

WNCAFF Quarterly Meeting
Macon County Firefighters' Association
July 18, 2018

18: 35 - President Livingston called the meeting to order with 192 members in attendance. President Livingston introduced Highland Fire Chief Ryan Gearhart who welcomed everyone to the Highlands Community. Mayor Pat Taylor also gave some brief remarks.

Invocation was given by: Davis Picklesimer – Highlands FD Chaplain

Pledge of Allegiance: Robbie Forrester – Highlands FD Assistant Chief

President Livingston recognized the three candidates seeking election as the NCSFA Western Director. Each candidate was allowed three minutes to speak. The three candidates were Winfield Abee, Quentin Cash and Curtis Deaton.

President Livingston recognized the meal sponsors for the meeting:
NAFECO, Lion Apparel, Avon Protection, Fire Service Plus

18:45 - Meeting was suspended for the meal.

19:45 - Meeting Reconvened.

State Representative Mike Clampitt addressed the association.

President Livingston recognized the 2018 WNCAFF Officers.

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

19:50 - Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports

Motion moved by Jeff Cash 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 Curtis Deaton seconded by Joey Webb to accept treasurer's report as read. Motion Passed.

19:55 - Agency Reports

NCSFA – Tim Bradley

➤ 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 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.

➤ Scholarship and Grants

- The North Carolina State Firefighters' Association Board and Staff have announced the 2018 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 2018 recipients!

➤ Conference Update

- The 2018 SAFRE Conference will be held in Raleigh, NC Aug. 8-12, 2018 at the Raleigh Convention Center. 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 this year for the first time and it is causing a lot of positive feedback from both the attendees and our exhibitors. 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 and its return to Raleigh. At this time, we have 252 full conference registrants and 546 free expo passes registered for in advance. When budgets are released on July 1st we expect registration numbers to increase even more. We are planning a poster sized mailer with testimonials from past attendees and class/event information to go out to each station on the state to rouse more interest just after July 1st. Our banquet, as always is being held on Saturday night, and our Memorial Service will be held Thursday afternoon.

➤ Legislative Report

- A separate report was sent with the minutes and will be posted on the website.

➤ Federal Legislative Initiative

- The NCSFA and the NCAFC have established a sub-committee from their combined Legislative Committee to work on the two federal issues regarding issues involving non-profit fire departments who hire career personnel. This committee will work on issues such as retirement to try and balance the benefits available to all career firefighters.

- **Staying Active Legislatively and Capital Impact**
 - Right now, we have 424 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.

- **First Responders 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.

- **Bylaw Amendment**
 - The NCSFA Board is proposing a few minor changes to the Association bylaws at the upcoming annual SAFRE conference in Raleigh, and there may be one or more submitted by membership.
 - The first change recommended by the Board deals with the eligibility of Lifetime Members to serve as Board members. Under the current bylaws the wording suggests that Lifetime Members cannot serve as Board members, which seems to conflict somewhat with another section identifying membership voting eligibilities. The Board felt like if a Lifetime Member was otherwise eligible as a member of a member department, they should have all the rights and privileges of a NCSFA member, and not be penalized for receiving a Lifetime Membership award. A Lifetime Membership by itself would not allow them to run or serve, but if they were eligible otherwise they could run and serve.
 - The second change recommended by the Board deals with modernizing the position of Treasurer. When the bylaws were originally written, the Treasurer was responsible for all collections, disbursements, and budgetary issues. In an Association the size of NCSFA, this is no longer practical since staff maintains the day to day operation. The change simply indicates that the Treasurer is responsible for ensuring proper collections, disbursements, and accounting are carried out by providing oversight. This more accurately reflects the current operation.
 - Third, adding historian responsibilities to the Statistician position is another recommendation by the Board.
 - Lastly, there is a submittal to allow Past Presidents of the Association to vote at conference, only if they are not eligible to vote already, and they cannot delegate their vote.
 - These changes will be on the ballot as recommendations for your consideration in voting.

- **Voting Procedures**
 - At the upcoming SAFRE conference in the bylaws vote, the voting procedure will be the same that was used previously in Charlotte. Each department will be given the opportunity to indicate and assign their voting delegates by requesting designation cards

from the Association office. According to our NCSFA Bylaws each department is allowed up to 4 votes (Chief, Chief Officer, and two Delegates) for any issue, including bylaws and election of officers. (This is different for Fire Marshal Offices). In the event of an election vote, the recommended Bylaw amendments and the election vote will be held at the same location and time (Saturday morning, August 11th, 10:00). In recent years during voting, the election officials had rosters of all personnel on each department, and individuals presenting themselves to vote were checked against the roster for their department, and each department, for example, was limited to the Chief, a Chief Officer, and two delegates to cast a vote. Individuals could only vote in one category (Chief, Chief Officer, or two delegates). This insured an honest control of a maximum of four votes per department but allowed every member department in attendance to cast eligible votes. According to our Bylaws, fire departments and Fire Marshal Offices have the opportunity to elect and designate their delegates, but designation by cards went by the wayside because folks forgot to bring their delegate cards. IF YOUR DEPARTMENT DESIGNATED YOUR SELECTED DELEGATES TO US THEY WILL BE THE ONLY ONES ALLOWED TO VOTE FOR YOUR DEPARTMENT. Otherwise the Chief, first Chief Officer, and first two delegates presenting themselves will be checked against the roster for that department and allowed to vote if they fulfill the requirements for those positions. We will assume the individuals presenting themselves for election were the selected delegates if they are on the department roster they are presenting for and meet the criteria. This ensures more eligible people are allowed to vote, while maintaining the limit of votes per department. We wanted to make sure departments could designate formally who on their department could vote if they had concerns about who on their department would present themselves.

NCAFC – Ryan Cole

➤ Training Management Program

- October 22-26, 2018.
- Charlotte Fire Training Facility.
- The first class held in 2016 drew high recommendations from attendees for the continuation of this program on the ***alternate years of Executive Development***.
- ***This is not Executive Development***. We have received many calls into the office asking if this is Executive Development.
- This program is designed for those individuals responsible or who have attachments to training within their jurisdiction. A more detail description can be found www.ncafc.com under the Events Tab.
- Applications are now open on the website.
- Class is limited to ***50 students***, there has been much request for this year's class, so please go online and fill out the application.

➤ 90th SEAFIC Annual Leadership Conference

- In June at the leadership Conference in Montgomery, Past & Present NCAFC Board Members were selected for the following positions within the South Eastern Association of Fire Chiefs.
 - Past President – Chief Ron Fowler
 - 2nd Vice President-Chief Len Needham
 - NC Director – Chief Buddy Martinette
 - NC Legislative Representative – Chief Kevin Gordon
 - **IAFC** Emergency Management Committee- Chief Ryan Cole

➤ NCAFC Membership Item: Additional Email Contact REMINDER:

- Many of you are taking advantage of this and we are receiving great feedback.
 - You now have the option of adding an additional email address to your membership correspondence. This option comes at the request from chiefs that wanted the membership information to ***also*** be sent to the person who handles accounts payable within their department.
 - Please call the office with any questions.
- **NC Accreditation Support Consortium**
- July 19, 2018.
 - Greensboro Public Safety Training Center
1510 N. Church Street
Greensboro, NC
 - 10 AM until 2 PM.
- **NCAFC Member Beneficiary Forms**
- Last year the board voted to increase the Accidental Death Benefit for the membership from 10K to 20K. VFIS recommended that NCAFC obtain an updated copy of the beneficiary form along with the department retaining a copy of the form. *The beneficiary form is for members of your department that are members of NCAFC.*
- **NC Fire Service Recruitment & Retention Grant**
- Saturday June 23, 2018 was the Kick-off Event for the NC Recruitment & Retention Program. The event was held in Raleigh at the Convention Center with great success. The event was covered by several media sources and has had good promotion throughout the state since the 23rd.

NVFC – Jeff Cash

- **Advocacy**
- The Firefighter Cancer Registry Act was signed into law on Monday, July 9, 2018. The NVFC will work to ensure that Congress funds the creation of the database and coordinates with the fire service to ensure participation.
 - AFG and SAFER were funded at \$350 million this year, a \$5 million increase from last year. The Senate has proposed flat funding for FY 2019, while the House has yet to introduce FY 2019 DHS appropriations legislation.
 - The Volunteer Responder Incentive Protection Act passed the Senate earlier this year as part of a larger tax bill. The version of VRIPA that passed the Senate would allow volunteers to receive up to \$600 per year in R&R incentives without them being subject to income tax, reporting or withholding.
 - There have been several other volunteer R&R bills introduced recently including a bill to give volunteers expanded access to federal rural housing assistance programs, as well as a bill that would allow volunteers to participate in a federal student loan forgiveness program that currently only benefits employees of government and non-profit organizations.
- **Health & Safety**
- **Serve Strong Program** – Be the best firefighter you can be. Learn more about NVFC's health and safety resources addressing cancer, diabetes, physical health and more at <https://www.nvfc.org/servestrong>.
 - **Share the Load Program** – Taking care of your mental health is as important as managing your physical health. The NVFC's Share the Load™ program provides an access to critical resources and information to help first responders and their families manage, and overcome personal and work-related problems. This

includes the Fire/EMS Helpline, which offers free 24-hour assistance with issues such as stress, depression, addiction, PTSD and more.

➤ **Networking and Communication**

- **Volunteer Voices** – In fall, 2018, the NVFC will launch *Volunteer Voices*, an online community where you can ask questions and share information, documents, and resources with volunteers from across the country.
- **Dispatch Newsletter** – The NVFC sends a biweekly email newsletter, the *Dispatch*, along with special member alerts. Want to be in the know? Visit www.nvfc.org or call 888-ASK-NVFC to add your email to the list.

➤ **Recruitment and Retention**

- **Make me a Firefighter Campaign** – Need help recruiting or retaining volunteers? Visit makemeafirefighter.org to learn how the NVFC can help.

➤ **Scholarships and Giveaways**

- **Columbia Southern University (CSU) Scholarships** – CSU is offering two scholarships to members of the NVFC. Each scholarship will cover up to \$13,500 toward one on-line degree program. The deadline to apply is September 15, 2018. <https://www.nvfc.org/apply-now-for-a-13500-scholarship-to-columbia-southern-universitys-online-degree-program>.
- **Globe Gear Giveaway** – Globe by MSA, DuPont Protection Solutions, and the NVFC are giving away 52 sets of state-of-the-art turnout gear to 13 volunteer fire departments across the U.S. and Canada. The 2018 application period is now closed; winners will be announced throughout the end of the year. The 2019 program is expected to open in February.
- **Josh Cellars** – the NVFC partnered with Josh Cellars on a “Celebrate the Summer of Heroes!” campaign. Go to the NVFC Facebook page and share the Josh Cellars video using [#ToastToHeroes](https://www.facebook.com/hashtag/toasttoheroes). For each post shared Josh Cellars will donate \$1 to the NVFC (up to \$25,000) to help the NVFC support local fire departments.

➤ **Training**

- **Training Summit:** NVFC held its 4th annual Training Summit in Concord, NC on June 1-2. There were 124 attendees from 28 states, a 25% increase in attendance over prior years. The NVFC thanks NCSFA for their support of this event. Stay tuned to the NVFC for information on a 2019 Summit.
- **Virtual Classroom** – The NVFC offers more than 60 on-demand courses in its Virtual Classroom, many of which are free or discounted for members.
- **Hazmat Training** – the NVFC is working with the IAFC and other fire service organizations to provide free hazmat training for volunteer and remote emergency responders for activities involving the transportation of crude oil, ethanol, and other flammable liquids by rail. Responders can access planning guides and free online and instructor-led courses at www.iafc.org/alert.

OSFM Commission Report – Heidi Barrier

- **Instructor Upgrades**
 - The Instructor Upgrades are still being conducted through December 31, 2108.

- **High School Firefighter Challenge**
 - The HS FF Challenge was held in Asheville the week of June 18. Very successful. We doubled our attendance from last year to 33 students. With 31 students successfully completing the week.

- **Certifications**
 - 4072 certifications were issued last quarter.

- **Image Trend Users**
 - We continue to pick up Image Trend Users. We have a variety of users from entire counties to smaller volunteer departments looking for a Records Management Software package that they can afford. Our IT department was able to implement a behind the scenes change that has made the use of the software with NCID work smoother.

- **NC Peer Support/ Rosecrance Florian Symposium**
 - For some time now OSFM and multiple organizations have been working to bring a stronger awareness to PTSD and Suicide in the Emergency Services.
 - Staff has been working with NC Peer Support to create a state level resource section on our website for the fire and rescue service in our state. All links and contact information that will be posted have been vetted. The site should be up in a week or two. We are also working on an awareness training course to have available for the fire and rescue service to be delivered as requested. In the future we would like to contacts listed in all 100 counties posted as well.
 - The NC Peer Support Team approached us to assist in bringing for the Rosecrance Florian Symposium to Raleigh, NC. It is a two day conference that covers the topics of addiction and substance abuse use disorders, mental health, trauma, peer support, and other related issues that continue to affect Emergency Responders all over the nation. The Rosecrance Florian Program is located in Rockford, Illinois and has an entire floor dedicated to helping the fire service and other emergency responders who are struggling with substance abuse, PTSD, anxiety, depression and other behavioral health issues. Active Duty Battalion Chief Dan DeGryse with the Chicago Fire Department is the program's Director. I have attached a copy of an article for more details.
 - Chief McGrath with the Raleigh Fire Department worked with the City of Raleigh to have the conference space at the Raleigh Convention Center donated.
 - They are asking for sponsors and the NCSFA and NC Chief's Association have already pledged to help make this event happen with generous donations.
 - The registration fee is \$75 for one day and \$150 for two days. October 15 and 16.
 - The conference open nationwide but we hope to attract a lot of North Carolina attendees. Once the registration is up we will email it to all the departments, county agencies and various associations.

OSFM Ratings and Inspections – Davie Summey

➤ **Departments Inspected**

- 77 departments inspected April – June.
- 36 Departments were 9S only
 - 11 East
 - 8 Piedmont
 - 17 West
- 41 Departments were surveyed
 - 12 East
 - 14 Piedmont
 - 15 West
 - Of the 41 departments surveyed 95% of the department improved at least one grade
 - Of the 41 departments surveyed it was the first time for eight of the departments to go through a rating inspection. There were 5 from the east, 1 from the piedmont and 2 from the west.

➤ **Surveys**

- We have 33 departments requesting to be surveyed. Of the 33 department 20 of the departments have never been rated.
- In the next six months we will be conducting surveys in 19 departments that have a class 9 rating, which will only leave 245 departments with a class 9 rating. Our goal is to get to all the class 9 departments that have requested a rating inspection as soon as possible. We hope to have less than 225 departments in the state with a class 9 rating.

➤ **Water Haul Times**

- We have been working hard to collect tankers dump and fill time across the state we are now saving this information in a data base and our goal is to reduce the number of times we are dumping and filling the same trucks. Currently we have information for 361 trucks. This is also providing us some data on fill and dump times that we hope share with the departments in the future.

➤ **Rating Class Power Point**

- We have updated our Power Point Rating Class.

➤ **Pre Survey Forms**

- We have started the process of updating our pre-survey forms. If anyone that has been through a survey in the last 5 years or so we will welcome any input from you on how we could make the forms easier for you to work through.

OSFM Investigations – Wayne DeLancey

- OSFM to assist with investigations. Mr. DeLancey covers 50 counties in WNC. The investigations unit was formed last year through legislature. The unit has a special prosecutor assigned that will assist in the prosecution of arson.
- There have been 97 fire related deaths in NC thus far in 2018.
- The investigations unit will come out on three criteria:
 - Fatalities.
 - Large loss fires.
 - State properties.

NCFS – Stuart Scott

- **Summer – Fall Outlook**
 - Lots of rain the last several months.
 - For the past 90 days WNC well above normal rainfall, getting dry in ENC.
 - Drought Monitor has WNC out of drought conditions.
 - Forecast is for slightly above normal temperature with normal precipitation.
- **Fall Fire Season**
 - Warmer but wetter.
- **July – October Fire Potential**
 - Below normal.
 - September will be normal.
- **Aviation**
 - Full capacity out of Hickory with the helicopters.
- **Contact Information**
 - Stuart Scott – Assistant Fire Chief NCFS
220 Old Colony Road
Morganton, NC 28655
Office Phone: 828-438-3793
Cell Phone: 828-773-8115
Email: stuart.scott@ncagr.gov

NC FLSE Association – Jeannie Moore

- To join our mailing list please go to google and search for westernflse@googlegroups.com. The green cross FLSE symbol will be the logo. Joining the google groups will give you automatic emails about classes and other Fire and Life Safety events.
 - Any difficulties in signing up please contact Aaron Keever at akeever@spindalenc.net
- **FLSE Conference**
 - Theme: *Get Fired Up-about prevention, partnerships, Community Risk Reduction and Education.*
 - July 24-26, 2018.
 - Wilmington Hilton Riverview
 - Pre-Conference: July 23, 2018.
 - Lots of good workshops and great information.
 - Regional meetings for August will be held at the conference.
- Many hybrid classes for FLSE are being held. Thomasville hosted one of the first and Coastal Carolina will be running all the levels.
- November Western FLSE meeting will be held at Cherokee (usually at the Shawn Blanton EOC.)
- For any questions or information regarding FLSE, feel free to email Jeannie Moore at fireeducator1840@gmail.com

NCFFF – Rick Wood

- **13th Annual North Carolina Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend**
 - 13th Annual North Carolina Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend was held May 4th and 5th, 2018 at the Fallen Firefighters Memorial, Nash Square, Raleigh, NC. Our Thanks and appreciation to the Western Association for their support.

- **2018 LODD Report**
 - 4/8/18- Chief Richard Sales, Reynolds Fire Dept. Buncombe County
 - 6/3/18 Chief Tony Spencer, Englehard FD, Hyde County
 - 6/10/18- Firefighter Dakota Snavely Eastside Vol. Fire Dept. Stanly County
 - 7/4/18- Firefighter Michael Goodnight, West Liberty Vol. Fire Dept., Rowan County

- **Previous years LODD's**
 - 05/18/17- Bobby Darren Shew, Roaring River Vol. Fire Dept. Wilkes County
 - 11/04/14- Captain Eric Lacewell, Wilmington Fire Dept.,

- **Cargo Trailers**
 - The Foundation has received TWO new cargo trailers donated by families of our fallen.
 - The first was an 8 ½' by 24' enclosed trailer presented to the Foundation just prior to the Annual Memorial from the Rowan County Fallen Firefighters Memorial. This trailer is being organized to carry equipment needed to assist with funeral services of fallen firefighters. Step Boxes/ramps, ceremonial bell, bunting, casket rollers, etc. Jody Hall of Mocksville organized this as a tribute to Justin Monroe and Victor Isler of Salisbury Fire Dept.
 - The second trailer was presented to the Foundation at the Annual Captain Bradley Long Memorial 5k in Sherrills Ford on June 9th by Captain Long's parents Jerry and Signora. This trailer will replace our smaller merchandise trailer and has already been out to several events since. Jerry also took the time and effort to organize and secure all the merchandise in the new trailer.

- **NCFFF SAFRE Events**
 - Annual Conference Memorial Service, August 9th at 4pm. The names of ALL Firefighters in North Carolina who has passed away since July 2017 will be read.
 - Candlelight Service will be held at the Memorial in Nash Square on August 9th at 8pm.
 - LODD Round Table discussion will be held Friday August 10th starting at 9am.
 - Vendor Booth set up Friday and Saturday in the lobby area just outside the main Expo Floor.

20:50 - New Business

1. Scholarship Winners
 - Emergency Service Degree: Hunter Vines – North Catawba Fire Department
 - Gene Gladdin Scholarship: Brandon Boone – Rutherfordton Fire Department
 - Firefighter (Membership): Zebulon Gentry – Balsam Willets –Orchre Hill FD
 - Dependent Scholarship: Avery Clark – Collettsville Fire Department

2. Nomination Committee
 - Past President Andy Webster presented the nominations for the office of 2nd VP, Secretary, Treasurer and the Foothills Region Director. President Livingston asked for nominations from the floor upon announcing the nomination committee's nomination.
 - 2nd VP Todd McMurry, Davie Summey moved nominations closed 2nd by Jeff Cash. Motion Passed. Todd McMurry will be the 2nd VP by acclimation.
 - Secretary Anthony Penland, Dennis Presley moved nominations closed 2nd by Howard Beddingfield. Motion Passed. Anthony Penland will be the secretary by acclimation.
 - Treasurer Dean Coward, Carmon West moved nominations closed 2nd by Ryan Cole. Motion Passed. Dean Coward will be the treasurer by acclimation.
 - Foothills Region Director: Three candidates were presented by the nomination committee:
 - Greg Summit – Kannapolis Fire Department
 - Kelvin Brim – Charlotte Fire Department
 - Earl Withers – Dallas Fire Department

3. WNC Peer Support Network
 - Ned Fowler presented to the association what the WNC Peer Support Network can do for first responders. More information can be found on Facebook at WNC Peer Support Network.

4. NCSFA Western Director Election Results
 - Quentin Cash, Shelby Fire Department
 - David Hughes moved to destroy the ballots 2nd by Adam Summey. Motion Passed.

5. Met Life Insurance
 - Met Life Representative gave presentation on insurance products offered by Met Life through the NCSFA. Go to www.ncsfa.com for more information on these products.

6. Next Meeting: Mills River, NC (Henderson County)
 - Forge Valley Event Center
8818 Boylston Highway
Mills River, NC 28759

21: 35 Meeting adjourned

Respectfully Submitted: Secretary Anthony Penland