



December 14th, 2018

Everyone,

First, I would like to thank the members of the Fire Service who attended the Fire/EMS Caucus meeting in Class A uniform earlier this week. We had a good showing of support in front of the caucus during this first meeting for the 2019 legislative session. There were about twenty legislators in attendance and we had at least that many people from our ranks present as we took the opportunity to discuss our legislative priorities and take questions from the senators and representatives who sit on the caucus.

A special thanks to the members of our Fire Service panel who presented our priorities and answered question from the legislators:

CSFA President John Carew, West Haven, Allingtown Fire Department

Deputy Chief Rick Hart, UPFFA Legislative Affairs, Waterbury Fire Department

Jeff Morrissette, State Fire Administrator, Wethersfield Volunteer Fire

Chief Mike Thurz, Glastonbury Fire Department,

Chief John Oates, East Hartford Fire Department

Fire Marshal Roger Nelson, Connecticut Fire Marshals Association

Representatives Boyd and Ohler chaired the meeting and announced that Representative Ben McGorty will be the new co-chair for the Republicans. The co-chairs then announced the creation of the position of vice-chair: Representative Michelle Cook will be the vice-chair for the Democrats and Sen. George Logan will be the vice-chair for the Republicans.

If you would like to view the caucus meeting online, just click the following link to watch the coverage on the Connecticut Network (CT-N):

<http://www.ctn.state.ct.us/ctnplayer.asp?odID=15823>

One of the most notable comments from the caucus meeting was a promise from Senator George Logan that he would hold Governor-elect Lamont to his campaign promise to deliver the bonding money necessary for the construction of a new Regional Fire School in the Naugatuck River Valley.

I would also like to thank Representative Brian Ohler who will not be returning for the upcoming session because he did not get re-elected. Rep. Ohler, a volunteer firefighter, was one of the 2 co-chairs who helped to organize this revitalized bipartisan caucus of legislators. His hard work and support for the Fire Service during the past 2 years is greatly appreciated.

I continue to urge all of our members to reach out to their respective senators and representatives and urge them to join the caucus. The next Fire/EMS Caucus meeting date is expected to be after the first of the year. I will announce that meeting date once it is set by the co-chairs.

Again, I would like to thank everyone who attended the caucus meeting and I look forward to seeing more members of the Fire Service at upcoming Fire/EMS Caucus meetings at the LOB.

I have also attached the minutes of our annual CSFA Legislative Meeting last month. The meeting minutes include the full list of legislative priorities for 2019.

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.**

Sincerely,

Leon Collins

Legislative Representative

The Connecticut State Firefighters Association

49 Midwood Road

Branford, CT 06405

(203) 494-7842 voice and text

(203) 481-1446 fax

collins@csfa.org email

<http://csfa.org> website