

THE GAFSED NEWS

MAY 4 2009

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- May 14-15 National Association of Fire Equipment Dealers , NAFED , Annual Conference, Kansas City, MO. www.nafed.org
- June 12-13 Florida Fire Equipment Dealers Association FFEDA Annual Meeting, Naples, FL. www.ffdada.org
- July 14 GAFSED E.E.C. 8 Credit hours , Portable Extinguisher Seminar. Georgia Fire Academy, Forsyth, GA. www.gafsed.com
- July 15 GAFSED E.E.C. 8 Credit hours , Pre Engineered Kitchen Systems Seminar. Georgia Fire Academy, Forsyth, GA. www.gafsed.com
- July 15 GAFSED Board Meeting & Georgia Fire Safety Symposium, Ga. Fire Academy, Forsyth, GA. www.gafsed.com
- July 16 GAFSED E.E.C. 8 Credit hours , Pre Engineered Industrial Systems Seminar. Georgia Fire Academy, Forsyth, GA. www.gafsed.com
- September T.B.A GAFSED E.E.C. 8 Credit hours , Portable Extinguisher Seminar. Georgia Fire Academy, Forsyth, GA. www.gafsed.com
- October 15-17 GAFSED Annual Conference, Board Meeting ,E.E.C. Seminars, Trade Show, Banquet. Holiday Inn , Forsyth, Ga. www.gafsed.com

PRESIDENTS CORNER

BY: MERRILL FRANKLIN,
SWIFT FIRE PROTECTION, ELBERTON

I want to thank each and every one of you for joining GAFSED again this year. I understand that you have spent 250 of your hard earned dollars to be a part of this growing association. I hope you will take advantage of all the things we are trying to offer to make your business more successful this year. I believe that the best times are yet to come in our industry, even with all the plant closings and layoffs. Last month was our best month in sales since my son and I started in business over nine years ago. God has blessed us richly and I am thankful and very optimistic about the future.

I have not always been so optimistic. As a child, I worried about everything that my young mind could imagine. But after many years of experience, I have concluded that things go in cycles and the best course to take is the one right down the middle. Some of my favorite sayings are, "Steady as she goes", "Stay the course", "Plow on, plow on", "When in doubt, wait" (that was my Dad's advice) and my favorite, "When you come to a fork in the road.....take it". We have to take some calculated chances!

No what has that got to do

with becoming a member of GAFSED? You have chosen to belong to an association that is moving forward in our industry. We are not waiting around to see what the economy will do or what our government and political leaders will do for us. We are trying to set goals of excellence, not only from past experience but from our present situations too. We can't continue "business as usual" in these uncertain times. We must find new ways to do business and adapt to the down times. By being involved with fellow members and networking, you will discover many other ways of making your business more successful. I strongly encourage you to get out of your comfort zone and get involved. It will pay off in the future.

GAFSED has begun a campaign of Training Classes that are second to none. The one in March was very successful. Our Training Committee is working very diligently to have another one in July at the Annual Fire Symposium. The deadline for earning our credits is fast approaching. Watch the website www.gafsed.net to take advantage of the upcoming training and the details of the annual confer-

ence in October.

The next dates to remember are July 14th. thru 16th in Forsyth. We will have our 3rd quarterly board meeting and we are opening it up to all members and non-members alike. We invite you to come and meet your fellow members and "business partners". Many of you have expressed in the past that we have not communicated enough. I assure you we are doing all we can possibly do to keep you informed of all that is going on in our association and the industry. I beg you to stay informed by going to our website at www.gafsed.com and look around. We are offering you the opportunity to advertise your business and location under the section Locate Dealer. We are looking for ways that members can ask questions on the site and have others "chime in". The User Name and Password for the Members Only section is available by contacting me or a Board member. We don't hide much, but there are a few things just for your eyes only.

Continued on Page 3

YOUR GAFSED 2009 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

President— Merrill Franklin, Swift Fire Protection, Inc. Elberton, GA.
Vice-President- Geoff Zimbelman, Fire Systems, Inc. Smyrna, GA.
Treasurer- Josh Bennett, Cliff's Fire Equipment Woodstock, GA.
Secretary- Randy Carlisle, H&R Fire & Safety Cartersville, GA.

BOARD MEMBERS

Coy Clark — Rome Hydro-Test, Inc. Rome, GA.
Frank Middleton - Columbus Fire & Safety, Inc. Columbus, GA.
Chris Hendrix - Hendrix Fire Protection, Inc. Statesboro, GA.
Jeff Hall — Hall Fire Protection Cartersville, GA.
Carl Horst — Security Fire Equipment Company, Inc. Valdosta, GA.



2009

Don't Be Left Out!

GAFSED's next 8 hour E.E.C. Training classes are taking place during the States Fire Safety Symposium in Forsyth, GA.

MAKE your membership WORK for you, take advantage of member discount training tuitions!

Register soon at www.gafsed.com

GAFSED MARCH SEMINARS HAVE OVER 130 ATTENDEES

March was the kickoff of GAFSED's 2009 training programs. These programs which are discounted to GAFSED members are the best way a member can achieve their State required 8 E.E.C. hours for each area of permitted work.

The first class was for AHJ's in conjunction with the GA.

Fire Inspectors Association meeting on March 19th.

The next day Friday the 20th, we continued with an 8 hour State approved class for fire extinguisher permit holders. The class presented by Dan Sights of Getz, Mfg. and Craig Voelkert of Amerex, Corp. was well accepted by all who attended.

Our next training opportunities are:

- July 14th. Fire Extinguisher 8 hour E.E.C.
- July 15th. Pre-engineered Kitchen 8 Hour E.E.C.
- July 16th. Pre-engineered Industrial 8 hour E.E.C.

Thank you to Dan Sights of Getz, Mfg. and Craig Voelkert of Amerex, Corp. for their excellent 8 E.E.C. hour training for extinguisher technicians!

THANKS!



PRESIDENTS CORNER FROM PAGE 1

Again, I want to thank all of you for rejoining and a special thank you to our newest members. I hope you will make this notebook a part of your office décor and proudly display it and use it. You can call me at anytime or any of the board if you have a question or a complaint. We are here to serve you.

Sincerely

Merrill Franklin

**8 New Members Joined GAFSED during March & April
WELCOME!**

- Affordable Fire Protection - Norcross, GA.
- Anderson Fire & Safety – Anderson, SC.
- Bennett’s Fire Protection Systems, Inc. – Lake Park, GA.
- Fire Protection Services, Inc. – Perry, GA.
- Fire Safety Inc. – Valdosta, GA.
- Fire Systems Specialists Inc. – Monticello, GA.
- High Performance Fire Protection – Leesburg, GA.
- Onmi Fire & Safety, LLC. – Opelika, AL.



User Name / Password updated

If you have not received the 2009 updated User/ Password for the “Members Only” page of www.gafsed.net Please contact a GAFSED Board Member

FREE ADVERTISING!

Do you know that our web sites www.gafsed.net & .com are fast becoming the go to place for extinguisher information. Our web site is viewed by many people each month from, Fire Marshals, Insurance and Industry alike, all looking for information or where to get the best service in Georgia. **YOU can have your company listed FREE** under our “locate a member dealer” page. All you need to do is email a jpeg format picture or logo, your business contact information and web address if you have one, to our web master Chester Cupp at: chestercupp@charter.net

INTERNATIONAL CODE COUNCIL (ICC) TAKES OVER NAFED CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS

As most of you know NAFED has turned most of it’s certification program and testing over to the International Code Council (ICC) in a joint affiliation agreement. So what does this mean to you if you? If you have already have the certification through NAFED no worries, although remember you need to obtain 100 E.E.C. hours accumulated in 3 years to maintain certification.

For new hires or testers that need information or to register go to the link listed below

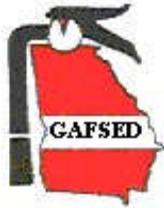
<http://www.iccsafe.org/certification/inspector/NAFED.html>



We are on the Web! www.gafsed.com

**GEORGIA ASSOCIATION OF FIRE
SAFETY EQUIPMENT DEALERS,
INC.**

President
P.O. Box 345
Elberton, GA. 30635



www.gafsed.net

Updated

Make the GAFSED web site your main source for member information. BOOKMARK in your favorites today!

- **Members Only Section (Log in Required)**– current/past newsletters, membership lists, Board meeting minutes, member downloads.
- **Find a Member**- www.gafsed.net is becoming the where to go place for industry news and contacts in Georgia. Our new feature shows GAFSED Members on a GA. Map with pop-up identifiers allowing your business exposure. You can also quick link to the GA. SFMO site search to find a licensed company.
- **Events Calendar**- Want to know the latest industry events/trainings taking place in Georgia? This is your up to day source.
- **Industry Web Links**- All the website links in one place that you regularly need . Bookmark www.gafsed.net!

GAFSED Logo with GA. State shape Extinguisher design are a registered service mark of Georgia Association of Fire Safety Equipment Dealers, Inc.