

Minnesota Represented at NVFC Fall Board Meeting
Board adds PSOB to Legislative Priorities

The National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) Board of Directors met from September 28-October 1, 2011, in Lake George, NY. The meeting drew 62 board members representing 40 states, including Tony Bronk, Shane Schmidt, and Ulie Seal, from MSFDA and MSFCA.

Over a dozen committees met regarding topics ranging from recruitment and retention to homeland security to health and safety. Ulie Seal serves on the Homeland Security Committee and Tony Bronk serves on the Health and Safety Committee. In addition, the board tackled issues including membership and advocacy as well as held a strategic planning session.

One area of focus during the fall meeting was the NVFC's Legislative Priorities. The board voted to add Public Safety Officers' Benefit Reform to the list. The revised Legislative Priorities are as follows:

1. Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program
2. Public Safety Officer's Benefit Reform
3. Nationwide Broadband Communications Network (H.R. 607/S. 911)
4. Volunteer Emergency Services Recruitment and Retention Act (H.R. 376)
5. Volunteer Responder Incentive Protection Reauthorization Act (S. 933/H.R. 2353)
6. Volunteer Firefighter and EMS Job Protection Act
7. U.S. Fire Administration
8. Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act (H.R. 1792/S. 1035)
9. Supporting Emergency Responders Volunteer Efforts Act (S. 932/H.R. 2488)
10. Good Samaritan Volunteer Firefighter Assistance Act

Learn more about each priority, including the Public Safety Officer's Benefit Reform, on the NVFC web site at www.nvfc.org/resources/legislativeaffairs/priorities/.

Additional highlights include:

- The board voted to launch a grassroots advocacy recruitment campaign. NVFC state association members, were asked to encourage their members to sign up for Legislative Action Alerts through the NVFC's Capwiz advocacy tool. Capwiz makes it easy for advocates email their members of Congress to ask them to support legislation critical to the fire and emergency services. Sign up at <http://capwiz.com/nvfc/mlm/signup>.
- State associations that have a web site were asked to link to the NVFC Volunteer Advocacy page from their association's homepage to assist state members who are facing issues that restrict the ability of individuals to volunteer for their local emergency response agency. Visit the page at www.nvfc.org/resources/legislativeaffairs/volunteeradvocacy.
- The NVFC endorsed the Transportation Safety Advisory Group Next Generation 911 "What's Next" report and that the NVFC engage as a stakeholder through the Radio/Wireless Committee in the future.
- The NVFC's EMS/Rescue Section held its biannual meeting. Among the topics discussed was the need to develop a strategic plan for the Section.

- The NVFC adopted a resolution to support the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation's safety initiatives and the International Association of Fire Chiefs-Safety, Health, and Survival Section's Rules of Engagement for Firefighter Survival.
- John Proels, National Director of the Local Assistance State Team (LAST) Program, National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, provided the board with an overview and information on the LAST Program and how it aids in funeral planning and the submission of PSOB claims.

The NVFC board is made up of a Director from 49 state fire associations. Each state may also appoint an Alternate Director. The board meets twice a year to discuss topics of importance to the volunteer fire service, vote on key issues, hold committee meetings, and determine the direction of the organization. This year marks the 35th anniversary of the founding of the NVFC.