

Character Based Leadership

This presentation will share the experiences of the presenters in leading career and volunteer firefighters “character based leadership.” These presenters each have more than 10 years leading fire departments, and professional organizations. Character based leaders possess positive and defining series of traits. Leaders must possess innate skills and attributes that draw people to them. We will explore the character traits that are largely underestimated and misunderstood in helping leaders to be influential. Character based leadership qualities can be developed and embedded in their organization and culture. We will discuss organizational culture, character traits and actions along with how competence ties into it as well. Character based leadership traits will be explored to ethics, morals, values, humility and wisdom. This will be an interactive presentation with real world actions of others who succeeded in being a character based leader.

Instructor – John M. Buckman III, Mike Connelly

Chief John M. Buckman III served 35 years as fire chief for the German Township (Ind.) Volunteer Fire Department. He has presented at the Bryant Stiles Officers School for over 30 years. He served 14 years as director of the fire and public safety academy for the Indiana State Fire Marshal Office. He is most proud of the title “pawpaw” and loves spending lots of time with his grandkids. He is the Director of Government and Regional Outreach for IamResponding. He is a past president of the International Association of Fire Chiefs and a co-founder of the IAFC Volunteer and Combination Officers Section. In 1996, Fire Chief Magazine named Chief Buckman Volunteer Fire Chief of the Year. He is an accomplished photographer. He is a co-author of the Lessons Learned from Fire-Rescue Leaders and is the editor of the Chief Officers Desk Reference, and a contributing author to the 3rd Edition of Recruiting, Training and Maintaining Volunteers. He is the owner of Wildfire Productions and is a sought-after keynote speaker. He has presented education programs in each of the 50 states; Beijing, China; each province in Canada; and the Dominican Republic.

Mike Connelly is recently retired as Chief of the Evansville, Indiana, Fire Department.