



THE VOLUNTEER



The Official Newsletter of the
ALABAMA ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS

JANUARY - APRIL, 2022

45th Annual AAVFD Conference

Sponsored by Colbert County Association

The 45th Annual AAVFD Conference is July 8th and 9th (Friday and Saturday) hosted by the Colbert County Association of Volunteer Fire Departments at the newly remodeled Clarion Inn located in Sheffield, Alabama.

All events will be held at the Clarion Inn. The vendor area will be open Friday from 12:00 (noon) thru 5:00 p.m. and again Saturday morning from 8:00 a.m. thru 12:00 (noon). The vendor area will be secured during non-use periods to help safeguard your displays; however, responsibility for any items is yours. Exhibit areas are 10' x 10' with one table at a cost of \$100 each. All company representatives will need to be registered for the conference.

Conference registration will be \$40.00 for all ages prior to June 17, 2022. Registrations received after June 17th or registration at the conference will be \$50.00 per person for all ages. This cost includes the Friday night cookout meal by the pool, 2 drink tickets for the Friday night cookout meal, the Saturday night closing banquet, and a full buffet breakfast for both Saturday morning and Sunday morning before departure. Your printed conference ID/meal ticket will be required for all meals.

Hotel Information:

The host hotel will be the newly remodeled **Clarion Inn**, located at 4900 Hatch Blvd, Sheffield, AL 35660. The room rate for the conference is \$78.00 and reservations may be made directly to the Clarion Inn staff by calling 1-256-381-4710. To get the conference rate ask for: **State Fire Conference Rate**

*** All Conference Events will be held at Clarion Inn.**

Other local hotels include but not limited to:

Coldwater Inn, 712 US Hwy 72, Tuscumbia, AL 35674. 1-256-383-6844

Comfort Inn, 5101 Highway 43 South, Tuscumbia, AL 35674. 1-256-248-0850

Best Western Plus, 1934 State Hwy 20, Tuscumbia, AL 35674. 1-256-386-9889

Conference Chairmen:

Kelly Aday, Chairman
P. O. Box 267
Tuscumbia, AL 35674
(256) 710-1901
ncfire972@aol.com

Junior Riner, Co-Chairman
P. O. Box 267
Tuscumbia, AL 35674
(256) 627-7719
riner362@aol.com



Alabama Association of Volunteer Fire Departments

From the Desk of ...



Billy Doss
President

Hello again to everyone!

I hope all are doing well and have had a good spring. Covid has eased up but is still here so everyone please be careful and use precautions when necessary. We have had a lot of weather damage from one end of the State other other this spring.

The Legislative session is over and with a lot of time and hard work by several people we had a great year. House bill 253 was passed. This bill gives a tax credit for volunteer firefighters and rescue squad members who qualify. House bill 488 gives authorization for covid-19 related deaths to be considered for state LODD. If any of you see Mr. Steve Pegues, Mike Green, Josh Bryant, David Rogers, Reid Vaughan, Derrick Gatlin or any of our Legislative people tell them how much we appreciate the hard work on both bills. There were a few more things that happened this year but these were the most important to us.

Plans are made for our 2022 Conference to be held in Colbert County and hosted by the Colbert County Association of Volunteer Fire Departments. The Conference will be in Sheffield on July 8th and 9th. Please make plans to attend. All information will be in this issue of The Volunteer. On Saturday, July 9th, at 2:00 pm the general meeting will be held and elections and other business will be held at that time.

Everyone please be safe and see you in July.

Billy Doss

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45th Annual AAVFD State Conference
Sponsored by Colbert County Association
July 8-9, 2022

2022 Conference Pre-Registration

* Please make check payable to and mail along with this form to:

CCA VFD

P.O. Box 267

Tuscumbia, AL 35674.

*****Conference registration will be \$40.00 for all ages prior to June 17, 2022. Registrations received after June 17th or registration at the conference will be \$50.00 per person for all ages. This cost includes the Friday night cookout meal by the pool, 2 drink tickets for the Friday night cookout meal, the Saturday night closing banquet, and a full buffet breakfast for both Saturday morning and Sunday morning before departure. Your printed conference ID/meal ticket will be required for all meals.

Fire Department Name: _____ County: _____

Enclosed is \$_____ for _____ attendees. Competition Team Registration Only: _____ team members

Attendee names (please print legible as this is how the names will appear on your conference ID)

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 2. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 4. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 7. _____ | 8. _____ |
| 9. _____ | 10. _____ |

* Use a separate form if more attendees are needed

*******Competition Teams Special Registration Rate*******

\$10 per team member

Up to 10 members of a competition team which can consist of anyone on the team including team members and coaches. Everyone must be registered, and each team must compete. Competition events will be announced later. The special competition team rate will only allow the member to compete in the competition and will allow members to enter the trade show on Saturday only and the annual business meeting on Saturday. To enter any event where food is served, a full conference registration is required.

2022 Firefighter of the Year & the Sherry Garner Memorial Award Nominations

The purpose of these awards is to recognize present members of a volunteer fire service who has served his/her department, community, and state above and beyond normal expectations during his/her service as a volunteer firefighter in the year since the previous award.

Candidates should demonstrate commitment to their department and community and have contributed in a positive manner to the enrichment of their fire department and community they represent.

To be eligible for these nominations, a person should be a current member of a volunteer fire department in the state of Alabama. All nominations should include accomplishments, length of service, extra ordinary services in the line of duty such as saving a life, removing someone from a burning building, car, etc. and other related pertinent information. All nominations must be signed by the fire chief and one other officer of the department or two members of the Board of Directors if a chief is nominated.

Nominations must be received no later than Friday, **June 3, 2022** in the AAVFD office (660 Adams Ave. Suite 345 Montgomery, AL 36104). The annual awards will be presented during the AAVFD Annual Conference July 9, 2022 in Sheffield, Alabama.

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

Alabama Firefighter Competition 2022



The 2022 firefighter competition is now open for registration. This annual event features outstanding firefighters showcasing their skills against other firefighters from around the state. Firefighter competition is designed to test competitors in life-like situations. The competition will be held on the grounds of the Clarion Hotel and will feature three events that must be completed while wearing firefighter gear.



This year's event will include Hose Lay I, Water on the Roof and Air Pack Relay. The firefighter competition gives firefighters a chance to demonstrate their ability to the public and encourages cooperation between departments throughout the state. Firefighters have a lot of fun and a lot of camaraderie with other firefighters throughout the state. Don't miss this exciting challenge that is a conference favorite!

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



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IN MEMORY

IN MEMORY

of

Fredy Reeves



contributed by Reid Vaughan

There are those people in your community and on department that are just special. When they are gone, it takes several people to replace them because they were always available and always working to help the people they served. Chief Fredy Reeves, of the Ward Volunteer Fire Department, was a great example of such a person. Fredy responded to the call for help for over sixty years of his life. This call for help might have been an emergency or it might have been the need to help a community establish a fire department. There are not many fire departments in West Central Alabama that did not know who he was and the principles for which he stood.



Reeves with his son, Dexter and daughter-in-law Jill.

Outside of the fire service, Fredy was a lifelong Gideon and personally placed more copies of God's word that I can count. A life of service to the church and in fire service should be sufficient, but that was not enough for Fredy. He wanted you to feel special and know that you were loved. Several years back a storm came through the county and one of the pecan trees around our home was knocked down. The tree was barely down on the ground when Fredy stopped by to say that he would come back and get the tree with his helper since it would make great lumber going through his sawmill. About a year later Fredy dropped by the office to bring two tables that he had made from some of the wood for our family. This story just sums up the heart of this great man. Fredy would end a phone call with you by reminding you that he loved you each and every time he called.

On March 3rd of this year Fredy answered his final call with Ward VFD. Fredy would be burned while fighting a brush fire near his home. After being burned, Fredy returned to the fire station to bring another piece

of apparatus to the scene to bring the wind-swept fire under control. It was only after the fire was out that Fredy called for an ambulance and was transported to the hospital. Fredy's burns were healing, but his heart was not strong enough to continue the fight. Perhaps it was

because he gave so much of that heart away during his lifetime of service and through love of his fellow man. Perhaps the Master saw that he was tired and called him home. Fredy's son Dexter Reeves (a lifelong volunteer firefighter as well) was sitting by his father's bedside when he was called home.

Dexter told his father, "Dad, you have fought all the fires you were supposed to fight.



Reeves conducting a forestry class for Sumter County Schools

We will take it from here." On the evening of the 25th of March, Fredy joined the Church Triumphant just a few days shy of his 86th Birthday.

Chief Reeves becomes only the fourth public safety officer to die in the line of duty in Sumter County over the last one hundred twenty-five years.



KAY IVEY
GOVERNOR

Jim L. Ridling
Commissioner

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FIRE MARSHAL
MARK DRINKARD

ASSISTANT STATE
FIRE MARSHAL
BILL HERMAN

MEMORANDUM

To: All Alabama Fire Departments
From: Scott F. Pilgreen, State Fire Marshal
Date: December 14, 2021
Subject: Reporting of Fires

All,

As most everyone that reads this memorandum understands the State of Alabama for several years now has consistently ranked as one of the worst states per capita in the number of fire fatalities and injuries.

During the past decade a number of initiatives primarily by the fire service have attempted to address this problem. While I firmly believe that initiatives like "Turn Your Attention to Fire Prevention" and others are helping to address this problem more needs to be done.

In every conversation that I've been a part of with leaders in the fire service and other stake holders there is one constant question, *how to collect comprehensive data?* Complete data is needed so that all stake holders can better identify risks so that messaging to our citizens can be structured to address those concerns in a specific manner. Though general messages during seasonal times have a place and should continue we need all-inclusive information that can assist us in our Fire Prevention/Safety - Community Risk Reduction efforts.

The National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) has been available since the mid 1970's to the fire service to provide a way for fire departments to report their run data to FEMA. However, NFIRS is woefully underused in the State of Alabama. In fact, participation in the program ranges between 35-40% annually.

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1897 - 2017

Now to restate the question, *how to collect comprehensive data*? The answer is to improve reporting of all fires by the fire service and others.

As such Alabama has a mandatory reporting law of all fires to the Alabama State Fire Marshal's Office. For reference purposes the link below is provided. (See Title 36 Chapter 19)

<http://alisondb.legislature.state.al.us/alison/CodeOfAlabama/1975/Coatoc.htm>

Additionally, the reporting requirement can be found in Alabama Department of Insurance (ALDOI) regulation <https://www.firemarshal.alabama.gov/PDF/FM-112-2021.pdf> (see pages 2/3).

Compliance with these reporting requirements can be achieved by fire departments entering their runs into the National Fire Incident Reporting System. By doing so those reports will be stored in FEMA's database electronically.

In 2020 FEMA updated NFIRS from the system that you may have been using to the new *eNFIRS*, which is all online. The updated system is much easier to use as it streamlines the reporting process.

To access the new *eNFIRS* program go to: <https://www.nfirs.fema.gov/NFIRSWeb/login>

Should anyone need assistance with establishing an account for reporting to *eNFIRS* please contact ASFM Mark Drinkard, mark.drinkard@insurance.alabama.gov or ASFM Bill Herman, bill.herman@insurance.alabama.gov

My intent with this memorandum is to raise awareness of the reporting requirements and provide an established method to achieve compliance. Improved reporting by all and specifically increased participation in *eNFIRS* by the fire service will provide all stake holders with the comprehensive data needed which will serve to enhance all Fire Prevention/Safety - Community Risk Reduction efforts. I believe that these efforts built on improved data will serve to change habits and behaviors of our citizens which will lead to a reduction of fire injuries and fatalities.

Please help us be better prepared for our future and as always, if you have a question, feel free to contact me at scott.pilgreen@insurance.alabama.gov or (334) 241-4166.

Sincerely,



Scott F. Pilgreen
State Fire Marshal

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ALABAMA FIRE COLLEGE

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April 2022

Working in the fire service is a blessing, whether you're a volunteer or career firefighter. To be afforded the opportunity to serve is an esteemed honor, knowing that just once in a while we have the opportunity to have a significant impact on others lives, that the Lord puts us in the right place at the right time to make a difference. That is the blessing. The hope then is that we will live up to the expectation of the public and our fellow emergency responders, that we will have the education, training, knowledge, and experience to safely, effectively, and efficiently mitigate whatever circumstance we face.

General Robert E. Lee said 'to be a good soldier you must love the Army'. I do not recall that I have met anyone who has attended the Fire College who does not love our profession and the possibility to serve as we do. General Lee went on to say 'however, to be a good leader, you have to be willing to sacrifice that which you love'. I suspect you are like most in our profession, that you do not want to arbitrarily sacrifice your fellow emergency responders for the sake of brass on your collar, a title, or money. I suspect you are in this profession to make a difference. If this is the case you must position yourself to be well-versed as to your personal capabilities and limitation and those of your fellow emergency responders. We need to hold each other accountable to ensure we are educated, trained, and experienced to take on the duties required of us. The public expects this of us.

The outstanding staff at the Alabama Fire College work for you. We are here to ensure you are well-versed, educated, and trained to serve. We provide the foundational knowledge which allows you to go back to your departments and fine-tune the basic skills you learn during AFC courses. As always, we appreciate feedback, both positive and negative. Our goal is to ensure that when you attend AFC courses you have a great experience. I acknowledge that we occasionally fall short of that goal. But if you don't provide honest feedback we do not know. If you have suggestions or recommendations about how we can improve, please contact your Regional Coordinator. As always, thank you for the service you provide to your communities. If we at the AFC can be of service in any way please do not hesitate to contact us.

Respectfully,

Matt Russell

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FROM THE DESK OF ...



RICK OATES
STATE FORESTER

On Saturday, March 26, a small fire in Shelby County was reported to our dispatch center. With the wind and low humidity that day, it rapidly grew into a major fire that threatened many homes in the Stonegate neighborhood outside of Birmingham. AFC personnel were dispatched to the fire at about 3:00 p.m. that afternoon. They quickly realized the potential for this fire to spread and cause significant damage. More AFC crews were called in, along with several volunteer fire departments.

The terrain in this part of Shelby County is rough, steep, and rocky. It is not conducive to our traditional wildland firefighting methods. To operate our heavy AFC equipment, it would take a skilled operator, one who could safely negotiate the mountainside. An expert from Chambers County was brought in to help create fire lines in this difficult environment. Our incident commander knew, however, that there were some places where that strategy would not work so he requested additional resources to put in hand lines around the fire. Although hand lines are more common in western states, they proved to be very beneficial in this case.

We also were using a new system that gave us a more accurate way to forecast fire behavior. This method enabled us to monitor and predict how the fire would respond as the weather changed. Using this tool, we could ensure we had the necessary resources on hand and were prepared for the expected wind event on Wednesday of that week.

We could not have succeeded in stopping this wildfire without our partners. Two that I want to mention are the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency (ALEA) and local VFDs. ALEA was called in promptly to assist us with aerial water drops. This is another firefighting technique we don't often use in Alabama, but it was vital in this case. Without their ability to drop water in carefully targeted locations to cool the blaze, our fire lines might not have contained it. Several houses would have been lost without their assistance.



It goes without saying that our greatest partners in fighting wildfires are the volunteer fire departments. There were several Shelby County fire departments on the scene who were crucial to our efforts. I don't want to name any specifically because I will end up missing someone, so suffice it to say we could not have controlled this fire without the volunteers in Shelby County. They assisted in many ways and were greatly appreciated.

This wildfire took four days to get fully under control. We moved resources from across the state, bringing about 30 people (almost 20 percent of our firefighters) to Shelby County to combat this fire. In total, it burned about 740 acres. Together with our partners we were able to get it under control without losing any homes, or more importantly, without sustaining any injuries. It shows what can be accomplished when we work together. So, from the AFC, let me say a big THANK YOU to the volunteer fire departments who stood shoulder to shoulder with us on this fire, and the many others we battle across the state daily! Hopefully as the woods green up in the next few weeks, our spring fire season will come to an end.

Legislative Update

This year was a successful legislative year for the Alabama Fire Service. This was especially true for the hard-working volunteers of the State of Alabama. There are several bills that were passed and signed by the Governor that are important to note.

- Act#2022-298 – Volunteer Tax Credit – Volunteer firefighters and rescue squad members that possess have completed the 160 course or hold and EMT basic are eligible for a \$300.00 tax credit. If a member completes Firefighter II or holds Advanced EMT they are eligible for a \$600.00 tax credit. This will be effective for the current tax year 2022.
- Act#2022-393 – Education Trust Fund Budget – The EMS tuition program was retained and the Alabama Fire College received the requested funding.
- Act#2022-395 – Supplemental Funding ETF – The Alabama Fire College received an additional 1.5 million dollars to construct the prop storage and maintenance facility.
- Act#2022-387 – 911 Certification – Provides and requires a state certification for 911 telecommunicators. This bill will enhance the effectiveness of our 911 call centers across the state.
- ACT#2022-254 – General Fund Budget – Forestry received what it was needing to increase operations and likewise to enhance the VFA Grant program. Forestry also received their budget request under SB108.
- Act#2022-437 – COVID LODD – Allows for firefighters that pass from COVID19 to be considered an LODD under certain conditions. The legislation also details that this provision will be active from March 13, 2020, to December 31, 2022.

The Alabama Joint Fire Council thanks everyone that responded to the requests to contact legislators throughout the legislative session. Without that support from each of you the Joint Fire Council only tracks legislation.

Ceremonial Firefighter Bill Signing

Governor Ivey held the Ceremonial Bill signing on April 20, 2022 at the State Capital. Certified volunteer fire fighters and State Licensed EMT basics qualify for a \$300.00 tax credit. If you are a Certified firefighter II or a State Licensed EMT/Paramedic the credit is \$600.00. This is per year and you can only claim one exemption per person. You will also have to maintain a minimum of 30 hours per year training in your VFD or Rescue Squad that will be validated by your Chief or Commander. Further information is forthcoming from the Department of Revenue completes the process of outlying the full rule. Thank you to all who made this possible after a six year journey!



HAPPENINGS AROUND THE STATE

Charlie Dixon, Thomasville VFD in Washington County, was recognized for his years of dedicated service. He was presented an ax by Thomasville VFD Fire Chief Richard Pugh.



Pictured left to right: Charlie Dixon, Chief Richard Pugh and Alberta Dixon

On January 11, 2022, **Waterloo VFD** in Lauderdale County named **Dawn Young** as the Firefighter of the Year.

Congratulations to **Greg Wood**, Alabama Forestry, on his retirement. Greg served as the Volunteer Fire Assistance Coordinator between the AAVFD and Alabama Forestry for many years. Wood was presented a plaque of appreciation during the AAVFD Board Meeting in January. Wood is pictured here with AAVFD President Billy Doss.



The AAVFD would like to welcome **Nick Jordan** (pictured at left) from the Alabama Forestry Commission. Jordan will be serving as the Volunteer Fire Assistance Coordinator between the AAVFD and Alabama Forestry.



Englewood Hulls VFD in Tuscaloosa County held their firehouse family dinner on March 19, 2022. In addition to the dinner, they celebrated the retirement of **Chief Phillip Johnson**.

Chief Johnson was also bestowed the firefighter of the Year award. Chief Phillip Johnson is pictured here with Englewood Hulls VFD volunteers.

Morgan County Association of VFD held their awards banquet in March 2022 at Quail Creek Resort. The banquet featured four speakers. **Chief Bill Pettey** of Trinity VFD who has over fifty-two years of service and has been Chief for fifty-one years spoke on how the volunteer fire service has changed over the years. **Chief Richard Ennis** of Mud Tavern VFD shared the differences between a career and a volunteer firefighter. Richard is a Captain with Madison Fire. **Tyler Stinson** with Decatur Morgan EMS and S.A.V.E.S. Fire & Medical VFD shared the differences between being a volunteer EMS and an EMS for an ambulance company. The last speaker of the evening was **Coroner Jeff Chunn** who founded the Cotaco VFD at the age of sixteen. He has served as a volunteer firefighter, career firefighter, paramedic, and airport public safety.

Fairhope VFD in Baldwin County presented their annual awards on January 5, 2022. Awards were presented in several categories. Firefighter of the Year – **Adam Hall**; Rookie of the Year – **Leslie Sewell**; Most Improved – **Joe Bragg**; Top Responders – **Thomas Elliot, Koty Ackerman** and **Chris Weimberg**.

Congratulations to Fire Chief **Lee Stinson, Waugh Mt Meigs VFD** in Montgomery County, on his retirement December 31, 2021. Stinson served the department for twenty-eight years with more than twenty of those years serving as chief. Chief Lee Stinson is pictured below with Terrell Thompson and with Anthony Williams



New Union/Aurora VFD in Etowah County named **Philip McCormick** and **Rebecca Martin** Firefighters of the Year.



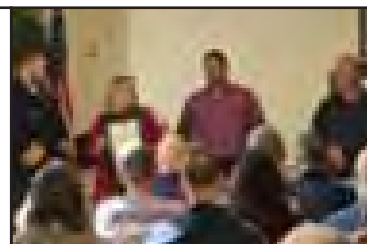
Pea Ridge Fire and Rescue (Shelby County) celebrated their 50th anniversary on February 20, 2022. The department was honored to have many members of the community and several dignitaries in attendance for the celebration. **Senator April Weaver** presented a Proclamation to **Chief Wilson** recognizing the department's anniversary.

Others in attendance included **Chad Goggins** and **Hub Harvey** representing EMA and **Commissioner Jon Parker**. Commissioner Parker introduced the speakers and presented the history of the department to attendees.



Chief Eric Wilson presented **Barry Goodin** with the Alan Picklesimer Chief's award for his dedication and service to the community.

Firefighter of the Year was presented to **Dawn Wilson** for her service to the community.



Thomasville VFD in Washington County bestowed **Taylor Hicks** (pictured) the Firefighter of the Year award.

HAPPENINGS AROUND THE STATE

Enterprise VFD in Chilton County named **Assistant Chief Clyde Jones** Firefighter of the Year. Jones, pictured here, is also one of the founding members of the department.





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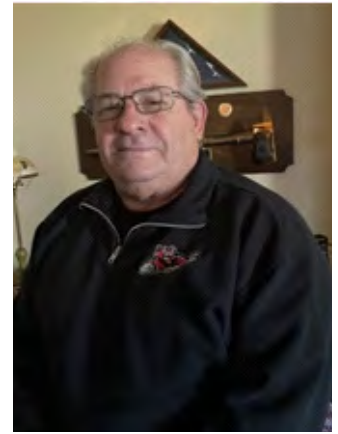
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Joey Boyd

Candidate for Northern
Vice-President

My name is Joey Boyd and I am seeking re-election for the position of Northern V-P of the AAVFD. I am a member of the East Limestone Volunteer Fire Department. I have served the Department since 1981 and was the first Certified Volunteer Firefighter in Limestone County. I served as Chief of the Department from 1986 to 2022. During my term as Chief, with the help of great members, we added on to Station 1 twice and built a second station. We have upgraded apparatus throughout the

years. I was employed as a DOD F/F on Redstone Arsenal, Redstone Arsenal Fire and Emergency Services and retired after 25 years of service.



I began serving on the Board of Directors of the AAVFD in 1984 when the annual conference was in Huntsville AL. Under the leadership of President Wesley Cain, I was the Alternate Director of District 9. In 1985, I was elected the Director of District 9. In 1987, President Cain designated me the AAVFD Competition Chair and I have continued to serve in this capacity since that time. Firefighter competitions are held across the state with the assistance of my wife, Sandy, and daughter, Carma. While serving the AAVFD, I was elected to the office of Northern V-P, serving as 1st, 2nd, and 3rd V-P over the years. I stepped down from office and Derrick Gatlin was elected to the office of Northern V-P. I have had the honor of

being bestowed a Lifetime Member of the AAVFD. During the time when I was not serving as an elected officer of the Board, I remained active with AAVFD attending board meetings and serving as the AAVFD Firefighter Competition Chairman.

It is truly an honor to serve on the Board of the AAVFD and represent the Volunteer Fire Departments of the State of Alabama.

Thank you for your support, Joey Boyd

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Joey Moffett

Candidate for South
Vice-President

My name is Joey Moffett and I served in the position of Vice President for the Southern Region for the past 6 years. 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 1998, 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 firefighting 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 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 an LPN and is studying to be a life flight nurse.

Your support to continue serving as Vice President for the Southern Region would be appreciated for the upcoming election at the annual Conference this year. 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!

Mary Sells

Candidate for Secretary

I, Mary Sells, a thirty-one-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 privilege of serving as secretary for the AAVFD

for the past twenty years. I am a long-time member (twenty-two 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 thirty-one years. I am standing on the frontline serving my community and the AAVFD with dedication, commitment and pride.

I am 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 would greatly be appreciated.





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Hello fellow Brothers & Sisters,

First off, I want to express my sincerest and heartfelt appreciation to each of you for what you do. It seems as if the volunteers do not get enough credit for the amount of time and service that you provide to the communities across this great state and nation, FREE OF CHARGE. Each of you are blessings from God and know that my family and I appreciate each and every one of you for what you do!

Patrick Nolen

Candidate for Central Vice-President

For those who don't already know me, my name is Patrick Nolen. I have been nominated once again this year for the position of Central Vice President. I have proudly served you in that position for the last year. I am a proud resident of Cleburne County and graduate of Ranburne High School, Gadsden State Community College, and Jefferson County Law Enforcement Academy. I have been a volunteer firefighter at the Turkey Heaven Volunteer Fire Department since I was 18 years old and have served as the Fire Chief for almost 14 years now. I have previously served on the AAVFD Board of Directors from 2011 until 2018. I have served for the past number of years as the Assistant Coordinator for the Cleburne County Toys for Tots program. I am currently employed at the Cleburne County Sheriff's Department since 2013 and serve as a Criminal Investigator.

For many years, I have tried to attend as many trainings as I could with the Fire Service and the Sheriff's Department. I am certified Volunteer Firefighter, certified Fire Instructor, and a certified Criminal Investigator to name a few. I have many other certifications, instructor roles, and positions within the Fire Department and the Sheriff's Department and I am very grateful for being able to gain experience in leadership and management.

Since I was a kid, I knew that serving the community was my passion and I have tried to do so with the utmost respect, honor, and dignity. I have been very grateful and honored for this past year serving as your Central Vice President and I hope to gain your trust and support and continue to serve you for at least another year.

Thank you again for your dedication. May God Bless each and every one of you and keep you safe! Patrick Nolen



As we approach the annual AAVFD Conference, I ask your support for the position of Treasurer of the AAVFD. I am currently a member of Tallassee Fire Department in Elmore and Tallapoosa Counties and have volunteered here for 28 years.

I currently serve as a Deputy Fire 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 Treasurer, 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 families' lives.

David Rogers

Candidate for Treasurer

THE BELL TOLLED

Anthony Smith passed away April 13, 2022. He was a member of Langston VFD in Jackson Co.

Danny Staples passed away April 11, 2022. Staples was a member of the Cook Springs VFD in St. Clair County. He was a long-time member of the department and served many years. Staples was an active firefighter and served as the assistant chief some years prior. He also served as a board member.

Danny Stone passed away April 9, 2022 after a courageous battle with Stage 4 lung cancer. Stone served as a captain with the Douglass VFD in Marshall County for several years.

David Berry, age 65 passed away unexpectedly April 8, 2022. He was chief of Camp Hill VFD in Tallapoosa County and a servant to the community. Berry started working for the Tallapoosa County Sheriff's office, worked for the District Attorney's office, a member of the volunteer fire department for over thirty years, and worked at Lyman Ward Military Academy. He enjoyed traveling to the Smokey Mountains, listening to 50's and Motown music and taking care of his dogs. His knowledge, experience, and dedication to serving the citizens in Camp Hill will be missed.

Rusty Yeoman passed away April 1, 2022. Yeoman was a firefighter with the Goshen VFD in Pike County. He was an ag teacher at Goshen High School, a life coach, and a friend to everyone. Yeoman was a dedicated member of the department, the town and town council. His dedication and service to the Town of Goshen will be greatly missed.

Fredy Reeves, age 85, passed away March 25, 2022. Reeves was the fire chief at Ward VFD in Sumter County. He was burned while attempting to put out a grass fire and subsequently passed away from his injuries.

Donnie Marsh, age 42, passed away March 5, 2022. Marsh was the assistant chief of the Ebenezer VFD in Morgan County. He enjoyed working at the fire department and he enjoyed working on heavy equipment. Marsh was dedicated to the department, community, and the members of the department. Marsh was a big Alabama fan.

Robert Cunningham, age 91, passed away on January 19, 2022. He was a member of Bethel East VFD in Randolph County for forty years and was the oldest volunteer in the county. He was a past AAVFD Board alternate director for region 4. Cunningham was also a dedicated member of the AAVFD Honor Guard. He served our country in the United States Air Force for 12 1/2 years.

Larry Harbin, age 65, passed away March 3, 2022. He served many years as a volunteer firefighter protecting his communities in both Delmar and the Town of Lynn both in Winston County. Harbin was a firefighter with Lynn VFD for the past five months and served Delmar VFD for two decades. He had a beaming smile and boost of positivity when times were tough. Harbin passed away while performing his duties on the scene of Wildland Fire.

Jessica Elaine Corbin, age 33, passed away February 18, 2022. Corbin was a founding member of Craft VFD in Marion County. She enjoyed crafting, fishing, being on the lake, kayaking and riding motorcycles.

Clarence (Jackie) Liles, age 76, passed away February 3, 2022. He served Zip City VFD in Lauderdale County as a firefighter, board member and was a U.S. Veteran. Liles was a dedicated member to the department and community.

Larry "Poppy" Maness passed away on January 22, 2022. He was the assistant chief at Fayetteville VFD in Talladega County. Maness served Fayetteville for over forty-one years and was referred to as the "grandpa" of the community by many. He held a special place in many hearts and treated everyone as if they were family of his own. Through forty-one years of service to his community, he touched the lives of nearly everyone in Fayetteville in some fashion and never once met a stranger he could not get along with.

Doc Slaughter, age 99, passed away on January 19, 2022. He was a past member of Pittsview VFD in Russell County.

Wesley Warren, age 45, passed away on January 11, 2022. He was a member of Kennedy VFD in Lamar County.

Elizabeth Kay Hicks, age 75, passed away on January 8, 2022. Hicks was one of the founding members of the Palmerdale VFD, established in 1972 in Jefferson County. In the beginning years of the fire district, she served the community as a volunteer dispatcher and fire truck driver. As the department grew and gained rights to charge fire dues in 1979, she became a volunteer billing clerk and managed all aspects of billing and collecting fire dues in addition to other clerical duties. The fire department was her second family and she loved everyone that walked through the doors.

Tommy McGuire, age 36, passed away on December 30, 2021. McGuire was a dedicated member of Greens Crossroads VFD in Barbour County.

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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 Info: 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: Billy Doss

1st VP: Joey Moffett

2nd VP: Patrick Nolen

3rd VP: Joey Boyd

Secretary: Mary Jane Sells

Treasurer: Joe Golden

Newsletter Editor: Debbie Green

Executive Assistant: Wanda Jones

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