



PIEDMONT NORTH CAROLINA FIREFIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION

THIRD QUARTER MEMBERSHIP MEETING

JULY 23, 2025

YOUNGSVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT, (FRANKLIN COUNTY)

Call to order

President Johnny Blythe called the meeting to order at 6:40 PM and introduced the Executive Board and recognized Past Presidents in attendance.

Welcoming Remarks

Welcoming remarks were provided by President Blythe and Chief Brian Christmas with the Youngsville Fire Department.

Meeting Host/Vendor Comments

President Blythe recognized and thanked C.W. Williams for the meal sponsorship.

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

- L&A Emergency Equipment
- Atlantic Emergency Solutions
- D. R. Reynolds
- CIVIC
- VFIS
- F500/Hazard Control Technologies

Prayer

Chris Langham gave the invitation and blessed the evening meal.

Meeting Minutes

The minutes from April 23, 2025, the association meeting was presented for approval. Minutes were posted to the PNCFA website. Chris Davis motioned to approve the minutes. Brian Christmas 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. Chris Davis motioned approving the Treasurer's report. AC Rich seconded the report. The vote was unanimous.

- Saving = \$53.07
- Money Market = \$33,258.86
- Civic Share = \$20,003.12
- Checking = \$1,089.96
- Restricted fund Joel Calahan (\$7,500.00)
- Total of all for all accounts \$46,905.01

Old Business

- **None**

New Business

➤ **Northern Director Position**

- President Blythe informed the membership Jenna Daniel with the Summerfield Fire District has submitted a letter of interest for the Northern Director position.
- President Blythe opened the floor for additional nominations. Ed Brinson moved for nominations to close, Brian Causey seconded. Motion passed.
- President Blythe announced Jenna Daniel is the incoming Northern Director by acclimation.

➤ **Treasurer Position**

- President Blythe informed the membership that no nominations were received for the position of treasurer.
- President Blythe opened the floor for nomination. Brian Causey nominated Tommy Cole, Wayne Delancy seconded. Ed Brinson moved for nominations to close and AC Rich seconded. Motion passed.
- President Blythe announced Tommy Cole is the incoming Treasurer by acclimation.

Roll call by county.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held in Rockingham County hosted by the Bethany Volunteer Fire Department on October 22, 2025, beginning at 6:30 PM

Adjournment

President Blythe adjourned the meeting at 8:10 PM.

NCSFA 3rd Quarter Report
July 2025

Introduce Past Presidents

Introduce Board

Introduce Staff

Relief Fund Financial Reporting Requirements

The Relief Fund Treasurer's Financial Reporting period opened on July 1st, and the deadline for submitting is midnight on October 31st! Please remind them to begin submitting the report and bank statements on-line within this time-period. Failure to file the report and submittal of bank statements will result in the forfeiture of the department's relief fund monies the following year (N.C.G.S.58-84-40 (c)). Please contact the NCSFA office should you have questions or need assistance with the reporting requirements.

2025 Annual SAFRE Conference and NCSFA Annual Meeting

Mark your calendars! The SAFRE Conference returns to the Raleigh Convention Center from **August 6–9, 2025**, and we can't wait to see you there. This year's theme — **Courage, Commitment, and Community** — perfectly captures the heart of North Carolina's fire service and the incredible first responders who serve it every day.

We've got an outstanding lineup planned, including top-notch classes, hands-on training, and a few new additions: **Thursday afternoon classes** and an **earlier 9am opening of the expo floor** to give you even more time to explore.

Our 2025 **keynote speaker** is Sam Massa, CEO of FireTech by HiViz. Sam brings energy, passion, and firsthand experience — not just as a business leader, but as a firefighter, EMT, and hazmat tech. His dedication to serving both his customers and his community is inspiring, and we know you'll enjoy hearing his story.

The **SAFRE Expo** is officially **sold out** and packed with exciting new exhibitors. As always, you'll find the latest in gear, apparatus, tools, and technology from across the fire service.

Whether you're a SAFRE regular or it's your first time attending, we challenge you to **bring a friend** and help us grow the next generation of fire service leaders. SAFRE is about more than just training — it's about **fellowship, mentorship, and leadership**.

So—what will you learn? What will you share? And who will you meet? **Join us August 6–9, 2025, for SAFRE!**

“Bringing on a New Member”

The NCSFA created a new form to assist Fire Chief's with remembering important things when a new firefighter joins the Fire Department. This form is located on the NCSFA website under rosters, “New Firefighter Checklist”

Bringing on a New Member
Legislative Day

Legislative Day was a great success! There were more than 180 fire personnel from across the state, and a great lineup of speakers as well. Lunch was provided for all attendees by Atlantic Emergency Solutions. The following elected officials took time to stop by and share with the group.

NC Treasurer Brad Briner
Senator Tim Moffitt
Senator Warren Daniel
Senator Todd Johnson
Senator Michael Lazzara
Representative Neal Jackson
Representative Paul Scott
Representative Brian Biggs

(Representative Julia Howard was unable to attend but has always been a fire service champion.)

Fire Service Legislative Day happens in May each year and is an extremely important time to visit with your legislatures. If you have never attended before, please plan to attend as it will give you a great look into how the legislature works in our great state.

NCSFA Board– Recommended By-Law Change

The NCSFA Board's recommended amendments to the Association Bylaws was mailed and posted for review and will be voted on by the membership during the annual conference in August. The primary purpose of the recommended changes in the bylaws is to allow the Senior Regional Director position on the Board, which is the most tenured director, to automatically ascend to the position of 2nd Vice President without an election. Implementing this resulted in several necessary changes to various sections, all aimed at ensuring the Senior Director's automatic ascension to 2nd VP. These changes align with the adjustments made by the NC Association of Fire Chiefs to their bylaws in February of this year.

Cancer Benefit Update

As of June 15, 2025, 485 claims have been filed since the inception of the pilot program in January 2022. Of the 485 filed, 289 have been paid to the total of \$8,804,007. Of the total claims submitted, 287 were volunteers, with the remaining considered non-volunteer. Reasons for denial are the cancer was diagnosed prior to January 1st, 2022 benefit inception date, an ineligible cancer was submitted, or the member was not on the roster of the fire department.

To be eligible for this benefit, it is imperative that you keep retirees on the roster after retirement and record a retirement date.

It is essential that Fire Chiefs keep retirees on their rosters after retirement. This is a requirement of the benefit and ensures coverage for those individuals under the Firefighter Cancer Benefit Program. Starting July 1, 2025, any retiree on the roster who has served 20 years of certified service, whether

active or inactive, will be covered by this benefit for any future cancer diagnosis, for up to ten years after retirement. There are three categories of retirees, with two relating to individuals who are no longer actively responding or certified.

Legislative Report

This year is the long session, the first year of the two-year (2025-2026) session. The legislature has been very busy and we have been tracking several bills that have a direct or indirect affect on the fire service or our emergency services partners. For a full list of current bills and their status, please register on our web page for Engagifi on the legislative banner.

Engagifi

As previously reported, Senate Bill 319 was signed into law by the Governor last year; listed below are the major changes that go into effect this year:

- * It makes the Firefighter Cancer Benefit program permanent, removing the “pilot” status. (Effective July 1, 2025)
- * It makes the initial profit \$37,000. The lump sum benefit is now \$74,000 instead of \$50,000 if an individual has two instances of cancer. (Effective July 1, 2025)
- * It now includes retirees who have retired within the last 10 years. (Effective July 1, 2025). Fire Chiefs must keep retirees on the roster after retirement for eligibility.
- * It provides permanent funding for the cancer benefit program. * It continues to provide funding to the Volunteer Safety Workers Comp program to support and reduce premiums; (Effective July 1, 2025). * It increases the Fire and Rescue Workers Pension Benefits from \$170 to \$175 per month and raises the premium an additional \$5 per month in order to keep the fund sound. (Effective January 1, 2025)

Did You Know.....

Being a volunteer firefighter in North Carolina qualifies you for a significant discount on your Lifetime Resident Hunting & Fishing License. Simply go to our website and fill out the application for approval. Any volunteer who is currently on a roster and has been for the last 5 consecutive years is eligible.

Questions?

NCAFC 3rd Quarter Report July 2025

- The Fall 2025 Executive Development program filled up quickly and a waiting list has been developed. Working with the host, Kernersville FD, we were able to expand the class from 50 to 60 to accommodate more on the waiting list. We will be looking at possibly doing another class in the Spring of 2026.

- Due to hotel renovations, Midwinter 2026 will be May 12th - May 15th at the Embassy Suites in Concord. A call for presenters will go out toward the end of the year. Registration will begin the first of 2026.
- The NC NFA Weekend November 21 - 23. Registration is available on the NCAFC website
- Applications for 2026 CPSE Credentialing scholarships are available until November and available at the NCAFC website.

OSFM 2nd Quarter Report April 2025

Troy Davis representing OSFM

- Building code anticipated to be available in print by July 31st.
- Rating and Inspection introducing a new initiative with 9s departments.
- Grants and Governmental Services:
 - 50/50 and Tire grants will be announced on May 15th.
 - Hurricane Helene grant for \$10,000,000 period April 21 – May 30th.
- Smoke Alarm Saturday will be held June 7th.
- 68 fire fatalities in 2024.
- Safe Kids conference will be held at the Great Wolf Lodge in Concord in May 2025.
- AFFF inventory underway.

SEAFCA Quarter Report April 2025

- No Report

NCFMA 3rd Quarter Report July 2025

- NC Fire Marshal Institute September 15 – 17, 2025 in Guilford County.
- 3rd quarter meeting will be held at SAFRE.
- Discussed laws passed 2025-50 and 2025-36
- Fire Marshal 101 in 2026

NCIAAI 3rd Quarter Report July 2025

- Mtn Fire Summit August 12-14
- Joint Conference October 27-31
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North Carolina Fallen Firefighters Foundation
July 2025

North Carolina Fallen Firefighters Foundation

PO Box 144, Mocksville NC 27028

Main Phone (910) 388-7464

State Regional Report

July 2025

- Preparing for SAFRE exhibit booth and memorial

This years list of inductees are:

Name	Department	Date
<u>Darrell Wayne Woodard</u>	Savannah Fire Dept.	12/29/2020
<u>John Alexander Bowen</u>	Fayetteville Fire Dept.	4/16/2022
<u>Brandon Scott Carver Yaeger</u>	Bethany Fire Dept.	5/31/2022
<u>Joshua Nelson McLamb</u>	Salemburg Vol. Fire Dept.	6/7/2022
<u>Jeffrey Marc Lyons</u>	City of Asheville Fire Dept.	11/16/2022
<u>Anthony Bryant Mauldin</u>	Fuquay-Varina Rural Fire Dept.	11/26/2022
<u>Troy Carter Thompson</u>	Seven Springs Vol. Fire Dept.	10/4/2023
<u>Jason Eugene Moody</u>	Maggie Valley Fire & Rescue	10/26/2023
<u>Nathan Clark Burgess</u>	Raleigh Fire Dept.	11/12/2023
<u>Thomas Minter Lee</u>	Kill Devil Hills Fire Dept.	2/19/2024

Ronnie Buren Metcalf	City of Lexington Fire Dept.	3/29/2024
Thomas Ray Patterson	Louisburg Fire Dept.	9/12/2024
Tony Ray Garrison	Garren Creek Fire Dept.	9/27/2024

North Carolina Fallen Firefighters Contact List		
Name	Phone	NCFFF Email
Rick Fleming	704-754-7257	President@NCFFF.onmicrosoft.com
Mike Brown	252-450-5876	1stvicepresident@NCFFF.onmicrosoft.com
Rick Wood	828-674-1899	2ndvicepresident@NCFFF.onmicrosoft.com
Kathy Guyer-Martin	336-416-1752	Secretary@NCFFF.onmicrosoft.com
Lisa Welch	704-796-5862	Treasurer@NCFFF.onmicrosoft.com
Kevin Davis	910-358-1497	Marketing@NCFFF.onmicrosoft.com
Dana McKim	336-817-2676	Chaplain@NCFFF.onmicrosoft.com
Jeff Harkey	919-449-5148	PIO@NCFFF.onmicrosoft.com
Don Hussey	919-795-8287	Board1@NCFFF.onmicrosoft.com
Bryan Southard	336-469-5421	Board2@NCFFF.onmicrosoft.com
Jerry Long	704-437-2188	Board3@NCFFF.onmicrosoft.com
Glen Coley	336-302-0661	NCFS@NCFFF.onmicrosoft.com
Adam Moore	336-590-2009	Piper@NCFFF.onmicrosoft.com
Mike Williams	919-368-0643	OSFM@NCFFF.onmicrosoft.com
Dennis Matheny	828-287-6854	Western1@NCFFF.onmicrosoft.com
Chris Hicks	828-320-5781	Western2@NCFFF.onmicrosoft.com
Jonathan Southard	336-469-8447	Piedmont1@NCFFF.onmicrosoft.com
Tim O'Oloane	910-987-3584	Piedmont2@NCFFF.onmicrosoft.com
Jeffery Shaw	252-532-2648	Eastern1@NCFFF.onmicrosoft.com
Kevin McDonald	910-617-4423	Eastern2@NCFFF.onmicrosoft.com
Chad Simon	919-616-4717	Webmaster@NCFFF.onmicrosoft.com

NCEMA Regional Board Meeting Update

July 2025

Bylaws Change

In March of this year at our spring conference, the NCEMA membership approved a revision to our bylaws. The most significant change was to allow additional members to join the association and hold officer positions. Historically the association and especially the officers were made up solely of County Emergency Managers. As Emergency Management expands, it was only appropriate to expand our membership opportunities. There are now membership categories for active members, corporate members and student members. Anyone actively participating in EM functions is eligible for active membership and allowed to vote and hold office.

Conference

We are currently planning our 2025 Fall Conference. It will be held October 28-30, 2025, in Eastern North Carolina. The exact location will be announced in the next few days and registration will be opened on our website soon.

Legislation

The NCEMA leadership along with the Legislative Committee have continued to watch legislative actions in both Raleigh and Washington this spring.

In Raleigh, we have worked to ensure the autonomy of North Carolina Emergency Management and seem to have been successful. We have also worked to convince lawmakers of the need to eliminate the reliance on federal grant funding to support the Emergency Management Division's workforce and operating budget which in turn affects local budgets. We believe this is especially critical as we navigate unprecedented uncertainty about the future of FEMA.

In DC, we are working to remind our federal lawmakers that every disaster begins and ends locally. We acknowledge that the process that delivers Federal support needs reform, but while reform is needed, a federal framework must be maintained. We continue to stress the point that federal help support local actions, it does not replace them, and we need a federally supported, state managed, locally executed emergency management system.

D. Scott Rogers, Executive Director, NCEMA
executivedirector@ncema.net 252-904-7078

NC Community College Report

July 2025

- TR Wilderness and Machinery and Ag available as non-IFSAC
- FLSE and Hazmat updates forthcoming
- Curriculum to continuing education with fee waiver

NVFC Regional Board Meeting Update

July 2025

DripDrop Donation – For the sixth year, the NVFC and DripDrop have partnered to donate 200,000 sticks of electrolyte drink mix to volunteer fire departments. There is a two-week application period taking place from July 8-22. Volunteer fire departments that meet the eligibility requirements, including having at least one NVFC member, can apply for the chance to receive two cases (200 sticks) of DripDrop to help keep responders hydrated during wildfires, summer heat, long incidents, and more. We'll send out information to share with your audience on July 8.

Firefighter Strong – The 2025 issue of [*Firefighter Strong*](#) is now available. This annual publication is mailed to all volunteer and combination fire departments in the U.S. and is also available digitally. Suggested social media posts are attached. If you would like print copies for an upcoming conference or event, email Lorraine Higgins at lorraine@nvfc.org with your request, including how many copies you need, the date you need them by, and the mailing address.

TIM & EV Training – The NVFC has released new graphics to help promote online traffic incident management (TIM) and electric vehicle (EV) training to help responders prepare for roadway incidents. The graphics are attached along with suggested social media posts routing to the NVFC's [Vehicle Response webpage](#) to find training opportunities. As a reminder, there are also [public-facing social media graphics](#) available for community outreach of safe driving messages, which I shared in the May email.

Recruitment Resources – As you probably already know, the NVFC offers free fire department recruitment resources through our [Make Me A Firefighter campaign](#). Departments can customize recruitment materials, post their volunteer opportunities, access ready-to-use PSAs and graphics, and find training and other tools to boost their volunteer numbers. Please help us get the word out about these resources with the attached article, suggested social media posts, social media graphics, and flyer/ad.

Upcoming Events: The NVFC is hosting the following upcoming online events. Suggested social media posts are attached.

- [Roundtable Talk – Diving Deeper: Fires and Non-Fire Emergencies in Big Box Facilities](#), July 31 at 2pm ET

Recruitment Resources – As you probably already know, the NVFC offers free fire department recruitment resources through our [Make Me A Firefighter campaign](#). Departments can customize recruitment materials, post their volunteer opportunities, access ready-to-use PSAs and graphics, and find training and other tools to boost their volunteer numbers. Below is a step by step information on how it works.

Many local volunteer and combination fire and EMS departments struggle to keep up with staffing demands. Recruiting and retaining volunteers are two of the biggest challenges facing many departments. With limited resources and personnel, it is difficult to create the kind of recruitment campaign that will produce the desired results.

That's where the National Volunteer Fire Council's (NVFC) Make Me A Firefighter campaign comes in. Funded thanks to a SAFER grant from FEMA, the NVFC has done the legwork of creating the materials

and resources for a full-scale recruitment campaign. Departments can simply register for the campaign (it's free!) and begin utilizing the existing content.

To make the most of the campaign and what it has to offer, follow these five simple steps.

Step 1: Sign Up

Register for the campaign for free to get started. Simply go to www.MakeMeAFirefighter.org and enter as a department. From there, click on the Sign Up button and complete the form.

Step 2: Post Your Volunteer Opportunities

Once you've registered, click on the Post a Volunteer Opportunity option to create a listing for your current volunteer needs. It is recommended to create a separate listing for each of your available opportunities, such as Firefighter, EMS Provider, Public Education, and Support Member. That way prospective recruits know about all of the options available and can select the one they are interested in.

Remember to include in the description what the roles of the position are, training that is provided, prerequisites that are needed, benefits of volunteering with your department, and any other vital information prospective volunteers should know.

Once your opportunities are posted, prospective volunteers visiting the MakeMeAFirefighter.org web site will be able to search by zip code to find your opportunity and submit an interest form through your opportunity page.

Step 3: Customize Recruitment Materials

Creating recruitment materials has never been easier. Use the materials generator to find the types of materials you want to create, select the messaging and imagery from the options, and then add your department's logo and contact information. Short on time? You can also select from a range of social media posts and video PSAs that are ready to use as-is.

Important Note: The materials all call back to MakeMeAFirefighter.org, which is why it is important your department creates opportunity listings for the database so that prospective volunteers can find you.

Step 4: Utilize Training and Resources

You will find a variety of additional resources and training available on the site that will further assist in recruiting and retaining volunteers, such as videos, guides, event planning tips, family engagement resources, and a new recruit training track to acclimate the new volunteers that you get.

Step 5: Follow Up

All your outreach efforts are useless if you don't follow up with your volunteer prospects. Make sure to regularly check for new interest forms that come in, and follow up with each one in a timely manner.

Your department does a lot for your community, but success is dependent on the people who volunteer their time to fulfill this mission. The Make Me A Firefighter campaign is designed to make it as easy as

possible to market your department and connect with the community so you can get more volunteers – and keep those you have.

DRAFT