MISSION OF THE NVFC

To Provide a Unified Voice for Volunteer Fire/EMS Organizations

This Mission will be accomplished by:

- Representing the interests of the volunteer fire/EMS organizations at the U.S. Congress and federal agencies
- Promoting the interests of the state and local organizations at the national level
- Promoting and providing education and training for the volunteer fire/EMS organizations
- Providing representation on national standards setting committees and projects
- Gathering information from and disseminating information to the volunteer fire/EMS organizations

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Dear NVFC Supporter:

This has been a difficult year for many in the fire service as volunteers face the pressures of a down economy both at home and at the fire station. Yet the current national climate only emphasizes the importance of the NVFC’s work even more, as we fight for legislation that will benefit the volunteer emergency services and provide the resources and programs to help departments face challenges such as retention and recruitment, grants and funding, health and safety, and more.

It has also been a year of change throughout the country, and the NVFC has been no exception. We have added new membership levels and benefits, developed new resources, released new components to our programs, and reinvigorated the focus on important issues affecting the fire and emergency services.

We had several legislative victories in 2009, including passage of the FLAME Act and the restoration of emergency responder notification provisions to the Ryan White Act. While funding for the FY 2010 AFG program did decrease from FY 2009, the NVFC worked tirelessly with members of Congress to restore $230 million in funding above what the President had initially proposed. Funding for the SAFER grant program, which supports retention and recruitment efforts, doubled for FY 2010.

To bring the focus of the fire and emergency services to the critical issues of health and safety, the NVFC released the Volunteer Firefighter Health and Safety Priorities in the spring of 2009 and launched a long-term campaign to keep these at the forefront of the fire service’s attention. In order to support the rights of individuals to volunteer, the NVFC Volunteer Advocacy Committee launched an online resource to help two-hatters and other volunteers who are experiencing pressures from their employers or union to give up volunteering.

In addition, the Heart-Healthy Firefighter Program took a step forward with the Adopt the Program initiative, featuring a revamped Fired Up for Fitness Challenge and other tools to help first responders get and stay healthy. The Fire Corps and National Junior Firefighter Programs also released new resources throughout the year.

These achievements and many others are highlighted in the following Annual Report for 2009. It is thanks to our members and supporters that we are able to accomplish all that we do. We count on you to help keep the voice of the volunteer strong, and we appreciate your continued support. Together, we will make 2010 a year to remember.

Sincerely,

Philip C. Stittleburg
Chairman
The NVFC is comprised of 49 state fire association members, each of which appoints a representative from their organization to serve as the Director from their respective state. Some states also select an Alternate Director. These representatives comprise the NVFC Board of Directors, which meets as a whole twice a year. Each state has one vote.

The Directors elect officers (Chairman, First Vice Chairman, Second Vice Chairman, and Secretary/Treasurer) every two years. The NVFC Executive Committee is comprised of the organization’s four officers, five elected members from the Board, the Chair of the Legislative Committee, the Chair of the EMS Committee, the President of the NVFC Foundation, and a representative from a national EMS organization as determined by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee meets in person four times a year.

The Board members also serve on several committees on a variety of topics. The committees meet twice a year, in conjunction with the biannual meetings, and often hold conference calls or communicate via email.

**NVFC Officers**

**Philip C. Stittleburg**
Chairman
Wisconsin State Firefighters Association
Phil Stittleburg joined the volunteer fire service in 1972 and has served as Chief of the LaFarge (WI) Fire Department for 32 years. Phil is also legal counsel to the NVFC, the LaFarge Fire Department, and the Wisconsin State Firefighters Association. Phil has represented the NVFC on numerous NFPA standards making committees, including NFPA 1500. He served as NVFC Foundation President for thirteen years, has served on the NFPA Board of Directors, is an adjunct instructor at the National Fire Academy, and is a regular contributor to *Fire Chief Magazine*.

**Jack Carriger**
First Vice Chairman
Oregon Volunteer Firefighters Association
Jack Carriger began his career in emergency service in 1976 as a Reserve Deputy Sheriff. After ten years of serving as a Deputy, he changed over to the volunteer fire service. Jack is the Chief of the Stayton (OR) Fire District and has served as President of his fire district’s Volunteer Firefighters Association, President of the Oregon Volunteer Firefighters Association, and as Alternate Director and Director to the NVFC for Oregon. During his time on the Council, he has served on several committees, including his current roles as Chair of the Executive and Standards committees.

**Jeff Cash**
Second Vice Chair
North Carolina State Firemen’s Association
Jeff Cash has been in the fire service for 30 years, serving in both the volunteer and career sectors, and became Fire Chief of the Cherryville (NC) Fire in 1986. He served as President of the North Carolina Firemen’s Association in 2001 and is the organization’s delegate to the NVFC. Jeff is on the Council’s Executive Committee and Health and Safety Committee, represents the NVFC on the NFPA 1021 Committee and the IAFC Safety Health & Survival Committee, and has testified before Congressional committees on fire service issues on two occasions.

**J. Allen Metheny, Sr.**
Secretary/Treasurer
Delaware Volunteer Firefighter’s Association
Allen Metheny is a 45-year member of the volunteer fire and emergency services. He is a life member of the Hartly (DE) Volunteer Fire Company and has held nearly every elected office in the Company. Allen is a Past President of the Delaware State Fire Chief’s Association, the Del-Mar-Va Volunteer Firemen’s Association, and the Delaware Volunteer Firefighter’s Association of which he is currently the Treasurer. He has been an instructor at the Delaware State Fire School since 1970 and has served on the Delaware State Fire Prevention Commission. Allen has been the Alternate Director to the NVFC for Delaware since 1991. He is a Certified Government Finance Manager.
Mike Bird  
Massachusetts Call/Volunteer Firefighters Association

Jack Carriger  
Oregon Volunteer Firefighters Association

Jeff Cash  
North Carolina State Firemen’s Association

Patrick Hlavaty  
State Firemen’s and State Fire Marshals’ Association of Texas

Norman Hoeft  
Nebraska State Volunteer Firefighters Association

Jerry Johnston  
National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians

Robert Kilpeck  
Vermont State Firefighters’ Association

Kenneth Knipper  
Kentucky Firefighters Association

Suzie Hill Koklich  
Alaska State Firefighters Association

John Lyman  
Rhode Island State Firemen’s League

J. Allen Metheny  
Delaware Volunteer Firefighter’s Association

Philip C. Stittleburg  
Wisconsin State Firefighter’s Association

Bob Timko  
Firemen’s Association of the State of Pennsylvania

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Executive Committee

1-800-FIRE-LINE  
Audit  
Bylaws  
Conference/Education  
Disaster Relief  
EMS  
Executive  
Finance  
Health and Safety  
Homeland Security  
LOSAP  
Legislative  
Membership/Awards  
Nominating  
Radio/Wireless  
Standards  
Volunteer Advocacy  
Wildland

Left to right: Phil Stittleburg, Jack Carriger, Jeff Cash, Allen Metheny, Norm Hoeft, Pat Hlavaty, Bob Timko, and Mike Bird (not pictured: Jerry Johnston, Bob Kilpeck, Ken Knipper, Suzie Hill Koklich, and John Lyman)
The NVFC is headquartered in Greenbelt, MD, just outside of Washington, DC. The office is accessible to the nation’s capital and the Metro transit system.

National Volunteer Fire Council
7852 Walker Drive
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Greenbelt, MD 20770

Phone: 1-888-ASK-NVFC (275-6832)
Fax: 202-887-5291
Email: nvfcoffice@nvfc.org

STAFF CONTACTS

Heather Schafer
Executive Director
Extension 17
Hschafer@nvfc.org
Heather Schafer joined the NVFC staff in 1993 and has served as the Executive Director since 1994. She manages all internal and external operations and is the organization’s chief fundraiser. She previously worked for the Chief of Staff during the Clinton administration and for FEMA during Hurricane Andrew. Heather graduated from Ohio State University and is currently pursuing a Masters degree in Nonprofit and Association Management at the University of Maryland.

Sarah Lee
Deputy Director/Acting Fire Corps Director
Extension 13
Slee@nvfc.org
Sarah Lee assists Heather Schafer in administering the internal and staff operations of the NVFC. She also manages Fire Corps, providing vision and direction for the program and overseeing the development of all program tools and resources. Sarah comes from a family of career and volunteer firefighters and EMTs. With a Masters degree in Public Administration and Nonprofit Management, Sarah has over 10 years of experience in the nonprofit sector, with most of those years spent serving the fire and emergency services. She joined the NVFC staff in 2005.

Amanda Ludholtz
Office Manager/Executive Assistant
Extension 17
Aludholtz@nvfc.org
Amanda Ludholtz serves as Office Manager for the NVFC and as Executive Assistant to Heather Schafer. She also handles Board meeting planning and human resource functions. Amanda graduated from the University of Maryland with a degree in Psychology. She spent three years working as the office manager for a software company’s sales and training office before joining the NVFC in 2007.

Donna Clark
Administrative Assistant
Extension 10
nvfcoffice@nvfc.org
Donna Clark is the point of contact for membership, product ordering, and general inquiries to the NVFC. She also assists with the National Junior Firefighter Program and Fire Corps. Prior to joining the NVFC in 2008, she served six years as the Executive Assistant for the Prince George’s County (MD) Volunteer Firefighters Association. She comes from a family with strong roots in the fire and emergency services community and is also involved with her local Citizen Corps Council and Fire Corps and serves as a State Fire Corps Advocate for Maryland.

Melaku Alito
Director of Finance
Extension 11
Malito@nvfc.org
Melaku Alito has a Masters degree in Accounting and Financial Management from Keller Graduate School of Management, Devry University, Maryland. Joining the NVFC in 2007, Melaku handles accounts payable and receivable, budget development, and audit preparation.
Dave Finger
Director of Government Relations
Extension 12
Dfinger@nvfc.org
Dave Finger is the point of contact for legislative, regulatory, and standards issues concerning the volunteer emergency services. He serves as the NVFC’s liaison with Congress and federal government agencies and advises the Board and membership on governmental matters. Dave graduated from Michigan State University with a degree in Political Economy and spent several years working on Capitol Hill before joining the NVFC in 2005.

Kimberly Ettinger
Director of Communications
Extension 19
Kettinger@nvfc.org
Kimberly Ettinger joined the NVFC team 2006. She serves as the main media contact and oversees the Council's communications endeavors, including publications, web sites, and marketing initiatives. Previously, Kimberly served as the communications and development specialist at a DC-based nonprofit, and before that she worked for a newspaper in Newport News, VA. She graduated with a degree in History from The College of William and Mary and received her Masters degree in Public Communications from American University.

Rachel Higginbotham
Director of the National Junior Firefighter Program
Extension 27
Rachel@nvfc.org
Rachel Higginbotham joined the NVFC team in 2007 and is the point of contact for the National Junior Firefighter Program. She also assists with communications projects relating to the NVFC’s health and safety initiatives. Rachel is a graduate of Texas A&M University, where she received her degree in International Studies, with a focus on business and communications.

Lillian Ricardo
Health and Safety Project Coordinator
Extension 21
Lmoon@firecorps.org
Lillian Ricardo is the point of contact for the NVFC’s health and safety initiatives and coordinates the Heart-Healthy Firefighter Program. Lillian graduated with a degree from East Carolina University and has worked for the NVFC since 2006.

Lori Moon
Fire Corps Deputy Director
Lmoon@firecorps.org
Lori Moon assists with the implementation of the Fire Corps program. Before taking this position in 2006, Lori served with Fire Corps at the grassroots level as Fire Corps Team Leader for Johnson County Rural Fire District #1 in Clarksville, AR. Lori received a degree in Marketing from the University of the Ozarks in Clarksville, AR.

Allison Moore
Fire Corps Program Coordinator; Government Relations Associate
Extension 28
Amoore@nvfc.org
Allison Moore joined the NVFC staff in 2007. She assists with the implementation of the Fire Corps program as well as coordinates projects that fall under the NVFC’s cooperative agreement with the U.S. Fire Administration. In addition, she assists Dave Finger in furthering the legislative goals of the organization. Allison received her bachelor’s degree in Political Science from Mercyhurst College and her Masters degree in Political Management from George Washington University.

Kari Wood
Program Coordinator
Kwood@nvfc.org
Kari Wood assists with the implementation of the Fire Corps program. Before joining the NVFC staff in 2008, Kari served as an NVFC intern focusing on the National Junior Firefighter Program as well as led her local Fire Corps team in Clarksville, AR. Kari graduated summa cum laude from the University of the Ozarks with a degree in Marketing.
The NVFC is working hard to promote legislation that would benefit the volunteer fire service in the 111th Congress, and there have been several legislative victories and advances. A key item in 2009 was the reauthorization of the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) and the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant programs. In addition, the NVFC continued building relationships with the newly appointed government officials leading the nation’s fire and emergency service agencies.

**Legislative Priorities**

The NVFC Board updated its list of Legislative Priorities and Monitored Items in 2009. Learn more about each of these items at [www.nvfc.org](http://www.nvfc.org).

**NVFC Legislative Priorities**

- Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program
- Volunteer Emergency Services Recruitment and Retention Act (H.R. 1792)
- Volunteer Firefighter and EMS Personnel Job Protection Act (S. 1025)
- U.S. Fire Administration Funding
- Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act (H.R. 1194)
- Supporting Emergency Responders Volunteer Efforts (SERVE) Act (H.R. 2601, S. 857)
- Good Samaritan Volunteer Firefighter Assistance Act
- Volunteer Mileage Reimbursement Rate (H.R. 524, S. 243)
- Ryan White First Responder Notification
- Citizen Corps Funding and Authorization
- Volunteer Responder Incentive Protection Reauthorization Act

**NVFC Monitored Items**

- Additional Radio Spectrum for Public Safety
- Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) Program
- Department of Interior Rural Fire Assistance Program
- Community Building Code Administration Grant Act (H.R. 2246, S. 970)
- Supporting America’s Volunteer Emergency Services Act
- Protect Children from Dangerous Lighters Act (H.R. 2050, S. 723)

**AFG and SAFER**

The AFG and SAFER grant programs are a top priority for the NVFC. AFG funds equipment, training, and apparatus purchases by local fire departments while SAFER funds the hiring of career firefighters as well as programs to recruit and retain volunteers. The NVFC strongly advocated for the reauthorization of the AFG and SAFER grant programs, as well as fought to increase the funding level of AFG for FY2010.

**Reauthorization**

In July, Jack Carriger, the NVFC’s First Vice Chair and Oregon State Director, testified before the House Science and Technology Committee regarding AFG and SAFER reauthorization. In his testimony, Carriger stressed the importance of reauthorizing AFG and SAFER, eliminating the match for fire departments through the Fire Prevention and Safety grants, allowing state training agencies to be eligible to apply for AFG, allowing national organizations to be eligible to apply for SAFER recruitment and retention grants, and the continuing need to assess the impact of AFG and SAFER grants.

The NVFC sent a letter of support for H.R. 3791, the Fire Grants Reauthorization Act of 2009, to the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on October 13. The bill was subsequently considered and amended by the subcommittee and the full committee, which favorably reported H.R. 3791 on October 21.

On November 18, H.R. 3791 was overwhelmingly approved by the House of Representatives. The bill extends for five years the AFG and the SAFER grant programs. The provisions
in H.R. 3791 are based on a series of policy recommendations that were agreed to by the NVFC and other national fire service organizations. A list of all of the changes is available on the NVFC web site at www.nvfc.org.

“The AFG and SAFER grant programs are critical for the fire service – by far the most significant source of federal assistance available for bringing local fire departments up to a baseline level of readiness,” said NVFC Executive Director Heather Schafer. “Reauthorization of AFG and SAFER is a top priority for the NVFC and we look forward to working with our allies in the Senate to advance H.R. 3791 - or a Senate version of the bill - in the near future.”

**Funding Level**

In May, President Obama proposed slashing AFG to $170 million, the lowest funding request for the program since then-President Bush proposed eliminating the program altogether in FY 2003. The NVFC expressed strong disagreement with the President’s budget request in a series of letters to and meetings with the administration and Congress.

House and Senate appropriators eventually restored $210 million in funding above the President’s budget request, and the NVFC worked Congressman Bill Pascrell (D-NJ), Congressmen Jason Altmire (D-PA), Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT), and Senator Chris Dodd (D-CT), each of whom offered amendments to increase AFG funding when H.R. 2892 and S. 1298 (Senate companion legislation) was considered by the full House and Senate. Because of those amendments, House and Senate appropriators agreed to increase AFG funding by $10 million.

On October 28, President Obama signed the FY 2010 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act (H.R. 2892), which provides funding for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for the next year, including the AFG and SAFER grant programs. H.R. 2892 funds AFG at $390 million – a $175 million reduction from FY 2009 – while doubling funding for SAFER from $210 million in FY 2009 to $420 million.

The combined funding level for AFG and SAFER ($810 million) is the highest ever for the programs. The NVFC supports full funding for AFG and SAFER. While pleased with the increase that SAFER received, the NVFC is concerned that increases for SAFER have historically been carved out of AFG. In FY 2004, the year before SAFER first received an appropriation, AFG was funded at $746 million. The FY 2010 funding level for AFG is $356 million below that high-water mark while SAFER funding has increased every year since 2004.

**Emergency Service Victories**

A version of the Federal Land Assistance, Management, and Enhancement (FLAME) Act was included in the FY 2010 Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act (H.R. 2996), which was signed into law by President Obama on October 30. The original FLAME Act called for a supplemental funding source for catastrophic emergency wildland fire suppression activities on federal land. H.R. 2996 provides $61 million for the Department of Interior and $413 million for the U.S. Forest Service in FY 2010 funding to be used for wildland fire suppression.

Also on October 30, President Obama signed the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Extension Act of 2009 (S. 1793), which includes language requiring medical facilities to notify emergency responders that have been exposed to a potentially life-threatening infectious disease by contact with a patient during emergency response. The bill, which was passed by the Senate and House earlier that month, also requires hospitals to inform emergency responders that are concerned that they may have been exposed to a potentially life-threatening infectious disease through contact with a patient, whether or not they need to be tested. Reinstating the notification provisions was a priority for the NVFC in 2009.

While not legislative, there was an important fire service victory in October when International Code Council (ICC) members voted to retain residential fire sprinkler requirements in the International Residential Code (IRC). The fire sprinkler provision was added to the IRC in 2008, but there was an effort underway to remove it. NVFC staff were among the ICC members to vote in favor of keeping the provision, and the NVFC urged our members to join the ICC in advance of the hearings and vote to retain the requirements.
Legislation Re-Introduced

With the beginning of the 111th Congress, the NVFC pushed to see the re-introduction of many important pieces of legislation that would benefit the volunteer emergency services.

Congressmen Peter King (R-NY), along with original co-sponsors Bill Pascrell (D-NJ), Joseph Crowley (D-NY), and Heath Schuler (D-NC), reintroduced the Volunteer Emergency Services Recruitment and Retention Act (H.R. 1792) in March. The bill would clarify the treatment of length of service award programs (LOSAPs) in the federal tax code. LOSAPs are pension-like programs for volunteer emergency services personnel. Nearly 20 percent of the volunteer firefighters in America participate in some form of a LOSAP.

“This legislation is crucial for the volunteer fire and emergency services,” said NVFC Chairman Philip C. Stittleburg. “LOSAPs have no clear place in the current federal tax structure. This creates problems for states and communities that want to provide LOSAPs for their volunteers but face unnecessary complications in setting up programs. For this reason, LOSAP participation is lower than it otherwise would be, and the programs that do exist are more difficult to administer.”

In May, Senators Tom Carper (D-DE) and Susan Collins (R-ME) introduced the Volunteer Firefighter and EMS Personnel Job Protection Act (S. 1025), which would provide up to 14 days of employment protection per calendar year to volunteer emergency personnel responding in an official capacity to a Presidentially-declared disaster. It would also reduce pressure on emergency managers, who rely heavily on the availability and performance of the more than one million volunteer first responders around the country.

“Volunteer first responders shouldn’t be put in the position of having to choose between their jobs and responding to a major disaster,” said Stittleburg. “Passage of this important legislation would eliminate the threat of termination or demotion.”

Also in May, Senator Bernie Sanders (D-VT) introduced the Volunteer Firefighter and EMS Support Act of 2009 (S. 882) to promote retention and recruitment of volunteer emergency responders. The bill would authorize federal matching funds to state and local governments or nonprofit associations that provide benefits to volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel.

On October 1, Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) and Congressman Dave Reichert (R-WA) introduced the Volunteer Responder Incentive Protection Reauthorization Act (VRIPRA) (H.R. 3666), which would extend income tax exemptions on property tax benefits and up to $360 per year of “other benefits” that volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel receive as a reward for their service. VRIPRA, which was enacted in 2007, expires at the end of 2010. In addition to extending the benefit, H.R. 3666 would increase to $600 the amount of “other benefits” that are exempt from federal income tax in a given year.

The NVFC is working with our other allies on Capitol Hill to achieve passage each of these bills. Learn more about each of these and stay tuned for updates on the NVFC web site at www.nvfc.org.

Government Appointments

With the new Administration came several appointments in 2009 of key officials overseeing the nation’s emergency services. These appointments include Janet Napolitano as Secretary of Homeland Security, Craig Fugate as Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Kelvin J. Cochran as U.S. Fire Administrator, and Glenn Gaines as the Deputy Assistant Administrator for the United States Fire Administration. The NVFC is supportive of the choices and has been working with these officials on matters affecting the volunteer fire and emergency services.
The NVFC has representatives on several National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) committees. These committees develop the codes and standards that guide the fire and emergency services. Each committee is represented by a balance of affected interests. The NVFC has representatives on the following NFPA committees.

**Ambulances**  
Principal: Joseph V. Maruca  
Alternate: Kenneth R. Knipper

**Emergency Medical Services**  
Principal: Kenneth R. Knipper (Committee Chair)

**Fire and Emergency Service Organization and Deployment – Volunteer**  
Principals: Robert J. Kilpeck; John J. McAuliffe, Jr.; T.J. Nedrow  
Alternates: Steven W. Hirsch; Vern A Losh III; George Stevens

**Fire Department Apparatus**  
Principal: J. Allen Metheny, Sr.  
Alternate: Al Rosamond

**Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications**  
Principal: Kenn Fontenot  
Alternate: Jeffery C. Cash

**Fire Officer Professional Qualifications**  
Principal: Jeffery C. Cash  
Alternate: Kenn Fontenot

**Fire Service Occupational Safety and Health**  
Principal: Philip C. Stittleburg  
Alternate: Michael W. Smith

**Forest and Rural Fire Protection**  
Principal: Martin P. Carrier  
Alternate: Bill Bulman

**Incident Management Professional Qualifications**  
Principal: Kenneth R. Knipper

**Professional Qualifications**  
Principal: Philip C. Stittleburg  
Alternate: Jeffery C. Cash

**Structural and Proximity Fire Fighting Protective Clothing and Equipment**  
Principal: R. Wendell Robison

**Wildland Fire Fighting Protective Clothing and Equipment**  
Principal: Michael W. Smith  
Alternate: Richard Brown
The NVFC Board of Directors met twice in 2009. The Spring Meeting was held in Alexandria, VA, from March 31-April 4 and the Fall Meeting was held in Coralville, IA, from September 23-26. Highlights from these meetings are featured below. Learn more about the 2009 meetings at www.nvfc.org.

**Elections**

Elections were held at the Spring Meeting to select the 2009-2010 NVFC officers and Executive Committee members. The NVFC Executive Committee is comprised of the four officers, five other elected members, and four appointed members.

**Policy Statements & Resolutions**

During the Spring Meeting, the Board adopted a statement advocating the right of volunteer, career, and paid-on-call firefighters to serve multiple organizations or communities. Career firefighters that volunteer during off-duty hours may be harassed by their union, which prohibits such activity. The NVFC believes that placing restrictions on what career firefighters do during their off-duty time violates the Constitutional right to free association, not to mention threatening the safety of the communities who depend on the services provided by “two-hatters.” The Board also voted to develop web-based resources to assist firefighters that receive pressure from their union to quit volunteering.

In addition, the Board voted to encourage increased participation in the Firefighter Property Program (FPP), which allows local fire departments to acquire excess Department of Defense (DoD) equipment and apparatus. In order to take advantage of FPP, local departments must have an agreement with their state forestry department, which must have an agreement with DoD. Currently, only 24 state forestry departments have such agreements with DoD. The NVFC urges its state association members to work with their state foresters to implement agreements that would allow local departments to benefit from FPP.

The Board also adopted a resolution supporting the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program, and expressing concern that funding for other priorities not divert resources away from AFG.

**Legislative Priorities**

The NVFC updated its list of Legislative Priorities and Monitored items. See the Legislative section or visit www.nvfc.org for more information.

**Memoriam**

The NVFC Board remembered Directors who had died during the previous year. At the Spring Meeting, Chief Paul Wilcox (MI) and Dr. James Coleberd (MO) were posthumously honored by the Council with the Director of the Year Award. “This is bittersweet,” said Norm Hoeft, NVFC’s Nebraska Director, as he presented the awards. “These two awards make me proud to be a presenter but sad it is posthumously… NVFC will extremely miss these deeply respected members.”

At the Fall Meeting, the Board paid tribute to two past NVFC Chairmen who passed away in the previous months. Fred Williams, the second Chair of the NVFC, died in June. “He was a wonderful man of real dedication and a wonderful sense of humor. He will be missed,” said NVFC Chairman Philip C. Stittleburg.

Jim Monihan, who served as NVFC Chairman from 1979-1991 and remained an active member of the Executive Committee until his death in July, was fondly remembered by the Board. “Jim led the Council from its infancy to a group that achieved national status. That will always be his legacy,” Stittleburg said.
Guest Speakers

The Spring Meeting featured several guest speakers who spoke on an array of topics. These included Lou Southard, Assistant Director of Fire and Aviation Management for Partnerships, U.S. Forest Service; Dr. Denis Onieal, Superintendent, National Fire Academy; Ryan Paquet, Assistant Director, Office of Hazardous Materials, Department of Transportation; Glenn Gaines, Deputy Assistant Administrator and then-Acting Administrator, U.S. Fire Administration; Tom Harrington, Deputy Branch Chief, DHS, Fire Grant Program Office; and several others. View a full list of meeting speakers at www.nvfc.org.

U.S. Fire Administrator Kelvin Cochran addressed the Board at the Fall Meeting for the first time since assuming his position on August 27. He discussed his priorities for the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) over the next few years, and answered questions from the NVFC Board.

Meeting Sponsors
The NVFC appreciates the support of the Meeting Sponsors.

Spring Meeting
First Alert
Lancaster County Firemen’s Association/Pennsylvania Fireman
Spartan Motors, Inc.
Virginia State Firefighter’s Association

Fall Meeting
California Casualty
Coralville Fire Department
International Code Council
Iowa Fire Chiefs Association
Iowa Firemen’s Association
Lighthouse Uniform Company
Scott Health and Safety
VFIS

U.S. Fire Administrator Kelvin Cochran was the keynote speaker at the NVFC Fall Meeting in Coralville, IA.
The NVFC is the only national organization whose sole mission is to support the volunteer fire, emergency, and rescue services. Our members help us stay strong, providing us with critical support so that we can continue serving as the voice of the volunteer fire and emergency services on Capitol Hill, keep our members informed about legislation and federal regulations, and provide valuable programs, resources, advocacy, and vital information.

In 2009, the NVFC introduced a new membership level for junior firefighters. The membership launched on November 1, although did not become effective until January 1, 2010. Youth under the age of 18 can now join the NVFC for a reduced rate of only $10 per year. In addition to receiving most of the benefits of a Personal Member, Junior Members are subscribed to a special junior firefighter e-newsletter and are eligible to receive incentive rewards for volunteer hours.

The NVFC also expanded the benefits offered to all members. Members can now join the FASNY Federal Credit Union, which was chartered by the Firemen’s Association of the State of New York, to access a wide range of services and money-saving deposit and lending products. Lighthouse Uniform Company is offering NVFC members a special discount on Class ‘A’ Dress Uniforms from Lighthouse Uniform Company. And the NVFC increased the offerings on the Members-Only Resource section of the web site to include sample documents, grant-writing tools and tips, retention and recruitment resources, and more. Find all these resources and a full description of member benefits on the Members-Only section of the NVFC web site.

The NVFC offers the following levels of membership. Learn more and join at www.nvfc.org.

**Personal Membership**  
*Dues: $30 per year*

The NVFC Personal Membership is for individual firefighters, EMS personnel, or anyone who is interested in supporting the volunteer fire and emergency services. Personal Members receive:

- $10,000 Accidental Death and Dismemberment insurance policy through Provident
- Member access to the NVFC web site
- Subscription to the *Dispatch*, the NVFC’s quarterly printed newsletter
- NVFC, Heart-Healthy Firefighter, and Fire Corps e-newsletters
- NVFC news alert email service
- Personalized membership card
- Complimentary copies of NVFC resources and manuals
- Eligibility to join the FASNY Federal Credit Union
- Discounted admission and waived application fee from Columbia Southern University, which offers online fire science degrees
- Discounts on entertainment, tickets, travel, and shopping through Working Advantage
- Discounted registration to Firehouse World, Firehouse Expo, and Firehouse Central.
- Discount on dress uniforms from Lighthouse Uniform Company
- Special discount offers on products from NVFC partners

**Department Membership**  
*Dues: $50 per year*

The NVFC Department Membership is geared to the needs of fire and emergency departments. Department Members receive:

- Member access to the NVFC web site
- Department subscription to the *Dispatch*, the NVFC’s quarterly printed newsletter
- NVFC, Heart-Healthy Firefighter, and Fire Corps e-newsletters
- NVFC news alert email service
- Personalized membership certificate
- Complimentary copies of NVFC resources and manuals
- Eligibility to join the FASNY Federal Credit Union
- Access to the Working Advantage discount program through the department-designated contact
- Discounted registration to Firehouse World, Firehouse Expo, and Firehouse Central.
- Discount on dress uniforms from Lighthouse Uniform Company
- Special discount offers on products from NVFC partners
All Staff Department Membership
Dues: $10 per person*; Department Member fee is waived
* All department personnel must enroll as Personal Members

The NVFC All Staff Department Membership offers a discounted rate for departments who have 100 percent of their personnel enrolled as members in the NVFC. Each member receives all of the NVFC’s great Personal Member benefits, including the $10,000 AD&D insurance policy, and the department receives all of the Department Member benefits.

Junior Membership
Dues: $10 per year

Junior firefighters and Explorers ages 17 and younger can now take advantage of the many great benefits of being a member of the NVFC. Junior Members receive:

- Special incentive rewards for achieving certain volunteer hour benchmarks
- Member access to the NVFC web site
- Subscription to the Dispatch, the NVFC’s printed quarterly newsletter
- Junior Firefighter, NVFC, Heart-Healthy Firefighter, and Fire Corps e-newsletters
- NVFC news alert email service
- Complimentary copies of NVFC resources and manuals

State Membership
Dues: $500 per year

Forty-nine state fire associations are members of the NVFC. Each state association selects one representative and one alternate to serve on the NVFC’s Board of Directors. A full listing of the NVFC Directors and Alternates is included at the end of this report.

Corporate Membership
Dues: Range from $1,000-$10,000 per year

The NVFC Corporate Members include companies and organizations that are dedicated to supporting America’s volunteer emergency services. There are four levels of Corporate Membership, each with its own set of member benefits. For a complete list of levels and corresponding benefits, visit www.nvfc.org. Corporate Member benefits include:

- Networking opportunities with existing or potential customers
- Subscription to the Dispatch quarterly newsletter
- NVFC, Heart-Healthy Firefighter, and Fire Corps e-newsletters
- Complimentary registration at NVFC Board meetings
- Invitation to the Chairman’s Luncheon at the NVFC Board meetings
- Company name, description, and web site link posted on the NVFC’s web site
- Complimentary or discounted advertising rates with the NVFC
- Acknowledgement on various materials and at events throughout the year
- Ability to promote this partnership to customers

Eligibility to join the FASNY Federal Credit Union, which offers a wide range of money-saving deposit and lending products, such as loans to pay for college

Discounted admission and waived application fee from Columbia Southern University, a leading online university which offers online fire science degrees

Discounts on entertainment, tickets, travel, and shopping through Working Advantage

Discounted registration to Firehouse World, Firehouse Expo, and Firehouse Central

Discount on dress uniforms from Lighthouse Uniform Company

Special discount offers on products from NVFC partners
Corporate Members

**Chairman’s Club**
- Amerex Corp.
- Brindlee Mountain Fire Apparatus
- Emergency Reporting
- Firehouse Central
- Firehouse Expo
- Ferrara Fire Apparatus, Inc.
- Fire-Dex, Inc.
- Firetec
- Honeywell First Responder Products
- Insurance Services Office, Inc.
- International Code Council
- International Safety Instruments, Inc.
- L.N. Curtis & Sons
- Penflex, Inc.
- The Pennsylvania Fireman
- Performance Advantage Company
- SuperVac
- TEEX Emergency Services Training
- United Plastic Fabricating, Inc.
- W.S. Darley & Co.
- Waterous Company

**Sustaining**
- Congressional Fire Services Institute
- FEMSA
- Fire Chief Magazine
- Fire Department Network News
- Fire Department Safety Officers Association
- Fire Engineering Magazine
- Firehouse.com
- FireRescue1.com
- International Association of Arson Investigators
- International Association of Emergency Managers
- International Association of Fire Chiefs
- IFSTA
- International Society of Fire Service Instructors
- JEMS Communications
- National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians
- PennWell

**Advocate**
- EF Recovery
- ESIP
- Honeywell Fire System Group
- Lion Apparel
- National Fire Protection Association
- Pierce Manufacturing, Inc.
- RBC Wealth Management

**Champion**
- AMERICAN UNIVERSITY
- CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL
- DARTMOUTH COLLEGE
- EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT NETWORK
- FISHER OFFICE SUPPLIES
- FIRST ALERT
- FIRST ALERT SECURITY
- FIRST ALERT SECURITY
- FORDHAM UNIVERSITY
- HONEYWELL COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
- HONEYWELL COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
- HOUSTON FIRST RESPONSE
- INDIANA UNIVERSITY
- PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY
- PROVIDENT
- RBC WEALTH MANAGEMENT
- SABBIN DONUTS
- SCOTT HEALTH & SAFETY
- SPARTAN
- TYCO
- ZONE 3

**Affiliated Organizations**
- EMS Magazine/Advanced Rescue Technology
- FEMSA
- Fire Chief Magazine
- Fire Department Network News
- Fire Department Safety Officers Association
- Fire Engineering Magazine
- Firehouse.com
- FireRescue1.com
- International Association of Arson Investigators
- International Association of Emergency Managers
- International Association of Fire Chiefs
- IFSTA
- International Society of Fire Service Instructors
- JEMS Communications
- National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians
- PennWell
The NVFC provides resources and tools to help the volunteer fire service thrive. Below are some highlights of resources the NVFC released in 2009. Also see the program sections of this report for program-specific resources released in the past year. Learn more about these and all of the NVFC’s resources at www.nvfc.org.

**Volunteer Advocacy**

The NVFC’s Volunteer Advocacy Committee launched a new web-based resource to help volunteer first responders that are facing pressure from their employer or union to give up or re-source their involvement in volunteering. The web page, located at [www.nvfc.org/page/1172/Volunteer_Advocacy.htm](http://www.nvfc.org/page/1172/Volunteer_Advocacy.htm), features a confidential form that volunteers can use to communicate directly with the Committee about problems that they are experiencing, as well as links to articles, reports, and other information related to the right of individuals to volunteer.

“Too often, individuals are discouraged or even prohibited from volunteering by employers, unions, or in some cases volunteer fire/EMS departments, and find themselves with little recourse,” said NVFC Virginia Director and Volunteer Advocacy Committee Chairman Allen Brennan. “We hope that with this online resource, we can initiate a national conversation about issues that impede the ability of volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel from pursuing their right to fully participate in the activities and operations of their local emergency services agency.”

**Training Workshops**

The NVFC offered much-needed education and training to volunteer fire and emergency service personnel across the nation in 2009. The NVFC provided three Grant Writing Workshops taught by North Carolina Director Jeff Cash that were designed to educate volunteer fire and emergency service personnel on how to apply for and receive funding for their departments, program, and efforts. In addition, the NVFC provided two Retention and Recruitment Workshops taught by Bill Jenaway and Charles Van Natter from VFIS that educated those at the state and local level on retention and recruitment challenges and solutions. Workshops were held in Minnesota, Maryland, Nevada, and South Carolina.

**Grant-Writing Video Podcast**

The NVFC partnered with Columbia Southern University (CSU) to release a video podcast of the NVFC’s Grant-Writing Workshop. Led by Jeff Cash, NVFC Second Vice Chair and Chief of the Cherryville (NC) Fire Department, the workshop goes through the steps for preparing grant applications and offers tips to improve the chance of success. CSU recorded the workshop at the South Carolina State Firefighters’ Association convention in Myrtle Beach on July 18, 2009. The workshop is one in a series that the NVFC held thanks to support from the Department of Homeland Security.

The podcast is divided into two segments. Part 1 provides an overview of the grant-writing process, including where to find grant funding, tips for writing a grant application, and information on funding priorities and preparing applications for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program, which includes AFG, SAFER, and Fire Prevention & Safety (FP&S) grants. Part 2 provides tips and information for writing a successful narrative for an AFG, SAFER, and FP&S grant applications. Access the podcast on the Members-Only section of the NVFC web site.

**SAFER Grant-Writing Audio Podcast**

The NVFC partnered with Firehouse.com to release an audio podcast to provide tips and information for preparing a SAFER grant application and narrative. Panelists include NVFC Second Vice Chair Jeff Cash (NC), NVFC First Vice Chair Jack Carriger (OR), NVFC Massachusetts Alternate Director Joe Maruca, and Jason Wofford of the Cherryville (NC) Fire Department. The participants offer advice and guidance for writing a SAFER grant application based on their own experiences preparing successful applications and serving as peer reviewers during the application selection process.

Listeners are reminded to read the Program Guidance at [www.firegrantsupport.com/safer](http://www.firegrantsupport.com/safer) thoroughly before preparing an application as changes have been made since the podcast was recorded. Find the podcast in the Grant and Funding section at [www.nvfc.org](http://www.nvfc.org).

**Georgia-Pacific Bucket Brigade Grants**

The NVFC partnered with Georgia-Pacific to increase the outreach efforts to fire departments eligible for the Georgia-Pacific Bucket Brigade grant program, which helps departments in Georgia-Pacific communities purchase needed gear and equipment. Many of these departments are volunteer and combination departments. All applicants...
Pet Fire Safety Day

The NVFC partnered with ADT Security Services and the American Kennel Club for **Pet Fire Safety Day** on July 15. The partnership worked to educate pet owners about potential risks when pets are left home alone as well as provide the public with fire prevention and home safety measures to ensure the safety of everyone in the household, including pets. With an estimated 500,000 pets affected by home fires each year, **Pet Fire Safety Day** is designed to educate the public on how they can prevent and prepare for emergencies and present solutions for reducing these tragic instances.

In addition to a media campaign, the NVFC and ADT partnered with fire departments across the country to distribute pet alert window clings. Community members can put these clings in their windows to alert rescuers as to the number and types of pets in the house. The NVFC also provided a web site with a list of departments distributing the clings as well as important pet fire safety tips that departments can distribute in their communities. In areas where a department is not distributing the alert clings, they can be ordered for free at [www.adt.com/pets](http://www.adt.com/pets).

H1N1 Flu Resource Center

With the ongoing outbreak of the H1N1 virus (swine flu) in 2009, our nation’s first responders need to be prepared. To assist firefighters and emergency medical personnel, the NVFC compiled a pandemic influenza resource center containing important links regarding H1N1 and pandemic influenza, including the **EMS and 9-1-1 Swine-Origin Influenza A Infection Guidance**, the **Interim Guidance for Cleaning EMS Transport Vehicles During an Influenza Pandemic**, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Swine Influenza site, and more. Find these and other resources at [www.nvfc.org/page/1164/Pandemic_Influenza.htm](http://www.nvfc.org/page/1164/Pandemic_Influenza.htm).

Scholarships

The NVFC partnered with Columbia Southern University (CSU) to award scholarships to two NVFC members to attend CSU. The recipients were selected based on a competitive application process open to all NVFC members. CSU provided one two-year scholarship towards a bachelor’s degree program and one two-year scholarship towards an associate’s degree program. The scholarships included tuition and books.

CSU is a premier online university that offers a range of degree programs, including those in fire science. The online format and flexible schedule make achieving a degree possible for those with even the busiest and most unpredictable schedules, such as volunteer firefighters.

James Longbrake of Ponder, TX, was awarded the two-year scholarship towards a bachelor’s degree program and Brian McNevin of Commerce, TX, received the two-year scholarship towards an associate’s degree program. Learn more about the recipients and stay tuned for future scholarship information at [www.nvfc.org](http://www.nvfc.org).

The NVFC also partnered with Baskin-Robbins to provide 10 junior firefighters with $5,000 scholarships in 2009. See the National Junior Firefighter Program section of this Report for information.

Left to right: NVFC North Carolina Director Jeff Cash, Wes Siniard of CSU, scholarship winners James Longbrake and Brian McNevin, and Kim Plash of CSU during the scholarship award presentation at the CSU booth at Fire-Rescue International in August.
Providing relevant, accurate, and up-to-date information to volunteer fire and emergency service organizations and personnel is a vital part of the NVFC’s mission. The NVFC achieves this through a series of communications methods including web sites, print and electronic newsletters, in person exhibits, social networking, media outreach, and other opportunities.

Web Sites

The NVFC maintains a series of web sites for first responders to access news, information, and resources.

www.nvfc.org

The NVFC web site contains important information and resources for the volunteer fire and emergency services. These include tools such as the Fire and EMS Cost Savings Calculators, retention and recruitment resources, the Emergency Vehicle Safe Operations Initiative, and the State Benefits Guide. The site is the go-to place for breaking news as well as information regarding legislation, standards, grants and funding, federal regulations, emergency preparedness, and much more. Whether you are a department member, a family member of a first responder, or someone who simply wants to learn more about the volunteer emergency services, the NVFC web site contains the information you need.

www.nvfc.org/juniors

A special section of the NVFC web site is dedicated to the National Junior Firefighter Program. This section provides resources for both junior firefighters and administrators of junior firefighter programs, including how to start or expand a local program, a listing of junior firefighter scholarship opportunities, and more. The site also features updated news and information about the National Junior Firefighter Program.

www.healthy-firefighter.org

The NVFC maintains the Heart-Healthy Firefighter Program web site to provide information and resources to help emergency services personnel get and stay heart-healthy. Sections on heart basics, fitness, nutrition, and lifestyle are supplemented by tools such as the Adopt the Program initiative, Fired Up for Fitness Challenge, the Put It Out Campaign, and the NVFC Heart-Healthy Firefighter Resource Guide. The site also includes success stories, heart-healthy recipes, e-newsletter archive, and more.

www.firecorps.org

The Fire Corps web site contains all of the tools and resources to help departments and community members start, manage, and market local Fire Corps programs. These include resource guides like the Fire Corps Department Starter Kit, customizable sample documents, fire prevention resources, and a searchable database of registered Fire Corps programs. Departments looking to implement, expand, or recruit for a Fire Corps program, community members looking to join a Fire Corps program, and active Fire Corps volunteers will find what they need on the web site.
E-updates

The NVFC produces several electronic newsletters to keep our members and other interested persons up-to-date on issues affecting the fire and emergency services.

❖ The NVFC E-Update is a monthly electronic newsletter that contains information about legislation, calls to action, training opportunities, grants, NVFC news, and much more.

❖ The Heart-Healthy Firefighter E-News is a monthly electronic newsletter intended to increase awareness in the fire and emergency services of how to prevent serious heart-related problems, including heart attack, and maintain a heart-healthy lifestyle. Each issue contains items such as program news, tips on exercise and nutrition, health news, and upcoming events offered by the Heart-Healthy Firefighter Program.

❖ The Fire Corps E-Update is a monthly electronic newsletter that focuses on issues and news related to Fire Corps, a locally-driven Citizen Corps program that allows community members to offer their time and talents to their local fire and EMS departments in non-emergency roles.

❖ The Junior Firefighter E-news is sent out every other month to provide information and resources to junior firefighters as well as junior firefighter program coordinators. This includes program news, activity ideas, tips, and more.

❖ The Fire Corps State Advocate Newsletter goes out every other month to the Fire Corps State Advocate Network. It provides resources and information to the State Advocates to assist them in their role as promoters of Fire Corps in their states and mentors to local Fire Corps programs. To learn more about the Fire Corps State Advocate Network, visit www.firecorps.org.

The NVFC News Alert is sent out to inform NVFC members of breaking news and information in between the regularly scheduled NVFC E-updates.

Members can sign up for the e-newsletters by logging in to the Members-Only section of the NVFC site, clicking on the “Update My Information” link and then “Edit Information,” and checking the boxes of the E-updates you want to receive and clicking “Save.” Non-members can sign up for E-updates by going to the Members-Only homepage, clicking on “New Visitor Registration” and entering your email address, and filling out the subsequent form with your first and last name, checking the boxes you want to receive, and clicking “Save.”

Dispatch Newsletter

The NVFC produces a quarterly printed newsletter for its members. The Dispatch includes news, information, and issues of interest to the fire and emergency services, including special sections on legislative/government updates, the Heart-Healthy Firefighter Program, Fire Corps, the National Junior Firefighter Program, EMS, retention and recruitment, and staff activities.

Trade shows

Trade shows give NVFC staff and Board members the opportunity to meet directly with our membership and to promote the organization’s programs and initiatives within the volunteer fire and emergency services. The booth features resources that can benefit first responders and their departments, including information about the Heart-Healthy Firefighter Program, Fire Corps, and the National Junior Firefighter Program, and guides and resources on retention and recruitment, vehicle safety, and more.

In 2009, the NVFC brought its exhibit booth to four national trade shows: FDIC (Indianapolis, IN, April 20-25), Fire Expo (Harrisburg, PA, May 15-17), Firehouse Expo (Baltimore, MD, July 21-26), and Fire-Rescue International (Dallas, TX, August 25-29). The NVFC will exhibit at these shows again in 2010 as well as bring its Heart-Healthy Firefighter Program to six state association conferences. Visit www.nvfc.org and www.healthy-firefighter.org for more information on the booth schedule.

Media Coverage

The NVFC is the go-to source for media in matters relating to the volunteer fire and emergency services. The organization and its programs are routinely referenced in general and trade publications and media outlets. In addition, the NVFC partners with many fire service media outlets to release stories on issues important to the volunteer fire and emergency services.

Social Networking

The NVFC maintains a presence on the social networking sites Twitter and Facebook. Follow the NVFC on Twitter (www.twitter.com/nvfc) to get breaking news, announcements, and headlines from the NVFC. Become a fan of the National Junior Firefighter Program and Fire Corps pages on Facebook to network with other members of these vital programs and stay up-to-date on program news, information, and events. To access these pages on Facebook, simply log into Facebook and search for National Junior Firefighter Program or Fire Corps.
Fire Corps is a federally-funded, grassroots effort to connect community members with their local fire/EMS department. Launched in December 2004, Fire Corps is one of five programs under the Department of Homeland Security’s Citizen Corps initiative. It is administered on a national level by the NVFC, in partnership with other national fire service organizations that make up the Fire Corps National Advisory Committee. Fire Corps is also supported by the U.S. Fire Administration and is funded through the Department of Homeland Security and Citizen Corps.

Fire Corps increases the capacity of volunteer, career, and combination fire and EMS departments by engaging the talents and skills of community volunteers in non-emergency roles such as fire safety and prevention education, administrative work, fundraising, vehicle maintenance, or whatever the department needs. This frees up department members to focus on training and emergency response, as well as increases the services the department can offer. In return, community members gain a better understanding of the fire and emergency services and become better prepared to handle their own emergencies as well as those of their neighbors.

At the end of 2009, Fire Corps had 990 local programs with 15,194 active and engaged community volunteers in 49 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and Guam. There are also 50 Fire Corps State Advocates covering 32 states.

**Conferences and Outreach**

Throughout the year, Fire Corps representatives exhibited at national, regional, and state conferences; conducted workshops and seminars; and participated in speaking engagements and presentations at events across the nation. These activities include:

- **FDIC**, Indianapolis, IN, April
- **Fire & Life Safety Educators Conference of the Rockies**, Winter Park, CO, April
- **PARADE Conference**, Emmitsburg, MD, May
- **Fire Expo**, Harrisburg, PA, May
- **Firehouse Expo**, Baltimore, MD, July
- **National Conference on Community Preparedness**, Arlington, VA, August
- **Fire-Rescue International**, Dallas, TX, August
- **North American Fire Training Directors Meeting**, Shreveport, LA, September
- **Fire Prevention Day at FEMA Headquarters**, Washington, DC, October
- **Points of Light Forum on Service**, College Station, TX, October
- **VCOS Symposium in the Sun**, Clearwater Beach, FL, November

**Grassroots Forums**

Fire Corps hosted two regional roundtable events in 2009 in order to identify best practices, challenges, effective retention and recruitment practices, and recommendations and feedback from the grassroots level. Roundtable events took place on June 13 in Glen Allen, VA, and August 14 in Macomb Township, MI. Two additional roundtable forums will take place in early 2010, one in San Antonio, TX, and the other in Hermison, OR.

The roundtable forums bring together representatives from local Fire Corps programs, Citizen Corps, the Fire Corps State Advocate Network, and other leaders in the emergency services field. Topics of discussion range from innovative Fire Corps activities to funding opportunities and best practices for starting and maintaining a successful program.

“The roundtable forums are an opportunity for local Fire Corps programs to come together and discuss strengths and opportunities for non-emergency volunteer efforts in the fire and emergency services,” said Sarah Lee, Acting Fire Corps Director. “The attendees offer excellent insight into local needs and how the national office can better support their efforts.”
After all of the grassroots forums have been completed, Fire Corps will produce a final report of the information gathered through the events, including challenges, innovative practices, and recommendations to improve the Fire Corps program. The data will be used to help identify future Fire Corps activities and resources and will be available to local Fire Corps programs to allow them to learn and benefit from the experience of others.

**State Advocate Network**

The Fire Corps State Advocate Network is designed to assist local fire/EMS departments who are establishing or implementing a Fire Corps program. The purpose of the Network is to harness the energy of the Fire Corps program at the local and state level by sharing resources and information to make local, state, and national Fire Corps efforts better and stronger.

State Advocates serve as the point of contact for departments and Fire Corps programs within their assigned geographic areas. These representatives assist the Fire Corps national office in promoting the program and help new and existing programs expand their services. At the end of 2009, there were 50 State Advocates covering 32 states. Contact information for each of these State Advocates is available at [www.firecorps.org](http://www.firecorps.org).

Fire Corps offers many resources to help the State Advocates fulfill their roles, including a bi-monthly newsletter and an online resource center featuring tools to help promote Fire Corps at the state and local level. In new in 2009, Fire Corps held a series of interactive training webinars for State Advocates. Facilitated by Michigan State Advocate Sgt. Dwayne Thompson, the webinars cover topics such as an overview of Fire Corps, the defined roles and responsibilities of State Advocates, and tools and resources available to help State Advocates in reaching out to and supporting Fire Corps programs.

Fire Corps also conducted a State Advocate Pilot Program to encourage State Advocates and state-level Citizen Corps Councils to work together to identify ways in which the Advocates and the Councils can more effectively collaborate to encourage and support Fire Corps programs and activities within the state. Pilots were completed in Arizona, California, Michigan, and Texas. The final report from these pilot programs was released to the State Advocates to generate ideas as to how they can enhance Citizen Corps and Fire Corps initiatives in their states.

If you are interested in becoming a Fire Corps State Advocate, contact the Fire Corps national office at info@firecorps.org or 888-FC-INFO1 (324-6361).

**Award of Excellence**

Fire Corps established the Award of Excellence to annually honor a Fire Corps program whose remarkable achievements in the fire and emergency services and the community exemplify outstanding performance. The 2009 Award was bestowed on the Mesa (AZ) Fire Department in recognition of their exemplary Volunteer Corps program. The Award, which is sponsored by the International Fire Service Training Association, was presented to members of the Mesa Volunteer Corps during the annual Fire Corps National Advisory Committee Meeting on October 26.

“The range of activities and accomplishments of the Mesa Fire Department Volunteer Corps is truly inspiring,” said Sarah Lee, Acting Director of Fire Corps. “This team of volunteers has demonstrated how a department can significantly expand and enhance their services by utilizing community members to perform non-emergency tasks. The work of the Fire Corps members has greatly benefited the department and the entire community.”
The Mesa Volunteer Corps is a comprehensive program that provides a variety of opportunities for community members to help the department make their community a safer, stronger, and better place to live. The program is comprised of five segments, each serving a specific function in the fire department and community. The Volunteer Corps is an integral part of the Mesa Fire Department and considered a critical component in the department’s success. Last year, the volunteers provided close to 29,000 hours of service and saved the community more than $585,000.

Learn more about the Fire Corps Award of Excellence and the Mesa Fire Department Volunteer Corps at www.firecorps.org/award.

Resources

Fire Corps provides many resources and tools to assist local programs in their efforts to support their fire and emergency service departments and keep their communities safer and better prepared. In 2009, Fire Corps released a series of new and updated resources. Find all these and more at www.firecorps.org.

Liability Guide

To help departments and Fire Corps members prepare for the unexpected, Fire Corps partnered with the Public Entity Risk Institute to release a guide that identifies and addresses liability issues related to operating a Fire Corps program. **Fire Corps Liability Guide: Managing the Unexpected in Fire Corps Activities** shows how important it is to have a plan to minimize liability and to manage liability that does occur. It offers best practices for dealing with these concerns and provides the tools and templates to help departments manage unexpected outcomes.

Home Safety Checklist

Fire Corps created the Home Safety Checklist to provide Fire Corps teams with a basic, step-by-step approach for conducting home safety checks in the community. Use the Checklist to identify hazards in and around the home, as well as hazards that are associated with a variety of household situations, including those where children, older residents, pets, and/or those with disabilities may reside.

First Alert Smoke Alarm Donation Program

Fire Corps partnered with First Alert to establish a smoke alarm donation program for registered Fire Corps programs. Program may apply for these free First Alert smoke alarms by filling out the Smoke Alarm Request Form, available on the Fire Corps web site and with the Home Safety Checklist. Please keep in mind that quantities are limited and restrictions apply.
Fire Corps Department Starter Kit

Fire Corps released the second edition of the *Department Starter Kit*, which is a complete compilation of the tools and resources a department needs to start, implement, and market a local Fire Corps program.

Fire Corps Toolkit for Citizen Corps Councils

Created by Fire Corps specifically for Citizen Corps Councils, the second edition of this *Toolkit* is a compilation of the tools and resources needed to promote and support Fire Corps programs in the region, state, and community.

National Preparedness Month Resource Center

National Preparedness Month, which is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, is held each September. Sponsored to encourage Americans to take simple steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses, communities, and schools. National Preparedness Month provides Fire Corps programs a chance to highlight the importance of emergency preparedness and promote individual involvement in their communities.

As a member of the National Preparedness Month Coalition, Fire Corps maintains an online [National Preparedness Month Resource Center](http://www.firecorps.org) with new information added each year based on that year’s theme. The Resource Center contains information, tools, and materials relating to general emergency preparedness as well as specific topics including fire safety, terrorism, hurricanes and other weather-related disasters, and pandemic influenza. In addition, Fire Corps released a weekly e-blast throughout the month containing tips Fire Corps teams can use to help keep their communities prepared.

Fire Prevention Week Resources

Fire Prevention week was October 4-10, and the 2009 theme was “Stay Fire Smart! Don’t Get Burned.” This theme focused on the importance of fire safety and fire safety education and ways to prevent fires and the deaths, injuries, and property loss they cause. Fire Corps sent a postcard to all programs across the country promoting Fire Prevention Week, and released daily tips e-blasts throughout the week. Fire Corps also maintains an online Fire Prevention Week Resource Center at [www.firecorps.org/firepreventionweek](http://www.firecorps.org/firepreventionweek).
The health and safety of our nation’s volunteer fire and emergency service personnel is a primary concern for the NVFC. Each year, first responders are killed or injured due to factors that may have been avoided with the proper safety and health precautions. The NVFC is dedicated to promoting and implementing initiatives to keep first responders healthy and safe. In 2009, the NVFC expanded on these efforts and developed new initiatives to keep the nation’s fire and emergency services strong.

Heart-Healthy Firefighter Program

With heart attack the leading cause of on-duty firefighter fatalities each year, the NVFC launched the Heart-Healthy Firefighter Program in 2003 to reverse this alarming trend. The Heart-Healthy Firefighter Program is the nation’s only heart attack awareness and prevention campaign targeted at all firefighters and emergency services personnel, both volunteer and career.

According to the United States Fire Administration’s report *Firefighter Fatalities in the United States in 2008*, which was released in September 2009, 118 firefighters died in the line of duty in 2008. Of these, 45 died of heart attacks and five other deaths were due to strokes.

The purpose of the Heart-Healthy Firefighter Program is to reduce the number of firefighter deaths from heart-related illnesses, including heart attack and stroke. This is accomplished by promoting a healthier lifestyle and by providing firefighters with the tools and information they need to become heart-healthy. The Program includes an interactive and informative trade show exhibit at national, regional, and state trade shows across the country; an extensive web site at www.healthy-firefighter.org; a monthly electronic newsletter; the Heart-Healthy Firefighter Resource Guide; the Heart-Healthy Firefighter Cookbook; and other resources and outreach efforts.

Several new components and resources were added to the Heart-Healthy Firefighter Program in 2009.

Adopt the Program

To further bring the Heart-Healthy Firefighter Program to the grassroots of the fire and emergency services, the NVFC released a new tool that allows departments to adopt the Program at the local level. Departments and their members can go to www.healthy-firefighter.org/atp and register for free to access the tools and resources needed to succeed in maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

When a department adopts the program, they set up a designated web page for their department at www.healthy-firefighter.org/atp. Personnel can then join under their department, signing a pledge that they will focus on their health and wellness. Special resources available by adopting the Program includes tools such as meal plans, risk assessment tools, and fitness examples; the interactive Fired Up For Fitness Challenge; information on how to implement and fund a department health and wellness program; and a message board that connects health-conscious first responders from around the country.

Fired Up For Fitness Challenge

As part of the Adopt the Program initiative, the NVFC re-launched the Fired Up For Fitness Challenge with many new elements. The tool still allows participants to track their fitness hours, but it now challenges them to meet certain fitness goals over the course of a year. As each benchmark is reached, participants receive a reward to keep them motivated and recognize their achievement. Departments can use the Fired Up For Fitness Challenge as a way to motivate their personnel to stay fit, or implement it as a fitness challenge within their own department.
Sponsorship Toolkit

Some departments want to establish or expand a health and wellness program but do not have the funding to include all the components they would like. To assist departments in their efforts, the NVFC released *Securing Sponsors for Department Health and Wellness Programs*. It can be accessed through the Adopt the Program feature on the web site.

This toolkit takes you through the steps needed to identify, reach out to, and follow up with potential sponsors and donors of a department health and wellness program. It includes tips, talking points, and ideas to help departments through the process, as well as sample letters and customizable templates to make reaching out to and following up with sponsors even easier. The NVFC developed the toolkit to make securing sponsorship for a department health initiative as undaunting and straight-forward as possible.

Survey

The Heart-Healthy Firefighter Program conducted an online survey of firefighters and emergency personnel to determine the current status and needs regarding health and wellness programs in the fire service. Close to 1,000 first responders provided their input, which will be used to help determine the direction and future initiatives of the Heart-Healthy Firefighter Program.

Health and Safety Priorities

The NVFC Board of Directors established a Health and Safety Committee in the spring of 2008 to further the NVFC’s initiatives in the areas of health and safety. In 2009, the Committee released the Volunteer Firefighter Health and Safety Priorities to provide departments with guidance on key issues that need to be addressed in order to keep department members safe and eliminate cases of preventable injury and death.

The Volunteer Firefighter Health and Safety Priorities are set forth in a series of B.E.S.T. practices for the volunteer fire and emergency services, divided into four main focus areas. The priorities are as follows:

**Behavior**
- Support the physical, emotional, and mental well-being of all personnel.
- Operate all emergency apparatus and privately owned vehicles to conform to the highest road safety standards and enforce the use of seatbelts.
- Develop, practice, and enforce recommended health and safety standards for all personnel.
- Monitor and ensure that all active emergency scenes maintain the utmost level of safety and fireground accountability.

**Equipment**
- Provide and require the proper use of full personal protective equipment.
- Maintain all equipment based on established safety recommendations.

**Standards and Codes**
- Encourage the use of all smoke, fire detection, and fire suppression devices, including fire sprinkler systems, in all structures.
- Vigorously enforce all fire safety codes and ordinances.
- Obtain apparatus and equipment that meet national safety standards.

**Training**
- Utilize fire training programs that conform to the highest professional standards.
- Operate a safe fire training ground at all times.
- Establish, maintain, and deliver fire safety programs for all age groups.

These priorities guide the direction of the NVFC’s initiatives to keep first responders safe and healthy. The NVFC highly encourages departments to adopt and adhere to the B.E.S.T. Practices to protect their personnel from harm.

In June 2009, the NVFC partnered with Provident Agency to send a poster with the Volunteer Firefighter Health and Safety Priorities to every department in the country. Departments should hang the poster up at the station to keep the priorities in the minds of their personnel and serve as a constant reminder of the B.E.S.T. practices they should be following to keep their members safe. Departments can also download the poster at [www.nvfc.org/page/1149/Health_and_Safety.htm](http://www.nvfc.org/page/1149/Health_and_Safety.htm) or order additional hard copies from the NVFC office at 1-888-ASK-NVFC (275-6832) or [nvfoffice@nvfc.org](mailto:nvfoffice@nvfc.org).
Further information and resources on each of the priority focus areas are available at www.nvfc.org/page/1149/Health_and_Safety.htm. The NVFC is also working with national and state industry publications to place articles that further explore each of the points in the B.E.S.T. practices.

**Emergency Vehicle Safety Initiative**

The NVFC released an updated version of the *Emergency Vehicle Safe Operations for Volunteer and Small Combination Service Organizations*. The NVFC and U.S. Fire Administration created the Emergency Vehicle Safe Operations program as an online resource in 2005 to follow on the USFA’s Emergency Vehicle Safety Initiative. Now updated for 2009, this innovative educational program includes emergency vehicle safety best practices, standard operating guidelines, and behavioral motivation techniques to enhance safe vehicle operations by emergency services personnel.

“Each year vehicle accidents are the second leading cause of line-of-duty firefighter deaths, making this one of the biggest threats to the safety of our nation’s firefighters and emergency personnel,” said NVFC Chairman Philip C. Stittleburg. “The NVFC strives to provide resources that will help departments implement practices that will keep their personnel safe. We are pleased to partner with the USFA to update the Emergency Vehicle Safe Operations program and assist departments in their safety efforts.”

The resource is available online at www.nvfc.org/page/1149/Health_and_Safety.htm.

**National Traffic Incident Management Coalition**

The NVFC continued to be an active member of the National Traffic Incident Management Coalition (NTIMC) through the participation of T.J. Nedrow, the NVFC’s Washington State Director, at various stakeholder meetings over the course of the last year.

**Firefighter Wellness Program Research Project**

The Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (JHSPH), in collaboration with the NVFC, finished the first phase of a three-year research project designed to identify barriers and facilitators to firefighter wellness and fitness programs. The project is funded through a Federal Emergency Management Agency grant. Concluded in September, phase one featured a series of focus groups with firefighters throughout Maryland.

In phase two of the project, JHSPH and the NVFC will conduct a survey of Maryland firefighters to determine modifiable barriers to and facilitators of implementing a successful department health and wellness program. Based on the results from the survey and focus groups, JHSPH will then develop and implement a pilot intervention using strategies identified from the research. Since the information to create the program will be taken from firefighters, it should have a considerable impact on firefighters. The results will be analyzed in the final phase of the study.

“It is critical we find effective means to implement health and wellness programs within fire and EMS departments,” said Lillian Ricardo, NVFC Health and Safety Project Coordinator. “Each year we lose close to 50 firefighters in the line-of-duty due to heart attack. This research will help us identify programs and policies that work so that we can reduce the instances of preventable heart disease among first responders.”

**Put It Out Campaign**

The NVFC, through its Heart-Healthy Firefighter Program, has long advocated smoking cessation as an important step to a heart-healthy lifestyle. To help firefighters quit smoking and stay quit, the NVFC partnered with Pfizer for the *Put It Out* campaign, which was piloted in North Carolina in 2009.

During the pilot program, the NVFC worked with fire departments across North Carolina to educate first responders about smoking cessation and its benefits. All participating departments received materials and information regarding smoking cessation, and then half of the departments received additional specialized smoking cessation training. The departments were followed for six months to gauge how many firefighters quit smoking and remained smoke-free. Comparisons were then conducted between the two groups to determine the effectiveness of the specialized program compared with only receiving the materials. The results will help with the development an effective smoking cessation for the fire service.

The NVFC and Pfizer are launching a new interactive web resource in 2010 to bring the *Put It Out* Campaign to first responders across the country. The site will feature the tools, resources, and information needed to quit and stay quit, and to encourage first responders to take the first step towards a healthier lifestyle. Stay tuned to www.healthy-firefighter.org for more information.

[Put It Out](www.healthy-firefighter.org/putitout)
National Firefighter Health Week

The third annual National Firefighter Health Week was held August 17-21. The NVFC launched this initiative in 2007 to provide an opportunity for first responders and their departments to focus on their health and commit themselves to adopting a healthier lifestyle.

Each of the five days of National Firefighter Health Week spotlighted a different health topic of particular concern for emergency responders:

- Monday, August 17: Know Your Risks
- Tuesday, August 18: Keep Your Head in the Game
- Wednesday, August 19: Matters of the Heart
- Thursday, August 20: Focus on Fitness and Nutrition
- Friday, August 21: Keep it Strong All Year Long – Adopt the Program

The NVFC created an online National Firefighter Health Week Resource Center to help departments take part in the week and learn more about critical health issues affecting the fire and emergency services. Resources included information on each focus topic, daily activity suggestions, a Health Week poster departments can hang up at the station, tools to promote Health Week initiatives within the department and community, and more. The NVFC also partnered with Firehouse.com to release a series of podcasts that provided information and tips regarding each of the daily focus topics.

In addition, the NVFC released an e-blast each day of Health Week regarding that day’s topic. The NVFC also partnered with national industry news outlets to spread the word about Health Week and encourage first responders to take steps to get and stay healthy.

National Firefighter Health Week 2010 will be held August 16-20. Stay tuned to www.healthy-firefighter.org for information.

Employee Wellness Program

For the second year in a row, the NVFC has been designated as an American Heart Association (AHA) Start! Fit-Friendly Company. The recognition honors employers who go above and beyond when it comes to their employees’ health. Organizations must create a wellness program that meets specified standards in promoting fitness and good nutrition in the workplace.

The NVFC encourages health and wellness among staff members and motivates them to practice healthy behaviors through its Employee Wellness Program. The Program includes a series of components to encourage healthier choices in the areas of nutrition, fitness, mental wellness, and overall health. These include monthly wellness challenges and focus topics, organized fitness activities, brief educational sessions, and more.

Retention and recruitment are two of the biggest challenges facing the volunteer fire and emergency services. While the number of volunteers has declined over the last two decades, the volunteer fire service is also an aging population. Many departments are looking to junior firefighter programs to help build the next generation of first responders and fire service leaders.

There are thousands of local junior firefighter programs nationwide. The NVFC’s National Junior Firefighter Program provides an umbrella program where departments and youth alike can find the resources, tools, and information they need to help develop, grow, enhance, promote, and participate in these local programs.

Members of the NVFC staff, including Amanda Ludholtz (left) and Allison Moore (right), participated in the American Heart Association’s Start! Greater Washington Heart Walk on the National Mall in November as part of the NVFC Employee Wellness Program.
The goal of the National Junior Firefighter program is to get more youth involved in the fire service, thus fostering a lifelong connection with the emergency services where they can continue to serve as first responders or community supporters of the fire service throughout their adulthood. Junior firefighter programs also instill skills and values such as leadership, teamwork, responsibility, and community service in the youth who participate.

The National Junior Firefighter Program launched in July 2007. The Program has received support from Baskin-Robbins®, the Dunkin’ Donuts and Baskin-Robbins Community Foundation, Spartan Motors, Inc., and Tyco International.

Scholarships and Grants

Thanks to the support of Baskin-Robbins and the Dunkin’ Donuts and Baskin-Robbins Community Foundation, the NVFC awarded $100,000 in scholarships and grants in 2009. Through a competitive application process, ten outstanding junior firefighters from across the country were selected to receive a $5,000 scholarship towards their higher education and ten departments were selected to receive a $5,000 grant to help maintain and expand their junior firefighter programs.

“We were so pleased to partner with Baskin-Robbins and the Dunkin’ Donuts and Baskin-Robbins Community Foundation to offer a total of 20 scholarships and grants in 2009,” said NVFC Executive Director Heather Schafer. “These awards are helping dedicated junior firefighters achieve their educational aspirations and honor their commitment to the fire service. The department recipients are able to further their junior firefighter programs and foster the future of our nation’s fire and emergency services.”

Learn about each of the scholarship and grant winners at www.nvfc.org/juniors under the link for Scholarships.

31 Cent Scoop Night

The NVFC partnered with Baskin-Robbins® for their third annual 31 Cent Scoop Night, which was held on April 29. During 31 Cent Scoop Night, Baskin-Robbins stores reduce the price of ice cream scoops to 31 cents to honor America’s firefighters and create an opportunity for fire service organizations to raise funds for their department. The company also made a donation to the National Junior Firefighter Program to support the 2009 scholarships.

The NVFC worked with Baskin-Robbins to get the word out to fire departments about 31 Cent Scoop Night and the fundraising opportunities within their local Baskin-Robbins stores. In addition, the NVFC and Baskin-Robbins selected 27 exemplary junior firefighters from across the nation to be recognized in conjunction with 31 Cent Scoop Night in order to bring greater attention to the need for youth involvement in the fire service. Dubbed “America’s Favorite Junior Firefighters,” these dedicated juniors received a certificate, a year’s supply of Baskin-Robbins ice cream, and recognition on the National Junior Firefighter Program web site and e-newsletter. Many of the juniors also participated in local media opportunities.

Survey

In June 2009, the National Junior Firefighter Program deployed two surveys, one for junior firefighters and Explorers and a second for their advisors. Questions on the survey asked for feedback on the Junior Firefighter E-news, incentive...
rewards levels, social networking sites, web site resources, and other elements of the National Junior Firefighter Program. The results are being used to determine which resources are most utilized, what additional resources juniors and advisors would like to have, and overall program effectiveness. Junior firefighters and program advisors from across the nation responded to the survey.

National Awards

The NVFC, thanks to support from Tyco International, introduced two new national awards to recognize achievements in the area of junior firefighting. The nomination period for the Junior Firefighter of the Year Award and the Junior Firefighter Program of the Year Award opened in 2009, with recipients being selected in early 2010.

The Junior Firefighter of the Year Award honors a junior firefighter or Explorer who has shown extraordinary dedication, commitment, and achievements as a youth member of the fire service. Nominees must have been a junior firefighter or Explorer for at least one year and have gone above and beyond in their participation and accomplishments as a junior firefighter. Two letters of recommendation are also required.

The Junior Firefighter Program of the Year Award recognizes a department that has an outstanding junior firefighter program. The program must have been in operation for at least one year, and departments must demonstrate creativity and community impact for the program.

Both awards will be presented during the NVFC’s Spring Board Meeting on April 30, 2010 in Alexandria, VA. Recipients will receive a trip to Alexandria to attend the Award ceremony, personalized award, and complimentary one-year membership to the NVFC, among other items.

The NVFC released the Junior Firefighter Program Handbook to help departments through the process of starting, maintaining, and expanding a junior firefighter program. The Handbook includes the steps to establishing a new program, recruitment and activity ideas, tips for further developing an existing program, sample documents and operating guidelines, profiles of successful programs, and more. Download the Junior Firefighter Program Handbook at www.nvfc.org/juniors.
EMS is an integral part of the NVFC’s mission, and the NVFC has long supported legislation and initiatives that benefit the emergency medical services. EMS is incorporated into all elements of the NVFC’s strategic plan, and the Chair of the NVFC’s EMS Committee as well as a representative from the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians (NAEMT) hold positions on the NVFC Executive Committee. All of the NVFC’s programs and resources are designed to benefit and support both the fire and emergency medical services.

In addition, the NVFC has released many resources to assist the EMS community, including the EMS Cost Savings Calculator and an EMS-designated section of the web site at www.nvfc.org/page/635/EMS.htm. The NVFC is also actively involved in many national committees, meetings, work groups, and partnerships regarding EMS.

Some highlights of the NVFC’s EMS activities in 2009 include the following:

- NVFC Kentucky Director Ken Knipper was named the Chair of the National Fire Protection Association’s (NFPA) EMS Committee.
- The NVFC has representation on the new NFPA Ambulances Committee.
- The NVFC is a member of the Advocates for EMS and worked with the coalition to restore first responder notification protections in the Ryan White Act.
- The NVFC is a member of the Steering Committee of the Fire Service-Based EMS Advocates.

The NVFC has partnered with NAEMT to foster a collaborative relationship with EMS for the betterment of America’s communities.

NVFC Kentucky Director Ken Kipper is one of the panel members representing volunteer EMS on the National EMS Advisory Council (NEMSAC). NEMSAC is a 26-member panel of EMS experts chosen by the Secretary of Transportation to advise the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration’s Office of EMS on standards, guidelines, benchmarks, data collection, and pre-hospital care. The two-year term spanned from 2008-2009.
The NVFC honored three individuals in 2009 for their outstanding achievements within or benefiting the volunteer fire service. The awards included the Fire Prevention Award, the Legislator of the Year Award, and the Lifetime Achievement Award. Learn more about these awards and past recipients at www.nvfc.org/page/634/Awards.htm.

In addition, NVFC's Maryland Alternate Director, Chief James P. Seavey Sr., received Fire Chief Magazine's 2009 Volunteer Fire Chief of the Year Award. The award annually honors a volunteer fire chief who has demonstrated outstanding leadership, innovation, professional development, integrity, service to the public, and contributions to the fire service as a whole. Seavey is the chief of the Cabin John Park Volunteer Fire Department in Maryland as well as a career firefighter in Washington, DC.

“The NVFC offers our utmost congratulations to Chief Seavey on receiving this award,” said NVFC Chairman and 1998 Volunteer Fire Chief of the Year Philip C. Stittleburg. “He is certainly deserving of this prestigious honor, and we join Fire Chief Magazine in celebrating his remarkable achievements in the fire service.”

Fire Prevention Award

The NVFC Fire Prevention Award, sponsored by First Alert, is given each spring to a volunteer firefighter who exemplifies the philosophy of fire prevention through their contributions to the field. The Award was created in memory of Marc Mueller, a former NVFC Board member from California, to honor his leadership and passion for fire prevention and to attract well-deserved attention to the heroes of public education.

The NVFC presented the 2009 Fire Prevention Award to Edward Sawicki for his long and accomplished history in the field of fire prevention. Sawicki has served as Chair of the Christiana (DE) Fire Company’s Fire Prevention Committee for 14 years and transformed the conventional fire prevention program into an award-winning mission that has reached over 100,000 people during his tenure.

“I’d like to say what an honor it is to accept this award, and how humbling it is,” Sawicki said during the Award ceremony on April 3. “I’ve not done this alone,” he continued, crediting the influence and support of his wife, Sherry, his grandfather, and his fire company and leadership. He went on to note that with fire prevention it’s what doesn’t happen that is the sign of success: “If we do our job right, we’ll never see the outcome.”

In his first year as Chair of the Fire Prevention Committee, Sawicki was given a budget of $1,500 and was able to reach 500 people. Now, he manages a volunteer staff of 14 people, has an annual budget of $19,000, and reached over 9,000 people last year. Under Sawicki’s leadership, the Committee has developed the motto “Christiana Fire Prevention Program: Educating the Public So Others May Live.”

Each year, the Fire Prevention Committee holds two open houses, 40-50 fire prevention programs, and countless tours of the firehouse. In addition, for the past seven years the Committee has provided a “Bear Run” to the local children’s hospital on September 11 in remembrance of those who lost their lives during the 2001 terrorist attacks. They take teddy bears, fire prevention materials, and helmets to children at the hospital. Sawicki coordinates with other fire companies to ensure the event’s success.
In addition to his work in fire prevention, Sawicki has been a volunteer firefighter for 22 years and is also a career firefighter. He has been married to his wife, Sherry, for 18 years and says she gave him the confidence to realize that he could turn the fire prevention program into a success.

Learn more about Sawicki and the Fire Prevention Award at www.nvfc.org/page/634/Awards.htm.

Legislator of the Year Award

The NVFC Legislator of the Year Award is presented in the spring to a member of Congress who demonstrates outstanding leadership and support of the volunteer fire service. The 2009 award was bestowed to Senator Susan Collins (R-ME) on April 2.

“Senator Collins is a true friend of the volunteer fire and emergency services,” said NVFC Chairman Philip C. Stittleburg. “She was one of the original supporters of the Assistance to Firefighters Grant program and continues to be one of the program’s strongest proponents as Co-chair of the Senate Fire Service Caucus and Ranking Member of the Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee.”

“In the past year, Senator Collins successfully advocated on behalf of measures like the Volunteer Responder Incentive Protection Act, reauthorization of the U.S. Fire Administration, National Fire Prevention Week, and National Campus Fire Safety Month,” Stittleburg continued. “On behalf of the NVFC, it is my pleasure to present the 2009 Legislator of the Year Award to Senator Collins.”

Sen. Collins has been a trusted ally for the fire service on Capitol Hill. She has co-sponsored several key pieces of legislation such as the Volunteer Firefighter and EMS Personnel Job Protection Act of 2007, was the co-author of the Improving America’s Security by Implementing Unfinished Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007, and has honored our nation’s heroes by authoring legislation to memorialize fallen firefighters by lowering the United States flag to half-staff on the day of the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service.

As a strong proponent of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Sen. Collins authored the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006, which strengthened FEMA within the Department of Homeland Security and helped to establish the United States Fire Administrator as an Assistant Secretary-level position.

Lifetime Achievement Award

The NVFC Lifetime Achievement Award, sponsored by Scott Health and Safety, a business unit of Tyco International, is bestowed each fall to an individual whose remarkable achievements in the fire service and community exemplify outstanding performance. In 2009 it was awarded at the NVFC Fall Board Meeting, but starting in 2010 will be presented in the spring.

The 2009 Lifetime Achievement Award was awarded to Fred G. Allinson, a volunteer firefighter from Washington State. With a distinguished record of service, including six years as NVFC Chairman and 39 years as a volunteer firefighter, Allinson’s accomplishments exemplify outstanding performance. “Scott Health & Safety is proud to sponsor this prestigious award,” said Mike Ryan, Vice President and General Manager of the Scott business. “I cannot think of anyone more deserving than Fred Allinson. Over the course of a lengthy and distinguished career as a firefighter, Fred has demonstrated great leadership ability and earned immense respect from his peers in the fire service.”
Allinson started volunteering in 1963 at King County (WA) Fire District 2 after witnessing a friend drop everything to answer a call. He volunteered there for 30 years and rose to the rank of Battalion Chief. He earned praise and admiration from his fellow department members by leading through example, not just words.

In 1993, Allinson moved to North Highline (WA) Fire District where he served as a Battalion Chief and was placed in charge of the volunteer program in this combination department. He retired from the department in 1999 to focus on serving as the Chairman of the NVFC, a position he held from 1995 until retiring from the Board in 2001.

An active Board member in the Washington State Fire Fighters Association (WSFFA) from 1973 to 1983, Allinson served as WSFFA President in 1980. He was also the WSFFA’s conference coordinator for 17 years. In addition, Allinson has served as a member of the World Federation of Volunteer Firefighters Association, NVFC representative on the Congressional Fire Services Institute’s National Advisory Committee, National Fallen Firefighters Foundation Board, and the Forestry and Rural and Technical Correlating Committees of the National Fire Protection Association.

Allinson has been an important advocate of the fire service. He testified before Congress in 2000 regarding the Volunteer Fire Assistance Program, which provides grants to fire departments protecting communities of 10,000 or less to purchase equipment and training to improve wildland firefighting readiness. He also attended the President’s Summit for America’s Future on the NVFC’s behalf, advocating volunteer first responder issues.

Allinson is retired from UPS. He and his wife of 54 years, Carolyn, have three children and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.
AK State Firefighters Association, Suzie Hill Koklich
AL Firefighters Association, Bill Bulman
AR State Firefighters Association, Jim Gates
Volunteer Fire Fighters of AZ, Robert Hooker
CA State Firefighters Association, Vern Losh
CO State Fire Fighters Association, Robert Page
CT State Firefighter’s Association, Scott Potter
DE Volunteer Firefighter’s Association, J. Allen Metheny
FL Fire Chiefs’ Association, William Trinder
GA State Firefighters’ Association, Georgia Ann Smith
IA Firemen’s Association, Bob Platz
ID Volunteer Fire & Emergency Services Association, Kevin Courtney
IL Firefighter’s Association, Robert Reason
IN Volunteer Firefighters Association, Jack Kerney
KS State Firefighters Association, Steve Hirsch
KY Firefighters Association, Kenneth R. Knipper
LA State Firemen’s Association, Kenn Fontenot
MA Call/Volunteer Firefighters Association, Michael A. Bird
MD State Firemen’s Association, Lee N. Sachs
ME State Federation of Firefighters, Joseph R. Guyotte
MI State Firemen’s Association, William Reimann
MN State Fire Department Association, Ulie Seal
Fire Fighters Association of MO, Keith Smith
MS Firefighters Association, Larry Barr
MT State Volunteer Firefighters Association, Mike Zuhoski

NC State Firemen’s Association, Jeffrey Cash
ND Firefighter’s Association, Renee Loh
NE State Volunteer Firefighters Association, Norman E. Hoeft
NH Association of Fire Chiefs, Martin Carrier
NJ State Volunteer Firemen’s Association, Carl Christensen
NM Firefighters Association, pending
NV State Firefighters’ Association, Mike Smith
Firemen’s Association of the State of NY, David Jacobowitz
OH State Firefighters Association, Roger Bair
OK State Firefighters Association, Chris Bain
OR Volunteer Firefighters Association, Jack R. Carriger
Firemen’s Association of the State of PA, Paul S. Lukus
RI State Firemen’s League, John H. Lyman
SC State Firefighters’ Association, Joe Palmer
SD Firefighters Association, LeRoy Koopman
TN Fire Chiefs Association, Al Rosamond
State Firemen’s and State Fire Marshals’ Association of TX, Patrick Hlavaty
UT State Firemen’s Association, R. Wendell Robison
VA State Firefighter’s Association, J. Allen Brennan
VT State Firefighters’ Association, Robert J. Kilpeck
WA State Firefighters’ Association, T.J. Nedrow
WI State Firefighters Association, Philip C. Stittleburg
WV State Firemen’s Association, Thomas Miller
WY Fire Chiefs and Firemen’s Association, Brad Carroll
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IN MEMORY OF...

E. JAMES MONIHAN
NVFC Delaware Director
Delaware Volunteer Firefighter’s Association

FRED WILLIAMS
Past NVFC Chairman
Firemen’s Association of the State of New York