



Volume 14

March, 2021



Feature Stories

- New Member Bio
- RFA Information
- Member Recognition
- Paramedics
- FF Code of Ethics

2021 STATISTICS

Feb. 1 — Feb. 28

District Average Response Time:
9 min. 15 sec.

Responses by Type:

Fire: 15

EMS: 238

Other: 138

Total: 391

Like Us On  **facebook**

Proudly serving the communities of Blaine, Birch Bay, Custer, Laurel and the unincorporated areas of Lynden & Bellingham

"Providing Quality Service for a Safe Community"

New Member Biography



by Seth Meredith

I was born in October of 1996 at Madigan Hospital, Fort Lewis. Both my mother and father served in the army which has played a huge role in

my upbringing. Since my father was re-stationed multiple times. By the time I was 13 my family and I had bounced around Oregon and Washington a few times. For me, this meant I had to get used to making new friends and the way I went about it was through sports.

Since I can remember I have had always had a basketball or football in my hands. Playing sports year round kept me out of trouble as a kid and introduced me to some of the best people in my life. The first

time I moved to Washington my best friend introduced me to organized football. This introduction to football would start a butterfly effect that would change my route in life forever.



continued on pg. 2

Regional Fire Authority

The RFA Planning Committee, comprised of three Commissioners from North Whatcom Fire and Rescue and three Commissioners from Fire District 4, is continuing to meet. The committee expects to have a proposed RFA financial plan to share with all Commissioners and the public by mid-April. The financial plan will include the Planning Committee's recommended starting levy rate for the RFA. This RFA levy would replace District 21's and District 4's existing fire levies and would replace District 4's EMS levy. All residents would continue to pay the Whatcom County paramedic levy of 22 cents per

\$1,000 valuation.

Our first RFA public education meetings, held virtually on zoom

Our first RFA public education meetings, held virtually on Zoom on February 18 and 23, were very successful, and we deeply appreciate your comments and questions. If you would like to view the presentation used at those meetings, please use this link:

<https://www.nwfrs.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Whatcom-RFA-virtual-open-house-first-draft-v.-2.17.21-with-HSL-edits.pdf>

If you'd like to read the updated FAQs, please go to <https://www.nwfrs.net/regular-fire-authority-planning-committee/> and scroll to the middle of the page.

Our next public meetings will be in April or May to go over the financial details of the RFA proposal. We will post meeting details on our webpage and social media pages, and in the Bellingham Herald, Lynden Tribune and Northern Light. We welcome your questions and comments at any time in this process. Please contact us at info@nwfrs.org or 360-318-9933.

New Member cont.

Please remember to keep the district up to date with any changes including your contact information.

All changes should be directed to Kelly.

These changes may include:

Phone

Address

Email

Family Additions

Name changes

continued from pg. 1

Going into my senior year of high school, I was sure that I would follow in my family's footsteps and join the army after graduation. One of my graduation requirements was to serve 12 hours of volunteer service anywhere of my choice. Completely out of ideas, I decided to call an old youth football coach to do a ride along at his fire department. This ride-along was my introduction to the fire service and sparked a flame in me that would end up changing my career path.

The fire service culture reminded me so much of the relationships I had with past teammates. Every firefighter had their own unique story, yet they all came together to serve a purpose bigger than themselves. This ride-along made such an impression on me that I decided to change my life plan and attend Central Washington University for their paramedic program. After graduating from high school, I packed my bags and headed to Ellensburg, Washington.

my mentors at KVFR and realized that the paramedic route might not fit me. I again changed my route and switched to studying exercise science.

After graduating with an Exercise Science degree at CWU, I had a perfect opportunity to attend North Bend Fire Academy. North Bend gave me an opportunity to hone my skills as a firefighter and gave me the confidence to pursue a fire career professionally.

It has been a great ride to get to this point in my career. I am beyond excited and grateful to be a part of the North Whatcom Fire organization!



NWFR Member Recognized

Chief Jason Van der Veen (*left*) presented Firefighter Jason Donnelly (*right*) with a plaque from the Washington State Fire Academy, located in North Bend, recognizing him for his contribution as a Company Officer during Recruit Class 20-1.

Firefighter Donnelly has been with North Whatcom Fire and Rescue since 2007.



NWFR Members Graduate Paramedic School



by Zach Scott

Over the last year, Sean and I have been trapped in the time warp that is paramedic school with Whatcom Medic One. We've built strong friendships with all of the other members of the 2021 medic class including brothers from Bellingham Fire and Ferndale Fire. As a group, we were able to support each other throughout this experience and are stronger for it. It was amazing to see how so many agencies and community members came together to support our education. It truly is a community driven organization.

It has been our priority throughout this experience to represent our brothers and sisters at NWFR well and to do our best throughout the program. We are excited to share that within the last week both Sean and I have

officially become Washington State Certified Paramedics. We couldn't have done this without the support of all of you. While we are excited about our new roles, we are sad to be stepping away from NWFR. We did not anticipate things would work out this way. We remain grateful to our NWFR family, Local 106, and the taxpayers of Whatcom County for this opportunity. It is a top notch education to prepare for a career where learning never ends.

For the last two weeks we have been assigned to fire training and Bellingham familiarization with Driver VanDyken. It has been a while since we pulled a line and threw a ladder. However, after a few spaghetti messes at the front door, Dyken had us firing on all cylinders again.

It has been an honor to serve alongside each of you. We have grown so much during our time at NWFR, and have no doubt that we are better firefighters and better men for

having worked with each of you. Thank you for your unwavering support through this process. We look forward to working with you all out on the street. Remember, we miss you, so upgrade!



Events to Celebrate March Birthdays

- 2 — Chris Lubenow
- 17 — Elliot Courage
- 19 — Hayley Urling-Ehinger
- 24 — Tye Thompson
- 25 — John Crawford
- 25 — Shane Madsen
- 28 — Sabrina Ooms
- 29 — Ray Davidson



NWFR Board Meetings may be conducted via Zoom Meeting/Webinar

Thurs. March 18
9408 Odell St 61
Blaine — 1:00 p.m.





**1507 E. Badger Rd.
PO Box 286
Lynden, WA 98264**

**Providing quality service for
a safe community**



CPR / AED Classes 2021

Class will be held at various fire stations around the district. Check out <https://www.nwfrs.net/resources/classes/> for more information and to reserve your spot.

Donations of nonperishable food items are encouraged but not mandatory. All food donations will be forwarded to local area food banks.



**FOR THE SAFETY OF
EVERYONE IN OUR
COMMUNITY, ALL CPR
CLASSES HAVE BEEN
CANCELLED UNTIL
FURTHER NOTICE.**

**WE APOLOGIZE FOR
ANY INCONVENIENCE**

Firefighter Code of Ethics

The Fire Service is a noble calling, one which is founded on mutual respect and trust between firefighters and the citizens they serve. To ensure the continuing integrity of the Fire Service, the highest standards of ethical conduct must be maintained at all times.

Developed in response to the publication of the Fire Service Reputation Management White Paper, the purpose of this National Firefighter Code of Ethics is to establish criteria that encourages fire service personnel to promote a culture of ethical integrity and high standards of professionalism in our field. The broad scope of this recommended Code of Ethics is intended to mitigate and negate situations that may result in embarrassment and waning of public support for what has historically been a highly respected profession.

I understand that I have the responsibility to conduct myself in a manner that reflects proper ethical behavior and integrity. In so doing, I will help foster a continuing positive public perception of the fire service. Therefore, I pledge the following...

Always conduct myself, on and off duty, in a manner that reflects positively on myself, my department and the fire service in general.

Accept responsibility for my actions and for the consequences of my actions.

Support the concept of fairness and the value of diverse thoughts and opinions.

Avoid situations that would adversely affect the credibility or public perception of the fire service profession.

Be truthful and honest at all times and report instances of cheating or other dishonest acts that compromise the integrity of the fire service.

Conduct my personal affairs in a manner that does not improperly influence the performance of my duties, or bring discredit to my organization.

Be respectful and conscious of each member's safety and welfare.

Recognize that I serve in a position of public trust that requires stewardship in the honest and efficient use of publicly owned resources, including uniforms, facilities, vehicles and equipment and that these are protected from misuse and theft.

Exercise professionalism, competence, respect and loyalty in the performance of my duties and use information, confidential or otherwise, gained by virtue of my position, only to benefit those I am entrusted to serve.

Avoid financial investments, outside employment, outside business interests or activities that conflict with or are enhanced by my official position or have the potential to create the perception of impropriety.

Never propose or accept personal rewards, special privileges, benefits, advancement,

honors or gifts that may create a conflict of interest, or the appearance thereof.

Never engage in activities involving alcohol or other substance use or abuse that can impair my mental state or the performance of my duties and compromise safety.

Never discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, creed, age, marital status, national origin, ancestry, gender, sexual preference, medical condition or handicap.

Never harass, intimidate or threaten fellow members of the service or the public and stop or report the actions of other firefighters who engage in such behaviors.

Responsibly use social networking, electronic communications, or other media technology opportunities in a manner that does not discredit, dishonor or embarrass my organization, the fire service and the public. I also understand that failure to resolve or report inappropriate use of this media equates to condoning this behavior. Developed by the National Society of Executive Fire Officers

