



THE VOLUNTEER



The Official Newsletter of the
ALABAMA ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS

January - April, 2017

40th Annual AAVFD Firefighter Conference

The AAVFD is pleased to announce the fortieth annual AAVFD Conference will be held July 28 & July 29 in Tuscaloosa, Alabama on the campus of the Alabama Fire College (AFC). All events with the exception of the awards banquet will be held at the AFC. The awards banquet will be held at the Bobby Miller Center. The conference is being hosted by District 3. The conference features presentations, annual business meeting with election of officers, firefighter competition, exhibits and networking opportunities. The conference also features exhibitors displaying the latest apparatus, tools, equipment and services available to purchase or order. There are many activities for families to enjoy throughout the weekend. The conference will conclude Saturday night with the annual firefighter banquet.

Vendors will be available Friday from noon to 5pm and Saturday 8am until 2pm.

Registration for the conference is open! We know - we are pretty excited too! This year we are hosting Matt Kelly as the keynote speaker at the Saturday night banquet.

As always, your \$30.00 registration fee covers the Friday night cookout, conference events on Friday & Saturday and the banquet Saturday night.

Of course none of this would be possible without the generous support of our vendor partners! We can not thank them enough.

Vendors, our attendees, AAVFD Auxiliary and the volunteers from AAVFD thank you for your support!

MOTEL INFORMATION:

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Lane, Tuscaloosa
(205) 759-9878
\$79.99 king or
\$89.99 double.
Ask for AAVFD
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**Baymont Inn
& Suites**
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Rd., Tuscaloosa
(205) 345-5018
\$64.99 Ask for Fire
College rate.

**Ambassador Inn
& Suites**
230 Skyland Blvd.
Tuscaloosa
(205) 752-1992

Conference Chairman
Billy Doss
14312 Bear Creek Road
Duncanville, AL 35456
(205) 247-4996 (205) 361-6539

Co Chair
Reid Vaughan
P. O. Box 161
Cuba, AL 36907
(205) 499-6905

Co-Chair
Belinda Lancaster
14312 Bear Creek Road
Duncanville, AL 35456
(205) 361-7350

FROM THE AAVFD PRESIDENT'S DESK

Fellow Firefighters

BY

Mike Green

Once again I find that yet another year has almost passed and we are right around the corner from the annual conference again! Soon you will be receiving information in the mail concerning items that will be brought before you, the membership, to be voted on during our annual meeting. Not only will you be electing new officers this year but you will also have a vote on several revisions to the AAVFD Bylaws that have been presented to me. Please make every effort to have someone present to represent your department/county at this meeting and let your voice be heard.

I am again honored and humbled that I have been asked to continue to serve as the president of this great association. I can honestly say that after 37 years in the fire and emergency medical services business that I would not change that path with any other. Firefighters are some of the most loyal and dedicated individuals I know and I am proud to be a part of such an elite group. Thank you for allowing me to serve you for the past four years and I pledge to continue my support for the volunteer fire service, regardless of election outcomes. This is my life and you are my family.

“Perhaps the most valuable result of all education is the ability to make yourself do things you have to do, when it ought to be done, whether you like it or not.” – Thomas H. Huxley (1825-95) In my opinion this quote relates to the fire service 100 percent! We are trained to react to adverse situations that may cause us bodily harm or even take our lives. We do this without hesitation and never give it a second thought. Training (education) is essential for us to perform our task to the standard expected of us by those we protect and serve. All of you know I am an advocate for training. I urge each of you to attend every available fire training class you can. I am positive this is the number one way we can reduce firefighter injuries and deaths and there is data to prove it. However, it’s what you learn after you “know it all” that counts! Difficulties are things that show a person what and who they really are. Knowing is not enough; we must apply. Willing is not enough; we must do! The more you know the safer you can be. I truly believe in firefighter certification courses. They are the basis for all that follows. Obtain every certification you possibly can but please remember one thing – don’t just be certified; be qualified! We have many qualified firefighters who have been putting out fires long before certifications were awarded. These individuals are still huge assets to your departments and communities. They hold a mountain of knowledge and experience that cannot be replaced. Make sure you focus on retaining these members also. You cannot afford to lose them!



May God bless and keep you safe always,

Mike W. Green



WITH THE AAVFD AUXILIARY

The AAVFD Auxiliary will be participating at the upcoming 40th annual conference. We will have an exhibit table set up during the expo times on Friday & Saturday. The booth will feature the 2017 AAVFD t-shirts. These Gilden shirts are soft, comfy and are made of a 50/50 blend. You do not want to miss out of the 2017 AAVFD t-shirt. Stop by the AAVFD Auxiliary booth and take home a shirt or two! In addition, firefighter jewelry, Yeti style firefighter and collegiate cups, and many other items will be available for purchase. All proceeds go to the AAVFD Auxiliary.

We are currently exploring purchasing a “Bell Tolloed” carrying case for the AAVFD Honor Guard’s bell. We are honored to be able to assist the honor guard in researching a carrying case which will make it easier to carry the bell to various events as well as provide protection to the bell. Thank you to the AAVFD Honor Guard for all you do!

The Auxiliary was pleased to assist the Montgomery County Volunteer Association in forming a new auxiliary this quarter. This auxiliary was created by Marion Ellis. We wish you much success as you go forward.

If you are looking for a way to give back to the AAVFD or assist the AAVFD, consider joining the auxiliary. It’s not just for ladies; men are welcome too! Follow us on Facebook – AAVFD Auxiliary.

2017 CONFERENCE PRE-REGISTRATION

Please make your check payable to: District Three Fire Association

Mail to: District Three Fire Association, Billy Doss, Chairman
14312 Bear Creek Road, Duncanville, Al 35456

Enclosed is \$ _____ for _____ people

Our Fire Department is _____

Please PRINT name of each individual _____

*PLEASE PRINT SO WE CAN READ THE INFORMATION.
IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED, ATTACH AS ADDITIONAL PAGE. THANK YOU!*



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Firefighter of the Year Award and Sherry Garner Memorial Award Nomination Information

Does your fire department have a male and/or female firefighter that sets an example for others or has provided an extra ordinary service in the line of duty such as saving a life, removing someone from a burning building, etc.? If so, now is your chance to nominate this individual for Firefighter of the Year and/or Sherry Garner Memorial Award for female Firefighter of the Year. Nominations must be received no later than June 16 in the AAVFD office (660 Adams Ave. Suite 345 Montgomery, AL 36104). Do not miss the opportunity to nominate a firefighter who has gone above and beyond the call of duty in the volunteer fire service. Both awards will be presented during the annual conference in Tuscaloosa on July 29.

If you have any questions regarding the Firefighter of the Year Award or the Sherry Garner Award, please contact the office at (334) 262-2833.

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Alabama Firefighter Competition 2017

Are you ready for the 2017 firefighter competition? Competition will test the strength, agility, teamwork and skills of firefighters as well as provide a fun, family friendly event for all.

The AAVFD competition offers firefighters the opportunity to compete against other fire departments from around the

state. The competition teams consist of up to ten person teams competing in a series of fire ground scenarios. The teams with the fastest, most efficient times will be declared the winners in each scenario.

Competition teams special registration rate is \$5.00 per person. Everyone must be registered and each team must compete.

Competition Chair, Joey Boyd, is looking forward to facilitating a great event this year for Alabama firefighters from around the state of Alabama to come together to perform, have fun and network in a spirit of brotherhood. Any questions, please contact Joey at (256) 497-8505.

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SunbeltFire.com



Rescue Technician: Cave Rescue I/II

Non-certification Class

July 27 – 30, 2017

Certification Class

July 27 – 31, 2017

Presented by the

**Huntsville Cave
Rescue Unit Inc.**

In conjunction with
Alabama Fire College



ABOUT THE COURSE

This course is designed to present the most current, specialized cave rescue techniques to those individuals, groups, agencies and others interested in or charged with the responsibility of performing high angle, cliff, pit, or cave rescue.

The course is presented in seminar form, using both classroom and field work stressing hands-on training. The instructional team will consist of HCRU Instructors.

This course meets the NFPA 1006, chapter 18 qualifications for Rescue Technician: Cave Rescue I/II

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Brian Bailey, Chairman

256.509.4785

Brian@HCRU.org

Tommy MacPherson, Education

256.947.0745

Tommy@HCRU.org

Ed Nicholas, Chief of Operations

256.859.5550

Ed@HCRU.org

WWW.HCRU.ORG

WWW.ALABAMAFIRECOLLEGE.ORG

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

Any individual interested in developing the array of technical, medical and management skills required to conduct cave/cliff/high angle rescue. This includes personnel from cave rescue units, fire departments, rescue squads, emergency management agencies, park service personnel, first responders, and EMTs. Individuals not working for an agency are welcome and encouraged to attend.

COURSE TOPICS

This course covers all phases of cave rescue and management:

- Single rope technique
- Incident command system
- Underground environment
- Underground communications
- Cave specific medical considerations
- Response systems
- Patient packaging and movement
- Hauling/lowering systems
- Vertical rescue
- Extrication techniques
- Pre-planning and logistics

EQUIPMENT NEEDED

All necessary equipment will be furnished with the exception of personal caving and safety gear. The following is strongly recommended to allow the student the maximum participation in the course:

1. UIAA /CE-Approved helmet, with chinstrap bracket (no fire helmets)
2. Three sources of light, with main source being mounted on the helmet
3. Sturdy, lugged-sole lace-up boots
4. Rugged outdoor clothing (no turnout gear)
5. Gloves with leather palms and full fingers (work gloves are fine)
6. Soft-capped kneepads (such as volleyball type pads)
7. Personal first aid kit - we will be outdoors, make the HCRU aware of any allergies (bees, poison ivy, etc)
8. Cash for lunches (not all places accept plastic)

REGISTRATION: Alabama Fire College 1-800-241-2467

Classes will be limited to 50 students.

Non-certification course: This course is \$75.00, has no prerequisites, and is open to anyone. Please register directly with the HCRU online.

NFPA 1006 Certification course: This course is \$295.00 (in state) and \$495.00 (out of state). Certification students must register through the Alabama Fire College and meet all prerequisites:

- Rescue Technician: Rope if certified prior to April 2010.
- RT: Rope Level I and RT: Rope Level II if certified after April 2010

Certification students must purchase **ON CALL** at AFC bookstore **1-866-984-3545**

LOCATION & TIME

Thursday: Classroom Seminars

8:00am- 6:00pm: Brindlee Mtn. Fire Dept., 4373 Hwy 231, Union Grove, AL 35175

Friday: Practicals, Single Rope Technique training

8:00am - 6:00pm: Brindlee Mtn. Fire Dept.

Saturday: Hauls & Lowers, Extrication Techniques, Patient Movement

8:00am - 6:00pm - Bring lunch, water & snacks

Bluff & In-Cave Exercises (Plan to be self-sufficient)

Sunday: Student-Run Mock Rescue

8:00am - 6:00pm - Bring lunch, water & snacks

In-Cave Exercise & Evaluation (Be prepared to be In-Cave all day)

Monday: Review and Certification Test **CERTIFICATION ONLY**

8:00am- 12:30pm: Brindlee Mtn. Fire Dept.

AAVFD Officers and Board Member Elections

During the annual business meeting on Saturday, elections will be held to fill the officer and board members positions. The Nominating Committee made the following recommendations:

- President:** Mike W. Green (I)
- Vice- President:**
- South: Joey Moffett (I)
Charles Jackson
- Central: Dan Hopkins (I)
David Rogers
- North: Derrick Gatlin (I)
- Secretary:** Mary Sells (I)
Dina Wickliffe
- Treasurer:** Joe Golden (I)

Candidates' fire service biographies are provided in this issue.

Nominations from the floor at the annual meeting are permitted by the AAVFD by-laws. All candidates, except those presented by the nominating committee, must be present at the annual business meeting. All six offices are elected by majority vote of the members in attendance and those members represented by proxy.

Each District (1 through 10) will elect two individuals to represent their district on the Board of Directors from the coming year. AAVFD by-laws require that those two individuals shall not be from the same member department and, in so far as possible, shall come from different geographical areas within the districts. Directors and Alternate Directors shall be elected by a committee consisting of one individual from each dues paid general member department from within the district (ONE VOTE PER DEPARTMENT PRESENT) at the general meeting.



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XPR-5572R

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Intrinsically Safe Dual-Light™ Angle Light

XPP-5570R

- Flashlight, floodlight-waterproof • 3 brightness plus strobe settings
- Powered by 6 AA batteries (included)
- Upgradable to rechargeable with Lithium-ion battery pack (not included)
- Meets requirements for NFPA-1971-8 6 (2013)
- Limited Lifetime Warranty

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First Responder Cabinet Added to Courthouse Hall

BY CLAY MCCULLOUGH

JOURNAL STAFF WRITER MONROE JOURNAL

The Monroe County Fire Association has placed a cabinet in the Monroe County Courthouse to honor the first responders from all of the emergency agencies around the county.

The idea for the cabinet was born in July 2016 when the Fire Association hosted an event at Alabama Southern Community College to honor all first responders. In December, the County Commission would approve the cabinet as a new addition to the courthouse. B & B Cabinets, owned by Ricky Carnes, built it and it was placed alongside the Veterans Cabinet in the courthouse hall by Fire Association President Daniel Day and Rocky Hill Volunteer

Firefighter David Sims. County Commissioner Greg Norris was there to receive the cabinet on behalf of the County Commission office.

The cabinet contains objects, memorabilia and patches to represent the various departments from around the county, and in the near future a plaque will be added to the cabinet.

The plaque will be to honor the brave first responders who have fallen in the line of duty. It will include their names, the year they passed and the agency with which they were affiliated. Should anyone else die in the line of duty, they too will be honored on the plaque.



From left, Sheriff Department Capt. Fred Connor, County Commissioner Greg Norris, Rocky Hill Volunteer Firefighter David Sims and Fire Association President Daniel Day. (Photo by Clay McCullough)

Fire Chief Tracy Sanders Dies In Line of Duty Death

Chief Tracy Sanders was enroute, on 01/13/2017, to work on the departments SOG with a fellow member when the rescue truck she was driving was struck from the rear by a tractor trailer. She passed away the same day at a local hospital from her injuries. Her love of the fire department and its members was only surpassed by her love for her daughters, granddaughter and family.

Her wish for you all would be to hold them tight, spend time with them and to thank you each for your sacrifice.

Chief Sanders started her pursuit of public service as a dispatcher with the Anniston Police Department. After several years she left the position but never could shake the desire to reach out and help anyone in need.



In 2006, she joined the Mt. Olive VFD. This was where she found her true passion and desire. Chief Sanders worked her way through the ranks and became the department's chief. She completed firefighter 160 and became a certified 160 instructor, while also becoming a nationally certified EMT. Her desire to see training completed led many at

the department to further their own education and left the department with numerous individuals certified in many disciplines.

Sanders was described as a star; she was physically and emotionally strong. She will be remembered for the impact she had on the Mt. Olive VFD.

Lauderdale County Association of VFD Honors Volunteers

The Lauderdale County Association of Volunteer Fire Departments (LCAVFD) held their 39th Annual Awards Banquet at Cross Point Church Family annex on February 11, 2017. With 290 firefighters, their families and special guests, it was a very successful banquet.

President Scott Childers welcomed everyone. Childers recognized Lieutenant Wesley Tidwell of Killen VFD who was chosen as the Instructor of the Year for 2016 by the Alabama Fire College.

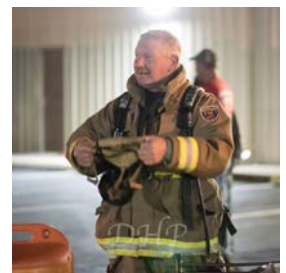
The Following Firefighter Awards were presented:

- The 20 Years of service Plaque addition was Jackie Liles, Zip City VFD.
- The Small Business Supporter of the Year Award went to First southern Bank of St. Florian.
- The Business Supporter of the Year Award went to Radio Station WXFL, KIX96.
- The W.D. Posey Memorial Fair Parking Award went to Jackie Liles of Zip City VFD.
- The Smokey Bear Award went to Anderson VFD.
- The Ladies Auxiliary Individual Award went to Janice Hulswizer of Mid-Lauderdale.
- The Individual Fire Prevention Award went to Rob Hansen of Anderson VFD.
- The Explorer of the Year Award went to Chandler Cole of Waterloo VFD.
- The Rookie of the Year Award went to Tyler Dison of Rogersville VFD.
- The Star of Life Award went to Kayleigh Hargett of Killen VFD.
- The Officer of the Year Award went to Leslie Whitten of Mid-Lauderdale VFD.
- The People's Choice Award went to Oakland VFD.
- The Fire Chief Award went to Brandon Strait of Mid-Lauderdale VFD.
- The Firefighter of the Year Award went to Don Riedel of Waterloo VFD.
- The Beth Childers Memorial Life Saving Award did not have a nominee because no firefighter had to go into a burning structure to rescue anyone this year.

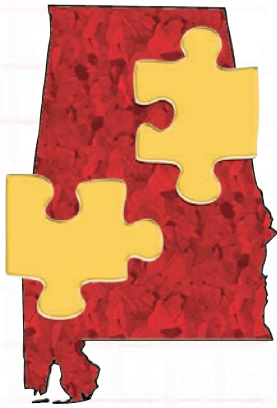
Limestone County Association VFD

Limestone County Association of VFD, Athens Fire & Rescue along with the Alabama Fire College (AFC) teamed up at Leak City in Athens for an Alabama Fire College Weekend February 23 – February 26 for propane training. In addition to the classroom lecture, participants were able to practice with a state-of-the-art

propane simulator. This allows firefighters to understand the complexities of fighting fire that is fueled by propane and specifically at remote locations. VFD interested in holding a class should contact their regional coordinator with the AFC.



Bits and Pieces From Around the State



- Coffeeville Volunteer Fire and Rescue held their awards banquet on January 21, 2017. Pictured from left to right is Maybon Daughtrey honored for his years of service; Matthew Milstead Firefighter of the Year and Jim Fore for his years of service. Both Daughtrey and Fore have retired from active duty but remain lifetime members.



- Lauderdale County Association of Volunteer Firefighters awarded Kayleigh Hargett of Killen VFD the 2016 Star of Life Award.
- In February 2017, Waterloo VFD (Lauderdale County) presented Firefighter of the Year to Don Riedel and Explorer of the Year to Chandler Cole.
- The AAVFD extends our condolences to Secretary of State John Merrill whose father, Horace Merrill, passed away on February 17, 2017. Horace Merrill was the former Probate Judge in Cleburne County.
- Marshall County: The Four-C VFD was named Department of the Year at the annual banquet. Four-C Chief Raymond Bodine was named Chief of the Year. The Firefighter of the Year award went to Melissa Anderson of the Hebron VFD.
- Samantha VFD (Tuscaloosa County) recognized JC Gilliam on March 28, 2017 for 35 years of service to Samantha VFD. He is also one of the founding members of the department.
- Styx River VFD (Baldwin County) held their annual awards banquet in March. The Firefighter of the Year Award was presented to Tina Holston for outstanding service to the community. Holston follows a family of Firefighter of the Year recipients. In previous years, her husband, Mike, and son, Hunter, also have earned the award. During the banquet, eleven young volunteers were awarded plaques for their community service outside of Styx River VFD for assisting victims during the historic and devastating August 2016 flood in Livingston Parish, Louisiana.
- Morgan County Association of Volunteer Fire Departments celebrated their thirtieth annual firefighter banquet on March 18, 2017. Captain Kaleb Benson was presented the EMSP Award of the Year. Ebenezer VFD was recognized as the Fire Department of the Year.
- In February 2017, the Pike Road VFD (Montgomery County) hosted the annual awards dinner to recognize the 2016 Firefighter of the year, the Major Miles Award winner and the volunteer firefighters. The 2016 Firefighter of the Year as selected by the firefighters was Ben Powell. David Hughes was selected the Major Miles Award recipient, which is named after a founding member of the department.

Blast From the Past



This year marks the 40th annual AAVFD conference. The picture above was taken at the first annual AAVFD conference forty years ago! Former Governor Albert Brewer was the first keynote speaker for the AAVFD conference.

The AAVFD has grown tremendously over the past forty years and we are proud of the service each volunteer department provides to the citizens of our state. Although volunteer fire departments were primarily formed for the protection of life and property from fire, we are proud that fire departments have evolved to provide services in many other areas in the community such as fire safety and education, emergency medical services, vehicle extraction, hazardous materials, mitigation and many other aspects of an emergency services organization.

Hundreds of volunteer firefighters and their families attend the annual conference each year and we are looking forward to another great conference this year. If you have not mailed your registration, please complete the pre-registration form and mail the form along with the check to District 3 – Billy Doss.

We appreciate each department who has joined the membership of the AAVFD and look forward to your continued support for many years to come.

A special thank you to Tom & Marion Ellis for sharing this picture!



Dina Lambeth Wickliffe

Candidate for Secretary

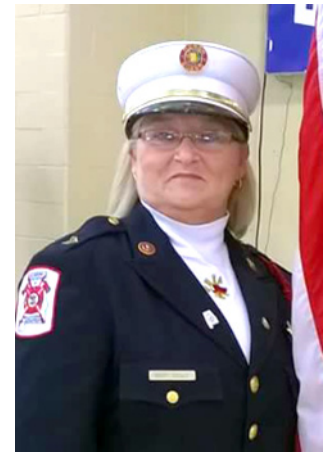
I began my service as a volunteer firefighter with Barnett Crossroads in June 2014. Barnett Crossroads community is very small,

with one fire department, running 80 -100 calls per year. In 2015, I attended training and classes receiving certifications in: ECP, Mobile Fire Suppression, Basic fire attack, Basic SCBA, Thermal Imaging, PPE, Hazmat A&O, VFF block 1, 2 & 3, I completed EMT school at Reid State and received Firefighter of the year award for 2015. In 2016, I received certification in; ISC 100,200,700,800, IS 5a, IS 706, Fire Instructor 1, Fire Officer 1, with both The Alabama Fire College and FEMA. In 2017, I received certification in Crash Victim Extrication along with other recertification's, and I am currently attending Fire Safety Officer class.

I am currently holding the position as Secretary with the Escambia County Alabama Association of Volunteer Fire Fighters. I am very proud and pleased to serve my community along with some of the best chiefs, firefighters, EMT's, Law enforcement officers and basic first responders that you could ever ask for in the fire service. I am looking forward to many more years in the industry.

Mary Sells

Candidate for Secretary



I, Mary Sells, a twenty-seven year veteran of the fire service, am proud to be a volunteer firefighter and serve my community. I

have dedicated my life to the volunteer fire service. I have had the privileged of serving as secretary for the AAVFD for the past sixteen years. I am a long-time member (seventeen years) of the AAVFD Honor Guard and serve in the South Unit. It has been my honor to be a part of the outstanding group of honor guard members. In addition to serving the AAVFD, I am the Assistant Chief of the McCullough VFD in Escambia County and have served in the capacity for the past twenty-seven years. I am standing on the frontline serving my community and the AAVFD with dedication, commitment and pride.

I have been nominated as a candidate for secretary. I am committed to continuing my service in this position and serving volunteer fire departments throughout the state. I am dedicated to doing my best to serve the AAVFD and the individual firefighters along with the VFD in our great state. Your support in the upcoming elections in July would greatly be appreciated.



Dan Hopkins

Candidate for
Central Vice-President

My name is Dan Hopkins and I am a candidate for central vice-president. My fire service career began over nineteen years ago and I have been serving as the fire chief of Hollis Crossroads VFD for

the past sixteen years. I have attended many firefighter courses over the years and stress the importance of training and being prepared to all involved in the fire service.

I am a resident of Cleburne County. I am married to Stacy Hopkins and we have four children and seven grandchildren.

In 2011, I was elected as central vice-president of the AAVFD. It has been my privilege and honor to serve in this capacity. It is my pleasure to also serve on the Board of the Cleburne Hospital. In the past, I served five years as district 4 director. I am well respected among firefighters throughout this state for my professionalism and ability to build strong relationships.

It is my continued commitment to serve all fire departments throughout the state. Our fire service is changing rapidly and we are facing challenges like never before. I am committed to continuing to serve and believe we need to create new models and a different way of thinking about the delivery of fire and emergency services. My numerous years in the fire service, leadership skills and ability to work with all people will continue to assist in moving the AAVFD ahead.

As Central Vice- President, I am committed to promoting firefighter training as well as sharing and preserving the finest traditions of the AAVFD. I am devoted to the fire service and serving firefighters and volunteer fire departments throughout the state. I am proud to be a volunteer firefighter and would like to ask for your support and vote in this upcoming election.

David Rogers

Candidate for
Central Vice-President



As we approach the annual AAVFD Conference, I ask your support for the position of Vice-President for the Central Region. I am currently a member of Tallassee Fire Department in Elmore and Tallapoosa Counties and have volunteered here for 23 years. I currently serve as an Assistant Chief and Secretary/Treasurer of our local Fire Association. I am also the Vice Chairman of the Elmore County Fire Fighters Association and AAVFD District 10 Director.

My wife (Allison) and I have a daughter (Ansley) and son (Andrew). I work for a Montgomery governmental relations firm as an Office Manager.

As both a volunteer firefighter and a Government Relations Manager, I understand the problems and challenges facing the Alabama Fire Service. As the Central Vice-President, I can work with the Board and fire departments throughout the state to affect positive change and improve the fire service capabilities statewide. I ask for your vote as well as prayers for the entire fire service as we work to make the lives of Alabamians safer and improve the quality of our family's lives.



Joe Golden

Candidate for
Treasurer

My name is Joe Golden and I am, again, a candidate for the office of Treasurer for AAVFD. My wife and I have two daughters, Tara Goggins and Cari Golden. Tara is

a Meteorologist with the National Weather Service at the Shelby County Airport office. Cari is a math teacher at West Point High School. My wife worked for the Cullman County Board of Education at Parkside Elementary School and is retired.

I worked for Nicholson File in Cullman, Alabama for over 35 years in accounting. The last 13 years I held the Executive Staff Controller position. I was responsible for all accounting activities at the Nicholson File Plant. The company closed its US operations and moved to Mexico, Colombia and Brazil in late 2011. I am currently retired.

If elected this will be my fifth term as treasurer. I have previously held the positions of Alternate Director, and Director for District 2. I served as the chief of the Baileyton Volunteer Fire Dept. for 17 years before stepping down. I am currently secretary of the department. I also serve as Co-Commander of the Cullman County Haz Mat Team, and President of the Cullman County Association of Volunteer Fire Departments. I hold several certifications through the Alabama Fire College.

I would appreciate your continued support for the office of Treasurer.

Derrick Gatlin

Candidate for
North Vice-President



My name is Derrick Gatlin and it has been my honor to have served as your AAVFD Northern Vice President for the past seven years and presently serve as 1st Vice President. I appreciate all the support you've showed me over the last seven years. During our Annual Business Meeting, we will elect officers for the 2018 year. I'm asking for your continued support and would like to thank you in advance.

I also would like to take this opportunity to thank you each of you for your dedication and commitment to the fire service and the citizens of Alabama. I look forward to seeing you at the annual AAVFD Conference.



Joey Moffett

Candidate for
South Vice- President

My name is Joey Moffett and I served in the position of Vice President for the South Region for the past year. It is my honor to have been elected to this position

and thank all of you who elected me as I am very much enjoying the experience. Since 1981, I have been a volunteer fire fighter as a member of Roberts Volunteer Fire Dept. in Brewton, AL, and, as such, have developed a deep seated passion for the fire fighting life as well as a sincere respect and compassion for the volunteers of this state and the families that support them. The needs and the sacrifices made by our volunteers prompts me to be ever seeking more ways to improve our support of Alabama's volunteer's fire fighters.

Over the years, I have acquired certification as an American Heart Association instructor, Certified Emergency Vehicle Operator Course (EVOC) Instructor, Alabama Fire College Certified Volunteer Fire Fighter, Instructor I and Mobile Live Fire Trainer Operator.

Since 2006, it has been my privilege to serve as the District 7 Alternate Director and designee for the Alabama Association of Volunteer Fire Depts. It was my honor also to serve as President of the Escambia County Association of Volunteer Fire Fighters from 2000 to 2011. Currently, I am also serving as the AFC District 7 President.

Being a native of Brewton, AL, I graduated from W.S. Neal High School in 1979 and then from Jefferson Davis Community College with a Degree in Computer Science. As a Computer Systems Specialist, I am currently employed by Frit Car, Inc., a railcar repair facility in Brewton, AL. My wonderful wife, Angela Tolbert Moffett, of Jay, Florida, is also a volunteer fire fighter. Together we have one amazing daughter, Crystal Dawn Moffett, who is currently studying to be a life flight nurse.

Your support to continue serving as Vice President for the South Region would be appreciated for the upcoming election taking place in Tuscaloosa this July. I am truly dedicated to doing my best to serve this association and the individual fire fighters out there. On a special note, I would like to say a huge THANK YOU to all you volunteers out there who give of your time and energy so freely. That is what makes our departments successful. Be safe!

Charles H. Jackson

Candidate for
South Vice-President



Reason for seeking Office: Provide LEADERSHIP and REPRESENTATION for AAVFD Southern Districts

Present Position: Fire Chief, McCall Volunteer Fire Department - Brewton, Alabama (Since 2012)

Positions Held: Treasurer, Escambia County Fire Association (Since 1983)

Treasurer, Alabama Association of VFDs (2010 - 2012)

Member, RCFP Forestry Steering Committee (Since 2013)

Member, Southwest Alabama Fire Chief's Association (Since 2013)

Founding Officer, McCall Volunteer Fire Department in 1983

Fire Service Background: Joined the Fire Service as a Volunteer in 1968 with Brewton Fire Department

Military Service: Retired as a Marine Colonel, United States Marine Corps in 2006

Fire Service Certifications: Fire Officer-1
Fire Instructor-1

Firefighter-2

Hazardous Materials- Awareness & Operations
Apparatus Operator-Pumper

Apparatus Operator- Mobile water Supply

Family: Married 46 years to his department Safety Officer, Cynthia A. Jackson. They are parents of two married daughters and five grandchildren. Jackson and his wife are retired from careers in Federal and County governments. Both Jackson and wife Cindy have been recognized as "Firefighter of the Year" for Escambia County.

Goal: To Represent EVERY AAVFD Firefighter & EMT members from the VFDs in the Southern Region

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International Engine



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State of Alabama Fire Marshal's Office

From the Desk of

STATE FIRE MARSHAL SCOTT F. PILGREEN

When I last prepared comments for the AAVFD Newsletter I had just assumed my new responsibilities as your State Fire Marshal. Nearly nine months have quickly passed since then. I would like to address a couple of items of importance, one new and one old and persistent issue.

First, effective on January 1, 2017 new building and fire codes were adopted. As of that date the new state minimum is the **2015 Editions of the International Building Code (IBC)** and **International Fire Code (IFC)**. For additional information go to our website at www.firemarshal.alabama.gov

Secondly, as I mentioned in my remarks late last summer, the occurrence of fire related deaths in Alabama continues to be an issue of great concern. Last year (2016) ended with a total of 115 persons losing their lives. As I type these remarks we've had 37 so far this year which, based on average, does not bode well for 2017.

I feel certain that you're like me and are constantly searching for the reason(s) why our great state seems to lead the nation in this terrible category annually. I firmly believe that the problem is multi-layered, in other words there is no one specific cause. What is sad is that the majority of these deaths occurred in residential settings and were preventable.

As I did last summer I am going to ask for help from all who may read this article. We must spread the message about fire prevention to everyone whether it's family, friends, co-workers, etc., the message must be clear "Turn Your Attention to Fire Prevention"!!



State Fire Marshall
Scott F. Pilgreen

I'm challenging myself and my office as well as the fire service, both volunteer and career, and the public safety sector in general to increase our efforts in fire prevention and awareness. I remain convinced that only by getting people to re-examine their habits and behaviors at home or where they work and play can we truly affect (reduce) the number of lives lost due to fire.



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From the Desk of... *Matt Russell*

Executive Director, Alabama Fire College & Personnel Standards Commission



So I'm standing in line at the Shelby County Courthouse in about 1992 waiting my turn to get my car tag when a lady, who appears to be an employee, comes stammering quickly from around the counter moving side to side through the crowd with purpose. She is whaling her arms, crying, and mumbling incoherently and, to my surprise, appears to be focused on me. In disbelief with my eyebrows raised and eyes as big as saucers I'm sure, I go into the linebacker stance-knees bent slightly with my arms out to the sides to keep my balance in case I have to move one way or the other quickly. I immediately look to the left and then to the right to determine if someone else might be the target of her indignation; no dice, she's focused on me. As she drew closer I was like a deer in headlights, confused, petrified, frozen and couldn't move. Sure enough, suddenly she's got me in her grasp and begins accosting me.....

As it turns out two years prior I was a spectator at a high school football game in Winterboro, AL when an elderly gentleman in the crowd suffered a cardiac arrest. A few others and I removed him from the stands and began CPR. As an EMT Intermediate I continued treatment and accompanied the ambulance crew to the hospital. While en route the gentleman had spontaneous return of his pulse.

The lady who had moments ago almost caused me go into cardiac arrest who was overcome with emotion relayed that it was her father who was the gentleman who arrested at the football game and that she remembered me from the incident. She said that her father had lived for six more hours which allowed the family to call in their relatives to say their goodbyes. Once she composed herself, with all the sincerity and thankfulness she could muster, she said something that to this day when I think of this incident causes introspection, 'you don't know what that six hours was worth'. She emphatically exclaimed what I, for the past three years, had taken for granted, that some people have jobs, others have a calling.

When I recount this incident I am reminded of two adages. The first is that 'all emergencies are local', where you as volunteer firefighters not only abide, but flourish. The second is a quote from Winston Churchill who famously said "you make a living by what you get, you make a life by what you give." Having been blessed with the privilege of serving nearly 27 years with the Birmingham Fire and Rescue Service I have been compensated beyond measure. Not monetarily, but with the honor of forging life-long relationships while serving my community knowing that on more than a few occasions that if we had not been there the outcomes would have been much different. I am certain that anyone who has served as a firefighter can relate.

On the Alabama Forestry website there are at least 2159 fire departments listed. Of those approximately 175 are compensated monetarily (paid) in some capacity; the rest are volunteers. To the Alabama Fire College there is not a distinction between career and volunteer, there are only firefighters. Our vision, mission, goals, and objectives revolve around serving anyone in the emergency response community who chooses to partake of our services. Our desire for firefighters is the same regardless and that is to provide accessible education and training programs that positively impact response so that when the calls are complete firefighters/EMT's return home safely to their loved ones. The obligation of the Alabama Fire College is to instill in emergency responders the notion that training is the cornerstone of preparedness. The Alabama Fire College will strive to open the doors of education and training; our hope is that we have firefighters who reciprocate by entering.

Keep up the good work and thank you so much for what you do! If we at the Alabama Fire College may be of service in any capacity please do not hesitate to contact us.

Proposed Change to Certified Volunteer Firefighter Requirements

During the regular quarterly Commission meeting at the Alabama Fire College on Wednesday, April 19, 2017, a change to the requirements for being a **certified** volunteer firefighter was proposed. The change would add language in the Administrative Code 360-2-.01 dealing with this certification. This proposal would add "Prior to entering the certification course, the candidate must have on file with the commission a physical statement (AFC and PSC Form 05) from a physician licensed to practice in Alabama or such physician's designee."

Keep in mind this is a proposed change and will go through a process of advertising for and holding a public hearing on the change prior to

final adoption. The Commission unanimously felt that because of the strenuous demands placed on an individual during the course of this training, it was necessary to include volunteers in this policy that is already mandated for all other firefighter certification courses. This is not a requirement for a NFPA or DOT physical but merely a release from a physician stating you are physically fit to perform the duties required during this training.

The Commissioners ask that you please embrace this change as it will not only relieve our volunteer departments and members of liability, but more importantly it may also prevent a Line of Duty Death by identifying a problem before it is too late!

Alzheimer's Fire Service Training Recommended

Alzheimer's is an irreversible, progressive brain disorder that slowly destroys memory and thinking skills and eventually ability to carry out simple tasks.

The Alzheimer's disease epidemic continues to grow. As a first responder, it is critical to be prepared to face this disease in your community. People with Alzheimer's or another form of dementia can unknowingly put themselves and others in dangerous situations. Understanding the disease is key to ensuring you make the right response.

Many firefighters throughout the state see this disease impacting more families they serve. Training will help recognize a person who is confused and how to read their actions. Redirecting is the key.

THE BELL TOLLED

Eddie Harris, age 47, passed away on April 21, 2017. Harris was the Fire Chief of North Courtland VFD in Lawrence County.

Bruce Hubbard, age 55, passed away on April 11, 2017 after a courageous battle with brain cancer. Hubbard served as fire chief at Renfroe VFD (Talladega County) for 20 years. He was the former president of the Talladega County Volunteer Firefighters Association. He worked at Talladega Superspeedway and was a cattle farmer. He was a member of Hepzibah Baptist Church and a graduate of Auburn University.

Chris Foster passed away on March 24, 2017. Foster was the fire chief of Old Springs VFD in Marengo County. He was employed by Demopolis Fire Department and was a lieutenant.

Roy Baccus passed away on March 14, 2017. Baccus was the Fire Chief of New Bethel VFD in Colbert County.

Gene Southerland passed away on March 12, 2017. He was a volunteer firefighter with A & M VFD in Randolph County for 24 years.

Tyler Bolling passed away on February 27, 2017 due to an accidental shooting. He was a member of River Falls VFD in Covington County.

Leon Eagle passed away on November 28, 2016. He served as Chief of Blue Springs VFD in Franklin County for six years.

Homer Green passed away on February 19, 2017 as a result of a heart attack. Green was an active firefighter, safety officer and Board Member of the Green Crossroads VFD in Barbour County. He was instrumental in the formation of the department. Green donated the land the fire station was built on and served on the Board of Directors for sixteen years. He attended every training class and was a large asset to the department.

Earl Curtis Tennerman passed away on January 20, 2017. He was a founding member of the Black Pond VFD in Winston County.

Tracy Sanders, age 44, passed away on Friday, January 13, 2017 as a result of a car accident. She was the fire chief at Mt. Olive VFD in Calhoun County. Sanders was a dedicated member of the department and devoted most of her life to being an EMT and fire chief.

Henry James "Duke" Whitted passed away on December 19, 2016. He was a member of the Lisman VFD in Choctaw County.

Odford "O.D." Prestridge passed away on December 2, 2016. He retired from the Black Pond VFD in Winston County and was named an honorary firefighter.

Tim Carden, age 59, passed away on September 14, 2016 at his home after an extended illness. He was a 20 year member of the Jones Chapel VFD in Cullman County.

If any volunteer Fire Department (member or not) has a firefighter die in the line of duty or as a result of a line of duty injury (examples: at the scene, going to or from the scene), notify ONE of the following IMMEDIATELY, no matter what day it is or what time of the day or night: Mike W. Green (334) 309-5026, Derrick Gatlin (256) 998-0043, Dan Hopkins (256) 225-7230 or Honor Guard Commander Daniel Day (251) 267-2527. A copy of the booklet "Death In The Line Of Duty" may be obtained from the Montgomery office. 1-888-972-2833 or at www.aavfd.org.

About the Volunteer: *The Volunteer* is issued three times a year in January, May and September. Articles, information and advertisements for the newsletter must be submitted to the AAVFD office no later than the fifteenth of the month before publication. We reserve the right to edit for length, corrections and font.

Other AAVFD Information: All membership information, insurance information, changes of addresses and inquiries having to do with the AAVFD should be sent directly to the Montgomery Office.

AAVFD Officers:

President: Mike W. Green

1st VP: Derrick Gatlin

2nd VP: Dan Hopkins

3rd VP: Joey Moffett

Secretary: Mary Jane Sells

Treasurer: Joe Golden

Newsletter Editor: Debbie Green

Executive Assistant: Wanda Jones

Office hours

Monday through Friday 8:00 - 5:00

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