

WNCAFF Quarterly Meeting  
Kannapolis City Hall  
Hosted by Kannapolis Fire Department  
October 16, 2019

18:35 – President Lance called the meeting to order with 71 members representing 12 counties in attendance. President Lance gave thanks to the Kannapolis Fire Department for hosting the meeting. He introduced Kannapolis Fire Chief Rick Barnhardt who welcomed the association to Cabarrus County and the town of Kannapolis.

Invocation was given by: Kannapolis Fire Chief Rick Barnhardt

Pledge of Allegiance: Kannapolis Fire Chief Barnhardt

President Lance recognized our meal sponsors for the meeting: Target Solutions and Mobile Communications America.

18:40 – Nominating Committee Report for Highlands Region Director

Past President Rick Livingston introduced three members who were seeking the office of Highlands Region Director. Each candidate was given three minutes to address the association.

- Jay Alley – Gerton Fire Department
- Bryan Buchanan – Center Pigeon Fire Department
- Ken Ledford – Reynolds Fire Department

18:45 – Meeting was suspended for the meal. President Lance reminded those who were eligible to vote from the Highlands Region to cast their vote during 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 Joey Webb and seconded by Jay Alley to accept the secretary's report as mailed, emailed and/or posted to the website. Motion Passed.

Motion moved by Quentin Cash seconded by Davie Summey to accept treasurer's report as presented. Motion Passed.

## 19:20– Agency Reports

### NCSFA – Tim Bradley

#### ➤ **Board Update**

- Our new officers were sworn in at conference, and AC Rich from Raleigh is your new President.
- Curt Deaton is our newest Board member, representing the West.
- Past President Barry Overman has rotated off the Board after serving 7 years.

#### ➤ **Relief Fund**

- The relief fund financial report and supporting financial statements are due October 31st, based upon the year closed at June 30th.
- Please remind your relief fund Treasurers the system is open for them to complete their reports on line.
- As a reminder, all of the bank and financial statements that support the relief fund report must also be submitted by October 31st.
- As of today, there are about 250 departments that have not submitted their reports.

#### ➤ **Certified Membership Roster**

- The certified membership rostering period starts December 1, and runs through January 15, 2020.
- Chiefs please make sure you get your roster certified and submitted during this period so your personnel that participate in the Fire & Rescue Pension fund get credit for their 36 hours of training during 2019.
- In addition, your relief funds Board of Trustees report need to be completed during the same period. Once you complete and certify your roster, you will be automatically prompted to update and certify your Board of Trustees Report.

#### ➤ **Conference Update**

- The 2019 South Atlantic FIRE RESCUE Expo was held in Raleigh, NC during the week of Aug. 19-24th, 2019 at the Raleigh Convention Center. There were record numbers with 5219 in attendance. Those in attendance included firefighters of all ranks from NC, SC, TN, GA, VA, NY, IL, NV and even the United Kingdom. The keynote speaker was Chief Patrick Kenny from Western Springs, IL, who carried out the conference's theme of "Our Mission is You" by presenting on mental health.
- Planning for the 2020 South Atlantic FIRE RESCUE Expo is well underway. It will be held Aug. 12-16, 2020 at the Raleigh Convention Center and the theme will be "United by Purpose". The Call for Presenters has gone out and we will accept proposals until Nov. 15, 2019. SAFRE exhibitors can begin signing up for space around Nov. 1, 2020.
- We look forward to having another successful SAFRE conference with even more firefighters from NC, surrounding states and more!
- Quentin Cash ran unopposed and was elected to the position of Second Vice-President.

- **Staying Active Legislatively and Capital Impact**
  - Right now we have 606 active Advocates on Capital Impact. That means out of 50,000+ firefighters, just a little 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.
  
- **Hurricane Dorian**
  - I would be remiss if I did not recognize the tremendous heroic acts of courage and technical expertise displayed by the North Carolina Fire Service during the emergency response and recovery to Hurricane Dorian in Eastern North Carolina.
  - Your efforts, working side-by-side with fire department technical rescue teams, our nation's military, EMS agencies and police departments from across the United States was a first for emergency services in our state.
  - All of you, and your department members and leadership are to be commended with the highest of praise for the thousands of lives you saved without any serious responder injuries or deaths.
  - On behalf of the NCSFA we offer you a heartfelt thank you for your dedicated and enduring service to the citizens of your towns, communities and our great state during this disastrous time.

### **NCAFC Bylaws – Ryan Cole**

- Ryan Cole gave a presentation on the upcoming changes to the bylaws of the North Carolina Association of Fire Chiefs. The proposed changes are on the chief's website at [www.ncafc.com](http://www.ncafc.com). The vote to change the bylaws will take place at the NCAFC Midwinter Conference. All comments should be directed to the NCAFC Executive Director Jake Whisnant and/or the NCAFC Executive Board.

### **NCAFC News – Jake Whisnant**

- **NC Fire Officer License Plate**
  - Need 500 applications in order for the license plate to be created.
  - Currently about 250 applications have been processed.
  - February 15, 2020 is the deadline to have the 500 applications.
  
- **Midwinter Conference**
  - January 28 – February 2, 2020.
  - Embassy Suites in Concord.
  - Host Hotel is full. Secondary hotel is open for reservations.
  
- **Fire Chief/Fire Officer of the Year Award**
  - Applications due by December 6, 2019.
  - More information can be found at [www.ncafc.com](http://www.ncafc.com).

## NVFC – Quentin Cash

- The NVFC has more than 15,000 members in North Carolina, more than any other state. We are grateful to our partnership with the North Carolina State Firefighters' Association for making this possible.
- **Training Summit**
  - The NVFC is holding its next training summit in Orlando, FL, on June 26-27, 2020. For those who want to present a session, the call for presentations is open through October 20. For those interested in attending, pre-registration is now open to reserve your spot and get updates as they are available. More information is available at [www.nvfc.org/summit](http://www.nvfc.org/summit).
- **Share the Load Behavioral Health Program**
  - The NVFC has been awarded an FP&S grant to expand upon our Share the Load Behavioral Health Program. This program provides resources and tools to help address issues such as PTSD, addiction, stress, depression, and suicide. Through the grant, we will develop tools and training to help departments create psychologically healthy workplaces. We will also create a national directory of counselors and psychologists who have experience working with first responders. The NVFC would also like to emphasize the existing program resource, including the Fire/EMS Helpline, are currently available at [www.nvfc.org/help](http://www.nvfc.org/help).
- **NVFC Fall Board Meeting**
  - October 23-25 in Augusta, GA.
  - This event brings together representatives from state fire associations to conduct council business and guide the direction of the NVFC initiatives. Chief Jeff Cash will be attending as the NC representative and Chief Cash is also the secretary/treasurer for the NVFC and serves on the executive committee.
- **Leadership Training**
  - As part of our focus on leadership training, we are offering the course ***The Power of Positive Leadership*** free for the month of October. This course can be accessed in the NVFC Virtual Classroom. Please note, all Virtual Classroom courses are always free for NVFC members, but this free course offer applies to all firefighters and EMS providers.
- **Webinar Series**
  - The NVFC has launched a free, live, monthly webinar series that features subject matter experts presenting on a variety of topics. Topics so far have included fire service retirement, LOSAP programs, the role of board or finance committee member, and fire department background screenings. Stay tuned to the NVFC website, social media or Dispatch newsletter for upcoming webinar information. Previous webinars are also archived on the members-only website.
- **NVFC Volunteer Voices**
  - There has been a lot of great discussion going on through the NVFC Volunteer Voices member community. If you have not logged in yet, you are encouraged to do so. It is a great way to connect with responders from across the nation.
- **Drinking Water**
  - The NVFC has partnered with Anheuser-Busch to provide cans of drinking water to volunteer firefighters across the country. The program primarily focuses on keeping firefighters hydrated during wildfire response. Details on the program and how to apply are available at [www.nvfc.org](http://www.nvfc.org).
- **Lavender Ribbon Report**
  - If you have not already downloaded the Lavender Ribbon Report, it is highly encouraged that you do so. This document was a partnership between the NVFC and VCOS. The report outlines the eleven best practices for reducing risks of occupational cancer. These eleven practices should be adopted by every fire department.

## OSFM – Brian Taylor

### ➤ Injury Prevention

- The OSFM Injury Prevention Section thanks everyone who participated in Smoke Alarm Saturday 2019. With your assistance, over 6,602 smoke alarms were installed in 76 counties.
- Mark your calendars now for next year, Smoke Alarm Saturday 2020 will be held on June 6th. If you received Smoke Alarms from the 2019 Smoke Alarm Canvassing Grant that was awarded in late February and First of March, you need to enter your surveys by September 1. If you have surveys from the previous smoke alarm canvassing grants, hold on to those surveys. They cannot be entered into the system right now. We are currently out of smoke alarms but anticipate more by the end of the year.
- Safe Kids NC celebrated its 25-year anniversary in May at the 2019 Safe Kids Conference held at the Great Wolf Lodge in Concord. The next Safe Kids NC Conference is scheduled for May 2020.

### ➤ Fire & Rescue Commission

- The NFA State Weekend Nov 22-24 registration is open with applications due by August 31st.
- The NFA Leadership in Supervision six-day class will be held in Raleigh Oct 7th through Oct 12th. Both application processes are on the website.
- Certifications Issued: 3587.

### ➤ NFIRS Data

- Departments should report incidents quarterly.
- 2018: 76 Departments had no 2018 data reported.
- 2019: From January 1, 2019 through July 10, 2019 – 345 fire departments had no data reported.

### ➤ Fire and Rescue Training

- High Angle School registration is posted and is going to be held November 1-3. Levels II and IV.
- N.C. Extrication School is scheduled for December 6-8 at Sandhills Community College in Moore County. Registration will open August 26th.
- Check the training schedule for a detailed 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.

### ➤ Grants and Governmental Services

- The 2019 Rescue Grant period will open August 1st. Please reach out to your assigned grants liaison via phone at 919.647.0000 or via email at [FireRescueGrants@ncdoi.gov](mailto:FireRescueGrants@ncdoi.gov).
- The deadline for 2019 Fire Grant invoices, proof of payment, serial numbers and any requests for extension was September 30th.
- The Firefighters Relief Fund Disbursements (FRF) was scheduled to be disbursed mid-September. Please make sure your banking information is up-to-date. You can contact the Grants Division @ 919.647.0000 if you need assistance.

## NCFS – Stuart Scott

- Currently, NC is not under a statewide or western region burning ban.
- Due to increased drought conditions across the piedmont and mountain regions, preparations are being made to have coastal area resources available to move westward should significant fire potential develop. This includes personnel, equipment, aviation, and Incident Management Team resources.
- Communications for the NCFS continue to operate on VHF primary system and many field units are now acquiring or have acquired VIPER capable radio systems as secondary/backup. This is an ongoing process and expected to continue as budgets allow.
- Please encourage all Emergency Management and Fire Departments with drone capabilities to communicate with Forest Service resources on incidents to ensure air space is not compromised with manned and UAS systems.
- There have been many retirements recently in the western part the state within the NCFS, and we have a large contingent of new and inexperienced field technicians. As drought conditions continue and larger or more complex strategies and tactics may be needed, we thank and continue to seek VFD support in wildland fire operations in each county.

## NCFFF – Rick Wood

- **Representatives**
  - Rick Fleming – President, Rowan County.
  - Rick Wood – 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Buncombe County.
  - Dennis Matheny- Western Regional Director, Rutherford County.
  - Bob Benfield- Western Regional Director, Alexander County.
- **LODD Report**
  - September 20, 2019 Captain Claud Messer, Jonathan Creek Vol. Fire Department, Haywood County, motor vehicle accident responding to an incident.
  - January 31, 2019 Assistant Fire Marshal Karen Shuart, Asheville Fire Department, cancer-related.
    - Karen passed away from cancer early this year and her death has been determined to be Line of Duty related.
- **Other News and Events**
  - NCFFF Board Members participated in the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial in Emmitsburg, Maryland the weekend of October 4th through the 6th. Five North Carolina Fallen Firefighters were added to the National Memorial.
  - October 17th-27th, NC State Fair in Raleigh at the State Fairgrounds. The NCFFF will have a booth set up and manned every day by Board Members and volunteers. The State Fair is a major fundraising event for the Foundation where we sell merchandise, have items to raffle and promote the Foundation in honoring and remembering our fallen. If you wish to volunteer to man the booth, please contact Kathy Weatherspoon at [kathy.weatherspoon@gmail.com](mailto:kathy.weatherspoon@gmail.com) or any of the Board Members.
  - Visit our website, [www.ncfff.org](http://www.ncfff.org) or our Facebook page for information, merchandise items and all our contact information.

## Western FLSE – Jeannie Wood

- **Western FLSE Meeting**
  - November 4, 2019.
  - Valley Hill Fire Department (Henderson County).
  - Lunch provided.
  
- **NC Fire Safety Summit**
  - Presented by NFPA.
  - 2 sessions.
    - Yadkinville on November 12.
    - Thomasville on November 14.
  
- **NCLSE meeting**
  - November 13th at Pinecroft Sedgefield Fire Department
  
- **Fire and Life Safety Education Conference**
  - February 12-14, 2019.
  - Pre-conference February 10-12, 2019.
  - Information can be found on the OSFM website under FLSE tab.

## NCEM – Karen Hamby

- **Hurricane Dorian**
  - Thank you to all of the agencies who deployed personnel and equipment for Mutual Aid to the impacted areas. Recovery continues for Hurricane Dorian. If you deployed on a State Mission during Hurricane Dorian, please submit your reimbursement packages as soon as possible. If the request came through an RCC, reimbursement packages go back to the RCC. If deployed by a functional lead, the reimbursement package should be submitted back through that functional lead.
  - The deadline for submitting Hurricane Florence reimbursements was Friday, October 18th.
  - Email Darla Hall at [darla.hall@ncdps.gov](mailto:darla.hall@ncdps.gov) with questions.
  
- **Upcoming Training and Exercises**
  - **Training**
    - All Hazard Incident Management Team Academy
      - January 21-24, 2019 – Samarcand, Moore County
      - Registration Deadline is November 15th
    - See TERMS for other Training Opportunities.
  - **Exercises**
    - Dupont Rescue Experience – November 8-10, 2019
  
- **NCEMA Fall Conference – November 4 – 6, 2019.**

## 20:00 - Old Business

1. No Old Business brought forth to the association.

## 20:00 - New Business

### 1. Civic Credit Union – Bill Carter

- Thanks for everyone's patience during the transition from LGFCU to Civic Federal Credit Union.
- 500 non-profits moved their accounts over to Civic.
- Any business account still located at LGFCU will need to be moved either to Civic or another financial institution by the end of 2019. The accounts will be closed at that time.

### 2. SAFRE Grant

- The WNCAFF SAFRE Grant application period is now open.
- Two \$1,500 grants will be awarded to a member department to allow for members to attend the 2020 joint annual conference of the NCSFA/NCAFC and the South Atlantic Fire Rescue Expo.
- Applications must be received and/or postmarked by December 31, 2019.
- Application can be found on the WNCAFF website at [www.wncaff.com](http://www.wncaff.com).

### 3. Proposed Bylaw Change

- Changes to the WNCAFF bylaws were going to be presented to the membership at the January meeting. These changes were to clean up some grammar and some areas that appear redundant.
- Due to the proposed changes to the NCAFC bylaws having an impact on the WNCAFF changes we are going to place the bylaw changes presentation on hold until the April meeting.

### 4. Chief & Firefighter/Officer Of The Year

- Application period for WNCAFF Chief & Firefighter/Officer of the year award is now open. The WNCAFF awards both volunteer and career.
- All nominations must be received and/or postmarked by December 1, 2019.
- Applications can be found on the WNCAFF website at [www.wncaff.com](http://www.wncaff.com).

### 5. 2019 WNCAFF Officers Election

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President
  - Robert Griffin – Edneyville Fire Department was the only nomination. Motion moved by Ryan Cole seconded by Bryan Buchanan to accept the nomination of Robert Griffin by acclamation to the position of second vice president. Motion Passed.
- Secretary
  - Anthony Penland – Swannanoa Fire Department was the only nomination. Motion moved by Andy Webster seconded by Curt Deaton to accept the nomination of Anthony Penland by acclamation to the position of secretary. Motion Passed.
- Treasurer
  - Dean Coward – Saunook Fire Department was the only nomination. Motion moved by Joey Webb seconded by Rick Davis to accept the nomination of Dean Coward by acclamation to the position of treasurer. Motion Passed.

- Highlands Director
  - Bryan Buchanan – Center Pigeon was elected to the position of Highlands Director.
  - Motion moved by Quentin Cash seconded by Jake Whisnant to discard the ballots. Motion Passed.

**6. Next Meeting**

- January 15, 2020
- Gaston College – Myers Center Auditorium  
201 Highway 321 South  
Dallas, NC 28034

Meeting adjourned at 20:20  
Submitted: Secretary Anthony Penland