

WNCAFF Quarterly Meeting  
Cashiers/Glenville Recreation Center  
Hosted by Cashiers/Glenville Fire Department  
July 17, 2019

18:35 – President Lance called the meeting to order with 99 members representing 14 counties in attendance. President Lance gave thanks to the Cashiers Fire Department for hosting the meeting. He introduced Chief Randy Dillard who welcomed the association to Jackson County and the town of Cashiers. Chief Dillard recognized Sheriff Chip Hall. Chief Dillard introduced County Commission Chair Brian McMahan. Chairman McMahan is a firefighter with the Balsam Willets-Ochre Hill Fire Department in Jackson County. Chairman McMahan thanked the membership for their service and dedication to their respective communities.

Invocation was given by: Randal Moss – Balsam Willets-Ochre Hill Fire Department

Pledge of Allegiance: Cashiers Fire Department Assistant Chief Todd Dillard

President Lance recognized our meal sponsors for the meeting: NAFECO and Lion Turnout Gear. Meal was catered by Farmers Market from Cashiers.

18:45 – Meeting was suspended for the meal.

19:15 – Meeting Reconvened.

**President Lance recognized the 2019 WNCAFF Officers.**

- President Trevor Lance – Skyland Fire Department
- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Brian Piercy – Ashford North Cove Fire Department
- 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

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

Motion moved by Andy Webster and seconded by John Wilson to accept the secretary's report as mailed, emailed and/or posted to the website. Motion Passed.

Motion moved by Quentin Cash seconded by Jay Alley to accept treasurer's report as read. Motion Passed.

## 19:17– Agency Reports

### NCSFA – Tim Bradley

#### ➤ NCSFA Office Relocation

- The Staff of NCSFA returned to our home at the Quorum Center in Downtown Raleigh the first week of June. It's good to be settled back in a permanent location. Since the offices were gutted, we took the opportunity over the two-year absence to redesign our floor layout and take more advantage of the space available. This gave us more storage and files areas, and also allowed us to add two offices. Most of the additional space was gained by removing a common area hallway that connected the elevator lobby to the stairwell and condo elevators. Since we now have the entire floor, the hallway was no longer necessary. We still have a few finishing touches, but it looks great and is very functional. Our officers are on the 4th floor, and are open to any of you who are interested in stopping by. We'd love to see you and show you your NCSFA offices.

#### ➤ 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 again 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 is integral to the roster system on-line. That report, like the roster, is due by January 15th.

#### ➤ Conference Update

- The 2019 SAFRE Conference will be held in Raleigh, NC Aug. 19-24th, 2019 at the Raleigh Convention Center. The theme for the conference this year is "Our Mission is You". The keynote speaker is Chief Patrick Kenny from Western Springs, IL. Chief Kenny will also be presenting a class on mental health.
- All interior exhibitor spaces were sold out by mid-June and a wait list has begun forming for any potential spots that may become available. Attendees will enjoy a free exhibitor floor again this year and we have extended Saturday's hours till 2pm.
- The lineup of education sessions is top notch this year and is being pushed out on all social media platforms. The speaker and topic lists are generating a lot of discussion and exciting surrounding this year's conference.
- Our banquet, as always is being held on Saturday night, and our Memorial Service & a candlelight memorial service will be held Thursday afternoon.
- The golf tournament will be held on Monday and Tuesday, as usual. It has been moved to Eagle Ridge Golf Course this year.

#### ➤ Legislative Report

- The NC General Assembly may adjourn their 2019 biennial session in a continuation resolution, meaning they will be back from time to time before next year's short session to address issues. Currently they are still in session considering an override of the Governor's Veto of the budget bill.
- This legislative session was not a huge success for the fire service. There were a few accomplishments. Included in the budget bill were a \$2 million-dollar appropriation for Search and Rescue Funds in 2010/2020, and a \$1,000,000 appropriation in 2020/2021. Also included in the budget bill was the addition of

two types of cancer to LODD, Oral Cavity and Pharynx Cancer, and Intestinal Cancer was changed to Cancers of the Small Intestine. Those are added to Mesothelioma, Testicular, and Esophageal bringing the total to six. Keep in mind these items do not go into effect unless the budget is signed by the Governor.

- Absentee Ballots may be allowed in Fire District Elections since HB 18 seems likely to pass. A couple of bills still may have potential to pass, including the Move Over Law Penalty increases (SB 29), a bill to provide LODD benefits to Public Safety Officer murdered while on duty (HB 283), and creating a residential change-out inspector position (HB 675). There were some local issues that passed, but most of the bills we had introduced did not pass. Basically, the corner office in the Senate blocked any increases in fees or taxes, so our GPT bill SB 349, in the Senate can't get a hearing. Both Workers Comp Bills HB 622 and HB 520 (PTS and Presumptive Cancer) stalled in the Senate Rules Committee and were not given a hearing. The Bailey Act Bill, HB 213 didn't move out of the House. Harry Warren's First Responder Bill, HB 118, was gutted but was also held in Senate Rules. The Separation Allowance Bill, HB 278, also held in Senate Rules and since the Senate does not like Study Bills by General Assembly members, it didn't move. Warren Daniel's Bill on benefits for firefighters such as student loan forgiveness, pension increase, and Hunting and Fishing Licenses was heard by committee in the House, but not voted on, but the version heard stripped the tax break and pension increase, so it basically has the hunting license provision in it. It did not pass the House.
- Fireworks, which we oppose, hasn't moved or been scheduled.

➤ **Staying Active Legislatively and Capital Impact**

- Right now, we have 604 active Advocates on Capital Impact. That means out of 50,000+ firefighters, just over 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.

➤ **First Responder's Day September 11**

- Please remember and start planning events for First Responder Day, September 11th. This is a designated holiday in NC, established in 2017 by the General Assembly.

## NCAFC – Jake Whisnant

- **Executive Development 2019**
  - Registration Opens Week of July 22, 2019.
  - Historically this program registration fills up within a month.
  - Class Capacity is 50 attendees.
  - Dates are September 16-20, and October 21-25, 2019.
  
- **Mid-Winter Conference 2020**
  - Registration, hotel rooms and award nominations opens in August.
  - Registration will close December 5, 2019.
  - *Be sure to start preparing for Officer and Chief Nominations.*
  
- **NC Specialty License Plate**
  - Campaign will continue until the end of the year.
  - Only half of the goal has been met thus far.
  
- **New Phone Number**
  - 1-888-50-CHIEF (1-888-502-4433)
  
- **Members Breakfast 2019**
  - Thursday August 22, 2019 before opening ceremonies at SAFRE.
  - Register today at NCAFC.com.
  - Free to all members, but you do have to register.
  
- **NCAFC Bylaws**
  - Bylaws Committee and Board will be working on updating the bylaws with a plan to have them presented in the fall for approval at Mid-Winter 2020.

## 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 more than 15,000 members in North Carolina.
  - The NVFC offers training on-demand to meet your busy schedule. Visit the NVFC site for online training. Interested in more education? The NVFC has partnered with Columbia Southern University to offer two scholarships. The application deadline is Aug. 31.
  - The NVFC has partnered with Anheuser-Busch who is providing one million cans of drinking water to volunteer firefighters across the country. The program primarily focuses on wildland firefighting. Visit the NVFC website to learn more and to apply.
  - NVFC and Chemtrec have teamed up to offer the Hazmat Emergency Local Preparedness (HELP) Awards. Two \$7,500 grants will be awarded to departments to support their hazmat response efforts. Visit the NVFC website to learn more and to apply.
  - The NVFC just wrapped up its national Training Summit in June in Portland, OR. NC has hosted this training in the past. It's an excellent opportunity to receive national level training with the opportunity for stipends to offset travel and attendance costs. Watch the NVFC site for information about the 2020 Training 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 others such as the MSA's Globe Gear Giveaway, Jack Daniel's, Georgia Pacific's Bucket Brigade and Josh Cellars. These partnerships provide grants, gear and training to support our service.
- If you, or someone you know, are struggling, the NVFC Fire/EMS Helpline is available 24/7. Counselors with fire service experience are ready to take your call and provide you with the help you need, confidentially. We're losing too many firefighters to suicide, help reverse this trend. The number is 888-731-FIRE (3473).
- The NVFC fall board meeting will take place October 23-25 in Augusta, GA. 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 and I'm also the Secretary/Treasurer for the NVFC and serve on the Executive Committee.
- The NVFC partners with other organizations regarding health and safety issues such as the Fire Service Safety Stand Down. This year's theme focuses on exposure risk reduction and cancer prevention. Find resources to help your department participate at [SafetyStandDown.org](http://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.
- 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](http://volunteervoices.nvfc.org) and use the same login as you would for the NVFC member site.

## OSFM – Derrick Clouston

### ➤ Fire Rescue Services

- High Angle School Registration is posted and is going to be held November 1-3 Levels II and IV.
- NC Extrication School is scheduled for December 6-8 at Sandhills Community College in Moore County. Registration will be opened up August 26th.
- Check the Training schedule for a detail listing of classes including Fire Officer III, Fire Officer IV, FIT, and Haz Mat Technician.
- Working on the new Chief 101 update that will be released January 2020. Please remember that all Chiefs are required to take the update once every five years and new Chief Officers have 12 months to take the course once appointed to the position.
- Rescue Grants will open on August 1. Please read the requirements carefully and call your Governmental Services Specialist if you have any questions.
- Fire Grant Invoices are due September 30th.

### ➤ Commission

- NFA State Weekend Nov 22-24 open, applications due by August 31st.
- NFA Leadership in Supervision six-day class in Raleigh Oct 7th - 12th.
- Both application processes are on the website.

### ➤ NFIRS Information

- **2018**
  - 76 departments have no 2018 data reported.
  - 2 departments with bad email addresses.
  - 24 departments working with their vendors or started using Fire Bridge.
  - 9 Imported 6-26, 27, 28, 2019 & 7-1-19.
  - **35 total with no response.**

- **2019**
  - From January 1, 2019 through July 10, 2019 – 345 fire departments no data reported.
  - Departments should be reporting quarterly.
- **Injury Prevention**
  - Shannon Bullock and the entire Injury Prevention staff would like to thank everyone for their participation in Smoke Alarm Saturday. We had over 76 counties and over 130 fire departments participating. Mark calendars for next year for the first Saturday in June for our 2020 Smoke Alarm Saturday.

## **NCEM – Danny Gee**

- **Recovery**
  - Recovery is underway following heavy precipitation which occurred in June in several counties in the Western Branch. Catawba and Mecklenburg received an SBA declaration as a result of flooding during this time.
  - Recovery continues in Eastern North Carolina following last year's hurricanes.
- **Area 13 Coordinator**
  - Tiawana Ramsey has retired as of July 1, 2019. Interviews have been conducted for her replacement and the recommendation for this position is currently being vetted at this time.
- **Upcoming Training and Exercises**
  - July 25, 2019
    - ICS 400 Bakers VFD in Union County.
  - July 26-28, 2019
    - ICS 300 Haywood County Community College.
  - July 26-28, 2019
    - Man Tracking for Search and Rescue, Transylvania County.
  - July 27-28, 2019
    - ICS 400, AB Tech Madison Campus.
  - July 29-August 1, 2019
    - All Hazards Comm Unit Leader, Charlotte Police & Fire Training Academy.
  - July 30-31, 2019
    - ICS 400, Tri County Community College, Murphy, NC.
  - July 31-August 2, 2019
    - NC All Hazards AUXCOMM Course, Charlotte Police & Fire Training Academy.
  - August 12-14, 2019
    - ICS 300, McDowell Community College.
  - August 14-15, 2019
    - ICS 400, McDowell Community College.
  - August 23-24, 2019
    - ICS 400, Haywood Community College.

## 19:20 - Old Business

### 1. By-law Change - Vote

- Motion moved by Joey Webb seconded by Andy Webster to accept the by-law change that was presented via the website and emailed. The change in the by-laws will move the announcement of the WNCAFF SAFRE Grant from January to October and the awarding of the grant from April to January. This change will put the recipient in line for hotel registration and conference registration once they have been announced by the NCSFA. Motion Passed.

## 19:25 - New Business

### 1. Scholarship Recipients

- WNCAFF Member Scholarship
  - Garison DeJarnette, Stony Point Fire Department.
- Emergency Services Scholarship
  - Thomas Carr, Shanghai Fire Department.
- Gene Gladdin Scholarship
  - Lynsey Livingston, Mills River Fire Department.
- Other Scholarship
  - Jana Smith, Stewart Simmons Fire Department.

### 2. Nominating Committee

- 2019 Nominating Committee for WNCAFF Officer Positions
  - Rick Livingston
  - Andy Webster
  - Curt Deaton
  - Eric Wiseman
- Anyone interested in running for the position of 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer or Highlands Director, must let your intentions be known to one of the above mentioned nominating committee members. Intentions must be known by September 1, 2019.

### 3. NC Department of State Treasurer Fire Rescue Pension Fund – Orbit Portal

- Mrs. Jennifer Hargrove and Mr. James Rose representing the NC Treasurer's office were at the meeting to demonstrate the Online Portal for submitting the Fire & Rescue Pension Fund Turnaround Document. The hope is to have some departments test the online version of the documents in the fall with hopes to go live with the online document portal in 2020.
- Kevin Gordon shared some information about the Pension Fund prior to the demonstration.
  - The funding goal for the Pension Fund is to accumulate 100% of the present value of actuarial accrued liabilities. Currently the funding is at 89%.
  - Probably will not see an increase in benefits until the funding gets above the 89%.
  - There could be a possible contribution increase of five dollars coming in the near future.
  - Possible dual membership in the fund for those who serve both as a firefighter and/or paramedic/EMS Technician with a rescue squad.

- Looking into the legal aspect of possibly having contributions of lapsed members returned to the fire departments.
  - There are currently 13,134 lapsed members in the Pension Fund.
  - Lapsed members include members who did not accrue a year of service in the past year.

**4. Next Meeting: October 16, 2019. Hosted by the Kannapolis Fire Department.**

- Kannapolis City Hall  
401 Laureate Way  
Kannapolis, NC 28081

Meeting adjourned at 20:25  
Submitted: Secretary Anthony Penland