

WNCAFF Quarterly Meeting
Rowan County Fire and Rescue Association
Jesse Carson High School
January 18, 2017

19:20 – President Deaton gavelled the meeting to order with 153 members in attendance. President Deaton introduced Bostian Heights Fire Chief Mike Zimmerman who welcomed the association to the town of China Grove and Rowan County. Chief Zimmerman recognized China Grove Mayor Lee Withers and Representative Carl Ford (NC House District 76).

Invocation was given by

Pledge of Allegiance:

President Deaton recognized our meal sponsor for the meeting: LGFCU Commercial Lending. Loren Pittman spoke about the services provided by LGFCU and this year marks the 10th anniversary of the LGFCU Commercial Lending.

Meal was provided by Catering by Sue.

President Deaton recognized Locke Fire Chief Rusty Alexander who spoke about the vendors in attendance and the door prizes for the evening. Members are encouraged to go by the vendors and thank them for being at the meeting.

19:40 – President Deaton informed the association of a \$75,000.00 dollar donation that was received from Duke Energy that will be used to help offset expenses that were incurred for the western wildfires. A committee has been formed consisting of WNCAFF board members, NCEM representatives as well as a representative from Duke Energy. A grant application is being developed with possible implementation in early to middle March with grant money being awarded by April. Other donations received in addition to the Duke Energy contribution have increased the amount available of the grant to nearly \$85,000.00. This grant can be apply for to help offset any costs that will not be eligible for local, state or federal assistances.

19:45 - President Deaton gave a thank you to the association for the support given to him during his time as president. He then gave the 2016 President's Report that reflected on what the association accomplished over the past year. New Website, 501C3 and incorporation of the WNCAFF and bylaw review for possible amendments in 2017.

President Deaton officially turned the association over to incoming President Andy Webster.

President Deaton was presented with an axe as a token of appreciation from the executive board and the association membership for his dedication and hard work as president.

President Webster recognized the 2017 WNCAFF Officers.

- President Andy Webster – Cool Springs Fire Department
- 1st Vice President Rick Livingston – Mills River Fire Department
- 2nd Vice President Trevor Lance – Skyland Fire Department
- Secretary Anthony Penland – Swannanoa Fire Department
- Treasurer Dean Coward – Saunook Fire Department
- Past President Curt Deaton – Mooresville Fire Department

- Mountain Region Director Brian Piercy – Pleasant Garden Fire Department
- Highlands Region Director – Vacant
- Foothills Region Director – Todd McMurry – Shelby Fire Department

Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports

Motion moved by David Hughes and seconded by Ryan Cole to accept the secretary's report as mailed, emailed and/or posted to the website. Motion Passed.

Motion moved by Joey Webb seconded by William Hunt to accept treasurer's report as read. Motion Passed.

19:53 - Yearly Award Recognition Ryan Cole, Roger Hollifield and Mike Caviness

Firefighter of the Year:

Firefighter Larry Glover – Shelby Fire Department

Officer of the Year:

Career Officer: Trent Carpenter – Cherryville Fire Department

Volunteer Officer: Todd McMurry – Polkville Fire Department

Fire Chief of the Year:

Career Fire Chief: Chief Joey Webb – Waynesville Fire Department

Volunteer Fire Chief: Chief Eric Wiseman – Parkway Fire Department

20:05 – Agency Reports

NCSFA – Tim Bradley

- **Roster Reporting Requirements**
 - Rosters were due by January 15th. This included the membership roster as well as the certification of firefighters. Failure to submit these on time could result in loss of service credits for firefighters. Out of all the departments, we had only 17 that failed to get their roster in on time last year, but as of Friday of last week we had 374 departments that had not submitted their roster. In many cases these departments had updated their roster, but failed to hit the “Submit” button, which is necessary to insure they recognize they are submitting a certified document.
 - March is the deadline for paying Association dues, based on your roster, to insure coverage of association benefits.
- **Relief Fund Update**
 - Last year was an extremely active year for relief fund usage and approval. With legislative changes in 2014, the production and awareness caused by the distribution of the relief fund pamphlet, and informational sessions, local relief fund boards have begun putting money to use from their funds at a more active pace. Some of this was sparked by the passage of HB 1034, and their fear of losing their funding if they are over the new maximum. In this respect, HB 1034 and the PED studies had the desired effect: “Put the money to use, or you won't get anymore”.

- It is critical for those at or near their maximum of \$2,500 per rostered firefighter to watch their balance closely. We still have fire departments submitting reports that are over their maximum. This will result in them not being able to receive their check at the end of the fiscal year from DOI.
- In addition, in 2016 at the close of the Relief Fund Reporting period (October 31st,) we had a higher number of local relief fund boards who failed to meet the financial reporting requirement, most of which did not submit their bank statements.

➤ **Scholarships and Grants**

- Scholarships are now open on-line for 2017. There are 15 scholarships per region awarded each year. The scholarships include \$2,000 Associate's, \$8,000 Bachelor's and \$10,000 Master's Degree awards.
- We also have (8) \$500 training grants available per region. We hope it expands in the future. Last year we received three from the Eastern Association, and one each from the Piedmont and Western Associations.
- The electronic submission due date for the scholarship and grant applications is March 15.

➤ **Fraternal Insurance Program/MET Life Dental**

- There has been a change to our Fraternal Insurance Program. To insure the long term viability of our Fraternal Insurance Program, the NCSFA partnered with Met Life, who assumed the actuarial responsibility of the program. This year, we took another step and, working with Met Life, who contracted with Insurance Services International to manage the program. From this point forward your billing and benefits will be administered by them.
- To insure the long term viability of the Fraternal Insurance program, effective January 1st, the program was frozen to new members. There is a much better offering for those under 60 with the Met Life accompanying life insurance, that provide better benefits with comparable rates. These changes were necessary to ensure the Fraternal Program was there for those who had been members in it for years. As a standalone program, it was going to be difficult to maintain it at the reasonable rates it had been at before.
- We've also added a Dental Insurance Program through Met Life. More information on the NCSFA website. www.ncsfa.com.

➤ **Legislation**

- The combined legislative committee of the NCSFA and NCAFC has been meeting and working on legislative initiatives for the upcoming session. It's too early to say what they will be, since the committee has not fine-tuned the list, but you can track all legislative actions by going to ncsfa.com and signing on to Capital Impact, or legislative tracking. You get weekly updates on legislative happenings, and it gives us the opportunity to let you know when help is needed on a particular bill. This is the strength of our legislative effort, the ability to keep everyone informed and working together, and to speak as one voice.

➤ **Board Retreat**

- Last October the NCSFA Board held an annual retreat under the direction of President Brian Cox to discuss future issues for the Association. The retreat was successful and the Board has been working hard to begin implementation of new issues, while maintaining and improving service offered from the past.

➤ **SAFRE**

- In 2016 the SAFER conference was moved to Charlotte for two years, and this year in 2017 it will be co-hosted with FRI. It returns to Raleigh in 2018. This year's dates are July 26th – 29th. On-line registration will be available in the near future on our web-site as well as the FRI IAFC Web site. Please be sure to take advantage of the reduced rate to attend FRI if you like. While you can attend the SAFRE conference for the usual NC Reasonable rates, since we are co-hosting with FRI, you can attend their conference at a rate never offered before if you are a firefighter in NC. The vendor show will be much larger than last year and will not only include our usual vendors, but the national companies that always show at FRI.

➤ **Election Reminder**

- As you know, each year at SAFRE we hold our annual business meeting and necessary election of NCSFA Board members. The delegates present elect a Second Vice President, Statistician, and Treasurer from eligible candidates nominated from the floor at the annual membership meeting. In order for a candidate to be eligible for nomination from the floor at the annual meeting, such candidate must have provided the Executive Director with written notice of their intent to run for one of the three Elected Director positions no later than April 1 of the year in which they intend to run. This insures that all delegates attending conference are aware of who are candidates for each position. This was a change in the bylaws approved by membership last year. If you are interested in one of these positions, you would need to make sure you submitted your name by April 1st to be eligible for nomination.

➤ **Mid-Winter Summit**

- We will be hosting a Summit for the 3rd year this year at Mid-Winter, January 31st at 10:00. This will include the Board members from the NCSFA, NCAFC's, and the Boards from all three regional associations (Western, Eastern, and Piedmont). Some of the topics of discussion are – Communication, Legislation, and determining issues we are all facing together.

NCAFC – Jake Whisnant

- **NCAFC Training Management Program**
 - Charlotte Fire Training Academy October 17-21, 2016.
 - 50 Students.
 - Positive feedback from Students and Instructors.
 - Thank you to all who supported this pilot class.

- **National Fire Academy/NC Weekend**
 - Emmitsburg MD.
 - November 18-19, 2016.
 - Even with active deployments during the weekend, we still had 225 students in attendance.

- **NCAFC/ NCSFRI Mid-Winter Conference**
 - January 31-February 4, 2017 Concord NC.
 - **January 20, 2017**, Registration deadline.
 - Short Schedule *on Web Site*. www.ncafc.com.

- **NCAFC / NCSFA Joint Cancer Task Force Meeting**
 - February 16, 2017 - Guil-Rand Fire Department.

- **NC Fire Service Legislative Day**
 - April 12, 2017 – Raleigh NC.

- **58th NC Fire Prevention School**
 - March 20-24, 2017 - Ft Fisher, Kure Beach NC.
 - Registration is presently open.

- **Southeastern Association of Fire Chief's Conference**
 - June 6-22, 2017 - North Charleston SC.

- **2017 Chief Officer Executive Development Program**
 - Charlotte Fire Academy.
 - **Week-1** September 18-22,2017
 - **Week-2** October 23-27,2017

- **NC Accreditation Consortium**
 - NCAFC Board has selected to support and assist in promoting NC Accreditation Consortium quarterly meetings in Greensboro NC.
 - January 26,2017
 - April 20,2017
 - July 2017 Date TBA
 - October 26,2017

- **NCAFC Bylaws**
 - Proposed improvements to By-Laws can be viewed on-line along with a power-point explanation of the recommended improvements.
 - Proposal to be voted on at Mid-Winter.

- **NCAFC Strategic Plan Recommendation**
 - Utilization of Regional Focus Groups to receive feedback from NCAFC stakeholders as to areas the association can better serve and communicate with present and prospective members.

NVFC – Jeff Cash

- **NVFC Membership**
 - North Carolina partners with the NVFC to provide NCSFA members a significant discount on NVFC individual membership. In fact, NC leads the nation in number of members per state in the NVFC. Membership in the NVFC provides firefighters and EMTs additional benefits, such as an AD&D policy.
 - The NVFC recently added optional Critical Illness Coverage to its benefits. Members have access to special rates and plans for cancer, critical illness, and accident coverage to provide extra protection and peace of mind to fire service families.

- **Make Me a Firefighter Recruitment Campaign**
 - The Make Me a Firefighter recruitment campaign department portal is now fully functional. Departments can go to portal.nvfc.org to access a variety of resources to implement a successful recruitment campaign, including a materials generator to create custom outreach pieces, a recruit tracker, an invitation generator, social media graphics, videos, and an event planning guide. It is entirely free thanks to funding from a federal SAFER grant.
 - Departments are encouraged to post their volunteer opportunities through the portal so that potential volunteers visiting the public MakeMeAFirefighter.org site can find them.

- **Health and Safety**
 - The NVFC is encouraging all firefighters and EMTs to “Serve Strong” by focusing on their health and wellness. You need to be healthy, safe, and ready for the call in order to best serve your crew and your community. This includes behavioral health, cancer prevention, annual firefighter physicals, heart health, and equipment and vehicle safety. Find resources to help you Serve Strong on the NVFC web site at www.nvfc.org/ServeStrong.
 - The NVFC will also be releasing a textbook soon to help departments bring about a cultural shift in their departments to better incorporate health and safety into department culture.

- **Training**
 - The NVFC will hold its third Training Summit in Myrtle Beach, SC, on June 9-10. The classroom sessions focus on health, safety, recruitment and retention, and leadership. Scholarships are available for NVFC members and cover hotel, up to \$500 in transportation costs, and the registration fee. Information is available at www.nvfc.org/summit.

- The NVFC Virtual Classroom features 60 free and low-cost online courses on a variety of topics. 10 of the health and safety courses are eligible for CEUs.
- The Wildland Fire Assessment Program has tools and training available to help fire service volunteers conduct home safety assessments in the wildland-urban interface. Now is a good time to take the training in advance of the 2017 wildfire season.

➤ **Upcoming Events**

- The NVFC spring board meeting will take place in Alexandria, VA, on April 6-8.
- The 2017 Globe Gear Giveaway application period opens in February. Through this partnership with Globe and DuPont, NVFC members can apply for 4 sets of new turnout gear. 52 sets of gear will be awarded to 13 departments in 2017.

OSFM – Michael Caviness

➤ **Injury Prevention**

- NC FLSE Conference- Feb 21-24- Preconference 21 conference 22-24.
- Safe Kids Conference- May 22-25- Preconference May 22-23 Conference 23-25.
- CPS Classes- buckleupnc.org.
- Smoke Alarms are still available.
- Silver Safety
 - April 25 Piney Grove FD
 - April 26- Wilmington FD
- Lifesavers- March 26-28- Charlotte.

➤ **Grants**

- 2016 Fire Grants
 - Finishing up the processing of grants- please call Meg if you have questions.
- 2017 Fire Grants
 - Application period opened on January 1 will close on March 1. Grants will be awarded May 15.
- Rescue Grants have been awarded. Invoices will be due by April 30.
- Fire Relief Fund- BTR's (County Tax info) Due on January 31.
- If you have questions or need help from grants division please contact the OSFM Office. (919-647-0081).

➤ **Certifications**

- Traffic Incident Management (TIMS) Class has become a requirement for any future certifications effective January 1st, 2017. This is a change from only being a requirement for Firefighter, Driver Operator (EVD, Pumps, Aerials), and Technical Rescuer.
- Airport Firefighter and Marine Firefighter Re-Qualification Info:
 - New program was effective January 1st, 2017. This is an online requalification.
 - Instructors have until March 31st, 2017 to complete the online requalification.
- Qualification Process for Mobile Water Supply NFPA 1002 2014 Edition
 - Instructors who are Driver Operator Pumps and EVD Qualified by December 31, 2016 will be eligible to qualify to teach the new Mobile Water Supply Certification by completing the online qualification

program. Please verify that as of December 31, 2106 you are Qualified to teach 04Q0111 EVD NFPA 1002 2009 edition and qualified to teach 04Q0112 Pumps NFPA 1002 2009 edition. If you have both qualifications listed on your transcript you may take the online qualification. This online qualification will also allow the Instructor to gain their Mobile Water Supply qualification and certification. This process must be completed by March 31, 2017.

- The Mobile Water Supply certification program will start July 1, 2017. Instructors who gain the Mobile Water Supply certification will be able to qualify in Mobile Water Supply for the first two years of implementation with a two-year certification requirement. This is an exception to gain an instructor pool. This exception will expire July 1, 2019.
- The requalification process for Driver Operator Pumps, Aerial and EVD is scheduled to be posted April 1, 2017 and run through June 30, 2017. To be eligible for the above re-qualifications, the D/O Instructor must have been qualified on or before 12/31/2016. The Driver Operator NFPA 1002 2014 edition will begin July 1, 2017.
- FLSE Requalification
 - Should be taking place by July 1st, 2017. New reference manual hasn't been released yet.

➤ **Testing Procedure**

- If you are a qualified instructor make sure that you follow the NCFRC's Policy for Testing.

➤ **Announcements**

- Staff is assisting 11 departments with possible LODD's that occurred last year.
- OSFM wants to say thanks for helping out with Wildfires and Hurricane Matthew.

NCEM – Mike Cook

➤ **Hurricane Matthew/Western Wildfires**

- Thanks to all of you for your commitment to the State and your communities for your diligent and aggressive response to all of the activities experienced this past fall. It is not without your dedication that we are able to provide the level of capability that you bring to the response efforts. This recognized all the way to the top and extremely appreciated and recognized.
- Any ideas and/or constructive reviews of any response, please inform NCEM. NCEM is always striving to make things better and the only way to do that is through open dialog with the responders.

➤ **Recovery Efforts**

- There is still a long way to go with the recovery efforts and for those who are seeking reimbursements for responses. Please be patient as your requests are being worked through the system. If you have any problems please do not hesitate to reach out to your local or area coordinator.

➤ **Secretary of Public Safety**

- Erick Hooks is the new Secretary of Public Safety. Pending NC Senate Approval. Erick is a career state employee and he is coming from the NC SBI.

➤ **Upcoming Events:**

- SERC Meeting: January 20, 2017. Raleigh.
- Planning Meeting for Vigilant Catamount (Western Exercise) January 25, 2017. NCNG.
- McGuire Nuclear Station
 - Task Force Meetings have started. Meetings will be held on first Thursday of each month in preparation for the August exercise.
- NC All Hazards IMT Academy
 - February 20-24, 2017
 - Haw River State Park
- NCEM Spring Conference
 - March 12-15, 2017
 - Cherokee, NC.

NCFS – Travis Ruff

➤ **Fire Season**

- Fall 2016 - Forecast was to have a season like the 1998 Florida Fires. NCFS had no idea on how large the fires would be.
- Spring 2017 – Forecast is for a normal fire season.
- Thanks to all that assisted with the fires in western part of NC.

➤ **Announcements**

- Encourage all NC firefighters to pursue wildland fire suppression and urban interface training.
- Encourage all NC firefighters to pursue funding for wildland PPE.

➤ **Aviation Stationed at Hickory**

- 1 Helicopter.
- 2 Scout Planes.

NCFFF – Rick Wood

➤ **NCFFF 2017 Officers**

- Rick Wood, President; Don Hussey, 1st Vice President; Kevin Davis, 2nd Vice President; Kathy Weatherspoon, Executive Secretary; Tim Hall, Treasurer/Financial Director; Dana McKim, Chaplain; Keith Powell, Marketing Director.

➤ **At Large Board Members**

- Wes Williams, Kathy Guyer-Martin, Sam Neimyer, James Griffin, John Rehbock, Rick Fleming.

➤ **Regional Directors**

- **Western Region-** Dennis Mathney, Bob Benfield; **Piedmont Region-** Shane Allred, Robert Templeton; **Eastern Region-** Doug Bisette, Mark Rogerson

➤ **LODD Roundtable**

- NCAFC Mid-Winter Conference, Saturday February 4, 2017 9:30am-12. Carolina A/B/C.
- Moderators will be NCFFF Chaplain Dana McKim and NCFFF President Rick Wood.

- **LODD Survivor's Dinner**
 - Two dinners are scheduled.
 - February 18, 2017. 17:00 19:00.
Middlesex Fire Department
12535 West Hanes Avenue
Middlesex, NC 27557
 - February 25, 2017. 17:00 – 19:00.
Mountain View Fire Department
3571 NC Hwy 127 South
Hickory, NC 28602

- **2016 WNCAFF Fallen Firefighters**
 - **Richard Sheltra**, Pineville-Morrow Fire Department April 30, 2016.
 - **Bradley S. Long**, Sherrills Ford-Terrell Fire Rescue, June 6, 2016.
 - **Joshua Warren**, Alexis Vol Fire Department, June 16, 2016.
 - **Lee Roy Horton**, Statesville Fire Department, November 22, 1967.

- **NCFFF Contact Information**
 - www.ncfff.org (919) 697-5350, NCFFF 323 West Jones Street, Suite 401, Raleigh NC 27603.
 - Can also follow us on Facebook.

NCSFRI – Phil Batts

- Instructor Insurance Policy
 - The NCSFRI, in conjunction with VFIS, will provide Errors and Omission Coverage for activities as a fire, rescue or EMS instructor.
 - The policy provides coverage in the amount of 1,000,000 for each coverage and 10,000,000 aggregate.

Community Colleges – Winfield Abee

- **Upcoming Weekend Fire/Rescue Colleges**
 - Sandhills Community College/January 27-29, 2017.
 - Lumberton Community College/February 3-5, 2017
 - Davidson Community College/February 6-12, 2017 (33rd Anniversary).
 - Fontana/Tri-County Community College/February 16-19, 2017.
 - Randolph Community College/March 3-5, 2017.
 - McDowell Community College/March 17-19, 2017.
 - NC Breathing Equipment School
 - March 13-17, 2017.
 - October 9-13, 2017.

- **Activities**
 - Completed annual Statewide School Directors meeting where we provided System Office updates, sought input on common issues, and shared best practices.
 - Planning for upcoming Community Colleges Leadership Conference in March.

20:45 - **Old Business – No Discussion**

20:45 - **New Business**

1. SAFRE Grant

- Applications being accepted at this time. All applications are due or postmarked by April 1, 2017. Winner will be announced at the April meeting.

2. Proposed By-Law Changes:

- Executive board working on bylaw updates. Hope to present for a vote at the April Meeting.

3. 2017 Nominating Committee

- Curt Deaton
- Eric Wiseman
- David Hughes
- William Hunt

4. Highlands Director Vacancy

- The Highlands Regional Director position. Chief Robert Griffin – Edneyville Fire Department was elected by acclamation.

5. Next Meeting: April 19, 2017

- Lincoln County
- The Laboratory Mill
848 South Fork Road
Lincolnton, NC 28092

Meeting adjourned at 20:35.

Respectfully Submitted: Secretary Anthony Penland