



PNCEFA

Piedmont North Carolina Firefighter's Association

Quarterly Association Meeting

April 18 @ 6:30 pm

Northwest Harnett Fire Department

Officers

Tommy Cole
President

Ron Fowler
1st Vice-President

Vacant
2nd Vice-President

Brian Cox
South Director

Steve Neal
North Director

Ed Brinson
Treasurer

Kathy Weatherspoon
Executive Secretary

Len Needham
Past President

Call Meeting to Order – Ron called meeting to order. Ron thanked Chief Chris Prince of the Northwest Harnett Fire Department, for hosting the meeting and LGFCU for providing the meal.

Invocation – Chris Lantham offered invocation.

Meal – Sponsored by LGFCU.

Sign-In Sheet – Sign in sheet was distributed and everyone was asked to make sure they sign it.

Introduction of Board Members – Ron introduced all the current Board members:

Ron Fowler–President

Brian Cox – 1st VP

Steve Neal – 2nd VP(absent)

Tommy Cole – Past President

Kathy Weatherspoon – Executive Secretary

Ed Brinson – Treasurer

Chris Lantham – North Director

A.C. Rich – South Director (absent)

Review Minutes from January 25, 2012 Quarterly Meeting – Minutes were distributed for everyone to review. Motion to accept was made by Len Needham and seconded Chris Davis. Passes.

Treasurers Report – Ed distributed copies of the quarterly financial report for review. Board approved earlier tonight to move \$15,000 into three CDs to hopefully earn more income. Motion to accept made by Jerry Brooks and seconded by Ed Brinson. Passes.



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Speakers:

1. LGFCU - Bill Carter and his group (Monica and Shawn) updated everyone on what the LGFCU can provide to each fireman and departments. He thanked everyone who has allowed the LGFCU to help them across the State. Bill gave an update on their commercial loan department which involves a lot of fire departments and apparatuses. They continue efforts to become partners with the fire service in North Carolina.

Reports: Update from all programs was given.

1. NCSFA – Scott Alderman, Past President, NCSFA, reported that scholarships have been reviewed and thanks to all who helped review them. In process of hiring an Assistant Director for the NCSFA. Vendor registration is now open for Conference. Focus groups meetings are ongoing across the state. Several will be attending the Congressional Fire Service meeting in DC next week to meet with NC Representatives. Several involved with the State Retirement Fund gave an update on program. Carl Warner talked about the MetLife contract that is in a separate retirement plan and gave a background on this contract, your options you have with this contract and factors to consider to determine if you want to move now or later. He also went over how to move your MetLife funds to the new retirement system. Last day to move money to start new fiscal year of July 1 is May 7. After that date, you will need to wait till after July 1. Carl updated the Heritage Retirement Plan.
2. NCAFC – Chief Len Needham congratulated Stoney Point for their accreditation they received. NCAFC now has a store on their website where you can customize shirts for your department. Will be attending CFSI next week. Upcoming meeting if you have any items you want to discuss, please let him know. Mid winter conference went good.
3. NCFFF – Kathy reported on the Memorial Service that will be held May 5. Also checkout website for the NCFFF Volunteer Logistical Support Team.
4. Instructors Society – Ray Smith reported that they will be holding the 16th Instructors Conference in May in Asheville at Crown Plaza.
5. OSFM – Will be at the Instructors Conference. Now on Face Book and they have added several schools. Pocket tools just received a face lift. Several items for officers. First episode of function and fitness is not on website. Breathing equipment school just graduated and next available is October 2013.



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There are 60 students in each school. Assisting with two possible LODDs so are this year. Arson review board and OSFM are in process of rewriting program and trying to get it certified for the first time. Monthly listings for equipment, etc., for OSFM are sent to each County Fire Marshall. IMAS updates were given.

6. Community College Systems – Chris Raynor reported that new programs have been uploaded if local community college system library system. Their quarterly meeting will be May 17 @ 9:30am at Randolph County.
7. NC Emergency Management – Joe Wright reported that last night was the deadline for a grant deadline for emergency equipment. Trying to get together information for the grandfathering process with ICS credentials. Deadline will be extended till December. Ethanol class will be held in July. Three communication exercises will be held this year.

Old Business:

1. None

New Business:

1. Eleven scholarships received this year and will be reviewed.

Program: Focus Groups by NCSFA: Scott Alderman, Tommy Cole and Brian Cox presented program tonight which is a focus group meeting to find out what interests are and to make sure what the NCSFA is focusing on and providing is what we want. They distributed a survey form that is broken down into two sections. The first section is about benefits provided by the NCSFA and the second about services provided. Tommy Cole presented a detail overview of all benefits offered by the NCSFA. All information provided is available on the NCSFA website.

Scott Alderman asked for feedback on items that were on the survey that was distributed. Maintaining email list for entire state is difficult if email addresses are not kept current. Communications are difficult.

1. What types of information or resources would you like to hear from the NCSFA?
 - a. Benefits – change or updates to benefits
 - b. More consideration to enhancing the scholarships that the NCSFA offers
 - c. More scholarships for firemen
 - d. Why the difference in what the rescue association and the firemen's association?



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2. Your department spends \$20 for annual membership. What do you expect from that membership?
3. What type of communication do you prefer – email, text, mailing?
 - a. Email works best because you can forward to your group once you receive it.
4. How often are you looking for updates – quarterly, monthly?
 - a. Quarterly at a minimum
 - b. Face book
5. How many visited the NCSFA website? What were you looking for?
 - a. Roster updates
 - b. Conference
 - c. Contact information
 - d. Forms
6. What did you think of the website?
 - a. Much better in past two years
 - b. Updated frequently
 - c. Updating of rosters
7. For those who handle rosters, what did you think of IMAS program?
 - a. Difficulty of entering Certification or non-certification status, needs to be moved to top so it will be easier to access.
 - b. Add a box where it can be checked yes or no for certification
 - c. Add an explanation box of what certification question means
8. For those who applied for scholarships via website, what did you think?
 - a. Horrible – very difficult and kicked out of program.
 - b. Poor system
 - c. Not user friendly – roster question not explained
 - d. Difficulty navigating
 - e. When printing form, not everything prints out for those reviewing application. It only prints a certain amount of data.
 - f. Easier to read than hand written applications.
 - g. Concern was expressed that FF might be rejected because they are not computer experienced.
9. How many have attended conference? If not, why have you not attended?
 - a. Change in position with department
 - b. Budget restraints
 - c. Need to add more hotels around Raleigh for cheaper rates.
 - d. Parking – very expensive to park downtown.



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10. For those who have attended, what are your thoughts?
 - a. Courses good
 - b. Networking opportunities
 - c. Keynote speakers very good
 - d. Splitting business session into two days was a lot better
 - e. Need to get class information out to more people sooner. List of classes should be added to website as soon as possible.
 - f. Good if other association meetings could be held at the same time
11. How many have attended State Legislature Day? If not, why?
 - a. Do not like politicians
 - b. Time of year – same time as budget meetings
12. Those who attended legislature day, did you think it was beneficial?
 - a. Impressed that NCSFA was known and welcomed by legislature
 - b. NSCFAs needed to be there to make sure we are not forgotten
 - c. Legislatures have made contact afterwards with those who have attended that day
13. How many have a LGFCU debit card? Many

Surveys were collected. If anyone has any comments or questions, please contact the NCSFA. If you have not received your NCSFA cards in the mail, please contact the NCSFA as they have been mailed.

Next meeting will be July 25 at Horneytown FD in Forsyth County.

Thanks to Chief and LGFCU and everyone who attended tonight. Hopefully, it has been beneficial to you.

- **Adjourn** – Motion to adjourn by Jerry Brooks. Seconded by Ed Brinson.