

THE GAFSED NEWS

OCTOBER, 2010

**PRESIDENTS CORNER BY; MERRILL FRANKLIN
SWIFT FIRE PROTECTION, ELBERTON, GA.**

Calendar of Events:

- **January 2011 GAFSED Board Mtg. TBA**

GAFSED wishes our members a Happy Holiday Season and prosperous New Year!



It has been a great year for GAFSED! With three awesome training sessions with Craig Schroll of Fire Con behind us, GAFSED has trained over 500 technicians and AHJ's again. We have accomplished more this year than I would have ever dreamed. Our membership continues to increase with 105 members to date. That is more than three times what it was just a couple of years ago. Thank you all for your support!

We also have just elected three new members to the Board, Lanny English with Fire Protection Services, John Bennett with Integrated Fire Protection and Daniel Laughlin with Protec Fire Protection. We welcome them and their wealth of knowledge to the board. Some of our

current members will still be working alongside our new ones to bring you, our membership, the best training available and up to date information on Rules and Regulations and current Standards. With your approval on a by-law change, the present past President will now continue to serve in an advisory position for another two year term to make sure we maintain continuity. This is my last year to serve you as President but I will remain on the Board to help anyway I can.

We are working very hard to get our insurance premiums reduced by making changes in the classification we all now fall under. John Knop, with Thomas Rutherford, Inc., has already made great inroads in getting some interest

and commitments from underwriters to change this classification for Workers Compensation and General Liability. It may not happen right away but we feel sure we are headed in the right direction. This is just one more reason for companies, large and small, to join GAFSED to take advantage of these benefits and become a part of a forward thinking association.

We are also continuing to work side by side with the State Fire Marshals and other Authorities Having Jurisdiction to ensure that the Rules and Regulations are correct and up to date with what is actually happening "in the field". A new training facility is being planned at this moment to give "hands on

PRESIDENTS CORNER CONT. FROM PAGE 1

training” to AHJ’s, technicians and even industry in fire safety. Your Association is very active in this planning effort and will one day benefit from it.

GAFSED is leading the nation in many of these endeavors and you are a part of it. Your business will certainly benefit

from this extra exposure as we are recognized by other States and Associations. Some of us have had the pleasure to attend Fire Associations in other states and speak with them and share ideas. We will continue to do so in the future.

I want to thank each

and every one of you for your support to make YOUR Association the best in the nation. I have enjoyed the ride with you and I look forward to serving you in the days and years ahead.

Merrill



GAFSED’s 2 day conference October 8&9th. provided State approved EEC. Credit hours training to over 225 Georgia permit holders.

GAFSED TRAINING HAD A GREAT 2010!

The GAFSED Training Committee reports that over 500 Georgia permit holders and AHJ’s attended programs throughout the year in 2010.

We ended this year with

2 days of training covering Kitchen systems and Portable fire extinguishers. Both classes were well attended.

Looking forward, we hope to continue providing quality programs at

reasonable pricing for our members.

The 2011 training schedule should be available in the January 2011 GAFSED News and on gafsed.com



THANK YOU!

Craig Schroll of FireCon for providing over 50 hours of training programs with over 500 attendee’s in GAFSED’s 2010 training schedule.

GARRISS ELECTED ICC DIRECTOR

Dwayne Garriss Georgia Assistant State Fire Marshal was recently elected to the International Code Council (ICC). The directors are composed mainly of individuals with backgrounds in building inspections, GAFSED congratulates Dwayne for contributing his fire background to the board.



GAFSED GOLF'S FOR BURN FOUNDATION

This year's GAFSED 4th. Annual golf tournament was our most successful to date. We had 24 golfers participate. The first place team was Josh Bennett, Steve Reinholt, Justin Fuglio, and Cliff Bennett. The second place team was Georgia State Fire Marshals Alan Shuman, Dwayne Garriss, Chris Stephens, and James Crawley. Third place was taken by Carl Horst, Bobby Agee,

Geoff Zimbleman, and John Forshaw. Josh Bennett hit the longest drive. Bobby Agee got closest to the pin, and John Forshaw won the shortest drive. We are happy to report that not only did everybody have a great time, we raised \$2500 to give to Georgia Fire Fighters Burn Foundation. Thanks so much to our players and also to all

of our sponsors! This year's sponsors were The Walker School and Lynn Benifield, Security Fire, Ansul Inc, H & R fire, Cliff's Fire, Amerex Inc., Remtec, Swift Fire, Buckeye Fire, WESCO, Fire Systems Inc., Brooks Equipment, and the Society of Fire Protection Engineers

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OFFICERS For 2010

- President**— Merrill Franklin Swift Fire Protection, Inc. Elberton, GA.
- Vice-President**- Geoff Zimbleman 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.



GAFSED
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www.gafsed.com - www.gafsed.net - www.gafsed.org

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 quickly becoming the place to go for industry news/contacts in Georgia. Our new feature shows GAFSED Members on a Georgia Map with pop-up identifiers giving your business exposure. You can also quick link to the GA State Fire Marshal's Office site and search to find a licensed company.
- **Events Calendar-** Want to know the industry events/trainings taking place in Georgia? This is you up to day source.
- **Industry Web Links-** All the website links in one place that you regularly need . Book mark www.gafsed.net!

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