

Dear Members,

I am honored to be your President again for the next year. Due to unexpected changes within the Executive Board, the board of directors had to make review of our policies which resulted in the President and First Vice President remaining in their respective positions for another term. A big thank you to the entire North Carolina Association of Fire Chiefs (NCAFC) Board of Directors for working through the unexpected changes and keeping continuity throughout the board.

This year we will start off with a joint meeting with the North Carolina State Firefighters' Association Board of Directors to help build a better North Carolina Fire Services and begin work on the next North Carolina General Assembly Legislative Agenda. Our Mid-Winter Conference will be in Concord in February of 2023 with a great program and top-notch vendor exposition. During the conference we will recognize Career and Volunteer Chiefs of the year and Career and Volunteer Officers of the year. I hope your department will submit nominations for these prestigious awards. We will also offer other educational opportunities throughout the year, please check the NCAFC web site often for information on these programs.

In the past year, the Board of Directors has worked diligently to make the NCAFC a truly member driven association. Our five-dollar dues increase will directly benefit the North Carolina Fallen Firefighters Foundation, as the five-dollar increase will go directly to the foundation to help them provide outstanding services to the North Carolina Fire Services. During the 2021/2022 year we also cleaned up a couple of loose ends with our by-laws and you, our members overwhelmingly (99.6%) approved the changes to strengthen our board positions and policies. The NCAFC, with your help, also worked diligently to push through the NCAFC specialty license plate bill and the processing of applications and plate final design is in progress. We hope to see the issue come out within the next few months. Thank you to our members who signed up for the plate, this helped make this NCAFC initiative a reality.

Throughout the year the NCAFC Board adopted a work plan identifying new initiatives to help grow and strengthen the NCAFC. I am proud to say with the diligent efforts of your board of directors we have accomplished ninety percent of the plan and we look forward to adjusting the plan identifying new opportunities to strengthen the NCAFC.

We all lead busy lives, but your active support and commitment are what allow us to make such an impact in our community. I am proud to serve with such a talented and resolute NCAFC board of directors. Let us work together for a successful 2022-2023. Please do not hesitate to contact any Executive Board Member or Association Staff if you have questions, comments, or concerns.

Faternally,

Chief Kevin S. Gordon

President 2022-2023