



PNCFCA

Piedmont North Carolina Firefighter's Association

Quarterly Association Meeting

January 22, 2014

6:30 pm

Fayetteville Fire Department

Welcome to Fayetteville. Chief Ben Majors welcomed everyone to Fayetteville and thanks to his staff at Fayetteville Fire Department for hosting. Atlantic Emergency Solutions are sponsoring the meal tonight.

Invocation given by Chris L.

Meal – Sponsored by Atlantic Emergency Solutions. Ron recognized Atlantic Emergency Solutions and their staff and thanked them for the meal.

President Fowler introduced board members:

Brian Cox – President
Steve Neal – 1st VP
Chris Langham – 2nd VP
Ed Brinson – Treasurer
A.C. Rich – South Director
Chris Davis – North Director
Ron Fowler – Past President
Kathy Weatherspoon – Executive Secretary
Tommy Cole – will be leaving as Past President

Installation of Officers: Tommy Cole gave the charge to officers.

Meeting was turned over to Brian Cox, new President. The board presented a new helmet to outgoing President Ron Fowler from the Piedmont NC Firefighters Association. Ron thanked everyone for their support and hard work while he has served on the board.

Approval of Minutes from October 23, 2013 Meeting – Minutes of October 23 meeting were distributed to all members for review. Motion to accept made by Steve Roberson and seconded by ??? Passes.



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Treasurer's Report – Ed gave report that was distributed for review. Motion to approve by Jerry Brooks and seconded by Steve Roberson.

Association / Agency Reports:

1. NCSFA – Tim Bradley gave report for the NCSFA. He reported that Tommy Cole has been appointed to the NC 911 Board. Tim recognized representatives from his board that were present. Association is dealing with membership rosters. A great deal is going on in the Legislature. Several items are being reviewed. One of those, the Relief Fund and NCSFA has been actively involved in that issue. Legislature Day is scheduled for May 28. Everyone was asked to add to their calendar and participate in Legislature Day. IRS has ruled that volunteers will not be viewed as employees for purposes of Affordable Health Care Act. We think we are in the clear as long as no one tries to pass a paid person off as a volunteer. Scholarship applications open January 31. The NCSFA, NCAFC, Piedmont, Eastern and Western Associations will be meeting at a summit before Mid-Winter Chief's Conference. We hope to improve communications across the State. Expo registration should be online in March.
2. NCAFC – Benny Nichols gave report and recognized representatives from his board that were present. He also voiced urgency of supporting Legislature Day on May 28. Mid-Winter plans are set. Both hotels under contract are both full. Over 450 registrations for conference. Chief 101 has open slots available. ISO class is full. Tim Bradley will be key note speaker for conference. Updates will be given on the Affordable Care Act and how it affects the fire service. Dr. Mark Holland will be presenting a program for spouses this year. Speaker for banquet will be one of the pilots of the Miracle on the Hudson plane crash.
3. N.C. Emergency Management – Steve Powers gave report for the agency. State Emergency board now has a representative from the fire service. Several upcoming classes which are also listed on their website. Statewide exercise in April.
4. OSFM – Kelly reported for OSFM. Several staff changes. Reminder that beneficiary cards should be updated. Several ongoing opportunities. Participating in new elderly program with NC Baptist Men where they are linking fire departments with churches to help elderly with fire issues. Grants are open. Fire and Life Safety conference will be going on concurrent with Mid-Winter Chief's Conference. Vernon Ward gave updates on inspections and ratings. New grading schedule starting January 1. Power point slides and study guide are now available online on their OSFM ratings website under Rating and Inspection section. He encouraged everyone to go to website and download forms, etc., to familiarize yourself with new guidelines. Surveys will begin in March. They are failing a lot of departments with a 9S rating – non responses of staff main issue.



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5. NCFFF – Shane Allred gave report for the NCFFF. In November, we elected Ed Brinson as President. In December 2013, we had 3 possible LODDs and all three were cardiac related. Eleven names will be added this year, 4 prior years and 7 for 2013. Four of these are from the Piedmont. Memorial Service will be held May 3. Looking at fundraisers. We may try to do cornhole tournament at Expo. We will do memorial service at Expo on Thursday. Bladen County FF Association has added \$2 dues to each of their members with all the proceeds going to the NCFFF. We would like to encouraging anyone interesting to think about doing something like this to help financially. We would like to say thanks to several of the chiefs who allow their staff to come and help out the NCFFF.
6. NC Community College – Chris Regan gave report. Kenny Wetherton from Pamlico as new Director. Working on issues with data problems between Community College and OSFM. If someone in your department has questions about credits for any classes, they should first ask Community College and they will try and resend info to OSFM. Several classes are scheduled over the new couple of months.
7. Volunteer Workers Comp – Mike Hill gave report. He said we have good representation from the fire service on the commission. Major focus over the past year has been funding. Funding seems to be on a sound tract thanks to several. Costs of claims are going up so Chief's should plan on premiums going up also.
8. South Eastern Association – Ron Fowler gave report. Conference will be in Knoxville, TN this year and he encouraged anyone interested to please think about attending. Nominations for National Chief of the Year are open. Fire Chief GPO was setup to help with costs on ordering items. Check the SE site for more information.

Vendor Briefs –

1. LGFCU – Sherrod gave report and update of changes they are making to better serve fire departments.

Old Business - None

New Business

1. Bylaws change – Tommy Cole reported on the change to the Bylaws that was approved at last meeting. Vote was taken and approved to add Lifetime Membership to the Bylaws.
2. Executive Board approved donation of \$505 to the NCAFC to help with Mid-Winter Conference. The Board also approved donation of \$1,000 to the NCFFF to help with expenses at Memorial in May to cover the four from the Piedmont that will be honored.



PNCFA

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Officers

Ron Fowler
President

Brian Cox
1st Vice-President

Steve Neal
2nd Vice-President

A.C. Rich
South Director

Chris Langham
North Director

Ed Brinson
Treasurer

Kathy Weatherspoon
Executive Secretary

Tommy Cole
Past President

3. Scholarships are open and due by March 31.

4. Tommy Cole reported on the 911 Board that will be taking up issue of funding model for 911 secondary PSAPS. Benny Nichols requested that the PNCFA take a negative role and vote on this change. He is on record as opposition to this change. Benny made motion and seconded by Jerry Brooks for the PNCFA to oppose this change. Passes.

Program — Jamie Burgess, NC Director, Firefighter Cancer Support Network, gave presentation. Cancer in the fire service is becoming a bigger problem. It is an issue that we need to address. The FCSN provides timely assistance and one on one support to firefighters who are diagnosed with cancer. Their objectives are to provide cancer awareness; provide ways to decrease the risk of receiving a cancer diagnosis; and help out if you or an immediate family member receives a cancer diagnosis. Firefighters are exposed to many compounds designated as carcinogens such as benzene, diesel engine exhaust, chloroform, soot, styrene, and formaldehyde, etc. Skin absorption rate of toxins in the groin area are 300% alone. NIOSH report shows mortality and cancer incidence in a cohort of firefighters. The new study had a larger study population followed for a longer period of time and the results strengthen the scientific evidence to prove increase. Methods of exposure include ingestion, absorption and inhalation. Prevention: Washing of hands; taking a shower after a fire; baby wipes as a quick decon; gross decon on scene; washing your gear; washing your helmet and liner; keep bunker gear outside living quarters; have a designated area for your bunker gear (in bays with diesel fumes is not a good area); transporting your gear (use air tight container); and diesel exhaust systems. We need to change our mentality. They also offer family support and End of Life issues support. They do not offer financial support or legal or medical advice. Contact information 866-994-FCSN or website. Jamie Burgess, NC Director, jburgess@fcsn.net 336-451-5503.

Next Meeting – April 23, 2014 at 6:30pm at Reidsville Fire Department.

Adjourn – motion made to adjourn.