

President's message:

I feel very honored to be your new AFBEA president! I know I have very big shoes to fill, especially considering the success of this organization now going on 25 years. I want to assure you that we want to keep this organization moving ahead and providing the State of Arizona the best resource for fire and burn education awareness and materials to prevent unintentional injuries.

I've been a member of AFBEA since 1999 and have held the position of Treasurer as well as Secretary for the organization. My official title with the Goodyear Fire Department is Community Education Coordinator, but I'm sure like many of you, that title has the term assigned to it "and other duties as assigned". Some days I'm wearing so many hats at the same time my head starts to lean sideways. I've been happily married to Keith Tanner whom I meet through AFBEA at the characterization conference many years ago; we have 4 grown children between us and 3 amazing grandchildren.

AFBEA just launched a new website that is sure to direct you to the correct list of opportunities to learn or share your skills with others in need of assistance of fire and life safety issues. Social media is here to stay and expand, and as an organization we need to provide as much information as we can to all ages to keep them safe.

With that said, we also need to look into our own homes and really examine what we are doing to set the example for others. Are we walking the walk or just talking to others without really doing what we are asking others to do. Recently while remodeling our home, we pulled the carpet up to discover a cheap extension cord had been installed to provide electricity to the middle of our living room. It had been there so long, I just assumed the electrical outlet was installed in the floor and everything was safe. As you can imagine the look on my "Deputy Fire Marshal" husband's face was priceless! We could just read the headlines now, "The home of the Deputy Fire Marshal along with his wife; the Community Education Coordinator for the Fire Department was a total loss due to".....we could go on and on with what if's!

What would your newspaper head line say? Have you replaced the batteries in your smoke alarms, or replaced the alarms if they are over 10 years old? Have you practiced your home escape plan with your family like you have been telling others to do? Are you going to allow your children or grandchildren to go through Halloween haunted houses that have not been properly inspected? Do you allow your passengers to ride in your vehicle unrestrained or without proper child safety seats?

It's time to stop and take a look in your own home. As we often say, family comes first, so be SURE to make you and your family's safety the number one priority. Have a safe Fall season, Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year!

Tanja Tanner