

Gateway 2 Conference Top 5 Priorities and Action Plans

1. **Objective:** Enhancement of retirement package should be legislative benefits focus. (Long Term Issue)

Action Plan:

- Immediately contact local representatives and ask them to support 25-year retirement bills.
 - State Firemen's Association to develop a letter and bullet sheet to be mailed to the respective presidents of all fire/rescue agencies by Oct. 15, 2001.
 - Interagency communication to occur between NCSFA and PFFPNC/IAFF concerning retirement and benefit issues throughout the year. (Dave Anders and Paul Miller)
2. **Objective:** Establish a task force to develop the concept of a State Fire Academy at a fixed facility for the purpose of program development, research and develop, and delivery of officer and other specialized training. (Long Term Issue)

Action Plan:

- Task Force will develop a conceptual plan by November 19, 2001.
 - The Task Force will present to the 8 department Community College Coordinators and OSFM a conceptual plan on November 30, 2001.
 - A meeting with the 58 community colleges' Deans of Continuing Education and the School Coordinators to present the conceptual plan will be done by the Task Force in the first quarter of 2002.
 - Between November and January survey with a cover letter and bulleted conceptual plan will be mailed to all firefighters in North Carolina.
3. **Objective:** To provide County Fire Marshals and their eligible staff with equal benefits to firefighters that are members of a certified fire department in North Carolina and members of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association.

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Action Plan:

- Prepare a recognizable definition of a County Fire Marshal and their eligible staff. Definition should be broad enough to cover training requirements (36 hours) and related responsibilities. The N.C.County Fire Marshal's Association along with NCSFA will develop this definition by December 31, 2001.

- Research and identify all General Statutes that affect benefits for Firefighters and identify how other statutes have been modified to include previously omitted groups. The legal staff of the NCSFA and the legislative liaison from the N.C.County Fire Marshal's Association will work together to complete this by June 30, 2002.

- Draft appropriate legislation to accomplish the following objectives:
 - a. Modify Statutes to allow CFM and staff as defined access to the benefits of the NC State Firemen's Assoc. that are paid for with Relief Fund money.
 - b. Modify Pension Fund Statutes to include CFM staff as defined in the Pension Fund.
 - c. Modify Statutes affecting In-Line of Duty Death Benefits to include CFM and their staff as defined.
 - d. Draft legislation that ensures that CFM and their staff as defined will be included in all future benefit legislation that applies to firefighters in North Carolina.
 - e. Obtain sponsorship to introduce these bills and changes in the long session in 2003.

Reed Jarvis and Roy Spell will Co-Chair the Task Force. This Task Force will work with the Legal Staff of the NCSFA and the legislative liaison (Mike Tapp) of the NC County Fire Marshal's Association to accomplish the objectives in this section by December 31, 2002. Oversight of legislative issues and concerns will occur between the NCSFA and the County Fire Marshal Association. * **Footnote - Access to said benefits will require the CFM and their eligible staff to be members in good standing of the NC State Firemen's Association.**

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4. **Objective:** Identify alternate funding and grant opportunities and develop awareness, education, training, and mentoring in the methods of obtaining grants. (Long Term Issue)

Action Plan #1:

- Identify alternative funding sources for North Carolina Fire/Rescue Services and provides access to the information in various formats.
- The Task Force, within 30 days, will develop a list of Federal, State, Local, and Private Funding Sources including grants.
- By May 1, 2002 have developed the list for publication in newsletters, catalogs, and electronic web sites.

Action Plan #2:

- The Task Force will provide training, education and mentoring for grant seekers to the North Carolina Fire/Rescue Service.
- By May 1, 2002 the Task Force will:
 - Identify existing workshops that are available to provide information on grant writing.
 - Identify and provide listing of grant recipient departments willing to participate in a mentoring process.
 - Develop, schedule and publicize workshops throughout North Carolina.

5. **Objective:** Identify a State Fire/Rescue Focus or Central Point to disseminate information and resources (State & Federal funding) to be handed off to the local level. (Short)

Action Plan #1

- The focus shall be the Office of State Fire Marshal. OSFM will develop a written protocol by mid winter conference of 2002 to report back to Gateway 2 on the dissemination of resources between Local, State and Federal government.

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Action Plan #2

- Identify political focus for issues dealing with benefits. This will be a focus between NCSFA, PFFPNC and the NCAREMS.
- A Task Force of Paul Miller, Gordon Joyner, and Dave Anders will develop a communications network to disseminate information among the proper agencies by January 30, 2002. The task shall develop a list of email addresses and establish an "e-groups" or similar distribution network.