



# THE REVIEW

Central Arizona Fire and Medical - 8603 E. Eastridge Dr., Prescott Valley, AZ 86314 – **November 18, 2022**

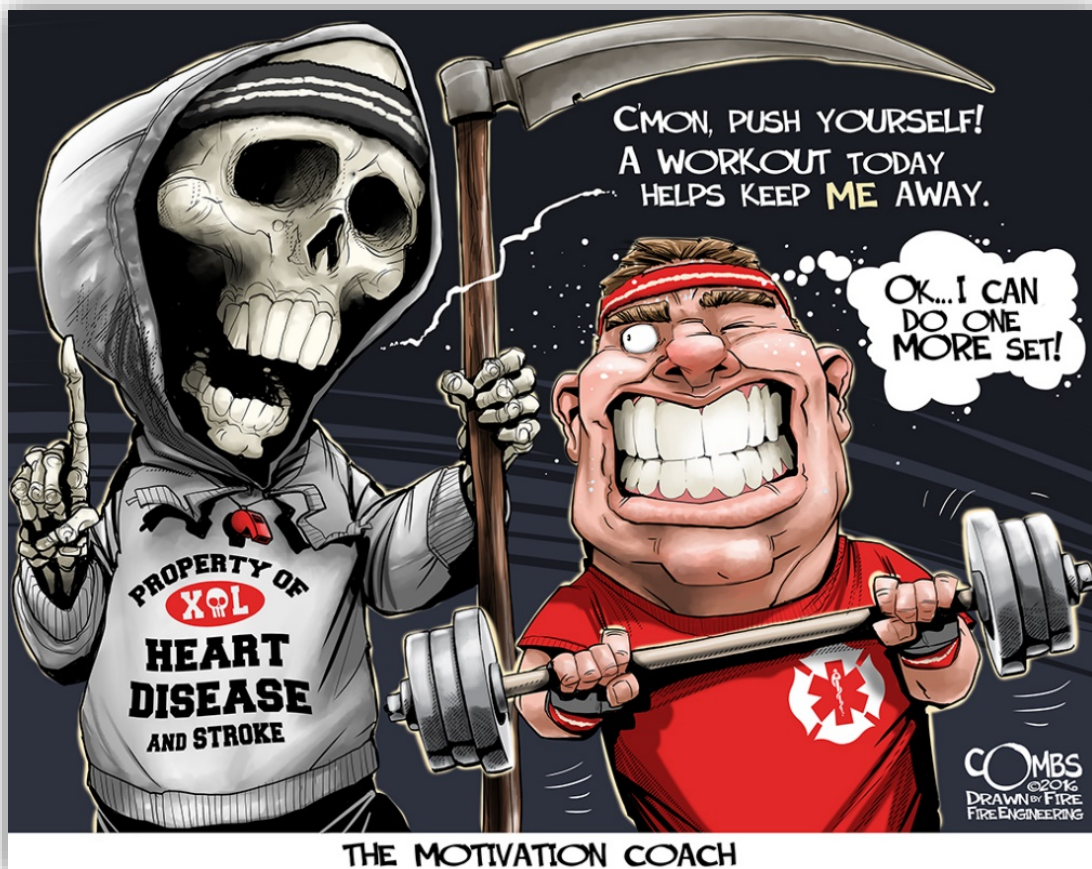
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“Intellectual growth should commence at birth and cease only at death.”

Albert Einstein

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## The Chief's Desk

Well, I guess things are going to start moving fast and furious at the State, at least until they're all in session and everything comes to a halt. I'll cover more of the State landscape from my perspective in a moment. Let's start with Prop 310, which as we know, failed.

I did an interview on Tuesday this week with Cronkite News as a follow-up to an earlier story about 310. The first question I was asked was, what do I believe voters will see now that Prop 310 failed? My answer was that they'll see their property taxes go up. The funding issues districts face did not go away because the voters rejected a 1/10<sup>th</sup> of a cent statewide sales tax. As a tradeoff for a reduction in the commercial property tax rate over the last few years, lawmakers increased the property tax cap for fire districts. As of next year, the rate cap will have been raised from \$3.25-\$3.75. As a result, agencies that are at the current cap will likely increase rates to capture some additional revenue.

Fire districts still have staffing and equipment needs that must be addressed. The only revenue source they have is property taxes, so it stands to reason that rates will increase. For some of the smaller agencies, the ability to increase rates will simply allow them to maintain the minimum staffing and equipment they have today. In contrast, the two districts that make up CAFMA (CYFD and CVFD) have the capacity to raise their rates so we can hire the personnel we need to meet demand. That still does not mean the rates increase all at once, but there will be incremental increases as we move forward.

Some smaller agencies in the state may fail, leaving additional gaps in emergency service coverage across Arizona. I don't think that was the voter's intention, at least not a majority of voters, but it's a direct result of Prop 310 failing. One thing's for certain, challenges related to funding fire districts will continue, and taxpayers will continue to have concerns with their property tax bills.

As you all know by now, our Governor Elect is Democrat Katie Hobbs. The new Senate President is a very conservative individual, as is the new Speaker of the House. I've personally testified in Senate committees on which the new Senate President was a member; suffice to say, things did not go well, and I do not recall a time when he voted in our favor.

Governor Elect Hobbs was quoted in an article Wednesday stating that she hoped that the two sides would be able to work across the aisle in the best interest of all Arizonans. Based on what I've witnessed with the person on the Senate side, that could prove a challenge; however, LD 1 elected Senator Ken Bennett to replace current LD 1 Senator/current Senate President Karen Fann. It's my understanding that Senator Bennett is someone who will work across the aisle when needed to do what he feels is right for the state. I've reached out and asked if we could sit down over a cup of coffee. **Cont. Page 4**

### Upcoming Events:

Nov 21: Meet with elected officials, Flying High Turkey Drive  
Nov 22: AFCA Eboard Meeting in Scottsdale  
Nov 23: Day before Thanksgiving office will close early  
Nov 24: Thanksgiving Day

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### Board Meeting:

Nov 28: Administration  
CVFD – 1600-1630  
CYFD – 1630-1700  
CAFMA – 1700-1830

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## **Should patient-transport capabilities be designed into future fire apparatus?**

By: Ben Thompson

There is one call that still haunts me.

A man was on his way into work when he noticed an argument between two women. As he stepped between the two to break up the fight, one of the women pulled a gun and shot him in the chest.

I can still see his eyes when I slipped the non-rebreather over his face. He told me, "I'm going to die, I'm going to die."

In paramedic school, I was taught to never lie to a patient. So I told him the only truth that might bring him some comfort: "Just hang on, the ambulance is coming."

I could hear the ambulance's siren and I tried to judge the distance. The emergency room was 1 mile down the road. Would he have a better chance if I took him in the engine? Or should I wait?

I chose to wait. When the man lost a pulse, I started chest compressions. By the time the ambulance arrived, I knew his chances of survival were nearly hopeless. Did I make the right choice?

### **PATIENT TRANSPORT IN THE ENGINE: IT'S ALREADY HAPPENING**

Back in 2020, firefighters in Oklahoma City responded to a 3-year-old who had been burned with cooking oil. After waiting on scene for an ambulance for nearly half an hour, Maj. Corey Britt of Oklahoma City Fire chose to do what I didn't. He decided to use the fire engine to transport the patient to the hospital.

[firerescue1.com](http://firerescue1.com)

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## **Gratitude as a Team Sport**

By: Kevin Eikenberry

You know that when we are grateful, we feel better and have a better attitude and outlook. Because of that, we know that gratitude is good. But those experiences also leave us thinking about gratitude as a personal thing. While gratitude is a personal experience, we can share it with others. And when we do, amazing things can happen for groups, too. Thus, it is worth considering gratitude as a team sport.

### **The Personal is the Collective**

Your experience tells you that when you experience gratitude, you feel better. The research shows that as we practice gratitude our energy is higher, we are more resilient, happier, more forgiving and generous, and have lower stress and anxiety.

Look at that list.

If you had a team had higher energy, greater resilience, less stress and anxiety and was more forgiving, would you have a better team?

Would you have greater productivity, greater collaboration, higher retention, and less detrimental conflict?

Who wouldn't want to lead or be a part of that team?

And while one individual practicing gratitude is lovely, when an entire team does it – when gratitude becomes a team sport – the benefits expand rapidly.

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## **Chief's Desk Continued**

The current Fire Service perspective is that we're shifting into neutral and/or a defensive posture to protect the gains we've made with presumptive laws, property tax caps, etc. There may be some areas in which we can get bipartisan support for a couple of bills we plan to run; however, that remains a challenge as we've seen the legislature kill bills solely because of which party was running the legislation.

What seems clear to me is that neither party has a mandate. The margins were so close in these races that the message seems to be work together and figure this out. I believe the other message is – stop being crazy, i.e., we don't want extreme ideologists whether left or right.

As with any major political change, we'll see some current department directors move on from their state-level positions. Some will make the change voluntarily, while others will not. To that end, we don't know what the landscape will look like with DHS, DFFM, DEMA, etc. Our hope is that the Fire Service will have some input moving forward. We do know that Governor Elect Hobbs and her team are supportive of emergency services and are aware of a good number of our needs.

We're hoping that we can sit with the Governor Elect, or members of her team, to provide insight into challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. As a collective, we have a keen interest in DFFM both from the wildland perspective and as the office of the State Fire Marshal. We also have a significant interest in DHS and their approach to EMS services across the state. I may not have talked about the Department of Emergency Management and Military Affairs (DEMA) a lot in the past, but the current director has been vitally important in helping us move statewide mutual aid forward, as well as revamping the ESF4 position in emergency management. It would be great if the Governor Elect and her team would allow him to maintain his current role.

There are certainly a lot of unknowns on the horizon as the state transitions leadership positions. We will remain involved and connected to ensure our voices are heard; whether we're on offense or defense isn't the issue, it's whether or not we're in the game. When we're not in the game, things

happen to us, which is definitely not what we want. At least if our voices are heard, we have a chance to either improve our standing, or lessen the impact when things don't go our way.

On a local level, Gayle Pickett and Andy Reinhardt have been elected to the CYFD Board of Directors. They will be seated at the November 28th meeting. No one submitted for the two seats available on the Chino Board. To that end, they will give Staff direction at the next meeting to post the openings. The boards will decide, I think in December, who will serve as chair and clerk of each board as well as who will serve on the CAFMA Board.

As a reminder, next week is Thanksgiving! We've had our ups and downs this year, but overall, I think we're in a good place. I would encourage each of you to start thinking about what you are grateful for and how you can reflect that gratitude daily.

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