

WNCAFF Quarterly Meeting
Brevard Fire Department
July 19, 2017

18:40 – President Webster gave the meeting to order with 142 members in attendance. President Webster introduced Brevard Fire Chief Craig Budzinski for welcome and opening remarks. Chief Budzinski introduced Mayor Jimmy Harris. Mayor Harris gave also gave a welcome to the association and recognized Mayor Pro Tem Mac Morrow.

Invocation was given by: Brevard Fire Department Chaplain Hank Moffit.

Pledge of Allegiance: Brevard NC Mayor Jimmy Harris.

President Webster recognized our meal sponsors for the meeting: Rhinehart Fire Services, NAFECO, First Restoration, Radio Communications and Communication Service, Inc.

Meal was cooked by Robert Massey, Rodney Massey and Chief Carmen West.

19:13 – Meeting Reconvened.

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 – Robert Griffin – Edneyville Fire Department
- Foothills Region Director – Todd McMurry – Shelby Fire Department

19:15 - Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports

Motion moved by Eric Wiseman and seconded by Winfield Abee to accept the secretary's report as mailed, emailed and/or posted to the website. Motion Passed.

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

19:20 – Agency Reports

NCSFA – Tim Bradley

➤ Office Relocation and Update

- We have fully settled into our temporary offices due to the damages at the Quorum Center earlier this year. We anticipate at least 18 months before we can return.
- In the interim, we have a nice office on Industrial Drive in Raleigh, and are conducting business as usual. We had excellent insurance through VFIS, and they have been very helpful in getting our office back up and handling our losses.

➤ Scholarships and Grants

- The North Carolina State Firefighters' Association Board and Staff have announced the 2017 Scholarship and Grant recipients.
- NCSFA awards \$252,000 in scholarships and grants divided amongst our 3 regions.
- The scholarships and grants are awarded to qualified NCSFA member firefighters and children of our member firefighters. They are posted on our website.
- Congratulations to the 2017 recipients!

➤ Dues Increase for 2018

- Just a mid-year reminder that there will be a NCSFA dues increase of \$5 for the year beginning in 2018.
- The last increase was in 2009.
- The new dues amount will be \$25 per member when you pay your 2018 dues.
- The primary cause for the increase is the rising costs of providing insurance, LODD and A D&D.
- Since 2009 our cost per member has actually increased a little over \$10, but we have been able to offset most of that due to management changes, and the LGFCU Debit card returns.

➤ Relief Fund

- The Treasurer's Financial Report is due October 31st, based upon the year close at June 30th. Please remind them the system is open for them to begin submitting the report on line.
- In addition, this year the Chief will submit the Certificate of Eligibility at the same time they are doing their roster at year end, rather than a separate report in October to OSFM. The submittal will be integral to the roster system on-line, and will save time and effort by combining the two reports. That report, like the roster, will now be due by January 15th.

➤ **SAFRE Conference Update**

- The 2017 FRI/SAFRE Conference is being held in Charlotte July 26th – 29th. We are cohosting with FRI. 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, over 200,000 sq. ft., and will not only include our usual vendors, but the national companies that always show at FRI. If you are not registered for FRI or our Conference, you can get a free vendor pass by checking in at registration and letting them know you are a firefighter in NC.
- Our classes will be offered Wednesday in addition to those in the educational track for FRI.
- Our Business Session will be held Friday morning at 8:30, followed by the Chief's Business meeting at 10:45, and these are open to anyone.
- We'll have our memorial service Thursday afternoon at 3:00 just prior to the opening of the exhibits at 5:00.
- You can take a short walk and visit downtown Charlotte and all it has to offer, tour the NASCAR Hall of Fame, or go to a Minor League Baseball Game. They are in town a few nights.
- Friday night we'll be hosting a street event which includes the Part Time Party Time Band just outside the Hall of Fame, adjacent to the conference center. This will follow the FRI Party inside the HOF which is included in the FRI Registration. Our event is free.
- We will have our banquet on Saturday night.

➤ **Legislation**

- Legislative Report sent as an attachment with the minutes.

➤ **Staying Active Legislatively and Capital Impact**

- Right now we have 398 active Advocates on Capital Impact. That means out of 50,000+ firefighters, just fewer than 1%.
- We would prefer to have many more, but the system is designed to allow people to join, not force or bulk sign them.
- If you want to keep up with what's going on and be a part of promoting and getting good legislation passed, join up. At the very least it will give you weekly updates and contact information for all of your representatives.
- Log on to NCSFA, click on the Legislative Banner called Capital Impact, or look under the Legislative Flag. Provide your email, design your own password, and provide your home zip code. It allows for much more, but that is all that is required. It takes less than 3 minutes.

NVFC – Jeff Cash

➤ **Volunteerism Today**

- Volunteers comprise 70% of firefighters in the U.S.
- Of the 29,727 fire departments in the country, 19,762 are all volunteer, 5,421 are mostly volunteer.
- Volunteers are estimated to save communities almost \$140 billion each year.

➤ **About the NVFC**

- Provides a national voice for volunteer fire, EMS, and rescue services.
- Addresses key issues facing volunteers such as health and safety, recruitment and retention, standards and codes, and legislations.
- Provides resources, programs, and advocacy for volunteers.
- NVFC Board is made up of 49 state fire associations.

➤ **NVFC Initiatives**

- Serve Strong – campaign providing current wellness programs, information, and resources such as easily shareable, humorous videos that first responders can relate to.
- Share the Load – behavioral health program providing information and resources, including the toll-free fire/EMS Helpline: 1-888-731-FIRE (3473), posters featuring the Helpline number (free), Help letter and more.
- Heart-Healthy Firefighter Program – program focusing on heart health and related risk factors
- Make Me a Firefighter Campaign – Award-winning campaign that provides tools and resources for volunteer recruitment and retention, including a materials generator for easily modified and printed recruitment materials, a web site for posting volunteer opportunities, and training. NVFC conducts national outreach to prospective volunteers all at no cost to local departments.
- National Junior Firefighter Program – helping local departments get the next generation of first responders involved.
- Wildland Fire Assessment Program - partnership with U.S. Forest service to educate volunteers, Fire Corps members, etc. on how to properly conduct assessment for homes in the WUI.
- Fire Corps – assists departments in tapping into non-operational volunteers for assistance with projects such as public education, rehab, home safety checks, fundraising, and more.
- Cancer – the NVFC is addressing the cancer problem threatening the lives and health of first responders. NVFC has a dedicated committee to address the issue, has partnered with the Firefighter Cancer Support Network, and is actively distributing information and resources to help stop cancer in its tracks.
- Training – the NVFC understands the time constraints volunteers face and works to provide training in a way that works for them. The NVFC offers training through its Virtual Classroom, as well as in-person at events across the country.

OSFM – Injury Prevention- Davie Summey

➤ **New Director**

- Shannon Bullock.
- Shannon comes to OSFM from the Governor’s Highway Safety Program

➤ **Smoke Alarm Grants**

- Grants are still available.
- Interested fire departments need to contact Angie Gregg
angie.gregg@ncdoi.gov.

- **NFPA Fire Prevention Week**
 - October 8-14, 2017
 - Theme
 - “Every Second Counts, Know Two Ways Out”

OSFM Commission – Davie Summey

- **New Employee**
 - Jessica Lashbrook.
 - Jessica will be the NFA and NFIRS Point of Contact.
- **Training Opportunities**
 - **NC NFA weekend**
 - 250 Slots Available
 - NFA weekend has been posted to the OSFM website.
 - The dates are Nov 17-19, 2017.
 - Must be registered by August 31.
 - You must complete the online registration and online payment via the website and the paper application must be mailed or emailed in before your application will be considered.
 - Jessica Lashbrook is the contact for that program.
 - jessica.lashbrook@ncdoj.gov.
 - **NFA opportunities in NC**
 - **Conducting Local Risk Reduction by Company Officer**
 - September 25 – 30, 2017 / 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
 - New Hanover County Executive Development Center
1241 Military Cutoff Road
Wilmington, NC 28405
 - **Fire Inspection Principles I N0390**
 - September 11 – 16, 2017 / 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
 - NC Department of Insurance/OSFM
Second Floor Training Room
325 N. Salisbury Street
Raleigh, NC 27603
- **Certification Specialists Regions**
 - Regions have been realigned. Map attached with the minutes.
 - Wayne Bailey (Western/Zone 1).
 - Michael Caviness (Central/Zone 2).
 - Scott Hackler (Eastern/Zone3).
 - 9720 certifications were issued April – June, 2017.

OSFM Ratings and Inspections – Davie Summey

- **House Bill 666**
 - Passed the legislature allowing OSFM to suspend their rules in a department submits a waiver requesting the OSFM reduce the number of needed firefighters down to fifteen.
 - Waiver letters can be sent to davie.summey@ncdoj.gov with a justification as to why the department needs to reduce the number.
 - OSFM would encourage departments not to start sending the waiver in unless their department is coming up for an inspection in the next 6-9 months. We are addressing the issue in the administrative procedures and are simply recommending reducing the number from twenty down to fifteen. If approved there will be no reason for the waiver.

- **Administrative Procedure**
 - OSFM currently in the process of updating all of the administrative procedures and hope to have them submitted for approval by the Office of Administrative.
 - Part of the process is the rules must be posted for public comment for a certain period. This will be the time that the fire departments could have input into the rules.
 - We feel that the rule changes being proposed will be beneficial to the fire service in North Carolina.
- **Water Haul Rating Method Changes**
 - For those departments that use the water haul method for you rating. OSFM is considering coming into the counties and getting dump and fill times for all tankers in one day.
 - This information can be kept on file. If there are not changes to any method, then that tanker will not have to be timed again.
 - No need to be dumping and filling the same tanker over and over if there is more than one department using the same tanker.
 - It will speed up the time the inspector is at your station.
 - We have done this in some counties thus far and we have seen departments really working together to accomplish this.
- **Ratings and Inspections Classes**
 - OSFM working on updating all classes to reflect the upcoming proposed changes.
 - Going to be adding a new short class that will be two to three hours long on preparing for a rating inspection.
- **New Positions**
 - Legislators have approved new positions for ratings and inspections. We hope to be posting these soon.

NC FLSE Association – Davie Summey

- **Western Region Meeting**
 - August 7, 2017 at 10:00 am.
 - Concord Fire Department.
- **Fire and Life Safety Summit**
 - September 6, 2017.
 - Asheville, NC
 - Contact Jeannie Moore fireeducator1840@gmail.com for more information.
- **2018 Annual Education Conference**
 - February 28-March 2, 2018.
 - Wilmington, NC.

NCEM – Danny Gee

- **Upcoming Events:**
 - **McGuire Nuclear Station**
 - Bi-Annual Exercise/Scenario Drills will be July 24-28, 2017
 - McGuire Exercise will be August 8, 2017
 - **Total Solar Eclipse**
 - August 21, 2017 at 14:30.
 - Seven counties will have a total eclipse.
 - Most of NC will see at least a 90% eclipse.
 - Planning has been ongoing for multiple events occurring across the region for the solar eclipse.

- **Western Branch EM**
 - Training week scheduled for September 11-15, 2017.
 - Location: AB Tech – Woodfin Campus.
 - Registration through TERMS.
 - **ICS O-305**
 - Western NC week of September 18th. Location TBD.
 - Eastern NC week of October 30th. Location TBD.
 - **NCEMA Fall Conference**
 - Sea Trails Conference Center
 - October 15-18, 2017.
 - **AHIMT Academy**
 - Haw River State Park
 - February 18-23, 2018.
 - **2018 World Equestrian Games**
 - Tryon, NC.
 - September 10-23, 2018.
 - 70 Countries.
 - 500,000 spectators.
- **Wildland Fire and Hurricane Matthew**
- Darla Hall has been working hard with the counties and fire departments in Western NC on recovery reimbursements. If you have questions or concerns please reach out to your local EM office for status or assistance.

NCFFF – Rick Wood

- **Assistance Since Last Meeting**
- The NCFFF assisted two departments in the Western Region with funeral details since the last meeting.
 - The Central Alexander Taylorsville Fire Department in Alexander County on April 22nd with the funeral for Michael Pennell.
 - The Grover Fire Department in Cleveland County on May 24th with the funeral for Scotty Lee Richards.
- **NCFFF SAFRE Conference Events**
- **Thursday July 27, 2017**
 - Annual NC SAFRE Conference Memorial Service will be held in the Crown Ballroom of the Convention Center beginning at 3 pm.
 - Our Vendor Booth will be in the Richardson Ballroom beginning at 5pm on Thursday evening, please stop by and check out some new merchandise and help support the Foundation.
 - **Saturday July 29, 2017**
 - LODD Roundtable Discussion for Line Officers and Firefighters who have suffered a Line of Duty Death will be held in Room 203A of the Convention Center beginning at 0930 till 1230. All Line Officers and Firefighters are invited and encouraged to attend. Chaplain Dana McKim and NCFFF President Rick Wood will be the moderators.
- **NCFFF Western Regional Directors**
- Dennis Matheny, Rutherford County (828) 287-6854
 - Bob Benfield, Alexander County (828) 217-1416

Community Colleges – Winfield Abee

- **Upcoming Weekend Fire/Rescue Colleges**
 - Haywood August 25-27.
 - Open house for new training center will be August 14, 2017. Dedication at 13:00
 - Blue Ridge Sep 15-17.
 - Western Piedmont October 19-22, 2017.

- **Activities**
 - Completed Regional School Directors meetings where colleges are given updates from System Office and we share best practices.
 - Community Colleges Fire-Rescue Advisory Board met and identified barriers and developing actions to alleviate these obstacles.
 - Will be presenting at the Community Colleges Adult Educators conference in September.

- **Duke Energy Grant Update**
 - Disbursements have started to go out to the fire departments.

20:00 - **Old Business – No Discussion**

20:00 - **New Business**

- 1. Scholarship Recipients**
 - Gene Gladdin Scholarship
 - Diana Watts, Cowee Volunteer Fire Department.
 - WNCAFF Member Scholarship
 - Robin Dale Crowe, Rosman Fire Department.
 - Emergency Services Scholarship
 - Daniel Caleb Holland, Enka Candler Fire Department.
 - Member's Dependent Scholarship
 - Jeb McLaughlin, Cool Springs Fire Department.

- 2. Western Tour T-Shirt**
 - Thanks to Mark Durner and Dave Walton with Wireless Communications for sponsoring the 2017 Tour Shirt.
 - These shirts will be given away for door prizes tonight and at the October meeting.
 - The 2018 Tour Shirt will be available for sale at the October meeting.
 - If you would like to be a sponsor of the Tour T-Shirt please see a board member.
 - If you would like to be a stop on the 2019 tour please see a board member.

- 3. 2017 IAFC Southeastern Association Fire Chief of the Year**
 - Eric Wiseman was awarded the Volunteer Fire Chief of the Year by the Southeastern Association of Fire Chiefs.

- 4. Next Meeting: October 18, 2017.**
 - Hosted by:
 - North Wilkesboro Fire Department

Meeting adjourned at 20:30.

Respectfully Submitted: Secretary Anthony Penland