

WNCAFF Quarterly Meeting
Blue Ridge Community College
Hosted by Hendersonville Firefighters' Association
April 17, 2019

18:40 – President Lance called the meeting to order with 142 members representing 22 counties in attendance. President Lance gave thanks to the Henderson County Firefighters' Association. He introduced Tim Garren, President of the Henderson County Firefighters' Association who welcomed the association to Henderson County and recognized Dr. Laura Leatherwood, President of Blue Ridge Community College.

Invocation was given by: Battalion Chief Matthew Hossley – Valley Hill Fire Department.

Pledge of Allegiance: Henderson County Sheriff Lowell Griffin.

President Lance recognized our meal sponsors for the meeting: CIVIC Federal Credit Union. Bill Carter spoke to the association of behalf of the credit union.

18:55 – Meeting was suspended for the meal.

19:40 – Meeting Reconvened.

President Lance recognized the 2019 WNCAFF Officers.

- President Trevor Lance – Skyland Fire Department
- 1st Vice President Brian Piercy – Ashford North Cove Fire Department
- 2nd Vice President Todd McMurry – Shelby Fire Department
- Secretary Anthony Penland – Swannanoa Fire Department
- Treasurer Dean Coward – Saunook Fire Department
- Past President Rick Livingston – Mills River Fire Department
- Highlands Region Director – Robert Griffin – Edneyville Fire Department
- Mountain Region Director Shane LaCount – Mooresville Fire Department
- Foothills Region Director – Earl Withers III – Dallas Fire Department

19:40 - Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports

Motion moved by Jeff Cash and seconded by Terry Gentry to accept the secretary's report as mailed, emailed and/or posted to the website. Motion Passed.

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

NCSFA – Tim Bradley

➤ **Relief Fund Financial Requirements**

- In 2014 the NC General Assembly established a minimum and maximum account balances for local Relief Funds. We have had several fire departments miss out on their annual distribution because they went over the maximum, which is \$2,500 per rostered member. Unless you have an approved Supplemental Retirement Program and Account, that \$2,500 per rostered member is a fixed number, and if you're over it by \$1 you will not get a check. Please make sure your local relief fund treasurer and Chairman are aware of this and keep an eye on the balance.

➤ **Scholarship and Grants**

- NCSFA Scholarships and grants are now closed for 2019. 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.
- The recipients of the award will be announced in the near future.

➤ **Legislation (Bills will be sent along with minutes in separate document)**

- The combined legislative committee of the NCSFA and NCAFC has been meeting and working on legislative initiatives for the upcoming session. 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 give 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.
- Legislative Day this year is May 15th. Go ahead and put that down on your calendar. We'll meet at 8:00 at the Museum of Science, have our picture taken, (TBD) and then everyone can visit their legislators. This is a vital undertaking to insure people see us there and know we are involved.

➤ **Federal Legislative Activity**

- The week of April 23rd through the 26th a group of fire service representatives from NC will be attending CFSI in Washington to visit with their representatives and support national fire service legislative efforts. Some of the issues facing us nationally are:
- We are working weekly with NC representatives to get the Retirement Issue resolved for non-profits in LGERS. Representative Patrick McHenry's office has taken the lead on that and we are very close to having a House Resolution introduced. We've been trying to secure support from all the players in the House and Ways committee, the first one it will go to.
- The AFG and Safer Acts are an issue every year. These were reauthorized this year at \$350 million each, but the fire service wants to get them to their 2011 funding level of \$405million each.
- The VFA, which funds volunteer fire departments to do wildland firefighting, is being funded at \$11.4 mil in President Trump's budget, which is a drop. The fire service is pushing for \$16 million.
- The fire service is pushing for \$50 million for the USFA, which now is at \$44 million.
- The Firefighter Cancer Registry Act, which passed last year (HR 931) needs funding.

- **SAFRE Conference**
 - In 2019 SAFRE conference is in Raleigh this year. This year's dates are the week of Aug 21st – 24th. On-line registrations are available on our web-site. Course selections have been made and we have some great classes. The vendor floor is pretty sold out, so we expect a big expo, and just to make sure everyone knows, the vendor floor will be free to all again this year, walk-ins or conference attendees. We'll have more as the time grows closer, but please mark your calendar for that week.
- **Office Relocation Update**
 - We are still at our temporary office location in Industrial Drive, but we have met with the Quorum Center Staff and hope to be returning there sometime in June or July.

NCAFC – Jake Whisnant

- **Volunteer Workforce Solutions**
 - NCAFC Volunteer Recruitment PSA's are out and receiving tremendous feedback from across the state. On website to be utilized by any department or community. Volunteer Director Mosley has done a wonderful job with this program.
- **2019 NC Fire Prevention School, Ft Fisher Kure Beach**
 - **60th Anniversary of the School**
 - 60th Anniversary of the School. Great Celebration even though adjustments had to be made due to the damage at Ft Fisher. Over 200 students, Thank You to those who help support this program!!
- **2019 Leadership Academy Eastern Region**
 - The first week is 4/29-5/3 and the dates for the 2nd week are 5/20-5/24.
- **2019 NCAFC Executive Development Program**
 - Information will be available in June on the web site. Historically this program registration fills up fast. Class Capacity is 50 Attendees.
 - The dates for 2019 are for September 16-20, 1st Week and October 21-25, 2nd Week.
- **CFSI Washington**
 - NCAFC has a team that will be traveling to Washington to meet with legislators or their staff members.
- **NC Specialty License Plate**
 - For those of you who have applied for a specialty plate you will be receiving an update letter before May 3.

NVFC – Jeff Cash

➤ NVFC Highlights

- NVFC and the North Carolina State Firefighters' Association have partnered to offer NCSFA members a Premium Individual Membership with the NVFC for just \$18 per year. Thanks to this partnership, the NVFC has almost 15,000 members in North Carolina.
- The next NVFC Training Summit will take place June 14-15 in Portland, OR. You can view the agenda and register at www.nvfc.org/Summit. This event draws volunteer fire and emergency personnel from across the country and features classroom sessions on critical topics such as health, safety, leadership, recruitment, retention, and more.
- The NVFC has partnered with MSA and DuPont again this year for MSA's Globe Gear Giveaway. Eligible departments can apply for 4 sets of new Globe turnout gear for their members. A total of 52 sets will be awarded to 13 departments. Apply by June 1 at www.nvfc.org.
- The NVFC has partnered with Jack Daniel's Tennessee Fire. As part of the partnership, Jack Fire is hosting a special concert for volunteer firefighters at the Jack Daniel Distillery featuring an exclusive performance from country music star Chase Rice. 50 volunteer firefighters will win a trip for themselves and a guest to attend. You can enter by April 30 at www.JackFireFighters.com.
- The NVFC spring board meeting will take place April 25-27 in Alexandria, VA. This event brings together representatives from state fire associations to conduct Council business and guide the direction of NVFC initiatives. I'll be attending as the North Carolina representative. Officer elections will also be held, and I'm running for another term as Secretary/Treasurer.
- The NVFC, IAFC Safety, Health, and Survival Section, and NFPA are partnering once again for the Fire Service Safety Stand Down. It will take place June 16-22 and this year's theme focuses on exposure risk reduction and cancer prevention. Find resources to help your department participate at www.SafetyStandDown.org. I encourage you to download the Lavender Ribbon Report from the site and implement these best practices for firefighter cancer prevention in your department. You can also take the Safety Stand Down quiz for a chance to win a limited-edition challenge coin.
- The NVFC is working on the next edition of the Firefighter Strong newsletter, which features articles and resources to help departments and individuals address critical health and safety issues. A copy will be mailed to every U.S. fire department in June, so be on the lookout for that.
- The Georgia-Pacific Bucket Brigade grant application period is now open. These grants are for departments located within 30 miles of a Georgia-Pacific facility and fund needed gear and equipment. All applicants also get a complimentary NVFC membership. There are 5 GP facilities in North Carolina. If yours is near one, you can apply at gpbucketbrigade.com.
- The NVFC recently launched an online member community called Volunteer Voices. You can connect with volunteer firefighters and emergency responders from across the country to ask questions, share resources, and gather best practices on a variety of fire service issues. If you haven't logged into the forum yet, I highly encourage you to do so. Go to volunteervoices.nvfc.org and use the same login as you would for the NVFC member site.

OSFM Commission – Wayne Bailey

➤ **Commission Appointments**

- Gary Whitman was reappointed to the Fire and Rescue Commission.
- Lee Newcomb and Jeff Key were reappointed to the CFI Board.

➤ **NFIRS/GIS**

- OSFM's GIS staff (Adam Blythe) and NFIRS Coordinator (Monna Gillespie) worked with the NFIRS data were able to determine departments who have not reported their 2018 data. Staff was able to email departments directly to request their data. We started out with 400 departments who didn't have 2018 data in the NFIRS database. Within a few weeks they able to cut the non-compliant departments down to 95. In many cases departments thought a third-party vendor was sending their data to us. They were able to correct the problems with data reporting in most departments and in many cases, departments switched to the Image Trend Fire Bridge software.
- Total Active FDIDs – 1256.
- FDIDs reporting – 1,161.
- FDIDs not reporting – 95.
- Total Incidents reported 860,603.
- 29,614 were fire incidents.
- Departments should be reporting their incidents quarterly and no later than 120 days after the incident.

➤ **Certification**

- Staff delivered 10 Indoctrination Classes.
- 17 Proctor Classes.
- 4203 Certifications were issued between Jan through March 2019.
- The High School Firefighter Challenge is scheduled for the June 24 - 28, 2019.

➤ **National Fire Academy**

- Leadership in Supervision was held March 4 -9, 2019.
- 26 students attended – received a lot of positive feedback.
- We are working on hosting another offering in October/November of this year in the eastern part of the North Carolina. Notification will be sent out once the details.

OSFM Ratings and Inspections

➤ **Inspections Year to Date**

- Total Inspections: 91.
- 44 9s Inspections.
- 47 Surveys.
- Only 4 departments found non-compliant.

OSFM Injury Prevention – Norman Franklin

➤ Conferences/Summits

- Safe Kids NC Conference, May 21-23 at the Great Wolf Lodge in Concord. EARLY REGISTRATION ENDS April 19th. Registration is 175.00-Hotel Room rates are 71.20.

➤ Child Passenger Safety Technician Certification Classes

- Upcoming Classes (7)
 - Chapel Hill 4/15 (full)
 - Lenoir 4/22
 - Newton 4/29
 - Summerfield 4/29
 - Marion 5/3
 - Charlotte 6/10
 - Jacksonville 6/10
 - For more information or to register for a class go to:
www.buckleupnc.org.

➤ Smoke Alarm Grant Canvassing

- New Smoke Alarm Canvassing website went live in February.
- Due to overwhelming response we had to shut it back down.
- We have approved over 100 Smoke Alarm Canvassing Grants.
- Final deliveries on Smoke Alarms to approved Departments are going out by middle of April.
- Distributed 5400 alarms in 2 months.

➤ Smoke Alarm Saturday 2019

- Smoke Alarm Saturday 2019” is North Carolina’s one-day, statewide, smoke alarm canvassing event to bring awareness of the need to have working smoke alarms and to help our communities be as safe as possible in case of a fire in their home.
- The goal of this year’s “Smoke Alarm Saturday 2019” campaign is to have a canvassing event in all 100 counties across the state. This is a large goal but with your help and participation, we can pull this off and help save lives!
- Each fire department registering their event will receive a packet of information to help with their event which will include: a sample home survey, sample waiver forms, home fire safety educational materials to distribute, door hangers, promotional items and a sample press advisory to promote your event. And up to 54 Smoke Alarms.
- To register the Event: Go to [NCDOL.com/OSFM/Injury Prevention](http://NCDOL.com/OSFM/Injury%20Prevention) and click on the Smoke Alarm Saturday tab.

➤ **Other**

- The Operation Medicine Drop campaign that was held March 18-27th took back 14 million pills. Operation Medicine Drop Marketing Campaign going on with PSA, billboard and launching of new website.
- Hands Free Legislation has been filed and is going through committee: It requires all drivers to be hands free from a cell phone while driving a vehicle. No Texting, dialing or talking while driving unless it's hands-free.
- Fireworks Legislation 2 fireworks bills were introduced last week. One in the Senate and one in the House. These could bring South Carolina style fireworks to our state—we are opposing this legislation.

NC FLSE Association – Jeannie Moore

➤ **Western FLSE Meeting**

- Western FLSE meeting will be held on Monday, May 6, 2019, at 10 AM with training on high risk occupancies with a light lunch being served. Certificate for continuing ed provided by email.
- Meeting to be held at Mills River Fire Department.

➤ **FLSE Conference**

- Tentatively the FLSE Conference will be Feb. 12 - 14th, 2019. Pre-conference will be Feb. 10-12, 2019.

➤ **SAFE Kids Conference**

- Safe Kids NC Conference is May 21 -24, 2019 in Concord at the Great Wolf Lodge.

➤ **FLSE Membership**

- To join the FLSE group and receive emails regarding classes and meetings please go to westernflse@googlegroups.com or email Aaron Keever at akeever@spindalenc.net.

NCEM – Danny Gee

➤ **Hurricane Florence**

- Recovery for Hurricane Florence continues. If your department has not submitted reimbursement for deployment to Florence, please do so as soon as possible. Direct any questions to Darla Hall at darla.hall@ncdps.gov.

➤ **Training/Exercise Updates**

- We had a very successful week of training at the All Hazards IMT Academy in February and a very successful exercise week with the Catawba River Flood Exercise in early April.

➤ **New Western Branch Staff Member**

- Emily Walmsley has joined the Western Branch Staff as a Multi Hazard Planner. Emily comes to us from Union County.

➤ **Upcoming Training and Exercises**

- ICS 300 – April 23-24 – AB Tech Woodfin Campus.
- ICS 400 – April 29 – AB Tech Woodfin Campus.
- ICS 300 – May 6 – Charlotte – Metrolina Healthcare Coalition Warehouse.
- ICS 400 – May 9 – Charlotte – Metrolina Healthcare Coalition Warehouse.
- Man Tracking – May 14 – 18 – Pensacola Fire Department, Burnsville
- State Hurricane Exercise – May 21-23.
- ICS 300 – May 28-29 – Mountain Area Healthcare Preparedness Coalition – Flat Rock.
- Central Branch Training Week – August 5-9, Sanford/Lee County.
- Check for any other training on our TERMS Website and Calendar.

NCFFF – Rick Wood

➤ **14th Annual North Carolina Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend**

- May 3 – 4, 2019
- Fallen Firefighters Memorial, Nash Square, Raleigh, NC.
- May 3, 2019
 - Survivors Dinner, Raleigh Station 1, 5:30 pm.
 - Candlelight Vigil, State Memorial, 8 pm
- May 4, 2019
 - Fallen firefighters Memorial Parade through downtown Raleigh begins at 10 am.
 - Memorial Service begins at 1 pm.

➤ **2019 LODD Memorial Inductees**

- Eric Lacewell, 11/4/14, Wilmington FD
- Bobby D. Shew, 5/18/17, Roaring River FD
- William Willis, 2/17/18, Asheville FD
- Richard L. Sales, 4-8-18, Reynolds VFD
- Tony Spencer III, 6-3-18, Engelhard Fire & Rescue
- Dakota Snavelly, 6-10-18, East Side FD
- Jeffrey Newton Holden, 8-13-18, Orange Rural FD

NC Peer Support – Michael Lanning

- Michael addressed the association about the NC Peer Support Program. Information is available on the NC Peer Support website www.ncffps.org. Firefighters in need by contact the Peer Support Network by calling (855)762-7337.

20:20 - Old Business – No Discussion

20:20 - New Business

1. **Wes Greene - EnviroSafe**

- EnviroSafe is a company specializing in organization's preparedness.
- There is a branch of the company that deals with Fire Service Emergency Response and Support Services.
- Website: www.envirosafe.com.
- Phone Number: 336-226-4896.

2. **Pink Heels Foothills Foundation**

- Hosting Public Service Night at the Hickory Motor Speedway.
- August 23-24, 2019.
- \$10.00 Admission to the event.
- There will be an Outback Steakhouse Pit Crew Challenge.

3. **Educational Scholarships**

- Application period opened March 1, 2019 and will close on May 1, 2019.
- Applications are online at www.wncaff.com.
- Applications and all required documents must be submitted online.

4. **SAFRE Grant**

- Congratulations to Bat Cave Fire Department (Henderson County) for being this year's recipient of the SAFRE Expo and NCSFA/NCAFC Joint Conference grant.

5. **Bylaws Change**

- At the July meeting there will be a vote to change the bylaws. This change is to move the announcement of the opening of the SAFRE Grant from January to October. With this change the awarding of the grant will need to be moved from April to January.

6. **Arthur Swartz, NCEM**

- Gave a brief presentation on the importance of proper documentation for reimbursement of expenses once a federal emergency declaration has been announced. If fire departments have not yet received their reimbursement monies, please contact NCEM.

7. **Department of State Treasurer**

- At the July meeting a representative from the NC Treasurer's Office will be in attendance to give a demonstration on the Orbit Portal as it pertains to the Fire and Rescue Pension Fund.
- Turn Around Documents are going to put online and any changes that need to be made can be done online.

8. **NCSFA Western Regional Director**

- Curt Deaton – Mooresville Fire Department was elected to the executive board of the NCSFA.

9. **NCAFC Western Regional Director**

- Joey Webb – Waynesville Fire Department was elected to the executive board of the NCAFC.

10. **Next Meeting**

- July 17, 2019 (Jackson County)
- Hosted by: Cashiers/Glenville Fire Department
- Cashiers/Glenville Recreation Center
- 355 Frank Allen Road
- Cashiers, NC 28717