

North Carolina State Firefighters Association History

Evolution of the Conference

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Highlights

- 1889 – First annual conference conducted.
- 1902 – Conference numbering adjusted in printed proceedings, 1901 conference is named “13th annual”, and 1902 conference is named “15th annual”.
- 1917, 1918, 1919 – No tournament conducted. World War I underway.
- 1940 – Last year with tournament conducted.
- 1941, 1942 – Tournament on agenda, but no competing teams present.
- 1943 – Conference cancelled due to “war conditions.”
- 1944 – State fire chief’s association meets separately from NCSFA in Salisbury, March 8 and 9, 1944. [Possibly due to limited venue availability during the war years.]
- 1945 – Conference cancelled due to “war conditions.”
- 1946 – Conference cancelled due to unavailability of host cities. [During the war years, during some years, most national organizations were denied requests for such meetings.]
- 1948, 1949 – Motor races are conducted, after conference ends. These are apparently not branded as a full- fledged tournament.
- 1948 - During conference, change approved for conference format. Each officer’s will be printed in the proceedings, so they don’t have to be read during the conference, and thus take away from time that could be used for more valuable and useful information, such as speakers talking about fire prevention. [After/soon after this year, the conference begins to feature more educational speakers.]
- 1959 – Fire chief’s association expands conference to two days, and meets separately from NCSFA, due to needing more time. Beginning in 1960, they return to meeting concurrently with the NCSFA. Also, 1959 is the first year that the Fire chief’s association had a “typed program” [e.g. formal program].
- 1960 – During conference, fire chief’s association considers separating their conference from the NCSFA, but decides to continue the joint meetings.
- 1960 – During conference, fire chief’s association approves motion to use “conference” instead of “convention” in language to describe the annual meeting. Communicated to NCSFA.
- 1965 – Member departments no longer required by law to send delegates to the conference, as a requirement for receiving relief fund monies.

- 1973 – During conference, conference schedule change proposed, to better accommodate volunteer members who have difficulty attending weekday events. Suggested that the chief’s association meet on Thursday and Friday and the NCSFA meet on Saturday and Sunday.
- 1978 – During conference, fire chief’s association approves continuing with “joint” [co-hosted] conference locations. But, the location will now be selected by a joint committee, instead of just the NCSFA.
- 1980 – During conference, decision made to “readjust” the schedule for future years, to better use the time. First, use the weekend so more volunteers (93% of FFs) can attend, and, second, reduce duplication of activities and combine some functions. To take effect in 1981.
- 1981 – First year that conference schedule starts at the end of the week.
- 2009 – South Atlantic Fire Rescue Expo brand is created, and annual conference is renamed and re-branded.
- 2017 – SAFRE is held in conjunction with Fire Rescue International in Charlotte.

Notes

- The North Carolina Colored Volunteer Fireman's Association also conducted annual conferences, from 1891 until as late as 1996, though with apparent gaps.
- One of the first purposes of the conference was the roll call of each department’s delegates, required by law as a criteria for receiving relief fund monies for that year.