

HONORABLE GUESTS

Honorary Dean: Joe Minocchi, Captain – Dover Fire Department

Joe Minocchi began his fire service career at Perry Twp Fire located in Stark County, where he volunteered at Station 2 out of Richville. In his four years as a volunteer, Joe achieved his level 2 fire certification from Stark State College and his Paramedic License from Aultman Hospital. In 1996 after working private ambulance for year, Joe hired on with the City of Dover at Dover Fire and Rescue. After 20 years as a firefighter Joe was promoted to Lieutenant in 2016. Joe served as Lt. for five years before being promoted to his current rank of Captain. As captain, along with the normal daily operations of handling emergency calls, Joe is the head of the Community Risk Reduction bureau and serves as the department's public information officer. During his time at Dover, Joe obtained a few other certifications along the way.

In 1996, Joe attended his first Wayne County Fire School. This began the long and fulfilling job as a fire instructor. In 2001, Joe was certified through the Ohio Fire Academy as a fire Instructor and was hired here at the training facility. In 2012, Joe began instructing along with other staff members in the OOGEEP program. In 2015 Joe became Fire Training Supervisor and Fire Program Director overseeing all aspects of the fire courses for 6 years. In this time, many trips were made to Columbus, representing firefighters and inspectors, to help organize the certification process and improve the training required for all. Joe was nominated by his peers at the training facility for Fire Instructor of the Year in 2016.

During his time at Dover, Joe completed the entire leadership program series through the Ohio Fire Academy. Along with that, he was the first Officer at Dover Fire to complete all 4 Fire Officer courses. Additionally, Joe spent numerous weekends at The National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland during the Ohio Weekend Trainings. Joe served as fire investigator for Dover Fire and for the Tuscarawas County Fire Investigation Task Force through the Tuscarawas County Sherriff's Department. In 2000, Joe became certified fire safety inspector, and in 2020 obtained certification as an Inspector Instructor. Joe also served as Haz-Mat Technician for the Tuscarawas County Haz-Mat team currently maintains all certifications for Dover Fire and Rescue.

Keynote Speaker: Mark vonAppen

Keynote Address: Fully Involved Leadership

Mark vonAppen has been a member of the fire service since 1998 and is assigned to the suppression division where he holds the rank of Captain. He has served as a committee member for California State Fire Training and contributed to the development of Firefighter Survival and Rapid Intervention curriculums. Mark has been a featured presenter at the Fire Department Instructors Conference (FDIC) since 2015, published in Fire Engineering Magazine, and is the creator of the fire service leadership blog FULLY INVOLVED. He has been an instructor for the Santa Clara County Joint Fire Academy, a recruit Instructor for Pala Alto Fire, and an academy instructor at Evergreen Community College.