MISSION

To provide a unified voice for volunteer Fire/EMS organizations.

This Mission will be accomplished by:

- Representing the interests of the volunteer fire, emergency medical, or rescue 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, emergency medical, or rescue organizations
- Providing representation on national standards setting committees and projects
- Gathering information from and disseminating information to the volunteer fire, emergency medical, or rescue organizations
As I reflect back on 2019, I am proud of the work and initiatives that the organization and our members have accomplished. We won several legislative victories, including the reinstatement of the Volunteer Responder Incentive Protection Act; hosted our fifth successful Training Summit; provided support and resources to address critical health and safety topics including cancer risk reduction and behavioral health; raised public awareness of the need for volunteers; provided gear, grants, and scholarships to help our members be better equipped and prepared; and much more.

This Annual Report provides the highlights of our 2019 initiatives. It is my honor to be chair of this incredible organization that supports the many needs of the volunteer fire, EMS, and rescue services. Our membership has grown to over 25,000, and it is your support that makes our initiatives possible. I encourage all of our members to utilize their benefits, such as connecting with your fellow responders in the Volunteer Voices forum and taking the free training in the Virtual Classroom. If you are not currently a member of the NVFC, I invite you to join us and be part of this great organization. You can find more information at www.nvfc.org/join.

As we look to 2020 and beyond, we will continue to have your back and produce the quality programs, resources, and training you expect from the NVFC. In fact, we have many exciting new initiatives coming this year, including the inaugural Recruitment & Retention Experience and the development of a psychologically healthy department toolkit. Stay informed throughout the year by checking out our web site, subscribing to our Dispatch newsletter, and following us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

Thank you for your continued support of the NVFC. If you need any assistance or have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact the NVFC office at 202-887-5700 or nvfc@nvfc.org.

Sincerely,

Steve Hirsch,
Chair
The NVFC Board of Directors is made up of up to two directors from each of 46 state fire associations. Officers are elected by the board for two-year terms. The Executive Committee is comprised of four officers, the chair of the Legislative Committee, the chair of the EMS/Rescue Section, and five NVFC directors elected by the board who serve two-year terms.

The board meets as a whole twice a year – once in the spring and once in the fall. The 2019 meetings took place on April 26-27 in Alexandria, VA, and October 23-25 in Augusta, GA.

At the 2019 spring meeting, the board elected officers, voted to endorse the 9/11 Victims’ Compensation Fund Reauthorization Act and the Protecting America’s First Responders Act, and adopted a drug and alcohol policy. The NVFC EMS/Rescue Section also elected its 2019-2021 officers.

At the 2019 fall meeting, the board voted to restructure NVFC membership into one individual member option, approved several amendments to the bylaws, expanded the Volunteer Firefighter Support Fund to include eligible responders whose homes are impacted by fire, and voted to support the Don’t Break Up the T-Band Act and Guaranteeing Equipment Safety for Firefighters Act. An auction held at the meeting raised $13,000 for the NVFC’s Health and Safety Fund.

Officers:

- **Chair**
  - Steve Hirsch

- **1st Vice Chair**
  - Kevin D. Quinn

- **2nd Vice Chair**
  - Dallas Renfrew

- **Secretary/Treasurer**
  - Jeff Cash

Executive Committee:

- Kevin D. Quinn
- Richard Brown
- Jeff Cash
- Robert Guthrie
- Steve Hirsch
- Brian McQueen
- Bill Offerman
- Eric Quinney
- Dallas Renfrew
- Robert Timko
- Reid Vaughn

Committees:

- Audit
- Bylaws
- Communication & Technology
- Conference
- Diversity & Inclusion
- EMS/Rescue Section
- Executive
- Finance
- Hazmat Response
- Health, Safety, and Training
- Homeland Security
- Legislative
- Membership/Awards
- Nominating
- Recruitment and Retention
- Standards & Codes
- Volunteer Advocacy
- Wildland

Affiliated Organization:

- NVFC 21st Century Fund

In Memory Of...

Mike Bird, NVFC MA Director
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Association</th>
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<tr>
<td>Alabama Firefighters Association</td>
<td>Larry Jarvis, C.R. Vaughan</td>
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<td>Sara Garcia, Suzie Hill Koklich</td>
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<td>Florida Fire Chiefs’ Association</td>
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<td>West Virginia State Firemen’s Association</td>
<td>Thomas Miller, Philip C. Stittleburg</td>
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<td>Wyoming State Firemen’s Association</td>
<td>Rusty Dunham, Eric Quinney</td>
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he NVFC ended 2019 with 25,696 members, including individuals, departments, states, and corporations. Starting January 1, 2020, the NVFC introduced a single-category individual membership. Now instead of different categories, price points, and benefits, there is just one membership category for individuals at the low rate of $18 per year. Individual members receive all NVFC benefits, including:

- $10K accidental death and dismemberment insurance through Provident – doubles to $20,000 if a line-of-duty death
- Access to NVFC members-only web site and resources
- Access to Volunteer Voices online forum
- Free training through the NVFC Virtual Classroom
- Eligibility to join the FASNY Federal Credit Union
- Eligibility for auto and home insurance through California Casualty
- Special rates and plans on critical illness coverages
- Discounts on gear, equipment, trade shows, and more from NVFC partners
- Educational discounts to online universities and fire service training sources
- Eligibility to apply for special members-only giveaways and promotions, including MSA’s Globe Gear Giveaway, Columbia Southern University Scholarships, and travel stipends for NVFC training events

The NVFC’s online member community, Volunteer Voices, continued to grow in 2019. This forum allows NVFC members to connect with each other and share ideas, resources, and information relevant to the volunteer fire and emergency services. Through Volunteer Voices, NVFC members can reach out directly to their peers from across the United States for input, best practices, and answers to their most important questions. An average of 70 posts were made in Volunteer Voices each month.
The NVFC has representatives on 20 National Fire Protection Association standards-setting committees and also represents the volunteer fire and emergency services on numerous national workgroups and task forces.

The NVFC advocates on Capitol Hill for legislation that will benefit the fire and emergency services. The NVFC encourages grassroots advocacy from members through its Legislative Action Center, an online tool that makes it easy for members to send letters to Congress in support of the NVFC’s legislative priorities. In 2019, NVFC members sent 8,442 letters to Congress through the Legislative Action Center.

There were several legislative victories for the NVFC and the fire and emergency services in 2019. The September 11th Victim Compensation Fund Act was signed into law on July 29, which compensates victims of the 2001 terrorist attack, including personnel who responded in the aftermath of the incident, through Fiscal Year 2092. Appropriations legislation that was signed into law on December 20 restored the Volunteer Responder Incentive Protection Act for the 2020 tax year, exempting property tax benefits and up to $600 of additional incentives (like stipends) that volunteers receive as a reward for their service from being subject to federal income tax and reporting. The legislation also increased funding for the AFG and SAFER grant programs to $355 million each, provided $5 million for the SIREN grant program for rural EMS agencies, increased USFA funding to $46.8 million, increased Volunteer Fire Assistance/Rural Fire Capacity grant program funding to $18 million, and provided $2.5 million for the National Firefighter Registry.

Several pieces of legislation that the NVFC is supporting saw significant positive movement in 2019. The Portable Fuel Container Safety Act (H.R. 806), which requires the addition of flame mitigation devices to consumer-grade portable fuel containers, passed the House of Representatives on September 19. The Protecting America’s First Responders Act (S. 1208), which makes several changes to the Public Safety Officers’ Benefits (PSOB) program, including clarifying that fire police (members of volunteer fire departments who direct traffic at emergency scenes) are public safety officers, passed the Senate on May 15. While VRIPA was enacted for the 2020 tax year, there is pending legislation (H.R. 1241/S. 1210) that would make the tax exemption on nominal volunteer recruitment and retention incentives permanent. There are several bills dealing with firefighter exposure to polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), including the Protecting Firefighters from Adverse Substances Act (S. 2353) and the Guaranteeing Equipment Safety for Firefighters Act (S. 2525), that have been reported favorably out of committee. The NVFC will continue to advocate for enactment of these bills in 2020.

Sign up for action alerts at http://cqrcengage.com/nvfc/actioncenter.

The NVFC administers groundbreaking programs and campaigns for the fire and emergency services. In 2019, the NVFC continued its work to promote volunteer recruitment as well as enhance responder health and safety.

**Make Me A Firefighter™ Campaign**

Recruiting and retaining an adequate number of volunteers is an ongoing struggle for many volunteer and combination departments. The NVFC’s award-winning Make Me A Firefighter campaign, made possible thanks to a federal SAFER grant, features a department portal filled with free resources and tools for implementing a local recruitment campaign as well as a public web site to allow prospective volunteers to find local opportunities through a searchable database. There are 6,468 departments registered with the campaign, which represents 26 percent of U.S. volunteer and mostly-volunteer departments, and 3,556 opportunities are posted in the database. As of December 31, 2019, there have been 1,154,244 clicks on opportunities and 12,960 applications completed by potential volunteers through the web site. A multi-faceted outreach campaign was conducted in 2019 to raise both community and department awareness of the campaign. https://portal.nvfc.org and www.MakeMeAFirefighter.org

Heart-Healthy Firefighter Program™

Heart attack is continually the leading cause of on-duty firefighter fatalities in the U.S. The Heart-Healthy Firefighter Program provides tools and resources to help individual responders focus on nutrition, fitness, and healthy lifestyle choices, as well as assists departments in starting and expanding a health and wellness program for their members. www.healthy-firefighter.org

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National Junior Firefighter Program™

Getting youth involved in the fire and emergency services fosters the next generation of first responders and creates a network of community supporters of the emergency services. The National Junior Firefighter Program helps departments develop, grow, enhance, and promote a local junior firefighter program, and helps youth find a local program through a searchable database. Junior programs are a powerful recruitment tool for departments and provide youth with valuable life skills such as teamwork, leadership, responsibility, and commitment. There are 2,619 junior firefighters and 2,400 local programs in 50 states registered with the National Junior Firefighter Program. www.nvfc.org/juniors

Serve Strong™ Campaign

The NVFC launched the Serve Strong campaign as an umbrella for all of its health and safety programs and initiatives. The outreach and awareness campaign reminds firefighters and emergency personnel that a better you means a better crew. In 2019, the third issue of the campaign’s newsletter, Firefighter Strong, was mailed to all U.S. fire departments and included resources to help individuals and departments focus on health and safety. www.nvfc.org/servestrong

Share the Load™ Program

Firefighting and emergency response take a toll on responders’ mental and emotional well-being. The Share the Load program provides tools, resources, and training to help individuals and departments proactively address behavioral health. The NVFC also partners with American Addiction Centers on the Fire/EMS Helpline, a free, confidential hotline at 1-888-731-FIRE (3473) that firefighters, EMS providers, and their families can call any time for help with a behavioral health issue. In 2019, an average of 94 calls per month were made to the Helpline. The NVFC was awarded a $278,900 Fire Prevention & Safety grant from FEMA to continue this focus on responder behavioral health issues. This will include developing tools and training to help departments build a psychologically healthy workplace as well as compiling a database of counselors, psychologists, and other qualified healthcare providers who have experience working with first responders. www.nvfc.org/help

Wildland Fire Assessment Program

The Wildland Fire Assessment Program (WFAP) is a joint effort by the U.S. Forest Service and the NVFC to provide fire service volunteers with training on how to properly conduct safety assessments for homes located in the wildland-urban interface (WUI). This is the first program targeted to volunteers that specifically prepares them to evaluate a home and provide residents with recommendations to protect their property from wildfires in order to make their community more fire adapted. 153 students took the WFAP workshop in 2019. A train-the-trainer course is available online along with a toolkit and resources to help departments implement an assessment program. www.nvfc.org/wfap

Volunteer Firefighter Support Fund

Volunteer firefighters and emergency personnel put their lives on the line to protect their communities, but when large-scale disaster strikes these same responders are also often impacted as well. The NVFC Volunteer Firefighter Support Fund provides a stipend to eligible volunteer first responders whose homes have been affected by a state- or federally-declared disaster to help them meet basic needs in the aftermath of the disaster. In 2019, the stipend amount was increased to $350 and eligibility was expanded to include volunteer responders whose homes have been damaged or destroyed by structure fire. The fund relies on donations from individuals and organizations, with 100% of donations going to volunteer responders in need. www.nvfc.org/support-fund
PARTNERSHIPS

The NVFC routinely develops and implements partner programs with other organizations, agencies, and corporations to support local departments. Following are highlights from the 2019 partnership programs and initiatives.

ADT Partners in Protection
ADT worked with the NVFC to identify four departments to provide $5,000 grants to help them fight wildfires.

Anheuser-Busch Emergency Drinking Water Program
Anheuser-Busch partnered with the NVFC to expand its emergency drinking water program to keep firefighters hydrated during wildfires and other long incidents or disasters. In 2019, Anheuser-Busch donated 1,654,632 cans of water to volunteer fire departments.

Cabot Creamery Co-operative Reward Volunteers Program
The NVFC partnered with Cabot Creamery Co-operative to recognize and reward volunteer firefighters for their service. NVFC members could log their hours through Cabot’s Reward Volunteers Program for the chance to win prizes for themselves and their departments. One NVFC member won a $2,500 donation for their department, courtesy of Cabot and sponsor CoBank, and another member won $500 for their department. In addition, one NVFC member who logged their hours won a spot on the 2019 Cabot Community Celebrity cruise, which honors volunteers for their service.

CHEMTREC® HELP Award
The NVFC and CHEMTREC® partnered to launch the CHEMTREC® HELP (Hazmat Emergencies Local Preparedness) Award. Two NVFC members were awarded $7,500 each to bolster their departments’ hazardous materials incident response capabilities and increase local readiness for hazmat events.

Columbia Southern University Scholarships
The NVFC partnered with Columbia Southern University (CSU) to provide two members with a scholarship to attend CSU. Each scholarship covers up to 60 hours towards one online degree program. Since the partnership began in 2009, 22 NVFC members have been awarded scholarships to pursue their educational goals.

Fire Corps/First Alert Alarm and Extinguisher Donation Program
The NVFC partnered with First Alert to provide registered Fire Corps programs in volunteer or combination fire departments with smoke alarms and fire extinguishers to distribute in their communities.
A total of 500 10-year sealed battery smoke alarms and 500 fire extinguishers were donated to 27 departments in 17 states. The NVFC and First Alert also developed a fire extinguisher training course for the NVFC Virtual Classroom; this course is free to the first 500 participants, compliments of First Alert. In addition, First Alert donated $10,000 to the NVFC to update two trainings and supplemental resources that will help fire departments increase community safety.

**Georgia-Pacific Bucket Brigade Grants**

The NVFC partnered with Georgia-Pacific to promote the Bucket Brigade Program, which provides grants to fire departments in Georgia-Pacific communities to help them fund needed resources and equipment. In 2019, Georgia-Pacific awarded $145,000 in grants to 33 fire departments. Georgia-Pacific also sponsored NVFC memberships for all grant applicants. Since the program began in 2006, Georgia-Pacific has given more than $2.5 million to fire departments in cash and educational materials that serve the company’s facility communities across the country.

**Homes for Heroes Foundation Volunteer Firefighter Support Fund Donation**

The Homes for Heroes Foundation donated $7,500 to the NVFC’s Volunteer Firefighter Support Fund to assist volunteer responders whose homes have been impacted by large-scale disasters or home fires.

**Jack Daniel’s Tennessee Fire Concert for Volunteer Firefighters**

The NVFC partnered with Jack Daniel’s Tennessee Fire to recognize and pay tribute to America’s firefighters. Volunteer firefighters could enter to win a trip to the Jack Daniel Distillery in Lynchburg, TN, for a tour of the distillery and volunteer fire department, dinner on BBQ Hill, and an intimate concert and meet and greet with country music star Chase Rice. 43 volunteer firefighters and their guests attended the event. Jack Daniel’s Tennessee Fire also donated $75,000 to the NVFC to support the organization’s initiatives.

**Josh Cellars Volunteer Firefighter Support Fund Donation**

Josh Cellars donated $163,000 to the NVFC’s Volunteer Firefighter Support Fund to assist volunteer responders whose homes have been impacted by large-scale disasters or home fires.

**Lavender Ribbon Report**

Cancer is one of the biggest threats facing firefighters. The NVFC partnered with the IAFC Volunteer and Combination Officers Section to release the *Lavender Ribbon Report: Best Practices for Preventing Firefighter Cancer* in 2018, which details 11 actions that can be taken to mitigate the risk of cancer for firefighters. In 2019, training was developed and delivered to help departments implement the Lavender Ribbon Report. In addition, posters featuring the 11 best practices were created, and 2,500 copies of a calendar highlighting the best practices were distributed. 13,513 copies of the Lavender Ribbon Report have been distributed in print and online.
MSA’s Globe Gear Giveaway

MSA, DuPont, and the NVFC awarded a total of 52 sets of turnout gear and 52 helmets to 13 volunteer or mostly volunteer departments in need through MSA’s 2019 Globe Gear Giveaway. MSA also sponsored NVFC memberships for the first 500 applicants. Since the program began in 2012, 507 sets of gear have been provided to 108 volunteer departments in need—totaling over $1 million worth of gear.

Pipeline Response Toolkit

Millions of miles of pipelines stretch across the United States, transporting hazardous materials through thousands of communities. The NVFC and the Pipeline & Hazardous Materials Safety Administration released the Fire Department Pipeline Response Emergency Planning & Preparedness (FD PREPP) Toolkit to help departments conduct pre-incident planning, increase preparedness, and improve response to pipeline incidents. The toolkit has been downloaded 4,135 times from the NVFC web site.

Safety Stand Down

The NVFC annually partners with the IAFC Safety, Health, and Survival Section on Safety Stand Down. This week-long event asks all departments and personnel to focus their attention on safety and health education and training. The 2019 event took place June 16–22 with the theme of “Reduce Your Exposure: It’s Everyone’s Responsibility.” 18,043 visits were made to the Safety Stand Down web site, 5,354 people took the NFPA-hosted Safety Stand Down quiz, and 139 people registered for the Safety Stand Down webinar. 200 quiz-takers were rewarded with a Safety Stand Down challenge coin, courtesy of the NFPA.

The fifth Training Summit took place June 14–15 in Portland, OR. This signature training event provides an opportunity to share ideas and best practices, network, and participate in valuable classroom training on topics relating to fire service health and safety. 107 attendees from 29 states participated in the Training Summit, with 29 attendees receiving scholarships. The NVFC will hold the next Training Summit on June 26–27 in Orlando, FL. The Training Summits are made possible thanks to a Fire Prevention and Safety grant from FEMA.

The NVFC also received a $50,000 grant from the Motorola Solutions Foundation, the charitable arm of Motorola Solutions, Inc. The grant will support the NVFC’s efforts to provide critical health and safety training to volunteer firefighters and emergency responders across the nation.
The NVFC annually recognizes excellence in the fire service through its achievement awards. In 2019, the James P. Seavey Sr. Health and Wellness Leadership Award was introduced to honor those who serve as a leader in advocating for and advancing the health and wellness of responders. The following awards were presented in 2019.

**Lifetime Achievement Award**  
Sponsored by Rosenbauer America  
Wylie L. Donaldson Jr. (MD)

**Chief James P. Seavey Sr. Health and Wellness Leadership Award**  
Award co-sponsored by Ward Diesel and VFIS  
Chief Brian McQueen (NY)

**Junior Firefighter of the Year**  
Sponsored by California Casualty  
Robert Dowd (NY)

**Junior Firefighter Program of the Year**  
Sponsored by California Casualty  
Westport Fire Department Explorer Post #774 (MA)

**E. James Monihan Director Award**  
Sponsored by Provident Agency  
Chief James P. Seavey Sr. (MD) – awarded posthumously

**NVFC STAFF**

- Chief Executive Officer  
  Heather Schafer, CAE
- Membership Manager  
  Alyssa Dara
- Deputy Chief Executive  
  Sarah Lee, CAE
- Membership Coordinator  
  Laura Towers
- Chief of Legislative and Regulatory Affairs  
  David Finger
- Office Manager/Executive Assistant  
  Lorraine Higgins
- Chief of Communications  
  Kimberly Quiros
- Program Manager  
  Lori Shirley
- Engagement Manager  
  Meg Goldberg
- Program Coordinator  
  Caroline Stachowiak
The NVFC is grateful for the support and partnership of our Corporate Members. Below are our Chairman’s Club, Supporter, and Champion members. View the full list of corporate members at www.nvfc.org.

JOIN THE NVFC
We’ve got your back. Join the NVFC and help support our initiatives while taking advantage of great benefits. www.nvfc.org/join.
The NVFC is here for you. Contact the office with any questions or to request information.

**National Volunteer Fire Council**
7852 Walker Drive, Suite 375
Greenbelt, MD 20770
202-887-5700
1-888-ASK-NVFC (275-6832)
[www.nvfc.org](http://www.nvfc.org)

- **Facebook**
  @nvfc1
- **Twitter**
  @nvfc
- **Instagram**
  @mynvfc
- **LinkedIn**
  National Volunteer Fire Council