

WNCAF Quarterly Meeting  
Mills River Fire Department (Henderson County)  
October 18, 2023

18:35 – President LaCount called the October quarterly meeting to order with 130 members, representing 16 counties, present.

President LaCount introduced Mills River Fire Department Chief Rick Livingston (WNCAF Past President), who welcomed the association to Mills River and Henderson County. Chief Livingston introduced Mills River Mayor Shanon Gonce.

Invocation was given by: Mills River Assistant Chief Jason Livingston.

Pledge of Allegiance: Mills River Fire Chief's granddaughter Ava Livingston.

US Congressman Chuck Edwards' local representative Tommy Laughter addressed and thanked the members for the service that they provide to the citizens of North Carolina. There are 153 fire departments in Congressman Edwards' district and he wants to support those fire departments. Congressman Edwards represents the 11<sup>th</sup> district of NC in the US House of Representatives.

NC Insurance Commissioner Mike Causey addressed the association about the changes forthcoming to the DOI and OSFM as a result of the budget adoption.

18:54 – Meal Sponsor C.W. Williams and Civic Federal Credit Union. Jay Alley introduced those in attendance from C.W. Williams. Meal prepared by Daddy D's Suber Soul Food, 411 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue E. Hendersonville, NC 28792. Meeting recessed for the meal.

19:28 – Meeting reconvened. Loren Pittman representing Civic Federal Credit Union addressed the association updating the information on Local Government Federal Credit Union moved toward independence from State Employee Credit Union. Civic and Local Government will become one credit union in 2025. Loren also reviewed a map of 11 branches that are scheduled to open in 2025 across North Carolina.

19:36 - **President LaCount recognized the 2023 WNCAF Officers**

- President Shane LaCount – Mooresville Fire Department
- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Earl Withers III – Dallas Fire Department
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Bryan Buchanan – The Upper Hominy Fire Department
- Secretary Anthony Penland – Swannanoa Fire Department
- Treasurer Dean Coward – Saunook Fire Department
- Past President Robert Griffin – Edneyville Fire Department
- Mountain Region Director – Trevor Key – Collettsville Fire Department
- Foothills Region Director – Tim Tench – East Lincoln Fire Department
- Highlands Region Director – Zac Cicillian – Skyland Fire Department

19:46 – **Treasurer's/Secretary's Reports**

Treasurer Dean Coward presented the treasurer's report. Joey Webb moved seconded by Brian Piercy to accept the treasurer's report as presented. Motion Passed.

The July meeting minutes were emailed out to the association and posted to the website. Rick Livingston moved seconded by Quentin Cash to accept the secretary's report as emailed and posted to the website. Motion Passed.

## 19:30 – Agency Reports

### NCSFA – Ed Brinson

#### ➤ **Relief Fund**

- The relief fund Treasurer’s Financial Report and bank/financial statements submission deadline is mid-night on October 31st based upon the fiscal year closed on June 30th. Status letters were mailed to each relief fund Treasurer and Fire Chief in September that had not completed their relief fund reporting requirements. Departments that do not complete their reporting requirements will not receive their relief fund money in 2024.

#### ➤ **Roster and BTR Report**

- The membership roster and relief fund Board of Trustee Report certification period will begin December 1st and will end January 15th. The Board of Trustee report is completed at the end of Roster Certification process. The trustee report submittal is integral to the roster system on-line.
- Please do not exit the roster certification process before completing the Board of Trustee report. Failure to complete the Trustee report will make you ineligible for your department to receive your relief fund money in 2023.
- Also, take time and be diligent. Adding actual emails for members helps us and them when it’s necessary to get the word out on issues or benefits. Putting one email down for a whole roster list denies many members the ability to receive information in a timely manner. We do not sell or share our email database.

#### ➤ **Roster Updates**

- Please remember to add members to the roster as soon as they join. We had a member killed on the way home from her orientation session in the Fire Department, and fortunately she had been added to the roster. Otherwise, her beneficiaries may have lost out on benefits.

#### ➤ **Memorial Service List of Members Who Have Passed Away**

- Chiefs’, please submit the name to us throughout the year of any members or retirees that pass away so we can add them to our memorial service list at conference.

#### ➤ **Summit**

- The NCSFA in conjunction with the East, Piedmont, and Western Regional Directors, Fire Marshals Association and OSFM staff held our annual summit during the week of SAFRE. The Summit was well attended. Jeff Cash was the facilitator/moderator of the summit. Collectively, the group updated and reported on old priorities established last year and established several new goals to accomplish during 2023/2024 with objectives assigned to the regional associations, NCSFA and the Fire Marshals Association. During the 2024 summit the groups will report on their goal updates and accomplishments assigned this year.
- If you’d like a copy of the completed Summit report send an email to [Tim@ncsfa.com](mailto:Tim@ncsfa.com) and we’ll send you a copy.

#### ➤ **Conference Update**

- This past SAFER conference was a huge success. Our opening session and memorial service had a large group of attendees. Baseball legend, Ned Yost, was this year’s keynote speaker. We had a great line up of classes and vendors. Attendance was approximately 5,200 members and guests.
- During the Banquet, we held the swearing in of our new slate of officers. They include:
  - Richard Pulley, President, Darlington Fire Department
  - Curt Deaton, 1st Vice President, Mooresville Fire Department

- Steven Robertson, 2nd Vice President, City of King Fire Department
- Dennis Presley, Statistician, Skyland Fire Department
- Jay Howell, Treasurer Nahunta Fire Department
- Doug Bissette, Sr. Director, Wilson/Pinetown Fire Department
- Todd McMurry, Established Director, Polkville Fire Department
- Scott Hackler, Junior Director, Chapel Hill/Efland Fire Department
- Chris Davis, Past-President, Clemmons/Forsyth Fire Department
- Next year's Annual Meeting and SAFRE conference will be held on August 7-11, 2024 in Raleigh. Request for Speakers/Instructors is open and will close mid-November. Our keynote address for 2024 will be given by Fire Chief, international speaker and bestselling author Frank Viscuso. Chief Viscuso wrote Step up and Lead and Common Valor, among several other bestselling books. He has also delivered keynote addresses and classes all over the world, including at FDIC. We are excited to welcome Chief Viscuso to SAFRE in 2024 for his keynote address, as well as a 4 hour seminar on leadership in the fire service.

➤ **Legislation**

- **Budget**
  - The budget was released and voted on, and we had several concerns.
    - It did not include the language from SB 326 which would have permanently funded cancer and kept workers comp (VSWCF) reserves funded at an adequate level.
    - It indicated the cancer pilot program worked, but then gave the Department of Insurance responsibility for managing it, which doesn't have the staff, and loses the quality management it had during the pilot program with over 115 claims.
    - It continued to reduce the reserve funding for VSWCF and took responsibility away from the Fire and Rescue Commission, who's VSWCF Board had successfully managed the program for over a decade, and limited the ability for local agents to work with departments bringing into question how local departments would acquire this coverage.
    - It removed the Commissioner of Insurance as State Fire Marshal, bringing confusion into the operation of fire service programs, and ended a system that has worked since the mid 1900's
  - NCSFA continues to work toward a budget correction on these issues, whether now or in the short session of the General Assembly next year and will seek passage of legislation that permanently funds Cancer Insurance for Firefighters and maintains a viable self-funded workers compensation program for volunteers.
- **House Bill 378**
  - As previously reported, HB 378 has been signed into Law as Chapter Law 2023-104. Here is a reminder of what that includes.
    - HB 378, which is now law, allows for three variations of criminal background checks normally requiring fingerprints, if the applicant or member has lived in NC for more than five consecutive years. They are:
    - (1) A statewide criminal history record check without fingerprints may be conducted by the North Carolina Department of Public Safety. The requesting entity shall provide to the North Carolina Department of Public Safety any information required by the Department to conduct a name only search and a form signed by the State resident to be checked consenting to the check of the criminal record and use of other identifying information required by the State Repository. The name and other required information shall be forwarded to the State Bureau of Investigation for a search of the State criminal history record file.

- (2) A statewide criminal history record check of the State resident's name may be conducted by a third-party vendor. The requesting entity and State resident shall provide the third-party vendor's required documentation to complete the request.
  - (3) A statewide criminal history record check of the State resident's name may be conducted and certified by the clerk of court, at the clerk's discretion.
  - In addition, applicants for junior membership and current junior members of a fire department under the age of 18 shall be exempt from the criminal history record check.
- **Legislative Priorities And Where They In Correlation To The Budget**
  - Increase in Fire and Rescue Pension Benefits. This would include a \$5 increase in benefits with a \$5 increase in premiums. SB 728 has been introduced increasing the pension to \$200 per month, but did not make crossover, but HB 270 with a \$5 increase did pass the House. A potential increase of more is an option. The possibilities include; no increase at all; \$5.00 per month; or another amount that may be negotiated.
  - Secure continuation funding for the Cancer Insurance Pilot Program going into the future. We have met with legislators and have identified a funding source. Introduced as (SB 326). It passed the Senate and hopefully will be heard in the House.
  - Continue to pursue the use of blue lights on the rear of fire apparatus. This is being met with continued resistance from law enforcement groups and action is unlikely.
  - Oppose any legislative increase in use or sell of fireworks. The Fireworks bill introduced did not make crossover.
  - Monitor and discuss any additional legislation

➤ **Insurance Renewal**

- The Board of the NCSFA approved renewal of our benefits and our insurance carrier. Effective July 1, 2023, our Line of Duty Death Benefit remains \$100,000. Our Insurance Carrier for this coverage remains, in addition to our 24-hour Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance, VFIS of North Carolina.
- Please contact our office or OSFM to report an LODD, or contact our office of VFIS to report and Accidental Death or Dismemberment claim.

➤ **Staying Active Legislatively and Engagifi**

- Right now, we have 2104 active Advocates on Engagifi. That means out of 50,000+ firefighters, just over 4%. 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 Engagifi, 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.

➤ **Strategic Planning Session**

- The NCSFA board and staff just completed a successful annual strategic planning session for NCSFA in September. The current plan was reviewed, and additional strategic goals were added to the plan.
- The plan will be revised and posted on our website upon final approval by the board of directors.

## **NCAFC – Earl Withers III**

### ➤ **NCAFC Officers**

- Our new board of directors has been installed, President Derrick Clouston from Pinehurst FD, 1st VP Joey Webb from Waynesville FD, 2nd VP Jennifer Smith from New Hanover County F/R. Our newest board member from the Eastern Carolina Firefighters Association is Chief Allen Wilson from Surf City FD.

### ➤ **Planning Retreat**

- The NCAFC Board of Directors met September 18 – 20, 2023 in Pinehurst for our Fall Planning retreat. We are proud to say that we have accomplished many of the items in our work plan and have adopted several new initiatives making the NCAFC member focused.

### ➤ **Lifetime Membership**

- The NCAFC Lifetime Membership recognition awards are now being accepted, the application and guidelines for Lifetime membership are on our website. Also, applications for Volunteer and Career Fire Chiefs and Volunteer and Career Fire Officers are open; we encourage all departments in North Carolina to submit a member for these prestigious awards. The application process is also posted on the NCAFC web site.

### ➤ **NCAFC Recruitment and Retention**

- Reminder that NCAFC Recruitment and Retention grant to assist North Carolina Volunteer Fire Departments with their initiatives on recruiting and retaining members is available. Chief Tracy Mosley is heading up the grant and information is on the NCAFC web site.

### ➤ **NCAFC License Plate**

- North Carolina Association of Fire Chiefs License plate applications are now available to all NC Fire Officers. The information and DMV Form are located on the NCAFC web site.

### ➤ **Executive Development**

- The North Carolina Association of Fire Chiefs Executive Development Course kicked off on September 25, 2023, with 56 students enrolled. We appreciate the participation from across the state and feel our program is one of the best offered to the NC Fire Service.

### ➤ **NCAFC Mid-Winter Conference**

- The North Carolina Association of Fire Chiefs Annual Mid-Winter Conference will once again be held at the Embassy Suites and Conference Center in Concord NC. The dates are January 30 – February 2, 2024.
- Registration and hotel information is now available – check the NCAFC web site.

## NCOSFM – Davie Summey

### ➤ **Inspections**

- Inspections staff is working to streamline the GIS mapping process.
- Inspections staff is on a five-year cycle with the inspection program across the state, some may be a little sooner due to scheduling.
- Inspection staff is working to update all the pre survey forms and has introduced an analysis review program to review the survey after completion.
- The Everyone Goes Home Team has taught 56 classes across the state this year as of September 30, 2023, with 1021 students attending.
- There has been a total of 179 fire department inspections completed through September 30, 2023.

### ➤ **AFFF**

- Completed entry of all 3 regions Foam inventory in new RMS developed by Adam.
- Currently there is 120,904 gallons listed across the state at 1223 sites.
- Working collectively in development of system to collect data going forward if future inventory is needed.
- Continue to assist FDs in properly reporting usage.
- Monitoring the state budget for foam buy back and disposal program.
- Continuing to educate FDs at meetings, conferences as well as one on one of the ongoing changes and usages of AFFF.

### ➤ **GIS**

- A brief description of our GIS Section is below.
- Supports the Ratings and Inspections Division by collecting and analyzing all mapping submissions for ISO ratings, and consulting with local jurisdictions on how to provide the best mapping for ISO ratings.
- Supports AFFF inventory and usage collection with custom made GIS mapping applications.

### ➤ **Grants**

- Reminder that the 50/50 Fire grants applications will be out in January, so please look for changes in the grant program with new state budget.
- There are also 2 other grant programs in the new state budget, one for tires and one for standalone rescue squads.
- Grant staff has been working diligently to ensure the guidelines and statutes are followed by all departments as noted in the audit.
- Staff was able to disburse over 1200 firefighter relief funds disbursements this year while processing the close of the 2023 fire grant and 2023 close of rescue/ems grant applications.
- Staff worked with IT to create policies and procedures to implement on the fire and rescue grants.

### ➤ **Commission**

- TR update underway (1<sup>st</sup> Quarter release), Delivery agency moratorium, certification school pilot will begin 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2024.

## NVFC – Quentin Cash

### ➤ **Fall Meeting Representation**

- 40 States and 65 Directors were present with NCSFA being represented in attendance with both NC directors NCSFA Executive Director Tim Bradley and Quentin Cash.

### ➤ **Membership Increase**

- NVFC membership is almost at 31,000 up 24% over the last 5 years. They currently hold an 86% retention rate, which is extremely high for a national organization. The five states that are over 500 and received free membership (state membership not individuals) include NC, NY, Texas, Maryland and Kansas. Over the last three years, NC has continued to increase but so have other states. We now represent 55% of the membership.

### ➤ **Legislative Priorities for the NVFC**

- Appropriation for AFG and SAFER Grants
- United States Fire Administration Funding which includes the National Fire Academy
- Volunteer Fire Assistance Funding
- National Firefighter Registry Funding
- SIREN Act (Rural EMS Training Grants) Funding
- Volunteer Fire Responder Housing Act
- Fire Station Construction Grants
- 501c Pension Bill Issue for NC
- Hero Act
- The NVFC has also moved to VoterVoice software for legislative advocacy pushes. The new program is a one-step click to email federal legislators on fire related issues. It can be accessed here: Action Center ([votervoice.net](http://votervoice.net))

### ➤ **FEMA Grant Issues**

- The NVFC Board of Directors and legislative committee have discussed trying to get FEMA to simplify the AFG and SAFRE process. We have a few people who sit on the technical review committee from Maryland and Mississippi. They have been consistently bombarding them to change, especially definitions of small fire departments, currently listed as less than 100,000 populations which is 95% of FD is NC. So now FEMA has sent out a link for feedback, please feel free to send them your thoughts or send it out to other Chiefs/Departments:
- FEMA seeks input on simplifying #preparedness grant programs to improve their efficiency and accessibility. We are eager to hear your feedback on how we can improve the management and administration of our grant programs to assist the nation and #first responders in building, sustaining and improving our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from and mitigate #terrorism and other high-consequence #disasters and emergencies.
- You may submit comments electronically through the Federal Register eRulemaking Portal. Follow the instructions for submitting comments and use Docket ID: FEMA-2023-0024. Comments can also be submitted to FEMA by emailing [FEMA-Grants-Feedback@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-Grants-Feedback@fema.dhs.gov) . Comments are due no later than 5 p.m. ET on Nov. 7.

### ➤ **Junior Program Starter Kit**

- Junior firefighter programs help emergency service departments with non-operational support, recruitment, and community relations. To make starting a junior firefighter program easier, the NVFC released an updated Junior Firefighter Program Starter Kit. This resource helps departments build the framework for a successful youth program and was made possible thanks to support from California Casualty.

- **First Responder Helpline**
  - Firefighters, EMS providers, and rescue workers are at increased risk for behavioral health issues due to the nature of the job. Recognizing that many volunteer responders don't have access to an employee assistance program, the NVFC partnered with Provident to launch the First Responder Helpline in October 2022. Please help us raise awareness about this important resource by sharing the attached article and social media posts with your audience.
- **FP&S Grant**
  - The NVFC is excited to announce we've received a Fire Prevention and Safety Grant from FEMA to continue and expand upon our health and safety initiatives. The grant supports courses and webinars in the Virtual Classroom, the NVFC Training Summit, the NVFC First Responder Helpline, resource development and distribution, and more.
- **Odd Hours on DVD**
  - The volunteer fire service documentary Odd Hours, No Pay, Cool Hat is now available for purchase on Blue-Ray and DVD. This is in addition to its release on streaming services including Google Play, Amazon, and iTunes.

**North Carolina Fallen Firefighters' Association – Rick Wood**

- **NC State Fair**
  - The NCFFF will be set up at the NC State Fair in Raleigh beginning October 12<sup>th</sup> until October 22<sup>nd</sup>... Our merchandise booth and members of the Foundation will be set up on the backside of Dorton Arena.
- **NCFFF Memorial Expansion**
  - Memorial expansion plans are ongoing. Board is working with a design firm and getting several options to review. We only have one tablet left and if we add 10 to 12 names per year, it will fill up quickly. Plan is to develop a redesign of the current walls surrounding the memorial to be able to add names for at least 100 years or more. The Board is working with the State, the City of Raleigh and the design firm.
  - The foundation is continuing to develop sponsorships, fund raising events and funding means for the memorial expansion to pay for the design, permits and construction costs for the expansion. This will include replacement of the lighting on the memorial which is needed due to condensation issues, wiring issues and the current lights no longer available.
- **Social Media**
  - Our website, Facebook page, Twitter and Instagram pages will be updated as soon as possible.
  - One of our Logistical Team Members, Hannah Fox is our new IT person.
- **Upcoming Fire Schools**
  - Several Fire Schools are still scheduled for this year that the Foundation will have our vendor booth and personnel at. Eastern Fire School in October, Cleveland County School in November.



➤ **Memorial Services**

- The Foundation has assisted in several funeral services for fire and EMS personnel over the past several months.
- Reminder if you have a death of a member and you would like to have their name read during the SAFRE memorial in August, please make sure their name, department and date of death is reported to Ed Brinson of the NCSFA.
- The Foundation is working with OSFM and NCSFA in compiling a list of Line of Duty Deaths for 2023 for induction into the State Memorial in May 2024. That list will be completed at our January 2024 meeting.
- The North Carolina Industrial Commission determines LINE OF DUTY DEATH in the state of North Carolina, not the NCFFF, NC OSFM nor the NCSFA. The Industrial Commission only notifies the family contact regarding their decision, sometimes the Department Chief, but does not notify NCFFF or OSFM regarding their decision. It is important for the Chief of the Department to pass on that information to the NCFFF and OSFM so that member can be added to the list of inductees for the annual memorial service.

➤ **2024 NCFFF Memorial Weekend**

- With the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation changing their memorial service to the first weekend in May and due to scheduling events with the City of Raleigh, the Foundation has set the SECOND WEEKEND in MAY as the NC Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend.

➤ **Western Regional Director**

- Bob Benfield has stepped down as a Western Regional Director and will continue to serve as a Logistical Support Team Member. The Foundation has recommended Chris Hicks from Wilks County to the Western Regional Board as his replacement.

➤ **Email Contact**

- NCFFF Board Group email [board@ncfff.org](mailto:board@ncfff.org)
- Please feel free to reach out and contact any of the Foundation Board members if you have questions, need assistance with funeral or memorial service planning.
- The Foundation has created a Foundation email for each Board position so no matter if personnel change, emails to the Foundation can be maintained. The emails are (Board Position)[@ncfff.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:ncfff.onmicrosoft.com). For example: [President@ncfff.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:President@ncfff.onmicrosoft.com). [2ndVicePresident@ncfff.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:2ndVicePresident@ncfff.onmicrosoft.com).

## *North Carolina Emergency Management – Danny Gee*

### ➤ **Heat Mortality/Morbidity Webinar**

- The National Weather Service and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will host a webinar on 27 October 2023 focused on the challenges and opportunities involved in using heat mortality and emergency department information for estimating health burdens. Heat continues to be the leading weather-related killer with the CDC estimating an average of 1,220 heat-related deaths occurred in the United States annually (2019 – 2021) based on information reported in death certificates. However, the true mortality burden is higher because heat exposure is a contributing factor to deaths resulting from many causes. Please register for this webinar [here](#).

### ➤ **FEMA Debris Training**

- In a partnership with FEMA, NCEM's Public Assistance team would like to invite you to a training session on the dos and don'ts of debris hauling and monitoring. This training will be presented by FEMA Public Assistance as well as FEMA EHP and the focus is to assist organizations understand how to prepare for the next storm and what to do after the storm. The webinar will be held on Wednesday, 15 November from 1:00 – 3:00pm. All who wish to attend will need to register [here](#).

### ➤ **2023 NIMS Resource Management Survey**

- FEMA has released the 2023 NIMS Resource Management Survey on the Preparedness Toolkit website. The survey offers jurisdictions an opportunity to recommend enhancements for NIMS programming. This includes the National Qualification System (NQS), resource typing, mutual aid, emergency operations center (EOC) skillsets and tools, and more. The survey will remain open until they collect 100 responses. The responses will help us assess how jurisdictions engage NIMS processes and tools related to resource management.
- To participate, visit <https://preptoolkit.fema.gov/web/nims-toolkit/nims-survey>.
- Questions can be directed to the NIMS Inbox at [FEMA-NIMS@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-NIMS@fema.dhs.gov)

### ➤ **DHS Releases 2024 Homeland Threat Assessment**

- The Department of Homeland Security recently published its [2024 Homeland Threat Assessment](#) (HTA) providing insights from across DHS, the Intelligence Community and other critical homeland security stakeholders. The HTA provides the public and homeland security partners with information on the most direct, pressing threats over the next year, breaking the major threats in the following sections:
  - The cyber threat,
  - Foreign influence activity,
  - Threats to U.S. economic security,
  - The terrorist threat,
  - Transnational criminal organization threats to national security,
  - Illegal immigration to the United States
  - Natural disasters.

- **Civil Unrest Planning and Response for Public Safety Agencies**
  - This training is being provided to credentialed first responders and will provide public safety agencies and planners an overview of current and emerging threats and what is required to plan for and safely respond to a riot or violent protest. The training will take place:
    - 7 December 2023: at Forsyth Technical Community College in Winston Salem from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m...
    - 8 December 2023: at A-B Tech Community College in Asheville. Session A – 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. or Session B – 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. pick one session.
    - 13 December 2023 at Koury Auditorium on the Jamestown Campus, GTCC. Session A – 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. or Session B – 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. pick one session.
  - See TERMS for registration and other information.
  
- **1st Responder Executive Leadership Program**
  - In collaboration with Wake Forest University, the Forsyth County Sheriff's Office recently announced the launch of the 1st Responders Executive Leadership Program. The inaugural class will meet 13-15 November 2023 at the Wake Forest University Charlotte Center. For more information, see the attached release and visit <https://sps.wfu.edu/programs/first-responder-leadership-program/>

**North Carolina Fire and Life Safety – Jeannie Wood**

- **NFPA Safety Summit**
  - November 9, 2023
  - 08:00-17:00
  - Iredell Agricultural Center
  
- **Annual Conference**
  - February 28 – March 1, 2023
    - Great Wolf Lodge in Concord
    - More Information can be found at [www.ncosfm.gov](http://www.ncosfm.gov).
    - Wanting to recognize past members at conference. If you know of anyone or you yourself is a past member please share their names so that an invitation can be sent.
    - Award nominations for educators of the year Career and Volunteer as well as the BT Fowler Lifetime Achievement can be found on the website at [www.ncosfm.gov](http://www.ncosfm.gov).

**North Carolina Forest Service – Alan Huskins**

- **Aviation**
  - Four (4) of the helicopters are down for maintenance.
    - One (1) helicopter is available for next four (4) to five (5) weeks.
  
- **Bridge Crews**
  - There are eight (8) fully staffed bridge crews available.
  
- **Fire Forecast**
  - Going to need extensive mop up on wildfires if the weather pattern does not change soon.

## North Carolina Fire Marshals' Association – Wesley Graham

- **Fire Inspector**
  - Rules for Fire Inspector I, II & III being drafted by the Fire Code Revision Committee.
  - Continuing offer continue education courses for fire inspectors.
  
- **Legislative**
  - HB 893 Private Commercial Building Inspections
  - HB 488 Code Council Reorganization and Var. Code Amendments – Now Law
  - SB 677 Expedited Plans Review and Private Plans Review – Ratified
  - Working with OSFM to understand impact of legislation passed in previous session
  
- **NCFMA Elections**
  - Oct. 19-26.
  - Active members will be sent an email link. If you are not getting emails, go to NCFMA website, log in, make sure dues are paid, and update account (including email). Any issues with account contact Thomas Raper, Treasurer.
  
- **Home Sprinkler**
  - Partnering with the NC Home Sprinkler Coalition to create awareness training for first responders.
  
- **Meeting**
  - Next quarterly meeting will be in Hickory on Thursday November 2, 2023.

## 20:25- Old Business

1. **Annual Awards**
  - The WNCAF annual award nominations are due by November 17, 2023. The nomination form can be found on the website at [www.wncaff.com](http://www.wncaff.com). A reminder that the WNCAF awards yearly a Chief Fire Officer and a Firefighter/Company Officer of the year award. There is both a volunteer and career category for these awards.
  
2. **Meeting Dates 2024**
  - January 17, 2024 – Mooresville Fire Department
  - April 17, 2024 – Millers Creek Fire Department
  - July 17, 2024 – Waynesville Fire Department
  - October 16, 2024 – Bills Creek Fire Department

## **20:30 - New Business**

### 1. WNCAF Officer Elections

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President
  - Trevor Key was the only nomination received for the position of 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. Brian Piercy moved seconded by Joey Webb to elect Trevor by acclimation to the position of 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. Motion Passed.
- Mountain Director
  - Garrett Huffman was the only nomination received for the position of Mountain Director. Brian Piercy moved seconded by Quentin Cash to elect Garret by acclimation to the position of Mountain Director. Motion Passed.

### 2. NCFFF Western Director

- In accordance with NCFFF bylaws, the WNCAF executive board recommended Chris Hicks to fill the vacated position of Western Director for the NCFFF.

### 3. SAFRE Grant

- The WNCAF awards a \$1,500.00 dollar grant to a member department who would like to send representation to the combined annual conference of the NCSFA and NCAFC as well as to the SAFRE Expo.
- Application can be accessed via the website at [www.wncaff.com](http://www.wncaff.com).
- Applications must be received or postmarked by December 31, 2023.

### 4. Next Meeting

- Hosted by the Mooresville Fire Department
- January 17, 2024
- Charles Mack Citizen Center  
215 N Main Street  
Mooresville, NC 28115

Meeting adjourned at 20:50

Submitted: Secretary Anthony Penland (Posted to website on 10/24/2023) (E-Mailed out on 10/25/2023)