

WNCAF Quarterly Meeting  
Charles Mack Citizen Center  
Mooresville Fire Department  
January 17, 2024

18:31 – President LaCount called the January quarterly meeting to order with 117 members, representing 16 counties, present.

President LaCount introduced Mooresville Fire Department Chief Curt Deaton (WNCAF Past President), who welcomed the association to Mooresville and Iredell County.

Invocation was given by: Mooresville Battalion Chief Chris Thompson.

Pledge of Allegiance: Mooresville Battalion Chief Chris Thompson.

Meal Sponsor was Atlantic Emergency Solutions. Mike Turner, Regional Vice President of Sales, thanked members for their service. Mr. Turner also stated that Atlantic has opened up a service center in the western part of the state. The location is 20 Fairmont Road, Candler, NC 28715. Meal prepared by Smoke Pit Catering.

19:11- Meeting reconvened.

President LaCount announced the 2023 Chief Officer and Firefighter/Company Officer of the Year:

Volunteer Chief of the Year: Matt Kanupp, Dallas Fire Department  
Company Officer/Firefighter: Roger McCarthy, Hankins Northfork Fire Department

First Vice-President Earl Withers presented a fire axe to President LaCount on behalf of the association for his service as president of the WNCAF.

19:20 - Past-President Robert Griffin gave the oath of office to the 2024 board members.

**President Withers recognized the 2024 WNCAF Officers**

- President Earl Withers III – Dallas Fire Department
- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Bryan Buchanan – The Upper Hominy Fire Department
- 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

**19:22 – Treasurer’s/Secretary’s Reports**

Treasurer Dean Coward presented the treasurer’s report. Curt Deaton moved seconded by Davey Summey to accept the treasurer’s report as presented. Motion Passed.

The October meeting minutes were emailed out to the association on October 26, 2023 and posted to the website on October 24, 2023. Quentin Cash moved seconded by Andy Webster to accept the secretary’s report as emailed and posted to the website. Motion Passed.

## 19:25 – Agency Reports

### NCSFA – Tim Bradley

#### ➤ **Relief Fund**

- Last year continued to be an extremely active year for relief fund usage and approval. Last year continued to be an extremely active year for relief fund usage and approval. **We handled 602 requests as opposed to 566 requests in 2022, for a total of \$2,950,273.19.** That was a **\$359,222.00 increase over 2022.** The highest type of requests was supplemental insurance followed by supplemental retirement pay.
- 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. Several departments with investment accounts exceeded their maximum this year due to increased investment results, so monitor your accounts for growth rather than relying on the usual balance.

#### ➤ **Scholarships and Grants**

- Scholarships opening will be delayed for 2024. We have several IT changes that need to be made in the applications for the changes to NFPA Certification requirements.
- 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.
- The electronic submission due date for the scholarship and grant applications is March 15, but we will extend that date due to the delay in opening.

#### ➤ **Legislation**

- Legislative Priorities For 2023/2024 Session
  - In late 2022 the NCSFA and the NCAFC's held a joint Legislative Committee meeting to discuss legislative priorities for the current 2023/2024 session. The short session begins in late March, and our indication is they will only be in session about 6-8 weeks. We will continue to focus on our established priorities that were not completed in 2023.
  - **Concerns For Short Session**
    - The budget passed and 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. We want to secure the permanent funding source for the future.
- **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:
  - 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.
- **A reminder of our priorities and where they stand 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 has passed the House and may be included in the budget. A potential increase of more is an option, but until the budget is released we won't know much more. 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.
  - Oppose any legislative increase in use or sell of fireworks. **The Fireworks bill introduced did not make crossover.**
- Federal Legislation
  - We continue to Pursue Changes to IRS Regulations that could allow non-profit career firefighters in LGERS.
- Legislative Day
  - Legislative Day has not been scheduled for this year. More information will be coming out in the future as planning proceeds.
- Legislative Tracking Software
  - We have legislative tracking software called Engagifi. If you want to track legislative progress on fire service issues, you can sign up on our website NCSFA.com under Legislation. We currently have about 2,300 advocates signed up.

➤ **BCBS Grants, PTSD and Cancer Screening**

- 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 \$250,000 was to be used to provide assistance to firefighters seeking treatment and assistance with PTSD and mental health issues. An application is available that Chiefs can submit on behalf of their personnel. **To date we have assisted 42 individuals with awards of over \$74,000.**
- We also received a grant from BCBS (\$200,000) for an additional amount to offer grants to volunteer departments to be used for Cancer Screening in December. We plan to offer funding to be used to supplement efforts to provide screening for early detection of cancer. More information will be coming out in the near future on how to apply for these grants.

➤ **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.
- On-line registration will be available in the next couple of weeks. 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.

➤ **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.

**NCAFC – Earl Withers III**

➤ **NCAFC Mid-Winter Conference**

- The annual NCAFC mid-winter conference will be in Concord, NC January 29 – February 2, 2024.
- The trade/vendor exhibition is sold out and we look forward to a great educational program and our keynote speakers will be in our morning sessions on Wednesday and Thursday.
- On Thursday morning we will also recognize the class of 2023 Lifetime members. The banquet on Friday evening will recognize the Fire Chiefs and Fire Officers of the Year.

➤ **NCAFC Fire Prevention School**

- The school will be back in Carolina Beach March 18 – 23, 2024.
- All sessions are filled, and the host hotel is full. If you would like to be on the stand-by list please contact the Fire Prevention School Coordinator, Braxton Tanner.

➤ **NCAFC Recruitment and Retention**

- Grants to assist North Carolina Volunteer Fire Departments with their initiatives on recruiting and retaining members have been awarded and there will be a meeting at the mid-winter conference in reference to the grant and updates on initiatives and programs associated with the grants.

➤ **NCAFC License Plate**

- License plate ordering information can be found on our website [www.ncafc.com](http://www.ncafc.com).
- Keep in mind that portions of the plate purchase and renewals come back to the NC Association of Fire Chiefs to assist with educational programs.

**NCOSFM – Brian Taylor**

➤ **OSFM Changes**

- The Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM) is an independent agency of the Department of Insurance (DOI).
- OSFM is still under the umbrella of the DOI.
- Brian Taylor is the state fire marshal.

➤ **Grants**

- Fire Grant
  - Application Period is open. Deadline for submittal is March 1, 2024.
  - Maximum Cap on the fire grant is \$30,000.00.
  - Eligibility requirements and applications can be found at [www.ncosfm.gov](http://www.ncosfm.gov).
- Tire Replacement Grant
  - Application Period is open.
  - One Million Dollars has been appropriated for the replacement of tires.
  - Maximum Cap on the tire grant is \$10,000.00.
  - Eligibility requirements and applications can be found at [www.ncosfm.gov](http://www.ncosfm.gov).

## NVFC – Quentin Cash

### ➤ **2024 Training Summit**

- Registration is open for the National Volunteer Fire Council's (NVFC) [2024 Training Summit](#), taking place June 21-22 in Buffalo, NY. This signature conference, which celebrates its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, provides an opportunity for firefighters and EMS providers to participate in valuable classroom training, idea sharing, and networking. Three learning tracks will focus on responder health and safety, volunteer recruitment and retention, and emergency service leadership.
- The Summit includes two days of classroom-based breakout sessions with nationally known instructors, keynote speakers, general sessions, networking events, and a vendor expo. The agenda features a selection of 18 courses relating to critical topics impacting the volunteer emergency services, with a focus on physical and behavioral health, safety considerations during different types of response and training, recruiting new volunteer responders, best practices for retaining volunteers, and leadership. [View agenda](#).
- While the Training Summit is a [great value](#), the NVFC recognizes that cost can be a challenge. To remove this barrier and help offset the costs, [stipends are available](#) that reimburse up to \$800 of conference-related expenses, including hotel, airfare/mileage/transportation, and the event registration fee. To be eligible for a stipend, you must be a current member of the NVFC. Not a member? Join for just \$21 at [www.nvfc.org/join](#).
- The conference will be held at the Hyatt Regency Buffalo Hotel and Conference Center. The hotel is in historic downtown Buffalo, just a short walk, ride, or (free!) streetcar trip to museums, restaurants, and the Canalside waterfront district. As in previous years, the NVFC will offer a networking social event after class concludes on Friday, June 21. The reception will include a vendor area featuring sponsors and partners.
- Learn more about the 2024 NVFC Training Summit, register, and apply for a stipend at [www.nvfc.org/summit](#).

### ➤ **Achievement Awards**

- There is still time to [submit nominations](#) for the NVFC's four national fire service awards recognizing lifetime achievement, health and safety leadership, junior firefighter, and junior firefighter program.
- The nomination deadline is January 19.

### ➤ **Cancer Prevention**

- January is Firefighter Cancer Awareness Month, and the NVFC has free resources available to help responders reduce their risks and protect themselves from harmful exposures.
- This includes the [Lavender Ribbon Report](#) and our new Everyday Heroes video series that highlight best practices for [on the fire ground](#) and [after the incident](#).

### ➤ **Writing Workshop for Resilience**

- Routine exposure to traumatic events can have long-lasting consequences on the wellbeing of emergency responders. Building resiliency and establishing support systems can help mitigate these impacts and better assist responders in need. There are numerous ways to build and sustain resiliency – including writing. The NVFC has partnered with author and first responder Ali Rothrock to [offer a workshop](#) that will show participants how journaling and writing can provide an always-accessible place to express and deepen personal resilience.
- The three-part workshop is for anyone interested in growing and developing the skill of autobiographical writing no matter their level of prior experience. Each class will feature a new theme presented by Ali, discussion about corresponding readings from *Where Hope Lives* and/or *After Trauma* (to be completed outside of the workshop), and writing prompts (also to be completed outside of the workshop). During each live virtual session,

participants will have the option to share their own work and engage in discussion with the group. After the workshop sessions conclude, Ali will give participants individualized feedback and writing prompts to continue their writing practice and growth as an autobiographical writer.

- Participants should be prepared to attend all three of the live virtual sessions. The dates are:
  - Monday, February 12, 2024, 7:00-8:30pm ET
  - Monday, February 26, 2024, 7:00-8:30pm ET
  - Monday, March 11, 2024, 7:00-8:30pm ET
- The cost to participate in this workshop is \$49 per person; NVFC members are eligible for a \$21 discount. Not a member? [Join](#) for only \$21 and take advantage of the discount and a multitude of other benefits all year for the same price as the workshop alone. The cost of the workshop includes:
  - Three facilitator-led live virtual sessions
  - Writing and discussion prompts
  - A copy of Ali's two books, *Where Hope Lives* and *After Trauma*
  - Individualized feedback
- Find out more about the course and register here. Registration is limited and closes January 29.
- About Ali Rothrock
  - Ali W. Rothrock is an author, speaker, and educator who has delivered 500+ presentations nationwide about resilience after trauma and advocating for first responder mental health. As the founder and CEO of On the Job and Off, an online platform dedicated to building more resilient first responders, she draws from her own experience as a volunteer firefighter and emergency medical technician. Ali is also the executive director of First Responders Care, a nonprofit whose flagship course, The C.A.R.E.S. Project, educates first responders on how to recognize and report signs of child abuse, neglect, and trafficking. Ali's first book, *Where Hope Lives*, is a memoir detailing her journey through her first few years in the fire service. Her second book, *After Trauma: Lessons on Overcoming from a First Responder Turned Crisis Counselor* came out in April 2022. Ali has an associate degree in fire science, a bachelor's degree in psychology with an emphasis on crisis counseling, and is currently earning her master's degree in trauma, resilience, and self-care strategies. She moves often with her husband who is in the Air Force.

➤ Upcoming Events

- The NVFC is offering three free, virtual, live training events in January. Suggested social media posts are attached.
  - [Webinar: Staying Strong and Aging Well in the Fire Service](#), January 10 at 2pm ET
  - [Roundtable Talk: Cancer Risk Prevention](#), January 17 at 2pm ET
  - [Webinar: Introduction to Emergency Response for Tesla Vehicles](#), January 24 at 2pm ET

## **NC Fire and Life Safety – Jeanie Moore**

- Educator’s Conference
  - Annual Educator’s Conference will be held February 28-March 1, at Great Wolf Lodge in Concord, NC. Pre-Conference classes include Steps to Safety, train the trainer and FLSE II hybrid class. There is a Fire Marshal’s Track included with ‘s
  - Registration is open on the OSFM website or at NCFLSE website. Cost is \$275 which includes some meals and breaks. Reservations at the conference rate are already filled at Great Wolf. However, rooms are available across the road at Embassy Suites, Homewood suites, Residence Inn, and Courtyard.
  - Raffle is being held with many items that are coming from around the state.
  - WE NEED VENDORS! WE WANT YOU!!!
    - Vendor registration is on conference page with rates and sponsorships explained.
- Award of Excellence
  - Please nominate your department’s Fire and Life Safety Educator, Community Risk Reduction Coordinator, and etc., for an Award of Excellence. AOE’s have 3 categories, Kim Wittig Career award, a Volunteer, and Program award. If you have an educator, or someone in your department that is going above and beyond to educate your community and decrease preventable incidents, then nominate them. Contact me or a Council Member, if you are unsure about how to go about this. Be sure to save community letters, kudos and awards, news articles and pictures of events. These will support your nomination.
  - The last award is the BT Fowler Lifetime Achievement Award. This is for an educator with more than 20 years of service. Many deserving individuals who have devoted their career or majority to FLSE or CRR, have received this award.

## **North Carolina Emergency Management – Karen Hamby**

- State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program Reminder
  - A reminder that the application deadline for FY23 SLCGP Grant Program is rapidly approaching. The application deadline is no later than close of business on 31 January 2024. The application can be accessed <https://www.ncdps.gov/SLCGP>.
- 2024 Emergency Management Basic Academy
  - The 2024 Emergency Management Basic Academy courses will be held in Raleigh at the State EOC on the following dates:
    - L-101 Foundations of Emergency Management: 11-15 March 2024 •
    - L-102 Science of Disaster: 25-27 March 2024 • L-103 Planning: 28-29 March 2024
    - L-146 Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program: 8-9 April 2024
    - L-105 Public Information Basics: 10-12 April 2024
    - More information and registration available on <https://terms.ncem.gov/TRS/>
- ChemLock: Introduction to Chemical Security Training Course, Virtual
  - This course provides an introduction to identifying, assessing, evaluating, and mitigating chemical security risks. This easy-to-understand overview identifies key components and best practices of chemical security awareness and planning to help kick start chemical security discussions at a facility. This course runs 1-2 hours in length and is appropriate for all personnel regardless of their level of involvement with dangerous chemicals.
  - [Register for 8 April 2024 – Noon-2 pm ET](#)

- ChemLock: Secure Your Chemicals Security Planning Training Course, Virtual
  - This course walks through how to create a tailored, scalable security plan that meets the business model and unique circumstances of a facility. Participants will learn the key elements of a chemical security plan and benefit from examples, lessons learned, and best practices. The course runs 2-3 hours in length and is designed to help leadership, facility security personnel, and other applicable personnel understand, develop, and implement a facility security plan.
  - [Register for 6 February 2024 – 2-5 pm ET](#)
  - [Register for 6 May 2024 – Noon-3 pm ET](#)
  - Please share this course information with relevant chemical security stakeholders in your area. To request a special offering of either course for a facility or organization, please fill out the [ChemLock Services Request Form](#).
  - If you have questions about the ChemLock program, please email [ChemLock@cisa.dhs.gov](mailto:ChemLock@cisa.dhs.gov).
  
- Tier2 Submit and CAMEO Data Manager Software Updates Released
  - The official versions of [Tier2 Submit 2023](#) and [CAMEO Data Manager 4.3.0](#) for report year 2023 are now available on the EPA website. See the download pages for a list of specific changes in each program.
  - For questions, review the help topics in the programs or contact the RMP Reporting Center via email ([RMPRC@epacdx.net](mailto:RMPRC@epacdx.net)) or phone (703-227-7650) on weekdays from 8 AM to 4:30 PM Eastern Time. A Tier2 Submit tutorial is also provided on the download page.
  - For more details and to subscribe for future updates, see the official [Tier2 Submit and CAMEO Data Manager Release announcement](#) that was sent to the CAMEO News Service subscribers.

**North Carolina Fallen Firefighters' Association – Dennis Matheny and Chris Hicks**

- **Memorial Expansion**
  - The Memorial Expansion Committee presented a design that would allow the addition of names to the memorial that should last for over the next 100 years. The design stays within the existing memorial circle and would consist of adding a wall with granite tablets on the 4 brick walls surrounding the monument. This design would also include lighting for each new section. Pictures of the design are available for everyone to review. This design would allow for expansion but remain within the footprint of the current memorial circle located in Nash Square. Projected cost for expansion is \$900,000 to 1 million dollars with adjustments.
  
- **Memorial Expansion Sponsorship/Fund Raising Opportunities**
  - In order to proceed with the expansion project, the Foundation is looking for continued sponsors, grants and fundraising opportunities in order to secure funding. Construction on the expansion will not start until funding is secured.
  - We are also looking for sponsors to assist with the Annual Memorial Service held the 2nd weekend in May at the memorial site in downtown Raleigh inside Nash Square.
  - Handouts are available to anyone wishing to assist the Foundation with either, or both, the Memorial Expansion or the Annual Memorial.
  
- **Cruise**
  - World Fun Vacations is putting together a 7 night Cruise to the Eastern Caribbean to benefit the NCFFF. Cruise is set to depart on January 11, 2025. Go to our website or Facebook page for more information.

- The Foundation is also working on a 5 day cruise departing Charleston SC for our Surviving Families departing on November 4th 2024 thru November 9th, 2024. Surviving Families can contact Kathy Guyer-Martin for additional information.

➤ **2024 Memorial Inductees**

- Van Boles - Pinnacle Vol Fire Rescue
- Minton Beach III - Oak City
- James W Goudelock - Dallas Fire
- Jeremy Klemm - Durham Fire
- David Scott Holmes - LaGrange
- David S Merritt - Durham/White Cross FD
- Ricky Dale Allen - City of Conover
- Scott W Hinson - Concord
- J Sorrell Thomas - Concord
- Dewayne Fender – Asheville

➤ **Mid-Winter Conference**

- The NCFFF will be at the Mid-Winter Chief's Conference January 31st thru Feb 2nd. Please stop by our booth and support the Foundation, obtain information on the Memorial Expansion, The Annual Memorial Service in May, the Logistical Support Team, or any information we can provide or assistance we can help with.

➤ **Email Contact**

- NCFFF Board Group email: [Board@NCFFF.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:Board@NCFFF.onmicrosoft.com).
- 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 Fire Marshals' Association**

➤ **Upcoming Training**

- FLSE in Concord Feb 28 2024.
- Youth Fire-setter April 29 in Winston-Salem.
- Fire Marshal 101 course in conjunction with OSFM, will be announcing more spring classes soon, check our website [www.ncfma.org](http://www.ncfma.org)
- Next Meeting: February 22, 2024 Winterville NC.

➤ **New Codes**

- Potential new Code Cycle January 1, 2025. To include all codes with the exception of the Electrical Code.

➤ **Job Openings**

- Many job openings across the state.

## North Carolina Society of Fire and Rescue Instructors – Tom Billings

### ➤ Mid-Winter Conference

- The society will be conducting a general meeting on Thursday February 1, 2024 at the Mid-Winter Conference. The society is training to add regional directors across the state.

## 20:05- Old Business

### 1. Meeting Dates 2024

- 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. 2024 SAFRE Grant

- The association awarded a \$1,500.00 grant to Mountain View Fire Department in Catawba County. This grant will assist with sending department members to the annual joint conference of the NCSFA and NCAFC.

### 2. Educational Scholarships

- The 2024 scholarship applications are open on the website at [www.wncaff.com](http://www.wncaff.com). The WNCAF will award four (4) \$2,000.00 scholarships. All applications must be done online and the last day for submittal is by midnight on March 31, 2024. Eligibility requirements can be found on the association website.

### 3. Additional WNCAF Scholarship

- In accordance with the bylaws the executive board may add an additional scholarship to the yearly scholarships with approval of the membership. The WNCAF usually awards two (2) SAFRE Grants each year. With only one recipient for 2024, the board would like to take the \$1,500.00 that was not used toward a SAFRE grant, add \$500.00 for a total of \$2,000.00 and use that money to award an additional WNCAF Member Scholarship. Todd McMurry moved seconded by Andy Webster to fund an additional education scholarship in the amount of \$2,000.00. Motion Passed.

### 4. Congressional Fire Service Institute (CFSI)

- The CFSI event that is held yearly in Washington DC is an opportunity for fire service personnel around the country to meet with their respective federal representatives to discuss fire service issues. It is legislative day at the federal level. The dates of this year CFSI events are April 29-30, 2024. The NCSFA is sponsoring a table for the annual CFSI dinner and is offering those seats to the three regional boards to send their board members. The executive board has brought this request to the membership in accordance with association bylaws. Jarrod Penland moved seconded by Jay Flynn that the association pay the hotel expense and travel expense for any WNCAF board member who would like to attend. Motion Passed.

### 5. WNCAF Phone App

- The executive board has been working with Fire Department Apps to develop an WNCAF App. There will be a more formal presentation once the design phase is over and we are ready to implement this app for our members.

6. Next Meeting

- April 17, 2024
- Millers Creek Fire Department (Wilkes County)  
5200 Boone Trail  
Millers Creek, NC 28651

Meeting adjourned at 20:30

Submitted: Secretary Anthony Penland (Posted to website on 01/19/2024) (E-Mailed out on 01/19/2024)