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**Piedmont North Carolina Firefighter’s Association**

**Fourth Quarter Membership Meeting**

**October 25, 2023**

**Elkin Fire Department Elkin, NC Surry County**

**Call to order**

President Brian Causey called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

**Welcoming Remarks**

Welcoming remarks were provided by President Causey and Elkin Fire Chief Wilson.

**Introduction of the Board:** President Causey welcomed everyone. He introduced the PNCFA Board of Directors: Brian Causey, President

Scott Hackler, First Vice-President,

Johnny Blythe, Second Vice-President,

Chad Garrett, North Director,

Chris White, South Director,

Steven Roberson, Past President

Ed Brinson, Treasurer.

**Meeting Host/Vendor Comments**

President Causey thanked L & A Emergency Equipment for the meal sponsorship and provided them an opportunity to speak. Lanny Whitaker gave a brief overview of L & A Emergency Equipment and the products and services they have.

President Causey recognized the other vendors that were present for the meeting.

**Prayer**

Chief Chris Langham gave the invocation and blessed the evening meal.

**PNCFA Annual Awards**

President Causey presented the PNCFA Fire and Life Safety Award to Jennifer Livers with the Mebane Fire Department

President Causey present the PNCFA Officer of the Year to Chief Kyle Dizon with the Franklinville Fire Department

**Meeting Minutes**

The minutes from the July 26, 2023, association meeting was presented for approval. Minutes were posted to the PNCFA website. Chirs Davis motioned to approve the minutes. Bradley Dick seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**Treasurer’s Report**

Ed Brinson presented the details of the Treasurer’s report. Copies were distributed to all attendees. Bradely Dick motioned to approve the Treasurer’s report. Chirs Davis seconded the report. The vote was unanimous.

* Saving = $52.58
* Money Market = $25,852.76
* Civic Share = $20,003.12
* Checking = $1.044.05
* Total of all for all accounts $46,952.51

**Old Business**

None

**New Business**

* Commissioner Causey addressed members present regarding pending legislation.
* President Causey presented the two candidates Northern Director Jamie Fore and Charles Holtzman. Both nominees were given 5 minutes to address the members present. Balots were distributed per PNCFA by-laws.

Jamie Fore was elected as Northern Director.

**Agency Reports**

**NCSFA-Tim Bradley & Ed Brinson attached.**

**NCAFC-Brian Causey attached.**

**NCFMA -Bobby Cameron Attached**

**NC IAAI-No report**

**NCFFF-Brian Southard attached.**

**OSFM- Commissioner Causey**

**SEAFC-No report**

**NCFLSE-No report**

**N.C. Community College – No report**

**N.C. Emergency Management – No report**

**NVFC – Steven Roberson attached.**

**Roll call by county.**

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held in Lee County hosted by the Sanford Fire Department on January 24, 2024, beginning at 6:30 PM

**Adjournment**

President Causey adjourned the meeting at 8:30 PM.

**NCSFA Report**

**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 shoot me an email 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 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.

**Legislative Report**

**The budget was released and voted on, and we had several concerns. Regardless of some misleading messaging sent out from another group, the priority for funding cancer has and is our current priority. Please review previous reports we’ve given you since last Fall, or our Legislative Enagifi reports submitted during session to find the facts.**

* 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, who 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, whose 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.

**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.**

**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. 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 or included in the budget.**
* **Revise the Background Check Law for the fire service allowing alternatives for applicants who have lived in NC for five years and exempting junior members. (HB 378)  has passed the House and Senate and has been signed by the Governor . Last Action: Jul 21, 2023 - Ch. SL 2023-104**
* **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.**

**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.

**North Carolina Association of Fire Chiefs Quarterly Report**

October 2023

* 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.
* 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.
* 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.
* 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.
* 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.
* 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.
* 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.

**North Carolina Fire Marshal’s Association Quarterly Report (10/25/2023)**

* Upcoming NCFMA Meeting & Training Events
  + NCFMA Education Committee Mtg- Oct 23
  + NC Summit- November 9th ,2023
  + FLSE Conference Feb. 28-March 1, 2024
  + ERCES- November 2- Greensboro
  + OSFM Fire Fatality Investigation Class- Nov 27-Kinston
  + Close Proximity Fireworks- Oct. 27- Winterville
  + Close Proximity Fireworks- Nov. 3- Hickory
  + Fire Prevention School- March 18-22, 2024
* NCFMA continues to monitor bills, especially those that affect our job. Check out the legislative website for more information!
  + State Budget and effects on DOI & OSFM – still to be determined.
  + 3rd Party plan review and inspections – approved into law.
  + SB 675 - removal of ETJ still pending but still alive
* International Association of Fire Marshals podcast highlighting the North Carolina Fire Marshal’s Association [Episode 3: North Carolina Fire Marshals Association Chapter Highlight - The IFMA Podcast | Podcast on Spotify](https://open.spotify.com/episode/2BMqcmTwWHDgwmgvfTGIt5?si=Upgb6hf9SdKEIMTuPCmj7g&utm_source=copy-link&utm_medium=copy-link&nd=1&_branch_match_id=1229459364652872900&_branch_referrer=H4sIAAAAAAAAA8soKSkottLXLy7IL8lMq9TLyczL1g8NjHRL9kqOMHNOAgD2r3RnIAAAAA%3D%3D)
* For anyone who is part of a Fire Marshal’s office, Fire Prevention Bureau, CRR Program, etc. – are you a member of the NCFMA? If not, please join.
* NCFMA election cycle is currently open. If you are a member, please vote.

NORTH CAROLINA FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS FOUNDATION

PO BOX 144, MOCKSVILLE, NC 27028

(910) 388-7464

[www.ncfff.org](http://www.ncfff.org)

Quarterly Regional Report

October 2023

* The NCFFF will be set up at the NC State Fair in Raleigh beginning October 12th until October 22nd.. Our merchandise booth and members of the Foundation will be set up on the backside of Dorton Arena.
* 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.
* 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.
* Several Fire Schools are still upcoming this year that the Foundation will have our vendor booth and personnel at. Eastern Fire School in October, Cleveland County
* School in November.
* 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 complying 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.
* 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
* 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. for example:
* [President@ncfff.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:President@ncfff.onmicrosoft.com) ,2nd VicePresident@ ncfff.onmicrosoft.com, WesternRegionalDirector1, EasternRegionalDirector2, PiedmontRegionalDirector1, etc……
* The Board will maintain the [Board@ncff.org](mailto:Board@ncff.org) email as a general group email for personnel to contact the Foundation.
* 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.
* Annual Board Meeting will be Nov 3 & 4 at Cleveland Community FD in Salisbury

* NCFFF Board of Directors
* Rick Fleming, President
* Mike Brown, 1st Vice President, Chief of Operations
* Rick Wood, 2nd Vice President, Chief of Services
* Lisa Welch, Treasurer
* Kathy Guyer-Martin, Secretary
* Kevin Davis, Marketing Director
* Dana McKim, Chaplain
* Dennis Mathney, Western Regional Director 1
* David Swain, Piedmont Regional Director 1
* Tim O’Loane, Piedmont Regional Director 2
* Jeffrey Shaw, Eastern Regional Director 1
* Kevin McDonald, Eastern Regional Director 2
* Jerry Long, Board Member
* Bryan Southard, Board Member, Logistics Team OIC
* Glen Coley, NCFS Representative
* Mike Williams, OSFM Representative
* Adam Moore, Piper Liaison
* Jeff Harkey, PIO
* Hannah Fox, IT Coordinator