



November 30th, 2018

Everyone,

Beginning with this update, I will resume the weekly publication of legislative information for the Fire Service in Connecticut. You can expect to find the update on the listserv distributed by the office of the State Fire Administrator every Friday until the end of the 2019 legislative session. If you would like to receive a copy of this update by email, **please contact me by email** and I will add your name to my distribution list.

We held our annual CSFA Legislative Meeting last night and I would like to thank everyone who participated is helping us to create our list of legislative priorities for the Fire Service during the upcoming 2019 Legislative Session of the Connecticut General Assembly. Fire/EMS Caucus co-chair Representative Pat Boyd addressed the group at the beginning of the meeting. Fire EMS Caucus Co-chair Rep. Brian Ohler was not able to attend because of previously scheduled responsibilities within his district. Rep. Boyd spoke of the importance of continuing with the work of the caucus of legislators in the upcoming session. Below, I have included the letter sent out to all legislators inviting them to attend **our next Fire/EMS Caucus Meeting on December 12th, 2018, at the Legislative Office Building in Room 2B at 10:30AM.** Representatives Boyd and Ohler will chair that meeting and plan to schedule one meeting after that if possible before the session begins on January 9th.

Dear Legislators & Legislators-Elect,

The bipartisan Fire/EMS Caucus will be meeting on Wednesday, December 12 at the Legislative Office Building, Room 2B at 10:30 AM.

The goal of the Fire/EMS Caucus is to foster a stronger connection between the legislative process and the men and women who serve as our first responders in the field. The Caucus is open to any current legislator and legislator-elect.

We are in the process of putting together the agenda for the meeting in concert with our partner Fire Service & EMS member organizations. Please reach out with any agenda items.

Have a great Thanksgiving.

Pat Boyd & Brian Ohler

Fire/EMS Caucus Co-Chairs

We ask all of our CSFA members to urge their respective legislators (especially the newly-elected) to join the Fire/EMS Caucus and attend the meetings before and during the 2019 session. The goal of the bipartisan caucus co-chairs is to pull together greater support for us and to create better understanding of issues related to the Fire Service among legislators. All legislators are welcome to participate and caucus meetings are open to the public.

We also ask all members of the Fire Service to attend Fire EMS Caucus Meetings at the LOB in Class A uniform when schedules permit. We appreciate your cooperation and remind you that a strong showing of support by the Fire Service at these meetings will help on all issues across the board.

We will present our list priorities for the 2019 legislative session to the Fire/EMS Caucus co-chairs this week and the list will published in our CSFA Legislative Update next Friday.

CSFA President Chief John Carew has asked that I alert members of the Fire Service statewide that we have received reports again that organizations that do not have any connection to the Fire Service in Connecticut are calling our state's residents in an effort to raise money during the holiday season. This also occurred earlier this year during September – please see President Carew's note below:

RE: POTENTIALLY FRAUDULENT PHONE CALLS IN CT

During the past two months, there have been an increasing number of calls made to homes and businesses across the state in which telephone solicitors have been telling people they are raising money for the “Volunteer Firefighters Association” or organization name similar to that.

The Connecticut State Firefighters Association represents 21,000 volunteers and 4,500 career firefighters and we would like to make it clear that our organization never solicits by telephone.

We ask that anyone who receives such a call to please note exactly what the caller says, and, if possible, please write down the phone number of the incoming call and report it to your local police.

Anyone would like to donate money to help firefighters in Connecticut should never donate money over the phone. The best way to help or donate to Connecticut firefighters is to call your local fire department directly.

If you would really like to help, we are always looking for volunteers!

Regards,

John Carew

President

Connecticut State Firefighters Association (CSFA)

Again, I would like to thank everyone for their support and cooperation during this past year and I look forward to our continued success in the upcoming session.

Sincerely,

Leon Collins

Legislative Representative

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