



# Flame Spread



## North Carolina State Firemen's Association 323 West Jones Street, Suite 401 Raleigh, North Carolina 27603 2007 Fall Newsletter

### Off The Presidents Desk

#### Commitment...What Do We Honor?

Years ago, just like many of you, I was a member of my community Boy Scout troop. One particular summer during my annual trip to Camp Raven Knob Scout Camp located just outside of Mt. Airy, North Carolina, I was asked to travel back home for my Eagle Scout Board of review.



Chief Wesley Hutchins  
2007—2008 NCSFA President

On that particular afternoon, my father left work after a long day and made the trek up Highway 52 to Camp Raven Knob, picked up his teenage son, drove back down the highway to Winston-Salem and waited patiently while I sat for my review. Once again, we loaded up the family car, stopped at the local Food Fair grocery store for camp supplies and headed back up highway 52 to Mt. Airy.

I am quite sure my Dad got home very late that night and had to be up very early for work again the next morning. Never once did I hear him grumble or complain about the trip. Now, years later, I know of his dedication and love for me. Quite often in the fire services we let the demands of the job and commitment to our profession consumes our time. However, commitment to family and honoring those commitments will be with us long after the inverted hourglass runs out. The late Jim Valvano summed it up pretty well – "My father gave me the greatest gift anyone could give another person-he believed in me." Believe in yourself, believe in those you serve, believe in your family and honor commitments. A job in the fire service is the greatest job anyone could ask for and the rewards of the job are unimaginable. I encourage you to do your job well, be proud of who you are and honor your commitments.

Your board of directors for the North Carolina State Firemen's Association stands ready to honor commitments and represent you on all fronts. Be safe out there and honor your commitments to family and self.

#### 2007 NCSFA Officers

**Chief Wesley Hutchins**  
President

**Jack Parker**  
1st Vice President

**Chief Wesley Greene**  
2nd Vice President

**Chief Scott Alderman**  
Piedmont Director

**Bill Jones**  
Eastern Director

**Phil Welch**  
Western Director

**Chief Reginald Hassler**  
Past-President

**Jeffrey C. Cash**  
Statistician

**Asst. Chief Paul Brooks**  
Treasurer

**Paul F. Miller**  
Executive Director

**Melissa Dixon**  
Administrative Assistant

**Luz Florio**  
Receptionist /  
Office Assistant

## NCSFA Welcomes A New Employee

The North Carolina State Firemen's Association family grew on August 1, 2007. We are pleased to welcome Luz Florio to the position of Receptionist / Office Assistant.

Luz worked for the Department of Transportation in New York State for 9 years before relocating to the Clayton area in April of this year. She and her husband Vinny and son Michael love North Carolina and happy to be a part of the fire service family.

Please welcome Luz the next time you call the office.



Luz Florio  
Receptionist / Office Assistant

## Firefighter / Rescue Squad Tax Deduction and Other Legislative Issues

The North Carolina Legislature passed the following legislation during the past session:

### Firefighter / Rescue Squad Tax Deduction

**Section 31.24.(a)** G.S 105-134.6(d) is amended by adding a new subdivision to read: "(d) Other Adjustments.—The following adjustment to taxable income shall be made in calculating North Carolina taxable income:

- (6) A taxpayer who is an eligible firefighter or an eligible rescue squad worker may deduct from taxable income the sum of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00). In the case of a married couple filing a joint return, each spouse may qualify separately for the deduction allowed under this subdivision. In order to claim the deduction allowed under this subdivision, the taxpayer must submit with the tax return any documentation required by the Secretary. An individual may not claim a deduction as both an eligible firefighter and as an eligible rescue squad worker in a single taxable year. The following definitions apply in this subdivision:
- a. Eligible firefighter.—An unpaid member of a volunteer fire department who attended as least 36 hours of fire department drills and meetings during the taxable year.
  - b. Eligible rescue squad worker.—an unpaid member of a volunteer rescue or emergency medical services squad who attended as least 36 hours of rescue squad training and meeting during the taxable year."

**Section 31.24.(b)** This section is effective for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2007.

The Firemen and Rescue Squad Workers Pension Fund received a \$2.00 increase bringing the total to \$167.00 per month.

Other Issues that passed are:

- HB 1785**—Fire Safe Cigarette.
- HB 833**—Rename Firemen's Relief Fund
- HB 1322**—Fire Chiefs / EMS Director: Criminal Requests
- HB 1755**—Coordinate Statewide Enhanced 911 System.
- HB 552**—Firemen's Relief Fund Immunity
- HB 1321**— Weight and Size Exemption for Fire Response
- SB 238**—Modify Tax on Property Coverage Contract

We also supported Commissioner Long in **SB 901**.

## NCSFA Ribbon Cutting and Open House



Pictured Above from L-R: Lt. Governor Beverly Perdue; NCSFA President Wesley Hutchins; NCSFA Executive Director Paul Miller, Department of Insurance Commissioner Jim Long and the Executive Board of the NCSFA.

The North Carolina State Firemen's Association held a ribbon cutting and open house on October 9, 2007 to celebrate the opening of our new Raleigh office. Approximately 175 people were in attendance for the ribbon cutting and open house. Many thanks to Lt. Governor Beverly Perdue and Insurance Commissioner Jim Long who participated in the ribbon cutting. Also in attendance were Secretary of Crime Control and Public Safety Bryan Beatty, Director of Emergency Management Doug Hoell, Deputy Treasurer Michael Williamson and Representatives

W.A. Wilkins and Lucy Allen. Senator Janet Cowell also attended. We want to also thank all of our members who took their time to come by and see their new office. We were glad to have several past presidents of the association in attendance along with former Executive Secretary Horace Moore. It was a great day in the life of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association. The Executive Board voted in October 2006 to pursue office space in the Raleigh area. The new office is located on the fourth floor of the Quorum Center at 323 West Jones Street.

### Need A Low Interest College Loan?

The North Carolina State Firemen's Association has joined with InsurBanc to provide our members and their children with access to low interest loans for college. You may receive up to \$40,000.00 per year for room, board, books, tuition, laptops, and more. This is a web based program and to access the information use the NCSFA web site at [www.ncsfa.com](http://www.ncsfa.com). Click of link entitled: "Need Money for School?" All you need to apply can be found on the site and to date more than \$80,000.00 has been loaned to our members for educational needs. If you have any questions, please give us a call at 800-253-4733. We will be glad to assist you.

## Board Members Accept New Positions



Phil Welch  
Western Director

Former Statistician Phil Welch was installed as the Western Director during the 2007 annual NCSFA Conference. Phil has been in the fire service for 28 years serving with Union Road Volunteer Fire Dept in Gaston County. He currently is employed as the director of the Gaston College Regional Emergency Services Training Center. He is married to his wife Cindy and has 3 children, Casey, Hannah, and Jake.



Chief Jeff Cash  
2007—2008 NCSFA Statistician

Chief Jeff Cash was installed as Statistician at the 2007 annual NCSFA Conference. Jeff is no stranger to the NCSFA Board. He is a past president of the Board and currently serves as the NC delegate to the NVFC. He currently serves as Fire Chief in Cherryville and is married to Cynthia. They have 2 sons, Chad and Quentin.

Congratulations to our new board members.

## NCSFA Travel Program

The North Carolina State Firemen's Association recently introduced their new travel program. This program is a partnership between the NCSFA and YTB Travel. YTB is one of the fastest growing web based programs in America. We encourage all of our members, their family and friends to use this new service. You do not have to be a firefighter or a member of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association to use our travel site. We hope that you will actively advertise the site and ask your friends to give us a try. There are two ways to log onto the site. One is to go our webpage at [www.ncsfa.com](http://www.ncsfa.com) and click on Travel service for NCSFA members found under News on the homepage. The other way to access the site is to type in [www.ytbtravel.com/ncsfa](http://www.ytbtravel.com/ncsfa). You can book airline reservations, rooms, automobiles, and a host of other options. You can even book a cruise for your entire department, church group, or organization. We have a staff of qualified agents ready to assist you. And remember, when you use our travel service 40% of the travel agents commission is returned to the NCSFA to be used by the Association. Please remember to use our program when you travel. We think you will be pleased with the price and the quality service you receive.

## We've Moved!

July 26, 2007 will be a memorable day in the life of the association. With the help of a few good men, and a truck, the NCSFA packed up all the files from our Farmville location and moved into our new office located at 323 West Jones Street, Raleigh. After a tough

weekend of moving and sorting, the office opened for association business on July 31, 2007. Please be sure to update your records with our new address and phone number.

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