

# Raleigh Fire Department History - Union Minutes, 1942-1951

Version 1.0 – February 22, 2018

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## Introduction

This document contains transcriptions of handwritten meeting minutes, as recorded in a ledger book from 1942 to 1951, by members of the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Local 548 in Raleigh, NC.

The transcriptions were made by Mike Legeros. The ledger book was obtained from a collection of materials donated to the Raleigh Fire Museum by retired Captain B. T. Fowler, and son, retired Fire Chief Earl Fowler.

Note: The right margins of the transcribed minutes is unintentionally reduced, to replicate the reading experience of the ledger book.

## Part One - Full Minutes

Raleigh Fire Fighters Association, Local No. 548

July 31, 1942

Meeting came to order at 10:30 a.m. followed by prayer by all members.  
Motion made and carried that men at work on duty at No. 4 and 5 be marked as present.

Motion made by Lieut. Averett that men on duty be allowed to vote on anything pertaining to the entire department. Passed.

Brothers, O. L. Wilkerson and L. Q. Godwin, sworn in as members of Local 548.

Election of two delegates to State Labor Convention in Asheville. Lieut. Averett and D. L. Brannan elected to go.

Initiation of Brothers Wilkerson, L. Q. Godwin, Painter, Alexander, Hall, Holmes, and Watkins.

Adjourned at 12 noon.

H. N. Sadler, Recording Sec.

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Sept. 3rd, 1942

Meeting called to order at 11 a.m. and owing to shortage of time roll call and minutes of meetings were omitted.

Brother M. A. Alexander Jr. was presented with service withdrawal card.

Lt. J. B. Keeter reported conversation with the City Commissioners regarding salary raise. Report was not favorable.

Motion made by Brother O. K. Ellen that we have two union meetings a month in order that No. 4 & 5 could attend. Motion was withdrawn after debate.

Motion made and passed that we have all auxiliary firemen, both white and colored, meet at No. 2 Station on Friday night, Sept. 4, 1942, to discuss further plans for obtaining an increase in salary.

Motion passed that we send ten dollars contribution to the Asheville Normal College.

Brothers, Pearce, High and Gardner were initiated in the union.

Adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

H. N. Sadler, Recording Sec.

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October 1st, 1942

Meeting called to order at 10:25 a.m. Roll call and minutes read and adopted.

Motion made and passed that a committee be named to have honor roll for time present. Committee named: Lieut. Lassiter, Chairman; High, L. G. Stephenson, Ennis and Honeycutt.

Talk concerning back dues owed union, but no action taken.

Motion made and accepted that Private V. J. Smith be accepted in International. Bro. Smith receiving the obligation at once.

Motion made by Bro. J. S. Honeycutt that a man be in the department for 60 days before accepting him in union. Passed unanimously.

Adjourned at 11:25 a.m. with prayer led by Bro. Edwards.

H. N. Sadler, Rec. Secretary.

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October 31st, 1942

Meeting called to order at 10 a.m. Roll call and prayer led by Bro. J. W. Grimes.

Treasurer being absent there was no report on the finances.

Report from Lt. Lassiter regarding attendance at meetings. A fine [?] was suggested but was decided to wait until after Jan. 1. 1943 to take up again. Same committee held over on this program.

Capt. Burnette reported that no flowers had been purchased in a long time.

Motion made and passed that the officers of each station call all other stations to notify them in case of sickness of any man.

Motion made and passed that we give the United Way Fund \$50.00. No. 4 & 5 voted 100%.

Discussed by several members concerning Civil Service Bill.

Discussion concerning several members that are behind [?] in their dues – No action taken.

Initiation of Bro. V. J. Smith.

Adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

H. N. Sadler,  
Recording Sec.  
11-31-42

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Dec. 1, 1942

Meeting called to order at 9:55 a.m. followed by prayer led by J. D. Grimes.

Bro. F. T. Pipkin voted a member 100% and he received his obligation.

Capt. J. M. Burnette resigned from flower committee – Resignation accepted.

Bro. Dowd & Grimes elected co-chairman of flower committee. Their assistants to be named later.

Discussion concerning the purchase of pajamas for Chief Butts. Bro. Ellen stated that #5 refuses to pay any part on same.

Bro. Averett stated #4 would pay their part, but later disagreed to pay.

Bro. Pearce stated that his wife did not wear silk pajamas and he would not buy any man some.

Motion made by Bro. Mills that the other stations play for the entire sum. Passed.

Motion made and passed that each station take care of their own men for presents.

Motion made by Bro. Ellen that a present be sent to every man leaving fire service. Passed.

Adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

H. N. Sadler,

Recording Sec.

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January 7, 1943

Meeting called to order at 10 a.m. followed by prayer for entire body.

Report by Bro. Dowd on presents bought for men in service. It was found that a little over \$20.00 was spent and it was voted to pay from the local treasury for their cause.

Bro. Dowd also reported that there were no flowers purchased during the past month for the fire dept. He also named his committee as follows:

Bro. Dowd & Grimes – Co-chairman

Bro. W. E. Pollard at No. 3 Station

Bro. O. Summers at No. 4 Station

Bro. J. B. Keeter at No. 5 Station

There was considerable discussion concerned service flags to be displayed at each station in honor of the men in the service. Motion was made by Lt. Averett [?] that we have Mrs. D. E. Caudle make a flag for each station, of equal size, with blue stars. This to be paid for from local treasury. This motion passed.

Motion made by Bro. Sadler that the minutes of each meeting be copied and sent to each station to be placed on the bulletin board, in order that Stations 4 & 5 will know what is going on when they can't attend the meetings. This motion passed.

Bro. Mims made a motion that we adopt a resolution concerning Dr. Forrest [?] Frazer and present it to him before he leaves Raleigh. After considerable discussion, Bro. Blackwood suggested that he could probably get Ms. Carroll Weathers [?] to draw up a resolution that would do us justice. This was agreed upon.

There was considerable discussion about sending a representative to the Labor Convention in Atlanta, Ga., sometime this month. After due deliberation and consideration of the crowded [?] travel conditions and the condition of the local treasury, it was decided not to send a representative. However it was found that Mr. Geo. J. Richardson was planned attending and we feel sure he will pass along any and all information of value to this local.

It was suggested by Bro. Caudle that this is the proper time to start to work [?] about a raise. All agreed upon this but no further action was taken.

Adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

H. N. Sadler.  
Recording Sec.

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February 1st, 1943

Meeting opened at 10 a.m. followed by prayer led by Bro. J. D. Grimes.

Report by Bro. J. D. Grimes on flower committee. It was stated that flowers had been purchased for one of our members' sister, the amount was 18 cents per man.

Bro. D. E. Caudle reported that the flags [were] not ready yet on account of illness of his wife.

Report on letter sent Dr. Frazer. This letter was delivered the morning of Feb. 1, 1943. It was adopted that a copy of this letter be sent to Local No. 440, at Fort Worth, Texas, where Dr. Frazer is going.

It was also adopted that we send Mr. Sam Ruark [?] a letter of appreciation for drafting this letter.

There was considerable discussion concerning writing the men in the service. Capt. Burnette suggested that we send the boys the News & Observer. This was adopted, the money to come from the treasury. The following were appointed to write each man: J. D. Grimes to Puryear; Wilkerson to Holmes; Randolph to Alexander; Strayhorn to Gregory. J. W. Godwin had not been located.

It was passed that we write the two high school principals and have them thank the auxiliary firemen for their work at the Quinn fire.

Discussion concerning election of new officers at next meeting carried over. Bro. Blackwood requested that someone be elected in his place. There was several dissenting opinions on this matter.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

H. N. Sadler,  
Rec. Sec.

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March 1, 1943

Meeting opened at 10:05 a.m. followed by prayer led by Bro. J. D. Grimes.

Bros. A. E. O'Neal and W. W. White were presented for acceptance in local. The oath was administered by the Pres.

Five more volunteers were asked for to write men in service.

Smith to Homes – Crabtree to Puryear – Brannan to Gregory – Hall to Alexander – Watkins [?] to Alexander – High to Godwin.

Bro. Keeter reported that papers had been sent to the boys in service. Bro. Keeter also read several communications. One letter concerning cigarettes was sent over to a later meeting.

It was voted that we send each man a dime to the March of Dimes.

Bro. J. D. Grimes reported that we had purchased two wreathes during the month.

Talk by Bro. Keeter about Civil Services Bill and the Executive Officers authority on same.

Motion by Bro. Mills [?] that we donate \$1.00 per man to Red Cross was adopted.

Adjourned at 11:22 a.m.

H. N. Sadler,  
Rec. Sec.

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April 5, 1943

Meeting opened at 10:10 a.m. followed by prayer led by Bro. J. D. Grimes.

Bro. C. L. Wall applied for membership and was unanimously accepted. The oath was administered by Pres. Blackwood at once.

Bro. Sadler read a letter from the O.P.O. regarding extra food stamps for the fire stations and he stated he would look into the motion and advise what success he had.

Pres. Blackwood talked concerning a 15% raise – nothing definite.

It was voted that the Recording Sec. write the International about No. 6 being opened and have a magazine sent there.

Bro. Grimes reported there were no flowers purchased during the month.

Service flags were given [to] each station and it was voted to pay Mrs. Candler \$7.00 for same.

Bro. Mills voted to give a rising [?] vote of appreciation to the officers of their local for their efforts during the year.

It was voted that we send Capt. Hayes a \$3.00 basket of fruit to the hospital.

Nomination of officers for the coming year was in order and the following nominations were made:

For President:

Bro. J. D. Grimes (vote for 1)

Bro. D. C. Blackwood

For Vice-President:

Bro. C. L. Hayes

For Sec. Treas.:

Bro. J. B. Keeter (vote for 1)

Bro. D. L. Brannan

For Recording Sec.:

Bro. H. N. Sadler (vote for 1)

Bro. L. D. Stephenson

For Trustees:

Bro. O. K. Ellen (vote for 3)

Bro. J. M. Hobby

Bro. R. G. Wiggs

Bro. B. C. Dowd

Bro. J. P. Blake

Bro. V. G. Mims

Bro R. C. Lassiter

For Guide [?]

Bro. W. E. Pollard (vote for 1)

Bro. L. Q. Godwin

Bro. J. A. Poole

The following were elected as election officials:

Bro. J. M. Burnette

Bro. J. S. White

Bro. C. E. Nunn

Adjournment at 10:50 a.m.

H. N. Sadler,

Recording Sec.

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May 1, 1943

Meeting called to order by Bro. Godwin. Bro. Grimes reported on fruit purchased by Mrs. Dowd for Capt. Hayes.

Bro. Mills made a motion (second by Bro. Ellen) to reopen appoint. [?] for Pres. to continue for 30 days. Bro. Sadler continued motion. On grounds of illegality and not in line with convt [?], (article 4, sec 5) Bro. Keeter referred to (article 4 sec 12) to support legality of Bro. Mills motion. Bro. Sadler suggested a letter to Bro. Richardson to get ruling on above motion. Bro. Keeter again referred to (article 4 sec 12).

Bro. Averett made motion to reopen nom. at present meeting.

Unanimously voted by every member.

Bro. Mills nominated Bro. Keeter, Pres. Bro. Mills nominated Bro. Ellen for Rec. Sec. Second by Bro. Keeter. No other motions were made.

Bro. Harrison made motion nom. be closed. Voted aye by entire organization.

The following officers were elected for one year from May 1st:

President

Vice President

Sec. Treasurer

Rec. Secretary

Trustees

Bro. Keeter made motion & was seconded & voted aye by entire org. for Sadler to call special meeting.

Adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

The above minutes were taken by our retired Rec. Sec. Bro. Sadler and recopied by L. G. Stephenson, Present Rec. Sec, June 8, 1943.

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June 2, 1943

Meeting called to order by Vice Pres. Hayes.

Bro. Hayes thanked org. for flowers & etc.

Bro. Keeter gave treasury report.

Motion & sec. To accept said detailed report. O.K.

No reports from various committees.

Comments by Bro. Keeter on donation to Asheville College. Read letter from H. G. Flecher [?] & explained returned check.

Capt. Hayes made a talk concerning working conditions of Fire Dept.

Sec. Report goes as reported in audit [?].

No flowers report.

Mem election board appt.:

Capt. Harrison, Chairman

G. E. Pierce

J. R. King

L. Q. Godwin, doorkeeper [?]

Bro. Burnette motioned that Sadler read a letter from Bro. Richardson regarding election of officers.

Bro. Keeter also read letter from Bro. Richardson.

Vote of legality of absentee voters. Adopted.

Members elected for next year were:

Pres. J. B. Keeter

V. P. C. L. Hayes

Sec. Treas. O. K. Ellen

Rec. Sec. L. G. Stephenson

Trustees

J. P. Blake

R. G. Wiggs

B. C. Dodd

The above officers were sworn in at once by C. L. Hayes.

Valid to wait until next meeting to swear in J. P. Blake.

Adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

The above minutes were taken by our retiring Rec. Sec. And recorded by present Rec. Sec. L. G. Stephenson.

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June 25, 1943

## Special Meeting

Meeting called to order by Pres. Keeter at 9:40 a.m.

Prayer led by J. D. Grimes.

Due to the confusion/condition [?] of meeting, Rec. Sec. wasn't able to have roll call or minutes read.

Sec. & Treasury made a report of money turned over to him, by past Sec. & Treas.

Bro. Keeter reported that he had been notified by Police Dept. that they are going alone to work on having raises.

Bro. Keeter made a report of exec. & board meeting.

Bro. Mims made motion & 2nd by Bro. Marshall that the exec. board act on comm. on salary raises. Motion carried 100%.

Bro. Hayes made a report that he was over at city hall with Chief Butts, and heard Mr. Powell ask Chief Butts about the one platoon system of working, of which Chief Butts wasn't in favor of.

Bro. Marshall made a suggestion that we cooperate [?] with chiefs and go with chiefs to City Hall instead of by ourselves.

Bro. Keeter made a talk about the officers that were elected for coming year, said he hoped to have cooperation by all. Also appreciation of being elected.

Bro. Keeter also said Chief Butts reported that bad bills [?] had reduced down to two men.

Bro. Hayes made a talk of app. also Bro. Ellen & Stephenson.

A standing vote on app. for Bro. Wilkerson's good deed in rescuing girl from Crabtree creek.

Bro. Hayes nominated Bro. John D. Grimes for Chaplain. Fdois [?] to be voted on at next meeting.

Bro. Keeter appointed the following members to committees.

### Sick Committee

J. D. Grimes, chairman

O. Summers

L. Q. Godwin

Flower Committee

P. L. Averett, chairman

J. R. King

M. T. Parker

Initiation Committee

J. T. Honeycutt, chairman

W. E. Pollard

J. M. Hobby

C. D. Mills

Grand [?]

J. M. Poole

Guide [?]

J. G. Harrison, chairman

J. B. Marshall, ass. Chairman

Bro. Keeter also requested a copy of fuel [?] in each station.

President Keeter swore in Bro. J. P. Blake as trustee.

Adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

L. G. Stephenson, Rec. Sec.

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August 2, 1943

Meeting called to order by Pres. at 11:15 a.m.

Lord's Prayer led by Chap. J. D. Grimes, also prayer read by Chaplain.

Roll call by Rec. Sec. 44 p. 3 a.

Secretary & Treasurer's report, approved.

Reported from the Sick Committee, reported Bro. H. O. Lloyd [?] had stroke off [?] [duty?].

Bro. O. L. Wilkerson was appointed chair of flower comm. to fill vacancy carried by resignation of P. L. Averett.

Discussion of delegates to attend State Fire Firefighters Assoc. in Winston-Salem, Aug. 7th & 8th.

Motion by Bro. Allen & second by Wilkerson that we send 4 delegates to conv. Carried.

The following were nominated: D. L. Brannan, J. T. Honeycutt, M. T. Parker, J. A. Poole, C. D. Mills, J. G. Harrison, & C. E. Nunn. Following elected: D. L. Brannan, J. T. Honeycutt, M. T. Parker, & J. A. Poole. It was voted on and passed we allow these delegates \$75.00 for expenses.

There were 2 delegates elected to go to the State Fed. [?] of \_\_\_\_\_ con. In Winston-Salem, which were J. B. Keeter & D. L. Brannan.

It was voted and carried we allow these delegates \$40.00 for expenses.

New business – Discussion of withholding tax, unchanged.

It was mentioned that the exec. board see Chief Butts and try to get Station 4, 5, or 6 one or two of each to be at the regular monthly meeting.

There was a discussion on auditorium work & pay.

Motion & voted that we be paid \$5.00 for working aud. after “taxes are taken out.” [?] Passed. Also that exec. board act on same.

Motion by Capt. Burnette [?], that we wait until [?] we dispose of salary issues before acting on auditorium issues. Approved.

Motion by Bro. David that H. V. Lloyd’s U. dues be paid by ass[ociation]. Treasury. Killed.

Motion by Bro. Mills & second that the sick comm. get H. V. Lloyd a gift or something [?] cost not to exceed 5.00. Voted on & carried.

Motion & second to adjourn by Bro. Lassiter.

Meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

L. G. Stephenson, Rec. Sec.

## Part Two - Excerpts

9/1/43 – Motion by Bro. Burnette & sec. That we send \$50.00 worth of cig[arettes]. To boys overseas, also to be paid out of pocket.

10/1/43 – The \_\_\_ comm. reported H. V. Lloyd’s condition critical.

10/4/43 – President Keeter reported he had talked to Chief Butts concerning theater passes – a good deal of discussion.

10/4/43 – Bro. Keeter brought up about \$100.00 in defense stamps that sec. & tres. had on hand.

11/1/43 – Two new members were received in the local, they were: T. H Briggs & Williford. They were sworn in by Pres. Keeter.

12/1/43 – The Initiation Comm. got together and prepared a nice program for C. L. Wall, a new incumbent.

12/1/43 – Pres. Keeter asked for 2 volunteers to visit H. V. Lloyd at intervals. Bro Lassiter & Watkins volunteered.

12/1/43 – Bro. Hayes reported on Theater posters.

12/1/43 – Bro. Keeter read a newspaper clipping about the fire at 909 East Edenton St. Motion by Bro. Marshall & sec. that we send letter to this family. Motion carried.

12/1/43 – Bro. Keeter made a talk, apologizing for the poor compensation [?] that these member [?] officers had received, they were Bro Grimes, Bro. King, and Bro. Sadler.

12/1/43 – Bro Burnette made a misc. talk concerning Xmas party. He also said he thought that the chief should be given an Xmas present. This was put in form of a motion. A motion by Bro. Wilkerson, second. By Pollard. We give the two Asst. Chiefs a gift. Motion carried.

3/1/44 – New business – Bro. Hayes reported about Draft status.

4/13/44 – Pres. Keeter appointed Bro. H. T. Honeycutt to fill the unexpired term of Secretary & Treasurer vacated by the departure of Bro. O. K. Ellen.

6/\_/44 – Bro. Sadler mentioned that Miss Young wished to file application for membership in local. There was discussion by Pres. Keeter & Bro. Hayes, concerning this. It was decided that we write Mr. Richardson and get information on this.

7/11/44 – Letter read by Pres. Keeter from G. Richardson concerning membership for women in our local. Discussion by Bro. Hodge also Bro. Burnette saying they did not think that we should have women in the local. Discussion by Bro. Keeter. Motion and sec. That we bring to vote on whether to take Miss Young into local. The vote was 100% against taking her in.

7/11/44 – Pres. Keeter discussed State Fire Fighters Convention to be held here July 27th & 28th. Bro. Burnette suggested that we give a supper and a dinner for delegates. Br. Burnette, Smith, Lassiter, High, & Godwin to help Pres. Keeter toward preparations for convention.

7/11/44 – Pres. Keeter discussed about agrievance committee. Motion, by Bro. King and second., that agrievance committee be a separate committee from the executive board. Motion carried. The agrievance committee is represented by one man from each station.

10/2/44 – There was some discussion about Emory coming in to local. It was decided that we wait a while to take him in the local.

10/2/44 – Bro. Summers made motion that if a man stays in the local one year that he get an honor membership and motion declared out of order by President. Pres. Keeter said he would issue Averett a former member membership card. Motion by Bro. Crabtree that Jimmie Briggs be issued a membership card. Motion killed after some discussion.

1/31/45 – Bro. Watkins brought up about Mr. Emory coming to Local. There was a good deal of discussion about this by several members. Motion by Bro. King that we dispose of Mr. Emory if he was hurting the Fire Dept. After some discussion came this motion [by] Bro. Pipkin to add an amendment with mention giving Emory 60 days in which to straighten out. Motion by King and sec. by Hobby amendment be adopted.

3/1/45 – Pres. Keeter said he had talked with Chief Butts about E. C. Emory's conduct. Motion by Bro. Wiggs & sec. that Chief Butts meet with officers at No. 5 & Emory March 2nd. Also that a committee go with Emory to parents and report his conduct.

3/1/45 – Bro. King mentioned that there [was] too much profane language used by members during Local meeting.

3/12/45 – Motion by Bro. Mims & sec. by Pollard. That we send the equivalent of \$4.00 to a fireman, wife, children & parents when admitted to hospital, and that a treasurer be appointed to handle same and when the treasury is indebted to the amount of \$50.00 he present bills and collect same from members of Fire Dept. Motion carried. Motion by Bro. King and sec. at the death of a fireman, wife, children, or parents, they be sent allowance of \$10.00. Motion carried.

4/16/45 – Bro. Lassiter reported about working as stage hand and how he was treated. Motion by Bro. Wilkerson & sec. that the sec. write a letter to Mr. Hawkins & Mr. Harrell [?] stating the fireman's feelings in reference to Bro. Lassiter's case. Motion carried.

4/16/45 – Discussion by Bro. Burnette about firemen working Negro dances.

5/1/45 – Pres. Keeter reported on conference with the baseball officials.

7/3/45 – Bro. Honeycutt read a communication from Charlotte Laundry Workers Union #267 for financial aid. Bro. Wiggs made motion to inquire into matter more before action is taken.

7/3/45 – After some discussion by various members on 24 on 24 off, motion was made by Bro. Smith that Pres. Keeter go to Chief Butts & discuss the matter with him. Bro. Sadler asked for an amendment that 90 day trail be included. Motion carried 100%.

9/1/45 – A plan for 24 on and 24 off was voted down.

10/1/45 – Some discussion on a barbecue for all members and their families. Voted to find out when & where by exec. committee.

10/1/45 – Discussion and comments by the Pres. & members of some fireman going to show with uniforms on. The President asked for information on anyone going to show in uniform. Bro. Burnette commented on Bro. Sadler going to show dressed in his. After much discussion the Pres. made a plea for no member to do so again.

2/1/46 – Motion made and carried to work the auditorium off duty when called regardless of type of entertainment.

2/1/46 – Bro. Burnette made a request for a lifetime honorary card for N. A. (Dock) Dran [?]. Bro. Hunnicutt made a similar request for H. H. [?] Leinster [?]. Bro. Marshall for C. D. Hill. All requests were granted by unanimous vote.

3/1/46 – After much discussion on our annual dance it was voted not to have one this year.

3/1/46 – Bro. Burnette made a motion to start work on a pension. Bro. Hayes second this motion.

3/1/46 – Bro. Hunnicutt & Bro. Hayes made talks on cooperation in trying to secure a raise.

5/31/46 – A minute of silence was maintained out of respect to the deceased Pres. of IAFF, Bro. Fred Baer.

5/31/46 – Bro. Lassiter suggested that in the future only men who would take an interest in their work be selected as trustees or on any of the various committees.

5/31/46 – A discussion was held on a salary raise. Nothing definite has been done as yet. A suggestion was made to get together with the police dept. in order to add more strength to our raise-in-salary request. Bro. L. Q. Godwin recommended that we discuss our salary problem with Chief Butts.

5/31/46 – Bro. McGee opened discussions on vacations. It was learned that a two weeks vacation was impossible, since other city department workers do not get that much time.

5/31/46 – Bro. Fowler made a motion that men off probation not be made to drill on their days off. Pres. Keeter consented to discuss this problem with Chief Butts. Bro. Mims suggested that the Local take such cases and discuss and reach a decision on them and then have the Grievance Committee present their suggestions to Chief Butts.

5/31/46 – Total bank deposits of \$486.41 (checking acct) and \$300.00 plus accrued interest were placed in the care of our new treasurer, Bro. Puryear.

6/28/46 – Bro. Hayes made a motion to send two delegates to the convention of the State Fed. of Labor in High Point. Motion was seconded by V. Smith and Bros. Puryear & Wall were nominated to go. The following men were elected to attend the State Assoc. of Fire Fighters meeting in Charlotte [on] the 10th & 11th of July: Bros. High, Parker, Sadler, & H. C. Watkins. Motion was made to send Pres. Keeter to Toledo, Ohio, to represent our local at the IAFF convention.

6/28/46 – There was some discussion on whether to take our asst. chiefs into our local. This question will be brought up at the Charlotte convention.

7/2/46 – an executive meeting was called to order on the night of July 2, 1946, to discuss and reach a decision on the case of Levi Wilkerson, who recently resigned from the dept. [...] The executive committee was of the opinion that Wilkerson could not re-enter the dept. since legislation

had been passed during the war to prevent any former member of the dept. to rejoin us after resigning to take up other work.

8/8/46 – [Short Version] Bro. Mims suggested that meetings be held on 1st of months and try to veer away from our previous habit of having them whenever they were permitted.

8/8/46 – [Long Version] Bro. Mims suggested that meetings be held on 1st of months and try to veer away from our previous habit of having them whenever they were permitted. Bro. Mims made motion that that meetings be held on 1st of each month or either have meetings with one shift and then the other one. Mims further suggested that a committee be sent to Chief Butts and request permission to have meetings on 1st of each month. Bro. Harrison made a suggestion that it might work out better if we held our meetings at 8:00 a.m., when the shifts change. Bro. Mims asked that his motion be changed to put pressure on Chief Butts to permit us to have meetings definitely on 1st of each month at a fixed time. Motion seconded by Bro. Crabtree. Motion Carried. Motion made by Bro. Smith to call in Chief Butts and ask him why meeting cannot be held on 1st of month & at a definite time. Motion seconded by Bro. Hodge. Motion carried. Chief Butts called in and question by President Keeter on matter of meetings. He replied that to hold meetings at 8:00 a.m. or 6:00 p.m. would be fine and satisfactory. He said he would not call a meeting unless he was having one. Pres. Keeter asked him that if he did not intended to have a meeting, could he hold one? Chief Butts replied that he could not answer that question until he had studied it over. He said, however, that he would find out from higher-ups if it would be OK to have Local meetings definitely on the 1st, except in cases of holiday & Sundays & rainy weather. Bro Harrison said that our meetings represented Fire Dept business and should be put into same category as his meetings. When Chief Butts was asked if it would be OK to have meetings on 1st, would it be OK to bring trucks in, he did not give a definite answer. Bro. Smith asked Chief Butts to settle time & date question then. By a silent vote it was settled to hold meetings at 8:00 a.m. on 1st of each month. Chief Butts consented.

8/4/46 – Bro. Gregory made motion to introduce 24, 24 off system of duty. Motion seconded by Hodge. Bro. Parker suggested that we wait until all the men could vote on question. Bro. Puryear made motion to bring up question as “unfinished business” at next meeting.

8/4/46 – Bro. High made talks on Chief Matthew’s desire to become an honorary member of our Local. Bro. Mims made motion to issue Chief Lloyd & Chief Matthews a yearly honorary card. Motion seconded by Bro. Smith. Motion carried.

9/3/46 – Bro. Watkins, H. C., made motion to introduce 24 hrs on duty, 24 hrs off. Bro. Summers wanted to know whether the shifts were to change at 8:00 a.m. or 6:00 p.m. Bro. Keeter made talk on unity [?] to promote and execute a motion. Bro. Summers made motion to amend the 24 on, 24 off motion to set definite time for changing shifts before voting on question. Bro. Mims said that 24 on, 24 off would disrupt outside work & that we’d be going backwards if we changed our working hrs. Bro. Hayes disputed talk by saying that we were definitely going forward and would never go back to old working conditions. Bro. Harrison suggested that while we were striving to change our working hrs., we should also work toward lessening our working hours per week. Pres. Keeter made a talk on good & bad of 24 on., 24 off system. Bro. Gregory suggested that officers be allowed to work on permanent shifts. Someone replied that Chief Butts would not permit this. Bro. Gregory made motion to change shifts at 8:00 a.m. Motion carried. Bro. Lassiter wanted to know when officers were to change shifts. Bro. Mims made motion to carry 24 on, 24 off hrs iness [?] and let him decide everything. Bro. Watkins withdrew his motion. Bro. Burnette made talk on his opinion on how officers would work their shifts. Motion was made to carry 24 on, 24 off over to next meeting. Voted down. An outstanding vote was taken by nothing decided. Bro. Gregory made motion to amend Br. Mims motion to try 24 on, 24 off for sixty days. Motion carried. Another standing vote was taken and by 3/4 majority it was decided to see Chief Butts & try to secure 24 on, 24 off on a trial basis for 60 days. Chief Butts promised his cooperation.

10/1/46 – Bro. Hayes gave report on grievance committee. Bro. Briggs gave talk on his refusal to work at auditorium. Mims gave talk on cooperation and “falling in line. “

10/1/46 – Bro. Burnette gave talk on 24 hrs. on, 24 hrs. off. Bro. Keeter explained how Greensboro & Durham officers change their shifts. Chief Butts was brought in to answer on 24 hrs. on, 24 hrs. off duty question. He gave a talk on his findings, and it was discovered that certain limitations had been placed on this way of working. It was decided to hold a

vote to see if his plan would be adopted, and, by a clear majority, it was decided to reject the 24 on, 24 hrs. off duty plan of working.

10/1/46 – Bro. Lassiter suggested we hold a barbecue in auditorium. All present were in favor of such a plan. It was decided that each station appoint a man to the committee.

11/1/46 – Pres. Keeter gave his findings on the meat situation in regards to the proposed barbecue. Bro. Burnette spoke on the great cost of a barbecue, and suggested that it be postponed. Bro. Crabtree and his station was willing to string along on any agreement. Bro. Mims suggested that it be turned into a Christmas party. Motion by Hobby was killed to take a vote on whether the barbecue would be held. Bro. Hobby made motion to take up barbecue at later date as unfinished business. Motion carried.

11/4/46 – Pres. Keeter gave a talk on meeting & various bills taken up by IAFF at Toledo. Bro. Hayes gave talks on the opinions of other city firemen in regards to pensions & the IAFF. Bro. Keeter charged that certain firemen had worked against the passage of a pension in the past. Bro. Hayes asked that names of the persons be brought to light. Names could not be recalled. Pres. Keeter pleaded for continued support and understanding, that he was doing his best, and, if any time his services were not desired, he would gladly resign.

11/1/46 – Bro. Burnette gave talk concerning volunteer work on Christmas toys. Bro. Collins also gave talk on this subject. Bro. Hobby recalled last year's work & gave opinion on subject. Bro. Hodge made motion that we discontinue this voluntary work. Seconded by Hobby. Motion carried.

11/1/46 – Bro. L. Q. Godwin inquired as to whether Bro. Choplin received a pay check last month. Bro. Sadler was asked about this, and he said, that to the best of his knowledge, Bro. Choplin was not paid. Grievance committee was asked to probe this situation. Bro. Hayes asked to resign from grievance committee. [ Note: Did Hayes request to resign, or was Hayes asked by others to resign? ] Resignation accepted. Bro. Gregory volunteered & was accepted to fill vacancy. Bro. Honeycutt asked if members of grievance committee could not be voted upon. Bro. Keeter replied that this power had been invested in him by all members.

1/1/47 – Bro. L. Q. Godwin wanted to know if flowers for outsiders should come out of organization funds. Bro. Keeter gave explanation for

this. Bro. Crabtree said that a motion had been passed last year to exclude the buying of flowers for outsiders out of organizational funds. Bro. Keeter immediately placed \$10.50 with Bro. Puryear. Bro. Keeter gave talk on the spirit of good will in which flowers should be given. Bro. Honeycutt gave talk on the thankless task of trying that all those, who are eligible to get them, and to make decisions on those who should & those who should not get flowers. Bro. Lassiter also gave talk on flower situation. Bro. Burnette made motion that flowers be paid for out of pockets. Bro. Crabtree seconded motion. Motion carried.

1/1/47 – Bro. Keeter gave talk on donation requests by other organizations. Bro. Honeycutt made motion that we disregard these donation requests. Seconded by Bro. Burnette. Motion adopted.

1/1/47 – Bro. Keeter brought up question of investigating the background of new incoming men. Bro. Parker asked if we had a right to do so. He was assured that we had the right. Bro. Burnette made motion that the in-committee make a report to the Local in written form and they in turn give a written report to Chief Butts. Motion seconded by Honeycutt. Motion carried. Investigating committee of High, Lassiter, and Honeycutt was appointed

4/1/47 – Bro. Lassiter, of the investigating committee, gave a report on our new man, Grubbs [?]. Bro. Keeter gave a talk on proper procedure for making investigations.

4/1/47 – Meeting was interrupted momentarily by the entry of three Charlotte firemen, who, after being introduced, seated themselves. Bro. Blackmon, Charlotte fireman, give a fine 10 minute speech. The other visiting brothers gave a short speech.

4/1/47 – Bro. Holmes inquired about the money still owed them by State College. Bro. Keeter gave them assurance that the chiefs would look into this problem. Bro. L. Q. Godwin stated that the Chief had been out to see Mr. Von Glahn [?], but he was out of town. Bro. Parker explained that the basketball games were under a different set-up from the dances.

4/1/47 – Bro. Hayes announced that our civil service representatives time of office had expired. Bro. Keeter explained that this matter would be taken up in Chief Butt's meeting.

4/1/47 – Bro. Harrison made a motion that vacation periods be arranged so that each man could get his twenty-four hours off exclusive of vacation times. Second by Bro. Fowler. Motion carried. Bro. Hayes brought up old problem of a day a week off. Bro. Hayes past [?] this idea into a motion. Seconded by H. C. Watkins. Motioned carried.

4/1/47 – Line-up for candidates for coming election:

President

J. T. Honeycutt (Hayes, Fowler)

J. W. Gregory (Holmes, Stephenson)

J. B. Keeter (Burnette, Lassiter)

Vice President

R. R. High (Honeycutt, Holmes)

Secretary-Treasurer

C. R. Puryear (Watkins, Sadler)

Rec. Secretary

C. L. Wall (Harrison, Pollard)

Chaplain

J. W. Holmes (Crabtree, Wall)

Trustees

H. S. Sadler

H. S. Stevenson

J. W. Godwin

(all unanimous choices)

4/1/47 – The initiating committee prepared our shivering & shaking candidates for their coming ordeal. This program was carried out with hilarious gusto.

5/1/47 – Bro. Keeter gave a talk on our donation of \$100 to the striking telephone workers. Bro. Hayes made a motion that we pay this donation out of treasury. Seconded by Bro. Honeycutt. Motion carried.

5/1/47 – A letter from the IAFF & the AF of L was read in which they requested 15 cents per member to fight against a new anti-labor law, which is now before Congress.

5/1/47 – New password was given by Bro. Keeter.

5/1/47 – Bro. Hayes explained why some of the men were not able to get into the ballpark on their passes. He explained (as it was told to him) that some of the firemen had been loaning their passes to non-members and that they were trying to get others in on their passes. Bro. Blake said that he had talked to Grimes. Stephenson and Grimes told him that no pass cards had been wrongly used at his gate. Bro. Keeter said that we had always had trouble getting our passes ok'd & that this latest might be just a stall.

5/1/47 – At the end of the first election, Bro. Gregory was eliminated, creating a two-man race between Bros. Honeycutt and Keeter. At the end of the second balloting, Bros. Honeycutt and Keeter were running so close, it was decided that our before-mentioned sick men be contacted in order to establish a majority. This was done so by telephone. After this was done, it was announced that Bro. Honeycutt would be our new President.

8/4/47 – Bro. Holmes suggested that try 24 on and 24 off. It was discussed and put off until a later date. Bro. Mims suggested we try to get a day off instead.

9/1/47 – A vote was held and passed for 24 on and 24 off. The count was 17 for and 13 against, on trial basis for 90 days. Chief Lloyd agreed to see Mr. Broden [?] about the matter.

10/1/47 – Bro. Lassiter explained about working at Wake Forest football game. It was decided there might be friction with Police Dept. Working at State College was discussed, also working at auditorium.

11/1/47 – Bro. Keeter gave his view on the condition of the Fire Dept., and also working dances at auditorium. Bro. Mims made motion to appoint standing committee to work with the Chief, City Manager, and City Council, on all conditions pertaining to the Fire Dept.

11/1/47 – Bro. Hayes was elected to fill Bro. H. C. Watkins unexpired term as Vice President of State Fire Fighters Association.

11/1/47 – There was much discussion on the time of monthly meetings. The majority voted to have meetings at 9:30 a.m. instead of 8:00 a.m.

3/1/48 – Bro. Lassiter gave report on meeting with Mr. Broden [?], about the following subjects: increase in pay, longer vacation, more pay for drivers, working at auditorium, 24 on and 24 off, and pensions. Mr. Broden assured us of his help on all of these subjects.

3/1/48 – The union voted to accept the state [fire fighter's association] meeting if High Point turned it down.

4/5/48 – A discussion followed on extended sick leave by several members. Bro. Keeter explained about sick leave.

4/5/48 – Motion made that the Financial Secretary's salary be raised from \$3.00 to \$5.00 per month.

6/18/48 – Explanation given concerning flowers sent to deceased fireman Westbrook and former Fire Chief King, and also to Mr. Keuttner's wife. Explanation well-received and accepted. Assessments for these flowers to be collected July 1.

6/18/48 – President Keeter asked auditors for their report. Auditing committee's report in good order and was accepted.

6/18/48 – Bro. Sadler asked about the 24 on 24 off duty vote. All members present agreed that it should be put to a vote today. Bro. Sadler put this into a motion. Motion seconded by Bro. Holmes. After much discussion about the large number of members absent on vacation, who would live to vote on this question, Bro. Sadler withdrew his motion. Pres. Keeter [said] that the men at the stations think this matter over and bring it to a vote at the next meeting. Bro. Lassiter asked if we had to furnish our answer to this 24 on, 24 off question to City Hall at the end of 90 days or could it extend for more time. Bro. Hodge made motion to have a meeting on 1st of July to settle question. Seconded by Bro. Holmes. Motion adopted.

6/18/48 – Letter read concerning plight of members of the Vanport [?] & Portland, Oregon, fire departments. Bro. Holmes made motion that we send them \$25. Second by Bro. John Godwin. Motion carried.

6/18/48 – Pres. Keeter discussed the various conventions being held in the near future. He commented on conduct of delegates to past conventions. Bro. John Godwin made a motion that the men replacing the convention delegates on duty be paid for their work out of the treasury. Seconded by Bro. Holmes. Bro. Puryear took the floor to explain that the treasury wouldn't stand the strain. Bro. Summers suggested that each member of the department be assessed enough to pay these men for working. Bro. Burnette suggested that the delegates be cut down to 3 in number. Bro. Hobby asked that some system be initiated to handle the situation in a systemic way. Bro. Holmes suggested that dues be

stepped up to take care of the situation. Bro. Williams made a motion that men working for delegates be paid by the city scaled. Seconded by Bro. Pipkin. Bro. John Godwin's motion upheld against Bro. William's motion by 2/3rd's vote. Bro. Puryear made motion to assess each member 25 cents to make up for money paid to men working for delegates. Second by Bro. Parker. Motion carried. Bro. Holmes made motion to increase dues to \$1.25 per mo. Bro. Smith seconded motion. Bro. Hobby wanted to know just why this increase was necessary. Bro. Pipkin wanted to know whether IAFF would benefit any by this increase. Pres. Keeter assured him that such was not the case. Bro. Holmes' motion was killed.

7/31/48 – Report on NCSFF conv. Made by Honeycutt. Talk consisted of insurance coverage for fire truck drivers. This question to be discussed by locals for ideas & opinions. Also, a talk was made on a resolution changing the number of delegates to NCSFF conv. Bro. Burnette made a motion that a copy of these resolutions be given to each station, ready by all members, and signed if they desired mention. Seconded by Bro. Smith. Motion carried. Bro. Hodge suggested we retire from the NCSFF, however this did not go beyond the suggested stag. Bro. Honeycutt made it clear that he was entirely in the dark concerning the nomination of himself for the Vice-Presidency of the NCSFF. Bro. Keeter also had a few words to say concerning the convention. Bro. Honeycutt made a motion that next year the delegates to the NCSFF be elected by June 1 so that they will have ample time to receive instructions. Seconded by Bro. Hamlet. Motion carried.

7/31/48 – A very lengthy discussion on the political mechanics of the Charlotte Fire Dept. was held.

7/31/48 – Hobby made a motion that we vote on 24 on, 24 off. Seconded by Bro. Brannan. Motion carried unanimously that we adopted permanently the 24 on, 24 off mode of working with only 4 voting against. Bro. J. W. Godwin wanted to know why the changing of shifts had to involve both privates and officers. Bro. Wall made a motion that privates not be required to change and that officers change in a manner [?] suitable to themselves. Motion seconded by J. Godwin. Motion carried.

9/1/48 – Bro. Parker submitted the name of B. B. Olive for consideration and was seconded by Bro. D. D. Collins. B. B. Olive was accepted and sworn into the organization. Initiation postponed for later date.

9/1/48 – In regard to the reading of the financial report of Sec. Treasurer Puryear, we were asked what action should be taken in regard to the amount the department was to contribute to the flowers sent by city employees for the funeral of Joe Sawyer, late City Clerk. The amount of \$11.25 had been solicited by Chief Lloyd. [ Discussion followed. ] Further discussion brought out the fact that it was undesirable to give a person not connected with the fire department a more expensive token or expression of sympathy than a member of our organization or department.

11/8/48 – Capt. Burnette made a report for the committee that called on Mr. Broden [?] upon behalf of Roy High. Capt. Keeter also made a report on his case in regard to the NC Fireman's Assoc. It was agreed to let the matter drop at the present time, by advice of High's lawyer. Bro. N. A. Denny [?] offered to lend the organization some money to help Bro. High. Bro. Mims made a motion that we pay 50 cents each to bring High's pay up to fireman's pay. Capt. Burnett made a motion we loan High enough money to bring his pay up to fireman's pay. Mims motion was voted on and filled. Puryear voted no [?] and offered [?] that the union lend him the money starting Oct 15th. Bro. High came down and was told by the Pres. what had been done. He thanked the union for all it had done for him.

11/8/48 – Chief Lawson [?] from Durham paid us a visit and answered some questions on how the Durham dept. operated.

12/1/48 – Capt. Burnette made a motion we have a Xmas party. Godwin second the motion. It was carried. Bro. Stephenson made a motion we invite no one. Second by Parker. Motion was killed. Capt. Burnette made a motion we invite the City Manager, his wife and all members of the City Council and their wives and children, also Ralph Andrews. Motion was carried.

1/17/49 – J. P. Marshall came in the meeting to talk about his case. Bro. Keeter asked that each man speak his opinion and vote accordingly. Marshall asked that the men give him another chance. He denied all the charges. Bro. Mims made a motion that the union not defend him. C. L. Wall second the motion. Holmes made a motion that we have a representative to plead for mercy in his trial. Fowler second the motion and it was carried.

1/17/49 – Discussion was brought up on the seniority and ability method for making promotions in the dept. After a lengthy discussion, Bro. Mims made a motion that the organization go on record as favoring the plan, and that the President appoint a committee to represent the dept. at the Civil Service Commission about this method of promotion. This committee to have full power to ask the Civil Service Commission to make it a law and use it in passing on all promotions sent in by the fire chief. This committee to have the power to represent the organization in the legislature concerning any aggrevement [?] about this method of promotion and any other matters that might need the attention of the legislature. This motion was second by J. T. Honeycutt, voted, on and passed unanimously.

3/23/49 – J. T. Honeycutt made a motion that a committee be appointed to call on Chief Lloyd, to let R. R. High and H. S. Stephenson off to attend their trial.

4/14/49 – J. B. Keeter [was nominated] for Pres. He declined the nomination. He gave his reasoning that he had received insufficient cooperation, and did not stand in with the present higher-ups to accomplish anything. R. R. High was nominated for Pres. He declined, also.

5/2/49 – J. T. Honeycutt made motion the Fire Chief and the City Manager not be invited to the state fire fighter's convention. Motion made and recorded, and carried.

5/2/49 – J. W. Godwin made motion we repair typewriter. Motion carried.

6/1/49 – The following are taken into the union: F. H. Lee, J. R. Shannon, W. R. Mabry, V. H. Marshburn.

6/1/49 – Brother High made a motion that all new men from now on fill out the application blanks. Motion carried.

6/1/49 – Motion made that we not take the association [????] because we did not have the station's show them and we were ashamed. Motion carried.

7/1/50 – J. E. Watkins was sworn into the union.

7/1/50 – Mims said we could go to the ball games on our pass card at State College.

2/3/50 – E. S. Thorton, Charles Chappell made application for admission into the union. Also John B. Todd, Frank A. Beacham.

3/2/50 – Brother L. O. Gates made application for membership in the union. Brother C. T. May was sworn into the union.

3/2/50 – It was brought up about forming a ladies auxiliary, but it was decided we talk with our wives about it first, and see how they feel about it.

6/1/50 – Brother S. J. Talton made application into the union at this date, June 1, 1950.

6/1/50 – The following were elected this day:

Pres. R. R. High

Vice Pres. J. C. Crabtree

Sec. & Tres. W. E. Pollard

Rec. Sec. H. S. Stephenson

Trustees

C. R. Puryear

C. L. Wall

T. P. Clements

Chaplain V. J. Smith

6/1/50 – Brother Mims and Brother High made some mighty good remarks.

6/1/50 – Password “cooperate with your officers”.

6/1/50 – It was brought up about wearing loose collars and short sleeves for the summer. It was made into a motion for the Pres. to see Chief Lloyd about short sleeves and loose collars.

7/2/50 – Brother J. B. Keeter made a motion that Chief Lloyd be allowed to sit in on the initiation ceremonies. Second by Bro. D. D. Collins. Motion carried.

7/2/50 – Brother J. B. Keeter made a motion that we do not take up any business that is not pressing as the initiation ceremony will take up a great part of our time. Second by Brother J. M. Burnette. Motion carried.

7/2/50 – Brother J. T. Honeycutt made a short talk about getting the next state convention to Raleigh. Brother J. W. Godwin stated that Raleigh was not the place for a convention due to present condition.

Brother J. B. Keeter made a talk on location of conventions and the attitude of some people who have attended conventions in the past, stating that a convention should not be held in a resort city as the location itself does not lend itself to conducting business.

7/2/50 - Brother A. W. Watkins made a motion that any delegate who does not conduct himself in a proper manner never be allowed to attend another convention. Second by Brother J. C. Strickland. Motion pulled down.

7/2/50 – We had gotten behind on our initiation and an attempt was made to catch up. This morning we initiated Brothers J. E. Watkins, T. O. Gates, C. T. May, E. S. Thorton, J. W. Kirk, F. A. Beacham, N. E. Conyers, S. J. Talton, L. H. Reeves, and T. P. Clemens. We hope to initiate the rest at an early date. A good time was had by all.

8/1/50 – Bro. Crabtree asked for cooperation in our meetings.

10/2/50 – Application for memberships were made by J. T. Edwards, C. R. Carter, Wester Lloyd, and James Ellis. Application accepted and action to be taken next meeting.

10/2/50 – Brother A. W. Watkins asked about proper authority on action taken by the Executive Committee, that possibly some of the action taken should have been the responsibility of the Grievance Committee. Brother Honeycutt made a motion that the action stand and that in the future the Grievance Committee would act. Seconded and passed.

10/2/50 – Brother Crabtree spoke on working together and cooperation.

10/2/50 – The condition of Sherwood Brockwell was discussed, and the need for blood donor was brought out by several of the members.

10/2/50 – Brother Mims spoke on the telephone situation. President High pointed out that the steward at each station could handle that, he and the offender better than anyone else.

10/2/50 – Brother High stated that his salary had been raised to the proper level and that he was no longer on relief.

10/2/50 – Brother O’Neal spoke on promotion of drivers and officers. Brother Mims made a motion that the organization appoint a committee to see that promotion be made by seniority plus ability, and that these two points be considered only in making any promotion. Second

by Bro. W. L. Mitchell. An amendment to Brother Mims motion was made by Brother Keeter, that the Drillmaster was in a position to know a man's ability, that he recommend to the Chief a senior, able man to fill any vacancy. Amendment and motion carried. Brother J. E. Watkins made a motion that if a senior, able man be sent to the Drillmaster and qualified as a promotable man and is not accepted by the Chief, that we do not lay down in our efforts to see this man promoted. Motion seconded by Brother McGhee. Motion carried.

10/2/50 - Brother J. W. Godwin made a motion that an assistant driver be made on each shift for each company. Brother Burnette seconded. Motion carried.

11/1/50 – Applications for membership was made by M. D. Williams, Calvin Boseman, J. L. Allen Jr., and R. R. Hailey. Action in their membership will be taken up next meeting.

11/1/50 – Report by Bro. Keeter and Bro. Puryear on action taken by their committee on day off a month. During a conference with Mr. Johnstone they were informed that he had this matter under consideration prior to this meeting. Promise of action on this matter was given by Mr. Johnstone. Bro. Puryear stated that Mr. Johnstone would oppose approaching the council with this matter.

11/1/50 – President High reported in his conference with Chief Lloyd in regard to promotion by seniority plus ability. He reported that a system of promotion had been worked out by the Public Safety Directory, based on competitive examination. Bro. Honeycutt and Bro. Summers made comments on the working of this system on information secured from Mr. Johnstone. Bro. Keeter spoke on the fact that possibly the competitive examination system was not ideal and would not cover our needs. Bro. Chappell made a motion that we stick to this subject until thrashed [?] out and follow through on the resolution made last meeting. Seconded and carried without opposition. Bro. Hayes spoke on the matter, stating that in his opinion he did not think it fair in the men standing a competitive examination for promotion not to know exactly what the examination would be about. That in the case of examination given in the Police Dept., where an D. O. [?] Test, then an exam on matters taken up in Police School was given. In that case the man would have had an opportunity to study on the subject prior to examination. Bro. Hayes made it a point whether an applicant standing exam would be questioned on a subject familiar to him and his job. Mr. Johnstone

happened to be around #2 Station and was asked by Pres. High to comment on the competitive exam system. He informed us that his system was to get the best qualified men for a job, to rule out favoritism and generally speaking he considered it the best system. He stated that the best man on the D. O. test would not necessarily get the job. That other factors were involved. His discussion was general and questions were by asked several members. Having this discussion Mr. Johnstone stated that seniority would not play the primary role in a promotion. We were fortunate in having Mr. Johnstone visit us as we were shown his system clearly and any action we take would not be blind at the beginning. Motion made by Bro. L. Q. Godwin that the matter lay open until next meeting day. Seconded and carried.

11/1/50 – Bro. Pollard spoke on Bro. Yates [?] and issuing a service card as he will be in good standing with the U.S. Army.

11/1/50 – Bro. Reeves spoke on how much the Dept. meant to him and that he would be entering active duty in the U.S. Navy Nov. 17, 1950.

11/24/50 – Brother Honeycutt made a motion that in the case of applicant M. D. Williams, who is being inducted into the armed services, that the President see that this applicant be sworn in at the President's discretion and that the rules be set aside in this particular case. Seconded and carried.

11/24/50 – Bro. Honeycutt reported on the fact that Bro. Perry's son had been injured in an accident.

11/24/50 – At this time the President called for a reading of the resolution passed during our Oct. 2, 1950 meeting. Bro. A. W. Watkins made a motion that copies of these resolutions be sent to the Director of Public Safety, City Manager, City Council, and the Civil Service Commission. Seconded by Bro. W. L. Mitchell. During discussion on this motion Bro. A. W. Watkins amended his original motion, that the fellows who want to take the examination do so and that we will carry our fight to the Civil Service Commission and oppose the promotion of any man who is not a senior, able, & qualified man. During discussion on the amended motion an amendment to Bro. Watkins motion and amendment was offered by Bro. Honeycutt. Motion to cancel all previous motions made on this subject prior to this date. 2nd by Bro. Mims. After discussions the amended motion of Bro. Watkins, amended by Bro. Honeycutt, was put to vote. Resolved that the men wishing to take the competitive examination do

so and that we will take our fight to the Civil Service Commission and oppose the promotion of any man who is not a senior, able, qualified man. This resolution is to cancel any previous resolutions made on this subject prior to this date. Put to a vote by President High. Passed without opposition and with a clear two-thirds majority of those present.

11/24/50 – Motion by Bro. A. W. Watkins that the President appoint a committee to see that Bro. Joe Hobby be reinstated as a driver.

11/24/50 – Motion by Bro. Burnette to appoint a committee to carry through proper channels our feelings and opposition to the stripe on our uniform trousers.

11/24/50 – Bro. Mims made a motion to have a Christmas Party. Amendment to this motion was made by Bro. A. W. Watkins that we send a basket of fruit or some other remembrance to our retired or disabled brothers.

11/24/50 - Pres. High appointed Bro. J. W. Godwin to be in charge of all arrangements on this [Christmas] party, date, who to invite, choice of help, and place of the event.

11/24/50 – Brother A. W. Watkins made a motion that we send flowers to our Honorary Brother C. D. Hill who is sick.

12/3/50 – In accordance with the resolution made during our meeting Nov. 24, 1950, applicant M. D. Williams was sworn in by President High on this date. The ceremony was witnessed by Bro. Summers, High, Pollard, Hailey, Hamilton, and Stephenson and took place at Station 4 at 7:30 p.m.

1/2/50 – Motion made by Bro. Keeter that each man attending [Christmas party] pay \$1.50 and that the balance would come from Chief Matthews fund and our local treasury.

1/2/50 – Bro. H. N. Sadler, who was retired due to disability Jan 1, 1950, is to get an honorable withdrawal card.

2/13/51 – H. E. Partin, H. L. Gosnell Jr., J. R. House, J. C. Johnson, E. B. Rea, and N. L. Pittman made application for membership.

2/13/51 – Bro. Keeter spoke on the request of our retired Brother H. N. Sadler for relief. He assured us that the committee would take necessary action on this matter.

2/13/51 – Bro. Burnette explained the promotions involved in setting up the Fire Prevention Bureau. After lengthy discussion on this matter, a motion was made by Bro. Joe Hobby to this effect: Every man eligible wishing to do, take the competitive examination for the position of Inspector with the Fire Prevention Bureau. In the event of abolishment of this Bureau, or for any other reason, the men on this Bureau are returned to firefighting duty, they will return to the rank that was held prior to their promotion to this Bureau. Second by Bro. A. W. Watkins. Put to vote and carried without opposition.

2/23/51 – President High thanked the organization for the flowers sent on the event of his brother's death.

4/2/51 – Report by Bro. Keeter on promotions, and the opposition of the promotion of Bro. J. W. Kirk and the reasons thereof.

4/2/51 – Bro. Honeycutt spoke on Senate Bill #235 pertaining to emergency vehicles and insurance covering same.

4/2/51 – Bro. Marshall thanked the boys for the pajamas sent him at the hospital during his stay there.

4/2/51 – Bro. Burnette made a motion that the organization get busy and see that our retired members have some token of our appreciation. Seconded and carried. Bro. Stephenson made a motion that it shall be a part of the duties of the Vice-President to see that this be taken care of. Seconded and carried. Bro. A. W. Watkins made a motion that we give each retired member a ring. Seconded and tabled until next meeting.

4/2/51 – Bro. Mims made a motion that a committee see the proper authorization in regard to the fire dept. painting the fire hydrants. After discussion, it was decided to let the officer bring this matter up at their next meeting with the City Manager.

4/2/51 – Nominations for the coming year:

President:

A. W. Watkins by J. S. Harrison, E. B. Rea

W. E. Pollard by R. R. High, Burnette

V. President:

J. C. Crabtree by J. R. Marshall, Hayes

O. Summers by J. T. Honeycutt, Pollard

J. T. Honeycutt by O. Summers, Hayes

Fin. Sec.:

V. J. Smith by D. L. Brannan, Hayes

Rec. Sec.:

H. S. Stephenson by C. L. Hayes, Watkins

Trustees:

C. L. Hayes by Hayes, Watkins

C. T. May by Marshburn, Chappell

C. R. Puryear by Honeycutt, Williams

4/2/51 – President High appointed J. L. Allen Jr. to help audit the Fin. Sec. books in place of T. P. Clemens who resigned.

4/2/51 – Motion by A. W. Watkins that firemen should be appointed Special Officer to work dances. Second. By W. L. Mitchell. President High pointed out that this matter should come through the Grievance Committee. That they should act first.

4/2/51 – Bro. Burnette made a motion that a committee be appointed to work on organizing a [Ladies] auxiliary, and report back to next meeting.

### Firefighter Names

The following names are mentioned in these transcribed minutes. Some firefighters are mentioned by last name only, and are listed below as likely or certain matches.

Notes:

- No retirements prior to 1949, the year the city retirement system was created.
- Inexact dates are **noted in red**.

Name	Start	Stop	Last Rank	Disposition	Years
Alexander, M. Arthur, Jr.	09/03/42, by	TBD	?	?	?
Allen, Jordan L., Jr.	12/19/50, by	1953	Driver	Left	?
Averett, Plummer L.	11/06/26	07/19/43	Lieutenant?	Left	16.7
Beacham, Frank A.	12/29/50, by	1951	?	?	?
Blackwood, D. Conway	11/01/36	1941-1949	Asst. Chief	Left	?
Blake, James Phillip	04/03/32	06/30/64	Capt.	Died off-duty	32.3
Brannan, David Lee	03/06/40	03/08/67	Capt.	Died off-duty	27

Name	Start	Stop	Last Rank	Disposition	Years
Burnette, James Monery	01/01/28	04/01/71	Asst. Chief	Retired	43.3
Boseman, Calvin R.	04/16/50	12/19/78	Capt.	Retired	28.7
Briggs, Thomas H.	08/13/43	05/15/48	Private	Left	4.8
Brockwell, Sherwood Battle	06/17/12	08/01/14	Fire Chief	Left	2.2
Butts, William Ralph	12/19/26	06/20/47	Fire Chief	Left	20.5
Caudle, Durwood E.	06/01/26	1945, by	?	Left	?
Chappell, Charles C.	01/01/49	03/01/81	Capt.	Retired	31.4
Choplin, Willis Leonard	04/01/14	12/24/20, by	?	Retired	28.1+
	12/24/20	02/01/49			
Clemens, Thomas P.	01/01/49	08/31/50	FF	Left	1.7
Collins, Dempsie D.	10/07/29	01/29/64	Driver?	Died off-duty	34.3
Conyers, Norman Exum	06/01/49	04/01/81	Capt.	Retired	31.9
Crabtree, Jack C.	06/05/22	09/08/24	Capt.	Retired	31.5
	05/09/33	07/16/62			
Dowd, Bernard C.	06/08/33	June 1945	?	Left	12
Ellen, Octavius Kenneth	07/15/33	04/06/44	?	Left	10.7
Emory, Ernest C.	04/17/44	07/01/78	FF	Retired	34.2
Ennis, Ulysses M.	09/16/25	07/04/58	Capt.	Retired	32.8
Fowler, Billy Thomas "B.T."	07/16/51	08/01/86	Capt.	Retired	35.1
Gardner, William J.	1943, circa	1943-1949	?	Left	?
Gates, Thomas O.	12/21/49, by	09/19/50	?	?	?
	9/16/52, by	4/9/53, after			
Godwin, John William Jr.	10/04/39	04/01/72	Asst. Chief	Retired	32.5
Godwin, Lucius Q.	03/18/42	11/20/68	Capt.	Died off-duty	26.7
Gosnell, Henry Lloyd, Jr.	10/16/50	07/01/81	Capt.	Retired	30.7
Gregory, John W.	10/22/41	04/01/42	?	Left	?
	02/01/46	1949, by			
Grimes, John D.	08/06/30	1944-1949	?	Left	?
Hailey, Ralph R.	12/16/53	06/01/77	Capt.	Retired	23.5
Hall, Thomas D.	09/18/48	1951	Asst. Mechanic	Left	?
Hamilton, William Bryant	02/01/49	1971	District Chief	Retired	?

Name	Start	Stop	Last Rank	Disposition	Years
Hamlet, Roy T.	09/16/46	05/09/05	?	Left	?
Harrison, John G.	08/03/24	06/30/61	Capt.	Retired	36.9
Hayes, Charles L.	05/12/31	05/28/71	Capt.	Retired	40.1
High, Roy R.	09/11/41	02/23/72	Driver / Dispatcher	Retired	30.5
Hobby, Joel M. "Joe"	05/20/37	03/30/71	Capt.	Retired	33.9
Holmes, John W.	11/09/41	1947-1951	Fire Marshal	Died off-duty	25.6+
	07/23/51	02/21/77			
Honeycutt, Joseph Theodore "Theodore"	02/15/38	07/26/68	Captain	Died off-duty	30.5
House, James R.	10/16/50	12/27/80	Captain	Retired	30.2
Johnson, James C.	02/13/51, by	TBD	?	?	?
Keeter, John Boswell "Jack"	07/01/31	06/01/73	Fire Chief	Retired	41.9
King, Ellis D.	11/01/16	04/01/17	Fire Chief	Left	22.9
	12/15/17	07/01/20			
	08/01/21	07/14/41			
King, J. Roy	11/15/18	12/20/19	?	?	?
	02/15/22	01/15/24			
	11/10/25	02/02/26			
	02/01/32	1945-1949			
Kirk, James Willis "Willis"	02/01/49	1956	Driver?	Left	?
Lassiter, Royce Campbell	05/09/33	12/31/73	Captain	Retired	40.7
Lee, Fred H.	02/21/49	1950	?	?	?
Lloyd, Alvin B.	07/16/19	02/25/55	Fire Chief	Died off-duty	35.6
Lloyd Hughie Vance	03/21/23	1928-1935	?	Left	?
	1/1/48, by	1949, by			
Mabry, Walter Richard	02/01/49	07/01/83	District Chief	Retired	34.4
Marshall, John Robert "Robert"	11/18/26	1955	FF	Retired	?
Marshburn, Vernon H.	02/16/49	07/01/81	Captain	Retired	32.4
May, Claude T "C.T."	10/01/49	07/01/81	Asst. Chief	Retired	31.8
Matthews, Robert Lee "Lee"	06/01/26	1963	Asst. Chief	Retired	?
McGhee, Edward G	06/11/23	09/29/59	Captain?	Retired	36.3

Name	Start	Stop	Last Rank	Disposition	Years
Mills, C. Douglas	01/17/34	1940-1949	?	Left	?
Mims, Virgil Graham	08/25/29	08/01/63	Captain	Retired	34
Mitchell, William Lawson	04/01/46	07/01/76	FF	Retired	30.33
Nunn, Charles Edward	05/23/33	02/01/66	Driver	Retired	32.7
Olive, Brantley B.	1/1/45, by	1949, by	?	Left	?
O'Neal, Arthur Eric	12/19/42	1962	Driver	Left	?
Painter, Clifton D.	07/31/42, by	TBD	?	Left	?
Parker, May T.	10/09/39	1972	Mechanic	Retired	?
Partin, Herbert Ezzell "Ezzell"	09/16/50	09/01/77	Lieutenant	Retired	?
Pearce, George E.	04/24/05	07/15/43	?	Left	?
Perry, Moses E.	04/02/13	03/01/17	FF ?	Retired	41.2
	08/15/17	04/17/18			
	12/25/20	08/16/57			
Pipkin, Floyd T	09/27/42	10/01/74	Captain	Retired	32
Pittman, Nolan L.	12/29/50, by	1951	?	?	?
Pollard, W. Edward "Edward"	11/14/41	06/30/76	Captain	Retired	34.6
Poole, James A.	11/18/26	02/28/67	Captain	Retired	40.3
Puryear, Clarence Rudy, Sr.	02/15/41	11/01/42	Fire Chief	Died off-duty	30.8
	10/01/45	11/10/74			
Rea, Edward? B.	12/29/50, by	1951	?	?	?
Reaves, Leroy H.	02/01/49	1950	?	Left	?
Sadler, Horace N.	10/08/25	05/04/05	Captain	Left	?
Shannon, Jasper R.	02/01/49	08/18/49	?	Left	0.5
Smith, Vernon J	07/17/42	03/01/56	Driver	Died, duty-related	13.7
Stephenson, Harold S.	06/01/45	05/25/05	Driver	Retired	?
Stephenson, L. Grimes	06/01/37	04/28/05	?	Left	?
Summers, Oscar	05/23/33	12/32/74	Captain	Retired	41.6
Talton, Stephen J.	02/01/50	09/01/76	District Chief	Retired	26.6
Thorton, Edsell S.	01/01/49	12/01/83	Captain	Retired	34.2
Todd, John B.	10/15/49	02/28/51	FF	Left	1.4
Wall, Carl L.	01/07/43	12/30/78	Capt.	Retired	36
Watkins, Arthur Wade "Wade"	05/24/45	1972	Capt.	Retired	?

Name	Start	Stop	Last Rank	Disposition	Years
Watkins, Henry Clifton	9/11/41, by	1949, by	?	Left	?
Watkins, James E.	12/29/50, by	1951	?	?	?
White, James Theodore "Theodore"	11/06/26	12/31/68	Capt.	Retired	42.2
White, William W.	12/08/42	6/30/49, after	Capt.	Retired	?
Wiggs, Robert G.	05/09/33	1944-1949	?	Left	?
Wilkerson, O. Levi	1944, circa	1949, by	?	?	?
Williams, Melvin D.	04/06/50	1950	Capt.	Retired	28.3+
	09/18/52	01/01/81			
Williford, J. E. <i>Full name perhaps Julian E, per era city directories?</i>	8/26/43, by	04/15/44	?	Left	?

## Notes

Three people were granted honorary lifetime memberships on February 1, 1945. They don't appear to have been firefighters:

- N. A. (Dock) Dran [?]
- H. H. [?] Leinster [?]
- C. D. Hill.

These were perhaps civilian contributors to the fire department, or the union.

## Statistics

Calendar Year	Calls	Stations	Eng Co	Aerial Truck Co	Service Truck Co	Chief	Fiscal Year	Auth Posns	Adopted Budget
1942	638	5	5	1	1	Butts	FY42	59+	
1943	969	5	5	1	1	Butts	FY43	58	\$110,870
1944	692	6	6	1	1	Butts	FY44	62	\$119,580
1945	749	6	6	1	1	Butts	FY45		\$120,505
1946	998	6	6	1	1	Butts	FY46	58	\$120,559
1947	893	6	6	1	1	B / L	FY47	56	\$145,534
1948	813	6	6	1	1	Lloyd	FY48	56	\$154,380
1949	698	5	5	1	1	Lloyd	FY49	67	\$192,095
1950	911	6	5	1	1	Lloyd	FY50	84	\$213,689
1951	940	6	5	1	1	Lloyd	FY51	82	\$319,340

## Notes

- In 1940, the population was 48,879 and the land area was 7.25 square miles.
- In 1950, the population was 65,679 and the land area was 10.88 square miles.

## Appendix - Union History

Local 548 of the International Association of Fire Fighters was chartered in 1938. There were twenty-one charter members. The charter fee was \$10.00 and dues were \$1.00 per month for active members. Officers consisted of President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Secretary-Treasurer, and Chaplain. Robert Glenn Davis was the first president.

The Local ceased operations in 1959, when the North Carolina General Assembly outlawed the rights of firefighters and police officers to belong to unions. In 1968, the state statute was ruled unconstitutional in federal court. Collective bargaining, however, remained prohibited between municipalities and labor organizations.

In 1969, they were re-chartered as Raleigh Fire Fighters, Local 548. The charter fee was \$25.00. The initiation fee was \$1.00 per member. The per capita tax was 85 cents (active), and 42.5 cents (retired). There were 173 charter members. Ned Perry was the first president.

Among their activities during the seventies and early eighties included participating in a city employee coalition that asked citizens to support a pay increase, working for two years to win creation of the First Class Fire Fighter position, and supporting a bill that altered the role and composition of Raleigh's Civil Service Commission.

They ceased operations in 1983 and were re-chartered in 1986 as the Raleigh Professional Fire Fighters Association. The charter fee was \$50.00. The initiation fee was \$5.00 per member. Per capita

taxes were \$3.48 for active and \$1.74 for retired members. There were 219 charter members. James Driver was the first president.

The Association obtained a 1948 Mack pumper, which was used for parades and even as a funeral caisson. It transported the casket of member Ted Calvert, who died off-duty in 1990.

During the late eighties and the nineties, their activities included operating a children's fire safety trailer, lobbying for pay raises for public safety employees including the commission of a pay study, and helping finance the start-up of the Wake County Chapter of the Firefighters' Burned Children Fund.

Today, the Association promotes and sponsors a variety of activities, from Fill the Boot for the Muscular Dystrophy Association to the North Carolina Jaycee Burn Center's Camp Celebrate. Through the money raised at twice-yearly concerts at Dorton Arena, they provide free fire safety workbooks to all Wake County second graders. They also provide financial support for free smoke alarm programs, youth athletics, the Wake County Battered Women's Shelter, and the annual Dance Like No One Is Watching Gala. The Association is also an advocate for its members, and works to create awareness of firefighter injuries and occupational hazards.

Each spring, the Association sponsors a chicken 'n' rice luncheon for retirees at Station 26. The annual event was started in 2004 as a way to honor retirees. In 2010, the Association expanded their educational efforts with the first Fire Department

Operations 101 class at the Keeter Training Center. The day-long program provided city officials with a hands-on orientation to the duties of a firefighter. In 2012, the program was expanded to include members of the media.

*This written history originally appeared in Raleigh Fire Department – A Century of Service: 1912 - 2012, a hardcover commemorative book published by the Raleigh Fire Department and printed by Strawbridge Studios in March 2013. Read the complete text history of the department, from that book, at <http://www.raleighfiremuseum.org/content/2012/>*