

Volunteers Association

1300 0 SES VA

nswsesva.org.au

office@nswsesva.org.au

President's Forward



Halfway through winter and haven't we had a mixed bag?! But the end of July isn't just about the weather for me personally.

As many of you would have seen, we had advertisements for Director roles on our Board as well as the role of President. I have had the great pleasure to fill three terms as the President, but after speaking with my family and evaluating where I am at, I have made the decision not to run again.

I feel that as an Association, we have achieved so much together and had so many great moments, but that it is time for someone else to take the reins and move the Association into the next chapter.

We will also be seeing a new Director added to our Board, and it is our expectation that they will bring a different perspective, experience and expertise to our Board to continue to grow our Association.

Our next strategic plan has also been the focus of our members and staff. We have had a number of President's Workshops to nut out how we are going to reach our future destination, and work plans have been developed and ready for implementation in November.

For me, I am really happy to see that the Association has a clear direction and am anticipating that the change in leadership will be seamless- and that as members, you will only see the Association growing from strength to strength.

Until then, keep an eye out for some other changes that will be continuing to take place, this includes our merchandise review and the launch of some new products and a new look at how we will be running conferences.

Chair Moir ESM

What's been happening in the Volunteers Association?

Outcomes from meetings with the Minister and Shadow Minister regarding the NSW SES Fleet funding

The President and Chief Executive Officer from the NSW SES Volunteers Association had meetings with the Minister for Police and Emergency Service and the Shadow Minister on Thursday and Friday of this week.

A summary of the outcomes:

1. Minister, Troy Grant, has informed us that he has requested a revised business case be submitted by the NSW SES and that he is confident that the funding will be provided in December.
2. The Minister has provided assurances that Volunteer safety will not be compromised
3. The Minister has provided assurances that the NSW SES has the budget for routine maintenance and repairs to the SES Fleet
4. The Shadow Minister advised that he has received lots of letters from Labor MPs from concerned SES volunteers
5. The Shadow Minister has requested detailed statistics regarding the SES fleet- including specifics on age of vehicles and images of old and new vehicles



6. The Shadow Minister expressed his concerns that funding was knocked back based on the quality of the business case submitted

Member Support

Don't forget there are many ways to access support for volunteers like yourself or those around you. You can contact your Unit Representative, your Regional Representative, the SES Volunteers Association office or Member Services. We can guide you towards internal or external support, along with the many ways that the Volunteers Association can support volunteers through our various funding schemes.

All inquiries are strictly confidential.

NSW SES Organisation Transformation Workshops

The Volunteers Association is supportive of the work

PROUDLY SUPPORTING... SAVE UP TO \$300 ON YOUR RESTAURANT BILLS!

With warmer weather on the way, it is time to start taking advantage of all the incredible restaurant deals through your NSW SESVA Member Advantage benefits program.

Take your family or friends to **over 300 participating restaurants around Australia and New Zealand** and save up to \$300 on your restaurant bills throughout the year*. Simply point out the Ambassador Card logo on your membership card and experience the benefits!

From complimentary meals, incredible discounts and two-for-one deals, find your nearest restaurant by visiting the NSW SESVA Member Advantage website or call Member Advantage for more information on 1300 853 352.

*Indicative figures only. Savings based on 12 restaurant visits with an average discount of \$25 applied.



that is being undertaken and has been attending all the Workshops. There has been some robust discussion on the way business processes can be improved into the future. The SES has advised that due to the short timeframes given to organise the workshops the number of volunteers being able to attend has been lower than expected.

The NSW SES has given a commitment to run some workshops over weekends to ensure volunteer input.

Parliamentary Inquiry

In an effort to improve the SES and ensure Commissioner Smethurst gets the resources he needs to create an environment that is free from bullying, harassment or discrimination; the Volunteers Association has made a submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry.

Grant Applications

Our new round of Grant applications opened from 1 July using our new online processes. Our first committee meeting will be held in early August to assess these for the Board of Directors to approve. Thank you for all the great and wonderful ideas that have been submitted to build capacity at Units and develop individuals.

Our next assessment meetings will be in November, but remember: applications can be submitted at any time.

Director Training

On the weekend of 15/16 July members our our Board, the National SES Volunteers Association Board and participants from the Emerging Leaders Program undertook a not-for-profit company directors course provided by the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

The course was highly engaging with participants working through case studies and potential issues encountered by not-for-profits. This was the culmination to regular the monthly discussions on ethical and management issues that had been a regular feature of the Emerging Leaders Program.

Strategic Challenges

The Volunteers Association has been looking at its emerging strategic challenges across a number of areas including right people, right roles; remaining relevant; communications; governance and risk and culture.

We are looking at reframing our challenges to update our corporate plan in the next few months so that we can improve the way we support our members.