

WNCAFF Quarterly Meeting
Waco Community Fire Department
April 18, 2018

President Livingston called the meeting to order with 111 members in attendance. President Livingston introduced Waco Fire Chief Brent Gordon who welcomed everyone to the Waco Fire Department and the Waco Community.

Invocation was given by: Eric Davis, Cleveland County Fire Chaplain

Pledge of Allegiance: Zach Gordon led the association in the pledge.

President Livingston recognized our meal sponsors for the meeting: Local Government Federal Credit Union. LGFCU representatives Bill Carter and Loren Pittman addressed the association.

Meeting was suspended for the meal.

Meeting Reconvened.

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
- Mountain Region Director Shane LaCount – Mooresville Fire Department
- Foothills Region Director – Todd McMurry –Shelby Fire Department
- Highlands Region Director – Robert Griffin – Edneyville Fire Department

Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports

Motion moved by Jeff Cash 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 David Hughes seconded by Curt Deaton to accept treasurer's report as read. Motion Passed.

Agency Reports

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 2018. 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 winners will be announced in the near future.

➤ State 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 a short session, the second of the two-year legislative session which began last year. They will be addressing issues that did not get finished last year, the budget, and appointments. This does not mean other issues cannot be taken up, but since it is election year, they will want to get in and get out.
- **Potential Issues**
 - Some property Tax Exemption for the Fire Service members.
 - Separation Allowance for Career Firefighters.
 - Continuing to add cancer benefits for LODD.
 - Search and Rescue Team Funding.
 - Discussions on Pension Increases.
 - Building code issues that we would want to oppose.
 - Fireworks that we would want to oppose.
- **Legislative Day**
 - Legislative Day this year has been changed from May 16th to June 13th. 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 Legislation**

- The week of April 17th through the 20th 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:
- 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.
- They fire service is pushing for \$50 million for the USFA, which now is at \$44 million.
- The Firefighter Cancer Registry Act, which passed the House, last year (HR 931), has been held up in the Senate, and the fire service is pushing to get it moved out or take up the Senate version.

➤ **SAFRE Conference**

- In 2016 the SAFRE conference was moved to Charlotte for two years, but this year it returns to Raleigh. This year's dates are the week of Aug 8th – 12th. 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 much sold out, so we expect a big expo, and just to make sure everyone knows the vendor floor will be free to all this year, walk-ins or conference attendees. We'll have more as the time grows closer, but please mark your calendar for that week.

➤ **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.
- In addition, adding historian responsibilities to the Statistician position is another recommendation that may be considered by the Board, and there could be a submittal to allow Past Presidents of the Association to vote at conference.

- We will provide a full report at the July meetings to insure everyone has a complete understanding of what will be proposed.

➤ **Voting Procedures**

- At the upcoming SAFRE conference in the bylaws vote and any potential election, 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 WOULD LIKE TO DESIGNATE YOUR SELECTED DELEGATES WE WILL BE HAPPY TO SEND YOU DELEGATE CARDS TO REGISTER THEM. JUST CONTACT US ON THE PROVIDED FORM AND WE'LL SEND THE CARDS OUT TO YOU. 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.

➤ **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 fall.

NCAFC – Jake Whisnant

- **2018 Mid-Winter Conference**
 - Another Great Year with an increased participation with Attendees & Vendors.
 - Over 1000 Attendees for the Education Workshops.
 - Contracted 2019 & 2020 for the Embassy Suites Concord location.
 - This conference continues to grow each year because of you input.
 - There will be a survey sent out within a couple of months requesting your input for future conferences.
- **Pay Study Survey**
 - There was a NC Fire Service Pay Study survey that was presented at Mid-Winter Conference. The board has received tremendous positive responses regarding the survey. There have been numerous requests from across the state for more NC Fire Service Data driven surveys such as the one presented at 2018 MWC. So you will be receiving a request to participate in future surveys.
- **2018 NC Fire Prevention School, Ft Fisher Kure Beach**
 - 2018 was the First Year with the addition of the Master's Program. Very Positive evaluations of the master's Module so it appears it will be a permanent fixture for the school.
 - Overall attendance was 200 students.
 - Next year will be the 60th anniversary of the school. This is a great accomplishment for any program and planning has already begun for the 60Th Year celebration.
- **NC Accreditation Support Consortium**
 - April 26, in Cary NC.
 - This is a change of venue from previous meeting which were held in Greensboro.
 - Go to our website for more information.
- **SEAFCA 90th Annual Leadership Conference**
 - June 25 - June 29 Montgomery, AL
- **2nd Training Management Program**
 - Charlotte NC.
 - October 22-26, 2018.
 - The first class held in 2016 drew high recommendations from attendees for the continuation of this program on the alternate years of Executive Development.
 - Application will open in May on the website
 - Class is limited to 50 students; there has been much request for this year's class, so apply early.
- **NCAFC Membership Identification Card REMINDER:**
 - You can now go online and print your membership credentials utilizing your picture or department logo on the membership card. We have received tremendous positive respond with this new membership option.

- **NCAFC Membership Item: Additional Email Contact**
 - 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 pay attention to an informational email that is going to be sent out next week about this feature.
 - This item was in the top five requests from our membership and we are happy to be able to now provide this option.

- **NC Fire Service Recruitment & Retention Grant**
 - NC Coordinator, Chief Tracy Mosley
 - Conducted introductory webinar statewide in March with over 70 individuals participating;
 - From the webinar and interest obtained 39 departments across the State of NC applied; of the 39 departments that applied 20 were selected to move forward with phone interviews; Phone interviews are being conducted the week of April 9 thru April 13; 15 departments across the State will be selected the week of April 16th;

NVFC – Jeff Cash

- Jeff presented a Power Point Presentation to the membership. Presentation was attached in an email with the meeting minutes.

OSFM Commission – Wayne Bailey

- **Upgrades**
 - 84 Upgrades are scheduled, these will run through December 31, 2018 Schedules are on the website under training schedule and certification and training tabs – Please remember all Qualified Instructors must take his class. The Proctor Qualification will be conducted after the upgrade. You must be a Level 2 Instructor to take the Proctor course. Proctors will be required to administer the Certification exams beginning Jan 1, 2019.

- **Indoctrination Class**
 - Any person that takes an Indoctrination Class in 2018 will also be given credit for the 2018 Instructor Upgrade. Proctor course will be conducted at the end of that Indoc course.

- **Delivery Agency Courses**
 - Courses are being scheduled. 9 courses with 3 being at the Regional Community College Meetings.

- **Image Trend Training**
 - Image Trend Training courses were conducted March 26 – 29. Well attended. Positive feedback from attendees. The biggest complaint is still the frustration with NCID.

NC FLSE Association – Jeannie Moore

- **SAFE Kids Conference**
 - May 22-24, 2018.
 - Great Wolfe Lodge.
- **FLSE Conference**
 - Theme: *Get Fired Up-about prevention, partnerships, Community Risk Reduction and Education.*
 - July 24-26, 2018.
 - Pre-Conference: July 23, 2018.
- If you would like to be on the email list for FLSE please send a request to westernflse@googlegroups.com.
- If you need any assistance or have questions related to FLSE don't hesitate to contact myself or any of our Western group of FLSE. We are here to assist and support you.

NCEM – Eric Wiseman

- **Retirement**
 - Joe Wright retired as Deputy Director/Operations Section Chief on March 31, 2018.
- **Promotions**
 - Greg Atchley was promoted to Branch Manager for the Western Branch Office on February 26th, 2018.
 - Steve Powers has been promoted to Deputy Director/Operations Section Chief on April 12th, 2018.
- **Exercises**
 - Operation Mountain Courier (Department of Energy Hazardous Material Exercise) will be held April 24-27, 2018 in Asheville.
 - Catawba Nuclear Station Practice Exercise will be May 1st, 2018.
 - Catawba Nuclear Station Graded Exercise will be June 5th, 2018.
- **Training**
 - Three (3) additional - United States Fire Administration - All Hazard Incident Management Team Classes will be conducted across the State from now until August. See TERMS for dates and to register.
- **Events**
 - World Equestrian Games will be September 11-23, 2018 in Polk County.
- **Meetings**
 - State Emergency Response Commission meeting April 20th, 2018.
 - North Carolina Aviation Symposium is May 17th, 2018.

NCFFF – Rick Wood

- **Mid-Winter Conference, Concord**
 - LODD Round table Discussion for Chief Officers.
 - Had a large group present and discussion was held on the importance of all personnel to ensure their beneficiary is updated? Also all other important paperwork and documents as this has caused hardships for some in the past.

- **McDowell Fire School**
 - Had a great show of support from all. Enjoyed the time spent with the Bradley Long family that helped work the booth.

- **Regional Survivor Dinners**
 - Held on March 24, 2018.
 - Western Region was held at Bethlehem Fire Department, Alexander County
 - Piedmont Region was held at Guil-Rand Fire Department, Randolph County
 - Eastern Region was held at Hugo Fire Department, Lenoir County
 - It was a HUGE success.

- **13th Annual North Carolina Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend**
 - May 4 - 5, 2018.
 - Fallen Firefighters Memorial, Nash Square, Raleigh, NC.
 - May 4, 2018
 - Survivors Dinner, Raleigh Station 1, 5:30 pm.
 - Candlelight Vigil, State Memorial, 8 pm
 - May 5, 2018
 - Fallen firefighters Memorial Parade through downtown Raleigh begins at 10 am.
 - Memorial Service begins at 1 pm.

- **2017 LODD Memorial Inductees**
 - Michael Eric Pennell, Central Alexander/Taylorsville Fire Department, Alexander County.
 - Jason Keith Hensley, Triple Community Vol. Fire Department, Burke County.
 - Charles Harvey, Piney Green Vol, Fire Department, Onslow County (2007).

Old Business

1. Human Resource Seminar

- Executive Board looking at the possibilities of conducting a seminar for the membership on the lines of Human Resource Dos and Don'ts. More information to come. Tabled at this time.

New Business

1. President Livingston read a letter about the Piney Grove FD College Live In Program.

2. WNC Peer Support

- Ned Fowler gave an overview about the WNC Peer Support Program. Awareness of Resources for Critical Incident Stress Management. Programs are available in Western North Carolina. Peer Support Program can assist with development of individual programs.

3. NCSFA Western Director Election

- A vacancy has occurred in the position of NCSFA Western Director. At the July 2018 meeting an election will be held to fill this position. To date three individuals have expressed interest in seeking election to this position. Winfield Abee, Quentin Cash and Curt Deaton. Anyone meeting the criteria set forth in the NCSFA bylaws is eligible for the position. All interested individuals must let WNCFAFF President Rick Livingston of you intention by May 18, 2018.

4. SAFRE Conference Grant

- The following fire departments are this year's recipients of the WNCFAFF SAFRE Conference Grant.
 - Ashford North Cove Fire Department – McDowell County.
 - Newdale Fire Department – Yancey County.

5. Nominating Committee

- Andy Webster, Curt Deaton, Eric Wiseman and David Hughes will be the nomination committee for the upcoming WNCFAFF election process. Anyone interested in running for the position of 2nd Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer or the Foothills Region Director should get in contact with one of the nominating committee members. Election of officers will take place at the October meeting.

6. Educational Scholarships

- Application for the 2018 Educational Scholarships is online at www.wncaff.com. Completed applications must be received by July 6, 2018.

7. Next Meeting: Highlands, NC (Macon County)

- The Highlands Rec. Center
600 North 4th Street
Highlands, NC 28741

Meeting adjourned

Respectfully Submitted: Secretary Anthony Penland

