

WNCAF Quarterly Meeting
Millers Creek Fire Department
April 17, 2024

18:40 – President Withers called the April quarterly meeting to order with 78 members, representing 17 counties, present.

President Withers introduced Millers Creek Fire Department Chief Robbie Bolin, who welcomed the association to Millers Creek and Wilkes County. Chief Bolin recognized the vendors in attendance, Atlantic Emergency Solutions, MES, and Dana Safety Supply.

Invocation given by: Millers Creek Fire Department Deputy Chief Jake Goulds.

Pledge of Allegiance: Millers Creek Fire Department Fire Chief Robbie Bolin.

The meal sponsor was Atlantic Emergency Solutions and provided by 6th and Main Catering. Chris Grace, Regional Account Manager, thanked members for their service.

19:20- Meeting reconvened.

President Withers recognized the 2024 WNCAF Officers

- President Earl Withers III – Dallas Fire Department
- 1st Vice President Bryan Buchanan – The Upper Hominy Fire Department
- 2nd Vice President Trevor Key – Collettsville Fire Department
- Secretary Anthony Penland – Swannanoa Fire Department
- Treasurer Dean Coward – Saunook Fire Department
- Past President Shane LaCount – Mooresville Fire Department
- Foothills Region Director – Tim Tench – East Lincoln Fire Department
- Highlands Region Director – Zac Cicillian – Skyland Fire Department
- Mountain Region Director – Garrett Huffman – Alexander County FMO

19:25 – Scholarship Presentations

- Gene Gladdin Scholarship: Couper Dale
- Dean Coward Emergency Services Scholarship: Anthony Mariano
- Member Scholarship: Luke Stafford and Michael Hunter
- Dependent Scholarship: Valerie Jordan

19:35 – **Treasurer's/Secretary's Reports**

Treasurer Dean Coward presented the treasurer's report. Quentin Cash moved seconded by Jarrod Penland to accept the treasurer's report as presented. Motion Passed.

The January meeting minutes were emailed out to the association on January 19, 2024, and posted to the website on January 19, 2024. There was one correction to the minutes that were emailed. According to the OSFM agency report, the maximum amount for the fire grant was recorded at \$30,000 and the actual maximum amount should have been \$40,000. Brian Piercy moved seconded by Ken Ledford to accept the minutes as corrected. Motion Passed.

19:38 – Agency Reports

NCSFA – Ed Brinson

- **Roster and Relief Fund Board of Trustees Report (BTR)**
 - At the end of the reporting cycle for Certified Rosters and BTR's, January 15th, 2023, only 7 fire departments out of 1279 failed to report their rosters and to get their BTR's reported. This was after a huge effort by NCSFA staff to email and call the Chief's. Normally by the last day we have a major push to find the last 150 or so Chiefs.

- **Membership Dues**
 - We have approximately 17 departments that submitted rosters but have not paid their dues. Letters have been mailed out to those departments making them aware of the suspension of benefits until the dues are paid.

- **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 roster member. Unless you have an approved Supplemental Retirement Program and Account, \$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. Balances need to be below the maximum by June 30th unless you have an approved Supplemental Retirement Amount approved by NCSFA.
 - Your Treasurer should have received a letter if you are over but it's a good idea to check anyway.

- **Scholarships and Grants**
 - NCSFA Scholarships and grants are now closed for 2023. 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. There are also training grants available. These will be announced soon.

- **Legislation**
 - This year is the short session, or the second of the two-year 2023/2024 session. We were tracking over 60 bills that had been introduced during the long session, but the joint legislative committee of the NCSFA and NCAFC established priorities for the remainder during the 2024 session. They include:
 - **Our Priorities include, but are not limited to:**
 - **Priority!** Continue to seek a permanent funding solution for the **FIREFIGHTER'S Cancer Benefit Program**. During the long session in 2023, SB 326 was introduced that provided for using a modification of gross premium assessment percentages to provide a more permanent funding source. We still support that option and work to get it implemented.
 - **Priority!** Seek to add retirees, who have been retired 7 years or less, to the firefighter's Cancer benefit program.
 - **Priority!** House Bill 270 – Continue to support increases in the Fire and Rescue Workers Pension Benefits. This is a \$5 increase in benefits and a \$5 increase in premiums.
 - **Monitor and Support!** Any legislation that benefits the fire service, or fire education and prevention of fires.
 - **Monitor and oppose!** Legislation that has a negative impact on the fire service, or fire education and prevention of fires.

- **Federal Legislation**
 - We continue to Pursue Changes to IRS Regulations that could allow non-profit career firefighters in LGERS. The Retirement Act, Secure 2.0, passed Congress last year without our amendment due to opposition from another national fire service organization. As the new Congress gets underway, we'll try to find a means of getting it introduced again.
- **Legislative Day**
 - Legislative Day has been scheduled for Wednesday, May 15th. It will be at the Quorum Center; 1st floor conference room at 8:00. We will have a brief introduction, pictures, and then head over to the Legislative Building. Lunch will be provided. Please mark your calendars. More information will be coming out in the future as planning proceeds.
- **Follow us on Engagifi.**

➤ **Cancer Insurance Program**

- As of the end of last year, close to 130 firefighters had received benefits through this program totaling over \$4.6 million dollars. Approximately 84 have been denied due to being ineligible, and 11 were pending. Reasons for denial are the cancer was diagnosed before January 1st of 2022; an ineligible cancer or not metastasized; or not on the roster of a fire department.

➤ **Federal OSHA Revision of 1910.156 Fire Department Standards**

- The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is proposing an extensive new safety and health standard, titled "Emergency Response," to replace the existing "Fire Brigades Standard" 1910.156. This would now cover Emergency Response Organizations (ERO's), which are fire departments. The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for the "Emergency Response Standard" was [published in the Federal Register](#) on February 5, with the public comment period open until May 6. In some states public agencies are not required to meet this standard, but in NC, since we are an OSHA state, public agencies are not exempt.
- Being an OSHA state, all our departments will be impacted to some extent by this new proposed rule, and just the paperwork itself for applying this standard could be exhausting. Even though NC state law exempts volunteer fire departments, that is questionable, especially given the benefits and supervision they receive, as well as the impact of providing or receiving mutual aid from career departments and the issue of combination departments. I'm not sure many departments in NC will be exempt. The proposed changes are in a 90-day (ends May 6th) comment period and require immediate action by your fire department.
- While we 100% agree with firefighter safety and everything that can be done to improve it, we feel the financial and time-consuming changes in the standard could have negative impacts on the fire service organizations and could actually decrease the already struggling number of firefighters and may force many to leave the service. We also question the reliability of some of the data and theories used to produce this proposal. 22 NFPA standards are now included in the proposed OSHA standard by reference. This means that any place the NFPA standard says "shall" or "must" the fire department would be responsible for including them. There are another 14 NFPA standards that are included in part. The bottom line is these changes would have major implications for every department, Officer, and firefighter in NC. Good or bad, your department needs to comment.

- We are asking that every fire department in NC assign someone to start reading the proposed standard and that every department files a comment with specific information on the financial burden and hardships that it would create for your department. NCSFA will be submitting a state response, but the need for specific fire department responses is critical. This proposed updated standard would issue hundreds of new requirements that may be very burdensome, and in many cases impossible, for some, especially smaller and volunteer fire departments to comply with. While this may appear to have an impact only on smaller departments and volunteer departments, it also will affect larger departments which use NFPA as a guide, but not a requirement. We encourage all departments, volunteer, career, and combination to [submit comments](#) on this proposed rule and request a public hearing so OSHA can have the best possible understanding of how this proposed rule would impact departments.

➤ **BCBS PTS Grant**

- In 2021, Blue Cross contributed \$500,000 to our non-profit organization, the North Carolina Firefighters Fund, to use in fire service programs with the NCSFA. Half of it went in the form of direct grants to small rural departments through OSFM like the previous year's grant, but we are excited that \$250,000 is being used to aid firefighters seeking treatment and assistance with PTSD and mental health issues. Here are the numbers so far: Since the opening of the grant application process in February 2021, a total of \$97,842, has been awarded to 52 different individuals to help pay for counseling, in-house treatment, or travel. Please make sure all your members are aware of the availability of these funds to assist those seeking help. The application and more details are available on the NCSFA website. This program can help bridge the gap between insurance and/or employee assistance programs and out-of-pocket costs for the firefighter. The funds are there for use and are very under-utilized.

➤ **BCBS Cancer Grant**

- At the end of 2023, NCSFA and representatives from the North Carolina Firefighters Fund, the non-profit arm of the Association, received a \$200,000 Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina check for an additional grant program to assist with cancer screening costs for volunteers. The grant applications have been posted and mailed. This will be the third year that Blue Cross has partnered with NCSFA and NCFE to provide funds for the NC fire service and we appreciate their generosity. Applications are on the NCSFA.com website under the Forms Tab.

➤ **SAFRE Conference**

- The 2024 SAFRE Conference will be held at the Raleigh Convention Center August 7th-11th, 2024. The theme for this year is Learn-Lead-Mentor.
- Online registration is currently available. Course selections have already been made and I can tell you this year we will have some great classes. Our keynote address for 2024 will be given by Fire Chief, international speaker, and best-selling 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.
- We'll have more as the time grows closer, but with the lineup of classes, exhibitors, and activities this will be one SAFRE not to miss so please mark your calendar for that week. We look forward to a great week of fellowship, education and seeing what's new and innovative in apparatus, technology, and equipment for the fire service and our first responders.

- **Summit**
 - We currently plan on hosting a Summit Tuesday again this year this year like we did last year. This will include the Board members from the NCSFA, NCAFC's, and the Boards from all three regional associations (Western, Eastern, and Piedmont). It will also include representatives from the Fire Marshal's Association and OSFM. More will be provided as we get nearer to the Date.

- **VFIS Member Family Assistance Program**
 - When we changed insurance carriers the old FRAP program went away, but we have a new assistance program to help enable personnel and their families to resolve personal and work-related issues to maintain health and wellness. Posters have gone out to all departments listing the new number **(866) 349-5579**. This combined with our PTS assistance program for therapy and counseling provides some assistance to those struggling with emotional and stress issues.

- **NCSFA Historian Work**
 - Our Statistician, Dennis Pressley, has continued work under the new responsibility of Historian, as predicated by the bylaw change in 2018. This will be an annual update, so we don't have to catch up in the future if we produce another history. There may also be some special historical articles related to the history of the NCSFA.

NCAFC – Earl Withers III

- **NCAFC Mid-Winter Conference**
 - Mid-winter conference wrapped the beginning of February – thank you to all that attended. Congratulations to our award winners:
 - Career Chief – Michael Hill; Fayetteville FD
 - Volunteer Chief – Steven McLendon; Wesley Chapel VFD
 - Career Officer – Joshua Connell; Tryon FD
 - Volunteer Officer – Sean Johnson; Stoney Point VFD
 - 2025 Conference will be in Concord.

- **NCAFC Fire Prevention School**
 - The NCAFC, NC Department of Insurance and Cape Fear Community College hosted the annual Fire Prevention school at Carolina Beach March 18 – 22, 2024. Over 150 students participated in the course, thanks to all departments who sent someone.

- **Beneficiary Cards**
 - Beginning in June of this year (2024) the NC Association of Fire Chiefs will no longer keep beneficiary forms on file for the Accidental Death and Dismemberment Policy. These beneficiary forms should remain on file at your respective departments along with other policy information. The preferred form has been emailed out to all members. If you have any questions or concerns, please email the NCAFC Executive Director.

- **OSHA Revision**
 - The Board of Directors of the NC Association of Fire Chiefs would like to encourage all North Carolina Fire/Rescue Departments to closely monitor and comment on the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) proposed new safety and health standards, titled “Emergency Response,” to replace the existing “Fire Brigades Standard” 1910.156. This would now cover Emergency Response Organizations (ERO’s), which are fire departments. The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for the “Emergency Response Standard” was **published in the Federal Register** on February 5, with the public comment period open until May 6. In some states public agencies are not required to meet this standard, but in NC, since we are an OSHA state, public agencies are not exempt.
- **Human Resources Workshop**
 - The NCAFC will host a Human Resources for non-profits workshop on April 30, 2024, in conjunction with the Piedmont Triad Regional Council at their Kernersville NC Campus. Limited seats are still available, Contact the NCAFC Executive Director for any details.

NCOSFM – Davie Summey

- **Fire Safety Report: 2023 North Carolina Fire Fatalities**
 - In 2023, NC witnessed 146 fire-related deaths, showing a slight decrease from the previous year. This highlights ongoing challenges in fire safety across the state. The report revealed 7 fatalities from vehicle fires, stressing the need for comprehensive safety education. Alarmingly, 40 fatal fires occurred between 1-2 a.m. over a four years’ time span, indicating the necessity for heightened awareness during these times. Harnett County recorded the highest number of fire fatalities in 2023, with Guilford County showing the highest on a three-year average. Individuals aged 50-64 accounted for 41 deaths, emphasizing the importance of fire safety education for at-risk populations.
- **NC High School Firefighter Challenge**
 - We are thrilled to announce the upcoming NC High School Firefighter Challenge, an opportunity for high school students across our state to immerse themselves in a week-long fire and rescue training program nestled in the beautiful mountains of NC. This annual program, being held June 17-21, 2024, in Weaverville, invites high school students currently enrolled in a High School Fire Tech Program or Junior Firefighter Program in NC to participate. It's a chance for young minds to experience firsthand the challenges and rewards of the firefighting profession.
- **NC Electrical Institute**
 - The 95th Annual NC Electrical Institute is an educational program hosted by OSFM, the State Board of Examiners of Electrical Contractors, and the NC Electrical Inspectors Association that aims to establish consistent application of electrical construction standards and practices, promoting uniformity and public safety. The upcoming institute will be held April 16 – 17, 2024 at the Hilton Raleigh North Hills, 3415 Wake Forest Road, Raleigh, NC 27609.
- **Grants**
 - Announcements regarding the tire grant scheduled for April 16th and the Fire Grant set for May 15th are on schedule. However, the Standalone Rescue Squad Grant has been postponed pending further clarification from the General Assembly on qualifying criteria. Furthermore, the division is committed to enhancing transparency and accessibility by updating ratings classes online for all types of surveys in the coming months.

- **NC Emergency Training Center**
 - We are thrilled to announce that we're breaking ground on the North Carolina Emergency Training Center! This groundbreaking marks a significant milestone for us as we strive to provide top-notch training opportunities for our State. Construction of the NC ETC is slated for completion in 2025, and this facility will enhance capabilities to offer training in critical areas such as Swift Water Rescue, Aircraft Firefighting, Urban Search & Rescue, Hazmat, and Fire Investigation Technician courses.

- **Spring 2025 NC Breathing Equipment School/Firefighter Survival School**
 - Secure your spot for the Spring 2025 NC Breathing Equipment/Firefighter Survival School! Pre-registration is a must! Don't miss out, as spots fill up fast through Gaston College's lottery system. Registration for the March 2025 class opens on May 1st, 2024, at 8 am EST, closing on May 15th, 2024, at 8 am - Limited spots available—only 60 participants per class.

- **Q-School**
 - All certification classes in North Carolina must be taught by a Qualified Instructor. If you are interested in becoming Qualified, learn more on our website.

- **NC Everyone Goes Home Advocate Team**
 - The NC Everyone Goes Home (EGH) Advocate Team is proud to announce its partnership with the National Fallen Firefighter's Foundation and the NC Office of State Fire Marshal. Through this collaboration, the EGH Advocate Team will provide essential classes across the state, focusing on crucial topics such as courage, leadership, and accountability.

- **OSFM Communications Team**
 - We're thrilled to announce the creation of our new Communications Team at OSFM! This is a big step forward in improving how we operate internally and connect externally with the public. Our team is made up of experienced professionals in communications, graphic design, marketing, and public relations. The team will focus on the OSFM website, social media, events, and public information.

- **Smoke Alarm Saturday: June 1, 2024**
 - Mark your calendars for Smoke Alarm Saturday! This one-day, statewide smoke alarm canvassing event aims to raise awareness of the need for working smoke alarms in homes. Fire departments across North Carolina will come together on the first Saturday in June to educate their communities on how to stay safe in the event of a home fire.

- **NC Firefighter Cancer Benefit Program**
 - January 1, 2024, the NC Firefighter Cancer Benefit Pilot Program continued, replacing the former Firefighters' Health Benefits Pilot Program. The OSFM will now manage the program directly, eliminating reliance on private insurance. OSFM has partnered with Co-Ordinated Benefit Plans LLC to administer the program, ensuring oversight remains with the OSFM. Key features of the program include reimbursement of up to \$12,000 for eligible firefighters' out-of-pocket medical expenses related to cancer diagnoses. Additionally, a lump sum benefit of \$25,000 will be provided for each cancer diagnosis, with a maximum cumulative benefit of \$50,000. OSFM will continue to work with the Associations and the GA on providing a permanent benefit program.

➤ **NC Safe Kids Activities**

- Mark your calendars for a series of important events aimed at enhancing safety and well-being in North Carolina. From April 22 to 25, the NC Traffic Safety Conference will gather experts to discuss strategies for safer roads. On April 27, Brunswick County will host a Smoke Alarm Blitz in partnership with the Red Cross, followed by National DEA Drug Take Back Day. Safe Kids Week will take place from May 6 to 10, focusing on child safety education and awareness. Then, from May 13 to 16, the Safe Kids NC Conference and 30th Anniversary Celebration will mark three decades of promoting child safety.

➤ **AFFF Updates**

- AFFF Division is gearing up for a proactive approach in managing its inventory and addressing environmental concerns with the initiation of the Take Back program this summer. In preparation, the team is diligently collecting current inventory data for 2024 and coordinating logistics for warehousing and disposal of foam. They are actively engaging with departments to gauge interest and participation in the program.

NVFC – Quentin Cash

➤ **Reauthorization AFG/SAFER Grants**

- Unfortunately, this is still a fluid issue currently. The money in the Senate’s proposed budget was not what was asked for, and numerous other agencies are working legislators on the issue. Please let them know when you visit Capitol Hill during CFSI to fully fund AFG/SAFER.

➤ **OSHA Proposed Ruling**

- NVFC hosted an online seminar on March 14 with guests Dave Denniston, Joe Maruca, and Bruce Lundegren. We had a record-breaking 768 attendees, and the comments and questions came in fast and furious. The NVFC also put together a survey to collect data on the potential impact of the OSHA rule. This has launched nationally along with a guide to help departments formulate their comments. You are welcome to get a jump start on the survey here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FK385PL>. Ideally, the NVFC would like you to fill this out with your department in mind, however, you can also fill it out from a state association perspective as best as you.

➤ **Register for the NVFC Training Summit (Buffalo, NY)**

- The last deadline to apply for an NVFC Training Summit travel stipend is **April 1**. *Directors are eligible to apply for this final round*, which grants up to \$800 to use toward travel expenses and the registration fee. Apply at <https://nvfc.swoogo.com/2024nvfcsummit/stipends>. If you plan to attend (with or without a stipend), we recommend registration now, as seats are filling up fast.

➤ **Helmet Giveaway**

- MSA Safety has partnered with the NVFC to award four personalized MSA Cairns® 1836 Fire Helmets to NVFC members in 2024. There will be four entry periods, with one recipient randomly selected after each entry period. The [first entry period](#) is now open through April 30.

➤ **Volunteer Recruitment**

- National Volunteer Week is April 21-27, and local fire and EMS departments can use this time to recruit new volunteers. The NVFC’s [Make Me A Firefighter campaign](#) has resources to help. Departments can post their opportunities through the national database, create customized recruitment materials, access ready-to-use PSAs, and find more resources. Best of all – it’s free!

- **Corporate Partners**
 - We continue to attract and keep the most amazing corporate partners. The NVFC is continuing with support from **Anheuser Busch** for emergency drinking water. It has also partnered with **Amazon** and **Telsa** for some event sponsorship. The NVFC has also recently teamed up with **Nutella** for the Nutella Stacks giving back program.
- **[Helpline Video](#)**
 - Shout out to our friends at Fire Department Coffee (FDC) and FDC rep and social media influencer, Jason Patton, who filmed a video for the NVFC promoting the NVFC First Responder Helpline.
- **Jones & Bartlett**
 - New partnership with Jones and Bartlett in which NVFC will provide subject matter experts to aid with the review of a new guide on Fundamentals of Firefighter Skills for Fire Department Support Personnel that will meet and exceed the intent of NPFA 1010, 2024 Edition Standard on Professional Qualifications for Firefighters. The final textbook will be co-logged with NVFC.
- **Pipeline Safety**
 - April is National Safe Digging Month, and now is a good time to remind responders of resources available through the NVFC and PHMSA's [Fire Department Pipeline Response, Emergency Planning, & Preparedness \(FD PREPP\) initiative](#). This includes a toolkit for first responder organizations and on-demand courses available in the NVFC Virtual Classroom.
- **Wildfire Preparedness**
 - Wildfire Community Preparedness Day is May 4, and the entire month of May is designated as National Wildfire Awareness Month. Departments can use that time to conduct home safety assessments to help make their communities more fire adapted and better prepared before the next wildfire. April is the perfect time to get ready by using the training and resources available from the NVFC and U.S. Forest Service's [Wildland Fire Assessment Program](#).
- **World Fire Congress**
 - The inaugural 2024 World Fire Congress is on May 6-8, 2024. This historic event will be held in Washington, DC to establish a global fire service leadership network dedicated to supporting and strengthening the fire service around the world. The collaborative program will give an opportunity for top national fire officials to meet, discuss, and seek solutions to shared challenges. The main themes of the Congress include Structure Fire and Wildfire | Firefighter Health & Safety | Energy Transition Fire Risk.
- **April 15-20 | [FDIC International](#) Tradeshow | Indianapolis Indiana:** Visit NVFC at booth 13016!
- **Upcoming Events**
 - The NVFC is hosting the following online events in the coming weeks.
 - [Webinar: Wildland – It Knows No Boundaries](#), May 1 at 2pm ET

North Carolina Fallen Firefighters' Association – Rick Wood and Chris Hicks

➤ **2024 Memorial**

- The 19th Annual NC Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service will be held May 10th and 11th 2024 in Nash Square downtown Raleigh. The services will begin at 1pm, with the Walk of Honor by the families at 1245.
- Due to construction in the area and the City of Raleigh's current ban on parades that include vehicles, there will NOT be a parade of LODD Fire apparatus the morning of Saturday May 11th. Apparatus will be brought in prior to the memorial service and placed around Nash Square as a static display. Our normal set up around Nash Square will change due to new construction going on at the old Raleigh Police Headquarters location. The actual Memorial Service itself will not be affected and will proceed as normal starting at 1300 hours.
- Friday Evening on the 10th, we will still hold the Family Survivors Dinner at Raleigh Station 1 across South Dawson Street from Nash Square followed by a candlelight service at the Memorial starting at 8pm.
- Honor Guards, Department Personnel and Pipe and Drum Personnel are strongly encouraged to attend. Pipers and Drummers wishing to participate can contact Adam Moore at (336)590-2009. Honor Guards and Fire Service personnel wishing to participate in the memorial service can contact Rick Wood at (828)674-1899.
- Surviving Families from past years are always welcomed and encouraged to come back each year to meet the new families and to aid and support. Surviving Family Members can contact Kathy Guyer-Martin at (910)-388-7464.
- Nine (9) inductees will be honored and inducted into the Memorial this year. They are as follows:
 - Milton Beach III -Oak City
 - James W. Goudelock - Dallas
 - Jeremy M. Klemm – Durham
 - David S. Holmes - LaGrange
 - Davis S. Merritt- Durham/White Cross
 - Ricky D. Allen – Conover
 - Scott W. Hinson – Concord
 - J. Sorrell Thomas - Concord
 - Dewayne Fender - Asheville
- Hotels in and around the area are filling up quickly. Departments and Personnel wishing to attend this year's Memorial Service need to make arrangements as soon as possible.

➤ **Memorial Expansion**

- The Memorial Expansion Project is ongoing. The committee is continuing to work with the City of Raleigh, designers, and others to proceed forward with our expansion plans to add additional tablets and remain within the footprint of the Memorial circle in Nash Square. Inquiries or those wishing to assist in sponsorship for the Memorial Expansion, please Contact Jeffrey Shaw, Eastern Regional Director, at (252) 532-2648.

➤ **NCFFF Support**

- The NCFFF provided support and assistance to the Lexington and Denton Fire Departments the first week of April for the services of Captain Ronnie Metcalf. Please keep the Metcalf family and the firefighters he served with in your thoughts and prayers as the move forward.

➤ **NCFFF Merchandise**

- The NCFFF Merchandise Trailer has been to several fire schools and events throughout the state, and we have several more scheduled throughout the year. The NCFFF appreciates the continued support, assistance, and sponsorships we receive as we work to honor and remember our fallen.

➤ **Social Media**

- Our social media platforms and website is being updated continuously and please follow us to stay up to date with events and information.

➤ **Email Contact**

- Please feel free to reach out to any of the Foundation Board members if you have any questions or need any information or if we can be of assistance. Our direct emails are up and running and of course feel free to contact your Regional Representatives if needed.
 - Rick Fleming, President@NCFFF.onmicrosoft.com
 - Mike Brown, 1stVicePresident@NCFFF.onmicrosoft.com
 - Rick Wood, 2ndVicePresident@NCFFF.onmicrosoft.com
 - Kathy Guyer-Martin, Secretary@NCFFF.onmicrosoft.com
 - Lisa Welch, Treasurer@NCFFF.onmicrosoft.com
 - Dana McKim, Chaplain@NCFFF.onmicrosoft.com
 - Kevin Davis, Marketing@NCFFF.onmicrosoft.com
 - Jeff Harkey, PIO@NCFFF.onmicrosoft.com
 - Don Hussey, Board1@NCFFF.onmicrosoft.com
 - Bryan Southard, Board2@NCFFF.onmicrosoft.com
 - Jerry Long, Board3@NCFFF.Onmicrosoft.com
 - Dennis Mathney, Western1@NCFFF.onmicrosoft.com
 - Chris Hicks, Western2@NCFFF.onmicrosoft.com
 - David Swain, Piedmont1@NCFFF.onmicrosoft.com
 - Tim O'Loane, Piedmont2@NCFFF.onmicrosoft.com
 - Jeffrey Shaw Eastern1@NCFFF.onmicrosoft.com
 - Kevin McDonald, Eastern2@NCFFF.onmicrosoft.com
 - Mike Williams, OSFM@NCFFF.onmicrosoft.com
 - Adam Moore, Piper@NCFFF.onmicrosoft.com
 - Glen Conley, NCFS@NCFFF.onmicrosoft.com
 - Board@NCFFF.onmicrosoft.com

North Carolina Fire Marshals' Association – Amy Flieg

- **Upcoming Training**
 - Youth Fire Setter (NFA) – April 29 – May 4, Winston Salem
 - Existing Building Code (DOI) – May 17, Asheville
 - FLSE 2 (hybrid) – May 20-31, Cleveland Community College
 - UL Energy Storage Systems – July 18
 - 1st Annual Fall Conference & Seminar – November, Greensboro
 - Next Meeting
 - May 21, 2024, 13:00, Hickory

- **Smoke Alarm Canvas Day**
 - Saturday, June 1, 2024

- **New Codes**
 - Still waiting on Legislative Rules & Review commission approval
 - Target effective date of January 1, 2025
 - Working on new standard courses to reflect changes/new material.
 - Q board is making a few changes to the inspection levels – level 1 no new construction, moving all F & S to level 2 and changes courses/tests to reflect that

- **Scholarships**
 - Accepting applications through May 1, 2024
 - A \$2,000 scholarship open to current or former member of NCFMA, for themselves or children.
 - More information & application on our website www.NCFMA.com.

- **Legislative**
 - Nothing official but starting to hear rumors about a proposal to change requirements to only 1 interior stairwell for residential buildings up to 6 stories in height.

North Carolina Society of Fire and Rescue Instructors – Bryan Buchanan

- **New Directors/Society Board Members**
 - At the Mid-Winters Chiefs conference, the Board brought a motion to the Society to increase the number of directors from 1 to 2 in each area with the intent to have a director closer to members. The society membership voted in favor of this change and the following are the current Board Members of the Society.
 - President – Ben Hess
 - 1st VP – Brent Gordan
 - 2nd VP – Phil Batts
 - Secretary – Ken Houge
 - West Director – Tom Billig
 - West Director – Bryan Buchanan
 - Piedmont Director – Greg Massey
 - Piedmont Director – Ed Duffield
 - East Director – Donald Burns
 - East Director – Jimmy Strickland
 - Certification Board Rep – Jim Hanline
 - Fire Commission Rep – Harley Cook
 - Past President – Joe Littleton

➤ **Member Benefits**

- Free Accident and Sickness Policy
- Errors and Omission Policy available at a reduced rate of \$215.00 (up this year from \$200.00) Normal price is over \$500.00.
- Networking opportunities with other fire and rescue instructors and professionals at special events.
- Scholarships and annual awards are presented yearly.
- Reminder that you can order many of your certification manuals and other fire manuals at a reduced rate through the Society.

➤ **Website**

- We are currently working on revamping our website and looking at getting an app like the other associations have or are developing.

20:16 – OSHA Planned Revisions To Fire Department Standards

- NCSFA Deputy Director Ed Brinson and NVFC representative Quentin Cash spoke about the proposed revisions to the OSHA 1910.156 Fire Brigade Standard. Fire Departments are encouraged to read the proposed revisions. These revisions could have an impact on all departments. If you have any questions about the proposed revisions, please contact the NCSFA office.

20:45- Old Business

1. Meeting Dates 2024

- July 10, 2024 – Waynesville Fire Department (**Meeting date has changed**)
- October 16, 2024 – Bills Creek Fire Department
 - **The Southeastern Association of Fire Chiefs Leadership Conference is being held in Atlanta Georgia July 16-18, 2024. NC Fire Chief Donnie Hall will be ascending to the position of president of the SEAFCA. President Withers and others from NC will be in attendance for this event. The WNCFA board along with the host department for the July meeting has moved the meeting ahead one week.**

20:50 - New Business

1. Officer/Board Positions For 2025

- President Withers has appointed a nominating committee consisting of four past-presidents of the WNCFA to accept nominations for the office of 2nd Vice President and the office of Foothills Director. Any member of the WNCFA who is no less than 21 years of age and in good standing with the association may be nominated for the above positions. Members must contact anyone of the nominating committee members by July 1, 2024. The following past presidents will be the nominating committee:
 - Shane LaCount – slacount@moorevillenc.gov.
 - Robert Griffin – r.griffin@edneyvillefire.com.
 - Todd McMurry – pvfd1288@yahoo.com.
 - Brian Piercy – bpiercy1115@gmail.com.

2. Next Meeting

- July 10, 2024
- Waynesville Fire Department (Haywood County)
1022 North Main Street
Waynesville, NC 28786

Meeting adjourned at 21:10

Submitted: Secretary Anthony Penland (Posted to website on 4/24/2024) (E-Mailed out on 4/25/2024)