

What an honor to be your President of the North Carolina Association of Fire Chiefs (NCAFC) for the coming year. President Derrick Clouston has done an exceptional job leading our association, and we have had many accomplishments this past year. We are blessed with a great group of leaders, who serve on the Board of Directors, who are committed to serving the NCAFC. We are looking forward to a great year to serve our membership.

Wesley Hutchins, our Executive Director, will be retiring at the end of the year. He has been a tremendous advocate for us and will definitely be missed. Scott Burnette is transitioning to Executive Director and will be joined by Tracy Mosley, who will be the Assistant Executive and Educational Director. Your 2024-2025 Board of Directors include: 1st Vice President- Chief Jennifer Smith, 2nd Vice President- Chief Brian Causey, Treasurer- Chief Davie Summey, Past President- Chief Derrick Clouston, Western Director- Chief Earl Withers III, Eastern Director- Chief Allen Wilson, and our newest member, Piedmont Director- Chief Johnny Blythe. We are excited to put this team to task for the betterment of the Association.

My favorite verse from the Bible is, "And of some have compassion, making a difference:" (Jude 1:22) I have tried to abide by this scripture over my 47 years in the fire service. "**Making a Difference**" is the theme for the upcoming year. Every day as we serve our communities, we encounter those who we assist and **make a difference** aiding them in events and situations. With our three Regional Associations, NC State Firefighters Association, Office of State Fire Marshal, and many other organizations, we can **make a difference** for the North Carolina Fire Service. Many challenges continue to affect the fire service. Recruitment and retention, supply and demand for needed equipment, and financial issues are some of the top areas of concern. With determination we can succeed. We must strive to achieve the best we can for our departments and members. Your board of directors is committed to offer the assistance in education and resources to help our members be successful. We can accomplish many things together.

I would like to thank all of you for your continuous support to improve the fire service through the work and leadership of all our Fire Officers in North Carolina. Thank you for your confidence and support in allowing us to serve you. Do not hesitate to contact us if we can assist you.

Sincerely,

Chief Joey Webb
2024-2025 NCAFC President