



Flame Spread



North Carolina State Firemen’s Association
323 West Jones Street, Suite 401
Raleigh, North Carolina 27603
2008 Spring Newsletter

Off The Presidents Desk



Chief Wesley Hutchins
 2007—2008 NCSFA President

“Our Heritage, Where Do You Come From...”

I recently returned from a two week stint at the National Fire Academy (NFA) in Maryland. If you have ever had the opportunity to attend a course at NFA I think you have a better idea of how good life is in North Carolina. Not that life is bad in other parts of this great nation; to me North Carolina is just home.

During my stay, I had the chance to become friends and share stories with firefighters from coast to coast in the United States. We swapped stories about the fire service, and our families as well as other things. Mostly we learned that we all have one common goal – “the compassion to serve and help others” and that that life in the fire services was no different in the bayous of Louisiana than in the northern part of Oregon.

As I crossed the North Carolina/Virginia state line on the last leg of my trip I realized I was almost back in my home state NC and I smiled. Where else in the world can you walk into a fire station, tell them who you are, ask for advice, ask for help, look for directions or even just stop to say hello and offer a few words of encouragement and get a warm friendly greeting. Think about your home, your family, your heritage and remember where you come from. Whenever you travel think about what you represent and what you stand for – *courage, commitment and community!*

Never hesitate to contact me, any of our board members, executive director or staff in the office in Raleigh if you have questions, comments or concerns – “*we are here to serve...*”

Wesley D. Hutchins, NCSFA President

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Important Relief Fund Reminder

Around the middle of June your relief fund treasurer will receive a blank copy of a relief fund financial statement. This form is to be completed by the treasurer and returned to the NCSFA no later than October 31, 2008. Statements postmarked after October 31st will be disqualified and your department will not receive a relief fund check in 2009.



Grant Winners

| Winner | Fire Dept | Amount |
|-------------------|--------------------------|------------|
| Lloyd Carter, III | Fort Run | \$1,000.00 |
| Brian Proctor | Lexington | \$1,000.00 |
| Cassandra Colton | Sherrills Ford / Terrell | \$1,000.00 |
| Jonathan Smith | Plainview | \$ 500.00 |
| Malcolm Smith | New Hanover County | \$ 500.00 |
| Hakeem Brown | Acme-Delco-Riegelwood | \$ 500.00 |
| Courtney Ball | Welcome | \$ 500.00 |
| Jennifer Nance | Northwest Pocket | \$ 500.00 |
| Jeffrey Queen | Cleveland | \$ 500.00 |
| Eric Pope | Mooresville | \$ 500.00 |
| Stephen Bias | Valleytown | \$ 500.00 |

Scholarship Winners

Firefighter

| | |
|--------------|---------------|
| Joshua Brown | East Gaston |
| Sean Houston | Benhaven |
| Rachel Parks | Carvers Creek |

Garmon 6000

| | |
|-------------------|------------|
| Wallace Underwood | Greensboro |
| Burton Peebles | Graham |
| Zachary Forrest | A-RC-H |

Moore 6000

| | |
|----------------|--------------|
| Emily Martin | Smith Chapel |
| Brooke Patram | Wallace |
| Hannah Johnson | Smithfield |

Bartlett 6000

| | |
|----------------|-------------|
| Travis Yoder | Green Creek |
| Jessica Parker | Bakersville |
| Lucas Martin | Fallston |

Moore 1,500

| | |
|-----------------|------------|
| Elizabeth Coble | Greenville |
| Michael Radford | Princeton |
| Matthew Modlin | Sunbury |

Garmon 1500

| | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Courtney Ball | Welcome |
| Jennifer Nance | Northwest Pocket |
| Robert Burnette | Allensville |

Bartlett 1500

| | |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Ryan Guest | Cherryville |
| Johnathon Richard | Boger City |

Facts and Figures about the North Carolina Fire Service

- ✦ The latest figures show that there are 1,136,650 fire-fighters in the United States.
- ✦ Membership in the NC State Firemen's Association is 51,018.
- ✦ There are an estimated 30,300 fire departments in the United States.
- ✦ North Carolina has about 1,320 fire departments across the state, representing 1,534 Fire Districts.
- ✦ 41 are fully paid fire departments (3%)
- ✦ 247 are combination (19%).
- ✦ 1,007 are volunteer (78%). This is roughly an 80/20% split volunteer vs. career.
- ✦ There are approximately 47,000 firefighters in NC (9,400 career firefighters and 37,600 volunteers)
- ✦ A fire department responds to a fire every 20 seconds.
- ✦ Medical aid calls have nearly tripled since 1980.
- ✦ Fire departments respond to 3 emergency calls every 4 seconds, including a medical call every 2 seconds.

Sources: National Fire Protection Association and the North Carolina State Fire men's Association.

EASTERN CAROLINA FIREFIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION

The Eastern Carolina Firefighter's Association, an affiliate of the North Carolina State Fireman's Association, serving four-hundred ninety-five fire departments in thirty seven counties of North Carolina. The service area borders the I-95 corridor from Virginia to South Carolina eastward to the Atlantic Ocean. In 2007, the Association had three-hundred thirty-six member departments and ten associate members.

The purpose of the Association is as follows:

- 1) To provide a vehicle for the exchange of ideas on improving the level of fire protection services in eastern North Carolina.
 - 2) To provide quality training programs for member departments and any other that may wish to participate.
- To act as a clearinghouse for information concerning legislation, technical data, and current items of interest to member departments with the understanding that legislative activities shall be coordinated with and carried on through the North Carolina Fireman's Association.
- To serve as a forum for representation of the member departments to all law and policy making bodies and their members.

The Association has several programs that benefit its members. The Association awards two \$1,000 General Scholarships and one \$1,500 Emergency Services Scholarship annually. A new program initiated is the Fire Department Assistance Program. This program provides technical assistance and assistance in acquiring equipment to new departments or departments with financial need. The Association in partnership with the Cape Fear Community College annually sponsors the Eastern Carolina Firefighters Association Seminar. In 2007, over 700 students participated in training classes at this seminar.

The Association supports the National Volunteer Fire Council, the North Carolina Fallen Firefighters Foundation, NC Jaycees Burn Center and the Muscular Dystrophy Association. The Association urges all members to take the National Seat Belt Pledge and to wear seatbelts at all times. The Association also supports the NCSFA 25 in 5 program which is to reduce accidents 25% in five years.

The Association meets quarterly at various locations in eastern North Carolina. For the date and time of the next meeting, visit our website: www.encfa.org The site provides complete information about the organization. If your agency is not a member, we urge to join and participate in our fellowship. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any Board member.

Submitted by William E. Jones
Past President, Eastern Carolina Firefighters Association
Eastern Director, North Carolina State Fireman's Association

Recent Change to Provident Insurance

Provident has decided to start denying claims over 90 days old. Please file all claims in a timely manner in order to avoid denials.



YTB Travel

It's travel season and the perfect time to take advantage of our travel program.

If you plan to travel this season, be sure to go to ncsfa.com
To click on the YTB link!

A MESSAGE FROM STATE TREASURER RICHARD MOORE



North Carolina Retirement Systems Enhances Firemen's and Rescue Squad Pension Process

As firefighters and rescue squad workers, you work hard to keep our citizens and neighborhoods safe. As your State Treasurer, it is my honor and responsibility to ensure you can count on your pension benefits to be there for you when you need them.

The North Carolina Department of the State Treasurer has implemented a new technology called ORBIT (Online Retirement Benefits through Integrated Technology) and revised some of the forms that members of the Firemen's and Rescue Squad Workers' Pension Fund use to enroll, retire or withdraw from the pension fund. The new technology, coupled with the revised forms, will improve customer service and speed our processes.

One of the key changes related to forms will dramatically improve the Retirement Systems Division's response time for returning contributions, in the case of requests for refund or notifications of death. The new form will identify the source of contributions within the Turnaround document (TAD), differentiating the amount provided by the member versus the department. This is only one example of the improvements coming your way with ORBIT.

Other changes in the system should be seamless and will not affect your interaction with the Retirement System. ORBIT is designed and integrated to improve the Retirement Systems Division's service to you.

I also want to encourage you to enroll in the Firemen's and Rescue Squad Workers' Pension Fund, if you have not already done so, or apply for your monthly pension benefits if you are eligible. The Firemen's and Rescue Squad Workers' Pension Fund provides \$167 per month to retired firefighters and rescue squad workers who served our state and our citizens. For more information on the provisions of the Pension Fund, view the Firemen's and Rescue Squad Workers' Pension Fund handbook by clicking the "Benefits Handbook" link at www.myncretirement.com.

Words from your Executive Director, Paul Miller

Everyone knows we have been in a seriously depressed economy and the cost of gasoline is at an all time high. Many people have been laid off of work due to the slowdown. We really see evidence of this in our office. The number of relief fund claims asking for assistance for a destitute member has increased. We see more people in danger of losing a home or an automobile than any time since I have been the Executive Director. Fortunately we have been able to assist many members by saving a home and protecting the assets of a family. This is a very personal and private matter that does not make the daily headlines, but the story needs to be told. We thought it might be worthwhile to share some good news rather than leave you to dwell on all the bad news that bombards us daily on the radio and TV and in the newspapers. This is a side of your Association that is not often seen or talked about, but the benefit to our members is huge. How do you value the importance of saving a home, a vehicle, or putting food on the table of a family who is down on their luck through no fault of their own? We hope none of you ever have to suffer through such tough times, but we are thankful each and every time we can assist a family in need. We continue to see many requests for assistance because the member or a family member has developed cancer, heart trouble, a stroke or some debilitating injury that causes them to suffer financially. Most local relief funds are not large enough to offer much assistance, but when you are in need just one house payment can mean more than many of us can imagine. Sometimes one payment can buy enough time to put a plan in place to provide long term assistance and save a families property. We are blessed to be able to offer assistance to our members when needed.

Please Remember to ALWAYS BUCKLE YOUR SEATBELT