

**Fire Rescue Commission Meeting
Buncombe County Training Center
Woodfin, NC**

April 12, 2022

Member Attendees:	Harley Cook,Chair Ryan Cole Cloyce Anders Freddy Johnson Randy Thompson Gary Whitman	Phil Welch, Vice Chair Josh Smith Robert Poe Kevin Gordon Tim Henshaw Andy Thomas
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Others present: Monna Gillespie, Matt Thorpe, Shawn Haynes, Kim Williams, Mike Williams, Brian Wade, Tony Robinson

Welcome and call to order – Chair, Harley Cook 10:00 AM

Invocation – Cloyce Anders

Ethics Statement - Harley Cook

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

Approval of January 2022 Minutes – Freddy Johnson made a motion to approve the January 2022 minutes. PJosh Smith seconded. Motion approved.

Appointments:

Harley Cook reappointed Lee Newcomb to the CFI board.
Cloyce Anders nominated Walter Gardner to the Certification Board. Phil Welch seconded. Acclamation passed.

Board Reports

Certification Board - Chair Kevin Gordon

Certification Board March 8, 2022.
FIP 3030 – Delivery Agencies can do individual testing or one single test now. Staff will teach delivery agencies how to do it.
Errors on portal via delivery agencies can be fixed by OSFM staff prior to March 15th only.
5 Instructors were suspended. They lost all qualifications, must take Indoc class again, and requalify at Q school.
Voluntary statements will be signed and collected.
Next Certification Board meeting is Jun 14, 2022.

Cloyce Anders moved to approve the certification board report as presented. Ryan Cole seconded. Motion passed.

Volunteer Safety Workers Compensation Board – Cloyce Anders – See attachment

The Workers Compensation Board met on December 12, 2021 – virtual meeting The fund has paid out over \$150 million claims.

Claims are trending downward, but the average cost is trending up.

Premiums paid will be returned to the fire departments - \$7 million.

Danny Allen has been contracted to provide five-year projections for member premiums and give recommendations going forward.

Certified Fire Investigator Board - Freddy Johnson

IFSAC approved the Alternate Edition, 2022 for Certified Fire Investigator

CFI – Recertification down to last 90 days. Must take 4 approved elective and 1 mandatory law and admin class.

Working on automative process.

CFI applications figures

1st quarter – 7 applications – 5 approved, 2 denied

2nd quarter – 9 applications – 7 approved, 1 denied, 1 pending

Total 2022 – 16 applications received, 12 approved, denied 3, 1 pending

Old Business

By-Law Change – Kevin Gordon

Gary Whitman moved to change the CFI membership from 9 seats to 11 seats by adding one Certification Board seat and one OSFM FIU seat. Freddy Johnson seconded. Motion passed.

New Business

Rules Review Commission – Period review process – Kim Williams

Presented letter from Tom Felling with the recommendation to leave policy as it currently is.

Kevin Gordon moved to readopt 11 NCAC 05B.0301 as is. Josh Smith seconded. Motion passed.

Felony Applicant – Kevin Gordon

Kevin Gordon presented a Felony Applicant (Ibrahim Mahdi) report. Cert Board denied his application based on felony policy 200.08. Mr. Mahdi spoke and answered questions. Freddy Johnson spoke on his behalf and recused himself from voting.

Andy Thomas moved to accept the Cert. Board recommendation to this case. Josh Smith seconded. Motion passed. Discussion on policy.

Kevin Gordon moved that the Commission Board appoint himself and Freddy Johnson to work on a committee, and the ability to bring on anyone on to help form a new policy and bring that recommendation to the Commission board for approval. Gary Whitman seconded. Motion passed.

Agency Reports

OSFM Report – Mike Williams/ Kim Williams

Mike Williams announced the retirement of Kim Williams effective July 1, 2022.

He announced the restructuring of Kim Williams position and new developments. Brian Wade will be assuming the F & R Commission.

Smoke Alarm Grant – closes this Friday and will be held the 1st Saturday in June.

Update on the Covid - \$10,000 grant

Update on the \$35,000 Matching Grant

Kim Williams Updated them on Elite. Average of 20 fire departments moving to Elite every month

30 Year accreditation – for the Fire & Rescue Commission

261,918 seals which equals to 3rd in the world in levels. We currently have 54 levels.

NCSFA – Ed Brinson – See attachment

Rosters ended 1/15/22 – extended to Monday night – less than 50%

Legislative Day – May 5th

SAFRE - August 10-13

Books are available on the history Fire Service in NC

Association of Rescue & EMS – Joel Faircloth

Scholarships will be announced on May 15th

Association of Fire Chiefs – Kevin Gordon

Mid-Winter conference 2023 will be held February 1st through February 4th.

Dues increased

Plans to update the NC Fallen Firefighter Memorial enhancement

By law change

Reference manual

Department of Community Colleges – No report

Emergency Management – No report

Society of Fire/Rescue Instructors – No report

Professional Firefighters and Paramedics of NC – Josh Smith

Dept of Labor – Josh Smith – (See attachment)

OEMS – No report

Forestry – Randy Kearney

50/50 Matching funds grant

Dept of Justice – Teresa Postell

NC Ophoid Settlement Money – April-May money disbursement will go out. \$750 million - Onslow & Guilford County

Other Business

Next meeting – July 12,2022 in Kernersville

October 11,2022 in Fayetteville

Kevin Gordon moved to adjourned. Josh Smith seconded. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Monna Gillespie

JOSH STEIN
ATTORNEY GENERAL



TERESA POSTELL
APPELLATE & POST-CONVICTION
(919) 716-6558

April 12, 2022

Kim Williams
Division Chief | Deputy Commissioner
Fire & Rescue Commission/RPD/Administration
North Carolina Department of Insurance
Office of State Fire Marshal
1202 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1202

Re: April 2022 Meeting

Dear Ms. Williams:

This letter, as per your request, in sum includes the most important information I shared today. Attorney General Stein led negotiations and achieved the recent opioid settlement, which in total will result in North Carolina receiving \$750 million. The money will begin going to local governments in late April to early May 2022. EMS and Fire Services should work alongside their city and county officials to determine the best ways to spend that money. The link below includes specific information about what the money can be used for, how to plan for using it and some sample documents. There are also some great EMS overdose programs around the state, including Onslow County EMS and Guilford County EMS, which would be helpful models and valuable peer resource information.

Here's the link to more info: <https://ncopioidsettlement.org/>

I also want to pass the information on to everyone regarding the Peace Officers Memorial Day Ceremony, which is set for 3 May 2022 at 10:00 a.m. The ceremony will occur at Englewood Baptist Church. The address is 1350 S. Winstead Avenue in Rocky Mount, NC 27803. Attendance is also possible online and attached is that information as well. Unfortunately, we have lost a record number of officers who will be honored during this ceremony.

Please let me know if you or anyone have any questions.
As always, stay safe,

Sincerely,
Teresa Postell, Special Deputy Attorney General
Criminal Division, Appellate Post-Conviction
tpostell@ncdoj.gov

North Carolina Attorney General's Office



37th Annual

**PEACE OFFICERS'
MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY**

Tuesday, May 3, 2022 • 10:00 A.M.

Englewood Baptist Church
1350 S Winstead Ave • Rocky Mount, NC 27803

Representatives from all North Carolina Law Enforcement Agencies are encouraged to attend and the general public is invited to attend. All others, including the public are encouraged to honor our fallen via live stream:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/NorthCarolinaJusticeAcademySalemburg/featured>

JOSH STEIN
ATTORNEY GENERAL



TERESA POSTELL
APPELLATE & POST-CONVICTION
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April 12, 2022

Kim Williams
Division Chief | Deputy Commissioner
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NC Association of Rescue & EMS
Fire & Rescue Commission Report
04-12-2022

- Scholarship on-line Application System closed on March 31. We should have those announced May 15
- Directors Meetings for 2022. Sunday May 01, 2022 @ NCEMS Expo, and then in September at our annual meeting.
- Convention / annual meeting is still planning currently to be held in Beaufort Hotel, Beaufort NC September 9-10, 2022. In conjunction with our annual meeting we will host rescue and BLS competitions, as well and rescue and EMS classes. Please mark your calendars.

If we can be of assistance, please feel free to contact us.

Joel Faircloth
Executive Director

Joel Faircloth
Executive Director
jfaircloth@ncarems.org

NC Association of Rescue & EMS
PO Box 1914
200H Genoa Crossing Dr.
Goldsboro NC 27533
www.ncarems.org
<http://ncarems.org/forum/index.php>
<https://www.facebook.com/NCAREMS>

919 736-0506 Office
919 736-7759 Fax
910 990-2728 Cell

NCSFA 2nd Quarter Report

April, 2022

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 2022, only 7 fire departments out of 1279 failed to report their rosters, and we had 14 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. Your Treasurer should have received a letter if you are over but it's a good idea to check anyway.

Scholarship and Grants

NCSFA Scholarships and grants are now closed for 20212. 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

We had a fair amount of success in the 2021 legislative session. This year is the short session, or a continuation of the long session, and our plans are to evaluate those issues that did not pass in the long session. With the shifting dates of primaries and uncertainty regarding districts, the legislative session may be more limited this year.

One Section passed last year (30.4) in the budget bill that was a Pilot Program for Firefighter Cancer Insurance

It allocates \$7.5 million for each year 2022 and 2023 to the Department of Insurance to create a Pilot Supplemental Firefighter Cancer Insurance policy for all rostered firefighters diagnosed with malignant cancers after January 1, 2022. It requires the firefighter be on a roster, have a minimum of 5 continuous years' service, and file a claim before June 30, 2023. It prevents benefits if the firefighter is receiving Workers Comp benefits for the same cancer. It provides reimbursement up to \$12,000 for out-of-pocket medical expenses, a lump sum benefit of \$25,000 for each diagnoses up to \$50,000, and disability benefit of 75% of monthly pay for career firefighter up to \$5,000 per month, and volunteers a monthly benefit of \$1,500. Disability benefits are limited to 36 months.

VFIS of NC was chosen to administer the program by NCDOI and OSFM, and they have contact information on their web, we have information on our web site, and OSFM has information on their website.

Thus far we have received _____ inquiries from the insurer concerning individual qualifications so the system is working.

Legislative Day Thus far, Legislative Day has been scheduled for May 25th. This date could change, but put it on your calendar. The purpose this year for attendees will be to deliver to every Representative and Senator a gift expressing our appreciation for their passage of the Firefighter cancer insurance Legislation. We will meet at the DOI building across the Street at 8:00 AM for an opening. We'll ask to those attending to pick up the gifts for their representatives and deliver them for a photo op. NCSFA Board members and staff will cover those we do not have anyone attending for. Security is strict at the Legislative Building and Legislative Office Building, so leave your pocket knives at home.

BCBS Grant

In December, Blue Cross contributed \$500,000 to our non-profit organization, the North Carolina Firefighters Fund, to use in fire service programs with the NCSFA. Half of it went in the form of direct grants to small rural departments through OSFM like the previous year's grant, but we are excited that \$250,000 will be used this year to provide assistance to firefighters seeking treatment and assistance with PTSD and mental health issues. An application is now available that Chiefs can submit on behalf of their personnel.

SAFRE Conference

We lost two friends of the conference earlier this year. Darrell Newton from Newtons Fire and Safety and Becky Rawls from Atlantic. They will be missed.

This year's dates for the SAFRE Conference are August 10th-13th, 2022. 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. We have 2 great keynote speakers this year, one on Thursday and one on Friday, Dr. Denis Onieal, former Deputy US Fire Administrator and former Superintendent at the National Fire Academy and Commander Rorke Denver, retired Navy Seal. We'll have more as the time grows closer, but 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 plan on hosting a Summit Tuesday this year this year at SAFRE conference. We've normally held it at Mid-Winter, but scheduling this year was difficult. 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.

Video Series

The Board and staff of NCSFA has begun production of an informal series of informational videos concerning topics of current events in the fire service. Examples include legislation, relief fund, and PTSD. As these are produced, they'll be placed on our webpage and social media for viewing. Held to 2 – 3 minutes each, they would provide information to chiefs and firefighters on a host of

topics. Production began January 14th, and several videos are already complete. They are:

NCSFA Historian Work

Our Statistician, Dennis Pressley, has continued work under the new responsibility of Historian, as predicated by the bylaw change in 2018. Mike Legaros, from Raleigh, has begun formulating historical information. Some of this was displayed at the Annual Conference last year. The Board hopes to have a history book ready for this year's conference, and have been reviewing proofs. They plan to have it available by conference and provide copies to fire departments

Questions?

Gillespie, Monna

From: Williams, Kim
Sent: Thursday, June 30, 2022 11:08 AM
To: Gillespie, Monna
Subject: FW: Fire and Rescue Commission Update

Please add to April FRC

Kim Williams
Division Chief | Deputy Commissioner
Fire & Rescue Commission/RPD/Administration



N.C. Department of Insurance
Office of State Fire Marshal
1202 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1202
919.647.0089 office
984-960-7610 cell

From: Dunphy, Cory <cory.dunphy@labor.nc.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 11, 2022 2:33 PM
To: Ewart, Robin <robin.ewart@labor.nc.gov>; Williams, Kim <Kim.Williams@ncdoi.gov>
Cc: Yelverton, Hollis <hollis.yelverton@labor.nc.gov>
Subject: Fire and Rescue Commission Update

Here is the NC Department of Labor update for the Fire and Rescue Commission meeting.

- As of March 4, 2022, OSHA's COVID Emergency Temporary Standard for Healthcare has been repealed in NC and is no longer enforced. Federal OSHA is working on developing a permanent standard that will address COVID and possibly other infectious diseases that may include provisions/regulations for EMTs and other first responders who provide medical care. There has not been any time frame announced for this permanent standard but we will keep the committee posted once we have heard some dates.
- OSHA is also in the process of reviewing their guidance on heat stress in the workplace. During the current discussions, heat stress among first responders has been brought up. The guidance is currently in the committee stage and once the guidance progresses to a review stage or issuance, we will let the committee know.
- There is no other information to pass along at this time, and you can ask for questions.

If you have any questions presented, please take them down and let me know. I will respond unless you feel comfortable answering them. Thanks again for covering this meeting for me.

Cory Dunphy CSP

Health Standards Officer
Education, Training and Technical Assistance Bureau
North Carolina Department of Labor – OSH
cory.dunphy@labor.nc.gov
(919)707-7859 (office)

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