

WNCAFF Quarterly Meeting  
North Wilkesboro Fire Department  
October 18, 2017

18:30 – President Webster gaveled the meeting to order with 127 members in attendance. President Webster introduced North Wilkesboro Mayor Robert Johnson for welcome and opening remarks. Mayor Johnson recognized North Wilkesboro Town Manager Larry South and Commissioner Junior Goforth. Mayor Johnson served with the Broadway Fire Department for 15 years.

Invocation was given by: North Wilkesboro Fire Department Chaplain Curt Hayes.

Pledge of Allegiance: North Wilkesboro Fire Department 1<sup>st</sup> Assistant Chief Kipi Hamby.

President Webster recognized our meal sponsors for the meeting: Anchor-Richey EVS, Atlantic Emergency Solutions, C.W. Williams, North Wilkesboro Board of Commissioners and Wireless Communications. Each meal sponsor was given the opportunity to address the association.

18:40 – Meeting was suspended for the meal.

19:10 – Meeting Reconvened.

**President Webster recognized the 2017 WNCAFF Officers.**

- President Andy Webster – Cool Springs Fire Department
- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Rick Livingston – Mills River Fire Department
- 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 – Ashford North Cove Fire Department
- Foothills Region Director – Todd McMurry –Shelby Fire Department
- Highlands Region Director – Robert Griffin – Edneyville Fire Department

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

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

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

**NCSFA – Tim Bradley**

➤ **2017 SAFRE/FRI Report**

- This year's conference in Charlotte was a success. We had over 300,000 square feet in vendor exhibits and the conference attendance registration was over 1,900. We had a Friday night street party at the NASCAR Hall of Fame, and one of the largest banquets ever on Saturday night with over 600 attendees. As we compile the data we'll continue to provide updates.
- This year's SAFRE conference was co-located with Fire Rescue International in Charlotte and was a success. There was well over 300,000 sq. ft. of exhibit space combined between SAFRE and FRI and top notch educational opportunities for our membership to enjoy. We had a huge attendance at our Friday night street party with a great performance by the Part Time Party Time Band and several performances by the pipe and drum band. We ended our week with our annual banquet and installation of officers.

➤ **Board Update**

- Our new officers were sworn in at conference. Barry Overman from Elizabeth City is your new President.
- Chris Davis is our newest board member, representing the Piedmont. Chris started in the fire service in 1984 as an Explorer with the Clemmons Fire Department in Forsyth County. Becoming a fire fighter in 1988 Chris currently serves the department as Assistant Chief. Chris is also a career member of the Forsyth County Fire Department where he began his career in 1991. He currently is the Assistant Chief over the Fire Suppression Division. Chris has an Associate's Degree in Fire Protection Technology from Guilford Tech, and a Bachelor's Degree in Fire & Safety Engineering Technology from the University of Cincinnati.
- Past President Kevin Gordon has rotated off the Board after serving 7 years.

➤ **2018 SAFRE**

- We are well underway with planning for the 2018 conference, which will return to Raleigh the week of August 8-11, 2018.

➤ **Relief Fund Reporting Requirements**

- Don't forget about the deadline for relief funds financial statement and bank statements due to retain eligibility for relief funds. They are both due October 31<sup>st</sup>. Each Local Relief Fund Board Treasurer was sent a letter with their log-in and password last month. We've sent emails, and this week a certified letter is going out to those who have not yet filed. Keep in mind that once the Treasurer completes the Finance Report on line, they also must email, fax, or mail copies of bank statements as well by October 31<sup>st</sup>. Please remind them to e-mail them to [ed@ncsfa.com](mailto:ed@ncsfa.com). If they are mailed, or faxed, advise them to keep a certified receipt of the mailing or a fax confirmation for their record.
- This year the Certificate of Eligibility is not due in October. This report, which used to be filed by the City or County, can be completed by the fire chief when they do their rosters. This year the roster will contain a page that lists the current Relief Fund Board, and the Chief can simply update it with any changes or verify it as is.

➤ **Rosters**

- It is not too early to be thinking about rosters. As you know, the process begins December 1<sup>st</sup>, yet must be completed by January 15<sup>th</sup>. We'll send reminders, but this includes your certified roster, and this year your Board of Trustees Report for relief fund eligibility.

➤ **NVFC Membership**

- When you doing your rosters this December for next year consider membership in the National Volunteer Fire Council. This is the group that fights for combination and volunteer fire departments nationally. We get a special rate of \$15 for NC because we are a member state, when the rate is normally \$20. You can pay these memberships out of your relief fund as a benefit to your members since membership provides \$10,000 AD&D Insurance, and doubles in the event it is an LODD. In addition, it provides Free On-line Training for members which is excellent, as well as a host of other discounts and training, and products including home and life insurance. It's a great deal made even better because we get reduced rates. NC has the highest number of any State in the US. Please consider joining 12,000 other NC firefighters in supporting this advocacy and benefits group. They fight for all the fire service, with a particular interest in combination and volunteer departments.

➤ **Office Relocation Update**

- We are still at our temporary office location on Industrial Drive, but we have met with the Quorum Center Staff and hope to be returning there some time next fall.

➤ **Legislation Summary**

- I presented the legislative summary last quarter, but there are a couple of issues I want to emphasize.

➤ **HB 257 Appropriations Act of 2017-2018**

- One of the time-consuming issues of any legislative session is the budget bill. This year the \$23 billion-dollar budget bill included a couple of issues that impact the emergency services.
- **Section 15.19A (a)** transfers the NC Industrial Commission to the Department of Insurance. This Commission reviews and rules on workers compensation issues.
- **Section 16B.6** creates a legal holiday in North Carolina called **First Responders Day, on September 11<sup>th</sup>**.
- **Section 16E.2** renames Urban Search and Rescue Teams to simply North Carolina Search and Rescue Teams. The removal of the term Urban dispels the insinuation they only work in urban areas. Is also giving the Secretary of DPS authority to create memorandums of understanding or agreements with existing response teams. It did not allocate any funding.
- **Section 21.1** Added one more cancer (Esophageal) to the Line of Duty Death benefit for firefighters. This brings the total to four. HB 355 was introduced adding an additional s but did not pass.
- **Section 22.4(a)** makes changes to allow the NC OSFM to investigate arson.

- **HB 190 Local Relief Fund Changes**
- **Section 1** of this bill modifies the required service time to be eligible for the destitution benefit from 5 years to 0 years. **Section 3** of the bill changes the filing of the Certificate of Eligibility to the NC State Firefighters Association instead of the Commissioner of Insurance by January 31<sup>st</sup>. This will allow Chiefs to submit the document at the same time they do their rosters. The NCSFA will then report those submitted and not submitted to the Department of Insurance.
- **HB 666 Revise Volunteer Fire Department Requirements**
- This bill requires the Department of Insurance to amend their rules for Fire Department Rating to allow fire departments to apply for a waiver of the minimum requirement for 20 personnel, and grant the requirement if the response volume of calls justifies it.

*Note: DOI has issued rule changes created by this legislation.*

- **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.

## **NCAFC – Jake Whisnant**

- **NCAFC Annual Board Planning Session October 4-6, 2017.**
  - Updating the Strategic Plan & Membership Benefits
  - The Board voted to increase the Accidental Death & Dismemberment to \$20,000.
  - It is important that your beneficiary is up to date with the association.
  - Please go online for the form and send it in to the office by USPS or Email.
- **NCAFC Address**
  - PO Box 1416, Shelby NC 28151 *Go Online*
  - It has been 1 Year since the new address change. Postal Service made notification that all mail going to the Hope Mill location will now be returned to the return address location.
- **NCAFC Executive Development Program**
  - Students are entering the second session of the program next week at the Charlotte Fire Training Academy with 52 attendees. Thank you all who helps with this program that continues to be a success.
- **National Fire Academy NC Weekend**
  - Looking forward to the NFA Weekend again this year with approximately 270 in attendance from NC on November 17-18.

- **59<sup>th</sup> NC Fire Prevention School**
  - Several are already asking about the 2018 Fire Prevention School held at Ft Fisher, Kure Beach NC. The dates for next year are March 5-9, 2018.
  - Due to the overwhelming success of the program, the committee decided after several years of planning, to add a Master's Program beginning in 2018.
  - Online registration should open in Mid-November.
  
- **NCAFC Mid-Winter Conference, January 31- February 4, 2018 Concord NC.**
  - Online registration for both the Conference and the Hotel are now open! As in the pasted, again this year, we are seeing strong early conference registration and hotel room confirmation. Early Bird Registration ends December 15. If you are a member this will save you \$80.00. On Line registration ends January 12.
  - The board has tried this year to streamline your registration process and so far, we have received positive feedback. The conference has Many Great speakers and workshops that can be viewed online.
  - It's that time to be thinking about your nominations for Fire Chief & Fire Officer of the Year which open next month. Any questions please go online or call the office.
  
- **THANK YOU WNCAFF for your support for the Chiefs Association throughout the year!!!!!!**

#### **NVFC – Report part of NCSFA Report**

#### **OSFM – Administrative Rule Changes for 9s Rating – Derrick Clouston and Davie Summey**

- Rule changes to 9s rating sent with the minutes as a separate attachment.

#### **OSFM Commission – Wayne Bailey**

- Commission report was part of the North Carolina Fire and Rescue Certification report and was sent with the minutes as a separate attachment.

#### **NC FLSE Association – Jeannie Moore**

- **Meetings**
  - Western Region
    - November 6, 2017.
    - Cherokee EOC.
  - NC Council
    - November 9, 2017
    - Mills River Fire Department
  
- **Training Opportunity**
  - FLSE II Class.
  - November 27 – December 1, 2017.
  - Mills River Fire Department
  
- **2018 Annual FLSE Conference**
  - February 28-March 2, 2018.
  - Wilmington, NC.
  
- Contact Jeannie Moore [fireeducator1840@gmail.com](mailto:fireeducator1840@gmail.com) for more information.

## **NCEM – Greg Atchley**

- **Retirement**
  - Mike Cook, NCEM Western Branch Manager, will be retiring from the State on January 1, 2018.
- **Training**
  - North Carolina Emergency Management Academy 101 - Brunswick County - October 19-20, 2017.
  - O-305 - All Hazard Incident Management Team Course - Sampson County - October 30 to November 3, 2017.
  - Local Incident Management Team Class - Haywood County - November 8-9, 2017.
  - Incident Command System - Train the Trainer - Burke County - November 13-16, 2017.
- **Exercises**
  - DuPont Rescue Experience will be November 10-12, 2017 at DuPont State Forest in Henderson/Transylvania Counties. Register in TERMS and on the DuPont Rescue Experience Website.
  - Western Search and Rescue Exercise – Burke County - April 12-15, 2018.
- **Domestic Preparedness Regions**
  - DPR 7 will be meeting on October 26, 2017 in Cabarrus County to discuss potential Homeland Security funded projects for 2018.
  - DPR 8 will be meeting on October 24, 2017 in Burke County to discuss potential Homeland Security funded projects for 2018.
- **State Emergency Response Commission**
  - The State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) will be meeting on October 21, 2017 in Raleigh.

## **NCFFF – Rick Wood**

- **Assistance Since Last Meeting**
  - The NCFFF assisted the Triple Community Fire Department in Burke County with the funeral for Firefighter Jason Hensley.
- **NC State Fair**
  - NCFFF will have a booth set up at the NC State Fair in Raleigh.
- **National Honor Guard Academy**
  - Winston Salem Fire Department.
  - October 22-27, 2017.
  - NCFFF President Rick Wood will be keynote speaker for the graduation ceremony.
- **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**
  - Western Piedmont CC October 20-22 celebrating 25 years.
  - Wilkes November 3-5.
  - Cleveland November 10-12.
  
- **Activities**
  - Staff attended ad presented at the Fall NC Community Colleges Adult Educators Conference.
  - NC Community Colleges Statewide Meeting Oct 26<sup>th</sup> at Johnston CC. This is where we bring in all the Fire and Rescue School Directors and provide updates, share best practices, etc.
  
- **Vacancies/Retirements**
  - Randolph CC still has vacancy.
  - Wilkes CC Ashe Campus new director Rusty Zachary.
  - Wilkes Main Campus new chair Steven Crouse.
  - Kevin Kupitez from Halifax CC has taken a new position.
  
- **Statistics**
  - Rowan Cabarrus CC 1500 fire and rescue classes per year.
  - Rowan Cabarrus CC 6-7 administering tests per day.
  - Wake 60,000 dollar payroll month of June.
  - Southwestern service area includes a place that is 2 hour drive from the college one way.
  
- **Final Note**
  - Winfield Abee will be retiring as the Western Regional Fire and Rescue Training Coordinator for the Community Colleges after 18 years effective Jan 1, 2018. Visit the NC Community Colleges Webpage for job posting.

## **North Carolina Certification Board Report – Ryan Cole**

- Ryan Cole presented the certification board report. Full copy of the certification board report was sent as a separate attachment with the minutes.

## 20: 10 - Duke Energy Wildland Grant Report – Andy Webster

### ➤ **Recipients Since Last Meeting:**

- Fairfield Mountains Fire Department (Rutherford County) \$2,668.50.
- Graham County Fire Department (Graham County) \$8,600.00.
- Meadow Branch Fire Department (Graham County) \$5,580.00.

### ➤ **Discussion**

President Webster explained to the association that there is still a balance in the wildland grant fund. He encourages departments to fill out the application and send them in. Ryan Cole suggested that the balance be split between the NCEM Domestic Preparedness Regions. Rick Livingston reported that the board is not against the request, but Duke Energy was very specific about the money and that would need to be discussed with Duke Energy representatives.

## 20:15 - Old Business – No Discussion

## 20:20 - New Business

### 1. **WNCAFF Election of Officers.**

- Nominating committee of William Hunt, Joey Webb, Ryan Cole, and Curt Deaton presented nominations for the positions of 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Mountain Region Director.
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Brian Piercy. Hearing no nominations from the floor. Brian was elected to the position of 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President by acclamation.
  - Secretary: Anthony Penland. Hearing no nominations from the floor, Anthony was elected to the position of Secretary by acclamation.
  - Treasurer: Dean Coward. Hearing no nominations from the floor, Dean was elected to the position of treasurer. Dean has served the WNCAFF for over three decades.
  - Mountain Region Director: Bryan Edwards from Grace Chapel and Shane LaCount from Mooresville. Hearing no more nominations from the floor, President Webster suspended the meeting at 20:20 to allow for the mountain region departments to cast their ballots.
    - Shane LaCount was elected to the position of Mountain Region Director.

### 2. **2018 Western Meeting Dates and Locations**

- January 17, 2018 – Cool Springs Fire Department (Iredell County).
- April 18, 2018 – Waco Community Fire Department (Cleveland County).
- July 18, 2018 – (Macon County) Location TBA.
- October 17, 2018 – Mills River Fire Department (Henderson County).

### 3. **Nominations for Fire Chief and Firefighter/Officer of the Year Awards**

- Applications will be sent out with the minutes and will be placed online for the end of year awards. Four awards will be given: Fire Chief of the Year both career and volunteer. Firefighter of the year to include company officers both career and volunteer. Applications must be received and/or postmarked by December 1, 2017. There are over 340 fire departments and fire marshal offices in WNC. Last year less than ten applications were received.



**4. Next Meeting: January 17, 2018.**

- Hosted by:
  - Cool Springs Fire Department
- Location:
  - 672 Mocksville Highway  
Statesville, NC 28625

Meeting adjourned at 21:00.

Respectfully Submitted: Secretary Anthony Penland