

# Headlines from the NFHC Board of Directors Meeting

**A**t its October 2014 meeting, the NFHC Board of Directors elected officers and directors and voted to induct 10 individuals to the Center’s Hall of Legends, Legacies, and Leaders.

The Board unanimously elected (or re-elected) the following officers and director:

- President **Ronny Coleman**
- Vice President **William Killen**
- Treasurer **Diane Breedlove**
- Secretary **Frederick Brower**
- Director **Harry Carter**

See related biographical sketches of Secretary Brower and Director Carter.

The Board voted unanimously to induct the following 10 fire protection personnel into the Center’s Hall of Legends, Legacies, and Legends:

- **Louis J. Amabili** of Delaware
- The late **Horatio Bond** of Massachusetts
- **Alan V. Brunacini** of Arizona
- The late **Percy Bugbee** of Massachusetts
- The late **John M. Eversole** of Illinois
- The late **David B. Gratz** of Maryland
- The late **Charles A. “Chet” Henry** of Pennsylvania
- The late **Anthony J. Mullaney** of Illinois
- The late **William Randleman** of Illinois
- The late **Lawrence R. Woltz** of Maryland

Information about their contributions to fire protection will appear in a future issue of the *National Fire Heritage Newsletter*.

For additional information about October 2014 Board actions, see [www.thenfhc.org](http://www.thenfhc.org).

## About Fred Brower and Harry Carter

**Chief Frederick Brower** has strong family roots in fire protection – a grandfather, two uncles, and a great uncle were all New Jersey chiefs.

Chief Brower’s own fire service background started in 1966 when he joined the Newark, New Jersey,



Auxiliary Fire Department. During his tenure, he was promoted to battalion chief in the Auxiliary and rode with Engine 18 and Truck 9 until 1976.

Upon beginning his university studies in 1967, he joined the College Park Volunteer Fire Department (CPVFD) in Maryland.

Chief Brower quickly rose through the officer ranks starting as a sergeant in 1968 and later as a lieutenant and captain. He graduated from the University of Maryland in 1972 with a degree in Industrial  
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# Message from the President

**A**fter the NFHC Board of Directors' meeting in Emmitsburg last fall, two thoughts kept returning to my mind.

The first thought was the huge debt of gratitude we owe to the Center's officers and directors. They are a dedicated (and lively!) bunch of volunteers who serve the NFHC unselfishly and with the Center's well being always in the forefront of their deliberations.



To those volunteers, I say thank you for the energy and wisdom you bring to the National Fire Heritage Center.

The second thought was the ever-present need of our organization -- and indeed *all* nonprofit and for-

profit organizations – for new voices, new ideas, and new insights. While our goal is to protect and preserve fire protection's rich heritage, we need the participation of as many fire protection leaders of today and tomorrow to make that happen.

Which brings me to you.

The NFHC invites the participation of all who value fire protection's past and the role it plays in shaping our present and future. Please join us – as a member or a volunteer – in our important work.

For example, you could present our packaged slide show about the Center to interested people. You can encourage your colleagues to donate their materials. You are welcome to stop by the Center whenever you are at the Emmitsburg FEMA campus.

I'd be happy to talk with you about helping anytime.

Ronny J. Coleman

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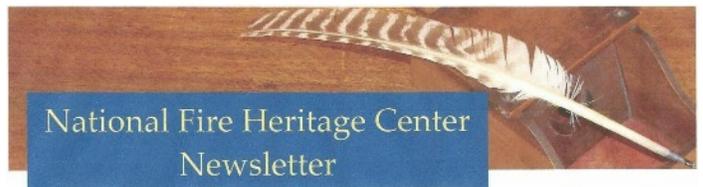
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# NFHC Salutes Its Members, Donors, and Contributors

We welcome these renewed and new members:

- **Gary R. Long** of Delaware (renewed member)
- Retired Tempe, Arizona, fire chief **Dennis Compton**. He can be reached at POB 21208, Phoenix, AZ 85227; 480-244-8529; dcompton5@cox.net.
- Des Moines (Iowa) fire marshal **Jonathan K. Lund**. He can be reached at: 1813 Merle Huff Avenue, Norwalk, IA 50211; 515-979-6154; jlund@lundfp.com.
- **Daniel Madryzkowski** of the National Institute of Standards and Technology. His contact details are: 8409 Dasher Court, Gaithersburg, MD 20882; 301-252-8914 (cell) and 301-975-6677 (work); daniel.madryzkowski@nist.gov.

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## Donation from US Fire Administration/National Emergency Training Center

The National Fire Heritage Center thanks its neighbor – the US Fire Administration/National Emergency Training Center in Emmitsburg, MD, for its 2014 donation of this antique Autocall fire alarm ticker tape station.



## Requesting Your Written Biography

The NFHC is asking you to provide us with information regarding your life experience. It doesn't matter what position you held. It doesn't matter your rank.

- Please provide us with any resume, CV or any other document that is part of your career background.
- Where did you grow up and why did you get interested in the fire service?
- What your first day on the job like?
- Do you recall your first fire? What about your first medical aid? Hazardous materials incident?
- What aspects of your firefighting career affected you personally?
- What changes have you seen in firefighting and in fire department operations?
- Do you have any stories that you are willing to share?
- Describe those career moments that left a mark on you.
- Where were you on September 11, 2001, and what affect did it have on you?
- Describe the largest incident that you were ever involved in. What was your role and what did you learn?
- Describe the most difficult day on the job. Was it an emotional day or physically challenging day?
- If you had to do any portion of your career over again, what would you change?
- Tell us about the people you worked with.
- How did your family react to your career choice?
- Did any family members follow in your footsteps?
- If you could leave some advice to a new firefighter, what would you say?
- Do you have any photos that you would be willing to share with us as part of your biography?

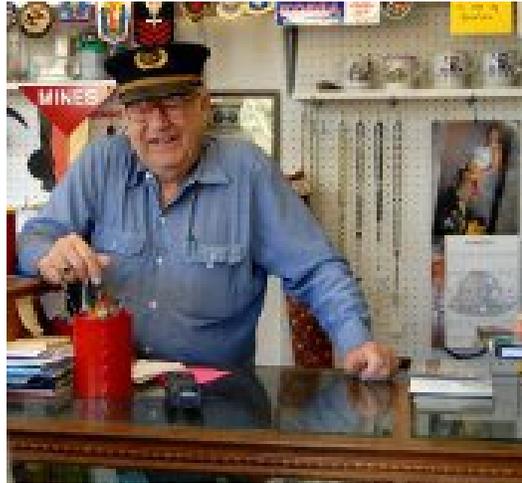
You are free to add any other elements to this questionnaire that will help us understand your life and times. Please return your responses to Archivist, National Fire Heritage Center at Post Office Drawer 76 - Emmitsburg, Maryland 21727, or provide it via email to [ron@fireforceone.com](mailto:ron@fireforceone.com).

# News from the National Fire Heritage Center

## Notes from the Archives

### Our Trip to Georgia

Executive Director Wayne Powell and I recently returned from a trip to Woodbine, Georgia, where we were privileged to select items from the collection of the late Assistant Chief **Robert J. “Windy” Briese**. As an archive, our primary mission is to preserve the written word, and we came back with seven cartons of books that we did not already have, as well as certificates, postcards, early newspaper front pages, and even a Smokey Stover comic strip. We also selected a representative sampling of helmets, three lanterns, a leather fire bucket, early fire toys, and other items showing the evolution of technology in the fire service.



It was recognized that this particular donation opportunity could only be accomplished by way of an onsite visit (approximately a 750 mile drive one-way) as the collection was so immense in size and extensive in nature that no other means would allow for appropriate review, selection, packing and transporting of items to NFHC headquarters in Emmitsburg. Only on rare occasion has the NFHC actually gone to pick-up items in the past.

Coordination has been underway since early spring with many calls including conference calls, emails, misc. interactions, etc., regarding this unique opportunity. Chief Briese, whose health was failing quickly, had decided he wanted portions of his lifelong fire-related collection to come to the NFHC. Included in our discussions over an eight-month period were Lieutenant **Mike Carver** of Camden County (Georgia) Fire and Rescue (coordinating on-site details with estate executor

**Lannie Brant**), nephew **Gary Briese** of Colorado (past IAFC General Manager) and President **Ronny Coleman**, Vice President **Bill Killen**, Archivist **Frank Schmersal** and Executive Director **Wayne Powell**, plus Georgia State Director of Fire Service Training **David Wall**.

The Briese collection was truly amazing, the people of Woodbine showed legendary Southern hospitality, and we felt honored to be able to help preserve Windy’s legacy.

Chief Briese’s obituary and related writings with photos are available upon request from NFHC Executive Director Wayne Powell.

Those who wish to be notified upon release of the announcement regarding sale of remaining items may contact estate executor Lannie Brant at fatboy5056@yahoo.com.

### The State of the Archive

The archive continues to grow by leaps and bounds. Among the donations we have received in the last few months (in addition to items from the Briese collection) are more training materials from **John McNeece** and the **Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute**; 31 more cartons of books (so far!) from **President Ronny J. Coleman**; 25 cartons of training materials from the **Lancaster County (Pennsylvania) Firemen’s Association**; 11 cartons of books and a postcard collection from **Nelson Dionne** of Salem, Massachusetts; and ten cartons of materials from the **Marriott Corporation**. As they say on the Pawn Stars television program, “You never know *what’s* going to come through that door!”

Please take the time to visit the archive whenever you are anywhere near Emmitsburg. It has grown to an impressive size, and continues to grow even larger every day.

## Sponsor a Bookcase Campaign Update

As you can see from the above summary of recent donations, the need for more bookcases is ever-present. We still are inviting members and supporters of the NFHC to sponsor bookcases for the archive, at a cost of \$150 per unit. Sponsors will have their names engraved on brass plates that will be placed on a plaque in the Heritage Center. Please consider sending a tax-deductible donation of \$150 to the NFHC (P.O. Drawer 76, Emmitsburg MD 21727). Become a bookcase sponsor today!

## The Archivist's Wish List

The good news is that we have not added any items to the wish list since it was last published. The bad news is that we have not been able to remove any items! Here is the current list; if you can help the NFHC obtain any of these items, please contact

Executive Director Wayne Powell (waynepowellnfhc@gmail.com) or archivist Frank Schmersal (accobonack@aol.com).

- 16mm reel-to-reel movie viewer with splicer
- Fluorescent light box, 18 x 24 inches (or larger)
- Flat file or drawing file, 24 x 36 inches, 5 or 10 drawers – we could use two of these
- Audio tape player/CD recorder (also known as a “dubber”)
- U-matic tape player
- Video projector
- Copy stand with lights (to use for photographing accessions)
- Microfiche viewer, preferably with printer

**Frank Schmersal**  
Archivist

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## Remembering Prof John Bryan

Widely regarded as a true pioneer in fire protection, Dr. John Leland Bryan died in October 2014. Inducted into the National Fire Heritage Center's (NFHC) Hall of Legends, Legacies and Leaders in 2011, Dr. Bryan was known affectionately as "Prof" by his students. He served as Chair and Professor of the Department of Fire Protection Engineering from the establishment of the department in 1956 until his retirement from the University of Maryland in 1993, when he was named Professor Emeritus. Bryan was a recognized authority on human behavior and fire

Under Dr. Bryan's leadership, the Department of Fire Protection Engineering Park evolved from a modest, one-person operation to a mature and vital program serving the fire protection needs of the nation. As a tribute to him and his significant contribution to fire protection engineering education, a group of dedicated alumni initiated endowment of the John L. Bryan Chair in Fire Protection Engineering.

Prof. Bryan was selected as the Man of the Year by the Society of Fire Protection Engineers in 1977. In 1986, he received the prestigious Standards Council



Medal and the Paul C. Lamb Award from the National Fire Protection Association. In 1991, he received the Parmalee Award from the American Fire Sprinkler Association. He remained active for decades in the development of national and international fire safety engineering standards.

An author of fire protection text books, *Fire Suppression and Detection Systems* and *Automatic Sprinkler and Standpipe Systems*, he also served as an advisor, author and editor for the U.S. Fire Administration / National Fire Academy's higher education initiatives.

Dr. Bryan was the last remaining Charter Member of the Bethesda-Chevy Chase (Maryland) Rescue Squad and was a long-time member of the College Park (Maryland) Volunteer Fire Department. Many years ago, Dr. Bryan worked as a paid firefighter at Chevy Chase (Maryland) Fire Department. He credited that experience as being critical to his deciding to pursue higher education.

# History Makers: Dan Madryzkowski

## About Dan

Daniel Madryzkowski is the Leader of the Fire Fighting Technology Group within the Fire Research Division of the Engineering Laboratory at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).

He is a registered Professional Engineer and is a Fellow of the Society of Fire Protection Engineers. He has authored more than 70 articles and reports, he has recorded or assisted with a variety of e-learning programs and DVDs, and he has made more 35 invited presentations at fire fighter conferences each year.

Mr. Madryzkowski has a Masters in Fire Protection Engineering from the University of Maryland. He has led several research studies with a focus on improving fire fighter safety and the application of fire protection systems. He has also conducted fire investigation related studies in a wide range of areas including fire fighter line of duty deaths, the post-earthquake fires in Kobe, Japan, oil field fires in Kuwait, the Station Night Club fire, and the Cook County Administration Building fire in Chicago.

His training as a fire protection engineer and experience as a fire researcher has enabled him to apply fire dynamics to the fire ground. In addition, He works with many fire service organizations including CFSI, IAAI, IAFC, IAFF, IFE, IFSTA, NFFF, NFPA, and SFPE to transfer research results into practice. He is a member of the ISFSI and he was named the ISFSI/FE Instructor of the Year in 2009. He has also assisted in the development of several classes for the National Fire Academy and for IAAI's CFITrainer.net. He currently holds the rank of Honorary Battalion Chief with the FDNY. In 2012 he received the International Association of Arson Investigators, Outstanding Accomplishment Award and the OSU\IFSTA Granito Award for Excellence in Fire Leadership and Management Research. Mr. Madryzkowski was the recipient of



the 2013 Citizen Services Award, a Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medal. As a result of this award, he was invited to the White House to receive congratulations from President Obama. In August 2014, Mr. Madryzkowski received the President's Award from the International Association of Fire Chiefs.

### *What first attracted you to working in fire safety?*

A sign on a wall at Montgomery College advertising for a co-op students. I joined the National Bureau of Standards (now NIST), Center for Fire Research as a co-op student in January 1979.

Or I could say love and money! Having already found my future wife, I was looking for a path to a career and the sign advertising a student position in fire research seemed to be the answer.

### *How did your career path change? What was your biggest surprise?*

It was actually more of a question, "Why isn't NIST doing things for the fire fighters like they used to?" It was during a conversation in 1996 that with John Hogland, former Director of the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute. It began my research into why NIST stopped conducting research for the fire service in the early 1970s and what the fire service research needs were. I found a paper by Dr. Harvey Utech from the proceedings of the Fire Department Instructors Conference, 45th Annual Conference, March 1973, Kansas City, Missouri. It began with the following

statement, “As many of you know, we received word two weeks ago that all fire service programs at the Bureau (now NIST) are being terminated.” In a sense, the fire service “missed” the “golden age of fire research” that occurred during the two decades starting in the mid-1970s. During this period, NIST working with fire research organizations and universities around the world developed the fundamentals of fire dynamics, how to measure them and model them.

**Mr. Hoglund also gave me some words of wisdom. Over the course of his career, he accomplished many things. I asked him how he did it.**

**He said, “The three Ps. Patience, persistence, and piledriver.”**

worked in with me, as they have positively affected me, as I hope their experience at NIST aided them. The future impacts these fire safety professionals could have is beyond measure.

*Who were your mentors and how did they help you?*

I have had many positive role models both at NIST and among leaders in the fire service. Two big influences on my professional life were Dr. John Bryan and

Harold “Bud” Nelson.

In 1998, USFA had a review by a blue ribbon panel that encouraged USFA to fund more research for the fire service and re-engage with NIST. With my colleagues at NIST and financial support from the U.S. Fire Administration, we restarted the fire fighter research program at NIST.

Mr. Hogland also gave me some words of wisdom. Over the course of his career, he accomplished many things. I asked him how he did it. He said, “The three Ps. Patience, persistence, and pile driver.”

*In your view, what has been your greatest contribution to fire safety and why?*

My role in bringing an understanding of fire dynamics in structures to the fire service, through full scale experiments in the laboratory and in a variety of acquired structures. These test results coupled with applying fire research tools and data to improving the understanding of fires that resulted in firefighter line of duty deaths. Making use of evolving digital media, VHS tapes, CDs, DVDs, and the web to share fire research videos and fire dynamics training materials. On another level, I have been very fortunate that NIST had programs to provide an opportunity for students and young engineers to get a great start and move on to be excellent engineers, researchers and firefighters. I am thankful to the many young people who have

John Bryan founded the Fire Protection Engineering Program at the University of Maryland in 1956 and served as Chair of the Department through 1993. He was a person who led a life of service – to his students, to the fire protection industry, and to the fire service. He was a great teacher, researcher, and author. He was a very humble and soft-spoken person whom people were drawn to – they wanted to hear what he had to say and he wanted to share as much information as possible. He always cared about his customer – the students. I was very fortunate to have him as a teacher, an advisor, and a friend.

I met Bud Nelson when we were working together at NIST. He always had a strong desire to learn. In fact, although he was about 30 years older than most of the class, he took a course on a “new topic,” fire dynamics in the late 1980s at the University of Maryland. I was fortunate enough to be working at NIST as a new engineer and attended that class with him. Prior to working at NIST, he worked for the Navy and then for General Services Administration as the Director of Accident and Fire Prevention. He retired with more than 34 years of government service. He taught me the value of reaching out, the importance of NFPA technical committees, and collaborating with organizations and individuals outside of NIST as a means to move information and ideas forward. In

other words, he demonstrated how to leverage all available resources.

I had several group leaders throughout my career at NIST who provided me with a work environment that truly enabled research, exploration, and technology transfer. As a result I owe a debt of gratitude to Dr. David Evans, Doug Walton, and Nelson Bryner.

*What are the biggest challenges in the next 5 years? 10 years?*

One of the biggest challenges for the fire service and fire safety professionals will be keeping up with the speed of change. For example, changes in building materials, energy systems, automobile propulsion systems, demographics, and environmental sustainability concerns will challenge the fire safety status quo. These changes will be driven by research and data analysis. Significant public and private sector research funding is being used to develop products such as hydrogen-powered cars, the use of alternate energy solutions, and high-rise buildings constructed of wood.

The focus of current research for the fire service is bridging a technology and educational gap that has existed for decades. Unfortunately research funding for examining the fire engineering and safety issues related with the implementation of these new technologies does not seem to be available.



Furthermore, the fire data that is collected in the United States is extremely limited in scope and therefore the fire safety community will be at a disadvantage in demonstrating the need and the effectiveness of fire protection and prevention strategies, tactics and technologies. As a result, it will be difficult for the fire service and the fire safety community to stay ahead of increasing challenges.

*What is fire safety's biggest piece of unfinished business?*

Fire prevention is not where it needs to be in the United States, both on an individual level, on a societal level, and within the fire service. As an example, we can look at cooking fires. According to NFPA, in the U.S., cooking fires account for 42 percent of all structure fires. Range or cooktop fires account for the majority of cooking fires. Unattended cooking is the leading cause. We are overdue for a commercially viable, socially acceptable, engineered safety solution to this problem.

History tells us that Benjamin Franklin, the founder of the modern fire service, was a proponent of fire prevention. In 1742, Franklin developed an engineered solution to provide a safer and more efficient means of heating a home, he called it the Pennsylvania fireplace, we call it the Franklin Stove.

Of course, we also have well researched, established, and proven technologies, such as automatic residential fire sprinklers in the fire protection arsenal. Yet residential sprinklers are still struggling for acceptance on a broad scale. So far the only states requiring residential fire sprinklers are California and Maryland. These states are to be commended for their commitment to reducing life loss and property damage from fire.

*If you could start your career over, what would you do differently?*

*Dan Madryzkowski, at left, with President Barack Obama. White House photo.*

# Pages From Fire Protection's Past:

## Rhoads Opera House House Fire

One of North America's little known deadly public assembly fires happened in Boyertown in southeastern Pennsylvania, on Monday night, January 13, 1908. That night, more than 300 of the town's 1,700 residents jammed in for opening night of a play called "The Scottish Reformation." Somewhere between 60 and 100 more people were behind the scenes of the theater.

One of the attractions of the play was the use of the *stereopticon* or "magic lantern," a form of slide projection technology that pre-dated moving pictures. A kerosene tank provided fuel for the footlights.

### Madrykowski (continued)

While education is a life-long endeavor, I would have completed my "formal" education sooner.

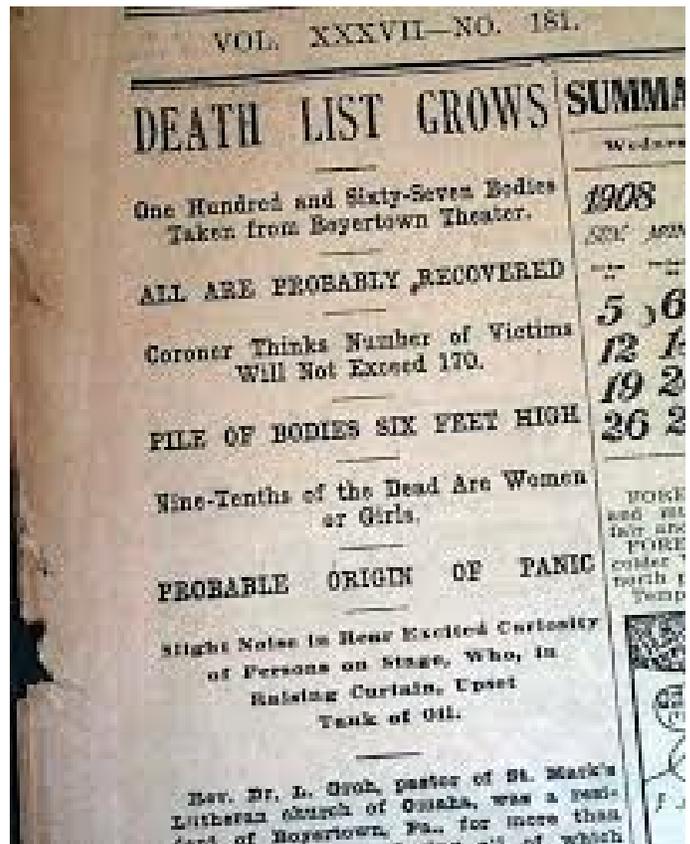
#### *Any regrets?*

None.

#### *What is your advice to those who are just starting a career in fire safety?*

If you want to be in the fire safety business in any capacity it is very important to have a thorough understanding of fire. While book knowledge of fire dynamics is incredibly important, it is equally important to have opportunities to experiment with fire, to observe fire growth in "real fuels and structures" and witness the interaction and capabilities of fire protection systems. This is critical for all fire fighters, fire educators, fire marshals, fire investigator, fire protection engineers and especially for people that design and sell fire safety equipment.

So my advice would be seek out opportunities at testing labs, fire investigation training opportunities, volunteer with a fire department, sign up for college level fire dynamics lab classes, and don't miss opportunities to study the fire behavior in wood-fired stoves and barbeque grills. As always, safety first.



The Boyertown Theater was on the second floor of a three-floor brick commercial building in the small downtown area. Double doors (one of which was bolted closed) opened inward and were at the top of a narrow staircase that led downstairs to a single entrance.

How the fire started and spread during the play is uncertain. Did an actor accidentally kicked over a kerosene lantern used as stage lighting? Did an inexperienced projectionist turn a wrong knob, permitting the magic lantern to leak gas? Did someone knock a lantern from a piano?

What is known is that the fire spread quickly. The audience, cast, and crew moved quickly to the lone exit, only to find themselves unable to get through the door. Before long, 170 people were dead and 75 more were seriously injured.

In such a small town, the impact of the fire was wide and deep. Entire families perished in the theater. Many families lost one or more members.

## About Fred Brower and Harry Carter

Education, with a minor in Fire Protection.

In 1976, he was promoted to deputy chief at College Park. Chief Brower then served as deputy chief for 13 years, and fire chief for seven years. After retiring from active firefighting, He served CPVFD as an Executive Committee Member in 2003 and currently serves as the Treasurer. For five years he served as Chairman.

He also served as a Prince George's County Volunteer Division Chief for 12 years. In addition, he served as the Vice Chair and Secretary of the Prince George's County Volunteer Chiefs Council for many years.

Chief Brower joined the Insurance Services Office (ISO) in 1972 as an Engineering Representative for Public Fire Protection. Until retiring, his ISO career included evaluating community fire protection and individual property fire protection

Chief Brower is a life member of the National Fire Protection Association and a past member of the International Association of Fire Chiefs and the Maryland Fire Chiefs Association. He received the Prince George's County Fire Department's Chief's Award in 1992, and the Insurance Service Office, Inc. prestigious Chairman's Award in 1992.

**Dr. Harry R. Carter** began his emergency service career as a cadet member of the Freehold (New Jersey) First Aid and Emergency Squad in 1964. He currently serves as Chairman of the Board of Fire Commissioners for Howell Township Fire District #2. He enjoyed a 26-year career with the Newark Fire Department where he served as chief of training. He has also had a 40-year career with the Adelphia Fire Company in Howell Township, serving as fire chief in 1991. He currently serves as company chaplain and is an active Life Member. He also serves as chaplain for the East Freehold Fire Company in Freehold, New Jersey.



He is the Immediate Past President of the USA Branch of the Institution of Fire Engineers (IFE). He is a life member of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and has served on technical committees since 1975.

He is a life member and Past President of the International Society of Fire Service Instructors (ISFSI) and past president of the New Jersey Society of Fire Service Instructors. He is a past president of the New Jersey Association of Fire Districts and a current member of its Board of Trustees.

Dr. Carter has authored seven books, co-authored five, edited and written chapters for another which was published in August 2011. He has written nearly 3,000 magazine, web and journal articles. He holds a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Business from Capella University, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, as well as five other degrees. He formerly served as an adjunct faculty member in the School of Public Safety Leadership at Capella.

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## Upcoming Events/Shows and NFHC Calendar

May 9 – CFSI – 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Fire and Emergency Services Dinner – DC  
May 10 – 11 – NVFC Annual Meeting – Alexandria, VA  
May 17 – 19 – Fire Expo – Harrisburg, PA  
June 8 – 13 – Intershutz – Hanover, Germany  
June 10 – 13 – NFPA Annual Conference – Chicago, IL  
July 23 – 27 – Firehouse Expo – Baltimore, MD  
August 1 – 3 – CVVFA Annual Convention – Shippensburg, PA  
August 7 – 9 – NASFM Annual Conference – Indianapolis, IN  
August 13 – 17 – FRI (IAFC) Chicago, IL  
August 21 – 24 – IAFF Redmond Symposium – Denver, CO  
September 20 – 21 – 2013 Fire Museum Network Seminar, New York City