

WNCAFF Quarterly Meeting
Polkville Fire Department
January 16, 2019

18:30 – President Livingston called the meeting to order with 121 members in attendance. President Livingston gave thanks to the Polkville Fire Department. He introduced Polkville Fire Chief Jerry Silver who welcomed the association to Polkville and recognized his board of directors, firefighters and Cleveland County Sheriff Alan Norman.

Invocation was given by: Chaplain Paul Scott – Polkville Fire Department

Pledge of Allegiance: Cody Parker

President Livingston recognized our meal sponsors for the meeting: Atlantic Emergency Solutions. The meal was catered by Shelby Café.

18:35 – Meeting was suspended for the meal.

19:15 – Meeting Reconvened.

President Livingston gave a thank you to the association for the support given to him during his time as president. President Livingston then turned the association over to the incoming President Trevor Lance.

President Livingston was presented with an axe as a token of appreciation from the executive board and the association membership for his dedication and hard work as president.

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

19:25 - Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports

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

Motion moved by Jeff Cash seconded by Terry Gentry to accept treasurer's report as read. Motion Passed.

Firefighter/Officer of the Year Awards

Career Officer: Dennis Fagnant – West Buncombe Fire Department.

Career Chief: Robert Griffin – Edneyville Fire Department.

19:30 – Agency Reports

NCSFA – Tim Bradley

➤ NCSFA Dues

- March is the deadline for paying Association dues based on your roster, to insure coverage of association benefits.

➤ Relief Fund Update

- Last year continued to be an extremely active year for relief fund usage and approval. We handled 464 requests for a total of \$1,898,537 not including the pre-approved SRP payments. The highest types of requests were Medical Financial Hardships, or destitution.
- I would remind everyone that it is critical for those at or near their maximum of \$2,500 per rostered firefighter to watch their balance closely. We still have fire departments submitting reports that are over their maximum. This will result in them not being able to receive their check at the end of the fiscal year from DOI.

➤ Scholarships/Grants

- Scholarships are now open on-line 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.
- We also have (8) \$500 training grants available per region. We hope it expands in the future. There were 3 from the Eastern, and one each from the Piedmont and Western.
- The electronic submission due date for the scholarship and grant applications is March 15.

➤ Legislation

- 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.
- This year is the start of a new session and a new General Assembly. Given that, we start fresh and there are no carry-over bill numbers. Even though we may push the same issues, they start with HB 1 or SB 1, and go up.
- Potential issues for the fire service this year include:
 - Recognizing PTS as a Workers Comp Illness.
 - Equal Treatment of Government Employees – Tax Exemption on Retirement.
 - Separation Allowance for Career Firefighters.
 - Possible Fee Exemption for Community College Degree Programs.
 - Some property Tax Exemption for the Fire Service members.

- Continuation of SAR Funding.
- Continuing to add cancer benefits for LODD.
- Defining “Organized Fire Department” in fire tax district laws.
- Monitor and Oppose any Reduction of Real Value before the AG and Forestry Committee (Old SB 711).
- Building code issues that we would want to oppose.
- Fireworks that we would want to oppose.
- 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 on the red-carpet steps of the General Assembly, 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**

- Continuing our pursuit of retirement eligibility for non-profit career personnel. (It is critical, if you haven't, for you to contact your Congressional Representative and ask them to contact Rep. Patrick McHenry's office and provide support. Both the NVFC and the IAFC are assisting with this effort.

➤ **Board Retreat**

- Last November the NCSFA Board held an annual retreat under the direction of President Anthony Penland to discuss future issues for the Association. The retreat was successful and the Board has been working hard to begin implementation of new issues, while maintaining and improving service offered from the past.

➤ **Joint NCSFA/NCAFC Meeting**

- The Boards of the NCSFA and NCAFC held a joint Board meeting in December to discuss issues and ideas. The two Boards work well together and continue to collaborate on issues affecting our membership.

➤ **SAFRE Conference**

- This year's dates for the SAFRE Conference are August 21-24th, 2019. On-line registration will be available in the near future on our web-site. Course selections have already been made and I can tell you this year we will have some great classes. We'll have more as the time grows closer, but please mark your calendar for that week.

➤ **Summit at Mid-Winter**

- We will be hosting a Summit for the 4th year this year at Mid-Winter, January 29, at 9:00. This will include the Board members from the NCSFA, NCAFC's, and the Boards from all three regional associations (Western, Eastern, and Piedmont). Some of the topics of discussion are – Communication, Legislation, and determining issues we are all facing together. Lunch and dinner will be provided. Buddy Martinette from the Chief's Board will be directing a brain storming session on key issues.

➤ **NCSFA Historian Work**

- Our Statistician, Dennis Pressley, has begun his work under the new responsibility of Historian, as predicated by the bylaw change last conference. He has initiated some contract work with a noted fire service historian and they have begun the process of putting our history together. Dennis may be putting out a request for historical photos sometime in the future, so if you have any please keep that in mind.

➤ **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 some time next spring. We have submitted plans for a redesign of our office space and are excited about the increased usability of the space.

NCAFC – Jake Whisnant

➤ **2018 Mid-Winter Conference**

- It is gearing up to be another Great Year. The numbers are greater than last year. Online registration is closed; however, you can still register on site. This year Booth 95 has been assigned to the 3 regional associations to utilize for merchandise sales along with member networking.
- If you plan on attending the Banquet on Saturday Night, there are only a few seats available. If you are interested, PLEASE go online and register for our seat. Due to feedback from past conferences this is the first year for the on-line Banquet Tickets. It has worked out well, thank you for the feedback.
- Challenge Coin Challenge is returning this year due to many requests. There will be an email forwarded to you next week and information can be found on the web site. ALL proceeds will be presented to a NC Fire Service Charity. Please visit the website for any additional information.

➤ **2019 NC Fire Prevention School, Ft Fisher Kure Beach**

- **60th Anniversary of the School**
 - March 18–22, 2019
 - Registration is open and filling up fast.
 - The onsite class will be a little geographically different this year due to the damage to Ft Fisher. The committee has made arrangements for that and is looking forward to a school.
 - It is going to be a Great 60th Anniversary Celebration.

➤ **NC Accreditation Support Consortium**

- Next Meeting will be at the Conference on January 30, 2019.
- Go to our website for more information.
- This is a Great support group for those departments that are presently accredited and especially those volunteer and career departments looking toward accreditation.

➤ **2019 NCAFC Executive Development Program**

- Information will be available in March on the web site along with notification via E mail Registration will be opening in June.
- Historically this program registration fills up fast.
- Class Capacity is 50 Attendees.

➤ **NFA NC Weekend**

- Thank You to All who attended and supported the 2018 NFA NC Weekend November 16-18, 2018.
- It was another great year with the max of 250 Students and snow fall.
- North Carolina is now the leading weekend with attendance.

➤ **NCAFC Member Beneficiary Forms**

- If you are a member of the Chiefs Association and you have not updated your Beneficiary Form it is IMPORTANT that you update it as soon as possible. The form is on the web-site.

➤ **NC Specialty License Plate**

- After two years of planning and many prototypes and a great deal of constructive feedback from across the state, it is with Great pleasure to share with you the NCAFC Specialty License Plate.
- The applications are on line.
- The cost is \$30.00
- All details will be on the web site.



➤ **NCAFC Grant Bullet Points**

• **Where We Are At**

- A second wave of marketing materials has been distributed to our 14 partner departments based on their requests.
- Felice Agency has placed nearly 20 stories about the grant in media statewide. One such story even made it into Firehouse Magazine they have also built out a website, Facebook page and texting campaign designed to get the public more excited about being involved. While we don't have numbers on the website and texting campaign, the Facebook page has over 200 followers.
- Our Statewide Survey is completed and being analyzed.
- 11 of our 14 site visits are completed, the final three will be completed in late February/early March.
- PSA filming will begin on January 25.
- The online course contracting is completed with LEAD and ready to begin February 26.
 - This course will focus on working with the next generation of firefighters.
- Our departments have hosted 608 unique events and distributed over 8,000 marketing materials while engaging with the public via social media over 4,000 times.
- We have had 236 online interest forms filled out.
- We have had 205 applicants to our departments.
- 134 have gone on to become members with 8 of those on the way to an operational track.

- **Next Steps**
 - A third round of marketing materials will begin near the end of the first quarter of this year.
 - Site visits will be completed.
 - The survey will be analyzed by Professor Kimble and best practices returned to the NCAFC.
 - A PSA will be created in 90, 60, 30, and 15 second formats for statewide distribution.
 - Chief Love will give his presentation on “Cultivating Leadership” at the Mid-Winter Conference.
 - LEAD will begin the creation of NCAFC’s online course on working with the next generation.
- **Statewide Benefits**
 - A PSA will be created to be aired statewide with direction to VolunteerFireNC.org to join a department.
 - Interested individuals who fill out our application can select “Other” for department, in which instance Chief Mosley can contact them and set them up with a non-partner department.
 - So far, 25 individuals have done so.
 - Two to Three leadership courses will be hosted, open to all firefighters and officers statewide.
 - Out of the survey a product for the state to use on best practices for recruitment and retention will be developed.
 - Important to note: our media coverage will pick up most of the State; it is highly likely we will have many recruits from non-partner departments because of that alone.

NVFC – Jeff Cash

- The National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) is the nonprofit membership association representing the interests of the volunteer fire, rescue, and emergency medical services.
- The NVFC serves as the voice for the volunteer fire and emergency services in the national policy arena and on numerous national and international committees. The NVFC acts as an advocate for the volunteer emergency services on Capitol Hill and has representation on national standards setting committees and projects.
- The NVFC’s Board of Directors is comprised of representatives from state fire associations and Tim Bradley and I are your representatives to the NVFC board.
- The NVFC provides programs and resources that address the needs of the emergency services.
- Recruitment and retention are two of the key challenges faced by the volunteer fire service. The NVFC has launched several efforts to assist departments:
 - The NVFC was awarded a SAFER grant to develop a national campaign to help volunteer departments recruit and retain personnel. The Make Me a Firefighter campaign is the first national fire service recruitment campaign of its kind. I encourage you to take advantage of this free resource to recruit members into your department.
 - Fire Corps is a locally-driven program that enables community members to offer their time and talents to their local fire/EMS department in non-emergency roles.
 - The National Junior Firefighter Program fosters the next generation of firefighters by helping departments to start, maintain, and promote programs that encourage

youth participation in the emergency services. These junior firefighters may one day become first responders.

- Emergency responders face many challenges to their health and safety, including cancer, heart disease, PTSD, and more. The NVFC address these challenges through several initiatives.
 - The NVFC will host its 5th National Training Summit June 14/15 in Portland, OR. Funds for travel are available and I encourage you to visit the NVFC site to learn more. The training is over two days and covers a host of health and safety topics. I help facilitate this event and can attest to its high quality.
 - The Heart-Healthy Firefighter Program works to proactively combat the number one cause of on-duty firefighter deaths – heart disease.
 - The Share the Load Program works to break the stigma surrounding behavioral and provide resources to prevent tragedies such as suicides. This includes the free, confidential Fire/EMS Helpline available to all firefighters and EMS providers.
 - Cancer is a leading threat to firefighters, and the NVFC provides many resources to raise awareness and help firefighters mitigate their risks, including the Lavender Ribbon Report on Best Practices for Preventing Firefighter Cancer.
- The NVFC offers a series of online and in-person training opportunities for first responders in key areas such as recruitment, retention, leadership, health and safety, grant writing, and more.
- The NVFC relies on its members to keep the organization strong. Join the NVFC at www.nvfc.org/BeYourBest. For only \$18 per person, every firefighter/EMT in your department can join the NVFC and take advantage of member benefits such as AD&D insurance, the Globe Gear Giveaway program, discounts and free resources. NVFC also launched Volunteer Voices which is an online discussion platform where members can share questions, resources and network.
- Learn more about the NVFC and its initiatives at www.nvfc.org or call 1-888-ASK-NVFC (275-6832).

OSFM Commission – Michael Caviness

- **GIS Programs**
 - Adam Blythe will be working on GIS applications for Fire Fatalities, Inspection Data, NFIRS data and other areas of OSFM to provide better data to our customers.
- **Certification Specialist**
 - OSFM has created five regions to better serve the fire service.
- **NFA Weekend**
 - Very Successful weekend with 252 students. Thanks to the NC Fire Chiefs Association for helping us with this program. It wouldn't be the huge success that it is without their help. We have been approved to add an additional 30 students to the weekend.
- **Upgrades**
 - Have been completed.
 - All qualified instructors must have taken this course to continue teaching certification programs.
- **Live Fire Qualification Class**
 - Completed.

- **Proctor Testing**
 - Began on January 1, 2019.

OSFM Ratings and Inspections – Derrick Clouston

- **Caswell County**
 - Caswell County did a county wide water haul and lowered the rates across the county. Departments went from a 9 to a 6 and one went to a 4.
 - To request information on county wide water haul speak to our ratings staff.
 - Half of the departments in the state have now been rated on the new grading schedule as of the fall of 2018 and most departments are scoring between 4 and 6 points higher.
- **Grants**
 - Fire grants opened January 2.
 - Entirely online process no forms have to be mailed in or notarized.
 - Kim Robertson is the new Grants Administrator who started on Dec 3.

OSFM Injury Prevention – Norman Franklin

- **Child Passenger Safety Program Classes**
 - Certification Classes
 - If you or someone you know wants to be a Technician they can take one of these classes. You can find the list of classes at www.buckleupnc.org. We also have reimbursement scholarships to help cover lodging and meals if you must travel out of town to attend the class.
- **Smoke Alarms**
 - A new and improved grant system went live January 14, 2019.

NC FLSE Association – Jeannie Moore

- **2019 Annual FLSE Conference:**
 - February 17 - 21, 2019.
 - Great Wolf Lodge, Concord NC.
 - General Session Topics
 - History of the Fire Service.
 - NFPA's New Standard for Active Shooters.
 - Peer to Peer Support for PTSD in the Fire Service.
 - Registration \$150.00 with room rates at \$71.20 per night.
 - www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/Injury_Prevention/FLSE/Registration.
 - Contact Jeannie Moore fireeducator1840@gmail.com for more information.

NCEM – Eric Wiseman

- **Hurricane Florence**
 - Thank you to all of the agencies who provided assistance either in your home jurisdiction or deployed for Mutual Aid to the impacted areas.
 - Recovery continues for Hurricane Florence. If you deployed on a State Mission during Hurricane Florence, please submit your re-imbusement packages as soon as possible. Email Darla Hall at darla.hall@ncdps.gov with questions.
- **Training**
 - All Hazard Incident Management Team Academy
 - February 18-21, 2019 – Lake Junaluska
 - Registration Deadline is January 25th
 - See TERMS for other training opportunities.
- **Exercises**
 - North Carolina Catawba River Exercise – Burke County – March 30- April 3, 2019.

NCFFF – Rick Wood

- **New Presidents/Western Region Representatives**
 - President Rick Fleming
 - 2nd Vice President Rick Wood
 - Dennis Matheny – Western Regional Representative
 - Bob Benfield – Western Regional Representative
- **Mid-Winter Conference, Concord**
 - Vendor Booth Set Up Thursday and Friday.
 - LODD Round table Discussion for Chief Officers.
 - Fairway
 - Saturday, February 3, 2019 at 08:30.
- **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

Community Colleges – Winfield Abee

- Jimmy Hensley is retiring on February 1, 2019 from Cleveland Community College.
- McDowell Fire School will be March 14-17, 2019.

20:05 - **Old Business – No Discussion**

20:05 - **New Business**

1. **WNAFF SAFRE Grant**

- Application is on the website at www.wncaff.com.
- Applications must be submitted by April 1, 2019.

2. **WNAFF Educational Scholarships**

- Applications will be online at www.wncaff.com March 1, 2019.
- Deadline for applications will be May 1, 2019.

3. **Civic Credit Union**

- Bill Carter gave a presentation on the new Civic Credit Union. In order for LGFCU to continue to service business accounts the LGFCU had to create Civic Credit Union. All business accounts currently being serviced at LGFCU will have to move over to Civic Credit Union or to another financial institution. Please contact Bill Carter or Loren Pittman at LGFCU Commercial Lending if you have any questions or concerns.

4. **NCSFA Western Regional Director**

- At the April Meeting we will be conducting an election for the NCSFA in the Western Membership District of the NCSFA to elect a representative to serve on the NCSFA Executive Board.
- Two candidates have expressed their intentions to run for this position.
 - Winfield Abee
 - Curt Deaton
- In accordance with association bylaws, nominations were opened to the floor. Hearing no nominations, motion moved by Jeff Cash seconded by Ryan Cole to close nominations. Motion Passed.

5. **NCAFC Western Regional Director**

- At the April Meeting we will be conducting an election for the NCAFC to elect a representative to serve on the NCAFC Executive Board.
- Two candidates have expressed their intentions to run for this position.
 - Joey Webb
 - Andy Webster
- In accordance with association bylaws, nominations were opened to the floor. Hearing no nominations, motion moved by Ryan Cole seconded by Eric Wiseman to close nominations. Motion Passed.

6. **Next Meeting**

- April 17, 2018 (Henderson County)
- Blue Ridge Community College Conference Hall
- 49 East Campus Drive
- Flat Rock, NC 28731

Meeting adjourned at 20:45

Respectfully Submitted: Secretary Anthony Penland