-Finding and Arbitrations.

I hold a Bachelor of Science degree in Labor Studies. I graduated from the first Executive Leadership Series in 2019. I also completed the Cascade Labor Leader Initiative hosted by the AFL-CIO in British Columbia, Canada, Washington State, and Oregon, along with many other labor leadership classes and training opportunities.

I am running for this position because I believe in the power of collective leadership, rooted in transparency, education, and solidarity. Our district's strength has always come from the collaboration between locals and state associations. As your DVP, I will continue to build on that foundation by:

- Supporting every local, large and small, with the tools, resources, and representation they deserve.
- Strengthening communication and coordination across the district to ensure no local faces challenges in isolation.
- Continuing and improving education and leadership training opportunities throughout the district to prepare the next generation of union leaders.

- Advocating fiercely for our members' safety, wages, and working conditions at every level of government.

In the coming weeks and months, I look forward to the opportunity to meet with your local executive board and/or membership to discuss my candidacy, hear your priorities, and earn your endorsement. These conversations are vital not just for my campaign but for ensuring that the next chapter of our district's leadership reflects the values and needs of our members.

Thank you for your continued dedication to our union and the IAFF's mission. Together, we will continue building on the strong foundation that has been laid and ensure that the 7th District remains a leader within our great International.

In Solidarity,

Tim Hoover