

**Fire and Rescue Commission
OSFM Raleigh Office
April 13, 2021**

Member Attendees:	Phil Welch, Vice Chair	Brian Taylor
	Cloyce Anders	Kevin Gordon
	Robert Poe	Randy Thompson
	Scott Mullins	Andy Thomas
	Freddy Johnson	Josh Smith
	Vernon Massengill	Gary Whitman
Staff Attendees:	Kim Williams	Shannon Bullock
	Brian Wade	Matt Thorpe
	Michael Caviness	Monna Gillespie
	Greg Palmer	Scott Hackler
	Mike Williams	Caitlin Rollins
	Shawn Haynes	

Welcome and call to order – Vice Chair Phil Welch 10:00 AM

Invocation – Ed Brinson

North Carolina Insurance Commissioner/State Fire Marshal Mike Causey welcomed the Fire and Rescue Commission and thanked them for the work they do for the Fire and Rescue Service in North Carolina

Ethics Statement – Phil Welch

Approval of Agenda as presented- Kevin Gordon made a motion to approve the Agenda. Josh Smith seconded. Motion approved.

Approval of August 2020 Minutes – Freddy Johnson made a motion to approve the August 2020 minutes. Robert Poe seconded. Motion approved.

Appointments – Phil Welch

Announcements

Ryan Cole was reappointed to the FRC representing the NC Association of Fire Chiefs.

Randy Thompson was reappointed to the FRC representing the NC Association of County Commissioners.

Appointments

Certification Board nominations:

NC Rescue Association submitted Ken Hogue and Gordon Joyner.

Kevin Gordon made a motion to nominate Ken Hogue to Certification Board. Seconded by Josh Smith. Motion passed.

NC Fire Marshals submitted Alex Collazo and Tony Smart.

Kevin Gordon made a motion to nominate Alex Collazo to Certification Board. Seconded by Josh Smith. Motion passed.

NC Professional Firefighter's Association submitted Josh Smith and Jeff Tracey.

Kevin Gordon made a motion to nominate Josh Smith to Certification Board. Seconded by Scott Mullins. Motion passed.

NCCCS Fire & Rescue Advisory Committee submitted David Bullins and Norman Staines.

Kevin Gordon made a motion to nominate David Bullins to Certification Board. Seconded by Josh Smith. Motion passed.

Workers Compensation Board nominations:

NC State Firefighter's Association submitted Anthony Penland and Scott Rogers.

Kevin Gordon made a motion to nominate Anthony Penland to VSWCF Board. Seconded by Freddy Johnson. Motion passed.

NC State Firefighter's Association submitted Tim Bradley and A.C. Rich.

Kevin Gordon made a motion to nominate Tim Bradley to VSWCF Board. Seconded by Freddy Johnson. Motion passed.

NC Professional Firefighter's Association submitted Jerry Bradshaw and Terry Foxx.

Kevin Gordon made a motion to nominate Jerry Bradshaw to VSWCF Board. Seconded by Josh Smith. Motion passed.

NCCCS Fire & Rescue Advisory Committee submitted Gordon Joyner and Gary Whitman.

Kevin Gordon made a motion to nominate Gordon Joyner to VSWCF Board. Seconded by Robert Poe. Motion passed.

Board Reports

Certification Board Report – Kevin Gordon

Haz Mat Specialty Certification has been discontinued as it doesn't meet the NFPA 1072 standard.

Surf City Fire Department, East Howellsville Fire Department, Winnabow VFD, Morrisville Fire Department, New Salem Fire Department and Gerton Fire Department were approved for Delivery Agency Status.

North Lenoir Fire Department and Wilmington Fire Departments were approved for additional certification levels.

A moratorium was placed on the Delivery Agency Request Process.

Cleveland Community College was approved to deliver hybrid certification programs.

A moratorium was placed on the Delivery Agency Request Process.

Josh Smith made a motion to accept the report.

Seconded by Poe. Motion passed.

Volunteer Workers Compensation Fund - Cloyce Anders

NCVSWCF Financials as of March 2020 reported at June Board Meeting:

Total Cash	\$48,332,202	Last Year	\$40,035,679
Total Liabilities	\$26,359,001		\$25,088,277
Retained Earnings	\$38,091,628		\$29,919,926

CFI Board report – Freddy Johnson

Last meeting was April 7, 2021. The CFI recertification program is being revised.

Applications Reviewed:

22 initial certifications were approved

4 certifications denied

2 initial certifications pending

Kevin Gordon made a motion to approve the report for CFI. Motion seconded by Josh Smith. Motion passed.

NFIRS Update report – Kim Williams

Shared 2019 Interactivate graph from website. 1625 reported out of 1229 (95%). Went from 200 Fire Departments not reporting to 64 for 2019.

Upgrading Image Trend Software to the Elite Version – July 2021

New Business

Instructor Investigation – Kevin Gordon

Instructor lost his credentials. Instructor signed and agreed to the consent order. Instructor has already done everything required in the consent order. Gary Whitman moved to approve the consent agreement and have Chair Harley Cook to sign the consent agreement. Motion seconded by Josh Smith. Motion passed.

Felony Applications – Kevin Gordon

Kevin Gordon moved to table the 3 applications that are pending. The Certification Board and Staff will work to develop a process for applicants who have felonies. Motion seconded by Freddy Johnson. Motion passed.

Agency Reports

OSFM Brian Taylor – NCDOT report – Brian Taylor

Commissioner Causey is returning to normal travel. Employees will be returning to the office full time May 3rd.

A Covid Registry and Cancer Registry have been set up. Smoke Alarms Canvassing will be June 5th. Shannon Bullock has announced her retirement. Brent Heath has been hired to serve as our Governmental Services Liaison.

NC State FF Association report – Ed Brinson – see report attached

NC Association of Rescue and EMS report – Joel Faircloth - see report attached

NC Association of Fire Chiefs report – Kevin Gordon

Midwinter Conference is moving forward with changes.

Wesley Hutchins is replacing Jake Whisnant as the Executive Director.

Derrick Clouston & A.C. Rich up for 2nd Vice President seat.

NC Community College report – Tracy McPherson

Colleges have been continuing with Fire Fighter and EMS training through the Covid Pandemic – virtual & Face to Face.

4 School Directors meetings were conducted in March with more than 200 attending.

Thomas Stiff, III is the new NCCCS President.

Professional Firefighters and Paramedics of NC – Scott Mullins

Cancer Bill – \$25,000 upon diagnosis \$12,00 per year

July 13, 2021 Commission meeting will be held at the Kernersville F.D.

October 12, 2021 – TBD – Western Region

Phil Welch – adjourned the meeting at 11:13 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Monna Gillespie

Attachments

NCSFA 2nd Quarter Report

April, 2021

Introduce Past Presidents

Introduce Board

Introduce Staff

Roster and Relief Fund Board of Trustees Report (BTR)

At the end of the reporting cycle for Certified Rosters and BTR's, January 15th 2021, only 15 fire departments out of 1279 failed to report their rosters, and we had 26 fire departments fail to get their BTR's reported. This was after a huge effort by NCSFA staff to email and call Chief's. Normally by the last day we have to have a major push to find the last 150 or so Chiefs.

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 rostered member. Unless you have an approved Supplemental Retirement Program and Account, that \$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.

Scholarship and Grants

NCSFA Scholarships and grants are now closed for 2021. 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

The combined legislative committee of the NCSFA, NCAFC, and PFFPNC has been meeting and working on legislative initiatives for the current session. You can track all legislative actions by going to ncsfa.com and signing on to Capital Impact, or legislative tracking. You get weekly updates on legislative happenings, and gives us the opportunity to let you know when help is needed on a particular bill. This is the strength of our legislative effort, the ability to keep everyone informed and working together, and to speak as one voice.

This year is the beginning of the 2021/2022 two-year session and is normally referred to as the Long Session. Everything resets and all Bills from previous years go away, and we start all over. Any Bills previously considered for the fire service will have to be re-introduced. This includes federal legislation as well since Congress began a new session this month.

Potential issues for the fire service this year may include:

Cancer Coverage for Firefighters by Insurance Policy. - This is our Number 1 Priority. Currently there is a bill introduced (SB 472) that would increase cancers included in the LODD list, and provide a \$25,000 trust for firefighters diagnosed with cancer to be used for medical expenses. The bill, however, does not include volunteers. Our understanding is this bill will be amended to include volunteers, and our hope is to get it amended to include the provisions of our cancer insurance bill that would also add approximately 16 cancers to the LODD Statutes. Our draft also provides up-front money upon diagnosis of cancer, and out of work pay for up to 36 months. We have suggested several funding options as well.

Continuation of SAR Funding – Some funding was put in the DPS budget last year, but it is non-recurring funds. We'll be seeking funding again this year.

Increase Fire and Rescue Workers Pension and Modernize the Statutes

Property Tax Exemptions for Volunteer Recruitment and Retention

Separation Allowance for Career Firefighters

Blue Lights eligible on Rear of Fire Apparatus

Fireworks Legislation that we would want to oppose

The following are bills introduced during this session that we are tracking. These change day to day. By joining Capital Impact, you will get these updates weekly. I have placed **** beside those of particular interest.

NC Bills Introduced This Far This Session

NC Bills

Here are the North Carolina Bills of interest affecting the fire service that the NCSFA/NCAFC'S legislative committee will be following at this point.

H 0013 Priority Robert Davis Provides Search and Rescue Funds For Regional Teams to DPS
**** 1/28/2021 - House - Ref to the Com on Appropriations, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

H 0025 Monitor James Clampitt Impaired Driving Law Revisions
2/1/2021 - House - Ref to the Com on Judiciary 2, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

H 0036 Support Kelly Hastings Provides penalties for shooting into or pointing a laser at emergency vehicles
**** 3/29/2021 - Senate - Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate

H 0048 Monitor Harry Warren Allows EMS personnel trained to do so to carry weapons during SWAT or similar law enforcement actions if the are embedded in the team.
3/11/2021 - Senate - Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate

H 0052 Support George Cleveland Similar to SB 4 and provides for equal treatment of government retirees on tax exemptions.
2/4/2021 - House - Ref to the Com on Finance, if favorable, State Personnel, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

H 0075 Monitor George Cleveland Gov't Retirees Tax Deduction
2/15/2021 - House - Ref to the Com on Finance, if favorable, State Personnel, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

H 0110 Monitor Bobby Hanig Increase Building Permit Exemption Threshold
3/25/2021 - Senate - Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate

H 0119 Monitor John Bradford Property Tax Relief for COVID Affected Bus
2/23/2021 - House - Ref to the Com on Finance, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

H 0134 Monitor Jeffrey McNeely Second Amendment Protection Act. Allows guns on school property when used as a church.

3/11/2021 - House - Passed 3rd Reading

H 0198 Monitor Jeffrey McNeely Allows certain exceptions to open burning law restrictions, and changes overtime pay requirements for forestry personnel on wildland fires.

3/10/2021 - House - Re-ref Com On Judiciary 2

H 0203 Monitor John Faircloth Extends deadline for certification of Telecommunicators

3/31/2021 - Senate - Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate

H 0213 Monitor Patricia Hurley Allows use of electronic devices with GPS such as phones to be used in search situations.

**** 3/4/2021 - House - Ref to the Com on Judiciary 3, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

H 0255 Monitor Charles Graham Funds/New Pembroke Ladder Fire Truck

3/11/2021 - House - Ref to the Com on Appropriations, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

H 0291 Oppose Jeff Zenger Bldg. Plan Approval - Certain Commercial Prop

**** 3/15/2021 - House - Ref to the Com on Regulatory Reform, if favorable, Local Government - Land Use, Planning and Development, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

H 0315 Monitor Allen McNeill Makes various changes to the Arson laws, including adding NCDOTI to investigations and prohibits fire departments from allowing new members volunteer or career with a criminal history of arson or unlawful burning, and requires background checks.

**** 3/17/2021 - House - Ref to the Com on Judiciary 3, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

H 0342 Monitor Deb Butler This bill requires new residential construction in one and two story single family dwellings to include an electrical circuit for vehicle charging. to

3/23/2021 - House - Ref to the Com on Local Government - Land Use, Planning and Development, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

H 0355 Monitor Robert Davis Requires all fire departments and FM offices to report and AFFF Foams in stock, and that need to be disposed of, and any uses during the year. The OFSM shall coordinate this reporting

**** 3/23/2021 - House - Ref to the Com on State Government, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

H 0356 Monitor Destin Hall Includes Speaker Appointment to the 911 Board representing the fire service.

**** 3/31/2021 - Ch. SL 2021-6

H 0404 Monitor Walter Zachary Modifies immunity for 911 dispatchers.

**** 3/25/2021 - House - Ref to the Com on Judiciary 2, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

H 0432 Support Kelly Hastings NC Assoc. of Fire Chiefs Special Reg. Plate

**** 3/30/2021 - House - Ref to the Com on Transportation, if favorable, Finance, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

H 0448 Support Larry Potts Auth. Use of Blue Lights on Fire Apparatus

**** 3/31/2021 - House - Ref to the Com on Judiciary 2, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

H 0492 Support Donna White WC/Psych. Trauma-Related Injuries

**** 4/5/2021 - House - Filed

S 0004 Support Jim Burgin Provides equal tax benefits for State and Local Government Employees

1/28/2021 - Senate - Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate

S 0005 Monitor Jim Burgin Licensing Certain Fire Safety Equip. Work

1/28/2021 - Senate - Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate

S 0020 Monitor Jim Burgin Hands Free NC

1/28/2021 - Senate - Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate

S 0030 Monitor Todd Johnson Adds rescue and EMS to reduced Lifetime Hunting Licenses.

2/2/2021 - Senate - Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate

S 0040 Oppose Vickie Sawyer Increases the use of consumer fireworks and moves the age for purchase from 16 to 18.

**** 2/2/2021 - Senate - Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate

S 0062 Support Warren Daniel Creates a Fellow program in the Community College System, creates a tax property exemption for volunteer firefighters, and increases the Fire and Rescue Pension

**** 2/9/2021 - Senate - Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate

S 0102 Monitor Warren Daniel REACT/Plates/Siren

2/17/2021 - Senate - Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate

S 0134 Monitor Jim Perry Similar to HB 48 allowing EMS personnel to carry weapons on Law Enforcement support calls.

2/24/2021 - Senate - Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate

S 0238 Monitor Todd Johnson Life & Property Protection Act

3/11/2021 - Senate - Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate

S 0273 Monitor Natasha Marcus Charlotte Firefighters' Retirement System Act

3/11/2021 - Senate - Filed

S 0290 Monitor Danny Britt Fire Depts/Prohibit Certain Crimes

**** 3/15/2021 - Senate - Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate

S 0308 Monitor Todd Johnson Prohibits charging an additional inspection fees if a new code violations are found in folow-up inspections.

**** 4/5/2021 - House - Regular Message Received From Senate

S 0320 Monitor Wiley Nickel Increases unemployment insurance the the length of time.

3/18/2021 - Senate - Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate

S 0327 Monitor Michael Lee Requires all fire departments and FM offices to report and AFFF Foams in stock, and that need to be disposed of, and any uses during the year. The OFSM shall coordinate this reporting

**** 3/23/2021 - Senate - Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate

S 0329 Monitor Steve Jarvis Eliminate architectural seal requirements for certain commercial buildings and agricultural buildings.

3/23/2021 - Senate - Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate

S 0374 Support Steve Jarvis Auth. Use of Blue Lights on Fire Apparatus

**** 3/30/2021 - Senate - Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate

S 0430 Monitor Kirk deViere Regional Fire Training Center Funds

4/1/2021 - Senate - Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate

S 0440 Monitor Donald Davis Nonprofit Fundraising Sales Tax Exemption

4/1/2021 - Senate - Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate

S 0472 Support Todd Johnson Expand Occup. Cancer Benefits/Firefighters

**** 4/5/2021 - Senate - Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate

S 0478 Monitor Steve Jarvis 2021 Building Code and Dev. Reg. Reform

4/5/2021 - Senate - Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate

Legislative Day Thus far, Legislative Day has been scheduled for May 5th. How we gather will most likely depend upon current issues dealing with Covid-19, but information will be provided to attendees to discuss with their legislators. Security is strict at the Legislative Building and Legislative Office Building, so leave your pocket knives at home.

Federal Legislation – CFSI has been cancelled this year for meeting in person, but will be held virtually. We continue to pursue changes to IRS Regulations that could allow non-profit career firefighters in LGERS. The NC Congressional delegation is currently trying to get the Ways and Means Committee to re-introduce the Retirement Bill (Brady Act) from 2020 that included our wording.

SAFRE Conference

After having to cancel due to Covid-19 issues, the SAFRE conference is currently scheduled for Raleigh this year the week of Aug 11th – 15th. On-line registrations will be available on our web-site. Course selections have been made and we have some great classes. The vendor floor is close to being sold out, so we expect a big expo, and just to make sure everyone knows, the vendor floor will be **free to all** this year, walk-ins or conference attendees. We'll have more as the time grows closer, but please mark your calendar for that week.

For clarification, the issues surrounding Covid-19 could still impact how we conduct conference. For example, masks and social distancing still may be an issue. Our conference is held in a municipal facility so we have to abide by Governmental Mandates. The Board has indicated that by June 1st we will have more complete information on what restrictions may be in place.

Fire & Rescue Commission Report

04-13-2021

Scholarship on-line Application System closed on March 31. We should have those announced May 15

Directors Meetings for 2021. Saturday May 15, 2021 we were originally planning for May 16 in conjunction with the NCEMS Expo however that was cancelled this year as well, and then in September at our annual meeting.

Convention / annual meeting is still planning currently to be held in Beaufort Hotel, Beaufort NC September 9-11, 2021. In conjunction with our annual meeting we will host rescue and BLS competitions, as well and rescue and EMS classes. Please mark your calendars.

High Angle Rescue Spring School was cancelled primarily due to low enrollment; however, the vaccinations had not fully opened up and some agencies were not yet allowing travel. We are looking forward to getting that started back up and running.

Times are challenging and if we can be of assistance, please feel free to contact us.

Joel Faircloth

Executive Director