



December 7th, 2018

Everyone,

The first meeting of the Fire/EMS Caucus for the 2019 Legislative Session will be held on Wednesday December 12th, 2018 at the Legislative Office Building in Room 2B at 10:30AM.

We ask all members of the Fire Service to attend Fire EMS Caucus Meetings at the LOB in Class A uniform when schedules permit. We really need to begin the session with a strong showing of support from the Fire Service at this first caucus meeting that will be attended by both returning and newly-elected legislators from across the state. Last year, about 40 members of the Fire Service attended the first caucus meeting prior to the beginning of the session. It would be great if we could duplicate or surpass that level of attendance at the caucus meeting this coming Wednesday. We really need to show the legislators who are trying to help us that we appreciate their efforts.

We ask all of our CSFA members to continue 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.

The State Bond Commission released an agenda for a Special Meeting on December 11th, 2018 (https://www.ct.gov/opm/lib/opm/Agenda_Dec11_2018_Revised.pdf) after their most recently scheduled meeting on December 7th was cancelled. Unfortunately, the commission agenda published this week did not include any bonding news for Regional Fire Schools construction projects.

I am still waiting for the official list of our legislative priorities from our association executive board. I can tell everyone the top issues from last year remain at the top of the list we approved (i.e., continued funding for operations budgets for our Region Fire Schools and Connecticut Fire Academy, bonding for new Regional Fire Schools, continuing efforts to create a funding source for the Firefighter Cancer Bill and improved language and passage of a PTSD Bill).

As the result of news that potentially fraudulent fundraising phone solicitation has continued into the holiday season, I have again attached the letter from CSFA President John Carew warning that these phone calls are not in any way connected to our Connecticut State Firefighters Association.

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.**

Hope to see you at the Fire/EMS Caucus meeting on Wednesday!

Sincerely,

Leon Collins

Legislative Representative

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