

Line of Fire

Fall 2010 Edition, NC State Firemen's Association Newsletter

Letter from the President - R. Scott Alderman

"Make the Commitment"

Let me start by saying it is an honor and privilege to serve as the 124th President of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association (NCSFA.) Since 1887 there have been many fire service representatives across our great state who have worked very hard for the advancement of safety, resources and benefits for N.C firefighters. My journey on the NCSFA board has been a very educational and humbling experience thus far. There are many of my peers that have put their faith and trust in me to represent the firefighters of the state in a meaningful, caring and progressive manner and you all have my commitment to fulfill those obligations.



I hope you had the opportunity to attend our annual conference in August, if not make a point to come next year. Randolph Mantooth, aka "Johnny Gage" from the TV show *Emergency!* was certainly the highlight of the conference. It was a great time to see old friends, network and listen to what is going on in and around our state. The educational sessions were well attended and the vendors were very pleased to see the crowds. Work has already begun on next years conference and I expect it will be even better. A special thank you goes out to the NCSFA conference committee and all the Raleigh and Wake County firefighters who helped with the planning and logistics of our conference. Without you it would not be possible !

This past year, then President Wes Greene challenged us all to "*Get Engaged.*" Hopefully you took him up on his challenge and got involved in a fire service effort either on a department, county, state or national level. Much like marriage, after getting engaged you have to make the commitment or your efforts fall by the wayside. So I ask this year that you "*Make the Commitment*" to a fire service cause on a local, state or national level. With the commitment of our membership we are capable of accomplishing anything.

One key issue I would very much like to see completed this year is the creation of a NCSFA retirement plan for the career firefighters in non-profit fire departments in our state. There are approximately 1600 fulltime employees who cannot participate in the state retirement plan because of an IRS ruling. Some departments may be utilizing a local investment company to handle a 401k or like plan for their staff. However, I believe the departments will see that the NSCFA retirement plan will save them money and provide a great benefit for their employees, like the state retirement plan.

(continued next page)



Smoke Alarms:

A sound you can live with



Fire Prevention Week
October 2010

Letter From the President - R. Scott Alderman

(continued from cover page)

NCSFA staff is working to implement a new software program that will streamline the management of department rosters, the scholarship application process and conference registration. We have heard from many of you about the difficulties with the current online system and I am excited about the new software we are converting to. With this software upgrade expect a new look to our NCSFA website.

At our last executive board meeting the NCSFA board members unanimously approved a resolution supporting the following firefighter safety programs:

- National Volunteer Fire Council B.E.S.T. Program
- International Association of Fire Chiefs Safety Health and Survival Section Rules of Engagement for Firefighter Survival, as well as the Incident Commander's Rules of Engagement
- National Fallen Firefighters Foundation Sixteen Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives

A copy of this resolution can be found on page 5 of the newsletter. Also in this newsletter you will find a copy of the IAFC's newly adopted Rules of Engagement for Firefighter Survival. All of these programs are important to firefighter safety and we encourage you to implement them into your departments day-to-day operations.

Lastly, I would like to mention the "Walk-A-Mile" (WAM) initiative. This program is to encourage emergency service personnel to be more aware of physical fitness and try to become more active in their lifestyle. Hopefully this will help combat the cardio vascular problems and the inherent dangers present to us in an already hazardous job. You can find out more information on WAM and how to log your miles on page 8 of our newsletter. Get out, be active and take care of yourself!

Until next time, God Bless and Stay Safe!

Treasurer's Report - Dean Coward



It's official! The new charitable organization arm of the Association has been granted 501(c)(3) status by the IRS and is now ready to begin fundraising. The North Carolina Firefighters Fund is up and running and its new logo and advertising campaign were on display at the Conference. The purpose of the fund is to promote wellness, education and support for our members. Our plans are for the new organization to raise funds to take over and improve the scholarship program already in place by the NCSFA. For more information, call the NCSFA office.

If you would like to make a tax-deductible contribution please make your check payable to the North Carolina Firefighters Fund. This is a wonderful way to honor a retiring officer or board member on your department as well as a fitting memorial for a deceased firefighter. Thank you in advance for your support.

Executive Director's Report - Paul Miller

Another year has come and gone in the life of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association. The annual audit is over. The annual conference has come and gone, but there is no rest to be had. One of my children's middle school teachers once said "to rest is to rust". There will be no rusting here.

We now find ourselves in the middle of collecting the relief fund financial statements for last year. They are due in the office of the NCSFA no later than October 31, 2010. Remember they must be postmarked on or before October 31st. In addition roster renewal packets will be mailed out in November, and we will begin the process of updating the rosters. The updated rosters are due back in the office of the NCSFA by January 1st. Due to a grace period benefits will not cease until midnight January 31 for departments filing late. After January 31st no benefits remain and will not be available until the rosters are updated and the dues are paid.

The NCSFA is in the process of installing a new database system known as iMIS. This will replace the old Dataflex system. Training on the new system starts in about 3 weeks and we should be ready to put the system online by middle to late October. It is capable of running our roster system, fraternal insurance, conference registration, fund raising efforts and more. We look forward to making the transition and working with the new system.

The NCSFA has created and will be implementing two new programs in the 2010-2011 year. We have created a new corporation that will be known as the North Carolina Firefighters Fund. The primary goal of the fund is to facilitate higher education within the fire service. We need to provide every opportunity to our members to advance their profession through educational opportunities. We will also use the new program to increase awareness of health, wellness and training issues. The fund is a 501c3 entity that we will use to raise the funds necessary to implement the new programs. A website is currently under development and will provide more information and an opportunity to make tax-deductible donations. One hundred percent of the money will go to the above named purposes.

Lastly the NCSFA will be launching a new retirement system. The main focus of the retirement program will be career firefighters who are employed by non-governmental entities. This would benefit many of our combination departments across North Carolina. The program will be a master plan and trust approach with model provisions and limited choices. It will be a defined contribution plan. It will be flexible allowing a group approach which yields lower costs to the participants. Choices will be limited to keep the plan simpler to operate and understand. There will be no upfront cost for past service and local departments will have the ability to make selections of investments that work best for them. Stay tuned for more to come on this great program. We hope to have it in place and operating no later than June of 2011.

In closing I want to make a few comments on the annual conference. Please make plans to attend the event next year. The dates are August 10-13, 2011 in Raleigh. We had a great show this year with informative workshops, great speakers and 150,000 square feet of vendors. It was a great networking opportunity and a chance to stay abreast of the latest trends on the fire service. We hope to grow even more next year and expect about 3,000 members to attend the show. Come onboard and be a part of one of the best events of the year. Be safe until then.



**Relief Fund
Financial Statements
have been mailed.
Please remind your
treasurer to have
them in our office by
October 31, 2010!**

NCSFA's Newest Staff Member - Amy McCall



Please join us in welcoming our newest staff member to the NCSFA family! Amy McCall has come to us via Highlands, NC and has extensive experience that will serve us well in our efforts to provide benefits to our members more efficiently. Amy's job duties will include handling NCSFA's receivables and payables, roster management, fraternal insurance, and all other financials.

We are thrilled to have Amy on board and we hope you will make her feel welcome. Feel free to drop her a line or give her a call to introduce yourself, amy@ncsfa.com or 800.253.4733.



RULES OF ENGAGEMENT FOR FIREFIGHTER SURVIVAL

1. Size up your tactical area of operation.
2. Determine the occupant survival profile.
3. **DO NOT** risk your life for lives or property that cannot be saved.
4. Extend **LIMITED** risk to protect **SAVABLE** property.
5. Extend **VIGILANT** and **MEASURED** risk to protect and rescue **SAVABLE** lives.
6. Go in together, stay together, come out together.
7. Maintain continuous awareness of your air supply, situation, location and fire conditions.
8. Constantly monitor fireground communications for critical radio reports.
9. You are required to report unsafe practices or conditions that can harm you. Stop, evaluate and decide.
10. You are required to abandon your position and retreat before deteriorating conditions can harm you.
11. Declare a Mayday as soon as you **THINK** you are in danger.

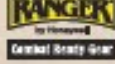
THE INCIDENT COMMANDER'S RULES OF ENGAGEMENT FOR FIREFIGHTER SAFETY

1. Rapidly conduct, or obtain, a 360-degree situational size-up of the incident.
2. Determine the occupant survival profile.
3. Conduct an initial risk assessment and implement a **SAFE ACTION PLAN**.
4. If you do not have the resources to safely support and protect firefighters, seriously consider a defensive strategy.
5. **DO NOT** risk firefighter lives for lives or property that cannot be saved. Seriously consider a defensive strategy.
6. Extend **LIMITED** risk to protect **SAVABLE** property.
7. Extend **VIGILANT** and **MEASURED** risk to protect and rescue **SAVABLE** lives.
8. Act upon reported unsafe practices and conditions that can harm firefighters. Stop, evaluate and decide.
9. Maintain frequent two-way communications, and keep interior crews informed of changing conditions.
10. Obtain frequent progress reports and revise the action plan.
11. Ensure accurate accountability of every firefighter's location and status.
12. If after completing the primary search, little or no progress toward fire control has been achieved, seriously consider a defensive strategy.
13. Always have a rapid intervention team in place at all working fires.
14. Always have firefighter rehab services in place at all working fires.

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NCSFA Resolution



RESOLUTION SUPPORTING FIREFIGHTER SAFETY

WHEREAS, each year in the United States the fire service loses approximately one hundred firefighters in the line of duty; and,

WHEREAS, annually in the United States there are over eighty thousand reported injuries to firefighters; and,

WHEREAS, one of the primary goals of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association is to ensure the safety, health, survival, and well being of all North Carolina firefighters; and,

WHEREAS, the National Volunteer Fire Council, the International Association of Fire Chiefs Safety Health and Survival Section, and the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation have developed firefighter safety initiative programs; and,

WHEREAS, these specific programs are the National Volunteer Fire Council B.E.S.T. Program, the International Association of Fire Chiefs Safety Health and Survival Section Rules of Engagement for Firefighter Survival, as well as the Incident Commander's Rules of Engagement, and the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation Sixteen Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives; and,

WHEREAS, through these programs firefighter line of duty deaths and firefighter injuries will decline; and,

WHEREAS, the North Carolina State Firemen's Association along with other North Carolina fire service organizations and partners will promote these three firefighter safety initiative programs; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina State Firemen's Association supports the above firefighter safety initiative programs and will promote them by whatever means necessary in an effort to reduce firefighter line of duty deaths and firefighter injuries.

Adopted this 1ST day of September, 2010.

R. Scott Alderman
CHIEF SCOTT ALDERMAN, PRESIDENT

ATTEST:

Paul Miller
PAUL MILLER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Western Director's Report - Kevin Gordon

Recently at the South Atlantic Fire Rescue Expo, Randy Mantooth (Johnny Gage) delivered the keynote address. During his presentation, Mr. Mantooth spoke of his close friend and mentor, the late James O. Page. I had a chance to meet Mr. Page the weekend of November 5-8, 1998. Forty or so fire service leaders participated in a symposium called *Emergency Fire Apparatus: The New Millennium* at the American LaFrance plant in Cleveland, NC. Our mission was to write a white paper called "*Fire Fighters Ergonomics and Fire Apparatus.*"

As described by Mr. Mantooth, Mr. Page contributed to the Fire and EMS services in so many ways and wrote a tremendous number of articles and books. While reflecting back on the keynote speech and material produced by Mr. Page, there is a book and an article I would like to bring to your attention.

In 1972, Mr. Page wrote a book titled "*Effective Company Command.*" He anticipated this text would be used by fire fighters who hoped to attain the position of Company Officer. While it may seem dated, this book is a sound resource for both those seeking and those currently serving in any role of fire service leadership.

In the April 1997 edition of *Fire-Rescue Magazine*, Mr. Page wrote an article called "*Make-Believe Fire Fighters.*" In this article he explains how fire fighters fall into two categories. The two categories are make-believe and true-grit. Make-believe has many other synonyms such as bogus, fake, pretend, mimicry, trickery, put-on, and make show-of. True-grit has many other synonyms as well such as tenacity, courage, nerve, tough, strong, guts, and strength of mind. This article will definitely help you identify those who can walk the talk within your organization.

Fire Departments representing the West led the way in Raleigh during WAM or "Walk a Mile". This event represented the kick-off events for the initiative "Fire Fighters Walking for Fitness." This initiative from the Gateway Group was designed to encourage emergency service personnel to become more aware of physical fitness and to become more active. An active lifestyle will help emergency personnel to combat cardio-vascular problems that are exacerbated by the inherent dangers of this high-risk profession. The initiative asks that you walk at least one (1) mile per day, three (3) days per week to begin the program and then increase your activities as you progress. Additional information can be found at <http://www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/FireAndRescueCommission/FFWalk.asp>.

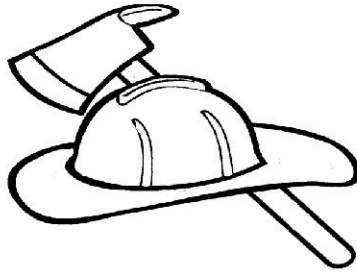
The NC IMAS Task Force committee also gave an update on their progress at the Expo. In the event of a large scale emergency in North Carolina, the NC Fire Service Emergency Response Plan is available to provide for the systematic mobilization, deployment, organization and management of fire based resources.

The first source for determining available resources will be the State Emergency Response Team (SERT) inventory database. There are two ways that resources get entered into the database. The first method is through periodic department rating surveys conducted by OSFM. The second method is by updates done by each individual fire department. Since rating surveys are only conducted every five to seven years, individual fire department updates are the most preferred method. Please login at <http://osfmweb.ncdoi.net/public/form/sertEquipmentList.html>. The database requires the Fire Chief's credentials to enter resources.






The next meeting of the Western North Carolina Association of Fire Fighters (WNCAFF) will be held at East Lincoln Fire Department, 7654 Hwy. 73, Stanley, NC, on October 20th, at 6:30 PM. The 2011 meeting schedule is as follows: January 19, Charlotte Fire Academy; April 20, Cherokee (tentative); July 20, Morganton (Forestry Service); and October 19, Tryon Fire Department. The Officers of the WNCAFF are currently working on the following initiatives: a strategic plan for the WNCAFF, a fire department assistance program and Field Operations Guide (FOG) for Western NC Fire Departments, video/web conferencing for WNCAFF sponsored meetings and training, and various health and safety initiatives. The WNCAFF is also now on Facebook and the URL is <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Western-North-Carolina-Association-of-Firefighters/109364435782175>.

It is a tremendous honor to be the Western Director to the North Carolina State Firemen's Association. I look forward to the challenges facing the fire service of our great state and to the privilege of serving you. If I can be of assistance to you and/or your department, don't hesitate to call or e-mail me.

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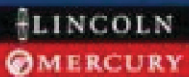
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Firefighters Walking for Fitness

"Firefighters Walking for Fitness" is an initiative from the gateway group which is to encourage emergency service personnel to begin to be more aware of physical fitness and try to become more active in their lifestyle to combat the cardio vascular problems and the inherent dangers present to us in an already hazardous job.

This initiative is supported by all the groups represented by Gateway and is being headed up by the North Carolina State Firemen's Association, The Office of State Fire Marshal, The North Carolina Association of Fire Chiefs and the Volunteer Safety Worker's Compensation Fund of the Fire and Rescue Commission.

We are asking that you walk one (1) mile per day, three (3) days per week to begin. We would like for you to register your miles each day on the walking database which can be found on the OSFM website. <http://www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/FireAndRescueCommission/FFWalk.asp>

At the opening day of the South Atlantic Fire Rescue Expo in 2011, the region, fire department and individual with the most miles walked, will be recognized. The Gateway goal is to reach 5 million miles between 2010 and 2015. Please join the effort and begin the journey of becoming more physically fit to perform the hazardous duties required of you every day.



Eastern Directors Report - John Grimes



Hope everyone had a great summer! So far in the East we have had a great summer. Only one drive by hurricane resulting in a dress rehearsal but ended with "This is a drill scenario". We do not mind "drill scenarios". We pray we are done for the year but...

Hope everyone enjoyed conference this year. It was the biggest conference in the history of the NCSFA. We look forward to seeing everyone next year back in Raleigh. There is a lot going on in the East as we are preparing for annual seminar on October 8, 9, and 10th at Cape Fear CC. Our quarterly meeting will be at Castle Hayne Fire Department on Thursday night (7th). We encourage each department to send two members. We will have an offering of 53 classes and for the first time will have full access to the \$9.7 million Public Safety Training Center. Also, everybody's favorite "The Tea Girls" will be there as well.

Our January meeting is in Morehead City on the 11th and April meeting is in Wilson on the 14 (my anniversary, oops sorry might miss that one Tracy). We have great attendance at our meetings and have the lowest membership dues (\$10, price of a large pizza) of any regional association. If you are a Chief give me a call and let's discuss how the ECSFA is a value to your department. I would be glad to visit any county association meeting just shoot me an email at john.grimes@lvfrd.com.

The next newsletter that comes out will be following the holidays, so I encourage each of you to spend some time with your family and study the true meaning of the holiday season. The birth!



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North Carolina State Firemen's Association Night



Carolina Hurricanes vs. Florida Panther Saturday, November 6, 2010 - 7:00 p.m. - RBC Center

Purchase your tickets by filling out the order form below and mail/fax (919/861-6238) it in to the Hurricanes
Proceeds from each ticket sold will benefit NCSFA.

We look forward to seeing you at the RBC Center and Thank You for supporting your Carolina Hurricanes!

Lower Level North and South - \$50 (regularly \$80) Upper Corners - \$19 (regularly \$30)

I would like _____ tickets @ \$50 each – Hurricanes vs. Panthers on Friday, November 6 = \$ _____

I would like _____ tickets @ \$19 each – Hurricanes vs. Panthers on Friday, November 6 = \$ _____

Total = \$ _____

Deadline for orders is Thursday, October 28, 2010

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Payment: _____ Check _____ Visa _____ MasterCard _____ AMEX

Credit Card # _____ Exp Date _____

Signature of Card Holder _____

Tickets are first come first serve and subject to availability. Kids under the age of TWO get in free!

Mail, Email or Fax order to: Carolina Hurricanes ATTN: Rich Davis

1400 Edwards Mill Road Raleigh, NC 27607

Phone: (919) 861-5455 Fax: (919) 861-6238

Email: richardd@carolinahurricanes.com



Important Dates

2010

October 3-9 **Fire Prevention Week**
October 31 **Relief Fund Reports Due - NCSFA Office**

December 31 **Rosters Due - NCSFA Office**

2011

January 1 **Scholarship Application Process Opens Online**
www.ncsfa.com

March 15 **Scholarship Application Deadline**

April 1 **South Atlantic Fire Rescue Expo Pre-Registration Opens Online**
www.southatlanticfirerescueexpo.com

August 11-13 **South Atlantic Fire Rescue Expo**



North Carolina State Firemen's Association

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