



OCTOBER 5, 2023 | ISSUE 70

Rattle Watch

Proudly informing South Carolina firefighters.

Quarterly Training + Business Meeting

OCTOBER 25, 2023

Charleston

Join us for Quarterly on October 25

You're invited to attend our upcoming [Quarterly Training and Business Meeting](#) on October 25 in Charleston where we have the pleasure of hosting guest speakers **Dr. Candice McDonald**, Deputy CEO of **National Volunteer Fire Council**; **Rebecca Harned**, data advisor for the **U.S. Fire Administration** and Chief Programs Officer for the **International Association of Fire Chiefs**; and **Chief Tom Jenkins**, senior advisor/research manager for the NERIS project.

Dr. McDonald is an expert in recruitment and retention in the fire service and will be sharing her insights and strategies with us, and Rebecca and Chief Jenkins will provide details on the upcoming changes to NFIRS.

We know how important it is to have a strong and committed team, and we know many departments across the state are struggling to find and keep new members. Dr. McDonald's presentation will provide valuable information on how we can attract and retain high-quality individuals in the fire service. We hope you learn from her expertise and apply it at home in your department.

The fire service is driven by data. With decades of experience, Rebecca's worked at the intersection of emergency services and new technology, data science, preparedness, and response policy. Chief Jenkins is co-presenting with Rebecca, adding an important perspective to the switch from NFRIS to NERIS.

Take advantage of this opportunity to learn from our guest speakers and connect with your peers. We look forward to seeing you there and working together to strengthen the South Carolina fire service.

Lunch is on us. [Let us know you're coming.](#)



Dues invoices mailed this week

It's that time of the year—Association dues invoices are being mailed this month, but that's not the only administrative task departments must complete in order to remain in Good Standing with the Association.

The due date for your department's Association membership dues invoice is **January 1, 2024**. In addition, **Voting Members must be selected by January 1, 2024**, in accordance with the by-law changes voted and approved by your delegates at the 2020 Fire-Rescue Conference.

Forms 206 and 207 are due midnight on January 31, 2024 on the Association's Member Management System (MMS). Your department's Profile & Statistician Report Form 101 should also be completed within the MMS. **All forms must be completed no later than midnight January 31, 2024, for your department to remain a member in good standing with the Association.** If we do not receive the forms by the deadline, your department will jeopardize their Firemen's Insurance & Inspection Fund distribution and the loss of Association Member Benefits.

As always, we're here to help. Give us a call at (803) 454-1800 or email us at info@scfirefighters.org.



2023 Q3 Commentary available from CCM

We've trusted CCM Investment Advisors for many years to grow our retirement account so that our members can enjoy life long after their tailboard firefighter days are behind them. CCM publishes a quarterly commentary to keep our members up-to-date on the market's performance.

With Q3 of 2023 behind us, [read](#) how the market performed in the third quarter of the year.



Officer Academy 23-02 graduates tomorrow

Twenty-five company officers from around the state are graduating from the **Fire Officer Academy: The Company Officer** tomorrow.

The application process is competitive, the online assignments are in-depth, and the program is a time commitment.

When it's all said and done, the experience is worth everything it takes to get here.

The Officer Academy isn't your run-of-the-mill class; the instructor cadre places special emphasis on the conversations that capture the essence of a great company officer while reinforcing discipline and fostering camaraderie. Everything that students are tasked with is intentional, beginning with the initial application and ending at graduation.

Everyone who successfully completes this program should be incredibly proud; we certainly are. They went through the wringer, came out better for it, and will go home tomorrow with a renewed passion for the job and their people.

Congratulations and well done, OA 23-02. You got better this week because They Come First.

Applications are open for Officer Academy 24-01, March 3-8, 2024. The deadline to apply is October 31, 2023. Get your resume ready and don't be afraid to ask a friend to proofread your application—*the details matter!* [Submit your application.](#)

Community events



Forestry's Horse + Buggy Show is October 21

The Forestry Commission's annual **Fire Department Horse and Buggy Show** is on Saturday, October 21! The show runs from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Forestry Commission Headquarters (5500 Broad River Road in Columbia).

Departments are encouraged to bring at least one piece of converted federal surplus equipment that they've received from the Forestry Commission to showcase during the "show and tell" portion of the event.

Don't miss out on the truck pull event from 10-11 a.m. Gather a team of 5-7 people and register on-site for a fee of \$100 per team. The proceeds from the truck pull event will be donated to Special Olympics of South Carolina.

After the truck pull, vote for your favorite vehicle and enjoy some refreshments. The Forestry Commission will also have a table set up for departments to learn more about the Federal Surplus Property and Grant programs.

Please contact [Jonathan Calore](mailto:Jonathan.Calore@forestry.com) [(803) 667-1200] with questions.



Parker District Fire hosting golf tournament to benefit SC FAST

Parker District Fire Department and On Scene Emergency Services are hosting a charity golf tournament at [The Club at Brookstone](#) on October 23, 2023. All proceeds from the tournament will be donated to [South Carolina First Responders Assistance and Support Team](#) (SC FAST). Please bring cash for mulligans, red tees, a silent auction, and various raffle tickets. Four-person team registration is \$400 and tee-time is at 8 a.m. Register your team by emailing bgarron@parkerfd.com.



First Responder Appreciation Game: Panthers vs. Colts on November 5

The **Carolina Panthers** are hosting the **Indianapolis Colts** on Sunday, November 5 at 4 p.m. for their First Responder Appreciation Game, and they want you there! The Panthers want to express their deepest gratitude and appreciation for first responders like you. As a token of their appreciation, they're offering discounted tickets for the matchup.

Carolina Panthers First Responder Appreciation Game

- Date: Sunday, November 5
- Time: 4 p.m.
- Location: Bank of America Stadium

Special offer: For \$70, and you'll receive:

- A limited-edition Carolina Panthers first responders t-shirt
- A ticket to witness the Carolina Panthers take on the Indianapolis Colts

Purchase your tickets [online](#) for you and your family and friends. If you plan to purchase 10+ tickets, email, call, or text Ryan Ruff at ryan.ruff@panthers.nfl.com or 704-358-7048.

From the web



Women in Fire awarded \$1M to address women's healthcare issues in the fire service

Press Release from Women in Fire: On September 13th, [Women in Fire](#) was awarded \$1,032,209 in Fiscal Year 2022 Fire Prevention and Safety grant funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The lack of recommendations for firefighters regarding reproductive health from conception to lactation and return to work is alarming. 25% of women firefighters report their fire department does not have a policy addressing pregnancy or maternity leave; this is unacceptable.

Some of the specific objectives of this grant will include:

- Reproductive Health Toolkit
- Mentorship Program
- Continued dissemination of existing firefighter-specific curriculum focused on improving DEI in the FS nationally
- Further increase the reach of this training by adding these developed training courses to an online learning management system (LMS)

This project has the potential to improve health and safety by increasing access to pertinent healthcare information, assisting in policy development, increasing diversity in the fire service, and enhancing the recruitment and retention of women and minorities.

National fire service organizations recognize a need for reproductive health policies and resources for men and women to promote better inclusion and signal diversity, equity, and inclusion support. Women in

Fire will work with NDRI-USA, the Center for Fire, Rescue, and EMS Health Research (CFREHR), the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC), and the Beltane Guild to carry out the goals and objectives of this award.

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- [October 17 - 1% Regional Training Class: York County](#)
- [October 25 - Quarterly Training + Business Meeting](#)
- [January 18-21 - Fire Service Improvement Conference](#)
- February 3, 2024 - Firefighter Memorial Service
- [March 3-8, 2024 - Fire Officer Academy: The Company Officer 24-01](#)
- [June 12-15, 2024 - Fire-Rescue](#)



South Carolina State Firefighters' Association

Westpark Boulevard 111, 29210, Columbia

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