

National Volunteer Fire Council

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



NVFC
NATIONAL VOLUNTEER FIRE COUNCIL

FIRE • EMS • RESCUE

www.nvfc.org

NVFC 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



LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

2020 was a challenging year on many fronts. We faced the worst global pandemic in our lifetime, had a devastating wildfire season, and saw civil unrest in many parts of the country. Departments struggled to maintain funding, training, and staffing while continuing to provide needed services to the community.

Yet through it all, our volunteer firefighters and emergency service providers persevered. We were there to answer the calls, we adapted to new training and response conditions, and we stepped up when our communities needed us the most. We proved that we stand united in our service to the community and can overcome any obstacles that are thrown in our way.

The NVFC is here for you through it all. When the pandemic hit, we provided up-to-date news and resources to help departments navigate the challenges. We expanded our Volunteer Firefighter Support Fund to help responders who were financially impacted meet their expenses. We advocated for PPE and funding to assist fire and EMS departments, and we formed a Pandemic Response Task Force to address ongoing issues.

We released new tools and training to help responders address mental and behavioral health challenges. This includes the Directory of Behavioral Health Professionals, which lists local providers ready and equipped to help firefighters, EMS providers, rescue workers, and their families.

We were the voice of the volunteer to get legislation passed to assist the fire and emergency services. This included supplemental rounds of the Assistance to Firefighters Grant program and the permanent extension of the Volunteer Responder Incentive Protection Act.

We expanded our online training options, launching a new Virtual Classroom with updated on-demand courses as well as increasing the offerings through our Train Strong webinar series. We also partnered with other training institutions to open up their online courses to our membership without charge.



I am so proud of our nation's volunteer firefighters, EMS providers, and rescue workers. You show the best of this country – neighbors helping neighbors through every kind of emergency. The NVFC will continue to provide you with the tools, resources, and assistance you need to be at your best and serve your communities. Together we stand strong.

Sincerely,

Steve Hirsch,
Chair

GOVERNANCE

The NVFC Board of Directors is made up of up to two directors each from 47 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. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 meetings were held virtually on April 30-May 2 and October 14-16.

Officers:



Chair
Steve Hirsch



1st Vice Chair
Kevin D. Quinn



2nd Vice Chair
Dallas Renfrew



Secretary/Treasurer
Jeff Cash

Executive Committee:

Richard Brown
Jeff Cash
Robert Guthrie

Steve Hirsch
Brian McQueen
Bill Offerman

Kevin D. Quinn
Eric Quinney
Dallas Renfrew

Robert Timko
Reid Vaughn

Committees:

- > Anniversary
- > Audit
- > Bylaws
- > Communication & Technology
- > Conference
- > Diversity & Inclusion
- > Executive
- > Finance
- > Hazmat Response
- > Health, Safety, and Training
- > Homeland Security
- > Legislative

- > Membership/Awards
- > Nominating
- > Recruitment and Retention
- > Standards & Codes
- > Volunteer Advocacy
- > Wildland

Sections

- > EMS/Rescue Section

Affiliated Organization

- > NVFC 21st Century Fund

NVFC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Alabama Firefighter's Association

Larry Jarvis
C.R. Vaughan

Alaska State Firefighters Association

Sara Garcia
Suzie Hill Koklich

Arkansas State Firefighters Association

Jim Gates

Arizona Fire Chiefs Association

Bobby Apodaca
Joseph DeWolf

California State Firefighters' Association

Richard Brown

Colorado State Fire Fighters Association

Paul Acosta
Ken Wettstein

Connecticut State Firefighters Association

Lew Clark
Robert Guthrie

Delaware Volunteer Firefighter's Association

Bill Betts
Terry Jester

Florida Fire Chiefs' Association

Darian Brown
Tim Diamond

Georgia State Firefighters Association

David Bullard

Illinois Firefighters Association

Bill Offerman
Robert Reason

Indiana Volunteer Firefighters Association

Jack Kerney
Jean W. Smith

Iowa Firefighters Association

Roger Bissen
Marvin Trimble

Kansas State Firefighters Association

Steve Hirsch
Dan Romine

Kentucky Firefighter's Association

Greg Schultz
Pat Thompson

Louisiana State Firemen's Association

Guy Bonin
Kenn Fontenot

Maine State Federation of Firefighters

Ken Desmond
Joseph Guyotte

Maryland State Firemen's Association

Eric Bernard
David Lewis

Massachusetts Call/Volunteer Firefighters Association

Joseph Maruca

Michigan State Firemen's Association

Cliff Messing
Paul Wayco

Minnesota State Fire Department Association

Judy Thill
Dave Yurczyk

Mississippi Firefighter's Association

George Stevens
Jennifer Williams

Fire Fighters Association of Missouri

Rob Erdel
Keith Smith

Montana State Volunteer Firefighters Association

Mike Doto
Travis Walker

Nebraska State Volunteer Firefighters Association

John Bomar
Joel Cerny

Nevada State Firefighter's Association

Mike Heidemann
Steve McClintock

New Hampshire Association of Fire Chiefs

Charles Corey
Frank Fraitzl

New Jersey State Firemen's Association

Brian Foley
George Helfich, Sr.

Firemen's Association of the State of New York

Brian McQueen
Ken Pienkowski

North Carolina State Firefighters' Association

Tim Bradley
Jeff Cash

North Dakota Firefighter's Association

Allan Klein
Jim Moe

Ohio State Firefighters' Association

Timothy Adams
Rodger Sansom

Oklahoma State Firefighters Association

Cliff Davidson
Sheri Nickel

Oregon Volunteer Firefighters Association

Jason Servatius

Firemen's Association of the State of Pennsylvania

Paul Lukus
Robert Timko

Rhode Island State Firefighters' League

John Lyman
Kevin Quinn

South Carolina State Firefighters' Association

Jack Kirlin
Brian Moon

South Dakota Firefighters Association

Charlie Kludt
LeRoy Koopman

Tennessee Fire Chiefs Association

Barron Kennedy
Melvin Martin

State Firefighters' and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas

Dallas Renfrew
Tim Rutland

Utah State Firefighters' Association

Brent Marshall
R. Wendell Robinson

Vermont State Firefighters' Association

Robert Kilpeck
Bob Patterson

Virginia State Firefighters Association

Ken Brown
Steve Ennis

Washington State Fire Fighters' Association

T.J. Nedrow
Ron Roy

West Virginia State Firemen's Association

Thomas Miller

Wisconsin State Firefighters Association

Chris Klahn
Philip C. Stittleburg

Wyoming State Firemen's Association

Rusty Dunham
Eric Quinney

In memory of J. Allen Brennan, NVFC VA Director

FINANCES

MEMBERSHIP

Statement of Financial Position

As of December 31, 2020

Assets

Cash	\$496,047
Accounts Receivable	\$311,265
Other Current Assets	\$69,565
Investments	\$905,587
Fixed Assets, net	\$12,579
Other Long-Term Assets	\$12,442

Total Assets **\$1,807,485**

Liabilities and Net Assets

Liabilities

Payables	\$61,844
Accrued Liabilities	\$62,688
Deferred Revenue	\$141,381

Total Liabilities **\$265,913**

Net Assets

Without Donor Restrictions	\$1,400,726
With Donor Restrictions	\$140,846

Net Assets, Ending **\$1,541,572**

Total Liabilities and Net Assets **\$1,807,485**

The NVFC ended 2020 with 26,216 members, including individuals, states, and corporations. Starting January 1, 2020, the NVFC restructured its membership levels so that there is just one membership category for individuals at the low rate of \$18 per year. Benefits of individual membership include:

- > Free online training through the NVFC Virtual Classroom
- > \$10,000 AD&D insurance policy
- > Access to the Volunteer Voices online member community
- > Educational discounts to online universities and fire service training
- > Eligibility to apply for members-only giveaways and scholarships
- > Discounts on various products and services (phone, equipment, etc.)

Learn more and join at www.nvfc.org/join.

The NVFC's online member community, Volunteer Voices, allows NVFC members to reach out directly to their peers from across the U.S. for input. Members can ask questions as well as share ideas, best practices, and resources relevant to the volunteer fire and emergency services. An average of 118 posts are made in Volunteer Voices each month.



NVFC board member Bob Guthrie (CT) and CEO Heather Schafer were among the many fire department volunteers to get a COVID-19 vaccine.

ADVOCACY

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 2020, NVFC members sent 4,672 letters to Congress through the Legislative Action Center.

There were several legislative victories for the NVFC and the fire and emergency services in 2020.

- > The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act provided nearly \$340 billion in funding to support coronavirus health response and agency operations. This included two rounds of the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) – COVID-19 Supplemental program.

- > The Volunteer Responder Incentive Protection Act (VRIPA) was permanently extended. VRIPA is an important recruitment and retention tool for fire departments as it exempts nominal benefits that volunteer emergency responders receive from being subject to federal income tax and reporting requirements.
- > FY 2021 appropriations included an increase of funding over FY 2020 levels for the AFG and the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grants, U.S. Fire Administration, Volunteer Fire Assistance grant program, and Supporting and Improving Rural Emergency Medical Services Needs Act. The National Firefighter Registry received the full authorized amount.

In addition, NVFC chair Steve Hirsch testified before the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee at a virtual hearing on the role the AFG and SAFER grants have in helping departments deal with the COVID-19 pandemic.



NVFC staff participated in the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb by walking 9.11 kilometers.

PROGRAMS

The NVFC administers groundbreaking programs and campaigns for the fire and emergency services.

Fire Corps™

helps fire and EMS departments enhance their services by engaging with community members to assist with non-emergency tasks, such as fire prevention education, administration, public relations, fundraising, incident pre-planning, and much more. www.firecorps.org



The National Junior Firefighter Program™

helps departments develop, grow, enhance, and promote a local junior firefighter program to foster the next generation of firefighters, garner new recruits, and provide youth with valuable life skills such as teamwork, leadership, responsibility, and commitment. www.nvfc.org/juniors



The Heart-Healthy Firefighter Program™

provides tools and resources to reduce heart attacks by helping responders focus on nutrition, fitness, and healthy lifestyle choices, as well as assists departments in starting and expanding a health and wellness program. www.healthy-firefighter.org



The Share the Load™ Program

provides tools, resources, and training to help individuals and departments proactively address behavioral health. www.nvfc.org/help



The Make Me A Firefighter™ Campaign

helps fire departments recruit and retain volunteers. It includes a department portal to advertise volunteer opportunities, customize recruitment materials, and access tools to assist in increasing department staffing. Potential volunteers can go to the public web site to find and apply for local volunteer opportunities. <https://portal.nvfc.org> and www.MakeMeAFirefighter.org



The Wildland Fire Assessment Program

is a joint effort by the U.S. Forest Service and the NVFC to provide fire service volunteers with training and resources to conduct safety assessments for homes located in the wildland-urban interface. www.nvfc.org/wfap



RESOURCES

Recruitment and Retention

The Make Me A Firefighter campaign has 7,166 departments registered in the department portal at <https://portal.nvfc.org>, or 28% of volunteer and combination departments in the U.S. There are 3,959 volunteer opportunities posted through the campaign. Since the program launched, there have been 1.8 million clicks on opportunity listings and 19,433 volunteer applications have been completed through www.MakeMeAFirefighter.org.

In September, the NVFC released the **Volunteer Research Retention Report**. This report provides the results of a quantitative survey of over 1,000 current and former volunteers as well as current department leadership to identify the institutional drivers that cause volunteers to leave and what can be done to positively impact retention. The NVFC will use the findings to develop tools and resources designed to help departments better understand and meet retention challenges.

Volunteer Firefighter Support Fund

The **NVFC Volunteer Firefighter Support Fund** provides a \$350 stipend to eligible volunteer first responders whose homes have been damaged or destroyed by a state or federally declared disaster or home fire to help them meet basic needs in the aftermath of the disaster. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the fund was temporarily expanded in 2020 to include eligible responders who suffered an involuntary loss of wages due to the pandemic. \$148,750 in stipends were provided to 425 volunteer responders for COVID-related support. Since the fund began in 2005, over \$750,000 has been distributed to volunteers in need.

Health and Safety

In June, the NVFC released the **Directory of Behavioral Health Professionals**. This resource lists local providers who are ready and equipped to help firefighters, EMS personnel, rescue workers, dispatchers, and their families dealing with behavioral health issues. These providers understand the unique concerns of emergency responders and are vetted by the Firefighter Behavioral Health Alliance. The directory is updated monthly as new providers are added. By the end of 2020, the listing included over 200 providers in 45 states and one Canadian province.

The fourth issue of the **Firefighter Strong** newsletter was mailed to all U.S. fire departments in September and is also available online. This annual publication features articles on a variety of health and safety topics to help responders and department leaders proactively address critical issues and better protect their personnel and their communities.



Somerset (WI) Fire Rescue was one of the 254 departments to receive canned drinking water through the Anheuser-Busch Emergency Drinking Water Program in 2020.



Uinta County Fire (Evanston, WY) received a donation of DripDrop oral rehydration solution to provide dehydration relief to their firefighters.

TRAINING

The NVFC launched a new **Virtual Classroom** to provide updated content, a more user-friendly design, and enhanced navigation. New content is periodically added. By the end of 2020, there were 25 courses and 34 webinars available in the Virtual Classroom. All courses are free to NVFC members. Select courses are available for CEUs.

VIRTUAL CLASSROOM

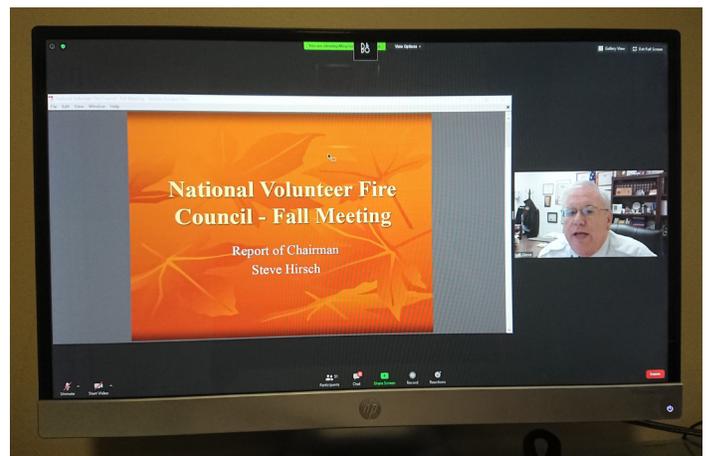
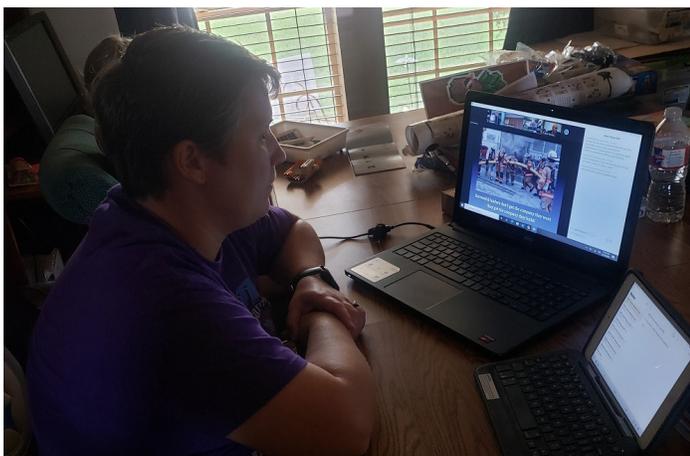
In addition, the NVFC expanded the **Train Strong webinar series**, providing 28 live webinars throughout the year. Nearly 3,000 live attendees took part in the webinars.

With the demand for online training greater than ever due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the NVFC also partnered with TargetSolutions to offer 10 of their online firefighter continuing education courses for free to NVFC members.

The 2020 **Training Summit** was postponed to 2021 due to the pandemic. However, the NVFC held a virtual preview on June 26-27 featuring course instructors for the event as well as keynote speakers. The Training Summit is an annual conference featuring sessions relating to firefighter health and safety topics.

The inaugural **Recruitment and Retention Experience** was also postponed to 2021. A special online training workshop was delivered on September 25 by one of the event's instructors. The full conference will include two days of training and discussions relating to volunteer fire department staffing.

The NVFC received a \$25,000 grant from the Motorola Solutions Foundation, the charitable arm of Motorola Solutions, Inc, to support the NVFC's efforts to provide critical health and safety training to volunteer firefighters and emergency responders across the nation.



The pandemic shifted many events to virtual, including the NVFC spring and fall meetings as well as a preview of the postponed Training Summit.

PARTNERSHIPS

The NVFC routinely develops and implements partner programs with other organizations, agencies, and corporations to support local fire and EMS departments. Following are highlights from the 2020 partnership programs and initiatives.

ADT Partners in Protection

ADT worked with the NVFC to identify five departments in the western U.S. to provide \$10,000 grants to help them fight wildfires.

Anheuser-Busch Emergency Drinking Water Program

Anheuser-Busch partnered with the NVFC for the second year to provide emergency drinking water to keep firefighters hydrated during wildfires and other long incidents or disasters. In 2020, Anheuser-Busch donated 1,632,288 cans of water to 254 volunteer fire departments in 43 states. The program received a 2020 Silver Halo Award for its work to support volunteer firefighters.

California Casualty Partnership

California Casualty partnered with the NVFC to promote their \$5,000 STIHL Giveaway. In addition, they donated \$2,500 to the NVFC's Volunteer Firefighter Support Fund to assist volunteer responders in need.

CHEMTREC® HELP Award

The NVFC and CHEMTREC® partnered for the second year on the CHEMTREC® HELP (Hazardous Materials Local Preparedness) Award. Two NVFC members were awarded \$10,000 each to bolster their departments' hazardous materials incident response capabilities and increase local readiness for hazmat events.

Columbia Southern University (CSU) Scholarships

Two NVFC members were awarded a scholarship to attend CSU. Each scholarship covers up to 60 hours towards one online degree program. Since the partnership began in 2009, 24 NVFC members have been awarded scholarships to achieve their educational goals.

DripDrop ORS Giveaway

DripDrop, in partnership with the NVFC, donated 200,000 sticks of its oral rehydration solution (ORS) to volunteer firefighters to help provide dehydration relief during wildfire season and extreme summer heat.

First Alert Fire Extinguisher and Carbon Monoxide Alarm Giveaways

First Alert partnered with the NVFC to donate 1,000 fire extinguishers and 500 carbon monoxide detectors to local fire departments to enhance the safety of their communities. In addition, First Alert helped develop courses for the NVFC Virtual Classroom on fire extinguishers and carbon monoxide awareness, which were provided to volunteers free of charge.

Homes for Heroes Partnership

NVFC members can take part in Homes for Heroes' Hero Rewards program, which provides discounts, savings, and rewards on real estate transactions. In addition, the Homes for Heroes Foundation donated \$5,000 to the NVFC's Volunteer Firefighter Support Fund to assist volunteer responders in need.



The Gilt Edge Volunteer Fire Department (Burlison, TN) was one of 13 departments to receive four sets of gear and four helmets through MSA's and DuPont's Globe Gear Giveaway in 2020.



NVFC member Mike Ayers from the Galax (VA) Fire Department won the Dress Up Your Pet Day photo contest in January 2020.

PARTNERSHIPS

MSA's and DuPont'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 and DuPont's 2020 Globe Gear Giveaway. MSA also sponsored NVFC memberships for the first 500 applicants. Since the program began in 2012, 559 sets of gear have been provided to 121 volunteer departments in need – totaling over \$1 million worth of gear.

Jack Daniel's Tennessee Fire Donation

For the second year, Jack Daniel's Tennessee Fire supported the NVFC with a donation of \$75,000 to help the NVFC provide programs and resources to the volunteer fire and emergency services.

PHMSA Pipeline Response Toolkit

The Pipeline & Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) continued its partnership with the NVFC to promote the Fire Department Pipeline Response Emergency Planning & Preparedness (FD PREPP) Toolkit. Updated in 2020, this resource helps departments conduct pre-incident planning, increase preparedness, and improve response to pipeline incidents.

Safety Stand Down

The NVFC annually partners with the IAFC Safety, Health, and Survival Section and National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) on Safety Stand Down. The 2020 event took place June 14-20 with the theme of "Building a Superhighway to Safety – Protecting our Responders on Roadways." 27,863 visits were made to the Safety Stand Down web site and 3,616 people took the Safety Stand Down quiz. 200 quiz-takers were rewarded with a Safety Stand Down challenge coin, courtesy of the NFPA.

Small Town America Civic Volunteer Awards

The NVFC partnered with CivicPlus and other organizations to promote the Small Town America Civic Volunteer Awards. NVFC chair Steve Hirsch was also a member of the program's advisory committee. 100 local government volunteers, including firefighters and emergency responders, were recognized for their service and given a free CivicCMS web site to help with volunteer and recruitment efforts. In addition, a volunteer firefighter received the second-place award of \$7,500 for his community.



Marc Warren raised over \$2,600 to support the NVFC's Share the Load program through a 150-mile, one-day bike ride of the Great Allegheny Passage in June. His daughter Ali Rothrock was at the finish line to cheer him on.



NVFC first vice chair Kevin Quinn (RI) showed off his new NVFC sweatshirt while on a hike. NVFC apparel and much more are available in the new NVFC store that launched in 2020.

AWARDS

The NVFC annually recognizes excellence in the fire service through its achievement awards. The following awards were presented in 2020. Due to the pandemic, all award ceremonies were held locally or through video conferencing.

Lifetime Achievement Award

Sponsored by OnStar
John Brooks (NJ)

Chief James P. Seavey Sr. Health and Wellness Leadership Award

Award co-sponsored by VFIS and Ward Diesel Filter Systems
David Lewis (MD)

Junior Firefighter of the Year

Sponsored by California Casualty
Donald Ciecich (NJ)

Junior Firefighter Program of the Year

Sponsored by California Casualty
Westhampton Beach Fire Department Junior Program (NY)

E. James Monihan Director Award

Sponsored by Provident Agency
Captain Michael Bird (MA) - awarded posthumously



The NVFC's annual awards were presented either locally or virtually in 2020 due to the pandemic.

NVFC CORPORATE MEMBERS

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/corporatemembers.



MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS
FOUNDATION



NVFC STAFF

CONTACT THE NVFC

Chief Executive Officer
Heather Schafer, CAE

Membership Manager
Alyssa Dara

The NVFC is here for you. Contact the office with any questions or to request information.

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Sarah Lee, CAE

Membership Coordinator
Laura Towers

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Chief of Communications
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Program Manager
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Communications Coordinator
Matthew Odom

Program Manager
Caroline Stachowiak



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National Volunteer Fire Council

Engagement Manager
Meg Goldberg

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 staff at a virtual monthly staff meeting.