

PIEDMONT NORTH CAROLINA FIREFIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION

QUARTERLY MEETING

JULY 19, 2017

ORANGE RURAL FIRE DEPARTMENT

Call to Order: 1st Vice President Chris Langham called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Opening Comments: 1st Vice President Langham thanked Chief Jeff Cabe and Orange Rural Fire Department for hosting meeting tonight and Scott Hackler for helping setting up the meeting. Thanks also given to LGFCU for sponsoring our meal.

Prayer: Chief Ron Fowler offered the opening prayer and gave thanks for the meal. Chief Brian Cox led the pledge of allegiance.

Meal Sponsor: Thanks to LGFCU for sponsoring the meal tonight. Bill Carter, LGFCU, introduced his staff in attendance. Chris thanked Bill and LGFCU for all of their support thru the years.

Introduction of the Board: 1st Vice President Langham welcomed everyone and asked that they sign the sheet going around. He introduced the Piedmont Association Board of Directors:

Steve Neal – President (excused)

Chris Langham – 1st VP

A.C. Rich – 2nd VP

Ed Brinson – Treasurer

Dolly Hulin – South Director

Chris Davis – North Director

Brian Cox – Past President

Kathy Weatherspoon – Executive Secretary

Recognitions: 1st VP Langham recognized all Past Presidents in attendance. The scholarship awardees in attendance were recognized (Abigail Rich, Marci Sessions, Matthew Ferris and Rebecca Ladd).

Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the previous association meeting were provided for review and approval. Motion made by Tommy Cole to accept and seconded by Steven Roberson. Passes unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report was given. Total in all accounts is \$40,003.40. Motion made to accept by Len Needham and seconded by Brian Causey. Passes unanimously.

Agency Reports

- 1. NCSFA –** Ed Brinson reported. He recognized the NCSFA Past Presidents. He introduced current Board members in attendance. Ed reported on the devastating fire that engulfed their office in March. They have moved to a temporary location and are back up and running. Scholarship awardees were chosen. Starting December, there will be an increase in dues, the first increase since 2009 due to increasing insurance costs provided for their members. Relief Fund reports are due soon. Conference is next week in Charlotte in conjunction with FRI. Ed

encouraged everyone to attend. He gave update on Legislature bills from this year's very busy session. It's been very active year regarding legislature items.

2. **NCAFC** – Chris Langham gave report. Chris recognized past NCAFC Presidents and current board members present. Most of the NCAFC Board members attended the SEAFRC where Chief Ron Fowler was inducted as President of the SEAFRC. Congratulations! Fire service manual has been updated and is listed on the NCAFC website. Fire Prevention School will be held in March 2018. Masters Level Program has been added. He gave update on all upcoming classes/schools. The Accreditation Consortium will be held next week at SAFRE. Last focus group be held tonight at Western Association meeting.
3. **NCFFP** – James Griffin reported for the NCFFP. Next year's Memorial Service will be held in May 2018. He updated upcoming items at SAFRE.
4. **NC Society of Fire-Rescue Instructors** – James Griffin reported.
5. **OSFM** – Several staff updated classes/training and other issues from OSFM. Derrick Clauson update information on inspections. He addressed issue of new law decreasing number of fire fighters roster numbers. Classes, etc. have been updated on their website. The State budget approved additional staff for inspections. Several schools coming up. Rescue Grant applications open August 1st. Jan Parker reported on fire prevention updates. Smoke alarms are back in business and available for fire departments. Several classes coming up soon. Several other issues updated.
6. **SEAFRC** – Len Needham reported on SEAFRC Conference held in June in Charleston, SC. Next conference will be in June 2019 in Montgomery, Alabama and June 2020 in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. Len reported on issues for the SAFER grants which will go away if not renewed. Chief Fowler reported that Len had stepped up and was acting as Treasurer at this time. Thanks for the help and support.
7. **NC Community College System** – Chris Raynor reported on drone application class.
8. **NC Emergency Management** – Representative reported that most of the reimbursement checks for the mountain fires. Several updates given. He advised everyone to work closely with their local EM which is working on new software to better tract staff who are deployed during disasters.

Old Business – None

New Business –

1. Nomination period for North Director has closed. One applicant for North Director, Steven Roberson. Motion to close nominations and seconded. Motion to approve Steven Roberson as North Director. Passes unanimously. Treasurer position – Ed Brinson was nominated. Motion to close nominations made and seconded. Motion made to approve Ed Brinson and was elected unanimously. Passes.
2. Handouts were given out about the Piedmont Expo in January 2019. Excellent selection of planned classes that will be offered. Please spread the word.

Program – A. C. Rich introduced Captain Ali with Raleigh Fire Department who has done a lot of work on suicide prevention and firefighter wellness. She gave a presentation on firefighter peer support. Mental health and suicide issues have now come to the forefront of the fire service. Peer support is firefighters helping each other. She gave information on what she has discovered during her research and how they have worked to setup a peer support group from in North Carolina. Her goal is to have an organization (not the only in the State) made up of different groups/departments that can work together to help peer support firefighters across the State (www.ncffps.com). Plans are to have Wake Technical

Community College to have some 2 day training courses this year to train people in peer support. The goal is to form group, train and come up with solutions for firefighters.

Tommy Cole of the NCFE reported that they have approved an initiative to raise money to provide insurance for mental health issues through Providence Insurance as a benefit for the clinical side of mental health issues after the peer support has been used or completed.

2017 Meeting Locations:

- a. October 25 – Moore County, Sandhill’s Community College. Date may change.

Attendance:

Adjournment – Motion made to adjourn. The association meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.