



# THE REVIEW



Central Arizona Fire and Medical - 8603 E. Eastridge Dr., Prescott Valley, AZ 86314 - **March 16, 2018**

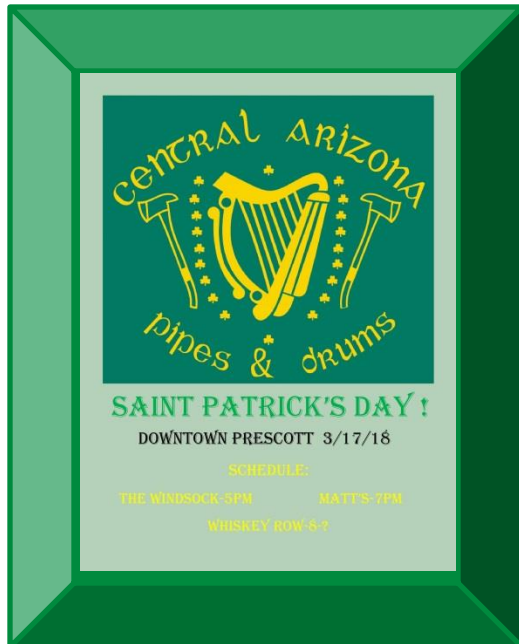
## March 16, 2018

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## Quote of the Week

"Most of our mistakes, the big ones at least, are the result of allowing emotion to overrule logic. We knew the right choice, but didn't obey." Unk



Come out and support our Central Arizona Pipes and Drums on St. Patrick's Day, this Saturday, in Downtown Prescott!

(Remember to drink responsibly and appoint a designated driver)



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## The Chief's Desk

Life is like a box of chocolates, so says Forest Gump..... What does that mean exactly, and why is it relevant here? Bear with me for a bit. Have you ever given or received an actual box of chocolates? Each looks delicious on the outside and all appear to be good options. However, what we know is that some of the chocolates are not as delicious as they would appear. I know as I've personally picked one that looked edible based on the chocolatey packaging, only to file it directly in the trash after the first bite.



Choices in life are not dissimilar. Sometimes we decide based on the packaging, other times we focus on expedience, and yet others we research and then decide. No matter which route we take, once we make a choice we are accountable for the decision whether good, bad or indifferent. The upside of the chocolate is we can spit it out, drink some water and try again. In life, it can be much more challenging to deal with the results of a poor choice. I'd be remiss if I did not point out at this juncture that choice reflects one's personal level of emotional intelligence, and is affiliated with personal accountability.

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### Board Meetings

March 26<sup>th</sup>

CVFD 1600  
CAFMA 1630  
CYFD 1800

### Upcoming Events:

March 19 – Chief on Vacation

March 20 – Chief on Vacation, PRCC Liaison Meeting, Dewey Humboldt Town Council Meeting

March 21 - Chief on Vacation, Chamber Mixer

March 22 - Chief to speak with recruits as CARTA, PV Council, Chino Citizens Academy

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## Capital Update

**S1262** – Senate bill 2162 would require PSPRS to begin rolling back their assumed earnings rate to a more realistic number. This bill is dead.

**S1093** – Senate bill 1093 would have taken some of the requirements for fire sprinklers out of the life safety code. As of yesterday the bill is dead.

**S1268** – Senate bill 2168 would offer additional property tax exemptions to a certain class of citizens. This bill passed out of the Ways and Means committee yesterday, but only had luke warm support.



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Many expressed a desire for more information which they could only obtain if the bill moved out of committee. I sent correspondence to the Speaker Pro Tem this morning expressing our concerns.

It was a very productive day at the Capital on Wednesday this week. I had the opportunity to visit with a lobbyist for PSPRS and express concerns about recent challenges with the system – she is willing to assist. Later in the afternoon I ran in to Kevin McCarthy, Executive Director of the Arizona Tax Research Association (ATRA). While not usually a big fan of the fire service, Mr. McCarthy and I had a very good conversation on a variety of topics to include CAFMA and S1268 – a bill he also opposes. Finally, I ran into Director Jeff Whitney who is assisting us with some other matters. All in all, we were able to get traction in a number of areas.



## National Mutual Aid System

**Once again, Arizona is helping to lead the pack as a test site for a national system.**

As you may recall, just over a year ago Arizona was one of only two states in the country that did not report to the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS). Our nation is driven by data, yet Arizona had very little which hurt us on a national level e.g. Hawaii was listed as having more wildfires than Arizona. If you're the Federal Government looking to spend dollars on mitigation programs, who would you want to give money to based on the data? As of today, not only are we as a State reporting to NFIRS, we've also become one of only a couple test sites nationally for a new data study that may set the standard for the future data collection and dissemination.

While not finalized, we are moving in the direction of becoming the fifth beta test site in the country for a new National Mutual Aid System model. The system incorporates the best of WebEOC and ESRI (GIS Mapping and Spatial Data Analytics and Location Platform). Other states currently involved in the test include North Carolina, California and Florida as well as a couple others. The opportunity is timely as we are currently working to revise our Statewide Mutual Aid Plan. Under a Gubernatorial Proclamation the Arizona Fire Chief's Association is responsible for development and maintenance of the plan. To that end, Fire Chief Paul Adams, President of AFCA, penned a letter to NMAS requesting Arizona be a beta test site. The NMAS system would be managed by the State so Director Whitney has also penned a letter and is working closely with us. Stay tuned for further developments – the system has a lot of potential.

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### Chiefs Desk Continued

Seems choices were easier to make years ago when there weren't so many options. As Henry Ford said, "A customer can have a car painted any color he wants so long as it's black." You can still get a black car today, but which black do you want on which car? Food, gadgets, technology, etc. which one do we want and why? Do we make our choice based on quality, reliability ratings, fuel economy, or make and

model? How much research do we have time for before we make the decision, and are we willing to put the time in? You get my meaning. With so many options in the world today relating to our personal choices and with so much information available – not all accurate – choice can be difficult.

We as human beings have been blessed with free will – not freedom from our choices, but the freedom to make a choice. Once made, we do not have the freedom to avoid the outcome although it seems many try. Whether it is personally or professionally we make hundreds of choices each day. Those decisions are based on our upbringing, culture, those with whom we choose to associate, our environment, etc. In simple terms, we used to think in terms of the difference between what's right and what's wrong. Today many make choices based on expedience, perceived power, perceived gain, flawed ideology, or in a world with so much to choose from, what seems easiest. Right and wrong appear to have become passé in many circles.

Emotional Intelligence plays a significant role in both how and what we choose as well as how we “respond” to the consequences of the decisions we make. When I say consequences I do not mean in the negative sense necessarily as some outcomes are good and some not so much. One of the issues today, in my opinion, is no one seems to have the intestinal fortitude to accept responsibility for their actions – a lack of emotional intelligence. We see it in our elected officials, in our community, in families, and in the work environment.

Life is in fact like a box of chocolates. Information abounds, much of it not accurate yet it's wrapped in an attractive coating leading us to take the bite –in life we are unable to back away from the consequences as easy as we are a piece of horrible candy. We need to develop our EI to the point that we are not fooled by the package and take the time to look deeper at the substance. It's important we make decisions based on a well-established values system and a personal philosophy of weighing right and wrong – not expediency, power, deception or personal gain at the expense of another. And, just as important we must be willing to embrace the consequence whether it is good or bad. In the end, you are accountable for you and the decisions you make.

